

Technical Appendix 4.3: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Figure 4.3 shows the location and extent of designated and classified landscapes within the 45 km study area. These landscapes are listed in Table 4.3.1 below, along with details of whether they are included or omitted from the LVIA, and why this is the case. Table 4.3.2 describes only those designated and classified landscapes that would have potential visibility of the proposed development.

Whilst a distinction is made in current Scottish Planning Policy regarding the weight given to national, regional or local designations in planning terms, all designated and classified landscapes considered in the LVIA are ascribed a **High** sensitivity.

Table 4.3.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within 45 km study area		
Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine¹	Included in Assessment?
National Scenic Areas (NSA)		
Wester Ross	28.2 km west	Yes
Glen Strathfarrar	25 km south	No – no theoretical visibility
Dornoch Firth	30.2 km north east	No – no theoretical visibility
Assynt-Coigach	38.7 km north west	No – no theoretical visibility
Glen Affric	40.2 km south	No – no theoretical visibility
Special Landscape Areas (SLA)		
Ben Wyvis	5.3 km east	Yes
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie	6.4 km north west	Yes
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch	12.3 km south west	Yes
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig	36 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George	38.2 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)		
Fairburn GDL	15.3 km south east	Yes
Leys Castle GDL	40 km south east	Yes
Castle Leod	13.3 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility

¹The distance and direction given are relative to the affected area of the designation rather than the boundary of designated areas

Table 4.3.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within 45 km study area		
Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine¹	Included in Assessment?
The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer	14.5 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Braham	17.6 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Ardross Castle	23 km west	No – no theoretical visibility
Novar	23.5 km west	No – no theoretical visibility
Beaufort Castle	26.7 km south south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Dundonnell	28.7 km north west	No – no theoretical visibility
Leckmelm	28.9 km north west	No – no theoretical visibility
Rosehaugh	32.1 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
The Fairy Glen	36 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Dochfour	36 km south south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Tomnahurich Cemetery	36.4 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Aldourie Castle	37.7 south south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Bainagown Castle	38.4 km west	No – no theoretical visibility
Skibo Castle	40 km north east	No – no theoretical visibility
Culloden House	40.3 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Cromarty House	42 km west	No – no theoretical visibility
Dalcross Castle	44.9 km south east	No – no theoretical visibility
Wild Land Areas (WLA)		

Table 4.3.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within 45 km study area		
Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine¹	Included in Assessment?
29. Rhiddorochis, Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis WLA	2.5 km north east	Yes – assessed in Technical Appendix 4.6
28. Fisherfield, Letterewe, Fannichs WLA	3 km west	Yes – assessed in Technical Appendix 4.6
24. Central Highlands	11 km south	No – scoped out of assessment during Scoping
27. Flowerdale-Shieldaig-Torridon	32 km east	No – scoped out of assessment during Scoping
26. Coulin and Ledgowan Forest	27 km south east	No – scoped out of assessment during Scoping
34. Reay-Cassley	35.2 km north	No – no theoretical visibility
32. Inverpolly-Glencanisp	41.5 km north	No – no theoretical visibility

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
Wester Ross NSA	28.2 km west	<p>SNH's report 'The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas'³ sets out the special qualities of the NSA. These are summarised below:</p> <p>Scenic splendour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A landscape of distinctive mountains and lochs, of great swathes of moorland, of ancient woods and open peatland, of beautiful coasts and sweeping views. • The mountains can be jagged or rounded, terraced or scree-covered; the cliffs can be vast or intimate, the moorland rough or smooth; the coasts can be straight or indented, rocky or sandy; the sea lochs open or enclosed, and lochs linear or irregular. • The juxtaposition of so many different landforms ensures the scenery is endlessly varied and always dramatic – and no two views are the same. <p>Human settlement within a vast natural backdrop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contrast between the populated, cultivated coast and the uninhabited, wilder and mountainous interior is marked. • Inland, grand mountain landscapes dominate, whether enclosed glen or distant panorama. • On the coast, there are both expansive views over the Minch and shorter views across to the far shore of a sea loch. • This dominance of nature contrasts with the hospitable and intimate detail of crofting settlement, where the eye is drawn to a house, a garden or an enclosed field. <p>The spectacular and magnificent mountains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSA contains several major massifs, all renowned for their steep-sided and rocky mountains: the Applecross Mountains, the Torridon Mountains, the Coulin Hills, and the extensive area between Loch Maree and Little Loch Broom (the Fisherfield, Letterewe and Strathnasheallag Forests). • Magnificent mountains rise precipitously and dominate the view. Their extent, sheer solid mass and physical three-dimensional presence dominates Wester Ross. • Many mountains appear at first sight impregnable and can only be ascended in a few places. The ridges can be narrow and frightening, sometimes necessitating scrambling. The Carn Mòr Craggs above Fionn Loch provide some of the finest rock

