

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.7: VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

This Technical Appendix sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the LVIA for the proposed development. The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the LVIA and were initially utilised in the design of mitigation measures discussed in EIAR Volume 1: Chapter 2: Proposed Development.

The viewpoints were selected to reflect a range of receptor locations at different distances, directions, and elevations from the site. The selected viewpoints are intended to represent the experience that receptors would have at recognised vantage points, within landscape character types and landscape designations, settlements, important transportation and recreational routes. The viewpoints have been utilised in the development of the design strategy and in the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the proposed development.

The viewpoints were agreed with The Highland Council (THC) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) during a pre-scoping, scoping and post-scoping consultation exercise. However, a previously agreed viewpoint by Black Bridge (coordinate: 237351, 870812) has been omitted following design iterations that resulted in the entire screening of the proposed development from this viewpoint.

An assessment of the potential effects on both landscape character and visual amenity arising from the proposed development at each of the agreed viewpoints was undertaken and the findings set out in the tables below. These tables describe:

- the viewpoint number and name;
- the sensitivity of the landscape character and visual receptors at each viewpoint;
- the existing view from each location;
- the cumulative context;
- the predicted operational view of the proposed development with other operational and consented developments; and
- the predicted cumulative view with operational, consented and in planning developments.

Visualisations for each of the viewpoints are illustrated on EIAR Volume 3: Figures 4.8a to 4.29i (Volume 3 of the EIAR). These images have been created in accordance with current SNH guidance and the Highland Councils latest visualisation standards, and contain details of the location, elevation, bearing and distance of the proposed development from the nearest proposed development turbine. It should be noted that bearings of views may vary according to whether the view is centred on the site centre (as in the case of the montaged images) or whether the site is offset to take account of cumulative developments (i.e. in cumulative wireline images). Some limited enhancement of photography and photomontages was undertaken (SNH compliant images only). Where this was undertaken enhancements were limited to adjustments that would conventionally occur in a darkroom to improve the clarity of an image, not change its essential character. Additionally, in a small number of viewpoints there is some discrepancy between landform depicted in foreground of wireline images compared to that shown in baseline photography. Such discrepancies are a feature of tolerances and interpolation in the commercially available digital terrain data.

The visualisations reflect the appearance of the proposed development at the time of the completion of construction works at the site and include images showing the proposed development on its own set within the baseline view at the time of the photography for the LVIA. Additionally, there are a number of viewpoints that, whilst offering theoretical visibility, would not afford views of the proposed development due to the screening effect of intervening forest cover (i.e. Viewpoints 3 and 4). These views are represented by images

that combine baseline photographs with wirelines to verify the screening effect of vegetation and to indicate the extent of visibility should the intervening forest cover be felled.

Table 4.7.1, below, summarises the findings of the Viewpoint Assessment, and Table 4.7.2 contains the detailed assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity at each viewpoint. These findings take account of the cumulative baseline context as described in Table 4.6 in the main LVIA chapter. A summary of the key effects is presented below:

Significant landscape and visual effects are predicted at six of the nineteen representative viewpoints assessed in this LVIA. These are largely experienced from two types of locations:

- from elevated locations where the proposed development extends the spread of wind energy development further across the view, and the landscape; and
- from close proximity viewpoints.

In the views assessed, the proposed development would be located within a cluster of existing development. In some views, predominantly to the east and west, turbines would sit in front or behind turbines at Corriemoillie, Lochluichart and Lochluichart Extension Wind Farms, and alongside and/or in the context of other infrastructure and human influence in the A835 corridor, particularly features of the Conon Hydro-electric Power scheme, would reinforce the presence of development in this area but would not considerably extend the spread of development across the view or the landscape.

From other directions, the proposed development would discernibly increase the horizontal extent of wind farm development across the landscape, and across the view. Wind farm development would remain within a discrete group, separated from other wind farms by an expansive area of landscape and the emerging pattern of development across the landscape would not be altered.

The size and scale of the proposed turbines would be larger than those which already are present in the landscape. This could cause some discord in some views and would alter the scale of the landscape in a small number of locations, such as from VPs 16 and 17.

The viewpoint assessment has identified that significant landscape and visual effects from elevated locations are localised to the direct view. Broad, open panoramic views from the summits of hills within the study area extend across an expansive upland landscape with layered ridgelines and visually interesting skylines to the north, west and south and across low lying agricultural and coastal landscapes to the east. The addition of the proposed development would therefore not significantly affect the overall panoramic view or experience of being at the hilltop.

Within valley landscapes, the assessment has identified that topography would screen a high proportion of the development. Turbines would not change the composition of existing views and the dominance of the broad strath floors and steep valley sides would remain the characterising features of the landscape. One exception to this is experienced from VP 17, where the turbines would descend into the valley along the skyline and alter the perception of views to Little Wyvis in the east.

In close proximity views, such as from VP1 and VP2, the proposed development would significantly alter the perception and character of the landscape and the composition of the view. While significant, this is not unexpected as a result of wind farm development viewed at distances of less than 2.5 km.

Table 4.7.1: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment Findings			
Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
1	Aultguish Inn, A835	Major/moderate (Significant)	Major – Major/moderate (Significant)
2	Old Drovers Road, Corriemoillie	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)
3	A835, Near Tarvie	None to Moderate/minor	None to Moderate/minor
4	A832 Gorstan	None to Moderate/minor	None to Moderate/minor and Minor
5	Summit of Sgurr Marcasaidh	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)
6	Summit of Ben Wyvis	Moderate	Moderate
7	Avenue of Fairburn Estate	Moderate	Moderate
8	Summit of Sgurr a'Muillin	Moderate	Moderate
9	Summit of Beinn a'Bha'ach Ard;	Moderate	Moderate
10	Sgurr a' Choire Ghlais	Moderate	Moderate
11	Summit of Moruisg	Moderate	Moderate
12	Leathad Buidhe, Beinn Eighe NNR	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor
13	Summit of An Coileachan, Fannich range	Moderate	Moderate
14	Summit of Beinn Dearg	Moderate	Moderate
15	Summit of Meall a' Ghrianain	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)
16	Summit of Meall Mor	Moderate	Moderate
17	Layby, Loch Glascarnoch	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)
18	Summit of An Teallach	Moderate/minor	Moderate/minor
19	Little Wyvis	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment												
Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
1	Aultguish Inn, A835	Medium Boundary of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT RCY7 • Undulating Moorland LCT RCY2 	High in respect of tourists and medium in respect of general road users ²	Kirkan	Proposed	2.3 km S	38.8	<p>The existing view from this viewpoint is depicted in Figure 4.8a and 4.8b.</p> <p>There is a notable level of built infrastructure, fencing and low voltage power lines present in the foreground view from this location. The Aultguish Inn forms a large building in the landscape, while the Loch Glascarnoch reservoir dam structure (visible behind the inn to the west) and a small storage building is present to the east. Post and wire fencing create small fields in proximity to the road. Road signs, safety barriers, bollards and other road infrastructure create slight clutter in the view. A sign post next to the small storage building identifies the beginning of the Old Drovers Road, a right of way which runs through the proposed development site.</p> <p>The A835 is a relatively busy road, vehicles moving close by, in the foreground of the view. Corriemoillie Wind Farm is visible on the skyline in the background of the view</p>	<p>The proposed view is depicted in Figure 4.8d.</p> <p>The proposed development would represent a lateral extension of wind turbines across the skyline to the south of the viewpoint. Receptors affected would include patrons of the Inn who would be afforded views towards the proposed development, and tourists and general road users and cyclists on the A835, whose views of the proposed development would be oblique.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would be located along the skyline of the view. They would be viewed in the context of other wind turbines at Corriemoillie Wind Farm.</p>	<p>Substantial</p> <p>The proposed development would result in a considerable alteration to the composition of the view and the character of the landscape from the Aultguish Inn, resulting in a considerable addition to change to the existing context</p>	<p>Major/moderate (Significant)</p> <p>The proposed development would add to the extent of wind energy development along the skyline, thereby adding to the degree of complexity in the landscape and extent of movement and development on the horizon, to the south.</p>	<p>Major in respect of tourists, and cyclists in the vicinity, and Major/moderate (Significant) in respect of general road users.</p> <p>The proposed development would occupy a prominent skyline position that is currently without such features.</p>
				Corriemoillie	Operational	2.25 km S	44.3					
				Lochluichart	Operational	3.95 km S	8.7					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	3.26 km SW	15.7					

