
TECHNICAL APPENDIX 8.8: CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

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1. Technical Appendix 8.8: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables

1.1 Introduction

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

1.1.2 The cumulative landscape assessment considers the potential cumulative effect resulting from the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the baseline wind development scenario (refer to **Figure 8.10: Cumulative Sites included within the Assessment**, and **Appendix 8.5: Existing and Proposed Wind Turbine Developments within 60 km**). For the purposes of the assessment, two baseline cumulative scenarios have been considered:

- Scenario 1: All operational and consented cumulative baseline sites would be constructed and operational within the landscape; and
- Scenario 2: All the cumulative baseline sites (including application) would be constructed and operational within the landscape.

1.1.3 The following landscapes are included in the assessment.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

LCTs

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

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA).

1.1.4 These areas have been assessed in accordance with the Cumulative Landscape Methodology outlined in Chapter 8 of the 2021 EIA Report. The cumulative assessment of LCTs is presented first as it feeds into the assessment of designated and protected landscapes. The assessment is supported by a range of Cumulative Wirelines, included as **Figures V3a-1.2 – V3a-15.2** and Cumulative ZTVs, included as **Figures 8.11 – 8.28**.

1.1.5 Areas which are considered unlikely that effects would increase to a level that would be significant have not been considered further and have been scoped out of Cumulative Landscape Assessment. These include:

- Glen Affric NSA;
- WLA 19: Braeroy – Glenshirra – Creag Meagaidh;
- WLA 24: Central Highlands; and
- Strathconon and Mullardoch SLA.

1.1.6 This Appendix should be read in conjunction with the baseline landscape descriptions and assessment of landscape effects included in **Technical Appendix 8.3: Assessment of**

Landscape Character Types and Technical Appendix 8.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes.

1.2 Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

Table 1.2.1: LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (OWESG LCA LN10)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	
Wind Farms Theoretically Visible in Detailed Study Area	Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25km <i>Operational / Under Construction:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aberarder;• Beinneun and Extension;• Bhlaraidh*;• Corriegarth;• Corrimony*;• Dunmaglass;• Millennium; and• Stronelaig.	Within the detailed study area Bhlaraidh and Corrimony, directly influence the southern sub-area of this LCT and also indirectly affect higher south-facing slopes of the northern sub-area. If built, Chrathaich Wind Farm (consented) and Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) would add to the Bhlaraidh cluster and would widen the area of direct influence and somewhat increase the indirect influence of wind turbines across both LCT sub-areas. Millennium and Beinneun are present in the nearby southern context affecting southern and south-western parts of the LCT. Tomcrasky, Bunloinn (consented) and Millennium East (application) would add further presence of wind turbines in this context affecting similar areas. Other developments to the south and south-east at around 15 – 20 km away including Stronelaig (operational) and Cloiche and Dell (both consented), with the addition of the application sites Culachy and Dell Re-design (which would replace Dell) also have a more distant influence but have a greater sense of separation from the LCT. <i>Consented:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bunloinn;• Chrathaich*;• Cloiche;• Corriegarth 2;• Dell; and• Tomchrasky. <i>Application / Appeal:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culachy;• Dell 2 (Re-design);• Loch Liath*; and• Millennium East. <small>*Indicates a direct effect</small>
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25 – 45km <i>Operational / Under Construction:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corriemoillie;• Fairburn;• Farr;• Glen Kyllachy;• Lochluchart and Extension; and• Moy.	Other baseline sites are mostly set in the Monadhliath area to the east and mainly affect the eastern ridgeline of the LCT alongside the Great Glen and other areas of higher ground. These sites establish a baseline whereby wind turbine clusters are a common feature of the eastern context and this would be further reinforced by other application sites within the Monadhliath area. Overall, the Scenario 1 baseline would lead to a situation where wind turbines would be a common feature of the immediate LCT and wider context to south and east, with the more remote mountain landscapes to the west being unaffected by wind farm development. Scenario 2 would further reinforce the association of wind turbines within the southern sub-area of the LCT with the construction of Loch Liath.
Assessment of Cumulative Effects	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium – High
Nature of Change	Under Scenario 1, the Proposed Varied Development 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 turbine presence further to the east of the southern sub-area, closer to the key feature of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, and widening the expanse of turbines seen in the southern context of 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.

