Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions

Figure 4.2 shows the location and extent of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the 45 km study area. All LCTs which are found within the study area are listed in TA4.2.1 below.

LCTs that are present within the study area and fall entirely outwith the viewshed for the proposed development have been excluded from the assessment.

Additionally, a number of LCTs have been omitted on the basis of distance from the proposed development, highly constrained geographical extent of visibility, and/or extent of forest cover that would limit viewpoint/receptor locations. These are identified in Table TA4.2.1. Those LCTs which are assessed as part of the LVIA are described in Table TA4.2.2. It should be noted that the descriptions provided in the table are based on those published in SNH's character assessments and are generalised. Where there are localised deviations from the general characteristics of LCTs these are identified.

Table TA	4.2.1: Landscape Character T	ypes within 45 k	m study area						
Landscap	be Character Type	Distance from Proposed Development	Assessed in LVIA	Justification for omission					
Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment									
RCY1	Smooth Moorland	21 km north west	Yes	-					
RCY2	Undulating Moorland	Proposed Development within LCT	Yes	-					
RCY3	Sloping Terrace Moorland	15.8 km south south east	Yes	-					
RCY4	Rocky Moorland	Proposed Development within LCT	Yes	-					
RCY5	Cnocan		No	No theoretical visibility					
RCY6	Rugged Mountain Massif	8.8 km west	Yes	-					
RCY7	Rounded Hills	Proposed Development within LCT	Yes	-					
RCY8	Narrow Farmed Strath	3 km south east	Yes	-					
RCY9	Wide Farmed Strath		No	No theoretical visibility					
RCY10	Forest Edge Farming	14.5 km south east	Yes	-					
RCY11	Linear Crofting		No	No theoretical visibility					
RCY12	Scattered Crofting		No	No theoretical visibility					
RCY13	Harbour Settlement		No	No theoretical visibility					
Invernes	s District Landscape Characte	er Assessment							
INV1	Rugged Massif	18 km south	Yes	-					

INV3	Rocky Moorland Plateau		No	Constrained visibility at distances of over 34 km
INV4	Rocky Moorland Plateau with Woodland	30 km south west	Yes	-
INV5	Flat Moorland Plateau with Woodland		No	LCT located over 42 km from the proposed development
INV6	Farmed and Wooded Foothills		No	No theoretical visibility
INV7	Broad Steep-Sided Glen		No	No theoretical visibility
INV8	Wooded Glen		No	No theoretical visibility
INV9	Narrow Wooded Glen		No	No theoretical visibility
INV10	Farmed Straths		No	No theoretical visibility
INV12	Rolling Farmland and Woodland		No	Constrained visibility at distances of over 31 km
INV13	INV13 Enclosed Farmland		No	Marginal visibility at distances of over 27 km
INV14	Crofting Settlement		No	No theoretical visibility
Caithnes	s and Sutherland Landscape (Character Asses	sment	
CSL1	Sweeping Moorland		No	No theoretical visibility
CSL3	Moorland Slopes and Hills		No	No theoretical visibility
CSL6	Irregular Massif	14.8 km north	Yes	-
CSL8	Long Beaches Dunes and Links		No	No theoretical visibility
CSL9	Strath		No	No theoretical visibility
CSL15	Small Farms and Crofts		No	No theoretical visibility
CSL16	Coniferous Woodland Plantation		No	No theoretical visibility
Skye and	Lochalsh Landscape Charact	ter Assessment		
SKL1	Smooth Stepped Moorland		No	No theoretical visibility
SKL2	Rocky Moorland and Rocky Undulating Plateau		No	No theoretical visibility
SKL4	Peat Hag		No	No theoretical visibility
Moray an	d Nairn Landscape Character	Assessment		
MRN1	Coastal		No	No theoretical visibility
MRN2	Coastal Lowlands		No	No theoretical visibility
Inner Mo	ray Firth Landscape Characte	r Assessment		
MYF1	Open Firth		No	No theoretical visibility
MYF2	Enclosed Firth		No	No theoretical visibility
MYF3	Narrow Firth Corridor		No	No theoretical visibility