¹ Refer to TA4.2 for landscape character descriptions and description of sensitivity, and Section 4.2 of the main LVIA chapter for a description of the sensitivity criteria for landscape receptors.

² Refer to Section 4.2 of the main LVIA chapter for a description of the sensitivity criteria for visual receptors.

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Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								to the south but is partially screened by intervening landform. The turbines are clearly visible and have established movement of the skyline. Despite their prominence, these existing turbines form a characteristic element rather than defining element of the view are not the defining characteristics of the view or landscape character at this viewpoint.				
2	Old Drovers Road, Corriemoillie	High • Rocky Moorland LCT	High in respect of walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	0.7 km WNW	87	The existing view experienced by walkers in the Drovers Road is depicted in the baseline photos in Figures 4.9a, 4.9b, 4.9e and 4.9f. The view is across an upland moorland landscape where longer distance views are truncated by low topographic rises in the foreground and middle ground of the view. Rocky outcrops punctuate the moorland ground cover. To the west and north, layered ridgelines recede into the distance changing in colour from the browns and oranges in the foreground to blues and greens in the	The proposed view is depicted in Figure 4.9h. The proposed development would introduce wind turbines in close proximity to walkers on the Old Drovers Road. Views would be direct. The proposed development would be located in the foreground of the view and would interrupt views to the landscape beyond, completely changing the composition of the direct view. The development would be located	Substantial The proposed development would exert a considerable influence on the composition of the view from Old Drovers Road and would significantly change the character of views from this route	Major (Significant) The proposed development would result in a considerable alteration to the baseline landscape at the viewpoint and result in wind energy development become a defining characteristic of the landscape to the north-west of this viewpoint.	Major (Significant) Whilst the proposed development would not foreshorten longer range views to the north-west due to the visual permeability of the development, it would significantly alter the scenic quality of the foreground and detract from the background of the view.
				Corriemoillie	Operational	2.38 km WNW	22					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	4.79 km WNW	1.5					
				Fairburn	Operational	14.25 km SSE	7.4					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>distance. Patches of coniferous woodland are present across lower lying areas of moorland in the centre of the view.</p> <p>Corriemoillie and Lochluichart Wind Farms are visible in the middle distance, extending above the ridge in the middle distance. Wind turbines are not a notable or character defining element in the landscape or in the view.</p> <p>To the east and south the view is blocked by the rising landform of Carn na Dubh Choille.</p>	<p>in front of turbines at Corriemoillie and Lochluichart Wind Farms. The addition of the proposals would considerably increase the influence of wind turbines in close proximity to the viewer.</p> <p>Wind energy development would become a defining characteristic of the landscape immediately to the north-west of this viewpoint.</p>			
3	A835, Near Tarvie	High to medium • Rocky Moorland LCT (RCY4)	High in respect of tourists and medium in respect of general road users.	Kirkan	Proposed	9.53 km NW	0.8	<p>The existing view experienced by north-bound road users from this location is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figure 4.10a and 4.10b.</p> <p>The view is enclosed by roadside woodland vegetation to the south, east and west.</p> <p>To the north and north west, the view is channelled along the valley of Loch Garve. The low-lying valley landscape is bordered by gently rising moorland hills covered in a patchwork of heather and coniferous forestry. A high voltage transmission line runs</p>	<p>The proposed view is illustrated in wireline in Figure 4.10a and in Figure 4.10c. Currently, the proposed development would be completely screened by forestry which is located across the hillside in the foreground.</p> <p>Should this forestry be cleared as part of routine forestry management practices, three turbines would be visible along the skyline within a</p>	<p>Taking account of existing intervening forest cover the proposed development would be entirely obscured from this viewpoint and consequently, would have no impact.</p> <p>In the event of the felling of the forestry, the magnitude of impact would be Slight.</p> <p>The proposed development</p>	<p>No effect whilst existing forestry is retained.</p> <p>Following removal of forestry residual effects on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be moderate/minor and not significant. These effects would be removed as replacement planting matures.</p> <p>The proposed development would not affect the strong sense of enclosure of the valley as experienced within the Rocky Moorland LCT.</p>	<p>No effect whilst existing forestry is retained.</p> <p>Following removal of forestry, the visual effect of the proposed development would be moderate in respect of tourists and moderate/minor in respect of general road users, and not significant.</p> <p>The proposed development would not significantly affect the visual amenity of the</p>
				Corriemoillie	Consented	10.48 km NW	11					
				Lochluichart	Operational	11.65 km NW	3.5					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	12.82 km NW	3.6					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>along the hillside to the south of the loch. Overlapping hills recede into the distance, covered in a mosaic of vegetation types. In the background of the view, larger areas of forestry blanket the lower hill slopes, while Lochluichart Wind Farm is visible across the moorland hills.</p>	<p>small gap between two hills. The proposed development would be located in the background of the view and would occupy a small extent of the overall view from the road. The character of valley landscape is already influenced by views to Lochluichart Wind Farm (and extension) which is located across the hillside in the background of the view, by a transmission line which runs across the landscape in the middle distance, and by a telecommunication mast which breaks the skyline to the east. The development would not impact upon the underlying character of the landscape. In combination, wind farm development would extend across the full horizon in the background of the view, framed by larger topography in the foreground. This large-scale</p>	<p>would represent a discernible addition to the cumulative context of the view, and one which is highly localised, experience momentarily at this viewpoint, and which would be viewed distantly, and in the context of the existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart turbines. It has been assumed that any felled forestry would be replaced as part of ongoing forestry management and therefore the impact would be temporary (although medium term)</p>		<p>view from this location.</p>