	<p>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, Bhlaraidh, and Chrathaich. While it would result in a perceptible increase in the number of turbines, it would lead to a less noticeable change in landscape characteristics in this part of the LCT.</p> <p>The addition of application sites under Scenario 2 would increase the influence of existing wind development within this LCT, as Loch Liath Wind Farm (application) would directly affect central-northern part of the southern LCT sub-area, extending the Bhlaraidh and Chrathaich Wind Farm cluster. Under this scenario, 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 easterly part of the LCT where it would appear closer and larger than other turbines, drawing the influence of wind turbine development more directly into the elevated areas around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh.</p>
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium
Cumulative Landscape Effect	<p><u>Southern sub-area:</u> Scenario 1: Moderate (significant) Scenario 2: Moderate (significant)</p> <p><u>Northern sub-area:</u> Scenario 1: Minor - Moderate (not significant) Scenario 2: Minor - Moderate (not significant)</p>

Table 1.2.2: LCT 224 – Farmed and Wooded Foothills (OWESG LCA LN16)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	
Wind Farms Theoretically Visible in Detailed Study Area	Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25km	<p>None of the cumulative baseline scenario sites would have direct effect on this LCT and, due to high proportion of woodland cover within the LCT, intervisibility with cumulative baseline scenario wind farms would be mostly limited to open slopes and higher elevations. However, when moving through the landscape, the cumulative baseline scenario would result in wind farm development being an established feature within the wider hills which provide context to this LCT.</p> <p>To the east, baseline sites would be mostly experienced as distinct clusters at lower points between hills, comprising more established clusters from higher ground and limited to occasional turbines, blades and tips from lower areas. This includes most notably the operational sites of Corriegarth and Dunmaglass, and Aberarder (currently under construction). Additional consented and application sites would not greatly change this existing influence on the character.</p>
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25 – 45km	<p>Occasional influence from the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm to the west occurs where blades are seen through gaps in the intervening hills, with notable areas affected at the south and north of the LCT. The addition of the Chrathaich (consented) and Loch Liath (application) would affect similar areas and would slightly increase the prominence of this distant cluster. However, this would still be perceived external to the LCT with limited influence on its character.</p> <p>Turbines of the Millennium / Beinneun cluster to the south-west are also similarly experienced from southerly elevated parts of the LCT with the application site Millennium East, but other more distant sites of the baseline scenario would have limited influence.</p> <p>Overall, the cumulative baseline character would be one where wind farms are a common but not obtrusive feature of the wider context and would be similar with both Scenario 1 and 2.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium
Nature of Change	<p>There would be no direct change to this LCT. Under Scenario 1, 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 feature to the forefront of this cluster, appearing taller and more prominent than the baseline scenario sites, occasionally extending the horizontal spread of the cluster, and usually appearing to draw wind turbines closer within this context due to its more easterly position and taller turbine size. This would increase the influence of wind turbines in the western context on localised parts of this LCT, but would still be generally in conformity with the existing pattern of dispersed wind farm development clusters affecting the wider context</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, 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</p>

	<p>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, where they would be experienced in front of, and appear larger than, Loch Liath turbines.</p> <p>In both scenarios, although the Proposed Varied Development would bring turbines closer in the westerly landscape context and result in a perceptible intensification of wind development as a landscape characteristic 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, as operational and consented sites would already exert widespread influence on the surrounding landscape to the west, south and east.</p>
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Scenario 1 and Scenario 2: Minor (not significant)

Table 1.2.3: LCT 225: Broad Steep-sided Glen (OWESG LCA LN19)

Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Baseline Scenario		
Wind Farms Theoretically Visible in Detailed Study Area	Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario	
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25km	<p><i>Operational / Under Construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberarder; • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth; • Corrimony; • Dunmaglass; • Millennium; and • Stronelaig. <p><i>Consented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunloinn; • Chrathaich; • Cloiche; • Corriegarth 2; • Dell; and • Tomchrasky. <p><i>Application / Appeal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culachy; • Dell 2 (Re-design); • Loch Liath; and • Millennium East. 	<p>No cumulative baseline wind farms are located within this LCT. The cumulative ZTV indicates fairly widespread influence of wind turbines across land-based parts of the LCT with more limited coverage across the open water of Loch Ness. The cumulative baseline sites are typically seen through gaps and low points of the hills surrounding the loch. To the east of Loch Ness, sites including Dunmaglass (operational) and Aberarder (under construction), Corriegarth (operation) which would be extended by Corriegarth 2 and more distantly, Farr (operational) and Lynemore (application) for well-spaced clusters on the westerly hills, seen sequentially when moving along the eastern Loch Ness shore. To the west, the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, with the consented Chrathaich and Loch Liath application site would be seen through gaps in the ridge at Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit. Turbines at the operational Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms, have a notable existing influence on the southern part of the LCT around Fort Augustus, seen on the hills just over 2km to the southwest and this would be somewhat increased by Millennium East (application) but the effects of sites to the south-west such as Stronelaig (operational), Cloiche (consented) and Dell (both the consented and Re-Design application) would have limited influence of only occasional tips.</p> <p>Overall, whilst both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 baselines lead to fairly continuous indirect influence of wind turbines on this LCT, this is usually peripheral, with the exception of the Millennium cluster on the most southerly part. Neither baseline scenario would strongly influence landscape character, particularly taking into account the wooded qualities of much of the land-based parts of the LCT.</p>
Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25 – 45km	<p><i>Operational / Under Construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corriemoillie (minimal); • Fairburn (minimal); • Farr; • Glen Kyllachy; • Lochluichart and Extension (minimal); and • Moy. <p><i>Consented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirkan. <p><i>Application / Appeal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carn Fearn (minimal); • Clune; • Highland; and • Lynemore. 	<p>Overall, whilst both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 baselines lead to fairly continuous indirect influence of wind turbines on this LCT, this is usually peripheral, with the exception of the Millennium cluster on the most southerly part. Neither baseline scenario would strongly influence landscape character, particularly taking into account the wooded qualities of much of the land-based parts of the LCT.</p>

Assessment of Cumulative Effects	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High
Nature of Change	<p>There would be no direct change to this LCT as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Varied Development. Although it would be theoretically visible within this LCT, due to the wooded context, its appearance would be infrequent with limited prominence.</p> <p>The Proposed Varied Development would be experienced within the westerly context, mostly within areas around the north end of Loch Ness, 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 slightly less apparent under Scenario 2 with the addition of Loch Liath (application) 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 range (see VP17 (Figure V3a-12.2: - VP17: B862 South of Dores - Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline) and VP8 (Figure V3a-7.2 – VP8: Lochside picnic layby on B852 - Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline)). Nevertheless, this would be a very localised effect and would be indirect, where the greatest focus of the LCT is Loch Ness. Given the presence of existing baseline wind turbines within this context, the Proposed Varied Development would not lead to any recognisable loss or reduction of the key characteristics.</p>
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	<p>Scenario 1: Locally Minor (not significant) at the northern end of Loch Ness, elsewhere Negligible (not significant)</p> <p>Scenario 2: Negligible.</p>

1.3 Designated and Protected Landscapes

Table 1.3.1: Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA

Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium
Cumulative Baseline Scenario	
Wind Farms Theoretically Visible in Detailed Study Area	Description of Cumulative Baseline Scenario
<p>Existing and Proposed Wind Farms within 25km</p> <p><i>Operational / Under Construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberarder; • Beinneun and Extension; • Bhlaraidh; • Corriegarth; • Corrimony (minimal); • Dunmaglass; • Millennium; and • Stronelaig. <p><i>Consented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunloinn; • Chrathaich; • Cloiche; • Corriegarth 2; • Dell; and • Tomchrasky. 	<p>None of the baseline sites would directly affect the SLA. The cumulative ZTVs suggests widespread intervisibility of cumulative baseline scenario wind turbines. However, in reality, intervisibility of the cumulative baseline sites is mostly limited to the upper slopes outwith woodland and forestry plantations.</p> <p>When moving through the majority of the SLA, wind turbine clusters would be an established feature within the hills to the east under both the Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 baseline, seen as either occasional tips and turbines from lower areas or larger clusters separated at intervals within the hills from higher areas. This includes Dunmaglass (operational) and Aberarder (under construction), Corriegarth (operational) which would be extended by Corriegarth 2 (consented) and more distantly, Farr (operational) and Lynemore (application). To the south and south east sites at Dell (either consented or the re-design that would replace it) Cloiche and Stronelaig would also have some localised influence.</p> <p>Similar external influence on lower lying parts of the SLA is experienced to the west from the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, experienced through gaps in the western ridge alongside Loch Ness. This cluster would be slightly increased by Chrathaich (consented) under Scenario 1 and Loch Liath (application) under Scenario 2. Millennium (operational) introduces a more noticeable and slightly more direct context of wind turbines around some southern parts of the SLA and would be further extended by Millennium East (application).</p> <p>Overall, both baseline scenarios would lead to a well-established context of wind turbine clusters in the surrounding hills, but this would be clearly external to the landscapes around Loch Ness and Duntelchaig. However, a more notable influence of surrounding wind development would be experienced from elevated parts of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh where Bhlaraidh and Chrathaich (under Scenario 1) and Loch Liath (under Scenario 2) would be present within the middle distance to the west, and other wind farms would be seen within a wider setting around Loch Ness in other directions.</p>
Assessment of Cumulative Effects	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High
Nature of Change	Proposed Varied Development would be predominantly experienced in relation to Bhlaraidh and Chrathaich under Scenario 1 and with the addition of Loch Liath under Scenario 2. Around Loch Ness and Duntelchaig areas, this larger cluster would usually be seen through gaps in the intervening ridgeline containing the Great Glen to the west, experienced from areas of open

