TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.8: CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

1. Technical Appendix 7.8: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of similar type within the landscape. In terms of landscape character, cumulative landscape effects may result where a number of wind energy developments combine, increasing the prevalence of wind turbines within a landscape to an extent where they may become a defining characteristic.

1.1.2 The cumulative landscape assessment considers the potential cumulative effect resulting from the addition of the Proposed Development to the baseline wind development scenario (refer to Figure 7.7.2: Cumulative Sites included within the Assessment, and Table 7.8.4 of Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity). For the purposes of the assessment, two baseline cumulative scenarios have been considered:

- All operational and consented cumulative baseline sites would be constructed and operational within the landscape; and
- All the cumulative baseline sites (including application and scoping sites) would be constructed and operational within the landscape.

1.1.3 Only those designated landscapes or Landscape Character Types (LCTs) that have been identified as likely to experience a Minor landscape effect or greater as a result of the Proposed Development alone (see Technical Appendices 7.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types and 7.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes) have been included in the cumulative assessment, as it is considered that a Negligible effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The following landscapes are therefore included in the assessment.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

LCTs

- LCT 134: Sweeping Moorland and Flows;
- LCT 135: Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland;
- LCT 138: Lone Mountains;
- LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland (Ben-More Assynt sub-area only);
- LCT 142: Strath - Caithness & Sutherland (Glen Cassley, Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland, and Strath Tirry sub-areas); and
- LCT 145: Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting (Lairg sub-area).

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- Assynt - Coigach National Scenic Area (NSA);
- Wild Land Area (WLA) 34: Reay – Cassley;
- WLA 37: Foinaven – Ben Hee; and
- Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire Special Landscape Area (SLA).

1.1.4 The above areas have been assessed in accordance with the Cumulative Landscape Methodology outlined in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report. The cumulative assessment of LCTs

is presented first as it feeds into the assessment of designated and protected landscapes. The assessment is supported by a range of Cumulative Wirelines, included as Figures 7.9.2 – 7.29.2 and Cumulative ZTVs, included as Figures 7.8.1 – 7.8.18.

1.1.5 This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with the baseline landscape descriptions and assessment of landscape effects included in in section 7.6 of Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Amenity, and Technical Appendices 7.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types, and 7.4 Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes.

1.2 Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

Table 1.2.1: LCT 134: Sweeping Moorland and Flows

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	Within the detailed study area, the eastern sub-area of this LCT would be directly affected by Creag Riabhach, Chleansaid and Strath Tirry. Creag Riabhach (consented) would be strongly influential on the character across the north of the LCT and some higher slopes further south. Should Strath Tirry (application) and Chleansaid (scoping) progress, these sites would be more noticeable across south-easterly parts, although forest in this area would reduce some intervisibility. In the southerly part of the LCT, the operational sites of Achany, Rosehall and Lairg are more noticeable in the southerly context, though appear distant from the north. Should Sallachy be constructed, this would also have indirect influence on northern and western parts of this sub-area LCT. In the western sub-area intervisibility is mostly limited to the operational Achany and Rosehall sites, largely focused in the southern half of this area with some patchy areas around the headwaters of the River Cassley. Sallachy would also become influential on this area in the eastern context though typically only as a few turbines or blades. Limited areas of higher ground would also be indirectly affected by some distant sites in the western context, including Chleansaid and Garvary. Overall, the cumulative baseline would result in wind farms being a frequently experienced feature of this LCT.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Development would appear in the southern context of the eastern sub-area and the south-easterly context of the western sub-area, most often in combination with Achany and Rosehall, though usually as a separate cluster, likely to lead to a perceptible increase in turbine numbers in the southern context, as well as drawing turbines slightly closer. In the eastern sub-area, this would slightly increase the influence of turbines in southern areas. However, the Proposed Development would be less noticeable in northern areas where Creag Riabhach would be much more influential. With the construction of application and scoping sites, there would be greater influence on this LCT Strath Tirry and Chleansaid in the east and Sallachy across the north and west, which would further reduce the influence of the Proposed Development turbines, particularly in the north of this sub-area. However, under this scenario, the addition of the Proposed Development may also contribute slightly to a greater sense of the LCT being surrounded by wind turbines when moving through the landscape. In the western sub-area, the Proposed Development would appear in combination with Achany and Rosehall, but as a slightly closer cluster, thereby having greater influence on the character of this area. The addition of application and consented sites would mean that Sallachy would also be seen at closer proximity in the eastern context from some areas although the Proposed Development would still appear to draw wind turbines slightly closer in the southern context and would increase the influence of turbines as feature in the	

	surrounding context. However, it would only affect part of the LCT and would be seen in a context where wind turbines already form a feature of the landscape.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Eastern sub-area - **Minor** (not significant) (both when considering a scenario of operational / consented sites only and with the additional consideration of application / scoping sites) Western sub-area – **Minor to Moderate** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) with the addition of application and scoping sites to the baseline.