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									infrastructure would be contained visually by landform, and the influence on the character of the landscape would also be contained.			
4	A832 Gorstan	High • Narrow Farmed Strath LCT	High in respect of tourists and medium in respect of general road users	Kirkan	Proposed	4.38 km NNW	8.4	<p>The existing view from this location is depicted in the baseline photography in Figures 4.11a and 4.11b.</p> <p>The view to the south, north and west is largely enclosed by the northern and southern sides of the forested Garve valley, as it narrows towards Gorston. Roadside vegetation filters views to the hills.</p> <p>A railway line runs along the southern edge of the A832, reinforcing the valley floor as a transport corridor.</p> <p>To the east, the valley broadens at the head of Loch Garve, and small fields occupy the flat topography. A small community of properties is situated to the north of the road, contributing a layer of settlement into the landscape.</p> <p>The southern and western slopes of Meall Ruighe an Fhirich and Little Wyvis form the</p>	<p>The proposed view is illustrated in the wireline images in Figures 4.11a and 4.11c.</p> <p>Currently, the proposed development would be completely screened by intervening forestry.</p> <p>Should this forestry be cleared as part of routine forestry management practices, six turbines would be visible along the skyline.</p> <p>Only blades would be visible above the landform. No other wind farms or turbines are visible from this location and therefore the proposed development would introduce a new element in the view. The movement of the</p>	<p>Taking account of existing forestry, the proposed development would have no effect on the landscape character at the viewpoint</p> <p>Following removal of forestry, the magnitude of impact would be negligible. The proposed development would introduce movement and blade tips to the skyline above the A832 but would be seen fleetingly and would be seen through the tracery of roadside trees which, during summer months would virtually</p>	<p>No effect taking account of existing forestry and any replacement planting in due course:</p> <p>Following removal of forestry, the effect on landscape character at this viewpoint would be moderate/minor</p> <p>The prominence of the agricultural fields and strath floor, and the enclosure provided by the valley sides would not be altered by the proposed development.</p>	<p>No effect taking account of existing forestry and any replacement planting in due course:</p> <p>Following removal of forestry, the effect on the amenity in respect of tourists and minor in respect of general road users.</p> <p>The proposed development would relate to existing elements within the view and would not significantly affect the visual amenity experienced in views from the road.</p>
				Corriemoillie	Consented	5.15 km NW	0.9					
				Lochluichart	Operational	6.37 km NW	2.4					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	7.49 km NW	0.7					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								background to the eastern portion of the view, partially clothed in coniferous forestry which creates obvious compartments across the valley landscape. Ben Wyvis is visible to the north east, cloaked in cloud in the baseline photograph.	blades would be the key change as the majority of the development screened by topography. While the turbine blades would be a new element in the view, it is considered that they would relate to the existing infrastructure and development within the landscape (forestry, road corridor, rail corridor, agricultural activity, properties etc). The full size and scale of the turbines would not be revealed and the influence the development would have across the wider landscape would be limited.	obscure the development. Moreover, once replacement forest planting has matured the development would, once again, be entirely obscured.		
5	Summit of Sgurr Marcasaidh	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocky Moorland (LCT RCY4) 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	7.52 km N	11.9	The existing view is depicted in the baseline photography in Figures 4.12a and 4.12b.	The proposed view is illustrated in the wireline in Figure 4.12c and in the	Moderate – the proposed development would form a discernible and prominent	Major/ Moderate (Significant) The development would create a notable lateral	Major/ Moderate (Significant) Hill walkers would be subject to significant
			Auchmore	Operational	16.12 km N	0.2						
			Auchmore 2	Operational	15.80 km N	0.2						

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	6.75 km N	14.2	<p>The view extends across rolling moorland landscapes to larger mountain massifs in the background which form a varied skyline. Lochluichart Wind Farm and extension, and Corriemoillie Wind Farm are located in the middle distance to the north, backclothed by mountain ranges which includes the summit of Beinn Dearg.</p> <p>Further west, the landform becomes more dramatic and varied with the sharp peaks of Sgurr Mor creating a landmark feature in the view.</p> <p>Patches of forestry blanket the lower slopes of valleys and straths which cut through the upland topography. The River Bran meanders through Strath Bran in the west, visually linking the top of Loch Achanalt with Loch a Chroisg.</p> <p>Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis frame the mountainous landscape to the east before the landform drops towards the coast and flatter, smaller scale agricultural landscapes become more prominent in the view to the south. This extent is largely settled</p>	<p>photomontage in Figure 4.12d.</p> <p>The proposed development would extend the spread of wind turbines across the direct view.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would be of a larger scale, although sat at lower elevations, than that which is present in the landscape. Due to the angle of view, this difference would be discernible</p> <p>Wind energy development would be contained within one part of the view, maintain the current pattern of discrete areas of wind farm development, separated by large areas of open, undeveloped landscape.</p>	<p>change to the direct view however overall, the change would be localised to one portion of the wider, panoramic view</p>	<p>extension of impacts associated with the existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart wind farms, thereby increasing the influence of wind energy on the perceived character at this viewpoint..</p>	<p>effects arising from the increase in the extent of the view which contains wind turbines, and the difference in size of turbine from those which currently exist.</p> <p>The significant effect would be localised as the amenity of the wider panoramic outlook would be unaltered.</p>
			Lochluichart	Operational	6.96 km NNW	13.5						
			Lochluichart Extension	Operational	8.66 km NNW	4						
			Fairburn	Operational	8.16 km SE	7.5						

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								in character and contrasts with the undeveloped highland landscape to the north, east and west.				
6	Summit of Ben Wyvis	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • Ben Wyvis SLA • WLA29. Rhiddoroch, Beinn Dearg, Ben Wyvis 	High	Kirkan	Proposed	9.14 km W	0.7	The existing view from this viewpoint is illustrated in Figures 4.13a to 4.13d. The views from the summit of Ben Wyvis are long range and expansive, extending in all directions. To the west and north, the sweeping and interlocking ridges of the Northwest Highland mountains transition to the mountain massifs of Beinn Dearg and Sgurr Mor in the distance. Broad straths are interspersed between the hills, and lochs punctuate the landform, adding highlights to the moorland cover. Patches of coniferous woodland are present across lower lying landform and create darker elements in the view. Views to the west contain the existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart Wind Farms in the middle distance, back clothed by the hills behind. Fairburn Wind Farm is viewed to the south, in the context of the more	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in 4.13a to 4.13e and in the photomontage in Figure 4.13f. The proposed development would introduce turbines in the foreground of the existing Lochluichart, Lochluichart Extension and Corriemoillie Wind Farms, bringing wind energy development in closer proximity to the viewer. The proposed turbines would be located in front of a minor ridge which currently partially screens the existing development. The proposed development would be seen within a wide panoramic view from the summit of Ben Wyvis. The addition of the proposals would not extend the horizontal extent	Slight – the proposed development would result in the partial alteration of the existing view. The change would be prominent however due to the broad panoramic view from the summit of Ben Wyvis, the change would be localised, and the view composition would be broadly consistent with the baseline view. The character of the landscape at this viewpoint would remain broadly consistent with that of the baseline	Moderate (not significant) Wind farm development would appear closer to the viewpoint and would increase the prominence of turbines as a focal point within the landscape. The proposed development would not affect the overall exposed character of the broader landscape. The strong slopes and deep valleys would remain a key focus. The influence of the jagged skyline would not be affected.	Moderate (not significant) The visual amenity of hill walkers at the summit of Ben Wyvis would not be significantly affected by the proposed development. Wind energy development is already a familiar element in the direct view from the summit. Effects would be localised and the overall panoramic view from the summit would not change.
				Corriemoillie	Operational	11.15 km W	2.4					
				Lochluichart	Operational	13.14 W	2.6					
				Lochluichart extension	Operational	13.53 W	3.7					
				Yellow Wells	Operational	11.82 km ESE	0.3					
				Fairburn	Operational	16.15 km SSW	8.5					
				Auchmore	Operational	19.37 km S	0.1					
				Auchmore 2	Operational	19.62 km S	0.1					
				Corrimony	Operational	44.03 km NNW	0.6					
				Bhlaraidh	Operational	47.92 km S	4.9					
				Belladrum Kiltarlity	Consented	27.28 km SSE	0.1					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>settled River Conan valley.</p> <p>To the east, views extend across the settled lowland farmed landscapes towards the Beaully and Cromarty Firths.</p>	<p>of wind energy development in the view. It would be back clothed by mountain ranges in the distance and would not introduce a new or unfamiliar element into the view.</p> <p>The turbines would appear discernibly larger than those currently in the view, however from this location it is considered that they would relate well to the scale of the landscape within which it is located.</p> <p>The influence of the proposed development across the landscape would be contained within an area where wind farm development is already an element, but not a characterizing feature. While the presence of infrastructure would be increased, the overall character of the landscape would not be affected.</p> <p>In combination with other</p>			