MYF4	Hard Coastal Shore		No	No theoretical visibility
MYF6	Open Farmed Slopes		No	No theoretical visibility
MYF7	Forest Edge Farming	16.7 km south east	Yes	-
MYF8	Enclosed Farmed Landscapes		No	Constrained visibility at distances of over 17 km
MYF9	Intensive Farming		No	No theoretical visibility
MYF10	Forested Backdrop		No	No theoretical visibility

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development
Ross and C	Cromarty Landscape C	Character Assessmen	t	·
RCY1	Smooth Moorland	8.9 km north west	 A low-lying landscape with a simple horizontal composition which is strongly emphasised by the broad expanse of sky. The landscape comprises four main components: open sky; horizontal bands of moorland; uninterrupted horizons; and simple texture and scale of vegetation. Moorland vegetation such as heather, grasses and mosses are the dominant land cover. This results in a pattern of colours and textures which vary subtly between seasons. The landscape has a simple visual composition comprising vast, open spaces with a lack of dominant visual focus. Small lochans, meandering rivers and streams form distinct characteristics in remote areas, contributing the sound of moving water within the quiet landscape. The absence of human activity evokes sense of remoteness. Occasional roads, pylons and fences are absorbed by the vast landscape, however in certain locations provide key focal points and lines within the landscape. Evidence of past settlement is infrequent. 	The susceptibility of this character type is of the landscape and general absence of undermined by the presence of pylons wh the landscape. The value of attributed to the LCT ranges westernmost extent, the LCT falls within th Land Area (WLA) which is considered to h the LCT lies outwith the WLA and is not d have a lesser value. Sensitivity: Medium to High
RCY 2	Undulating Moorland	Proposed Development partially located within LCT	 A simple landscape. Wide panoramic views and exposure suggest a sense of barrenness and remoteness. Moorland heather and grasses create a smooth landscape texture. Variation in texture is created by the presence of rocky knolls, boulders and irregularly dispersed lochans which are interspersed across the moorland. Irregular topography and gently undulating landform creates a change in landscape experience as one moves across the landscape. Water is a key characteristic and lochans and wet boggy areas are common features. Incised stream gullies cut through the smooth vegetation cover and result in dark shadows across the landscape. The landform is deceptive. Even topography which appears low-lying can block views. The landscape contains few comparative scale indicators. Access is difficult – experience of the landscape is largely from roads or tracks. Single track roads with passing places weave through the landscape. Notable lack of human activity and artefacts – adds sense of vastness to the landscape. 	There are a number of units of this LCT w the proposed development, including the development (i.e. abutting the A835 corric There is a clear distinction between the m The majority of units are remote and most provided opposite, whereas the unit at the neighbouring A835 infrastructure corridor, RCY4 and RCY7 landscapes and by the e turbines to the west. Consequently, the greatest susceptibility i to their characteristic barrenness and rem size indicators and human activity and art Wind Farm and Lochluichart Wind Farm the carriageway and the Loch Glascarnoch da within the unit that contains part of the pro- susceptibility of this unit comparatively. Value: The majority of units have a High w within designated and classified landscap Mullardoch SLA and the Rhiddorochis, Be Fisherfield, Letterewe and Fannichs WLA the LCT lie within the Wester Ross NSA. proposed development is not subject to de have a lower value.

¹ Based on nearest area of LCT with potential visibility of the proposed development

s Medium to High due the overall remoteness f man-made artefacts which is slightly which occasionally create key focal points in

s from Medium to High. In its south the Fisherfield – Letterewe - Fannichs Wild have a high value. However, the majority of designated and is therefore considered to

within the study area with potential visibility of e one which contains part of the proposed ridor).

majority of the units and the one at the site. Ist consistent with the general description the site is subject to the influence of the pr, existing forest cover within the adjacent e existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart wind

/ is associated with the more remote units due moteness, and the absence of comparative rtifacts. In contrast, the existing Corriemoillie turbines and proximity of the A835 dam generates a more developed character roposed development, thereby reducing the

a value that is indicated by their presence apes including the Strathconon, Monar and Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis WLA, the A and the Central Highlands WLA. Parts of A. However, the unit that contains part of the designation and is therefore considered to

to Medium in the unit at the site.