² The distance and direction given are relative to the affected area of the designation rather than the boundary of designated areas:

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>climbing in Britain; and in suitable conditions, the mountain carries some of the finest winter climbing.</p> <p>Recognisable mountain profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although they exist in definite groups, each individual mountain has a unique shape and profile, making it distinct and readily identifiable. • A key characteristic of the Wester Ross mountains is that they tend to have no foothills, but rise straight from sea level or thereabouts, sometimes up to 1000m in height. • Many peaks once visited or climbed leave a strong visual impression on the mind and are recognisable landmarks. <p>Stark geology and rock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prominence of bare rock is a particularly distinctive feature and appears in a variety of forms. The cnoc and lochan landscape of Lewisian gneiss is notable in many low-ground areas. • The pink, terraced cliffs of the Torridonian mountains are also unmistakable, as are the white, scree-covered slopes of Cambrian quartzite. • In many places, individual large boulders lie scattered on the ground, dropped randomly by the retreating ice. The presence of so much rock lends the landscape a hard, barren aspect. • The geology, being generally impermeable, acidic and resistant to weathering, has given a vegetation cover dominated by infertile heaths and bog. However, the very hardness and resistance of the rock, combined with extensive glaciation in the past, has resulted in the spectacular landscape that today is highly valued. <p>The large sweeps of open, expansive moorland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are large tracts of moorland, some areas rocky and uneven, and others smooth and peat covered. • The moors are studded with numerous lochs and lochans and crossed by many burns and rivers. Many of these areas are uninhabited, adding to this expansive landscape a feeling of ruggedness and wildness. <p>The distinctive and populated coastal settlements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a diversity of settlement, each distinctive in its own way. Most are crofting townships with the houses widely-spaced

SNH (2010). The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH Commissioned Report No. 374

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>along no-through roads which pass through the enclosed inbye land and its rectilinear fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the coastal crofting settlements were established during the Highland Clearances, although evidence suggests that many were laid out on top of older pre-improvement townships. • The general pattern is of widely separated croft houses within the inbye land, which nowadays often consist of rush pasture with the fields separated by post and wire fences. • Linear Crofting is characterised by a strong regular pattern of clearly ordered crofting strips extending from the upper moorland down to the coastal edge. The houses often show similar orientations to their neighbours and reflect the direction of the prevailing winds. This character type is strongly influenced by the coast and sea. • Scattered Crofting is found throughout the area usually on irregular undulating ground slightly away from the coast. It has a complex pattern arising from a diverse mix of components such as small houses, scrub and trees, field boundaries and roads. The fields are delineated by stone walls or fences and are viewed as a series of criss-crossing lines which highlight the rolling land form. • Within both types there are many new houses and agricultural structures, contrasting in scale with the older buildings. There are also many ruined or abandoned crofts, dwellings and byres. <p>Woodlands and trees that soften the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although woodlands cover only a relatively small area, where present they soften the rugged, mountain landscape. • In some areas, for example at Badachro, birchwoods can create a particular intimate feel, and the extensive native oak and birch woods along the north shore of Loch Maree accentuate the linearity of the Loch Maree Fault. • The hanging birchwoods on the northern slopes of Ben Shieldaig are impressive, as are the remnant Caledonian pinewoods of northeast Ben Shieldaig, Glas-Leitire and the islands of Loch Maree. • There are also numerous areas of recently planted new native woodland, including the largest new native woodland scheme in Scotland between Gairloch and Loch Maree. When these plantations age, they will significantly increase the dominance of trees in the landscape.

