

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 8.2: Summary of Scoping Process

1.1	Introduction	1-1
1.2	Study Area	1-1
1.3	Scope of Landscape Assessment	1-1
1.4	Scope of Visual Assessment	1-7

1. Technical Appendix 8.2: Summary of Scoping Process

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This appendix sets out the process and rationale behind, and identification of, the scope for the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and cumulative landscape and visual assessment (CLVIA) for the Proposed Varied Development. The aim of this appraisal is to focus the assessment on those receptors where potential changes in effects would be most likely to result in additional or increased significant effects compared with those identified for the Consented Development.

1.2 Study Area

1.2.1 A study area of 45km from the Development Site has been used in line with current guidance for turbines with a maximum tip height of over 150m (SNH, 2017d, p12). This is the study area which was used for the 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR and is still considered to be the maximum distance within which any significant landscape or visual effects may be experienced. The ZTV which has been run for the Proposed Varied Development indicates a limited increase in the extent of theoretical visibility compared to the Consented Development (see **Figure 8.1 - Study Area with ZTV**).

1.2.2 For the 2021 EIAR a smaller study area of 25km (the detailed study area) was defined for a more targeted and fine-grained assessment following initial review and site appraisal. It is still considered that the majority of significant effects would be most likely to occur within this area and a detailed study area of 25km has been used for the Proposed Varied Development.

Cumulative Assessment

1.2.3 All landscape areas scoped into further daylight assessment and VPs, settlements and routes included in the main assessment were considered for inclusion in the CLVIA. The scope of the cumulative landscape and visual assessments is detailed in **Table 1.3.3** and **Table 1.4.2**.

1.3 Scope of Landscape Assessment

Designated and Protected Landscapes

1.3.1 Designated and protected landscapes within the detailed study area (see Figure 8.4 – Designated and Protected Landscapes) are considered in **Table 1.3.1** and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion.

Table 1.3.1: Designated and Protected Landscapes within the Wider Study Area

Designated / Protected Landscape	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
National Scenic Area (NSA)			
Glen Affric NSA	Negligible (not significant)	The 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR concluded that effects on the Glen	No

Designated / Protected Landscape	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
		Affric NSA would be Negligible. The ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate a large increase in the extent of theoretical visibility and there is considered to be low potential for significant effects overall. The potential requirement for turbine lighting may result in some new effects on this designated landscape. Therefore, it has been included in the night-time assessment of visible aviation lighting.	
Wild Land Area (WLA)			
Wild Land Area (WLA) 19: Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh	Locally Minor Adverse (not significant) within a very localised area of the WLA on the summits and facing slopes of mountains within 22km, Negligible elsewhere	Some localised Minor effects were identified within this WLA on summits and facing slopes within 22km. Elsewhere within this WLA effects were considered to be Negligible. The ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate a substantial increase in the extent of theoretical visibility and there is considered to be low potential for significant effects overall. The potential requirement for turbine lighting may result in some new effects on this designated landscape. Therefore, it has been included in the night-time assessment of visible aviation lighting.	No
WLA 24: Central Highlands	Locally Minor Adverse (not significant) within localised areas north of Glen Cannich, Negligible elsewhere	Some localised Minor effects were identified in the 2021 EIAR. Elsewhere within this WLA effects were considered to be Negligible. The ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate a substantial increase in the extent of theoretical visibility and there is considered to be low potential for significant effects overall. The potential requirement for turbine lighting may result in some new effects on this designated landscape. Therefore, it has been included in the night-time assessment of visible aviation lighting.	No

Designated / Protected Landscape	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
Special Landscape Area (SLA)			
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	Locally Minor Adverse (not significant) within localised areas north of Glen Cannich, Negligible elsewhere	Some localised Minor effects were identified within this WLA in the 2021 EIAR, for open elevated areas. While the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate a substantial increase in the extent of theoretical visibility, the increased height of the turbines may result in the Proposed Varied Development appearing more prominent within parts of this landscape. The potential requirement for turbine lighting may result in some new effects on this designated landscape. Therefore, it has been included in further day-time assessment and night-time assessment of visible aviation lighting.	Yes
Strathconon and Mullardoch SLA	Locally Negligible-Minor (not significant) for elevated eastern areas of the SLA and Negligible elsewhere	A localised Negligible-Minor effect was identified for the Consented Development for elevated eastern areas. The ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate a substantial increase in the extent of theoretical visibility, and it is unlikely that this would result in a material increase to effects.	No