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development
RCY 3	Slaping Torrace 15.8 km south	 Forms the foothills of higher upland areas. LCT comprises smooth to gently undulating moorland horizons which slope in the same direction. Slopes are deeply incised by stream gullies which divide slopes into a series of curved ridges. Smaller scale terraces give a step like form to the ridge surface. Landform is asymmetric, and results in a varying experience dependant on your location within the landscape. Asymmetry creates an unbalanced appearance. When viewed from the base of the slope, the landscape appears complex and ridges are experienced as a series of undulating mounds which are dissected by rivers. The full extent of the LCT is often hidden. LCT is experienced largely from the edge and access to the interior is difficult. In places where the LCT meets another LCT, there is an abrupt boundary, such as land cliffs which form strong and impenetrable edges and visually divide adjacent landscape character types. There is an over-riding lack of human activity within the LCT. Roads and low voltage lines are present along the slopes in places. Where the LCT meets the coast, human activity and settlement is concentrated in linear patterns to utilise the narrow strip of favourable agricultural land. Roads providing access to these settlements often terminate as the landscape gets too difficult to cross. There are no – or very few – through roads which convey a sense of remoteness and wildness 	Susceptibility: High. A key characteristic of human activity. The smooth or gently und characteristic of the LCT. Value: High. The LCT is formed of small of Two areas are located on the edges of th Coigach NSA, while others are lie within th Bienn Dearg-Ben Wyvis WLA, and the Fis small area forms part of the Fannichs, Be area of the LCT within the study area doe Sensitivity: High	
			 Pre-historic settlements are infrequent but present. These have a minimal impact on the landscape however where visible provide a link to past occupation of the landscape. Rocky moorland has greater verticality than the surrounding moorland landscapes. Series of 'V' and 'U' shaped valleys provide a strong sense of enclosure and restrict views to the surrounding glen sides. 	There are 4 units of this LCT with potentia including the unit adjoining Loch Luichart proposed development
RCY 4	Rocky Moorland	Moorland Proposed Development partially located within LCT	 There is an abundance of scattered rock, boulders and rocky outcrops which create rough landcover that contrasts with the smoother moorland character types. Low growing moorland vegetation gives uniformity to the landscape and assists in defining the underlying landform. There are few focal points within the landscape. 	The susceptibility of this LCT varies consi
			 Landscape experience varies dramatically, ranging from deep enclosure and seclusion within valleys to openness across the hilltops which provide distant views. Occasional narrow river gorges provide a sheltered microclimate, enabling the establishment of trees and shrubs in some areas. Communication or service lines and scattered settlement is often located upon land which lies along rivers. Human activity is largely concentrated along communication lines which leaves the remaining landscape uninhabited. The interior of the 	Value: Varies considerably between High the Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch S and Glencalvie SLA; the Rhiddorochis, Be Central Highlands WLA; but Medium in lo predominates and where the outlook from farm developments and/or communication Sensitivity: High to Medium.

of the LCT is it's remote interior and lack of idulating moorland horizons form a key

I discrete areas found across the study area. he Wester Ross NSA and the Assynt – the area designated as the Rhiddorochscient Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Only one bes not fall within a designation.

tial views of the proposed development, rt, which contains a large proportion of the

siderably depending upon the position of niferous forest predominates susceptibility is , prominence of commercial forestry, and ssociated with valleys and open moorland unge panoramas, absence of human activity

gh in parts of units where they occupy part of b SLA; areas within the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis WLA, and the locations where coniferous forestry om the LCT is characterized by existing wind ion and transportation corridors.