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>Great tracts of wild and remote land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads and tracks are few and far between and much of the mountain landscape is renowned for being wild and remote, with a natural vegetation cover and few, if any, buildings or structures. • The grandeur of the mountains and the great hidden lochs that can be found between them, together with the wild, unpredictable weather, makes a visit to these remote areas particularly memorable. • Much of the mountain landscape of Wester Ross has been identified by SNH as Wild Land Search Areas. The interior is either managed as deer forest or for conservation. Apart from Slattadale, and unlike much of the Highlands, blocks of commercial forestry are limited in extent, although in recent years significant areas of new native woodland have been planted. <p>The superb coast and coastal views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The uneven undulating topography creates a wide variety of visual experiences travelling through the NSA. On clear days, the islands of Lewis, Harris, Skye, the Shiantis and the Summer Isles are clearly visible. • The coastline detail comprises sandy beaches, rocky shores, islands, headlands, cliffs, stacks, natural arches, small bays, inlets, coastal woodlands, fishing and crofting settlements. • Islands tend to be single rather than in groups, providing a focal point. <p>The abundance of water, a foreground to dramatic views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is everywhere evident in Wester Ross, from the large sea lochs, linear inland lochs and the fast-flowing rivers, to the numerous rushing burns, irregular lochans and boggy pools. • Reflections off the water and movement of waves and waterfalls can soften the starkness of the mountains. • Water often provides the foreground to dramatic mountain views. These are many and varied, including Slioch over Loch Maree; Baosbheinn over Loch Bad an Sgalaig; Beinn Airigh Charr over Lochs Maree, Ewe or Kernsary; and, looking out of the NSA, the Sutherland hills over Gruinard Bay; and Beinn Ghobhlach over Little Loch Broom. • Notable are the corrie lochs providing a foreground to the spectacular, backwall cliffs, and the numerous waterfalls which are particularly impressive when in spate.

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rivers tend to be short, fast-flowing and meandering along the flat, glen floor. Burns tend to be rocky, with numerous rapids and falls. <p>A landscape of many layers, with visual continuity of coastal, moorland and mountain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a strong visual continuity between the mountains and coast. The extensive areas of croft and moorland link the mountainous interior with the indented coast and islands. In many views, receding horizons, one behind the other, provide a sense of distance and space. When looking inland, rocky foregrounds ascend to distant mountains; or when looking out from the mountains, receding layers descend into the distance. Each layer can take on a different profile or hue, depending on the light or weather. <p>The ever-changing weather and light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weather is ever-changing. Clouds, mists, rain, sunshine and light can make the landscape hazy and indistinct, or stark and rich in detail; can give distant views, or restrict visibility to the immediate surrounds; and can even determine whether the mountains are present or not. Atlantic gales, continual winds and seemingly constant rain batter the landscape, so that there is a feeling of being at the mercy of the elements. However, in strong contrast, a benign, frost-free climate can be found in sheltered, coastal locations. The landscape can engender opposing emotions, from the enjoyment of a sunny, calm, sandy beach, to the experience of an exposed mountain ridge in the teeth of a gale. <p>Loch Maree and Slioch, one of the most iconic and recognisable landscapes in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loch Maree must be one of the most beautiful and famous lochs in Scotland, with its wooded islands and shores, and Slioch towering up above. The first glimpse of the loch from Glen Docherty, the view up the loch from Tollie, and the view of Slioch from Slattadale are all memorable. The straight edge of the northern shore, following an ancient fault line, is balanced by the irregular southern shore with its rocks, bays and beaches. The wooded isles are clothed with fine examples of Caledonian pine forest, and Isle Maree is famed for its early Christian and pre-Christian sites – and for its holy well which is said to be a cure for mental illness.

