

Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual

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8.1. Executive Summary

Introduction

8.1.1. This landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken for the Proposed Varied Development to the Consented Bhilaraidh Wind Farm Extension (the Consented Development) by ASH design + assessment Ltd (ASH), Chartered Landscape Architects, in accordance with best practice guidance including the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3)¹. This chapter considers the potential for the proposed variation to increase the height of the 15 turbines from 180m to tip to 230m to tip as described in **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development**, to result in material changes to the effects identified for the Consented Development. The focus of the assessment is on identifying material change, particularly with respect to the receptors for which significant effects have been previously identified.

Landscape Effects

8.1.2. Landscape effects for the Proposed Varied Development would generally be similar to those of the Consented Development. A localised significant (**Moderate**) effect was identified to LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. Although there would be an increase in the level of effect within LCT 224 – Farmed and Wooded Foothills, the effect on this Landscape Character Type (LCT) would continue to be not significant. An increased effect is also anticipated for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA) with a localised significant effect being experienced around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. However, this is not predicted to affect the role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a landmark when experienced from elsewhere within the SLA, or the appreciation of the Great Glen when seen from its summit.

Visual Effects

8.1.3. Most VPs, settlements, and routes included in the assessment would experience similar visual effects to those previously identified for the Consented Development, several are expected to see an increase in visual effects primarily due to the greater height and prominence of the larger turbines, which will make them more noticeable from certain viewpoints and routes. Although some new significant effects were identified, for most

¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition.

receptors the increase in turbine size would not change the previously assessed effects such that they would be considered significant.

Cumulative Effects

8.1.4. Significant cumulative landscape effects are predicted for one LCT and for a localised part of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. Effects on other LCTs and the wider SLA are predicted to be not significant. Significant cumulative visual effects are expected at two VPs (VP3 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and VP7 - B862 south of Foyers), one residential grouping and two routes. While the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative baseline will contribute to increased turbine influence in some areas, it would generally not result in a significant cumulative effect.

Lighting Effects

8.1.5. The separate assessment of turbine lighting appended in Appendix 8.9 reports that the effects of lighting five turbines, would be significant from one LCT, one designated area, three VPs, two residential groups and one route. This is largely due to the absence of artificial light within the study area and receptors which would therefore generally be more sensitive to this type of change. It was therefore concluded that the inclusion of lighting on the five turbines included in the strategic lighting scheme would result in significant effects during low light conditions and the hours of darkness. However, the Applicant proposes to engage with aviation stakeholders to agree further lighting solution which may result in a reduced visual effect.

Summary

8.1.6. Overall, the LVIA has concluded that the Proposed Varied Development would result in some increased significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity, affecting relatively localised parts of the wider landscape and visual resource. Although there would be some increases in anticipated effects, including some new significant effects, the findings of assessment of the Proposed Varied Development are broadly consistent with the findings assessment of the Consented Development.

8.2. Introduction

- 8.2.1. A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) was previously undertaken for the Consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension (the Consented Development) by ASH design + assessment Ltd (ASH), Chartered Landscape Architects, in accordance with best practice guidance including the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3). This assessed a layout consisting of 18 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180 m. After further consultation with the Highland Council (THC) post submission, it was agreed that three turbines (T13, T14 and T18) would be removed from the scheme. An Additional Information Report (AIR) was submitted for the revised 15 turbine layout in March 2022.
- 8.2.2. This chapter considers the potential for the proposed variation as described in **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development** to result in material changes to the effects identified for the Consented Development.
- 8.2.3. The assessment is supported by **Volume 2 (Figures 8.1–8.28), Volume 4 (Technical Appendices 8.1–8.10)**, and Figures/Photomontages included in **Volumes 3a and 3b** of the EIA Report.

8.3. Scope of Assessment

- 8.3.1. The purpose of this assessment is the identification of potential for material change in landscape and visual effects identified for the Consented Development when compared to the anticipated effects of the Proposed Varied Development.
- 8.3.2. The LVIA considers all aspects of the Proposed Varied Development during the construction phase and during operation, as described in **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development**. It gives consideration to potential effects on the character of the landscape and also the visual amenity of those present within the landscape. It also gives consideration to the potential effects of the Proposed Varied Development on designated and protected landscapes, and to the cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Varied Development when considered in addition to other existing and proposed wind farm developments. The assessment focuses on landscape and visual receptors where potential for effects to increase to significant levels has been identified.
- 8.3.3. The assessment has therefore involved the following activities:
 - Review of the landscape and visual baseline conditions including recognition of changes to the baseline since the original landscape and

visual assessment for the Consented Development was undertaken as part of the 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR;

- Landscape and visual assessment of the Proposed Varied Development focusing on key areas where potentially material changes may occur;
- Comparison of landscape and visual effects anticipated for the Proposed Varied Development with those identified for the Consented Development, highlighting any areas where a change in effect may occur; and
- Review of the Proposed Varied Development from the key identified areas, against the current cumulative wind farm baseline, identifying any areas where a difference in effect may occur from that identified for the Consented Development.

8.3.4. In addition to the above, a separate assessment of the visual effects of turbine lighting has been undertaken and is presented in Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting and summarised at the end of this Chapter.

8.3.5. This review does not comprise a full LVIA as the above approach is considered to be a proportionate level of assessment to identify any material change resulting from the increased height of the Proposed Varied Development turbines.

8.3.6. This review cross refers to the findings and associated figures, included within the 2021 EIAR LVIA prepared for the Consented Development ('the 2021 LVIA') and associated appendices and the 2022 AIR.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

8.3.7. As an aid to establishing the scope for the LVIA and facilitating comparison between the Consented and Proposed Varied Developments, a ZTV has been produced for the Proposed Varied Development and is presented in **Volume 2, Figures 8.1 – 8.3**. The ZTV is a computer-generated diagram which uses a terrain model to indicate areas from which the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible. The ZTV for the Consented Development has been generated using ESRI ArcGIS software based on a terrain modelled using Ordnance Survey (OS) T5 DTM data. Detailed technical information on the methods for production of ZTVs is included in **Technical Appendix 8.1: Technical Methodologies for Visual Representation**.

Study Area

8.3.8. A study area of 45km from the Site is proposed 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. 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. The comparative ZTV (**Figure 8.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development with 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**). Use of the same study areas has allowed for consistent comparison.

Issues Scoped out of the Assessment

8.3.9. Effects arising from the process of decommissioning were scoped out for the Consented Development since they are of a similar nature to those arising during construction, but of a smaller scale and shorter duration. They have therefore been scoped out of the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development.

8.3.10. The assessment of the Proposed Varied Development has focussed on receptors included within the 2021 EIAR where there was considered to be potential for effects to increase to significant levels. Where individual landscape and visual receptors have been scoped out of detailed assessment, these are referenced as relevant.

8.4. Consultations

8.4.1. A request for a Scoping Opinion for the Proposed Development was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in May 2025 (refer to **Technical Appendix 3.1: Scoping Report**). The Scoping Opinion was issued in July 2025 (refer to **Technical Appendix 3.2: Scoping Opinion**). Issues raised within the Scoping Opinion of relevance to the subjects of landscape and visual amenity are summarised in **Table 8.1**.

Table 8.1: Scoping Responses of Relevance to Landscape and Visual Amenity

Consultee	Issue Raised	Action
Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Scoping Opinion dated 16 th July 2025	The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 8.2 to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment.	These viewpoints have been included within the assessment and details are included in Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables .
	As the maximum blade tip height of turbines exceeds 150m the LVIA must include a robust Night Time Assessment with agreed viewpoints to consider the effects of aviation lighting and how the chosen lighting mitigates the effects. NatureScot recommends that the night-time assessment is in line with their Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.	An aviation lighting assessment is included in Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting . Visualisations have been produced from VP2 VP3, VP5 and VP21 and are included in Volume 3a .
The Highland Council (THC) Scoping Report response dated 2 nd July 2025	The landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development should be assessed separately.	Landscape and visual effects are assessed separately in Section 8.8 and 8.9 of this Chapter.
	Separate volumes of visualisations should be prepared to both Highland Council Standards and NatureScot guidance.	Visualisations produced to the THC 'Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Development' (2016) ² are included as Volume 3b of this EIA Report. Visualisations produced to the NatureScot (2017) 'Visual Representation of Wind

² The Highland Council (2016a). Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments, July 2016. Available online at https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments.

	<p>Farms (Version 2.2)³ are included as Volume 3a of this EIA Report. Technical details of visualisation are included in Technical Appendix 8.1: Methodologies for Visual Representations.</p>
	<p>The assessment must include the expected landscape and visual impact of all elements of the development including any on-site BESS, borrow pits, access roads, compounds including substations. All elements of the proposal are to be rendered into photomontages.</p>
	<p>All elements of the Proposed Varied Development as outlined in Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development have been included in the LVIA, and are shown on photomontages included in Volume 3a and 3b where appropriate.</p>
	<p>The finalised list of Viewpoints (VP) and wireframes for the assessment of effects of a proposed development must also be agreed in advance of preparation of any visuals with THC and NatureScot.</p>
	<p>VP locations have been determined following review of advice provided through the Scoping process and further consultation with THC and NatureScot.</p>
	<p>As far as possible, the viewpoints should correspond with the viewpoints used for existing wind energy schemes within the area.</p>
	<p>The viewpoints used in this assessment are drawn from those used for the Consented Development. Details of selected viewpoints are included in Technical Appendix 8.2 – Summary of the Scoping Process.</p>
	<p>The purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints shall be clearly identified and stated in the supporting information.</p>
	<p>The purpose of VPs is detailed in Technical Appendix 8.2: Summary of Scoping Process.</p>
	<p>The Study Area will be 45km, given the scale of the turbines. A detailed assessment should be undertaken for the whole Study Area, including for the Cumulative Impact Assessment, which should also include an assessment of sequential effects.</p>
	<p>A study area of 45km has been used in line with current guidance. This is the study area which was used for the 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR.</p>

³ Scottish Natural Heritage (2017a). Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Guidance, Version 2.2, February 2017. Available online at <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf>

The LVIA Chapter of the EIAR should clearly set out the methodology.	The methodology is set out in Section 8.5 of this chapter.
Given the potential cumulative impact of renewable energy in this area it is expected that the applicant should present images for presentation within the Panoramic Digital Viewer deployed by the Council – see visualisation standards document.	Cumulative wirelines are included within Volume 3a.
We expect the Landscape Impact Assessment to refer to the Council's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance and expect an assessment of the proposal against the criterion set out in the Council's OWESG at pages 19 and 20 to be included within the LVIA chapter of the EIAR	An appraisal of the 10 criteria set out in the OWESG is presented in Technical Appendix 8.10: Appraisal of THC criteria for the consideration of Onshore Wind Proposals .
The LVIA should include consideration of the impact of the proposals on the visual amenity on surrounding settlements and key transport routes in the area, including all core paths and long-distance trails. The assessments should include a sequential assessment of how the development will be experienced in relation to existing and consented wind farms for receptors in motion.	The assessment has considered surrounding settlements and key transport routes. Details of the assessment are included in Section 8.9 and Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables .
We advise that wind energy developments are generally sited within a complex combination of Landscape Character Types. As such, the Landscape Impact Assessment's analysis should not only focus on potential impacts on individual Landscape Character Types and individual Units, but also on the local landscape character composition within which these elements come together to define a particular sense of place.	A summary of potential effects on landscape character overall is included in Section 8.8. Details of the landscape character assessment are included in Technical Appendix 8.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types .
An assessment of the impacts of the proposal on landscape should assess the impacts on any landscapes designated at a national and local scale. NatureScot's draft guidance on assessing the impacts on	The LVIA considers the effects on all nationally and locally designated landscapes as agreed with NatureScot through Scoping and detailed in Section 8.8 and Technical Appendix 8.4:

