

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.5: RESIDUAL EFFECTS ON DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES AND CLASSIFIED LANDSCAPES

Table 4.5.1: Residual Effects on Designated Landscapes and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effects
Wester Ross NSA	<p>Negligible.</p> <p>According to the ZTV in Figure 4.5a, the majority of the NSA would afford no views of the proposed development. However, there are three areas of theoretical visibility within this designated area. These comprise:</p> <p>Summits at An Teallach, over 30 km from the proposed development;</p> <p>Summits in the vicinity of Beinn Eighe, over 35 km from the proposed development; and</p> <p>Summits at Coulin Forest, over 36 km from the proposed development.</p> <p>Viewed from An Teallach the proposed development would be seen distantly and would be partially obscured by intervening topography. Whilst theoretically visible in conjunction with the existing Lochluichart and Corriemoillie wind farms, these developments are not readily discernible in actuality.</p> <p>Viewed from Beinn Eighe and Coulin Forest summits the proposed development would be seen distantly to the east north-east where it would be partially screened and seen behind and overlapped by the existing/consented Lochluichart and Corriemoillie wind farms.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outwith the NSA and would therefore have no direct effects on this designated area.</p> <p>Generally, no residual indirect effects, but increasing to minor at summits at An Teallach, Beinn Eighe, and Coulin Forest.</p> <p>The proposed development would affect a limited geographical extent of the NSA, and where it is visible, it would be seen distantly and would be partially screened by intervening topography and would appear to be behind and overlap with the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart wind farms and would represent a barely discernible change to existing long-range panoramic views from this designated landscape. Consequently, the influence and prominence of the proposed development would be negligible and not constitute a significant effect on the scenic quality or wildness of the NSA or its key characteristic related to the dominance of spectacular and magnificent mountains; large sweeps of open, expansive moorland superb coast and coastal views, or the many layered landscape, with visual continuity of coastal, moorland and mountain.</p>
Ben Wyvis SLA	<p>Ranging from none to moderate.</p> <p>Within the SLA the proposed development would be visible from the western flank and a series of associate summits of Ben Wyvis (e.g. An Cabar, Tom a' Choinnich and Carn Gorm), as well as the summit of Tom na Caillich which forms part of Little Wyvis, on the westernmost boundary of the SLA).</p> <p>Viewed from elevated summits of Ben Wyvis, the proposed development would occupy a small proportion of what are vast panoramic views, would occupy a low-lying position, and would overlap with the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart developments by deliberate design.</p> <p>Viewed from the popular walk that descends from Ben Wyvis, to the A835, the proposed development would be closer and more prominent, but would be subject to increased screening as a result of the intervening topography of Carn na Dubh Choille and Carn Gaineamhach which encloses the application site on its eastern side. It is also the case that the key special qualities of the SLA are not evident from the lower sections of this route where views reduce in scale and there is increased influence of human activities and artefacts. Views from this route when ascending the side of Ben Wyvis are oriented away from the proposed development.</p> <p>Viewed from Tom na Caillich, on the north side of Little Wyvis the proposed development would be seen in the middle-distance and would partially overlap the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart developments, and seen in the context of the Glascarnoch Dam which is seen to the north. The proposed development would extend beyond the 'envelope' of the the existing wind farm schemes, thereby increasing the prominence of the proposed development at this summit.</p> <p>There are three key qualities of relevance to the assessment of potential effects of the proposed development on this SLA that comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> its uninterrupted panoramas, including those 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. 	<p>The proposed development is located outwith the SLA and would therefore have no direct effects on this designated area.</p> <p>Generally, no indirect effect, but moderate in respect of the SLAs panoramic views, wildness, and the landmark qualities of Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis. However, major/moderate (significant) effects on the landmark quality of Little Wyvis as experienced by eastbound road users at along the A835 between approaching Loch Glascarnoch dam. However, this location is outwith the SLA.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wildness of the mountain, with little evidence of human activity or artefacts; and • the mountains 'landmark' prominence and distinctiveness. <p>Panoramic Views</p> <p>The proposed development would not affect key panoramic views to the north, north-west, south or east which comprise the dramatic uplands of the Rhiddoroch-Beinn Dearg-Ben Wyvis WLA. It would, however, introduce a prominent new wind energy development closer to Ben Wyvis in western views where it would be seen overlapping with the existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart developments which form prominent elements in the middle-ground between Ben Wyvis and the Fisherfield, Letterewe Fannichs WLA and southern half of the Fannichs-Beinn Dearg-Glencalvie SLA.</p> <p>The proposed development, whilst closer than these other cumulative developments to Ben Wyvis SLA, would be lower in views and subject to greater visual separation from the distant SLA and WLA that form the key facet of the panoramic view to the west. On this basis the proposed development would constitute only a slight impact on this special quality.</p> <p>Wildness</p> <p>The wildest parts of Ben Wyvis are associated with the larger scale open elevated locations in the SLA. The proposed development would result in no direct effect on the wildness of the SLA and only slight indirect impacts due to the developed context of the proposed development and its low-lying position relative to key receptor locations in the SLA. A full assessment of the proposed developments effect on the wildness of the Rhiddoroch-Beinn Dearg-Ben Wyvis WLA (in which the SLA is Located) is contained in TA4.6.</p> <p>Landmark Prominence and Distinctiveness</p> <p>Whilst Ben Wyvis is undoubtedly a prominent and distinctive mountain landform, its legibility is best appreciated from outwith the designated area, most notably at locations to the south and northwest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summits at Strathvaich Forest and Beinn Dearg from where the distinctive flat ridge summit of Ben Wyvis is apparent; • the western side of the Black Isle from where the eastern extents of Ben Wyvis forms a prominent mountain in views to the north-west; • locations in the vicinity of Inverness, most notably around the edge of the Moray Firth from where Ben Wyvis forms a distinctive, but distant landmark on the skyline to the north-west; and • Ben Wyvis is a landmark feature in views from low lying positions at the eastern end of Strath Conon and north-west of the Muir of Ord. <p>The proposed development would be screened from the majority of these viewpoints by intervening topography, but would be clearly visible in views from Strathvaich Forest and Beinn Dearg summits from where it would be seen extending eastwards from the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart developments. Whilst the proposed development would draw development closer to Ben Wyvis and Little Wyvis, it would not be interposed in front of either summit, would be low lying, and clearly separated from the summits. On this basis the magnitude of change wrought on this special quality of the SLA would generally be none but slight impacts would occur at the summits of Beinn Dearg and Strathvaich Forest where it would prove an additional distraction from the landmark qualities of Ben Wyvis.</p> <p>Seen from the A835 corridor between Loch Droma and Loch Glascarnoch dam, the proposed development would partially overlap the Little Wyvis summit, thereby detracting from views of this locally prominent summit and its perceived scale. However, no such views would be experienced by eastbound road users beyond this, or by westbound receptors. The proposed development would not affect views towards the Ben Wyvis</p>	