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
Ben Wyvis SLA	5.3 km east	<p>Special Qualities - Dominant Landmark and Uninterrupted Panoramas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben Wyvis has a commanding presence with its broad and fairly level summit ridge, being a dominant landmark feature from many locations; Little Wyvis by contrast is a separate, smaller scale and only locally prominent feature. The summit of Ben Wyvis provides some of the most extensive panoramas in Scotland, including towards the wild and dramatic mountain profiles of Wester Ross and Sutherland to the north and west, the indented coastline and settled, fertile lowlands of Easter Ross and the Black Isle to the east, and the distant summits of the Cairngorms and Ben Nevis to the south. The form of the mountain is most clearly appreciated when viewed from a distance, for example from Inverness and the Black Isle. A popular Munro due in part to its proximity to Inverness but also because it is a relatively straightforward walk with a broad, easy ridge from which the panoramic views can be appreciated. It is also popular for cross-country skiing. With the exception of Wyvis Lodge, the odd shieling hut, and the very occasional boundary wall and rough track there is virtually no visible evidence of human occupation in the SLA.
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	6.4 km north west	<p>Rugged Mountains and Lonely Glens and Spectacular Panoramic Views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A complex pattern of interconnected and remote groups of mountains, penetrated by long glens and strongly enhanced by a virtual absence of habitation, offers a powerful sense of isolation and wildness amidst physically challenging terrain. From many of the glens, it is difficult to see the mountain tops and, from the tops, it is difficult to see the glen floors. In the southwest of the SLA, the Fannichs are a cluster of high, well-defined peaks within a relatively small area. Most of the main summits are connected by a continuous, high ridgeline which makes them popular for high-level walks. The broad peaks in the Freewater area – Seana Bhraigh, Carn Bàn and An Socach – give the experience of a remote high plateau which drops off dramatically on its northern side. The view northwest through the Dirrie More across the waters of Loch Droma to the distant peak of An Teallach often captures the attention of travellers en route to the west coast. The view down Strath More from the elevated position of the A832 near its head, is a striking one and the viewpoint here is a popular stop for tourists. The pastoral quality of the valley floor

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>and its diverse woodland contrasts with, and is tightly framed by, the steep rugged hillsides above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The remains of a number of cleared townships survive in Glencalvie. A series of quiet, uninhabited glens, punctuated only by a few lonely bothies, and remote coires extend towards the core of the mountain heartland, contributing to a landscape where solitude and isolation are key characteristics. <p>Impressive Natural Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The easily accessible Corrieshalloch Gorge, an example of a deep box canyon through which drop the Falls of Measach, offers an intimate and exciting landscape experience of striking geology, natural processes and exclusive ravine habitats. Alladale Pinewood and Amat Forest, the largest expanse of ancient Caledonian Pinewood in Scotland, provide a substantial, visible link to the native forest landscape which once extended over much of the Highlands.
Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	12 km south west	<p>Grand Mountain Ridges, Long Glens and Wide Strath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of grand, broadly parallel, high mountain ridges, separated by long, sinuous, steep sided glens and straths combine to form a landscape of immense scale which tend to be experienced in sequentially along the ridges and/or glens and straths. There is marked contrasts between the bare, dramatic scenery of the ridges and upper glens - exaggerated by the huge scale of lochs Monar and Mullardoch - and the more tranquil and intimate qualities of the strath and glen floors, with their patch. Distinctive sequential changes in the visual and landscape qualities travelling along the glens reflect a transition from lowland strath to mountain interior. There is an intimate sequential travelling experience on the A890 through Strathcarron with ever changing enclosure and exposure and views to adjacent features. There are contrasting deep, steep-sided glens and wide, wooded straths on the eastern and western periphery. <p>Wildness and Remoteness</p>

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a very strong sense of wildness and remoteness within most parts of this landscape, typically evoked by the long journey from the main access points into this area from the east along winding single-track roads to the head of the glens. A sense of wildness is also influenced by the sparse network of rough, isolated paths and tracks, and the spectacular summit views over vast expanses of moorland and hills. The main detractors from these qualities are reservoir draw down scars and tracks compromise the sense of wildness within the interior. The mountain interior and upper reaches of the glens are out of sight of public roads, remote from any habitation, and are among the most remote areas of mainland Britain. The only part of this area significantly less remote is within Strathcarron where there are road and rail links. Extensive areas of hill slopes and summits are dominated by native vegetation that contributes to the wildness qualities, including mosaics of montane heaths, grasses, and mosses contrast with the afforested side slopes and partly wooded flood plain at Strathcarron. There are also important remnants of native Caledonian pinewood. The mountain terrain is physically challenging to access and ideally suited to adventurous ridge walkers. The area is very popular with hill walkers, with a high number of Munro mountains in close proximity. Also, given the large extent of the area and the limited accessibility wild camping is a popular pastime in the area.
Fairburn GDL	15.3 km south east	<p>The Historic Environment Scotland GDL citation⁴ for Fairburn House is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairburn House is situated about 6 miles (9.5km) north-west of Muir of Ord. The policies lie along the south side of Strathconon. Dating from the late 18th / early 19th century, the designed landscape consists of gardens, woodland and architectural features, and together makes an impressive impact on the local scenery. The parkland extends to the north and east of the house. Much of the wider landscape was improved during the early part of the 19th century when the shelterbelt strips were planted and the land drained.