Table 1.2.2: LCT 135: Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	The cumulative baseline scenario would result in wind farm development being a very noticeable characteristic of this LCT throughout the detailed study area. Within the detailed study area, a notable cluster would occur on the hills surrounding Lairg including operational sites, Achany, Rosehall and Lairg, consented sites, Braemore and Lairg Extension and application / scoping sites at Garvary and Lairg Extension (increased turbine heights). In addition, more isolated sites: Chleansaid and Creag Riabhach (to the north) Sallachy (at the north end of Loch Shin) and Meall Buidhe (to the south) along with other sites beyond the detailed study area such those at Kilbraur, Gordonbush and Kintradwell and sites to the south around Beinn Tharsuinn and Novar would result in wind turbines being strongly influential on landscape character throughout the LCT at varying distances and prominence, other than within a few low lying glen areas in the western part of the LCT.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Generally Medium but High in areas where wild land characteristics predominate and locally around Lairg where the baseline scenario of application and scoping sites would lead to a notable focus of development.	

Nature of Change	The Proposed development would have both direct and indirect effects on the LCT. Although it would lead to an increase in wind turbine development within the LCT, the majority of areas potentially affected would be already influenced by the operational and consented turbines of Achany, Rosehall, Lairg and Braemore. Application and scoping sites of Meall Buidhe and Sallachy would further increase the influence of the cumulative baseline in this area to the point that there would be only a few small patches of new intervisibility. This would include a small area in the northern half of the Proposed Development site to the north of Càrn nam Bò Maola, and other very small areas around Strath Mulzie to the south-west of Strath Oykel. Whilst the baseline scenario would result in a situation where turbines were already a common feature of the LCT, there would be more noticeable increase in the influence of wind turbines closer to the site where the Proposed Development would lead to a more direct presence of wind turbines within the landscape whilst the baseline sites would appear more as turbine clusters in the middle distance. This would occur in localised parts of the hills around Glen Cassley, within the Proposed Development site, and to the west and north of the Proposed Development, and may affect qualities of remoteness. This effect would be anticipated to occur locally up to 6-10km from the Proposed Development when considering a baseline scenario of only operational and consented sites, but would be reduced to around 6-8km if the scoping site of Sallachy were constructed, as this site would create a greater precedent for wind turbines to the north. However, there would be limited effect on the wider landscape characteristics of the LCT, as the Proposed Development would reflect the existing pattern of wind development created by the baseline scenario.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium within the area surrounding the Proposed Development to the north and west, up to 6-8km (or 6 – 10km without Sallachy) Low elsewhere.
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Minor** (not significant) for the wider LCT throughout the detailed study area *Locally* **Moderate** (significant) to the east and west of Glencassley, up to 6-8km from the Proposed Development (or locally up to 10km if Sallachy were not constructed).

Table 1.2.3: LCT 138: Lone Mountains

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	Represented by Ben Klibreck in the detailed study area. None of the baseline sites have direct effect on this LCT. The majority of indirect effects occur in relation to sites located in the southern context, affecting small areas of facing slopes, summits and surrounding peaks. However, the greatest influence on this LCT would be Creag Riabhach which would be very noticeable in the western context of Ben Klibreck, affecting elevated areas and facing slopes. The clusters of consented and application sites to east and west of Lairg and at Gordonbush and Kilbraur would all be distant in the southern context. Should the application / scoping sites be added, this would noticeably increase the numbers of turbines within this distant context. Strath Tirry and Sallachy, and particularly Chleansaid would also lead to movement of turbines closer in the southern landscape, context with Sallachy also leading to turbines appearing to move further into the western context. The combined effect of the cumulative baseline sites would give a strong sense of a wind farm developed landscape to the south, and to some extent the western context.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. Indirect change would be limited to intervisibility of the Proposed Development in the south-west context, limited to relatively small areas on facing slopes, the summit of the mountain and surrounding peaks. The Proposed Development would appear fairly distant to the west of existing Achany, Rosehall and Meall Buidhe sites drawing this distant context of development slightly to the west and increasing the perceived presence of wind turbines in this distant context. However, if the scoping site of Sallachy were constructed, the movement of wind turbines to the west would be less noticeable though the additional turbines occupying a previously undeveloped part of the context would still be perceptible. In a scenario where all the application and scoping sites were constructed as well as operational and consented sites, the wind farms of Chleansaid (scoping), and Strath Tirry would appear noticeably closer within the context, increasing the influence of turbines on this LCT, and the addition of the Proposed Development would have little increased influence on landscape character, as wind turbines would already form a very noticeable feature of the southern and western context, and in the extensive views which are one of the key characteristics of this LCT.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible, or Low if application and scoping sites are not taken into account	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Negligible** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) if application and scoping sites were not constructed.	