1.3.2 Areas which were previously scoped out of the 2021 EIA, LVIA Chapter have not been considered further. These include:

- Kintail NSA;
- Glen Strathfarrar NSA;
- WLA 14: Rannoch – Nevis – Mamores – Alder;
- WLA 18: Kinlochhourn – Konydard – Morar;
- WLA 20: Monadhliath;
- WLA 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis;
- Achnacarry GDL;
- Aldourie Castle GDL;
- Beaufort Castle GDL;
- Brahan GDL;
- Castle Leod GDL;
- Culloden House GDL;

- Dochfour GDL;
- Fairburn GDL;
- Leys Castle GDL;
- Rosehaugh GDL;
- Tomnahurich Cemetery GDL;
- The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer GDL;
- Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA;
- Ben Wyvis SLA;
- Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA; and
- Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA.

Landscape Character

- 1.3.3 NatureScot in conjunction with partner Councils, has undertaken a detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland. 13 individual LCTs are identified within the detailed study area as shown on **Figure 8.5 - Landscape Character Types within Detailed Study Area**.
- 1.3.4 LCTs within the detailed study area which have been considered for inclusion within the assessment are included in **Table 1.3.2** and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion.¹

Table 1.3.2: Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Detailed Study Area

LCTs	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 220: Rugged Massif – Inverness	Negligible (not significant)	A Negligible (not significant) effect was identified within the 2021 assessment. The ZTV indicates some areas of new intervisibility from lower slopes between Glen Affric and Glen Moriston sub-area. However, it is considered unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No

¹ LCTs which were previously scoped out of the 2021 EIAR, LVIA chapter have not been considered further. These include LCT 229: Enclosed Farmland, LCT 235: Broad Forested Strath; and LCT 237: Rocky Moorland – Lochaber

LCTs	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 221: Rolling Uplands – Inverness	Locally Minor (not significant) for open, elevated and often north-west facing slopes within the ZTV, elsewhere Negligible (not significant)	A localised Minor (not significant) effect, elsewhere Negligible (not significant) was previously identified within this LCT in the 2021 assessment. The ZTV indicates a marginal increase in visibility, however due to the distance and context of existing wind developments it is unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No
LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness	Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) around the Site, elsewhere, Minor (not significant).	The 2021 assessment found effects ranging between locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) during construction around the Consented Development site itself due to construction activities and during operation where turbines on the skyline would become more prominent, typically to the north-east of the Consented Development. However, elsewhere and in general, the landscape effect was considered to be Minor (not significant) across this LCT during construction and operation. The Proposed Varied Development is located within the LCT. The ZTV indicates some areas of new visibility, and higher numbers of turbines would be visible within some areas.	Yes
LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills	Locally Negligible-Minor (not significant) and Negligible (not significant) elsewhere, during construction and operation.	The 2021 assessment found a localised Negligible-Minor (not significant) effect within some open slopes and higher elevations which were not previously influenced by wind turbine development, elsewhere effects were considered to be Negligible (not significant). The ZTV indicates some areas of new intervisibility, and higher numbers of turbines would be visible within some areas. This LCT has been included to assist with the assessment of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area.	Yes

LCTs	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 225: Broad Steep-Sided Glen	Locally Minor (not significant) for elevated areas of the eastern shore, south of Dores and Negligible (not significant) elsewhere during both construction and operation.	Locally Minor (not significant) effects were identified in the 2021 EIAR within elevated parts of the eastern shore, south of Dores, with effects being Negligible (not significant) elsewhere. The ZTV indicates few areas of new visibility, and higher numbers of turbines visible particularly above Dores and Drumnadrochit. This LCT has been included to assist with the assessment of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area.	Yes
LCT 226: Wooded Glen – Inverness	Locally Negligible-Minor (not significant) in Glen Moriston and Negligible elsewhere (not significant) during both construction and operation.	A Negligible - Minor (not significant) effect was identified within open slopes of Glen Moriston sub – area, and a Negligible (not significant) effect elsewhere within the 2021 assessment. The ZTV indicates a marginal increase in intervisibility from lower slopes mostly within the Glen Moriston sub-area. However, it is considered unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No
LCT 227: Farmed Strath – Inverness	Locally Minor (not significant) for parts of the Stratherrick LCT and Negligible (not significant) elsewhere, during construction and operation.	The 2021 assessment found a locally Minor (not significant) effect near Stratherrick where the landscape is open to the west and Negligible (not significant) effects elsewhere. The ZTV indicates some areas of new visibility, however this would be reduced by the wooded context. It is considered unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No
LCT 230: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Inverness	Negligible (not significant) during construction and operation.	A Negligible (not significant) effect was identified in 2021 assessment given the distance, scale and context. The ZTV indicates a marginal increase in intervisibility from some lower slopes and higher numbers of turbines being visible, however it is unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No