	<p>Special Landscape Qualities of National Scenic Areas should be followed with NatureScot determining which qualities should be scoped in for detailed assessment once the full list of VPs is finalised. Any assessments of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) must be undertaken using the SLA citations available from the Council's website.</p>	<p>Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes.</p>
	<p>As the heights of the proposed turbines are above 150m, aviation lighting is required. THC generally prefers the term 'Hours of Darkness' over 'Night-Time'. Hours of Darkness VPs should be representative of commutes and communities, as well as Wild Land.</p>	<p>An aviation lighting assessment is included in Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting. THC's preference for the term Hours of Darkness has been noted. Visualisations have been produced from VP2, VP3, VP5 and VP21 and are included in Volume 3a.</p>
	<p>The residential visual amenity impact should be assessed for all properties, settlements, housing groups within 2km of the turbines within the LVIA.</p>	<p>There are no properties which would experience views of the development within 2km of the turbines. A residential visual amenity impact assessment is therefore not required. Potential effects on residential receptor groupings are covered in Section 8.9 and Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables.</p>
NatureScot Scoping Report response dated 7 th July 2025	<p>We recommend the night-time assessment is in line with the jointly drafted Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.. Once a lighting scheme is agreed and hub height and preliminary visible aviation lighting Zone of Theoretical Visibility are available, we can provide further advice on the proposed night-time viewpoints.</p>	<p>An aviation lighting assessment is included in Technical Appendix 8.9 Visualisations have been produced from VP2, VP3, VP5 and VP21 are included in Volume 3a.</p>

8.5. Assessment Methodology

8.5.1. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with GLVIA3¹. Detailed LVIA methodology and assessment criteria can be found in the **2021 EIAR, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, Section 8.5**. The methodology for the turbine lighting assessment is included in **Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting**

Methodology for Comparison of Landscape and Visual Effects

8.5.2. The comparison of landscape and visual effects identified for the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development has involved the following considerations:

- Identification and analysis of areas of ‘new’ visibility / influence which would result from the Proposed Varied Development, through the review of comparative ZTVs (**Figure 8.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Varied Development**) and comparative wirelines (**Figures V3a-1.3a to V3a-15.3b and V3b-1.3a- V3b-15.3b**) from areas of new visibility;
- Identification and analysis of areas of ‘notably increased’ visibility / influence which would result from the Proposed Varied Development through the review of comparative ZTVs (**Figure 8.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development**) and comparative wirelines (**Figures V3a-1.3a to V3a-15.3b and V3b-1.3a- V3b-15.3b**) alongside baseline photos and findings from the assessments for both development scenarios. This focuses on notable increases to visibility / influence (e.g. more turbines visible, or more tips or hubs visible) rather than just increased visibility;
- Identification of new or increased cumulative visibility / influence resulting from the Proposed Varied Development, through the use of cumulative ZTVs (**Figures 8.11 to 8.28**) and cumulative wirelines (**Figures V3a-1.2 to V3a-15.2**); and
- Identification of potential for material change in landscape and visual and cumulative landscape and visual assessment conclusions.

Site Appraisal

8.5.3. Site visits were undertaken by Chartered Landscape Professionals in August 2025, to record any changes within the baseline landscape context. Information gathered during desk studies was verified on-site and further information gathered where appropriate. The site visits fed into the comparative appraisal of visual receptors, landscape designations, protected areas and Landscape Character Types (LCTs).

Assumptions and Limitations

8.5.4. This assessment has been subject to the following assumptions and limitations:

- The Proposed Varied Development comprises an increase in turbine tip height to 230m (including associated increase in hub height) as outlined in

Chapter 2: Design Iteration and the Proposed Varied Development.

Some micro siting of turbines has been undertaken to accommodate the increased turbine size.

- The effects of turbine lighting are considered in a separate assessment which is appended to this report as **Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting**. The results of this separate assessment are summarised and given consideration in the conclusions of this chapter.
- This assessment is considered a proportionate approach to assessing the Proposed Varied Development and sufficient to identify any material changes between the effects of the Consented and Proposed Varied Developments.
- For clarity, the cumulative landscape and visual assessment (CLVIA) has been based on an updated cumulative baseline scenario including all operational and consented wind energy sites and those which are the subject of current applications and appeal procedures or with an active request for a scoping opinion, up to and including 5 September 2025; and
- The assessment is based on original assessments undertaken for the 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR and data collected at that time, updated by additional site survey and desk study in 2025. Therefore, the viewpoints and landscape areas considered are based on those included in the 2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR.

8.6. Consented Development EIAR Baseline

Pre-consent Landscape and Visual Baseline

8.6.1. For a detailed description of the pre-consent baseline conditions, please refer to the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual**, Section 8.6 and the **2022 AIR, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual**.

Post-consent Changes to the Landscape and Visual Baseline

8.6.2. Changes to the baseline of the study area relate mostly to the construction of Glen Kyllachy Wind Farm adjacent to Farr Wind Farm within the north-eastern part of the study area. It is located within LCT 221: Rolling Uplands – Inverness which has been scoped out of the detailed assessment. While this has slightly increased the presence of wind development within this part of the study area, these turbines are usually experienced within the context of

existing Farr Wind Farm turbines, reducing its influence on landscape character.

8.6.3. Other changes to the baseline of the study area include changes to vegetation cover. These changes are generally relatively localised and are discussed in the visual assessment where relevant to the receptors being assessed (See **Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables**).

Updated Cumulative Baseline

8.6.4. The cumulative baseline scenario comprises 26 operational, consented / under construction and proposed (application) wind developments, within 60km of the Proposed Varied Development, as illustrated on **Figure 8.9: Cumulative Sites within 60km** and detailed in **Technical Appendix 8.5: Existing and Proposed Wind Energy Turbine Developments within 60km**. This represents the baseline situation as of 5th September 2025.

8.6.5. An initial appraisal of these sites in relation to the Proposed Varied Development suggested that the potential for significant cumulative effects would be most likely to occur in relation to the Proposed Varied Development seen in combination with sites within approximately 45km. Therefore, the assessment has focused on sites within or partly within this area. The sites selected for inclusion are detailed in shown on **Figure 8.10: Cumulative Sites Included in Assessment** and listed in **Technical Appendix 8.5: Existing and Proposed Wind Energy Turbine Developments within 60km**.

8.6.6. The cumulative assessment assesses effects resulting from the potential addition of the Proposed Varied Development to two baseline scenarios:

- Where all operational and consented sites included in the assessment would be in place and operational; and
- Where relevant (and a different cumulative effect is anticipated) where all operational, consented and application sites included in the assessment would be in place and operational.

8.7. Summary of Effects Predicted & Mitigation Measures suggested for the Consented Development

Consented Development Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types

8.7.1. This section provides a summary of the effects identified for the Consented Development on LCTs, in accordance with the effects criteria outlined in the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, Section 8.5**. The

detailed assessment of these effects is included in the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Technical Appendix 8.5: Assessment of Landscape Character Types**

- 8.7.2. The assessment of LCTs within the 2021 LVIA for the Consented Development considered nine separate LCTs. No significant effects were identified to any of the LCTs within the study area.
- 8.7.3. **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) effects were identified locally within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness, around the Site itself. While the Consented Development would usually be seen in association with the Operational Development turbines, it would introduce some additional areas of intervisibility, and may in some areas also increase the prominence of wind turbines experienced from the surrounding landscape due to the larger scale of the structures compared to the Operational Development.
- 8.7.4. **Minor** (not significant) effects were anticipated for:
 - LCT 236: Smooth Moorland Ridges, where the Consented Development turbines would be experienced in the wider landscape context to the north, next to the Operational Development;
 - Localised parts of LCT 221: Rolling Uplands – Inverness, from open, elevated north-west facing slopes within the ZTV;
 - Localised parts of LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen, from elevated areas on the eastern shore, south of Dores; and
 - Localised areas within 227: Farmed Strath – Inverness, within parts of Stratherrick.
- 8.7.5. **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) effects were anticipated for:
 - Locally within LCT 224 – Framed and Wooded Foothills, from open, upper, exposed slopes where the perception of wind turbines may increase; and
 - Locally within LCT 226: Wooded Glen – Inverness, in Glen Moriston.
- 8.7.6. It was considered that all effects within all remaining LCTs or parts of LCTs would be **Negligible** (not significant).

Consented Development Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

- 8.7.7. This section provides a summary of the effects identified for the Consented Development on designated and protected landscapes including National Scenic Areas (NSAs), Wild Land Areas (WLAs) and Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the effects criteria outlined in the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape**

and Visual, Section 8.5. The detailed assessment of effects for each designated landscape is provided in the **2021 EIAR, Volume 4 Technical Appendix 8.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes.**

Glen Affric NSA

8.7.8. A **Negligible** (not significant) effect was identified for the Glen Affric NSA. Effects on the NSA would be indirect, resulting from the experience of the Consented Development turbines within the wider context, virtually always seen in the context of the Operational Development turbines, or other wind farms in the wider landscape. Although the Consented Development may increase the perceived dominance of wind development in the wider visual context of this landscape, it was not considered that this would result in changes to the Special Qualities or characteristics of the NSA.

WLA 19: Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh

8.7.9. A locally **Minor** (not significant) effect was identified within a very localised area of the WLA on the summits and facing slopes of mountains within 22km of the Consented Development. The effect on the WLA as a whole was anticipated to be Negligible (not significant), and it was considered that there would be no perceptible effects to any of the WLA Key Qualities. The Consented Development would affect only very small parts of the WLA, at considerable distance and in a context where existing wind farm development was usually already perceived and where existing WLA attribute levels were already lower.

WLA 24: Central Highlands

8.7.10. A locally **Minor** (not significant) effect was identified for WLA 24 within areas north of Glen Cannich. In all other areas the effect was considered to be **Negligible** (not significant). As the Consented Development would not have a greater influence on the relationship with mountainous core area than existing wind farms and would be unlikely to affect the glen areas, no perceptible effect was anticipated to any of the Key Qualities.

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

8.7.11. A locally **Minor** (not significant) effect was identified for open elevated areas of the SLA, with effects being **Negligible** (not significant) elsewhere. Effects on the SLA would be indirect, resulting from the appearance of wind turbines on the skyline to the west. No perceptible effect on the SLA was anticipated in relation to intervisibility with lower slopes and shoreline areas of Loch Ness due to the limited ZTV coverage and wooded context, although the Consented Development would be relatively noticeable from some higher areas east and west of Loch Ness, seen next to the Operational Development. Some small

changes to aspects of “*The Dramatic Great Glen*” Special Quality were anticipated. However, given the presence of the Operational Development turbines which already contribute visual foci, interrupt the skyline and provide scale indicators, it was not considered that there would be a notable change to the appreciation of the “*Dramatic Great Glen*” and its Special Qualities.

Strathconon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA

8.7.12. A locally **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) effect was identified for elevated eastern areas of the SLA, with effects being **Negligible** (not significant) elsewhere. Effects would be indirect, resulting from the appearance of turbines within the wider landscape context to the south-east, experienced in the context of other wind farms in the wider landscape, as well as the Operational Development in the majority of views. Although the Consented Development may increase the perceived dominance of wind development in the wider context of this landscape, this was considered unlikely to have a significant impact on the Special Qualities or characteristics of the SLA. There may be some localised changes to the perception of scale from “Grand Mountain Ridges” and localised increases to the perception of man-made structures in the landscape, slightly reducing the sense of “Wildness and Remoteness”.

Consented Development Visual Assessment

8.7.13. The assessment of potential visual effects for the Consented Development considered views from visual receptors at 26 representative Viewpoints (VPs), in residential areas within 25km of the Consented Development, and on transport and recreational routes. Some significant visual effects were identified to views from two VPs and one Residential Receptor Location (RRL) (localised within the RRL). These were mainly focused to the east of Loch Ness, within Stratherrick. Effects for visual receptors which have been scoped into this assessment are summarised below. For visual receptors which have been scoped out of the assessment please see **2021 EIAR, Volume 1 Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual** and **2021 EIAR, Volume 4, Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables** and **2022 AIR, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual** for details of the assessment of the Consented Development.

Viewpoints

8.7.14. Effects to VPs scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development are summarised in Table 8.2 below.

Table 8.2: Summary of effects identified for the Consented Development to Viewpoints scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development

Viewpoint (VP)	Name	Effect identified
VP 1	Track to Loch Liath	Minor (not significant)
VP 2	Old Bridge, Invermoriston	Minor (not significant)
VP 3	Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	Minor-moderate (not significant)
VP 5	Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Moderate (significant)
VP 6	Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Minor-moderate ⁴ (not significant)
VP 7	B862 south of Foyers	Moderate (significant)
VP8	Lochside picnic layby on B852	Negligible (not significant)
VP10	Great Glen Way near Carn a' Bhodaich	Minor (not significant)
VP12	Creag Dhubh	Negligible (not significant)
VP14	Meall Dubh	Negligible-minor (not significant)
VP 15	Poll-gormack Hill	Minor (not significant)
VP 17	B862 south of Dores	Minor-moderate (not significant)
VP20	Path north of Affric Lodge	Negligible (not significant)
VP 21	Toll Creagach	Negligible-minor (not significant)
VP 26	A87 Bun Loyne	Minor (not significant)

⁴ Minor (not significant) effect identified within the 2022 AIR

Residential Locations and Settlements

8.7.15. Effects to Residential Locations and Settlements scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development are summarised in **Table 8.3** below.