Table 1.2.4: LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland (Ben-More Assynt sub-area only)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	No cumulative baseline wind farms are located within this LCT. Within the detailed study area, Sallachy would have the greatest influence on the LCT, being present within 5km, although its influence would be mostly limited to the east facing slopes of Ben More Assynt and Meall an Aonaich and areas around Beinn Leòid and Corrykinloch. Of the operational / consented sites, Creag Riabhach would be visible in the middle distance to the west. Achany, Rosehall, Lairg, Braemore and Lairg Extension (consented) would form a cluster in the mid-ground to the south-east which would be increased with the addition of the Garvery scoping site and increased height of the Lairg Extension application. Sites at Gordonbush and Kilbraur would form a distant cluster (with the addition of Kintradwell and South Kilbraur) to the east-south-east, and sites around Beinn Tharsuinn and Novar would be distant to the south-south-east. These far-off sites would have little impact on the immediate character of the LCT. Remaining application / scoping sites, Chleansaid and Strath Tirry would appear in a similar part of the context to the Gordonbush / Kilbraur cluster but would be closer and more influential in the mid-ground. Meall Buidhe would also be seen in the middle distance to the south with the, Beinn Tharsuinn / Novar cluster appearing in the far distance beyond it. This leads to a baseline situation where wind turbines are widely influential within the landscape context to the east and south from high summits and facing slopes including Ben More Assynt, Meall an Aonaich and Breabeg, Ben Leòid and other surrounding peaks within the LCT but have little influence beyond these initial slopes and summits.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT and cumulative ZTVs show that the Proposed Development would lead to very little increased intervisibility of wind turbines. The Proposed Development would appear within the south-westerly context in combination with sites forming the Achany / Rosehall / Lairg cluster but would appear somewhat closer to the LCT within this context. Without the addition of application / scoping sites, the Proposed Development would appear more a separate development, to the foreground of two existing clusters featuring Lairg and Lairg Extension, and Achany, Rosehall and Braemore. However, with the addition of Garvary which would join the two baseline clusters, the Proposed Development would appear more as a combined, but closer part of this single cluster, particularly from more northerly areas. Without the inclusion of application / scoping sites, the Proposed Development would appear to bring wind turbines closer to this LCT, potentially affecting wild characteristics, as it may contribute to a reduced perception of distance	

	between the mountains and the developed landscape. However, it would not lead to turbines being perceived as a new feature within the context, as operational and consented sites would already exert widespread influence on the eastern slopes and summits of the LCT leading to a clearly perceived context of wind farm development in the south-east and easterly landscape. With the addition of application and scoping sites, and particularly Sallachy, which would be closer and more directly influential than the Proposed Development, and together with Chleansaid would noticeably increase the appearance of wind turbines in the easterly context, the role of wind turbines as a characteristic of the eastern and south-eastern context would be increased. This would reduce the additional influence of the Proposed Development turbines, although these may still be seen to form a perceptible increase in turbine numbers at closer proximity. Overall, the area affected would be very small and would not be noticeably increased by the Proposed Development, with the majority of the LCT remaining unaffected by wind farm development.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Negligible** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) if application and scoping sites were not constructed.

Table 1.2.5: LCT 142: Strath - Caithness & Sutherland (Glen Cassley, Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland, and Strath Tirry sub-areas)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low - Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically experienced in combination with the proposed development**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	The operational and consented sites would have considerable influence on the setting of the straths, with Achany, Rosehall, Lairg, Braemore and Lairg Extension appearing in the southern context of Strath Tirry, and Achany, Rosehall, Braemore and to some extent the Lairg sites, on the hills enclosing the north of Kyle of Sutherland, strongly influencing the character of Strath Oykel, Kyle of Sutherland and some southern and westerly parts of lower Glen Cassley. The addition of application and scoping sites would lead to increased influence of wind turbines on all sub-areas of the LCT. In Strath Tirry, Strath Tirry Wind Farm would be located in this area, and Chleansaid would be occasionally intervisible, though often screened by forest, leading to a character more directly defined by wind turbines. Garvery and Meall Buidhe would further influence Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland, being located to east and south respectively, leading to a greater sense of encirclement. Meall Buidhe would also have some increased influence on the lower parts of Glen Cassley. More distant wind farms in the Kilbaur – Gordonbush and Beinn Tharsuinn – Novar clusters would be occasionally intervisible with some areas but would have little influence on character. Overall, although Strath Tirry comprises the only site directly affecting the LCT, the cumulative baseline would result in wind farm development being a strongly perceived characteristic of the enclosing hills in most areas.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Development would usually be seen in combination with Achany and Rosehall. From Strath Tirry, it would increase the spread of existing wind turbines along the ridge to the south. This may contribute to a greater influence of turbines affecting the surrounding context of the LCT and a partial surrounding if application and scoping sites were also constructed. However, in this scenario, wind turbines would already be a strong characteristic of this LCT. For the majority of Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland, the Proposed Development would be seen to the rear of or, subsidiary to the operational Achany and Rosehall Wind Farms. The addition of application and scoping sites which would increase the influence of wind turbines in this area would further reduce the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development. From a small area around the confluence of Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland with Glen Cassley the Proposed Development would lead to increased numbers of turbines being be perceptible, and may be seen to draw these further into the interior landscape to the north but this would be relatively localised in an area where turbines at Rosehall to the north-east and Meall Buidhe, to the south would be already very noticeable.	