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	massif, which is the key landmark summit in views from this route as a result of the proposed design approach of setting the proposed turbines back from the A835.	
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	<p>Ranging from none to slight.</p> <p>The proposed development would be visible from Inchbae Forest, Strathvaich Forest and Strath Vaich, Tollomuik Forest, Beinn Dearg and Sgurr Mor.</p> <p>Viewed from Inchbae, Tollomuik and Strathvaich Forest, the proposed development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Lochluichart and Corriemoillie turbines. The proposed development would form a lateral extension to the established pattern of development, thereby increasing the influence of wind energy development. The prominence of the proposed development would be most evident at the Strathvaich Forest summits.</p> <p>Impacts experienced within the interior of Strath Vaich would vary, reflecting the intermittent visibility of the proposed development within this incised landscape. Viewed from the northern end of Loch Vaich, the proposed development would be seen distantly, and appear as a small number of blade tips, and would be seen in conjunction with blade tips of the Corriemoillie turbines. Further visibility of the proposed development would occur midway down the loch, at the foot of Meall a' Ghrianain from where four blade tips of the proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline, around 8.5 km to the south. Upon reaching Coir a' Ghrianain, at the southernmost extents of the loch and the boundary of the WLA, the view extends along Strath Vaich towards the proposed development which is prominent, but partially obscured by the intervening undulating form of Sron Ghorm.</p> <p>Viewed from Beinn Dearg the proposed development would be seen at over 15 km to the south-east and would extend eastwards from the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart developments. The proposed development would also be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Auchmore and Fairburn developments, which are visible in the distance, beyond Corriemoillie and Lochluichart turbines.</p> <p>The proposed development, viewed from summits in the vicinity of Sgurr Mor, would be seen distantly to the north-east, would be partially obscured by intervening topography and occupy a relatively small horizontal extent of the expansive panoramic views provided at these summits. Whilst the proposed development would be seen in close proximity to the existing Lochluichart and Corriemoillie developments and therefore not represent a wholly new feature, it would be relatively prominent and constitute a clearly discernible lateral extension to the existing cluster of turbines in the view.</p> <p>The special quality of most relevance to the impact of the proposed development on this SLA consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rugged mountains and lonely glens and spectacular panoramic views; • 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; • In the southwest of the SLA, the Fannichs form a cluster of high, well-defined peaks within a relatively small area. • the broad peaks in the Freewater area, including Seana Bhaigh, Carn Bàn and An Socach give the experience of a remote high plateau which drops off dramatically on its northern side; and • 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. <p>The proposed development would have no direct physical impacts on the landscape in this SLA. It would also not affect views towards the interior of the SLA or key aspects of panoramic views such as views into neighbouring parts of the Rhiddoroch-Beinn Dearg-Ben Wyvis WLA or west into the Fisherfield, Letterewe Fannichs WLA. It would, however, introduce prominent additional turbines in views to the south-east where it would result in a</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outwith the SLA and would therefore have no direct effects on this designated area.</p> <p>Residual effects on the SLA would range from none (in locations with no visibility of the proposed development), to moderate at Inchbae Forest, Strathvaich Forest and Strath Vaich, and Tollomuik Forest.</p>