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Developmen
RCY6	Rugged Mountain Massif	8.8 km west	 landscape is generally not used for recreation apart from where it forms access to higher and more dramatic mountains. Mature coniferous plantations are common across the landscape. In some locations plantation forestry blankets the landform of rocky outcrops and boulders. The landscape is primarily characterised by its angular, jagged skyline which lies across a broad base of individual mountain masses. Steep mountain slopes contrast starkly with the relatively low-lying landscape in the surrounding area. Massifs have an associated series of corries, deep valleys, narrow mountain lochs and basin shaped lochans which have formed as a result of glaciation. A number of deep gorges wind their way through the mountain spurs and create a sheltered microclimate where soils accumulate. Changes in weather, and in light, changes the sense of shape, form size and texture of the mountains. The topography makes access for grazing animals such as sheep and deer difficult. Due to the lack of browsing, native broadleaved woodland is often seen as ribbons descending the slope and adds to the diversity of texture and colour across the landscape. The dramatic landform creates a dynamic visual composition: sharp peaks, steep ridges are often adopted as landmarks due to their distinctive and recognisable profiles. Much of the interior of the landscape is only accessible on foot. Main roads route around the base of the landscape, or along the floors of the straths. Views from roads are focused on the base of the mountains, then drawn up to the craggy tops. The landscape provides a sense of remoteness which is most intense within the interior. There is a small and infrequent number of settlements within the landscape. Where settlement is present, it is located along the main road network on the edges of the LCT. Archaeological sites are sparsely distributed along the fringes of the 	Susceptibility: Generally High. Human ac of the LCT and in neighbouring LCTs. Or access and has a distinctly wild characte eastern end of the Fannich unit of the LC Corriemoillie wind farms have establishe outlook to the east of this unit. Similarly infrastructure in neighbouring LCTs from from the otherwise remote and wild chara Beinn Dearg units. Value: High. The majority of the LCT with of the LCT lie within the Fannichs, Beinn Rhiddorochis, Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyo Fannichs WLA. In the west of the study a large area of LCT RCY6. Sensitivity: Generally High, but some rec end of the Fannich unit of the LCT and ir there is increased influence from develop
RCY 7	Rounded Hills	Proposed Development partially located within LCT	 The most extensive LCT within the study area. Hills comprise wide open concave and convex slopes with simple lines which sweep down to broad, open straths and convey a sense of grandeur. The landscape is vast in scale and offers an open and exposed experience. Deep gullies are regularly etched into the slope sides and contrast with the texture of the moorland, creating jagged and irregular forms. Reservoirs sit within many of the straths. 	Susceptibility is High in more remote are characterised by an outlook that is largel contrast, in areas subject to existing wind and Lochluichart, locations with extensiv infrastructure such as hydro-electric dam and foreshortening of intervisibility mean Value: Generally High as the LCT often of large sections of both the Fannichs, Bein Strathconon, Manor and Mulladoch SLA. and Dornoch Firth National Scenic Areas Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA, Fisherfield - Le

activity and intervention is limited to the edges overall the LCT is remote and difficult to er. Some reduction in susceptibility at the CT where the neighbouring Lochluichart and ed prominent existing developments in the y, views of existing wind farms and n elevated locations within this LCT detract racter of units such as the Fannichs and

hin the study area is designated. Large area Dearg and Clencalvie SLA, the vis WLA and the Fisherfield, Letterewe, area, the Wester Ross NSA falls across a

duction in sensitivity notable at the eastern n locations around the edges of units where opment in neighbouring landscapes.

eas within the uplands which are ely devoid of human activities and artifacts. By nd farm developments, such as Corriemoillie ve forest cover, adjoining roads and ms, the developed character of the landscape ns sensitivity is lessened to Medium.

coincides with the Ben Wyvis SLA and with nn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA and the ... Forms part of the edges of the Wester Ross s. Lies within parts of the Rhiddoroch - Beinn etterewe – Fannichs, Coulin & Ledgowan