⁴ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00174> (accessed 04.12.2018)

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are one or two specimen trees remaining in the inner parkland including some oak and beech. A plantation of Scots pine which were established c.1800 accents the rising hill to the east. Hardwood clumps in the parkland were established partly for amenity and partly as pheasant cover. Over the past decade, these have gradually been replanted. Fairburn is famous for its trees and for conifers planted by John Stirling in the 1870s. The policy woodlands extend to the west of the house and were originally planted c.1800. The outlying mature and semi-mature commercial woodlands on the higher ground were felled in World War I and II. Sections of the policy woodlands were replanted in 1920 mainly with Scots pine but the majority of the woodlands were planted after World War II with Scots pine and Sitka spruce, although there are some small pockets of oak, ash and beech. The formal gardens around the house have been neglected but overgrown hedges, grass terraces and paths indicate the original design. Outside the west wall of the formal walled garden was an orchard which extended over an acre. Outside the south wall was an area of more fruit and flower production. Beyond the east wall an area was set aside in the present owners' time as the 'Children's Gardens.' Before World War II some lilies, Meconopsis and flowers for cutting were grown commercially. After the war, production was considerably increased including tomatoes, carnations, lettuce, soft fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. Lady Stirling raised daffodils acquired from Brodie Castle which she sent to Covent Garden for sale. Production at this level ceased in 1971 and, following Sir John's death in 1975, the garden was leased to Highland Liliams.
Leys Castle GDL	40 km south east	<p>The Historic Environment Scotland citation⁵ for Leys Castle GDL is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th century formal gardens and parkland, with earlier 18th century planting and layout. Leys Castle is situated approximately 4km south of Inverness city centre, with the B861 road forming the site's western boundary. The policies extend across a north-west facing hillside. Panoramic views from Leys look northwards over Inverness to

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>the Cromarty Firth and the Black Isle, Easter Ross and Sutherland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy woodlands and shelterbelts are highly significant, forming the local landscape character. Leys Castle is set above the 500ft contour, lying centrally within the southernmost part of the designed landscape. The 249ha policies are enclosed by a regular pattern of shelterbelts. The parkland includes 48ha of woodlands and shelter belts. The principal change in the extent of the policies is their contraction from Druidtemple, which lies to the west. The parkland surrounds the Castle and pleasure grounds, both to north and south. Four significant clumps, planted in the 1860s, stand in the North Park, covering an area from 0.4ha to 0.07ha. They comprise broadleaf planting of <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Quercus petraea</i>, <i>Ulmus glabra</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>. The South Park has smaller clumps. The parks are grazed. Policy woodlands and shelter belts enclose the parks and agricultural improvement fields. Generally, the shelter belts are 40-50m wide but run for considerable lengths, that along the North March being 1.4km long. Some of the oldest trees lie close to the Castle, including an ash of approximately 300 years and yews of 250+ years. The predominant species planted during the 1830s by Colonel Baillie is beech, which appear to have been pollarded in their early years. The wood on the west boundary on the main drive is largely beech dating from c 1830 with later additions of pine, spruce, sycamore, and rowan. The formal gardens, north of the Castle, comprise a series of seven grass terraces. These have been cleared (late 1990s) of regenerating scrub and, in part, of some of the over-mature 1920s specimen conifers which have grown up to restrict the formerly extensive panoramic views from the terraces. On the lowest terrace is Walker's swimming pool. Set on the north-east axis of the Castle are the remains of formal gardens, originally set with box-lined parterres. Steps lead off the Upper Terrace, planted symmetrically with golden yew, down to a central flagged path. This leads to a round pool, set with a fountain base. The garden is enclosed on its south and north by belts of mature trees and shrubs. At its west end, a box hedge separates the formal garden from a further, lower