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									developments, the proposed development would logically fit with the pattern of development which currently exists in the landscape and in views from Ben Wyvis. Wind farm development would remain largely separated into discrete clusters. The balance of landscape and wind farms would not discernibly change.			
7	Avenue of Fairburn Estate	High to Medium • Forest Edge Farming LCT	High in respect of tourists/visitors to the estate, and nearby residential receptor at the estate lodge	Kirkan	Proposed	17.52 km NW	2.7	The existing view from this location is depicted in the baseline images in Figures 4.14a to 4.14d. The view extends along the valley of the River Conon, enclosed by gently rising topography to the north and south. Views to the west extend along the line of the wooded valley, towards the rising foothills of the North-western Highlands. Medium sized fields lie in the foreground of the view, punctuated by scattered settlement and farm related buildings. Dense shelterbelts extend from areas of	The proposed view is illustrated in the wireline images in Figure 4.14a and 4.14e and in the photomontage in Figure 4.14f. The proposed development would introduce wind turbines across a small extent of the skyline in the view from this location. Eight of the 17 proposed turbines would be visible, and the majority of all towers would be screened by topography. Only the upper sections of the towers, and hubs and blades	Slight – the proposed development would result in a discernible change to the baseline view however impacts would be localised, and the underlying character of view would remain broadly consistent with the existing context	Moderate The sense of enclosure created by the topography in the background would not be altered and the large open fields would continue to dominate the visual composition of the landscape.	Moderate For users of the minor road and residents of scattered properties within the immediate area, the amenity of the view from this location would not be significantly affected. Due to partial screening by topography, the proposed wind farm would not form a focal point within the view and would integrate with existing wind energy development and would relate to the agricultural
				Auchmore	Operational	4 km S	0.7					
				Auchmore 2	Operational	4.22 km S	0.7					
				Fairburn	Operational	4.99 km WSW	6.7					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	18.48 km NW	6.4					
				Lochluichart	Operational	19.59 km NW	1.5					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	20.82 km NW	2.2					

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>forestry and woodland which lie on the edges of the valley. These, combined with a mix of stone walls and post and wire fences, define field boundaries across the low-lying landscape.</p> <p>The hills which form the background to the view are characterised by their rounded form and moorland land cover. Rocky outcrops and cliff faces are present within areas of forestry or moorland.</p> <p>Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible in the distance, rising up on the moorland hills to the rear of the view, and back clothed by landform.</p>	<p>would be visible. Views from the road, and from residential properties within the vicinity would be predominantly direct.</p> <p>The turbines would be viewed within the context of the turbines at Corriemoillie, Lochluichart and Lochluichart Extension further west however due to their larger size and position on the skyline, the addition of the proposed development would appear more prominent within the view.</p> <p>The proposed development would be seen within the context of a settled, agricultural landscape and would be framed by larger moorland hills to the north and west. As the proposed development is located behind landform, the prominence of the structures within the landscape is reduced and it does not form a</p>			context of the existing view.

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									<p>focal point within the landscape. The size and scale of the development relates comfortably with the nature of the topography which forms the background of the view.</p> <p>In combination with the broader pattern of wind farm development across the landscape, the proposed development would reinforce the presence of wind farms in the background of the view. Wind energy would remain a notable part of a portion of the landscape in the distance but would not contrast with the existing pattern of wind farm development in the landscape.</p>			
8	Summit of Sgurr a'Muillin	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • Strathconon Monar 	High	Kirkan	Proposed	14.84 km NE	7	The existing view from this location is depicted in the photography in Figures 4.15a and 4.15b.	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.15a and 4.15c, and in the	Slight – the proposed development would result in a prominent but localised	Moderate The proposals would not affect the exposed character of the Rounded Hills LCT. The strong	Moderate The amenity of the view from the summit of Sgurr a'Muillin would not be
			Auchmore 2	Operational	22.29 km E	0.1						
			Belladrum	Consented	30.19 km SE	0.1						

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
		and Mullardoch SLA		Corriemoillie	Operational	12.73 km NE	1.8	<p>The view is large scale and panoramic. In all directions, views extend across open moorland hills which sweep down via convex and concave slopes into straths and valleys.</p> <p>In the north, Loch Luichart, Loch a Chuillinn and Loch Achanalt are visible at lower elevations and contribute to the varied texture in the landscape. The landform rises to the north of these water features to rounded moorland hills, with Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms visible in the middle distance. Patches of forestry form dark irregular patterns on the lower slopes. Ben Wyvis is a dominant landform in the rear of the view.</p> <p>To the east, the landform drops to the narrow Strath Meig. Coniferous forestry aligns the strath, and the managed farmland which lies along the valley floor creates a stark contrast with the moorland landcover above.</p>	<p>photomontage in Figure 4.15d.</p> <p>The development would be located on elevated moorland which lies above the sparsely settled landscape on the northern shore of Loch Luichart.</p> <p>Turbines at Lochluichart, Lochluichart Extension, and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible. The proposed development would relate to the existing context of wind energy development within the view, extending the presence of wind turbines across the landscape. The development would not be skylined.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would be discernibly larger structures than those in the current view, although this is offset somewhat by their location at lower elevation with a large proportion of turbines screened to ground level by intervening topography. As</p>	<p>change to the baseline view which is considered to be broadly consistent with the existing context of the view</p>	<p>slopes, deep valleys and presence of water bodies would remain a key focus. The influence of the jagged skyline would not be affected.</p> <p>Effects would be localised within an open and exposed landscape.</p>	<p>significantly affected. The proposed development would extend the presence of turbines in the view. However, effects would be localised, and the broader panoramic view would be essentially unchanged.</p>
	Fairburn	Operational	14.46 km E	1.2								
	Lochluichart	Operational	11.08 km NE	6								
	Lochluichart Extension	Operational	13.19 km NE	3.8								

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									<p>they are located behind existing development, the difference in size and scale could appear illogical to the eye.</p> <p>Wind turbines are an existing element in the landscape, in the area of the proposed development. The addition of Kirkan Wind Farm would increase the number of wind turbines in the landscape and within the view however would ensure that the influence of wind energy development across the landscape is contained. The overarching character of the landscape would remain unchanged.</p> <p>In combination effects of wind farm development on the landscape and on views would be limited. While slightly extended by the proposed development, the pattern of wind energy development</p>			