Table 8.3: Summary of effects identified for the Consented Development to Residential Receptor Locations scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development

Residential Location	Name	Effect identified
R7	Properties south of Dores	Minor-moderate (not significant)
R9	Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie	Minor (not significant)
R12	Garthbeg, Corriegarth Lodge and nearby properties.	Minor-moderate (not significant)
R13	A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge.	Ranges from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant)
R14	Knockie Estate Cottages, and properties in the vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel	Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant), elsewhere Negligible

Routes

8.7.16. Effects to routes scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development are summarised in Table 8.4 below.

Table 8.4: Summary of effects identified for the Consented Development to routes scoped into the assessment of the Proposed Varied Development

Route	Effect identified
B862	Minor (not significant)
Core Path IN12.04 - Kindrummond to Dirr Wood	Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant), elsewhere Negligible

Core Path IN25.02 - Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor	Minor (not significant)
Great Glen Way	Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant), elsewhere Negligible

Consented Development Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

- 8.7.17. The CLVIA included in the 2021 EIAR assessment, considered the addition of 2021 EIAR Layout to the two cumulative baseline scenarios: operational and consented sites only; and with the addition of application sites. An initial appraisal of these sites in relation to the 2021 EIAR Layout suggested that the potential for significant cumulative effects would be most likely to occur in relation to the 2021 EIAR Layout seen in combination with sites within around 45km. Therefore, the assessment focused on sites within or partly within this area.
- 8.7.18. The 2022 AIR concluded that there would be no changes to cumulative effects reported in the 2021 EIAR. As the Consented Development would continue to have a similar presence within the view from all VPs, it was not considered that there would be any change to how this would be perceived within the cumulative baseline.

Consented Development Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 8.7.19. No significant cumulative landscape effects were identified for LCTs or designated and protected landscapes included within the assessment under either of the cumulative baseline scenarios, with effects generally ranging from **Negligible** to **Minor**.

Consented Development Cumulative Visual Assessment

- 8.7.20. A summary of the significant cumulative effects of the Consented Development on individual visual receptors is outlined in Table 8.5 below.

Table 8.5: Summary of Significant Cumulative Visual Effects Identified for the Consented Development

Receptor Type	Receptor	Effect Identified
Viewpoints (VPs):	VP7 - B862 south of Foyers	Moderate (significant)
Residential Locations	R13 – A range of properties in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road near Whitebridge	Ranges from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (locally significant)

Mitigation

8.7.21. Mitigation for landscape and visual effects for the Consented Development was undertaken through an iterative design process from which the preferred layout evolved. The siting and design of turbines and associated tracks and other infrastructure resulted from a constraints exercise which included consideration of potential impacts from an LVIA perspective, and was also influenced by national and local policy and/or guidance from NatureScot, THC and other consultees, including the guidance Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape (SNH, 2017). Further design refinement has been undertaken for the Proposed Varied Development in light of the height increase. For details regarding the iterative design process and mitigation measures please see detail in **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual** (section 8.7), **2022 AIR, Design and Access Statement (Supporting Information)** and **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development**.

8.8. Revised Assessment of Landscape Effects for the Proposed Varied Development

8.8.1. This section provides a discussion of the potential changes to the effects identified for the included landscape receptors as a result of the Proposed Varied Development from those identified for the Consented Development.

Areas of New and Notably Increased Visibility

8.8.2. The comparative ZTV of the Consented and Proposed Varied Developments (see **Figure 8.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development**) indicates that areas of new visibility (areas where only the Proposed Varied Development is visible) would be relatively

limited, comprising mainly lower facing slopes within the detailed study area, including above Glen Urquhart and Strath Glass to the north and west, and around Ceannacroc Forest to the south west, as well as to the east of Loch Ness around Stratherrick. Within these areas visibility would generally consist of smaller numbers of tips and blades visible behind local landform which previously would have screened visibility of the Consented Development. There would also be some limited new visibility around smaller hill summits to the south-west of the Site.

8.8.3. In addition to areas of new visibility, some areas would experience an increase in visibility, with larger numbers of taller turbines visible than for the Consented Development.

Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types

8.8.4. This section provides a summary of the effects identified for the Proposed Varied Development on LCTs during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the effects criteria outlined in the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, Section 8.5**. The detailed assessment of effects for each LCT or designated landscape is provided in **Technical Appendix 8.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types**.

8.8.5. The assessment of the Proposed Varied Development has considered three separate LCTs:

- LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness;
- LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills; and
- LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen.

8.8.6. A localised significant (Moderate) effect was identified to LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. No other significant effects were identified. Although there would be an increase in the level of effect within LCT 224 – Farmed and Wooded Foothills, the effect on these LCTs would continue to be not significant. Effects for the Proposed Varied Development would generally be similar to those of the Consented Development, although the level of effect would increase in some areas as a result of the taller height of the turbines. This would generally make them appear more prominent and closer in some views, and may result in higher numbers of hubs or turbine tips appearing in views. However, they would generally continue to be experienced in a context where other wind turbines are already present.

Effects Likely to be Significant

8.8.7. Within LCT 222, there would be an increase in the level of effect from a localised **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) effect for the Consented

Development to a localised **Moderate** (significant) effect around the Site, with this effect predicted to cover a slightly wider area up to 5 km to the east and north-east towards Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (see, VP3 (**Figure V3a-3.1-3.4 and Figure V3b-3.1-3.5**). Elsewhere, the level of effect to the wider LCT would be unchanged from **Minor** (not significant).

8.8.8. The taller stature of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would typically lead to these appearing more prominent than those of the Consented Development and would lead to a greater area where wind farm development would be experienced, likely to affect the sense of remoteness, including from localised low-lying areas where the Operational Development is not visible. The greater disparity in height between the Operational Development turbines and those of the Proposed Varied Development would lead to a greater perceived separation between these two wind farms, contributing to a more widespread perception of wind farms characterising this LCT. The change would be less notable when experienced from areas further to the north, including the northern sub-area where, although taller and slightly more prominent than the Consented Development, the turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would have a similar effect on the southern skyline, seen adjacent to the Operational Development. In westerly areas, where the Proposed Varied Development would be seen through and in the context of the Operational Development, although the greater numbers of turbines would be perceptible (see, for example VP1 (**Figure V3a-1.1-1.4 and Figure V3b-1.1-1.5**), they would not lead to a noticeably increased influence of wind turbines as a characteristic of the LCT.

Effects Likely to be Not Significant

8.8.9. Within LCT 224, there would be an increase in effect from a localised **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) effect for the Consented Development to an overall **Minor** (not significant) effect for the Proposed Varied Development. Within the northern half of this LCT, generally to the north of Foyers, the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development would continue to be only occasionally experienced within the westerly context, typically as only a few blades or tips above the horizon. Although this may slightly increase the sense of wind farm development in this context, it is unlikely to noticeably alter the characteristics of the LCT in this area, as wind turbines are already experienced to a similar degree. Within the more southerly half of the LCT, the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced only occasionally, due to the more prevalent forest and woodland cover. However, it would appear noticeably taller and prominent in the north-western context of these areas, likely to form a greater focus and potentially altering perceptions of scale and distance in comparison to other surrounding developments including the Operational Development.

8.8.10. Within LCT 225, no change to the landscape effect is anticipated compared to the Consented Development. The effect would continue to be **Minor** (not

significant), localised to areas around the northern end of Loch Ness, and elsewhere **Negligible** (not significant). The majority of more noticeable effects would occur within elevated areas on the eastern side of Loch Ness, particularly at its northern end, where the taller turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would appear occasionally more prominent and slightly closer than those of the Consented Development. However, they would appear clearly external to the LCT, seen within the surrounding upland context beyond the containment of the Great Glen. Turbines are already present in this context and therefore, the Proposed Varied Development would not add new features within the context of the LCT, although it may slightly increase the perception of a more developed upland context. Whilst the taller turbines would be slightly more noticeable and may form a visual focus, they would continue to be well contained by the topography and would not interrupt the linear composition.

Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

8.8.11. This section provides a summary of the effects identified for the Proposed Varied Development on designated and protected landscapes during the construction and operational phases, in accordance with the effects criteria outlined in the **2021 EIAR, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, Section 8.5**. A detailed assessment of effects for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA) is provided in **Technical Appendix 8.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes**. A high level summary is also included within **Technical Appendix 8.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes** outlining the changes to effects for other designations within the wider study area, which have been scoped out of further day-time assessment, but have been considered further within the assessment of effects on visible aviation lighting (see **Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting** and Section 8.13 below).

Glen Affric (NSA)

8.8.12. Effects to the NSA were identified as **Negligible** in the 2021 LVIA. There would be very little increase to theoretical visibility for the Proposed Varied Development compared to the Consented Development. It would be seen principally from elevated mountain areas surrounding the glen, appearing perceptibly larger. However, the full height of turbines would generally not be seen, making it unlikely to appear noticeably closer to the NSA (see visualisation from VP21, **Figure V3a-14.1-14.4 and Figure V3b-14.1-14.5**). This may slightly reduce the level of perceived remoteness but the Proposed Varied Development would still be seen within a context where existing wind turbines are present, often appearing indistinguishable from these turbines. It is considered unlikely that effects to the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs),

typically focussed within the glen area and associated with the journey westwards, would increase to a level which would be significant.

WLA19: Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh

8.8.13. Effects for WLA 19 were identified as **Minor** (not significant) within a very localised area in the 2021 LVIA and generally **Negligible**, with no perceptible effects predicted for any of the Wild Land Qualities (WLQs). The ZTV indicates very little additional visibility within this area, although the turbines would be perceived as larger in comparison with adjacent turbines. The areas affected are already influenced by existing wind turbines at closer proximity and therefore any changes to the attributes and perceptual responses of wild land which contribute to the WLQs are likely to be limited and unlikely to increase to a significant level.

WLA 24: Central Highlands

8.8.14. The 2021 LVIA identified localised **Minor** (not significant) effects to this WLA within areas north of Glen Cannich, with no perceptible effect predicted for any of the WLQs. The ZTV indicates some small areas of increased intervisibility to the west of the Proposed Varied Development, in areas where the effect was considered to be **Negligible** for the Consented Development due to the perceptibly closer presence of the Operational Development. A limited increase in intervisibility is indicated in the areas to the north of Glen Cannich, from where the Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear slightly larger, but would continue to be seen in the context of other operational developments which already affect the sense of wildness. It is considered unlikely that effects would increase to a level that would be significant.

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

8.8.15. The level of effect for the SLA overall is predicted to increase from a localised **Minor** (not significant) effect to a **Minor** (not significant) effect with a localised increase to **Moderate** (significant) around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. The taller turbines and increased prominence of the Proposed Varied Development experienced from occasional areas to the east of Loch Ness would appear similar to the Consented Development although may slightly increase the impression of a more developed upland context to the west, potentially leading to some localised effects on the elements of “Distinctive views of grand proportions...” and “The striking profile of the glen...” experienced from some areas such as Suidhe and elevated routes above Dores where the Proposed Varied Development may form a distracting feature. However, within these

areas, it would still appear external to the Great Glen and the SLA, associated with the wider upland landscape beyond the confines of the glen.

8.8.16. Within a localised area around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, the Proposed Varied Development would appear closer and more present within the immediate landscape than the Consented Development. This is not predicted to affect the role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a landmark when experienced from elsewhere within the SLA, or the appreciation of the Great Glen when seen from its summit, although the closeness of the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced from on and around its summit, reducing the extent and availability of views over the western hills. This is predicted to somewhat reduce the connection to the wider, western landscape of the Balmacaan and Affric mountain interior and the remote qualities of the hill-top.

8.9. **Revised Assessment of Visual Effects for the Proposed Varied Development**

8.9.1. This section discusses the findings of the detailed visual assessment undertaken for the Proposed Varied Development. It describes and evaluates the potential change in existing views obtained from residential properties, places of work, routes, popular destinations and strategic vantage points, and the extent to which these would affect residents, visitors and users of the landscape.