LCTs	Effect Identified within 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
LCT 236: Smooth Moorland Ridges	Minor (not significant) during construction and operation.	The 2021 assessment identified a Minor (not significant) effect within this LCT, resulting from the appearance of turbines in the wider landscape context to the north. The ZTV indicates a small increase in visibility along lower northwestern slopes, with higher numbers of turbines visible in some areas, however given the context of existing wind development it is considered unlikely that there would be a significant increase in effects within this LCT.	No

Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 1.3.5 The cumulative landscape assessment has considered all designated or protected landscapes and LCTs identified for inclusion within the landscape assessment and listed in Table 1.3.3.

Table 1.3.3: Designated / Protected Landscapes and LCTs / LCAs included in the Cumulative Landscape Assessment

Landscape Area	Name
Designated / Protected Landscapes	
Special Landscape Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA).
LCTs	
LCTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness; • LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills; and • LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen

1.4 Scope of Visual Assessment

- 1.4.1 Potential VPs and visual receptor locations which were selected for inclusion in the assessment are detailed in this section along with the rationale for their inclusion or otherwise.

Viewpoint Selection

- 1.4.2 VPs considered for inclusion in the assessment are outlined in **Table 1.4.1**. This includes those which were chosen for inclusion within the assessment, and those which were considered and not included. This includes VPs for which significant effects or Minor-Moderate effects were previously identified, as well as other locations where initial ZTVs for the Proposed Varied Development and wirelines indicate potential for increased

effects in comparison with the Consented Development. It also includes VPs specifically requested for inclusion by statutory consultees.

- 1.4.3 The final list of VPs has been confirmed with NatureScot and The Highland Council (THC) (see **Technical Appendix 8.6 - Visual Assessment Tables** for details of the assessments)

Table 1.4.1: Appraisal of Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Effect rating during operation in 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP 1 Track to Loch Liath	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor (not significant)	Illustrative of open, very close-proximity view, from track on the site.	Yes
VP 2 Old Bridge, Invermoriston	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor (not significant)	Representative of close-proximity views from Invermoriston, taken from Old Bridge.	Yes
VP3 Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from popular local hill summit on the north-western side of Loch Ness, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.	Yes
VP4 Achtruie Road near Creag Nay	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible-Minor (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the initial ZTV which has been run for the Proposed Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP5 Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Moderate (significant)	Illustrative of elevated view from roadside Viewpoint marked on OS maps, on General Wade's military road, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.	Yes
VP6 Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated view from popular summit near Suidhe Viewpoint carpark.	Yes

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Effect rating during operation in 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP7 B862 south of Foyers	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Moderate (significant)	Illustrative of views from the B862 road opposite the site.	Yes
VP8 Lochside picnic layby on B852	Included in 2021 EIAR and requested for inclusion by THC.	Negligible (not significant)	Illustrative of worst-case low-level views from shores of Loch Ness, on B-road, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.	Yes
VP9 Carn na Saobhaidhe	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from popular Corbett summit on southern side of Loch Ness.	Yes
VP10 Great Glen Way near Carn a' Bhodaich	Included in 2021 EIAR and requested for inclusion by THC.	Minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from the Great Glen Way.	Yes
VP11 Meall Mor, Glen Affric	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report. Requested by THC but not included as VP12 is considered to be representative of views within the WLA.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible-minor in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP12 Creag Dhubbh	Included in 2021 EIAR and requested for inclusion by THC.	Negligible (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated view from hilltop within WLA, with views north across Glen Affric NSA.	Yes
VP13 Sgùrr nan Conbhairean	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Effect rating during operation in 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP14 Meall Dubh	Included in 2021 EIAR and requested for inclusion by THC.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated view from Corbett path, by Millenium Wind Farm.	Yes
VP15 Poll-gormack Hill	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated mid-range views from summit within Braeroy-Glenshirra-Creag Meagadh WLA, with views across the Corrieyarrick Pass.	Yes
VP16 Geal Charn	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP17 B862 south of Dores	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated view across Loch Ness from minor B-road, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.	Yes
VP18 Track near Dun Fhamhair fort	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible-minor in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Effect rating during operation in 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP19 Path north of Loch Affric	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report. Requested by THC but not included as VP20 is considered representative of worst-case views within Glen Affric.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP20 Path north of Affric Lodge	Included in 2021 EIAR and requested for inclusion by THC.	Negligible (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated point on path north of Affric Lodge, on slopes of Am Meallan hill, within the Central Highlands WLA and Glen Affric NSA.	Yes
VP21 Toll Creagach	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from a Munro on the edge of the Glen Affric NSA and Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA, within the Central Highlands WLA.	Yes
VP 22 Sgurr na Ruaidhe	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible-minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from a Munro within the Glen Strathfarrar group of hills and views over the Glen Strathfarrar NSA. It is also located within the Strathcnon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA and Central Highlands WLA.	No