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development
			 The width and bases of mountains are much larger in relation to the height. This results in a heavy and bulky form to the upland landscape. Low-lying heather ground cover gives a smooth texture to the hills. Coniferous woodland plantations are common on the gentle slopes. Forest blocks create geometric forms of colour which contrast with the wider moorland landscape. The landscape does not contain a strong focal point. It is experienced as a mass of hills with varying heights and similar forms. There is an overriding lack of human activity, however in some areas ribbon service development exists, associated with electricity transmission corridors, roads etc. Much of the interior of the character type possess a sense of remoteness and is accessible only by rough tracks. The main lines of communication are located along the base of the hill slopes, elevated above river plains or lochs. Fringes of housing are associated with principal roads. The landscape is largely experienced from the road. A network of local roads and tracks follow the routes of side straths. 	Forest WLA and the Central Highlands WL which the proposed development is located the basis of its substantially wooded condit classifications that would indicate high valu Sensitivity: High in general but reducing to development where greater concentrations development and communication corridors
RCY8	Narrow Farmed Strath	3 km south east	 Narrow sinuous channels are formed by the surrounding topography, and generally follow a curved route around the base of hills. There is a strong definition between the strath sides and floors which form a visually prominent landscape when seen from the surrounding upland landscapes. The land-locked character provides strong sense of enclosure and isolation from surrounding landscape, and views are restricted by topography. The LCT accommodates agricultural land uses and the regular patterns of fields and trees contrast with moorland hills. Settlement comprises small dwellings generally associated with traditional estates. Estate houses form dominant focal points within the strath landscape. Access through the LCT is via roads or tracks which follow traditional routes. Generally, roads and tracks terminate at the opposite end of the strath from where they started. 	Susceptibility: High to Medium. An inhabite human-scale. Enclosed by a combination of the strath sides which reduce views out of Value: Medium. Within the study area, the designation or classification. Sensitivity: High on the floor of the strath, of and views out of the strath are reduced by
RCY10 (and MYF7)	Forest Edge Farming	14.5 km south east	 The LCT is characterised by undulating lowland which is used for semi- improved and improved pasture or arable farming. It comprises a complex arrangement of open spaces which have been subdivided by field boundaries providing a strong geometric pattern of enclosure. Field boundaries accentuate the shape of the topography. Large open field dominate the visual composition of the landscape. Point features such as farm buildings and properties exist but do not dominate the landscape. Nature of farming activity results in seasonal changes in colour and texture within the landscape. Landscape offers a variety of views, sometimes expansive from the top of hills and at times enclosed within strath floors. 	Susceptibility: Generally Medium. An inhab already heavily influenced by transmission human activity to the east and north and w out. Value: Medium to High. The Fairburn GDL Forest Edge Farming LCT as it lies within t Sensitivity: Medium to High

WLA. However, the section of the LCT within ated is considered to have a medium value on adition and absence of such designations or value.

to Medium in the vicinity of the proposed ons of coniferous forestry, wind farm ors are present.

bited landscape, existing built features are of a on of topography and coniferous forestry along of the strath.

ne LCT does not fall within a landscape

n, decreasing to Medium where intervisibility by vegetation and/or topography.

nabited, transitional landscape which is on lines and by areas of settlement and I which as variable intervisibility and views

DL lies within the western portion of the in the study area.