8.9.2. Visual amenity relates to the way in which people visually experience their surroundings. The significance of effects will vary, depending on the nature and degree of change experienced and the perceived value and composition of the existing view. For the purposes of this assessment, significant effects are those considered to be Moderate or greater. Individual receptor references relate to those indicated on **Figure 8.8: Visual Receptors** and/or described in **Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables**. **Technical Appendix 8.6: Visual Assessment Tables** provides further detailed information on each receptor and the nature of the predicted effects.

Effects Likely to Increase from the Levels Identified for the Consented Development

8.9.3. Of the 15 representative VPs, five residential groupings, and four routes which were selected for inclusion within the visual assessment, the majority have been identified as likely to experience similar effects to those identified for the Consented Development with no change to the effect rating. Receptors identified as likely to experience an increased visual effect are discussed below.

Viewpoints

VP3 – Meall Fuar-mhonaidh

8.9.4. This VP is illustrative of elevated views from a popular local hill summit on the north-western side of Loch Ness, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. It has elevated, panoramic views over craggy upland moorland with occasional lochans and mountains in the distance, and views across the Great Glen to the east, over Loch Ness. The Operational Development is visible in close proximity to the south-west, and several wind farm clusters are visible on the distant skyline to the north, north-east and south-west.

8.9.5. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in panoramic views in front of the Operational Development turbines from this VP. Due to their increased height, the turbines would appear closer and more prominent than the Consented Development turbines, and although they would not further extend the horizontal spread of the turbines, it is considered that the level of effect would increase from **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Moderate** (significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

VP6 - Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862

8.9.6. This VP is located at a popular summit along a footpath (part of the South Loch Ness Trail) going off from B862, near Suidhe Viewpoint. It has open, elevated, panoramic views over the landscape with views over lochs and broad forested valleys to the north-east including the turbines of Dunmaglass and Corriegarth wind farms. To the south, there are views across craggy upland and lochs, the road disappearing into the distance and distant mountains, with Millennium and Beinneun (and Extension) Wind Farms visible on the distant skyline. Views south-east are across the B862 and a river valley.

8.9.7. Due to the increased height of the turbines, some additional hubs and tips would be visible on the skyline to the north-west in panoramic views. This would result in the Proposed Varied Development appearing more prominent

in views in comparison to the Consented Development although the majority of the turbines would continue to be screened by landform.

8.9.8. It is considered that this would result in an increase in effect from **Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development⁵.

VP8 – Lochside picnic layby on B852

8.9.9. This VP is illustrative of worst-case low-level views from a picnic spot and parking area along the B852 (which forms part of the South Loch Ness Trail), on the eastern shore of Loch Ness, within Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. Main views are through a break in the roadside trees onto Loch Ness looking across to forested slopes and Urquhart Bay, with Urquhart Castle visible. The turbines of the Operational Development are visible on the skyline in a dip in the landform. Tips and hubs of the Proposed Varied Development would be seen adjacent to Operational Development turbines appearing larger in scale. While the Proposed Varied Development would slightly extend the horizontal spread of turbines they would remain relatively contained by surrounding landform, with the focal features of Urquhart Castle and Meall Fuar-mhonaidh remaining unaffected.

8.9.10. It is considered that this would result in a slight increase in effect from **Negligible** (not significant) for the Consented Development, to **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

VP 12 - Creag Dhubh

8.9.11. This VP is illustrative of elevated views from a hilltop within the Central Highlands WLA, with views north across Glen Affric NSA. It has elevated views across Glen Affric to the north-west, across the valley floor and wooded slopes, and across another glen to the east-south-east, across upland moorland and hill slopes covered with scattered woodland and areas of forestry, and valley floor with occasional buildings and a road running in the direction of the glen. The Operational Development is visible on the skyline to the east, in front of the Dunmaglass Wind Farm turbines on the distant skyline, with the Corrimony Wind Farm turbines also visible to the east, while Beinnneun and Extension Wind Farm can be seen to the south in a dip in the landform. The Proposed Varied Development would become more noticeable in panoramic views, behind the Operational Development turbines, with more hubs becoming visible above the landform. The turbines would appear similar in scale to the Operational Development turbines, but would appear to slightly

⁵ This is consistent with the effect rating identified for VP6 of Minor-Moderate within the 2021 EIAR, prior to the removal of T13, T14 and T18 after which it was reduced to Minor

extend the horizontal field of view occupied by turbines in comparison with the Consented Development turbines.

8.9.12. However, considering the distance and the context of the Operational Development, behind which they would be seen, it is considered that this would result in a small increase in the level of effect, from **Negligible** (not significant) for the Consented Development, to **Minor** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

VP20 – Path north of Affric Lodge

8.9.13. This VP is illustrative of an elevated point on a path north of Affric Lodge, on the slopes of Am Meallan hill, and is within the Central Highlands WLA and Glen Affric NSA. Although the views are contained by landform, it has elevated views down the valley towards Loch Affric and Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and across moorland and forested slopes. Wind turbines are visible in views to the east, seen above Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin, where the Operational Development is visible on the skyline, Corrimony Wind Farm turbines are backclothed on the hillside below skyline, and Moy Wind Farm turbines are barely visible in the distance. Due to their larger scale more of the Proposed Varied Development turbine tips and hubs would be visible on the skyline from this VP than for the Consented Development. However, given the distance and the context of Operational Development turbines the Proposed Varied Development is likely to appear similar in scale and result in a very small increase in effect.

8.9.14. It is considered that this would result in a slight increase in effect from **Negligible** (not significant) for the Consented Development, to **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

VP21 – Toll Creagach

8.9.15. This VP is 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. It has elevated panoramic views across mountains tops to the north, and along valleys to River Cannich to the north-east, as well as Loch Mullardoch. Views south-east extend across large areas of forestry and towards uplands, featuring several wind farms at varying distances to the east, south-east and south, with the Operational Development and Corrimony Wind Farm visible in the mid-ground to the east-south-east. An overhead line (OHL) also crosses the glen below the site. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be noticeable behind the Operational Development, with the

increased height of the turbines being noticeable in relation to the Operational Development turbines, and a few more hubs becoming visible.

8.9.16. It is considered that this would result in an increase in the level of effect, from **Negligible-Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Minor** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

VP26 – A87 Bun Loyne

8.9.17. This VP is illustrative of elevated views from a layby and short section of the A87 road, sharing similar views from this road further south-west. It has elevated main views to the north-east over a wooded glen with an OHL (Beauly-Denny) on the distant skyline and a local OHL in the foreground. Some tips of the Operational Development are perceptible on skyline and the Beinneun (and Extension) Wind Farm turbines are prominent in nearby views to south. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would become more prominent on the skyline behind the Operational Development, with more hubs and tips visible, appearing larger than the Operational Development turbines, although the horizontal spread of turbines would not increase. This is considered to slightly increase the visual effect for receptors at this VP.

8.9.18. It is considered that this would result in an increase in effect from **Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development, to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

Residential Receptor Locations

R9 - Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie

8.9.19. This receptor grouping includes residents and visitors of a group of properties to the south-east of Loch Mhor, at the base of Carn Liath. These properties have open main views north-west over the loch, across moorland and farmland, with turbines of Millennium Wind Farm visible on the skyline to the south-west. Turbine tips of the Operational Development are just perceptible on the skyline to the north-west.

8.9.20. Due to the increased height of the turbines a higher number of tips as well as some hubs would now be visible on the skyline in main, oblique or side views,

in front of or further along the horizon from the Operational Development, extending the horizontal spread of turbines.

8.9.21. The effect for this receptor grouping is predicted to increase from **Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

R13 - A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge

8.9.22. This receptor grouping includes a range of properties between Gorthleck to the north through Whitebridge and down to Knockie Estate. VP7 is located on the B862 south of Foyers, within this grouping of properties. It comprises a mix of orientations and elevations with some main views west and north-west across Loch Ness and some to the south-east and north-east. Some views are enclosed or filtered by foreground trees, such as those within Whitebridge. Where open views are experienced to the north-west, the Operational Development turbines are visible in many views on the skyline. Other wind farms, including Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Millennium Wind Farms, are also visible in some views, to the south-east, north-east and to the south-west.

8.9.23. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in a range of views. Generally more hubs and tips would become visible, although the horizontal extent of turbines would be similar to that of the Consented Development. Where seen next to the Operational Development turbines, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear larger in scale, with the height difference becoming more pronounced.

8.9.24. From receptors with open outlooks north-west, where the Operational Development turbines are barely perceptible due to screening from landform or forestry, the Proposed Varied Development would form a noticeable addition to the view. The turbines would appear more prominent on the skyline.

8.9.25. The Proposed Varied Development would continue to be partially screened by nearby trees and midground forestry from some properties. In Whitebridge, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be screened by nearby woodland, although there is potential for more turbine tips to be perceptible in main/oblique views above forestry.

8.9.26. The visual effect would still vary across this receptor grouping for the Proposed Varied Development, with effects increasing from **Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) from some of the properties to the north of VP7 and to the east of the B862. The localised **Moderate** (significant) effect previously identified for the Consented Development for properties with open outlooks north-west,

where the Operational Development would be screened, may extend to encompass some properties north of Meall an Tarsaid with more open outlooks where the Consented Development turbines were previously partially screened by landform and the Proposed Varied Development turbines would now appear more prominent above the landform. The effect within other parts of this receptor grouping would remain at similar levels to those identified for the Consented Development, ranging from **Negligible** (not significant), through **Minor** (not significant) to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant).

Routes

Core Path IN25.02: Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor

- 8.9.27. This is a marked route running on the eastern side of Loch Mhor, which also forms part of the Seven Lochs Trail. It has open views over fields and moorland with main views focussed along the route and across Loch Mhor towards forested hills in the midground and distant uplands. The Operational Development turbines are visible from a large section of this route, and Millennium Wind Farm can also be seen on the skyline to the south-west. Corriegarth Wind Farm turbine blades are occasionally visible to the south-east behind nearby hills.
- 8.9.28. The Proposed Varied Development would continue to be visible from most of this route in views across the loch, seen in front of the Operational Development turbines and appearing noticeably larger. From the southern part of this route near Garthbeg the turbines would appear noticeable on the skyline. Further north along the route visibility gradually reduces, but more hubs and tips would be visible above the landform compared to the Consented Development.
- 8.9.29. Due to the increased prominence of the turbines from this route it is considered that the effect from this receptor grouping would increase from **Minor** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Proposed Varied Development.

The Great Glen Way

- 8.9.30. This is a long-distance recreational route from Fort William to Inverness with high level and low level options, which follows Core Path IN22.02 (Abriachan to Drumnadrochit) and the C1060 minor road (Dunain-Blackfold-Abriachan). The Great Glen Way also comprises part of the Loch Ness 360° Trail. It has varied views of the Great Glen, including some elevated open views from high level route sections over glens and distant hills with occasional areas of forestry. The Operational Development is visible from some sections of this route, including to the north of Invermoriston, with some turbine blades seen on the skyline in intermittent open views to the south of Invermoriston, and in

more distant panoramic views to the north near VP10, where other wind farms can also be seen in the far distance to the north and north-west. More enclosed views are experienced where the route passes through or near woodland, for example south of Invermoriston.

- 8.9.31. The Proposed Varied Development would continue to be screened or barely perceptible from many parts of this route. From part of the high level route between Invermoriston and the watercourse Allt Saigh it would be seen in side and oblique views on the skyline in close proximity, in front of and next to the Operational Development. More hubs and tips would become visible from this part of the route, appearing noticeably taller than Operational Development turbines. In some cases they would extend the horizontal spread of turbines further, particularly near Achnaconeran, where turbines would become more prominent where open views are obtained. Turbine tips would be visible from some sections where they were previously barely perceptible. From the C1060 minor road (Dunain – Blackfold – Abriachan) a greater number of hubs would be visible on the skyline adjacent to the Operational Development, appearing taller than the Operational Development turbines, but considering the distance to the Proposed Varied Development this is unlikely to result in a greater visual effect. South of Invermoriston views would still mostly be screened by foreground trees, although where visible in glimpsed views more hubs and tips would be seen, adjacent to the Operational Development turbines.
- 8.9.32. While the overall visual effect would not increase for this route, there would be a localised increase in effect near Achnaconeran, where turbines would become more noticeable, from **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) for the Consented Development to **Moderate** (significant) for the Proposed Varied Development, but continuing to be **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) from part of the high level route between Invermoriston and the watercourse Allt Saigh, and **Negligible** (not significant) from other parts of the route where the Proposed Varied Development would be screened by intervening landform or vegetation.