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	<p>slight increase in the influence of wind energy development and detract from the perceived wildness and remoteness of the SLA when viewed from elevated summits. Viewed from the interior of Strath Vaich, the limited extent of visibility means that impacts on the qualities of the strath would be highly localised and only slight.</p>	
<p>Strathconnon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA</p>	<p>Ranging from none to moderate.</p> <p>Views of the proposed development would be provided from the northern flanks and summits of hills in the northern half of this unit, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgurr a' Ghlas Leathad; • Sgurr a' Mhuilinn; • Meallan nan Uan; and • Creag Ruadh. <p>Viewed from these locations the proposed development would be seen at distances of over 13 km to the north-east and would occupy a prominent moorland slope in the middle ground and would be backclothed by topography. However, it would occupy a relatively small proportion of the expansive panoramic views from summits and would partially overlap with the existing cluster of turbines at Corriemoillie and Lochluichart, adding to the established concentration of wind energy development in views to the north-east.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the SLA, more distant views would be provided from Sgurr a' Choire Ghlais, Sgurr na Ruaidhe and Carn Gorm, from where the proposed development would be seen distantly (i.e. over 26 km), would be partially obscured by intervening topography and would overlap with the existing Corriemoillie and Lochluichart arrays.</p> <p>The key special qualities of relevance in the SLA comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Mountain Ridges, Long Glens and Wide Strath; and • Wildness and Remoteness. <p>Grand Mountain Ridges, Long Glens and Wide Strath</p> <p>Impacts on this aspect of the SLA's special qualities would be negligible due to the distance at which the proposed development would be seen, its limited generally overlapping position with the existing Corriemoillie turbines, and consequent limited prominence in views out from the SLA. It is also the case that key receptor locations within the SLA with visibility of the proposed development would be located on the northern edge of the SLA from where views towards the proposed development would not be typical or characteristic of the special qualities of the SLA itself. Such views extend across the settled landscape of Strath Bran.</p> <p>Wildness and Remoteness</p> <p>In general, impacts on the wildness and remoteness of the SLA would range from none to slight, the greatest impacts occurring at Sgurr a' Ghlas Leathad, Sgurr a' Mhuilinn, Meallan nan Uan and Creag Ruadh. From these summits, the northern aspect, towards the proposed development, is characterised by the transition from the SLA contrasting interior of Strath Bran which is typified by communication corridors, scattered settlement and coniferous forestry, beyond which the existing wind energy context of Corriemoillie and Lochluichart wind farms creates a developed backdrop to views.</p>	<p>The proposed development is located outwith the SLA and would therefore have no direct effects on this designated area.</p> <p>Residual effects on the SLA would range from moderate/minor to moderate in respect of potential effects on the composition of compositional contrasting mountain ridges, long glens and wide strath landscapes and their perceived form and scale.</p> <p>Effects on the wildness and remoteness of the SLA would generally range from moderate/minor to moderate, the greatest effects occurring at the Sgurr a' Ghlas Leathad, Sgurr a' Mhuilinn, Meallan nan Uan and Creag Ruadh summits where the proposed development would result in the greatest increase in the influence of wind farm development.</p>
<p>Fairburn GDL</p>	<p>Negligible.</p> <p>The proposed development would be screened from a large proportion of the GDL, including Fairburn House and gardens by intervening topography, forest and tree cover. However, views of the proposed development would be provided from the more open and elevated sections of the main estate tracks by Tower Mains and between the Muir of Fairburn and Fairburn House. The proposed development would be seen distantly to the north-west and would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Corriemoillie and Lochluichart turbines, as illustrated in Viewpoint 7. Whilst the proposed development could</p>	<p>Moderate/minor.</p> <p>The proposed development would not represent a significant effect on the characteristic elements or visual amenity of the Fairburn estate landscape, the GDL would remain dominated by the historic estate and wooded landscape.</p>

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	be more prominent than these developments, it would appear consistent with the established pattern of development and represent a barely discernible addition to the cumulative baseline.	