Viewpoint	Consultation History	Effect rating during operation in 2021 LVIA	Appraisal	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
VP 23 An Cabar (Ben Wyvis)	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP 24 NCN1 Between Dingwall and Evanton	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP 25 Minor road near Tore	Included in 2021 EIAR but proposed for exclusion in Scoping report.	Negligible (not significant)	Excluded as effects were found to be Negligible in the 2021 LVIA, and the ZTV for the Proposed Varied Development does not indicate additional theoretical visibility in this area. It is considered unlikely that there would be significant effects from this VP.	No
VP 26 A87 Bun Loyne	Included in 2021 EIAR and proposed for inclusion in Scoping Report.	Minor (not significant)	Illustrative of elevated views from layby by A road near Bun Loyne, Glen Moriston	Yes

Residential Locations and Settlements

- 1.4.4 The assessment of residential locations for the 2021 EIAR and the 2022 AIR for the Consented Development, was limited to the detailed study area as the potential for significant effects was considered very unlikely beyond this distance. The assessment of the Proposed Varied Development will focus on those receptors where impacts of Minor-Moderate or higher were identified for the Consented Development, as well as other

locations where initial ZTVs for the Proposed Varied Development and wirelines indicate potential for increased effects in comparison with the Consented Development.

1.4.5 Residential and settlement areas scoped into the assessment (see **Figure 8.8 – Visual Receptors**) therefore include:

- R7: Properties south of Dores;
- R9: Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie;
- R12: Garthbeg, Corriegarth Lodge and nearby properties;
- R13: A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge; and
- R14: Knockie Estate Cottages, and properties in the vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel.

Routes

1.4.6 The visual effects on travellers using routes has been considered within the wider study area. The assessment of the Proposed Varied Development will focus on those receptors where impacts of Minor-Moderate or higher were identified for the Consented Development, as well as other locations where initial ZTVs for the Proposed Varied Development and wirelines indicate potential for increased effects in comparison with the Consented Development.

1.4.7 The following routes have been scoped into the assessment (see Figure 5.8):

- B862;
- Core Path IN12.04: Kindrummond to Dirr Wood;
- Core Path IN25.02: Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor; and
- Great Glen Way.

Cumulative Visual Assessment

1.4.8 The cumulative visual assessment has considered all VPs and routes identified for inclusion within the main assessment as listed in **Table 1.3.3**.

Table 1.4.2: VPs and Routes Included in the Cumulative Visual Assessment

Receptor Location	Name
Viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VP 1: Track to Loch Liath• VP 2: Old Bridge, Invermoriston• VP 3: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh• VP 5: Suide Viewpoint, B862• VP 6: Summit at Suidhe Viewpoint, B862• VP 7: B862 south of Foyers• VP 10: Great Glen Way near Carn a' Bhodaich• VP 15: Poll-gormack Hill• VP 17: B862, south of Dores• VP 26: A87 Bun Loyne

Receptor Location	Name
Residential Locations and Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• R7 (Properties south of Dores)• R9 (Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie)• R12 (Garthbeg, Corriegarth Lodge and nearby properties)• R13 (A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge)• R14 (Knockie Estate Cottages and properties in the vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel)
Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• B862• Core Path IN12.04 (Kindrummond to Dirr Wood)• Core Path IN25.02 (Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor)• Great Glen Way