	In Glen Cassley, the Proposed Development turbines would appear on the eastern glen side of a section between Badintagairt and Glenmuick and a small area south of Glencassley Castle and would generally influence western glen-side areas. Whilst there are small areas of influence from Rosehall and, would also be some influence from the application site of Meall Buidhe the effect of the Proposed Development would be more immediate on the glen areas and would affect areas not already influenced by wind farm development. This would lead to increased sequential effect from wind turbines when moving through the glen although, because of the relatively limited effect from other sites on Glen Cassley cumulative effects would more be experienced when moving from Glen Oykel / Kyle of Sutherland, into Glen Cassley. The Proposed Development would lead to some loss of distinction for Glen Cassley, which, unlike neighbouring glen areas, would have limited influence of wind turbines under the baseline scenario. However, the upper glen beyond Glenmuick and parts of the lower glen where woodland predominates would continue have little effect from wind turbines.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium for the Glen Cassley sub-area. Low for the Strath Tirry sub-area Negligible for Strath Oykel and Kyle of Sutherland sub-area
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Minor** (not significant) overall, but locally **Moderate** (significant) for Glen Cassley. (both when considering a scenario of operational / consented sites only and with the additional consideration of application / scoping sites)

Table 1.2.6: LCT 145: Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting (Lairg sub-area)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms theoretically experienced in combination with the proposed development**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	The cumulative baseline scenario of operational and consented sites would result in wind turbines being a notable feature of the south to westerly context to this LCT with Lairg, Lairg Extension, Braemore and Achany and Rosehall forming a spread of clusters across the south-western panorama and more distant sites of the Beinn Tharsuinn – Novar cluster seen beyond them. The addition of the application and scoping sites would lead to further increased influence in this context with Meall Buidhe and particularly Garvary seen to extent the spread and density of these clusters. The addition of Chleansaid in the northern context would also contribute to some sense of encirclement.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Development would appear in the westerly context at a similar scale to Achany and Rosehall mostly as blades and tips. It would appear similar to other turbines and generally less noticeable than the baseline sites to the south and therefore, would not add a new characteristic to the LCT. However, it would slightly spread the appearance of turbines to the west and would potentially add slightly to the existing sense of encirclement which may contribute an increased sense of disconnect to the more undeveloped setting of upland hills which would result from the baseline scenario. Nevertheless, given the extensive influence of the cumulative baseline sites as a characteristic of this LCT in comparison with the relatively limited appearance of the Proposed Development, this is not considered to constitute a significant cumulative effect on the landscape character.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Minor** (not significant) (both when considering a scenario of operational / consented sites only and with the additional consideration of application / scoping sites)	

1.3 Designated and Protected Landscapes

Table 1.3.1: Assynt - Coigach NSA

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	No cumulative baseline wind farms are located within the NSA. Intervisibility with operational and consented baseline sites would be mostly limited to the extreme eastern edge of the NSA, including the eastern facing slopes of Ben More Assunt, Meall an Aonaich and Breabag, and areas around Beinn Leòid, with additional more distant intervisibility affecting some of the lone mountain summits further west, including Cul Mòr, Cul Beag, Canisp and Suilven. This would create a scenario whereby wind turbine clusters were an established feature of the easterly context of these areas, outwith the NSA, more noticeable from the closer summits around Ben More Assynt. The addition of application and scoping sites would increase this impression, particularly in the easterly setting of Ben More Assynt where Sallachy would appear relatively close , and the sites of Chleansaid, Garvary and Meall Buidhe would form new clusters or increase the size of existing clusters in the mid-ground of the east and south-easterly landscape.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	<u>*Landscape Character*</u> The Proposed Development would be intervisible with elevated slopes and summits around the eastern edge of the NSA including Ben More Assynt, Meall an Aonaich and Breabag, appearing in the south eastern context to the forefront of the operational sites of Achany and Rosehall and Lairg and consented sites of Braemore and Lairg Extension. This area broadly corresponds with the LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland and therefore the changes described in Table 1.2.4 would also be reflective of those on the NSA. The Proposed Development would appear somewhat closer than existing and application sites, though with the addition of the Garvary scoping site would appear as part of one larger cluster. With the addition of all application and scoping sites to the baseline, the Proposed Development would appear more a separate development, to the foreground of two existing clusters featuring Lairg and Lairg Extension, and Achany, Rosehall and Braemore. However, with the addition of Garvary which would join the two baseline clusters, the Proposed Development would appear more as a combined, but closer part of this single cluster, particularly from more northerly areas. Without the inclusion of application / scoping sites, the Proposed Development would appear to bring wind turbines closer to the NSA, and may locally affect wild characteristics in this area, as it may contribute to a reduced perception of	