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									within the panoramic view would remain contained within a discrete cluster, across a small portion of the view. The proposed development would not notably influence the characteristic features of the landscape.			
9	Summit of Beinn a'Bha'ach Ard;	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugged Massif LCT WLA 24. Central Highlands 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	23.2 km N	4.3	The existing view is depicted in the baseline photography in Figures 4.16a and 4.16b. To the north, the view extends across layered ridgelines which recede into the distance. Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible in the middle distance, backclothed by mountain ranges in the distance. Ben Wyvis is present in the view however does not form a prominent landmark from this location. To the west and south, views are similar with large mountain peaks and interlinking ridgelines comprising the majority of the view. To the east, the character of the view changes. The	The proposed view is illustrated in the wireline image in Figure 4.16a and 4.16c, and in the photomontage image in Figure 4.16d. The proposed development would form a lateral extension to the existing wind farm development of Corriemoillie and Lochluichart, would be seen distantly and occupy a small proportion of what is an expansive panoramic view at this location.	Slight – the proposed development would result in the partial alteration to the character of the existing landscape and the composition of the view by increasing the influence of wind energy development. The change would be localised across the broader panoramic view from this location.	Moderate The development would alter a small section of a ridgeline which contributes to the dramatic visual composition created by landform and would add further complexity to the landscape.	Moderate The discernibly larger scale of turbine and the increased spread of development constitute a localised change in what is otherwise an unaltered expansive view.
				Corrimony	Operational	18.9 km S	1.6					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	22.54 km N	5					
				Lochluichart	Operational	22.24 km N	3.9					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	24.6 km N	1.3					
				Novar	Operational	33.45 km ENE	1.9					
				Novar Extension	Operational	33.12 km ENE	3.8					
Belladrum Kiltarlity	Consented	17.36 km E	0.1									

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								topography falls towards the low-lying, settled landscapes which surround the Beaully Firth. A mosaic of agricultural fields is interspersed with areas of woodland and forestry. Further to the south east, the valleys of the River Beaully and River Farrar create green forested corridors surrounded by an elevated moorland landscape.				
10	Sgurr a' Choire Ghlais	High • Rugged Massif (LCT INV1) • Central Highlands WLA 24 • Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	26 km NNE	3.8	The existing view from this location is depicted in Figures 4.17a and 4.17b. The view from this location is large scale, expansive and panoramic, and dominated by the dramatic rolling topography and open moorland of the rugged massif and connecting views across the adjoining upland landscapes of the area. The interior of settled straths and glens is not apparent from this location, emphasising the remote and wild character of the landscape. The existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart turbines	The proposed view is illustrated in the wireline images in Figures 4.17a and 4.17c, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.17d. These images show that 17 of the proposed developments turbines would be visible immediately to the east of the existing cluster of turbines at Corriemoillie and Lochluichart.	Slight. The proposed development would represent a localised change to the baseline view from this location, would be seen distantly, in the context of existing development and would occupy a small proportion of what is an expansive outlook.	Moderate and not significant. Whilst The proposed development would extend the proportion of the characteristic view provided at this location that is occupied by wind turbines, it would be of insufficient prominence to constitute a significant effect on the remoteness and wild characteristic of the landscape at this location. It would be perceived as a localised change, albeit one that is broadly consistent with the baseline background context of the landscape.	Moderate. the proposed development would not constitute a significant effect on the visual amenity of hill walkers at this location. The proposed development would not form a new focal point or significantly detract from the view.
				Fairburn	Operational	17.69 km ENE	7					
				Corrimony	Operational	20.03 km SSE	2.1					
				Auchmore	Operational	22.36 km ENE	0.1					
				Bhlaraidh	Operational	23.57 km SSE	10.3					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	24.34 km NNE	5					
				Lochluichart	Operational	23.12 km NNE	3.4					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	25.34 km NNE	1.7					
				Yellow Wells	Operational	37.38 km						
				Novar	Operational	40.5 km NE	3.4					
Novar Extension	Operational	39.87 km NE	2.6									

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
				Belladrum Kiltarlity	Consented	27.5 km E	0.1	are evident in the distance to north-east of this viewpoint, along with the Fairburn turbines which are also seen distantly, but clearly evident.				
11	Summit of Moruisg	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA • WLA24. Central Highlands 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	30.72 km NE	3.3	The existing view from this location is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.18a and 4.18b. In all directions, the expansive and panoramic view from the Summit of Moruisg extends across a vast mountainous landscape. Smooth moorland slopes with sharp ridgelines are layered and form both the foreground and background to the view. Skylines are uninterrupted. Evidence of human settlement is limited.	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.18a and 4.18c, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.18d. The proposed development would marginally extend the presence of wind turbines across the background view. The development would remain a minor feature within a broad panoramic view, set within the	Slight – In the context of the broad, panoramic view from the summit of Moruisg, the change in the view and on the character of the landscape caused by the proposed development would be discernible but localised. The change would be broadly consistent	Moderate The effect on the character of the landscape at the summit of Moruisg would not be significant. Due to its location within a cluster of existing wind energy development, the proposed development would not alter the perceived remoteness of the landscape at the viewpoint or alter the vast open and exposed experience offered from this viewpoint.	Moderate The effect on views and visual amenity from the summit of Moruisg would not be significant. There would be a discernible increase in the extent of development across the direct view however the effect would be localised
				Auchmore	Operational	37.15 km E	0.1					
				Lochluichart	Operational	26.47 km NE	2.5					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	28.06 km NE	0.8					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	28.44 km NE	4.5					
				Corrimony	Operational	35.01 km SE	0.1					
				Auchmore 2	Operational	37.3 km E	0.1					
				Bhlaraidh	Operational	35.01 km SE	0.4					
				Coire na Cloiche	Operational	56.53 km NE	0.7					

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>To the north east, the A890 is visible as it routes along Glen Carron, past Loch Gowan. Small patches of forestry are present on the lower slopes of the Glen. Low numbers of scattered houses, nestled within the lower lying landscape, are glimpsed. Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible in the distance to the north east, backclothed by topography and partially screened by landform in the foreground.</p> <p>The flat-bottomed valley of the River Carron, with its forested sides, is present to the south east of the view. In the distance, views extend to include Inner Sound as it enters near Charron are present.</p>	<p>context of existing wind energy development. The influence across the wider landscape would be limited, as the development would sit logically within existing development which, while an element within the landscape, is not a defining or characterizing feature.</p> <p>In combination with existing development, proposals would not alter the current pattern of development within the landscape within the view. Development would remain clustered and the influence across the broader landscape view would be limited.</p>	with the baseline		

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
12	Leathad Buidhe, Beinn Eighe NNR	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged Mountain Massif LCT • Wester Ross NSA • WLA27. Flowerdale, Shieldaig, Torridon 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	36.41 km E	1.3	<p>The existing view from this location is illustrated in baseline photography on Figures 4.19a and 4.19b.</p> <p>To the south and west, the view is contained by the large and impressive landforms which comprise Ben Eighe. The rocky and steep summits of Creag Dubh, Sgurr Ban, Ruadh Stac Beag, Ruadh Stac Mor and Meall a'Ghiuthais foreshorten the view and are imposing landmarks.</p> <p>Similarly, to the north, views are largely contained by topography. The landform drops steeply to Loch Maree (which cannot be seen from this viewpoint). North of the loch, the landform rises sharply to the craggy slopes of Slioch.</p> <p>In contrast, views to the east are more expansive, extending across the steeply sided, flat bottomed Kinlochewe River valley. Vegetation is limited to patches of broadleaved woodland across the valley floor and some small forestry plantations on the lower slopes.</p>	<p>The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.19 a and 4.19c, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.19d. The proposed development would be almost indistinguishable from existing development within the view. Blades of up to 4 wind turbines would be seen behind wind turbines at Lochluichart, Lochluichart extension and Corriemoillie and would not cause a noticeable impact upon the view, or upon the character of the landscape from this viewpoint.</p> <p>As only small parts of the proposed development are visible, the difference in size and scale of the turbines (in comparison to those in the foreground) would not be noticeable.</p>	Negligible – the proposals would result in an indiscernible addition to the view. The turbines would cause an almost imperceptible alteration to the composition of the existing view and in the character of the landscape.	Moderate/ Minor There would not be significant effects on the character of the landscape. The proposed development would not alter the line of the angular, jagged skyline nor would it interrupt the dynamic visual composition of the landscape which has different points of focus within the landscape area. The sense of remoteness within the Rugged Mountain Massif LCT would not be notably affected.	Moderate/ Minor Effects on the amenity of the view would not be significantly affected. The proposed development would form an almost imperceptible change in the view.
				Lochluichart	Operational	33.25 km E	2.8					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	34.17 km E	0.7					