⁵ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/GDL00264> (accessed 04.12.2018)

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		garden compartment originally housing a lawn-tennis court and a concrete tennis court.
Rhiddorochis, Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis WLA	2.5 km north east	<p>The SNH description of the Rhiddorochis, Beinn Dearg and Ben Wyvis WLA⁶ is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most extensive nationally, extending 905 km² across the north west of Ross-shire and south Sutherland. • It comprises a long oval shaped area extending between Ullapool in the north west to the mountain of Ben Wyvis in the south east. • Main roads flank it to the west and south and separate it from the Fisherfield – Letterewe – Fannichs WLA to the south west. • From the north and east, cnocan and open peatland hills extend into a complex composition of high and steep mountains within the central section, and then into simpler rounded hills and plateaux in the south. • The area is used mainly for deer stalking, fishing and hydro-electric generation and is largely uninhabited, although there are some isolated estate buildings and stock grazing within some of the glens, as well as forestry activity within a number of large conifer plantations outside the edge. • Where seen from outside the area, the outward slopes form a fairly simple visual backdrop, but the interior mountains and plateaux are less easy to see due to screening by the intervening landform. • The WLA lies adjacent to other WLAs and, where intervening human elements are screened, it appears to extend uninterrupted into these. • In contrast, extensive conifer plantations and settlement forms an arc around from the north to the east and south, creating a more defined edge in these directions. There are also some distant views to the open sea to the north west. <p>Key Attributes and Qualities of the WLA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of awe-inspiring massive, high rounded hills and plateaux, as well as steep rocky peaks and ridges, offering elevated panoramas.

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long and deep penetrating glens with steep, arresting side slopes that limit views, some containing access routes and clearly influenced by estate management. • A very large interior with a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary that seems even more extensive where appearing to continue into neighbouring wild land areas. • Rocky hills, cnocan and peatland slopes that appear simple and awe-inspiring at a broad scale, but harbour intricate features at a local level, as well as a strong sense of sanctuary and solitude.
Fisherfield, Letterewe, Fannichs WLA	3 km west	<p>The SNH description of the Fisherfield, Letterewe, Fannichs WLA⁷ is summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLA extends over 804 km² between Poolewe and Gruinard in the north west and the Fannich mountains in the south east. • One of the most extensive WLAs, flanked by main roads on all sides, it is relatively distant from large population centres. • The area is broadly oval in shape, with cnocan in the north west, sweeping peatland in the north east, and a range of high rugged mountains and lochs extending over the remainder. • Land within the WLA is used mainly for deer stalking, fishing and grazing, with some hydro-electric generation in the south east. It is largely uninhabited, although there are a few isolated estate lodges within some of the glens, and some forestry around the margins. • Visibility into the interior is limited from transportation routes which flank the WLA due to the screening effect of the intervening landform, but striking views are nonetheless gained when looking up some of the side glens and/or across open lochs, for example towards Slioch from the A832 or An Teallach from the A835 and A832. • Within the WLA are 18 Munros and nine Corbetts that attract hillwalkers and climbers, and the interior is relatively popular with those seeking wild land qualities. • The WLA is located near to other areas of wild land so that, where intervening human elements are screened, it appears to extend uninterrupted into these and vice versa. This relationship is particularly close with the Flowerdale – Shildaig – Torridon

⁶ <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-11/Consultation-response-Description-of-Wild-Land-Rhiddoroch-Beinn%20Dearg-Ben-Wyvis-July-2016-29.pdf> (accessed 04.12.2018)

⁷ <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-11/Consultation-response-Description-of-Wild-Land-Fisherfield-Letterewe-Fannichs-July-2016-%2028.pdf> (accessed 04.12.2018)

Table 4.3.2: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes		
Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine ²	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		<p>WLA (27) to the south west, with which it frames Loch Maree in-between.</p> <p>Key Attributes and Qualities of the WLA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awe-inspiring range of colossal, steep, rocky and rugged mountains interlinked around deep and arresting corries, glens and lochs. • A very large mountain interior with a strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary that attracts intrepid visitors. • Wide open lochs that highlight the profile of surrounding mountains and offer a contrast of experience in relation to access, human elements and activity. • Extensive open moorland and sweeping peatland that contrasts to the high mountains, emphasising the arresting qualities of each.