	<p>ground at higher elevation, and rarely at lower levels (see VP5 (Figure V3a-4.2 - VP 5: Suidhe Viewpoint, B862 – Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline), VP6 (Figure V3a-5.2 - VP6: Summit by Suidhe Viewpoint, B862 - Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline), VP8 (Figure V3a-7.2 - VP8: Lochside picnic layby on B852 - Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline) and VP17 (Figure V3a-12.2 - VP17: B862 South of Dores - Baseline Photo and Cumulative Wireline)). Within this context, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen to the front of the existing turbine cluster, and may slightly increase its prominence and draw turbines closer. However, this would usually affect areas where the existing cluster of turbines would already be influential under both scenarios and the Proposed Varied Development would not change the sense of turbines being external to these areas, associated with the wider upland landscape context. There would be a slightly greater prominence and more direct effect on the SLA when seen from the southern areas around Suidhe (see VP 5).</p> <p>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, if built, with other sites including Millennium and Beinneun (both operational) within the wider backdrop. The taller turbines would appear closer and more prominent in this context and would appear to draw wind farm development into the more immediate landscape, with the difference in height compared to other developments creating a greater sense of wind farm clusters extending into the western upland context.</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the Proposed Varied Development would become part of a larger cluster including Loch Liath Wind Farm (application). Under this Scenario, from the Meall Fuar-mhonaidh area, Loch Liath would create a precedent for closer wind turbines and would create a wider spread of turbines across the westerly vista. The Proposed Development would be less likely to be seen to extend the turbine cluster horizontally under this Scenario, but would still have the effect of drawing turbines closer into the more immediate setting of the SLA.</p> <p><i>Special Qualities</i></p> <p>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: "<i>The Dramatic Great Glen</i>". No effects are predicted to the "<i>Contrasting Intimate Plateau</i>" and "<i>Historic Landscape</i>" Special Qualities.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the Bhlaraidh / Chrathaich cluster would slightly increase the prominence of turbines on the skyline seen from localised areas to the east of Loch Ness which would interrupt the smooth skyline ridge. The striking profile of the glen is also experienced from some elevated areas such as Suidhe and elevated routes above Dores where the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the baseline developments may further increase the role of turbines as a distracting feature. However, it would still appear external to the Great Glen and the SLA, associated with the wider upland landscape beyond the confines of the glen and, particularly under Scenario 2 with Loch Liath, these effects would already occur.</p> <p>The Special Quality of 'The Dramatic Great Glen' also specifically cites the importance of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh as a landmark and vantage point. 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 effects of the Proposed Development in addition to both the Scenario 1 and 2 cumulative baseline. The cumulative baseline would already noticeably interrupt these views and reduce perceived wildness qualities associated with this westerly landscape, particularly under Scenario 2 featuring Loch Liath. However, the closer and more immediate effect of the Proposed Varied Development on the landscape of the SLA would be likely to further increase this effect.</p> <p>There would also be localised cumulative visual effects from some short sections of the Great Glen Way, from where the additional effects of the Proposed Varied Development would be noticeable and this would also contribute to effects on this Special Quality.</p>
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	<p>Scenario 1: Low, but locally Medium around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh</p> <p>Scenario 2: Low, but locally Medium around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh</p>

Cumulative Landscape Effect	Scenario 1 and Scenario 2: Minor (not significant), but locally Moderate (significant) around Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, affecting the Special Quality "The Dramatic Great Glen".
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