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Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								In the middle distance, elevated and broad topped moorland landscape is incised by the Abhainn Bruachaig and Glen Docherty valleys. Sharper ridgelines, including the conical peak of Fionn Bheinn, form the background to the view. Skylines are uninterrupted and clean. Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are partially visible to the rear of the view, largely screened by topography which rises above Loch Fannich.				
13	Summit of An Coileachan , Fannich range	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugged Mountain Massif Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA WLA28. Fisherfield, Letterewe, Fannichs 	High	Kirkan	Proposed	11.28 km E	1	The existing view from this location is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.20a and 4.20b. To the north, west and south, the view extends across an elevated and open moorland landscape. Rocky outcrops punctuate ridgelines and create areas of sharpness which contrast with the smoother moorland forms, particularly to the west. Where present, vegetation is comprised of small forestry plots within lower lying topography. While views are expansive, they are	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.20a and 4.20c, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.20d. The proposed development would be viewed behind existing development at Lochluichart, Lochluichart Extension and Corriemoillie Wind Farms. However, due to the discernibly larger scale of turbine proposed, the development would appear as a	Slight – the proposed development would discernibly alter the composition of the existing view however this change would be localised and broadly consistent with the baseline view.	Moderate The proposed development would not result in significant effects on the character of the landscape. The proposed development would not alter the angular skyline and, due to its low-lying position, would not interrupt the overall composition of the landscape and its focal points. The sense of remoteness within the Rugged Mountain Massif LCT would not be notably affected.	Moderate The turbines would be a prominent feature within the localised, direct view. Wind energy development would remain in a single cluster within the view and the broader panoramic view from the summit would remain consistent with the baseline. The visual amenity from the summit of An Coileachan would not be significantly affected
				Lochluichart	Operational	7.87 km ESE	0.6					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	8.08 km E	1.2					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	9.06 km E	0.5					
				Fairburn	Operational	22.26 km SE	2.7					
				Auchmore	Operational	30 km SE	0.1					
				Auchmore 2	Operational	30.32 km SE	0.1					
				Novar	Operational	30.9 km ENE	0.4					
				Coire na Cloiche	Operational	36.2 km ENE	1.3					
				Novar	Operational	29.65 km ENE	0.4					

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								<p>often foreshortened by intervening topography in the middle distance. Skylines are clean.</p> <p>To the east, plantation forestry is more present in the view. Turbines at Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible, partially screened by topography, and backclothed by landform. They form the key manmade elements in the view.</p> <p>To the south east, long distance views to the northern Cairngorms are available. From the viewpoint, the topography drops towards the coast. Agricultural landscape is interspersed with large patches of forestry. Fairburn Wind Farm is visible but not a key feature in the landscape.</p>	<p>prominent feature within the view. The horizontal extent of wind energy development across the view would not be altered however, as the turbines would rise higher up they would be more noticeable. It is considered that the turbines would relate well to the size and scale of the landscape. No turbines would be skylined and they would not impact upon views to the Ben Wyvis landform.</p> <p>The development would be located amongst an existing area of wind farm development, which occupies a relatively small extent of the wider landscape. The open and undeveloped moorland landscape which characterizes the north, west and south of the view would remain unchanged.</p> <p>The proposed development</p>			

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									relates well to the existing pattern of wind farm development across the landscape and in the view. It is considered that in combination effects would be limited as the relationship between wind energy development and the existing landscape character/ composition of the view would remain largely unaltered.			
14	Summit of Beinn Dearg	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugged Mountain Massif LCT Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA WLA29. Rhiddoroch, Beinn Dearg, Ben Wyvis 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	16.38 km SE	5.9	The existing view from this location is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.21a to 4.21d. The expansive view extends across an upland moorland and mountain landscape. To the west, the ridgelines create a skyline which is angular and jagged and recedes into the distance. Peaks at Sgurr Mor, Beinn a'Chlaidheimh and An	The proposed view from this location is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.21a and 4.21e, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.21f. The proposed development would introduce wind turbines across a wider extent of the view, extending across the moorland hills above Loch	Slight – the proposed development would extend the presence of wind energy development but would be seen distantly and would occupy a relatively small proportion of the view and in the context of the existing cluster of	Moderate. The proposed development would not constitute a new feature in the view from this location and would add to the concentration of turbines located on lower lying moorland to the south-east. In this context the proposed development is not considered to pose a significant effect on the landscape at this viewpoint.	Moderate Whilst the proposed development would add to the emerging pattern of development to the south-east of this location edramatic and attractive views across neighbouring areas of upland and designated landscapes to the south, north, east and west.
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	14.8 km SSE	2.7					
				Lochluichart	Operational	16.4 km SSE	5.8					
				Corriemoillie	Operational	16.3 km SSE	6.9					
				Novar Extension	Operational	30 km ESE	3					
				Novar	Operational	30.3 km ESE	3.8					
				Fairburn	Operational	32.8 km SSE	2.8					
				Coire na Cloiche	Operational	32.4 km E	1.6					

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
				Rosehall	Operational	32.13 km NE	3.3	<p>Tellach are particularly notable. To the south and east ridgelines are more rounded and the skyline is softer.</p> <p>To the south, Loch Glascarnoch, Loch a'Gharbhrain and Loch Droma are located within lower lying areas and break up the moorland land cover.</p> <p>Evidence of human inhabitation is limited. Wind turbines at Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible to the south, Beinn nan Oighrean, Bienn Tharsuinn and Novar (+extension) Wind Farms are visible to the east. These elements form the most notable man-made features in the landscape however are not defining or eye-catching elements in the view.</p>	<p>Glascarnoch which lies in the middle distance of the view.</p> <p>The development would be seen as a visual extension to Corriemoillie Wind Farm. The proposed turbines would be discernibly larger in size than those which are currently in operation, but overall, the turbines would relate to the scale of the landscape within which they are proposed.</p> <p>The addition of the proposed wind farm would reinforce and strengthen the influence of wind energy development within this part of the view, which has already been established by Corriemoillie and Lochluichart Wind Farms. It would not alter the composition of the panoramic view or character of the landscape from the hill summit.</p> <p>When considered in combination with other wind farm</p>	<p>turbines at the Corriemoillie and Lochluichart wind farms.</p>		
			Achany	Operational	33.43 km NE	6.8						
			Beinn nan Oighrean	Operational	34.85 km E	0.5						
			Braemore	Consented	34.8 km NE	2						
			Beinn Tharsuinn	Operational	35.09 km E	0.9						
			Auchmore	Operational	38.6 km SE	0.1						
			Auchmore 2	Operational	38.9 km SE	0.1						
			Bhlaraidh	Operational	60.18 km SSE	2.8						
			Belladrum Kiltarlity	Consented	47.7 km E	0.1						