	distance between the mountains and the developed landscape. However, it would not lead to turbines being perceived as a new feature within the context, as operational and consented sites would already exert widespread influence on this eastern edge of the NSA leading to a clearly perceived context of wind farm development in the south-east and easterly landscape. With the addition of application and scoping sites, and particularly Sallachy, which would be closer and more directly influential than the Proposed Development, and Chleansaid which would also increase the appearance of wind turbines in the easterly context, the role of wind turbines as a characteristic of the eastern and south-eastern context would be increased. This would reduce the additional influence of the Proposed Development turbines, although there may be a perceptible increase in turbine numbers at closer proximity. At greater distance, there would be some perception of the Proposed Development in the easterly landscape from summits of some lone mountains. In this context, the Proposed Development would usually be a barely perceptible feature in combination with other distant wind turbines. Small additional areas of intervisibility are indicated by the ZTV, but these would feature very limited numbers of turbine tips and would be likely to be imperceptible in relation to the more immediate features which characterise this part of the NSA. *Special Landscape Qualities* As discussed in Table 1.2.1 of Technical Appendix 7.4, there is potential for limited, localised changes to the Special Qualities: *"Rocky topography of great variety," "A landscape of vast open space and exposure*" and *"Significant tracts of wild land*" (considered to be not significant) in the Ben More Assynt area. The addition of the Proposed Development to the cumulative baseline is not anticipated to lead to any further degree of change on these Special Qualities, as the Proposed Development would be seen within an already established setting of wind farm development. As described above, under a scenario of operational and consented baseline sites only, the slightly closer proximity of the Proposed Development compared to these sites may appear to slightly reduce the setting of undeveloped landscape to the south-east leading to a similar degree of effect to Special Qualities that would occur when considering the development alone (with the current baseline conditions). The addition of the application and scoping sites would slightly reduce this effect as under that scenario, the Proposed Development would appear as a slightly closer part of a larger wind farm cluster but would appear less noticeable and close than the Sallachy Wind Farm.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Negligible** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) if application and scoping sites were not constructed. *Consideration of Integrity* As there would be no significant effects, the integrity of the NSA would not be affected.

Table 1.3.2: WLA 34. Reay – Cassley

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell; • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	No operational or application sites would directly effect the WLA. However, Achany, Rosehall, Lairg and Braemore would be situated close to the south-east, with intervisibility across south-eastern parts of the WLA including high ground east and west of Glen Cassley and slopes and summits around Ben More Assynt, Meall an Aonaich and Beinn Leòid. To the north-east, Creag Riabhach would comprise a separate cluster with intervisibility across higher ground around Ben More Assynt and Ben Leòid and north-eastern slopes west of Loch Shin, leading to an increased area where wind turbines would be seen in the surrounding context. With the addition of application and scoping sites, the existing cluster around Achany would be increased and consolidated by Garvary, and Chleansaid, Strath Tirry, and Meall Buidhe would create new clusters in the eastern and southern context. This would increase the extent of WLA where intervisibility with wind turbines would occur, particularly west of Glen Cassley where few areas would not feature evidence of wind turbines in the surrounding landscape. However, the addition of Sallachy within the WLA, would lead to the greatest effect, leading to an area to the west of north Loch Shin being clearly defined by wind turbines, and eastern slopes and summits of Ben More Assynt and Meall an Aonaich, and Càrn na Ceàrdaich to the west of Glen Cassley being more directly influenced by wind turbines. Overall, the cumulative baseline scenario would result in the most southerly parts of the WLA to east and west of Glen Cassley and around the Ben More Assynt massif being strongly influenced by wind turbine development within the near to mid-ground context to east and south, and directly in relation to Sallachy. This would reduce the strength of wild land attributes, 'Lack of Construction and Other Artefacts', 'Evidence of Contemporary Land use' and, around Sallachy, 'Perceived Naturalness' and 'Remoteness and Inaccessibility'. Reduction of Perceptual responses 'Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude' and Arresting or Inspiring Qualities would also be likely in some areas. This would be anticipated to lead to a lower baseline presence of the WLA Key Quality, "Extensive, elevated peatland slopes whose simplicity and openness contribute to a perception of awe, whilst highlighting the qualities of adjacent mountains."
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Development would be located in the south-eastern tip of the WLA and would therefore directly effect it. Across the plateau areas to the east and west of Glen Cassley and north-west of the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would appear as part of a cluster featuring operational and consented sites, Achany, Rosehall, Breamore, Lairg and	