Effects Likely to Remain at the Levels Identified for the Consented Development

- 8.9.33. The visual assessment has focussed on receptors which were anticipated to experience significant effects as a result of the Consented Development. A number of additional receptors which were considered to be particularly susceptible to the increased height or which were requested by statutory consultees were also included. For the majority of these receptors it is recognised that the Proposed Varied Development would result in a noticeable, change to the view compared to the current undeveloped situation. However, when considered in the context of the Consented Development the increased height of the turbines is not anticipated to lead to changes to the levels of effect previously identified for the remaining VPs and receptor

locations assessed but not discussed above. In these cases, the scale of the increased height of the turbines, may be perceptible, but would not result in the development crossing the threshold into another rating

Summary of Effects on Visual Amenity

8.9.34. Predicted effects to visual receptors are summarised in **Table 8.6** below. For the purposes of this assessment, effects identified for the Proposed Varied Development with a Moderate rating or greater are considered to be significant and are marked in bold in the table below. Receptors that are anticipated to experience an increased effect from that identified for the Consented Development are highlighted in grey.

Table 8.6: Anticipated Effects to Visual Receptors as a Result of the Proposed Varied Development

Receptor	Effect Identified for Consented Development	Effect Identified For Proposed Varied Development
Viewpoints (VPs)		
VP1 - Track to Loch Liath	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP2 - Old Bridge, Invermoriston	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP3 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)
VP5 – Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
VP6 - Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Minor (not significant) ⁶	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
VP7 – B862 south of Foyers	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant)
VP8 – Lochside picnic layby on B852	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible-Minor (not significant)
VP10 - Great Glen Way near Carn a' Bhodaich	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)

⁶ A Minor-Moderate effect was identified for this VP in the 2021 EIAR. The 2021 AIR concluded that this would reduce to Minor for the Consented Development following the removal of T13, T14 and T18.

VP12 – Creag Dhubh	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP14 – Meall Dubh	Negligible-Minor (not significant)	Negligible-Minor (not significant)
VP15 – Poll-gormack Hill	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP17 - B862 south of Dores	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
VP20 - Path north of Affric Lodge	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible-Minor (not significant)
VP21 – Toll Creagach	Negligible-Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
VP26 - A87 Bun Loyne	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)

Residential Receptors

R7 - Properties south of Dores	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
R9 - Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
R12 - Garthbeg, Corriegarth Lodge and nearby properties	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
R13 - A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge	Ranges from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant)	Ranges from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant)⁷
R14 - Knockie Estate Cottages, and properties in the vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel	Locally Minor-Moderate (elsewhere Negligible) (not significant)	Locally Minor-Moderate (elsewhere Negligible) (not significant)

⁷ While the range of effects would be similar as for the Consented Development, there would be an increase in the area where significant effects would be experienced.

Routes		
B862	Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant)
Core Path IN12.04 - Kindrummond to Dirr Wood	Locally Minor-Moderate (elsewhere Negligible) (not significant)	Locally Minor-Moderate (elsewhere Negligible) (not significant)
Core Path IN25.02 - Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)
Great Glen Way	Locally Minor-Moderate (elsewhere negligible) (not significant)	Locally Minor-Moderate, with some areas Locally Moderate near Achnaconeran (elsewhere negligible)

8.10. Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types

8.10.1. 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. The likely significance of these effects relates to the number of wind developments affecting the landscape, their scale, the inter-relationship between their respective visual envelopes and the sensitivity and capacity of the particular landscape to accommodate this type of development.

8.10.2. The methodology for the cumulative landscape assessment is based on that described in NatureScot guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy proposed development (SNH, 2012). For a detailed description of the methodology please see the **2021 EIAR, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, Section 8.8**.

Cumulative Baseline Scenario

8.10.3. The cumulative baseline scenario comprises 26 operational, consented / under construction and proposed (application / appeal / scoping) wind developments, within 60km of the Proposed Varied Development, as illustrated on **Figure 8.9: Cumulative Sites within 60km** and detailed in **Technical Appendix 8.5: Existing & Proposed Wind Energy**

Developments within 60km. This represents the baseline situation as of 5 September 2025.

8.10.4. An initial appraisal of these sites in relation to the Proposed Varied Development suggested that the potential for significant cumulative effects would be most likely to occur in relation to the Proposed Varied Development seen in combination with sites within around 45km. Therefore, the assessment has focused on sites within or partly within this area. The sites selected for inclusion are detailed in **Technical Appendix 8.5: Existing & Proposed Wind Energy Developments within 60km** and shown on **Figure 8.10: Cumulative Sites included in the Assessment**.

Analysis of the Cumulative ZTVs

8.10.5. Cumulative ZTVs showing the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development and those of the cumulative baseline wind developments have been produced to identify areas of combined and sequential visibility (see **Figures 8.11 – 8.28**). These demonstrate that the cumulative baseline scenario is one of relatively widespread visibility of wind turbines within the central and north-eastern parts of the wider study area, but that theoretical intervisibility with wind turbines is more sparse to the west and south-east particularly when only operational sites are considered.

8.10.6. With the addition of consented sites intervisibility would increase slightly to the south-west and south-east. Greater influence of wind farm development within the south-western part of the study area is mainly attributable to Bunloinn and Tomchrasky Wind Farms, while increased intervisibility within the south-eastern part of the study area is attributable to Cloiche, Dell and Corriegarth 2 Wind Farms. Chrathaich Wind Farm would add a further concentration of intervisibility through central parts of the study area, while Kirkan would slightly increase intervisibility with wind turbines to the north.

8.10.7. The addition of application sites would extend intervisibility further to the east and south-east, with Lynemore, Clune and Highland Wind Farms contributing to this increase in intervisibility. Culachy and Millennium East would contribute to the concentration of intervisibility through central and south-western areas. Carn Fearna would contribute to intervisibility within the northern part of the study area.

8.10.8. The cumulative baseline sites can be largely grouped into seven distinct clusters as follows:

- Bhlaraidh grouping: Comprises the operational Bhlaraidh and Corrimony Wind Farms, as well as the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm and the Loch Liath application site, located on the upland plateau to the west of the Great Glen. These sites tend to have intervisibility focussed within the central part

of the study area, from summits and elevated slopes to the east and west of the Great Glen, although the visibility of Corrimony is more limited to the western part of the study area.

- Beinneun and Millennium grouping: This grouping includes the operational Beinneun and Extension and Millennium Wind Farm sites as well as the consented Bunloinn and Tomchrasky Wind Farms, and the Millennium East Wind Farm application site, located within the south-western part of the study area on the hills surrounding Glen Moriston. Intervisibility is focused to the south-west within the hills above Glen Moriston and Glen Garry, and ridgelines further to the north-west, with some more distant intervisibility with elevated areas to the east of Loch Ness.
- Stronelairg/Dell/Cloiche grouping: This grouping includes the operational Stronelairg Wind Farm, as well as the consented Cloiche and Dell Wind Farms (or the Dell 2 (Re-design application), to the south-east of Loch Ness at the edge of the Modadhliath plateau, as well as the Culachy Wind Farm application site located further to the south-west above Glen Tarff. Intervisibility for these sites tends to be focused to the south-east of the study area, within the hills to the east of Stratherrick, with some more distant visibility to the west of the Great Glen from summits and ridgelines with facing slopes. Intervisibility for Culachy is focused further south-west, around Culachy forest and the hills south of Glen Moriston.
- Corriegarth grouping: This grouping includes the operational Corriegarth Wind Farm and the consented Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm, situated within the hills to the east of Stratherrick. Intervisibility is focused within the central/eastern parts of the study area, within the Monadhliath mountains and the ridgelines on either side of the Great Glen, with some more distant intervisibility from summits and ridgelines further west.
- Dunmaglass / Aberarder grouping: This grouping includes the operational Dunmaglass Wind Farm, and the under construction Aberarder Wind Farm, which form a distinct cluster to the east of the Great Glen, to the north of the Corriegarth cluster. These sites have relatively widespread intervisibility within the central and north-eastern part of the study area, focused within upland areas on both sides of the Great Glen.
- Farr / Lynemore / Moy / Clune / Highland grouping: This grouping includes the operational Farr and Moy Wind Farm sites, as well as a number of application sites including Lynemore, Clune and Highland, situated within the more distant north-eastern part of the study area. Intervisibility is focused to the north-east, within the Monadhliath Mountains and around Strathnairn, with some visibility further north-west around the Black Isle, and some more limited, distant visibility to the west of Loch Ness.

- Fairburn / Corriemoillie / Lochluichart grouping: This grouping includes the operational Corriemoillie, Lichluichart and Extension and Fairburn Wind Farms, as well as the consented Kirkan Wind Farm and the Carn Fearn Wind Farm application site, situated within the distant north-western part of the study area. Intervisibility is focused to the north around the Black Isle, around Corriemoillie Forest as well as further east around Strathnairn, with some visibility from upland areas to the west of Loch Ness.

Effects Likely to be Significant

8.10.9. Potential significant effects were identified to one LCT. These effects would occur across an area, broadly consistent with that identified for the Proposed Varied Development on its own.

LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness

8.10.10. The Proposed Varied Development would be located within this LCT and would therefore lead to an increase in wind farm development within the LCT. It would be situated within the southern LCT sub-area, forming part of a grouping with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm. This would expand the area directly impacted by wind turbines, bringing the presence of turbines further to the east of the southern sub-area. This would bring them closer to Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and widen the expanse of turbines seen in the southern context from the northern sub-area. Although the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced in a context where wind turbines are already an established feature, it would increase the influence of this cluster particularly to the north and east. Within the western / north-western extent of this LCT, the Proposed Varied Development would appear less prominent, often appearing to the rear of other wind farms such as Corrimony, operational Bhlaraidh, and Chrathaich, leading to a less noticeable change in landscape characteristics in this part of the LCT.

8.10.11. The addition of application sites would increase the influence of existing wind development within this LCT, as Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) would directly affect the central-northern part of the southern LCT sub-area, extending the operational Bhlaraidh and Chrathaich Wind Farm cluster. Under this scenario, the addition of the Proposed Varied Development would form a less notable addition as it would usually be experienced in a context where wind turbines would already form an established feature of the landscape, particularly when seen from the north, south and west. However, it would continue to draw turbines further into the eastern part of the LCT where it would appear closer and larger than other turbines, drawing the influence of

wind turbine development into the elevated areas around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh.

8.10.12. Magnitude of change is anticipated to be Medium within this LCT, with the resultant cumulative effect being **Moderate** (significant) within the southern sub-area, and **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) within the northern sub-area under both cumulative baseline scenarios.

Effects Likely to not be Significant

LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills

8.10.13. Within this LCT, the Proposed Varied Development would usually be seen in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) in the western context. It would typically be at the forefront of this cluster, appearing taller and more prominent than the baseline scenario sites, occasionally extending the horizontal spread of the cluster and appearing to draw wind turbines closer. This would increase the influence of wind turbines in the western context on localised parts of this LCT, but would generally be consistent with the existing pattern of dispersed wind farm development clusters affecting the wider context. If application sites were constructed, Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) would further increase the Bhlaraidh / Chrathaich cluster, extending its horizontal spread when seen from the south-east. This would reduce the extent to which the Proposed Varied Development would appear to extend the cluster, but it would continue to be seen to the foreground of the other turbines, drawing turbines closer, particularly within the southern part of this LCT.

8.10.14. In both cumulative scenarios, although the Proposed Varied Development would bring turbines closer in the westerly landscape context and result in a perceptible intensification of wind development within some localised areas, it would be experienced as part of an existing cluster and would not lead to turbines being perceived as a new feature within this context. Magnitude of change is anticipated to be Low within this LCT, with the resultant cumulative effect being **Minor** (not significant) under both cumulative baseline scenarios.

LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen

8.10.15. While the Proposed Varied Development would be theoretically visible within this LCT, due to the wooded context, its appearance would be infrequent with limited prominence. It would be experienced within the westerly context, mostly within areas around the northern end of Loch Ness and seen in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) forming a single cluster. However, the larger turbine size would result in it appearing slightly more prominent than these developments which would increase the prominence of this cluster. This effect would be somewhat less apparent under Scenario 2 with the addition of Loch Liath

(application) to the baseline which would itself be more prominent and extend the cluster of the other two developments. The Proposed Varied Development would be similar in scale to Loch Liath and so, would not usually draw the appearance of turbines closer, but would increase the spread of turbines at this scale. Nevertheless, this would be a very localised indirect effect, where the greatest focus of the LCT is Loch Ness.