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									developments across the landscape, the proposed development would integrate with an existing cluster of turbines, and while extending the horizontal extent of development across the landscape and the view, would reinforce the existing pattern of development rather than introducing development into areas which are currently devoid of turbines. The broader landscape would remain unchanged by wind farm development.			
15	Summit of Meall a' Ghrianain	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • Fannichs, Beinn 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	9.16 km S	10.8	The view extends across elevated moorland hills and mountain ranges. To the north and west, higher peaks such as	Overall, the proposed development would affect a small portion of the panoramic	Moderate. The proposed development would form a prominent change to	Major/ Moderate (Significant) There would be significant effects on	Major/ Moderate (Significant) There would be significant effects
			Lochluichart	Operational	11.13 km SSW	6.8						
			Lochluichart Extension	Operational	10.12 km SSW	4.7						

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
		Dearg and Glencalvie SLA • WLA29. Rhiddoroch, Beinn Dearg, Ben Wyvis		Beinn Tharsuinn	Operational	24.77 km W	3	Am Fauchagach, Carn Gorm-Loch, Creag an Duine and Beinn A-Chaisteil foreshorten the view, allowing only glimpses to the expansive layered ridgelines behind. To the south and east, the view extends further revealing interlocking and overlapping ridges which recede into the distance. In the middle distance to the south, the topography drops to Strath Vaich and its associated waterbody which meanders along the valley floor. The southern extent of Loch Vaich extends into the view from the west and includes a small dam which contains the southern end of the Loch. Small patches of forestry are visible on the lower slopes of minor hills. Buildings at Strathvaich Lodge are visible near the dam and form the only evidence of settlement within the landscape from this location. Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are seen along a ridge in the middle distance, occupying a small portion of the panoramic view and backclothed by hills further south. The A835 is also glimpsed	view from this summit. However, in views towards the site, the proposed wind farm would extend the presence of wind energy development. The development will introduce 17 new wind turbines, of a discernibly larger size than those which currently exist in the view. The structures would be visible in their entirety, with only marginal screening provided by topography to the western most turbines. The development would not be skylined and would be back clothed by larger landform to the rear of the view. The proposed development would extend the influence of wind energy development across a larger portion of the landscape. This portion would still only comprise a small extent of a much larger	direct views from the summit of Beinn à Chaisteil which would locally alter the composition of the view. The broader context of the view would remain unchanged	the Rounded Hills LCT as a result of the proposed development. While existing wind farm development exists, the size and scale of the proposals would add to a strong existing focal point within the mass of hills, locally altering the perception of exposure and openness.	on views from this summit. The proposed development would extend the presence of wind energy. The structures would be visible in their entirety, with only marginal screening provided by topography to the western most turbines. Significant effects would be localised within the broader panoramic view from this summit.
		Corriemoillie	Operational	9.5 km SW	3.2							
		Coire na Cloiche	Operational	21.93 km E	2.5							
		Fairburn	Operational	24.87 km S								
		Novar	Operational	17.36 km SE	6							
		Novar 2	Operational	18.14 km SE	4							
		Auchmore	Operational	30.55 km SSE	0.1							
		Auchmore 2	Operational	30.85 km SSE	0.1							

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Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								at the confluence of Strath Vaich with the Glascarnoch River.	landscape context. The proposed development would not create scattered development across the moorland landscape. It would relate to the existing pattern of development and while extending the horizontal extent, would ensure that wind farm development remains a single element within the view, and in the landscape, rather than becoming a key of defining feature.			
16	Summit of Meall Mor	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • WLA29. Rhiddoroch, Beinn 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	15.73 km WSW	6.6	Existing views from this location are illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.23a to 4.23d.	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline image in Figures 4.23a and 4.23e, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.23f.	Slight – while the proposed development would notably increase the concentration of wind	Moderate The proposed development would not significantly affect the experience of the Rounded Hills LCT from this	Moderate The development would extend the presence of wind turbines
				Novar	Operational	17.36 km ESE	16.3	To the north the view extends across rolling				

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
		Dearg, Ben Wyvis		Novar Extension	Operational	18.14 km SE	14.1	<p>moorland landscape, interrupted intermittently by rocky outcrops. Rounded ridgelines comprise the landscape in the middle distance, while further away more angular and jagged ridges are visible. Tall peaks such as Ben Hope and Ben Kilbreck are visible in the far distance.</p> <p>To the west, the topography drops to a valley – small areas of forestry and woodland are present on the lower slopes and a small number of buildings are visible, associated with Corravachie and Wyvis Lodge. An access track runs alongside the meandering waterbody. Further west, the landscape rises to rocky moorland slopes. Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Windfarms are visible across moorland hills, backclothed by larger peaks in the distance and framed in the view by topography in the foreground.</p> <p>To the south and east, the view extends across the lower lying coastal landscapes of the Cromarty Firth towards the Black Isle. Evidence of human settlement is present in</p>	<p>The proposed development would introduce wind turbines across an area of moorland landscape which is currently characterised by turbines at Corriemoillie and Lochluichart (and extension) Wind Farms. The development would extend the presence of wind turbines within this part of the view, but the extent would be contained by topography which both frames and screens the full extent of the proposals. The proposals would integrate with the current character of the view.</p> <p>The proposed development would intensify the influence of wind turbines within this small portion of the view however would not overtly extend development across the landscape. There would appear to be some discord between turbine sizes when</p>	<p>turbines within part of the view from the summit of Meall Mor, the proposals would not extend the horizontal spread of development and would remain contained by topography in the foreground.</p> <p>The change would be discernible but localised and would not alter the underlying view composition</p>	<p>viewpoint. The turbines would be contained within existing development and would not affect the exposed character of the landscape. The strong slopes and deep valley would remain a key focus. The influence of the jagged skyline would not be affected.</p>	<p>within the direct view, and the turbines would be visually contained by topography. There would appear to be some discord between turbine sizes when compared to those which currently exist however effects on visual amenity are not considered to be significant.</p>
	Yellow Wells		Operational	12.35 km SSE	0.3							
	Corriemoillie		Operational	17.85 km WSW	7.9							
	Lochluichart Extension		Operational	19.87 km WSW	2.8							
	Lochluichart		Operational	19.91 km WSW	3.6							
	Bhlaraidh		Operational	54.22 km SSW	0.9							
	Belladrum Kiltarlity		Consented	32.60 km S	0.1							

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Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								the distance. Novar Wind Farm (+ extension) is visible in the middle distance.	<p>compared to those which currently exist however as the proposed development would be located in the foreground of existing turbines, the difference would be logical to the eye.</p> <p>The development would not be skyned.</p> <p>The proposed development would not change the relationship between landscape and wind farms. The proposals would be located amongst existing development and the presence of wind energy development would remain clustered within one part of the landscape and one part of the view. The emerging pattern of development would not be impacted or altered.</p>			
17		High		Kirkan	Proposed	7.15 km SSE	5.2					