	Lairg xtension, as described for LCT 135: Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland (see Table 1.2.2). In these areas, although wind turbines would already be present in the surrounding landscape, the Proposed Development would be slightly closer, leading to a more immediate influence of wind turbines in the south-east of the WLA, whilst the baseline sites appeared more distant. On the higher slopes and summits around Ben More Assynt, the cumulative effects would correspond with those described for LCT 139: Rugged Mountain Massif - Caithness & Sutherland (see Table 1.2.4). In these areas, the Proposed Development would appear further within the south-eastern context, though slightly closer than the existing cluster of sites but would have a more limited effect, due to the increased distance and greater evidence of baseline cumulative sites in the easterly context. With the inclusion of all cumulative baseline sites, the strength of baseline wild land attributes would be reduced across the south-eastern part of the WLA, particularly in relation to Sallachy which would be located within the WLA boundary. This would mean that in some areas, the strength of wildness would be less influenced by the Proposed Development, because built artefacts and contemporary land use would already appear as an established feature of the context. The extent of effects of the Proposed Development alone on the WLA is anticipated to be relatively localised because the Proposed Development would be located at its very southern tip whilst the greatest sense of wildness is felt to be experienced in the northerly and westerly context where existing features are less influential. The Proposed Development would be almost always seen to the south-east where the established grouping of wind turbines is already located. This broadly reflects the operational and consented cumulative baseline situation whereby baseline sites would mostly still be set in the easterly and south-easterly context, although Creag Riabhach, would form a new cluster in the northern context and would reduce the perceived extent of the undeveloped lower lying peatlands in this direction to some extent. With the addition of application and scoping sites, Chleansaid and particularly Sallachy would reinforce a more established presence of wind turbines in the northerly and easterly context. The position of Sallachy within the WLA may increase the sense of detachment between the plateaux area to the east of Glen Cassley and the mountain areas around Ben More Assynt and Ben Leoid where the greater core of the WLA is perceived and would be anticipated to contribute to a lower perceived baseline wildness within some areas. Review of the cumulative ZTV for the Proposed Development with Sallachy (Figure 7.8.18) shows that to the east of Glen Cassley, intervisibility of the two sites is quite distinct, whilst to the west of Glen Cassley, both sites would be intervisible from similar areas. This suggests that the Proposed Development would be less influential on the physical attributes 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts' and 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' to the west of Glen Cassley, but may increase the area where these attributes would be reduced to the east of Glen Cassley. Nevertheless, with the presence of the other baseline sites in the northern, eastern and southern landscape context, there would be few areas where the Proposed Development would lead to wind turbines forming a new feature of the WLA, and consequently, these baseline attributes, and the corresponding perceptual responses of 'Arresting or Inspiring Qualities' and, potentially 'Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude', would already be reduced. It is also noted, that these attributes are already less pronounced within this area (see Technical Appendix 7.5, section 3). <u>*WLA Key Qualities*</u> As discussed in Technical Appendix 7.5, very localised significant effects are anticipated to one of the WLA Key Qualities from the Proposed Development alone (within the current baseline): "*Extensive, elevated peatland slopes whose simplicity and openness contribute to a perception of awe, whilst highlighting the qualities of adjacent mountains"*, in very localised areas up to 8-10km to the west of Glen Cassley and 5-6km to the east of Glen Cassley. With the cumulative baseline scenario, the presence of the baseline cumulative sites, particularly Sallachy but also to some extent Creag Riabhach and Chleansaid, would already lead to a reduction in the perceived extent of the peatland landscape and would form new constructed focal points to the north and east. The Proposed Development would be located to the south-east or east of the peatland areas where the greater presence of cumulative baseline sites would be present and, along with commercial forest plantations areas, would already influence the perceived extent of the peatlands in this direction. However, it would appear closer than existing sites to some areas within the south-east of the WLA. This is anticipated to further reduce the perceived scale of the peatland landscape to some extent. However, outwith the immediate confines of the site, the sense of expansiveness, naturalness and locally experienced solitude would still be perceived in connection with the north-westerly and westerly landscape. It is

	therefore considered that this WLA Key Quality would remain well expressed through the majority of areas where it would already be experienced under the baseline scenario. Although it would be confined to a slightly smaller area than the current situation, due to the location of the Proposed Development at the southern tip of the WLA, where the extent of the WLA is already apparent and would be more established by the greater cluster of baseline cumulative sites, this would be largely attributable to Sallachy and the other sites to north and west, and less so, the additional effect of the Proposed Development. As Sallachy would appear closer to the mountains than the Proposed Development and the Proposed Development would appear as part of a very established wind farm context to the south-east when seen from the mountain areas, it is not anticipated to lead to a very noticeable effect on the WLA Key Quality of "*A range of large, irregular, rocky mountains with steep, arresting slopes and a variety of lochs and lochans, possessing a strong sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary,"* and would not lead to an increased effect on the WLA Key Quality, *"A variety of spaces created by irregular landforms in which there is perceived naturalness, as well as a strong sense of sanctuary and solitude."* There would be no discernible change to cnocan landscapes and therefore the WLA Key Quality, "*An awe-inspiring, broad scale expanse of cnocan in which there is a complex pattern of features at a local level that contribute to the sense of naturalness and sanctuary,"* would not be affected.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium to the east of Glen Cassley, but localised to 5-6km with operational and consented sites only. Medium to the west of Glen Cassley across localised parts of the high plateau up to around 8km with all cumulative baseline sites, and very locally to 10km with operational and consented sites only. Low across mountain areas around Ben More Assynt for both baseline scenarios. Negligible for all other areas.
Cumulative Landscape Effect	For operational and consented sites only: **Moderate** (significant) to the east of Glen Cassley within localised areas up to 5-6km and locally across a few areas of the high plateau to the west of Glen Cassley up to 8km and very occasionally to 10km (with a corresponding significant effect on the WLA Key Quality: "*Extensive, elevated peatland slopes whose simplicity and openness contribute to a perception of awe, whilst highlighting the qualities of adjacent mountains")*. **Minor** (not significant) across mountain summit areas around Ben More Assynt, Meall an Aonaich, Breabag and Ben Leòid. For all cumulative baseline sites: **Moderate** (significant) across the plateau ridge to the east of Glen Cassley and locally across a few high plateau areas to the west of Glen Cassley, up to 7-8km where Sallachy would be less noticeable (with a corresponding significant effect on the WLA Key Quality: "*Extensive, elevated peatland slopes whose simplicity and openness contribute to a perception of awe, whilst highlighting the qualities of adjacent mountains")*. **Minor** (not significant) across mountain summit areas around Ben More Assynt and Meall an Aonaich and Breabag. The effect on all other areas not mentioned above would be **Negligible**. <u>*Consideration of Integrity*</u> The vast majority of the WLA would remain unaffected by any wind farm sites. For both cumulative baseline scenarios, the direct effect of the Proposed Development would result in a small part of the southern tip of the WLA where some of the physical and perceptual attributes of wild land may be less likely to be experienced. For the scenario considering operational and consented schemes only, the effect would be similar to that for the development alone. Although some significant effects would be predicted in very localised areas to the east and west of Glen Cassley, beyond the close confines of the Proposed development all of the physical attributes and perceptual qualities which are required to establish the presence of wild land and contribute to the WLA Key Qualities would remain due to the continued association with the main body of the WLA to the north and west and the integrity of the WLA would be retained. For a cumulative baseline scenario considering the addition of application and scoping sites, Sallachy would also lead to a reduced experience of physical and perceptual attributes within