8.10.16. Given the presence of existing baseline wind turbines within the wider context, the Proposed Varied Development would not lead to any recognisable loss or reduction of the key characteristics. Magnitude of change would therefore be Low within this LCT, with the resultant cumulative effect being locally **Minor** (not significant) at the northern end of Loch Ness, and **Negligible** (not significant) elsewhere under cumulative baseline scenario 1, and **Negligible** (not significant) overall under scenario 2.

Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Designated and Protected Landscapes

8.10.17. One designated or protected landscape was identified for inclusion in the cumulative assessment, the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA (see **Technical Appendix 8.2: Summary of Scoping Process**). Cumulative effects to these areas are discussed in the following paragraphs with an emphasis on potential significant effects.

Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

8.10.18. The cumulative effect for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA is anticipated to be **Minor** (not significant) overall for both cumulative scenarios, with a locally **Moderate** (significant) effect identified around Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh, affecting the Special Quality “The Dramatic Great Glen”. The Proposed Varied Development would be predominantly experienced in relation to the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Chrathaich Wind Farms under Scenario 1 and with the addition of Loch Liath (application) under Scenario 2. This cluster would usually be seen through gaps in the intervening ridgeline containing the Great Glen to the west. Within this context, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen to the front of other turbines in the cluster, slightly increasing its prominence and drawing turbines closer. However, under both scenarios this would usually affect areas where the cluster of turbines would already be influential and associated with the wider upland landscape context.

8.10.19. On the western side of the glen, around the ridgeline near Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (VP 3 (see **Figure V3a-3.2: VP 3 Meall Fuar-mhonaidh – Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline**)) and some parts of the Great Glen Way, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the more immediate context to the west, usually to the foreground of the operational

Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented), with the taller turbines appearing closer and having the effect of drawing wind farm development into the more immediate landscape. Under Scenario 2, the Proposed Development would be less likely to be seen to extend the turbine cluster horizontally, but would still appear to draw turbines closer into the more immediate setting of the SLA.

- 8.10.20. The addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative baseline may result in an effect on some elements contributing to the Special Qualities of the SLA: "The Dramatic Great Glen", as it would slightly increase the prominence of turbines on the skyline seen from localised areas to the east of Loch Ness. This would interrupt the smooth skyline ridge and may increase the role of turbines as a distracting feature from areas where the striking profile of the glen is experienced. However, it would appear external to the Great Glen and the SLA, associated with the wider upland landscape beyond the confines of the glen. Under Scenario 2 Loch Liath in particular would likely already influence this Special Quality.
- 8.10.21. Although the Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect the setting of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh in relation to Loch Ness and would not affect views from the mountain over this part of the SLA, westerly summit views are also noted as contributory to this Special Quality and would be noticeably changed by the addition of the Proposed Varied Development under both cumulative baseline scenarios. However, the cumulative baseline would already noticeably interrupt these views and reduce perceived wildness qualities associated with this westerly landscape, particularly under Scenario 2.
- 8.10.22. There would also be localised cumulative visual effects from some short sections of the Great Glen Way (see section 8.12 below), which would also contribute to effects on this Special Quality.

8.11. Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Visual Receptors

- 8.11.1. The cumulative baseline scenario is described in **Technical Appendix 8.5: Existing & Proposed Wind Energy Developments within 60km** and section 8.10 above. The cumulative assessment assesses effects resulting from the potential addition of the Proposed Varied Development to two baseline scenarios:
 - Where all operational and consented sites included in the assessment would be in place and operational; and
 - Where relevant (and a different cumulative effect is anticipated) where all operational, consented, application/appeal and scoping sites included in the assessment would be in place and operational.

8.11.2. The cumulative visual assessment has considered VP and route receptor locations where potential for cumulative effects has been identified.

Viewpoints

8.11.3. 11 VPs within the wider study area have been identified for inclusion in the cumulative visual assessment as detailed in **Technical Appendix 8.7:**

Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables. These have been selected through analysis of the cumulative ZTVs and review of the outcome of the visual assessment of the Proposed Varied Development. The assessment has been limited to those VPs where the cumulative ZTV indicates that the Proposed Varied Development would have combined visibility with another cumulative baseline site.

8.11.4. The following VPs have been included:

- VP 1: Track to Loch Liath;
- VP 2: Old Bridge, Invermoriston;
- VP 3: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh;
- VP 5: Suidhe Viewpoint, B862;
- VP 6: Summit by 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;
- VP21: Toll Creagach; and
- VP 26: A87 Bun Loyne.

Residential Locations and Settlements

8.11.5. Five residential receptors within the detailed study area where there is potential for views of the Proposed Varied Development and at least one other wind development have been identified and assessed for sequential cumulative effects.

8.11.6. The following residential receptors have been included:

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

Routes

8.11.7. Four routes within the wider study area where there is potential for views of the Proposed Varied Development and at least one other wind development have been identified and assessed for sequential cumulative effects.

8.11.8. The following routes have been included:

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

8.11.9. The detailed cumulative assessment of VPs and routes is presented in **Technical Appendix 8.7: Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables**. The following section provides a summary of the results and key issues highlighted by the assessment, focussing on potential significant effects.

Proposed Varied Development Cumulative Visual Effects Evaluation

Effects Likely to be Significant

8.11.10. When considered in relation to the cumulative baseline scenario, the addition of the Proposed Varied Development is anticipated to result in a significant cumulative visual effect to two of the 15 VPs, one of the five residential receptors and one of the four routes included in the assessment for one or both cumulative baseline scenarios as follows:

- VP 3 – Meall Fuar-mhonaidh;
- VP 7 – B862 south of Foyers;
- R13 – A range of properties in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road near Whitebridge; and
- Great Glen Way.

VP 3 – Meall Fuar-mhonaidh

8.11.11. From VP3, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen in panoramic views south-west in front of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm turbines, appearing closer and slightly increasing the horizontal field of view. Construction would be noticeable but seen in the context of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm turbines. In a scenario where all cumulative baseline sites are considered, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in front of the Chrathaich (consented) turbines, and next to the Loch Liath (application) turbines, appearing similar in scale to the Loch Liath turbines. It would be seen in the same part of the view, but appearing as separate to the more distant clusters of Bunloinn Wind Farm and Tomchrasky Wind Farm

(both consented), which would also add to the context of existing wind development in south-westerly views.

8.11.12. Other wind farm clusters (including operational, consented and application sites) would be visible on the distant skyline to the north, north-east and south-west. The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines and may increase the prominence of wind turbines in the area, as the turbines would appear larger and closer in the view. The cumulative magnitude of change is anticipated to be Medium, with the cumulative effect being **Moderate** (significant) for cumulative baseline scenario 1 reducing to Minor-Moderate (not significant) for scenario 2.

VP 7 – B862 south of Foyers

8.11.13. From this VP the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be noticeable in side views on skyline, seen adjacent to the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, extending the vertical and horizontal field of view occupied by turbines. The Proposed Varied Development would appear to the fore of Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines. It would appear in a separate part of the view from the turbines of Corriegarth and Dunmaglass Wind Farms (operational) which would be visible to the east, with the Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (consented) turbines prominent. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear slightly larger in scale than Corriegarth 2 Wind Farm (consented) turbines.

8.11.14. The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development into the view would result in an increase in wind turbines, where they would become prominent but would not dominate the overall view. If application sites were constructed, this increase would be slightly less noticeable, as it would be seen in front of and as part of the same grouping as Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines, although it would appear more prominent on the skyline. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-High, with the cumulative effect being **Moderate** (significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2.

R13 – A range of properties in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road near Whitebridge

8.11.15. For the majority of properties within this grouping, the Proposed Varied Development would be perceptible on the skyline with Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational), Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) in rear, side and oblique views, although it would appear larger in the scale. Foreground and distant trees provide some partial screening in most views.

8.11.16. For a few localised properties, the magnitude of change would be higher than other properties in this grouping. These properties are situated just south of

VP7 and in open settings to the north and north-east of Tom a'Mhullaich. The Proposed Varied Development would be noticeable in main or oblique views above the skyline, where hubs and blades would be seen and where Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) is largely imperceptible or fully screened due to screening from landform and/or trees. While tips of Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) would also be perceptible in these views, the Proposed Varied Development would be a more prominent part of the view to the west/north-west. Other wind developments, such as Corriegarth (operational) and Corriegarth 2 (consented), and in some cases Millennium Wind Farm (operational), Millennium East Wind Farm (application) and Dunmaglass Wind Farm (operational) would be seen from more northern properties setting a precedent for wind development within the wider area.

8.11.17. For properties in Whitebridge (as well as to the south, outside the ZTV), the Proposed Varied Development would be screened by trees or landform. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to range from locally negligible (for Whitebridge), low or low-medium for the majority to locally medium for a few properties, with the cumulative visual effect ranging from **Negligible** through **Minor**, **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) to locally **Moderate** (locally significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2.

Great Glen Way

8.11.18. From the majority of this route, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would not be seen, or would be seen in distant views in the context of other cumulative baseline sites. Although they would be noticeable in close proximity from part of the high level route between Invermoriston and Allt Saigh, including near Meall Doire Bhrath, at / around the 'Viewcatcher' sculpture, and around Loch a'Bhealaich, and would increase the prominence of wind turbines as a feature within this part of the view, they would be experienced in the context of operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm turbines and other cumulative wind farm sites. Further north from a stretch of the C1060 minor road near VP10, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen on the relatively distant horizon with Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational), Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application). Other wind farms including Fairburn, Corriemoillie and Lochluichart and Extension Wind Farms (all operational) can also be seen from this section of the road in views north.

8.11.19. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be locally Low-Medium and Medium within some areas near Meall Doire Bhrath, and Negligible / No view elsewhere). The resultant effect would be locally **Minor-Moderate** (not significant), with some areas locally **Moderate** (significant) near Meall Doire Bhrath and elsewhere **Negligible** (not significant).

Effects Likely to be Not Significant

Viewpoints

8.11.20. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 5: Suidhe Viewpoint, B862, when considering the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the operational and consented baseline scenario, where it would be noticeable in side views on the skyline to the north-west, to the fore of the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented), extending this cluster of turbines along the skyline in this part of the view, and would lead to a perceptible increase in the prominence of wind turbines as a feature in the view. In scenario 2 when all cumulative sites are considered, a **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 5: Suidhe Viewpoint, B862. In this scenario, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in front of Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines, and would bring turbines slightly closer and extend the horizontal spread of turbines from this VP, but would result in a smaller increase in the prominence of wind turbines compared to scenario 1.

8.11.21. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 6: Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862, for both scenarios. From here some Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-west in panoramic views although the majority would be screened by landform. Walking along the path to this VP from B862, visibility of the Proposed Varied Development decreases as you travel west. As Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) is also screened when you reach the VP, the Proposed Varied Development would represent a new addition to this part of the view, although it would occupy a relatively small extent of the overall view which features a number of other wind developments in other directions. The Proposed Development would therefore lead to a perceptible increase in the prominence of wind turbines as a feature in the view.

8.11.22. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 17: B862 south of Dores for both scenarios, as the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be noticeable on the skyline in main views in front of the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, and adjacent to Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines, extending the horizontal field of view occupied by turbines. This would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines but would marginally increase the prominence of wind turbines as a feature in the view. If all wind farms including application sites were constructed this would result in a slightly less noticeable change as the Proposed Varied Development would form part of an existing cluster, although it would slightly extend this cluster.

8.11.23. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP1: Track to Loch Liath for both scenarios. From this VP the Proposed Varied Development

turbines would be visible in close proximity in main views to the north-east behind the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, where a small number of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm turbines would also be visible. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen on the skyline as hubs and blades, partially screened by landform, slightly increasing the horizontal field of view occupied by turbines but appearing similar in scale and not appear taller than the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines. The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines, but it would not increase the overall prominence of wind turbines in the area.