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Viewpoint No	Name	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint ¹	Visual Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Predicted Cumulative View (360 degrees)				Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
	Layby, Loch Glascarnoch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rounded Hills LCT 	High in respect of tourists and medium in respect of general road users					<p>The existing view from this viewpoint is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.24a and 4.24b.</p> <p>The view is largely contained by topography to the north and south. Gentle moorland hills rise immediately to the north of the loch, preventing longer distance view.</p> <p>An area of low-lying topography forms the valley floor, through which the A835 and other infrastructure passes before the landform begins to rise again in the south. Small patchy areas of coniferous vegetation are present along the valley floor to the south of the road corridor. Infrastructure is of a human-scale in height but is extensive into the distance both directions in the valley. Post and wire fencing and an electricity line align the road corridor to the south. An access track is cut into the hillside to the north of the loch leading to a telecommunication mast. These features, along with the road and associated signage, as well as the nature of the adjacent artificial reservoir with periodic</p>	<p>The proposed view is depicted in the wireline image in Figures 4.24a and 4.24c, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.24d.</p> <p>The proposed development would introduce up to nine wind turbines into a landscape which is currently without visibility to other existing turbines. The development would sit across part of the vista formed by the valley floor which directs views towards Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis and, while not obscuring the view, would introduce elements which somewhat distract the eye and interrupt the view to the landmark landscapes in the distance to a degree.</p> <p>The extent of the turbines visible varies from blades and towers to only blades and would introduce movement to the skyline of the view.</p>	<p>Moderate – There would be a notable alteration to the composition of the southeastern view along the A835.</p> <p>These effects would be in direct views of road users travelling in a south easterly direction over a limited distance and duration. For road users travelling to the north west, the change would not alter the baseline view.</p>	<p>Major/Moderate (Significant)</p> <p>The proposed development would introduce a new focal point within a strath landscape, introducing a moving element and affecting the remoteness of the landscape in this location. The proposed development would not interrupt views of Ben Wyvis, but would be interposed between the viewpoints and Little Wyvis.</p> <p>Effects on the Rolling Hills LCT at this viewpoint would be significant.</p>	<p>Major/Moderate (Significant)</p> <p>The proposed development would significantly affect views from the A835 for east bound travellers. The proposed development would extend across part of the view to Little Wyvis.</p>

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								drawn-down edges along with the imposing Glascarnoch Dam structure itself a little further along the road, reduce the remote character of the landscape. Views along the road corridor to the south east and north west are more open, providing vistas towards Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis in the west and Beinn Dearg in the east.				
18	Summit of An Teallach	High • LCT and • Wester Ross NSA; • Fisherfield, Letterewe and Fannichs WLA.	High in respect of hill walkers.	Kirkan	Proposed	33.97 km ESE	2.9	The existing view from this elevated viewpoint is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.25 a to 4.25d. Views from this location are open, vast and panoramic. To the north and north-west the view extends across the adjacent moorland to Loch Broom and thereafter out into the seascape of the Minch. To the east the view comprises long views across a complex range of mountains, including the Beinn Dearg range. To the south-east, the view extends across the Fannichs and Sgurr Mhor towards Ben Wyvis in the distance. The A835 corridor channels the view	The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.25a and 4.25e, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.25f. Sixteen of the proposed developments turbines would be visible in the background of the view and would be backclothed by topography. Whilst a number of cumulative developments are theoretically visible from this location they are, in fact, difficult to discern in all but the clearest periods of visibility.	Negligible. The proposed development would be seen distantly and would occupy a small proportion of what is a vast view.	Moderate/minor. The proposed development would represent a highly localised and inconspicuous new feature in the view from this location and an such is not anticipated to pose a significant effect on the remoteness or wildness of the character of the landscape at this position.	Moderate/minor. The proposed development would pose no significant effect on the attractiveness or drama of views from this viewpoint.
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	30.85 km ESE	0.2					
				Lochluichart	Operational	31.71 km ESE	0.2					
				Rosehall	Operational	45.92 km ENE	2.2					
				Achany	Operational	45.59 km ENE	3.9					
				Beinn Tharsuinn	Operational	53.85 km E	0.3					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
								towards the proposed development site.				
19	Little Wyvis	High <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounded Hills LCT • Edge of the Ben Wyvis SLA • WLA29. Rhiddoroch, Beinn Dearg, Ben Wyvis 	High in respect of hill walkers	Kirkan	Proposed	6.59 km WNW	14.8	<p>The existing view from this summit is illustrated in the baseline photography in Figures 4.26a to 4.26d.</p> <p>To the west, north and north east, the view from the summit of Little Wyvis extends across an extensive moorland landscape, foreshortened in part by the presence of Ben Wyvis. The moorland vegetation cover is interrupted by patches of coniferous woodland which are located along the lower slopes of hills or across areas of plateau. Lochs and imposing dam structures create points of visual interest. The A835 is glimpsed to the north west in the valley of the Glascarnoch River and the Lochluichart and Corriemoillie Wind Farms are visible across moorland hills in the middle distance.</p> <p>To the south and east, the topography drops to the coast, and evidence of settlement is more pronounced. Views extend to the Beaully Firth and Black Isle.</p>	<p>The proposed view is depicted in the wireline images in Figures 4.26a and 4.26e, and in the photomontage in Figure 4.26f.</p> <p>Currently, wind farm development at Corriemoillie and Lochluichart are partially screened by terrain.</p> <p>The addition of the proposed development would bring development closer to the viewer with little visual separation. It is important to note that these impacts would be localised – the broader panoramic view from the summit of Little Wyvis would remain unchanged.</p> <p>The scale of the proposed turbines would relate well to the size and scale of the landscape however when viewed in the context of the small turbines to the background of</p>	<p>Moderate – the proposed development would considerably alter the character of the direct view, extending the presence of wind energy development across the moorland landscape and in closer proximity to the view. Overall however, the proposed development would result in a localised change within a broader unaltered context.</p>	<p>Major/Moderate (Significant)</p> <p>The proposed development would locally increase the level of infrastructure within the landscape, reducing the perception of a lack of presence of human activity and impacting upon the open and vast character. The bulky form of the landscape would not be affected, and coniferous woodland blocks would remain as geometric forms of colour within the moorland.</p> <p>The development would reinforce the focal point created by existing development and would alter the perception of the mass of hills which characterise the Rolling Hills LCT in which the</p>	<p>Major/Moderate (Significant)</p> <p>There would be significant effects on views and the visual amenity from the summit of Little Wyvis. The proposed development would extend across a prominent part of the views to the west north-west of the viewpoint. These effects would be localised within the broader panoramic view from the summit.</p>
				Corriemoillie	Operational	8.27 km WNW	15.3					
				Lochluichart	Operational	9.83 km W	10.3					
				Lochluichart Extension	Operational	10.61 km W	4.4					
				Auchmore	Operational	16.08 km SSE	0.2					
				Auchmore 2	Operational	16.36 km SSE	0.2					
				Corrimony	Operational	40.35 km S	0.7					
				Bhlaraidh	Operational	42.67 km S	5.4					
				Belladrum Kiltarlity	Consented	24.78 km SSE	0.1					
				Yellow Wells	Operational	14.16 E	0.2					

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				Wind Farm	Status	Approx Distance & direction to Developments	Horizontal Subtended Angle (degrees)					
									<p>the view, the proposed development is noticeably larger. The proposals would further contribute to the contrast between this pocket of large-scale infrastructure development, horizontal extent marked by the imposing Glascarnoch Dam, and the wider upland landscape which is largely void of infrastructure. In-combination with other development within the landscape, and within the view, wind farm development would remain contained within single, discrete clusters with large separation between. The proposed development would not alter this pattern, nor would it cause wind farms to become a defining characteristic of the landscape.</p>		viewpoint is located.	