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Propose
			 Character heavily influenced by presence of high voltage transmission lines – create dominant visual focal lines and contrast with the smooth topography. 	
			 Settlement patterns respond to the land use pattern – dispersed and sited in relation to the main road network. 	
			 Woodland and trees form a key characteristic – estate copses, shelterbelts, hedgerow trees and larger forest plantations creates a patchwork of open and enclosed spaces, at times restricting distant views. 	
			 Plantation woodland used often for recreation due to easy accessibility and offer a sheltered environment close to population densities. 	
			 A transitional landscape from settled areas to the rounded hills and larger sloping topography. 	
Inverness D	District Landscape Ch	aracter Assessment	·	
			 The LCT comprises ranges of massive mountains with irregular landform which are enormous in size. The landform is accentuated by rocky outcrops and debris. 	
			 Broad rounded summits are connected by long ridges form extensive mountain ranges. 	Susceptibility: High. Lack of scale indicators within
			The landscape has a mottled texture created by combination of rock outcrops and heather.	remoteness and views from within the landscape a
INV1	Rugged Massif	18 km south	There is no obvious indication of horizontal or vertical scale.	Value: High. The majority of the LCT as it lies within Glen Strath Farrar NSA, the Strathconon, Monar ar
			 The Rugged Massif is chiefly viewed from adjacent straths – landform creates an undulating skyline and sense of enclosure. 	Highlands WLA.
			 Views from hilltops are open and expansive, and exposed. There is a high sense of remoteness. 	Sensitivity: Generally High
			Occasional areas of open birch woodland are present in small patches.	
			The landscape is largely uninhabited. Small number of settlements are located at the edge of the LCT.	
			 Characterised by small rocky hills which rise from open, gently rolling moorland plateau. 	
			 Extensive and large coniferous plantations strongly influence the character of the hills. These areas contrast strongly with the moorland surroundings. 	Susceptibility: Medium-High. The LCT is characteric contrasts with the wider moorland landscape and p
	Rocky Moorland		 Open ground between plantations comprises mostly open areas of rough pasture associated with isolated hill farms. 	intervention into the landscape. There is a lack of b therefore introduction of new infrastructure and acti
INV 4	Plateau with Woodland	au with 30 km south west	 Lower fringes of forest are interspersed with broadleaved woodlands and interlock with farms and settlements of adjacent LCTs. 	Value: Medium. The LCT is not designated howeve
			 Settlement is sparse and restricted to small farms and crofts. Access is via a number of minor roads. 	northern end of the Great Glen.
			 Distinct from adjacent landscape types due to elevated character – other LCTs are generally not visible from the interior of INV4. 	Sensitivity: Medium to High
			 Some road and power line infrastructure cross the landscape, linking to adjacent areas. 	

nt Proposed	
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dicators within the landscape. High sense of ne landscape are open and expansive.
Γ as it lies within the study area is falls within the onon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and the Central
CT is characterised by coniferous forestry, which indscape and provides a layer of human re is a lack of built development however and ructure and activity could influence the character.
gnated however provides a key backdrop to the

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics (General Description)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development
CSL6	Irregular Massif	14.8 km north	 The landscape is characterised by a mass of large, high, rugged mountains which are interlocked by a range of rocky crags, steep slopes and summits. The land mass has an enormous size and possesses a complexity and irregularity of landform. They are often landmark landforms. The massifs have very steep slopes which are often covered in scree and incorporate rocky ridges, crags and peaks. The landscape has a complex visual composition which is derived from its elaborate landform and rocky characteristics. There is a variety of lines, points, textures and colours found within the LCT – the relationship of these is different depending on weather conditions. Exposed, uninhabited and difficult to access. Mainly visited by hill walkers aiming for Munro peaks. Mountain peaks offer extensive and panoramic views of surrounding landscape. Experience of open space and exposure is exhilarating – sense of arrival at these high points is heightened by the difficult journey to get there. There is a lack of human activity and artefacts and the sense of remoteness is strong. 	Susceptibility: High. A landmark landform v exposure is exhilarating and views of the s Landscape experience is highly susceptibl surrounding areas. Value: High. As it lies within the study area the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie Rhiddorochis, Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis Sensitivity: High
Inner Moray	Firth Landscape Ch	aracter Assessment		
MYF7 (and RCY10)	Forest Edge Farming	16.7 km south east	 See description for RCY10 Forest Edge Farming above. The LCT is divided due to its location at edge of Ross and Cromarty LCA and Inner Moray Firth LCA study areas. 	Susceptibility: See RCY10 above Value: See RCY10 above Sensitivity: See RCY10 above

m where the experience of open space and e surrounding landscape area extensive. tible to influence from activity within

rea, the full area of the LCT is designated as vie SLA, and classified as part of the vis WLA.