	its close confines, leading to a slightly smaller baseline area where the physical attributes 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts' and 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' would be more apparent. However, in general, a lower baseline strength of these attributes already occurs within the area to the east of Glen Cassley (see Technical Appendix 7.5, section 3). Nevertheless, the addition of the Proposed Development would influence areas not already affected by Sallachy and would contribute to a perceived reduction in scale of the peatland landscape, one of the factors contributing to the WLA Key Quality of *"Extensive elevated peatland slopes…"*. However, as the Proposed Development would be located at the far southern tip of the WLA whilst Sallachy would be located further north, it is considered that this reduction in scale would already have occurred in large part due to the introduction of Sallachy. The area to the east of Glen Cassley is peripheral to the main body of the WLA and its relationship to the landscapes to the west and north-west is therefore considered key in terms of its integrity as part of the WLA. From areas to the north of the Proposed Development and west of Sallachy, the connection to the wider WLA would still be maintained and the WLA Key Quality of *"Extensive elevated peatland slopes…"* would still be experienced. It is therefore considered that the integrity of the WLA would be retained. .

Table 1.3.3: WLA 37: Foinaven – Ben Hee

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush (minimal); • Gordonbush Extension (minimal); • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell (minimal); • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	Of the baseline cumulative sites, Creag Riabhach would have the great influence on this WLA, falling partly within its south-eastern edge and being intervisible with its southern half and peaks within the northern half. Other operational sites, Achany, Rosehall and Lairg, and consented sites Braemore and Lairg Extension (consented) would appear relatively distant in the southern whilst sites in the Beinn Tharsuinn – Novar clusters would be very distant in this context. To the southeast, sites in the Gordonbush – Kilbraur cluster would also appear distant, having little effect on the strength of wildness within the WLA. The addition of the application and scoping sites would increase the appearance of turbines within the south and south-easterly context. Chleansaid, Strath Tirry, to some extent, and particularly Sallachy would appear to bring wind turbines closer to the southern and south-eastern context potentially leading to a sense of partial encirclement in parts of the south of the WLA. Meall Buidhe and Garvary would extend and increased the density of turbines seen on the hills of the southern context, reinforcing the appearance of turbines in this area, but with less impact on the wild land qualities of the WLA which would be affected to a much greater degree by the closer sites.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Development would appear in the southerly context from southern parts of the WLA, seen to extend the existing Achany – Rosehall cluster slightly further to the west, and slightly closer. When considering operational and consented sites, this is anticipated to lead a perceptible change to this context, but would have a minimal effect on the WLA attributes of 'Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts' and 'Evidence of Contemporary Land Use' because of the influence of the existing sites within the southern context, and Creag Riabhach in particular. There would be a small increase in the area where wind turbines would be a feature of the context, but these areas would be mostly low lying where Creag Riabhach would not be visible, and therefore the Proposed Development would also have limited perceptibility. When application and scoping sites are also considered in the baseline, the increased extent of additional potential intervisibility with wind turbines would be reduced. The Proposed Development would be sited partially to the front of Meall Buidhe and although it would appear closer, the increased spread of turbines would be smaller. In some parts of the WLA, the Proposed Development may appear to fill a space in the southern context between Meall Buidhe and Sallachy and so create a more consolidated appearance of wind turbines on the southern skyline. However, Sallachy would appear much closer and more noticeable in this scenario and in addition to Chleansaid and Creag Riabhach, which would also be much closer and more influential on the WLA, would contribute to a lower baseline presence of physical attributes and perceptual responses of wild land. The addition of the Proposed Development would therefore have a very small or barely discernible influence on the strength of wildness within this part of the WLA.	