- 8.11.24. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP8: Lochside picnic layby on B852, for both scenarios. From this VP the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen on the skyline adjacent to Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) turbines, extending the horizontal spread of turbines to the south. If Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines were built, they would further extend this cluster to the north. The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines in the view. If application sites were constructed, this increase in wind turbines would become slightly less noticeable as they would be seen as part of a larger cluster, where Loch Liath turbines would appear similar in scale but slightly closer, although the Proposed Varied Development would still extend the horizontal spread of turbines.
- 8.11.25. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 10: Great Glen Way near Carn a'Bhodaich, for both scenarios. From this VP the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible to the south-west on the distant skyline, in front of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, extending the vertical and horizontal field of view occupied by turbines. They would also be seen adjacent to the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm turbines, and the Loch Liath (application) turbines, forming a single cluster on the skyline. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear relatively similar in scale to the Loch Liath turbines, and to other operational, consented and application wind developments visible to the north. Although it would form a perceptible addition in views to the south-west, given scale and distance it would not form a distracting feature in the view or increase the overall prominence of wind turbines. If all sites including application sites were constructed, the Proposed Varied Development would form part of a larger cluster with Loch Liath, in a context where wind development would be a more established part of the view, although it would extend this cluster.
- 8.11.26. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 12: Creag Dhubh, for both scenarios from where the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be perceptible on the skyline to the east in panoramic views behind Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, and partially behind Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) turbines, which would be at the front of this

cluster adjacent to Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear to the rear of this large cluster, and while they may result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines, this is unlikely to increase the overall prominence of wind development within this view.

- 8.11.27. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 14: Meall Dubh, for both scenarios from where the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible behind the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, and adjacent to Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines, appearing slightly taller and extending this cluster to the east. It would be seen in the context of the Millennium Wind Farm (operational) and Millennium East Wind Farm (application) turbines in the foreground, and Tomchrasky Wind Farm (consented) in close proximity to the north, as well as other wind farms visible on the distant skyline, in a context where wind development would be an established feature of the view. While it would perceptibly increase the number of wind turbines in the view, slightly extending the operational Bhlaraidh / Chrathaich / Loch Liath cluster, it is not considered that the Proposed Varied Development would result in a noticeable increase in the prominence of wind development.
- 8.11.28. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 15: Pollgormack Hill for both scenarios, as the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible to the north, in distant panoramic views, adjacent to Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) and in front of Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) as well as Fairburn Wind Farm (operational) and Carn Fearna Wind Farm (application) further in the distance, and other wind farm clusters to the north-west and north-east. The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines to the north, but it would not increase the overall prominence of wind turbines in the area, due to the context of several other wind developments in the view as a whole. Under a scenario where all wind farms including application sites were constructed, it would form part of an established cluster, resulting in a smaller increase in the prominence of wind turbines.
- 8.11.29. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 20: Path north of Affric Lodge for both scenarios. From here the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be perceptible partially behind landform, behind Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and adjacent to the Loch Liath (application) turbines. Given the distance and the context of wind farms which the Proposed Varied Development would be seen to the rear of, it may form a perceptible addition in the view but would not

form a distracting feature or increase the overall prominence of wind development within the view.

- 8.11.30. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 21: Toll Creagach for both scenarios. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in the midground to the south-east, adjacent to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm turbines and behind Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and adjacent to Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines, with the Corrimony (operational) turbines being seen as a separate cluster slightly closer to this VP. Other wind farm clusters would be visible in the same part of the view further in the distance. While the Proposed Varied Development results in a perceptible increase in wind turbines and would marginally increase the prominence of wind development in views to the east / south-east, it would be seen in a context where wind development is already an established part of the view, and perceived as part of an established cluster, particularly if application sites were also constructed.
- 8.11.31. A **Minor** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for VP 26: A87 Bun Loyne for both scenarios. From here the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible on the skyline in main views in front of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational), slightly extending the horizontal field of view and appearing larger. Tomchrasky Wind Farm (consented) turbines would be visible in a similar part of the view in the foreground, appearing larger than the Proposed Varied Development. Although it would lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines, given the prominence of both Tomchrasky Wind Farm (consented) and Beinneun and Extension Wind Farm (operational) turbines in close proximity to the north and south, the Proposed Varied Development is unlikely to increase the overall prominence of wind turbines in the area.

Settlements

- 8.11.32. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for R7: Properties south of Dores for both scenarios, where the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be noticeable in some side and main views, in a dip in the landform, with some views filtered by vegetation. They would be seen in front of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, extending the vertical and horizontal field of view occupied by turbines, and adjacent to Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application). Given the lack of wind turbines in other directions, and focus towards the loch, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines and would marginally increase the prominence of wind turbines as a feature in the view. If all wind farms including application sites were constructed, this would result in a less perceptible change, as the Proposed

Varied Development would be seen as part of an established cluster, although it would slightly extend this cluster.

- 8.11.33. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for R9: Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie for both scenarios. A few Proposed Varied Development turbine tips and hubs would be visible on the skyline in main, oblique or side views, in front of or further along the horizon from tips of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational). They would be seen to the north of Beinneun (operational), Millennium (operational) and Millennium East (application) Wind Farms on the skyline and would appear slightly larger in scale. The Proposed Varied Development would slightly increase the horizontal field of view occupied by turbines, and may result in a slight increase in the prominence of wind development in views.
- 8.11.34. A localised **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for R14: Knockie Estate Cottages and properties in vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel, for both scenarios, from more open contexts where the Proposed Varied Development may be noticeable on the skyline in a dip in the landform, next to Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines, and in front of Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines but larger in scale. As such, it may increase the horizontal spread of turbines and make turbines more prominent in views.

Routes

- 8.11.35. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) cumulative effect is anticipated for the B862 for both scenarios. Although the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be screened by trees or landform from large sections of this route, they would be noticeable from some other parts of this route, e.g. at Loch Tarff, at/around VP 5, VP 7, and VP 17 where the turbines would be seen in front of and adjacent to Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines extending the horizontal field of view and appearing slightly taller, and in front of Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) turbines. Often they would also be seen in the context of other cumulative baseline sites in other directions. For the most part, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen in side-on views to the direction of travel from this route, although around VP 17, they could be seen in oblique views for a short section when travelling south. Although usually seen in the context of other wind turbines, the Proposed Varied Development may slightly increase the prominence of wind development in views to the west.
- 8.11.36. A localised **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) effect (elsewhere Negligible) is anticipated for Core Path IN12.04 – Kindrummond to Dirr Wood, for both scenarios, for the open section of this route closest to the B862 road. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be noticeable on the skyline to the west adjacent to and in front of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational), and adjacent to Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm

(application) turbines, similar to views from VP 17, where the horizontal field of view occupied by turbines would be increased. They would appear noticeably larger than the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines and Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) turbines but similar in scale to the Loch Liath (application) turbines. Trees at Dirr Woods would screen views from the northern section of this route.

8.11.37. A **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) effect is anticipated for Core Path IN25.02 – Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible from most of this route in views across the loch in side or oblique views, in front of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm (operational) turbines and in front of Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) turbine tips from the southern part of this route, appearing larger in scale, with Millennium, Beinneun (both operational), and Millennium East (application) visible further along the skyline. Turbines would be noticeable near Garthbeg, with visibility gradually reducing when travelling north. It would usually be seen in the context of other wind turbines, including the Millennium and Beinneun clusters further along the skyline to the south-west, and Corriegarth (operational) and Corriegarth 2 (consented) turbines which would appear close and prominent in views to the south-east. The Proposed Varied Development would appear noticeable in views to the west along some parts of this route, where it would appear closer than other turbines, and is likely to increase the prominence of wind development. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium, with the cumulative effect being **Moderate** (significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios.

8.11.38. All other cumulative visual effects are considered to be **Negligible** (not significant).

Summary of Cumulative Visual Effects

8.11.39. **Table 8.7** below provides a summary of predicted cumulative visual effects on those VPs, Settlements and Routes included in the CLVIA of the Proposed Varied Development compared to the effects identified for the Consented Development. The effects identified for the Consented Development are provided for information and reference only and are not directly comparable to those identified for the Proposed Varied Development. The Consented Development was assessed against the cumulative baseline as it stood at the time of that assessment. It has not been reassessed against the current baseline.

Table 8.7: Anticipated Cumulative Effects to Visual Receptors as a Result of the Proposed Varied Development

Receptor	Effect Identified for Consented Development	Effect Identified for Proposed Varied Development
Viewpoints (VPs)		
VP 1 - Track to Loch Liath	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 2 – Old Bridge, Invermoriston	Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 3 – Meall Fuar-mhonaidh	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Moderate (significant) for cumulative baseline scenario 1, Minor-Moderate (not significant) for scenario 2
VP 5 – Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-moderate (not significant) for cumulative baseline scenario 1, Minor (not significant) for scenario 2
VP 6 – Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-moderate (not significant) for cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 7 – B862 south of Foyers	Moderate (significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Moderate (significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 10 - Great Glen Way near Carn a'Bhodaich	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2

Receptor	Effect Identified for Consented Development	Effect Identified for Proposed Varied Development
VP 15 – Poll-gormack Hill	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 17 – B862 south of Dores	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 21 - Toll Creagach	Not included in cumulative visual assessment	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
VP 26 – A87 Bun Loyne	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
Settlements		
R7 - Properties south of Dores	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
R9 - Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
R12 - Garthbeg, Corriegarth Lodge and nearby properties	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
R13 - A range of properties in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge	Ranges from Negligible through Minor , Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (locally significant) for both	Ranges from Negligible through Minor , Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (locally significant) for both

Receptor	Effect Identified for Consented Development	Effect Identified for Proposed Varied Development
	cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
R14 - Knockie Estate Cottages and properties in vicinity including Knockie Lodge Hotel	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
Routes		
B862	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
Core Path IN12.04 (Kindrummond to Dirr Wood)	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
Core Path IN25.02 (Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Moderate (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2
Great Glen Way	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2	Locally Minor-Moderate and elsewhere Negligible (not significant) for both cumulative baseline scenarios 1 and 2

8.12. Proposed Varied Development Assessment of Effects of Turbine Lighting

8.12.1. The separate assessment of turbine lighting appended in **Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting** reports that the effects of the strategic lighting proposal outlined in **Chapter 15: Aviation and Radar**, as supported by **Technical Appendices 15.1: Bhlaraidh Extension Lighting Report and 15.2: Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm Lighting CAA Letter**, would result in significant localised effects to localised parts of one LCT and one Designated Area. Significant effects were also identified for three VPs, two residential groups and one route included in the assessment of visible aviation lighting. This is largely due to the absence of existing artificial light within the study area leading to receptors which are therefore generally more sensitive to this type of change. It was therefore concluded that when taking turbine lighting into consideration, the inclusion of lights on five cardinal turbines would result in significant effects during low light conditions and the hours of darkness.

8.12.2. Mitigation measures to reduce the potential effects of turbine lighting are included within the strategic lighting proposal and were therefore considered within the assessment. They are the subject of ongoing discussions with statutory consultees and include consideration of the following:

- Automatic dimming: Sensor controlled lighting that allows for a reduction in brightness, from 2000 cd to 200 cd, in conditions of good meteorological visibility.
- Reduced lighting scheme: A project-specific agreement from the CAA that only cardinal or specific turbines, rather than all, can be fitted with visible lighting.

8.13. Revised Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Varied Development

8.13.1. The design of the Proposed Varied Development has gone through numerous iterations since this site was first explored for development as a wind farm. The final proposed siting and design of turbines and associated tracks and other infrastructure resulted from constraints exercises which included consideration of potential impacts of the development from an LVIA perspective and became part of the embedded mitigation. It was also influenced by national and local guidance and consultations with both NatureScot and THC. For details regarding the iterative design process and

embedded mitigation measures please see detail in **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development**.

8.13.2. Landscape and visual mitigation measures relating to the construction and successful reinstatement of disturbed ground associated with the Proposed Varied Development would be managed through good practice and construction management in accordance with the Construction & Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) submitted and approved by THC for the Consented Development (**Technical Appendix 3.6e: CEMP**). Landscape and visual mitigation measures relating to the operation of the Proposed Varied Development have been incorporated into the design of the scheme as described the **Chapter 2: Design Iteration and Proposed Varied Development**.

8.14. **Comparison of Effects of the Proposed Varied Development with the Effects of the Consented Development**

8.14.1. **Section 8.6** provides a summary of the anticipated effects of the Consented Development and concludes that the Consented Development would result in no significant landscape effects and a limited significant visual effects, affecting receptors in localised areas to the east of Loch Ness, along the B862 road, between 9-11km from the Consented Development. The following section and **Tables 8.8, 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11** summarise a comparison of the effects identified for the receptors included for the Consented Development and the Proposed Varied Development. It is important to note that this excludes effects related to turbine lighting, which are considered separately in **Technical Appendix 8.9: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting**. Detailed assessments of the potential effects of the Proposed Varied Development can be found in **Technical Appendices 8.3, 8.4 and 8.6**. A comparative ZTV of the Proposed Varied Development and the **Consented Scheme** is provided in **Figure 8.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Varied Development**.

8.14.2. Although the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be 50 m taller than those of the Consented Development, the majority of the identified receptors in the study area would experience very similar effects from the 2 schemes. Increased visual effects would be experienced by five VPs, two residential receptors and two routes. The landscape assessment has found that while there would be increases in effect within two LCTs, significant effects would be localised and limited to LCT 222, within which the Proposed Varied Development would be located. While there would be an increase in the level of effect within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, significant effects would

be localised. Within other designated and protected landscapes, it is considered that effects are unlikely to increase to significant levels.

- 8.14.3. Although not directly comparable, some increased and / or new significant effects are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Varied Development. Increased cumulative landscape effects are predicted for one LCT and for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA. New significant landscape effects would be focussed around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. Effects on other LCTs and the wider SLA are predicted to remain not significant. Increased cumulative visual effects are expected at two VPs, one residential grouping and two routes. For other visual receptors cumulative effects are predicted to remain not significant. While the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative baseline will contribute to increased turbine visibility in some areas, this would generally be consistent with the Consented Development.
- 8.14.4. Individually these are considered to represent material changes to the effects experienced by these receptors. However, when viewed in the context of the overall scheme they represent a small change to the overall effects.

Table 8.8: Summary Comparison of Landscape Effects of the Consented Development Compared to the Proposed Varied Development

LCT/Designation	Effects identified in the Assessment for the Consented Scheme (2021 EIAR and 2022 AIR)	Effects identified in the Assessment for the Proposed Varied Development	Conclusion / explanation of the difference between the Effects identified for the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development
LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness	Locally Minor to Moderate (not significant) north-east of the Consented Development, elsewhere Minor (not significant).	Locally Moderate (significant) within a localised area around the Site and up to around 5 km to the east and north-east, elsewhere Minor (not significant).	There would be an increase in effect from Minor-Moderate to Moderate to the east and north-east of the Proposed Varied Development, with a slightly larger area experiencing these effects. Elsewhere the change to landscape character is not predicted to lead to higher levels of effect.
LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills	Locally Negligible to Minor (not significant) within open slopes and higher elevations, including Carn an t-Suidhe (see VP 6), Creag Mhor north of Glendoe, around Loch Kemp and near some summits to the north, as well as by Loch Tarff.	Minor (not significant) overall.	The Proposed Varied Development would slightly increase the landscape effect for this LCT from a localised Negligible – Minor (not significant) effect to an overall Minor (not significant) effect. It would not lead to any new significant effects.
LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen	Locally Minor (not significant) in elevated areas of the eastern shore of Loch Ness, south of Dores, Negligible (not significant) elsewhere.	Locally Minor (not significant) around the north end of Loch Ness, Negligible (not significant) elsewhere.	No change is predicted to the landscape effect for this LCT.
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	Locally Minor (not significant) for open elevated areas of the SLA, Negligible elsewhere.	Locally Moderate (significant) around the western ridge and summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh,	The level of effect is predicted to increase slightly from a localised Minor (not significant) effect to a Minor (not significant) effect on the SLA as a whole. The effect is also

	Minor (not significant) on the SLA as a whole.	predicted to increase to Moderate (significant) within a localised area around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh.
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Table 8.9: Summary Comparison of Visual Effects of the Consented Development Compared to the Proposed Varied Development

Visual Receptor	Effects identified in 2021 Assessment	Effects identified in the Assessment for the Proposed Varied Development	Conclusion / explanation of the difference between the Effects identified in the 2021 Assessment Proposed Varied Development
Viewpoints (VPs)	<p>Negligible (not significant) effects for 3 VPs</p> <p>Negligible-Minor (not significant) effects for 2 VPs</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 6 VPs</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 2 VPs</p> <p>Moderate (significant) effects for 2 VPs</p>	<p>Negligible (not significant) effects for 0 VP</p> <p>Negligible-Minor (not significant) effects for 3 VPs</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 6 VPs</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 3 VPs</p> <p>Moderate (significant) effects for 3 VPs</p>	<p>There would be increased effects from 5 of the included VPs. The increased height of the turbines would be particularly noticeable from Meall Fuar-mhonaid (VP3) immediately to the north-east of the Proposed Varied Development compared to the Consented Development. The larger turbines would appear closer to the VP and would result in a significant effect from this VP. From the summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862 (VP6), the Proposed Varied Development turbines would likewise become more noticeable in views north-west across the Great Glen, with additional hubs and tips becoming visible, although this is not anticipated to result in a significant effect. There would also be a slight increase in effects from some more distant VPs to the north-east and to the south-west, where more hubs and tips would become visible compared to the Consented Development. However, this would not lead to significant levels of effect from these VPs.</p>

Residential Receptors	<p>Minor (not significant) effects for 1 Residential Receptor</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 3 Residential Receptors</p> <p>Effects ranging from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant) for 1 Residential Receptor</p>	<p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 4 Residential Receptors</p> <p>Effects ranging from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant) for 1 Residential Receptor</p>	<p>There would be increased effects ratings for 2 receptor groups to the east of the Great Glen. These include R9 (Easter and Wester Aberchalder and Migovie) and R13 (A range of properties on or in the vicinity of the B862 minor public road in the area near Whitebridge). The increased height of the turbines would result in higher numbers of tips and hubs becoming visible compared to the Consented Development, and an increase in the horizontal spread from R9. While a range of different views would be obtained from R13, overall the turbines would become more prominent, appearing noticeably larger in scale, with the height difference to the Operational Development turbines becoming more pronounced.</p>
Route Receptors	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 2 Routes</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 2 Routes</p>	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 1 Route</p> <p>Negligible (not significant) overall, locally Minor-Moderate (not significant), with some areas Locally Moderate (significant) for 1 Route</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 1 Route</p> <p>Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 1 Route</p>	<p>There would be increased effects ratings for 2 routes. From the Core Path IN25.02 - Garthbeg to Errogie, south side of Loch Mhor, the Proposed Varied Development would appear more noticeable on the skyline from the southern section of this route, with visibility increasing overall for the whole route, with more hubs and tips visible compared to the Consented Development.</p> <p>From the Great Glen Way, there would be a localised increase in effect from a section to the north of Invermoriston, near Meall Doire Bhrath where more open views are obtained, from which the Proposed Varied Development turbines would become more prominent.</p>

Table 8.10 Summary Comparison of Cumulative Landscape Effects of the Consented Development Compared to the Proposed Varied Development

Visual Receptor	Effects identified in 2021 Assessment	Effects identified in the Assessment for the Proposed Varied Development	Conclusion / explanation of the difference between the Effects identified in the 2021 Assessment Proposed Varied Development
LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness	Minor (not significant).	Moderate (significant) within the southern sub-area and Minor - Moderate (not significant) within the norther sub-area.	Although not directly comparable, new significant effects are anticipated for this LCT.
LCT 224: Farmed and Wooded Foothills	Not previously included.	Minor (not significant) overall.	Not directly comparable as this LCT was not assessed for cumulative effects in the 2021 EIAR. No new significant effects are anticipated.
LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen	Locally Minor (not significant) Negligible (not significant) overall.	Locally Minor (not significant) around the north end of Loch Ness, Negligible (not significant) elsewhere.	Although not directly comparable, the predicted cumulative effects are broadly consistent. No new significant effects are anticipated.
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	Locally Minor (not significant) for open elevated areas of the SLA, Negligible elsewhere.	Locally Moderate (significant) around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, Minor (not significant) on the SLA as a whole.	Although not directly comparable, new significant effects are anticipated for this SLA. A localised Moderate (significant) cumulative effect was identified for one SLQ in the area around Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh.

Table 8.11 Summary Comparison of Cumulative Visual Effects of the Consented Development Compared to the Proposed Varied Development

Visual Receptor	Effects identified in 2021 Assessment	Effects identified in the Assessment for the Proposed Varied Development	Conclusion / explanation of the difference between the Effects identified in the 2021 Assessment Proposed Varied Development
Viewpoints (VPs)	<p>1 VP not previously included</p> <p>Negligible (not significant) effects for 1 VP</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 4 VPs</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 4 VPs</p> <p>Moderate (significant) effects for 1 VPs</p>	<p>Negligible (not significant) effects for 1 VP</p> <p>Minor (not significant) effects for 5 VPs</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 3 VPs</p> <p>Moderate (significant) effects for 2 VPs</p>	<p>Although not directly comparable, increased cumulative effects are anticipated from two of the included viewpoints VP3 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and VP 21 - Toll Creagach (not previously assessed for cumulative effects). The turbines would become more perceptible / noticeable from both of these VPs. This is anticipated to lead to a Moderate (significant) level of effect from VP Meall Fuar-mhonaidh for cumulative baseline scenario 1, reducing to Minor-Moderate (not significant) for scenario 2.</p>
Settlements	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 1 Residential Receptor</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 3 Residential Receptors</p> <p>Effects ranging from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant) for 1 Residential Receptor</p>	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with Locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 1 Residential Receptor</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 3 Residential Receptors</p> <p>Effects ranging from Negligible through Minor, Minor-Moderate (not significant) to locally Moderate (significant) for 1 Residential Receptor</p>	<p>Although not directly comparable, increased cumulative effects are anticipated for one of the settlements considered.</p>

Route Receptors	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 2 Routes</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 2 Routes</p>	<p>Negligible overall (not significant) with locally Minor-Moderate (not significant) effects for 2 Routes</p> <p>Minor – Moderate (not significant) effects for 1 Route</p> <p>Moderate (significant) effects for 1 Route</p>	Although not directly comparable, increased cumulative effects are anticipated from one route.
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8.15. Conclusion

- 8.15.1. Overall, the LVIA has concluded that the Proposed Varied Development would result in some increased significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity, affecting relatively localised parts of the wider landscape and visual resource.
- 8.15.2. Landscape effects for the Proposed Varied Development would generally be similar to those of the Consented Development. A localised significant (Moderate) effect was identified to LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. Although there would be an increase in the level of effect within LCT 224 – Farmed and Wooded Foothills, the effect on this LCTs would continue to be not significant. An increased effect is anticipated for the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA with a localised significant effect being experienced around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. However, this is not predicted to affect the role of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a landmark when experienced from elsewhere within the SLA, or the appreciation of the Great Glen when seen from its summit.
- 8.15.3. While most VPs, settlements, and routes would experience similar visual effects as those previously identified for the Consented Development, several are expected to see an increase in visual effects primarily due to the greater height and prominence of the larger turbines, which will make them more noticeable from certain viewpoints and routes, particularly near Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, parts of the South Loch Ness Trail, and some residential groupings resulting in significant effects. For most receptors, the increase in turbine size would not change the previously assessed effects such that they would be considered significant.
- 8.15.4. Significant cumulative landscape effects are predicted for one LCT and for a localised part of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. Effects on other LCTs and the wider SLA are predicted to be not significant. While the development would generally align with existing wind farm clusters and would not introduce turbines as a wholly new feature, it would draw them closer to some landscapes. Significant cumulative visual effects are expected at two VPs (VP3 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh and VP7 - B862 south of Foyers), one residential grouping and two routes under one or both baseline scenarios. For other visual receptors cumulative effects are predicted to be not significant. While the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative baseline will contribute to increased turbine visibility in some areas, it would generally not result in a significant effect.
- 8.15.5. Although there would be some increases in anticipated effects, including some new significant effects, the findings of assessment of the Proposed Varied

Development are broadly consistent with the findings assessment of the Consented Development.

8.15.6. The separate assessment of turbine lighting appended in Appendix 8.9 reports that the effects of lighting five turbines would be significant from one LCT, one designated area, three VPs, two residential groups and one route. This is largely due to the absence of artificial light within the study area and receptors which would therefore generally be more sensitive to this type of change. It was therefore concluded that the inclusion of lighting on the five turbines included in the strategic lighting scheme would result in significant effects during low light conditions and the hours of darkness. However, the Applicant proposes to engage with aviation stakeholders to agree a lighting solution which may result in reduced landscape and visual effects.

8.16. References

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