	WLA Key Qualities As discussed in Technical Appendix 7.5: Wild Land Area Assessment - WLA 37: Foinaven – Ben Hee, a limited degree of non-significant effect from the Proposed Development alone (within the currently baseline) is anticipated to the WLA Key Qualities, *"Extensive peatland slopes that appear awe-inspiring in their simplicity and contrast to neighbouring mountains, and allow wide open views of the surrounding area,"* on parts of the southern WLA, and *"Towering, rugged mountains, highlighted by their prominent rock covering, that appear awe-inspiring and contribute to a strong sense of naturalness,"* experienced in some areas around Ben Hee. These effects are anticipated in relation to the Proposed Development potentially slightly reducing the perceived scale of the peatlands in the southern context. When all operational and consented sites are added to the baseline, the nearby presence of Creag Riabhach is likely to reduce the presence of wild land physical attributes and perceptual responses and the consequent strength of wildness across some southern part of the WLA. However, the effects on the WLA Key Qualities are anticipated to remain similar to the current baseline situation, because the addition of the Proposed Development in this context is still anticipated to result in a perceptual increase in turbines and movement of turbines closer in the southern context of the WLA. However, with the addition of application and scoping sites to the cumulative baseline, it is anticipated that the closer proximity of Sallachy to the south, and Chleansaid to the south-east would lead to the scale of the open peatlands being already reduced and the Proposed Development having little further influence in this respect.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible, or Low if application and scoping sites are not taken into account
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Negligible** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) if application and scoping sites were not constructed. *Consideration of Integrity* As there would be no significant effects, the integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

Table 1.3.4: Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire Special Landscape Area (SLA)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low – Medium	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	**Existing and Proposed Wind Farms Theoretically Visible**	**Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario**
	Operational / Under Construction: • Achany; • Beinn nan Oighrean; • Beinn Tharsuinn; • Coire na Cloiche; • Gordonbush; • Gordonbush Extension; • Kilbraur and Extension; • Lairg; • Novar and Extension; and • Rosehall. *Consented:* • Braemore; • Creag Riabhach; and • Lairg Extension (consented). *Application / Appeal:* • Kintradwell (minimal); • Lairg Extension (application); • Meall Buidhe; • South Kilbraur; and • Strath Tirry. *Scoping:* • Chleansaid; • Garvary; and • Sallachy.	None of the baseline sites would have direct effect on the SLA. The majority of indirect effects would occur in relation to sites located in the south to south-eastern context, affecting small areas of facing slopes, summits and surrounding peaks. Of the operational and consented sites, Creag Riabhach would have greatest influence, at around 2.5km from the SLA boundary, but this would be limited to the eastern and north-eastern slopes of Ben Klibreck on the edge of the SLA. The Gordonbush and Kilbraur clusters would have greater influence on the Ben Armine area and would be distant from Ben Klibreck whilst Achany, Rosehall, Lairg, Braemore and Lairg Extension show more dispersed intervisibility across higher areas throughout. With the exception of Creag Riabhach, these sites are fairly distant leading to a general context of wind farm development in the far southern landscape which feels relatively separate and distant from the SLA. The addition of application and scoping sites to the baseline would lead to a closer context of development through Chleansaid and Strath Tirry which would more directly influence parts of the SLA. Sallachy would also be seen to draw the southern influence of wind turbines further to the west, in areas where Creag Riabhach would not be intervisible. In addition, Kilbraur South, Kintradwell, Garvary and Meall Buidhe would increase the occupied area and density of turbine groupings to the south, with the position of Kintradwell on the coastal ridge potentially drawing greater focus to the Gordonbush cluster.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	Consideration operational and application sites only, the Proposed Development would be located in the south-western context but intervisibility would be limited to relatively small areas on facing slopes and summits of the mountains. Apart from few very small areas, it would be intervisible with areas where turbines in this part of the context are already present in the context. Located to the west of the Achany – Rosehall cluster, it would appear to draw the southern context of wind turbines slightly further to the west, but similar to the baseline sites, would appear relatively distant and separate from the SLA. With the addition of application and scoping sites to the baseline, the Proposed Development would still appear to increase the spread of wind turbines slightly in the south eastern context. However, from many areas, particularly to the south of the SLA, this would be less apparent due to the greater prominence of Chleansaid. With the addition of Sallachy the movement of wind turbines to the west may also be slightly less apparent as Sallachy would create a greater precedence for wind development in this area. However, from more northerly areas, the Proposed Development turbines would usually occupy a previously undeveloped part of the context and therefore, the increased numbers of turbines would still be perceptible. However, given the extensive intervisibility of turbines resulting from the cumulative baseline scenario, this would be unlikely to noticeably affect the characteristics of the SLA as wind turbines would be an established feature of this context.	

	Special Qualities The effects described above may result in a small degree of change to the Special Quality "*Extensive views from peaks and summits,"* when operational and consented sites only are considered, but with the addition of application and scoping sites, it is considered that this would be less noticeable as wind turbines would be a very strongly established feature of these views. No noticeable degree of effect is anticipated for any other Special Quality.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible, or Low if application and scoping sites are not taken into account
Cumulative Landscape Effect	**Negligible** (not significant) but **Minor** (not significant) if application and scoping sites were not constructed. *Consideration of Integrity* As there would be no significant effects, the integrity of the SLA would not be affected.