

# Coille Beith Wind Farm

## Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape Designations and Classifications Assessment

June 2025



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix provides a description of each designated/ classified landscape within the Study Area and identifies those that have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and the potential for their special landscape qualities (SLQ) or the key characteristics or reason for their designation, to be affected. Where designated or classified landscapes are omitted from further assessment the reason is noted. See **Table 1.1**.
- 1.1.2 The location and extent of landscape designations and classifications within the 45 km Study Area are shown in **Figure 4.5** (EIA Report Volume 3a).
- 1.1.3 An appraisal of sensitivity to the type of development proposed is provided. A high sensitivity is ascribed to nationally important landscape designations such as National Scenic Areas (NSA), and local designations like Special Landscape Area (SLA). Gardens and Designed Landscape (GDL) and Wild Land Areas (WLAs) are also deemed of high sensitivity.

## 2. NPF4 Policy

- 2.1.1 The National Planning Framework<sup>1</sup> for Scotland (NPF4) published by the Scottish Government in February 2023 contains important policy changes and NatureScot has published new guidance 'Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects'<sup>2</sup> in respect of the assessment of impacts on landscape designations.
- 2.1.2 NPF4: Natural Places states that development proposals which, by virtue of their type, location or scale will have an “unacceptable” impact on the natural environment will not be supported. The threshold of being “unacceptable” is a high bar and not to be equated with “significant.” As NPF4 policy e) (ii) recognises, significant landscape and visual effects are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy, and where significant effects are “localised” “they will generally be considered acceptable” per planning policy and in the context of ‘planning balance’ and other benefits associated with development.
- 2.1.3 The Proposed Development is located outwith of any national or regional or local designations but has designations and classifications within its Study Area. A 45 km Study Area has been included within the initial assessment, with a 20 km detailed Study Area for landscape and visual effects carried forward to detailed assessment, as significant effects on landscape designations and classifications are unlikely to have potential for meaningful indirect effects beyond this distance.
- 2.1.4 National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are defined by legislation as an area “of outstanding scenic value in a national context.” NPF4 states that “Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area...will only be supported where:
  - i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
  - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.”
- 2.1.5 Policy 4, Paragraph d) deals with local landscape designations and states that development will only be supported where, “Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified...” or “Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.”
- 2.1.6 There are similarities in terms of focus on special qualities, and the concept of integrity for both locally important designations as for national level designations. The language of the policy is subtly different in some important respects between NSA and LLA. The first limb of the policy refers to significant effects on the “integrity” of the area or “...the qualities for which it has been identified.”
- 2.1.7 In respect to Wild Land Areas the second half of NPF4 Policy 4, paragraph g) goes on to say the following:
 

*“Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.”*
- 2.1.8 This has relevance to the Proposed Development as it is located outwith a WLA, although there are WLAs within the Study Area. A Wild Land Impact Assessment (WLIA) has been undertaken for WLA: 29 Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis located (1.7 km, west) which is closest to the Proposed Development, as a precautionary measure but not for the other WLAs within the Study Area.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Government 2025, National Planning Framework 4, [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/> [Accessed 8 May 2025].

<sup>2</sup> NatureScot (2025), ‘Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects’. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects> [Accessed April 2025]

### 3. Determining Integrity

- 3.1.1 In determining the effects of development on the integrity of a designation it is first necessary to establish what “*integrity*” means. NatureScot’s (2020) draft Note on the ‘Legislative and Policy Framework for National Parks and National Scenic Areas’<sup>3</sup> (NSAs) provides some guidance and identifies two considerations, as follows:
- 3.1.2 *“Objectives of the Designation: Which is taken to represent the general safeguard, conservation and enhancement of the interest for which the area has been designated...Overall integrity, which is taken to mean the wholeness of the area, the unity or soundness of the whole being unimpaired, recognising that the entire area of the designation is valued and adverse effects to part of it could be damage to the unity or soundness of the whole.”*
- 3.1.3 Paragraph 11 of NatureScot’s draft Note provides some additional clarity in respect of this and states the following: *“A significant effect on a special landscape quality or several qualities does not inevitably compromise the designation’s objectives and / or integrity. Neither is any compromise dependant on an extensive area or large number of special qualities being sufficiently affected. Compromise requires consideration of the nature of the locations affected, their qualities, and contribution to the wider designation.”*

### 4. Guidance on the Assessment of Effects on NSAs

- 4.1.1 NatureScot’s recently published ‘Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects (January 2025)’<sup>4</sup> sets out four steps within the assessment process as follows:
- **Step 1:** Review and describe the proposal;
  - **Step 2:** Identify the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) that may be affected by the Proposed Development;
  - **Step 3:** Assessment of effects on SLQs and design objectives; and
  - **Step 4:** Summary of significant effects on SLQs.
- 4.1.2 The following assessment accords with NatureScot guidance. A further assessment has been included to address the matter of integrity as required by NPF4.

#### 4.2 Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development

- 4.2.1 The Proposed Development is described in **Chapter 2** (EIA Report Volume 2).

#### 4.3 Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development

- 4.3.1 The SLQs that may be affected by the Proposed Development are described in **Table 1.2**, including a summary of the special qualities and key characteristics as stated in published guidance in relation to their designation or classification. For the purposes of this assessment, all designated and classified landscapes are considered to have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

#### 4.4 Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives

- 4.4.1 An assessment of the residual effects on the SLQs of landscape designations and classifications is provided in **Table 1.3. Chapter 4** (EIA Report Volume 2) contains a description of the iterative approach to the siting and design of the Proposed Development to mitigate effects, with reference to NatureScot guidance as well as site specific analysis.

#### 4.5 Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs and Effects on Integrity

- 4.5.1 **Table 1.3** provides a summary of the potential for significant effects on SLQs and integrity. The Proposed Development is located outwith of landscape designation or classifications. The closest NSA is located 14 km to the northwest, NSA 35 Assynt – Coigach, and given the existing wind farm development context to the east and southeast, the Proposed Development has limited potential to undermine the integrity of this designation. There is visibility from summits, but distant views from these locations are expansive and include clusters or lines of wind energy development as recessive features in the view. The Proposed Development would not introduce a wholly new feature into these views and would form a small component of a panoramic view.

<sup>3</sup> NatureScot, ‘Draft Note on the Legislative and Policy Framework for National Parks and National Scenic Areas’ (2020). Available at: <https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/Document.aspx?id=929930> [Accessed April 2025]

<sup>4</sup> NatureScot (2025), ‘Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects’. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects> [Accessed April 2025]

## 5. Landscape Designations and Classifications within the Study Area

- 5.1.1 **Table 1.1**, outlines the landscape designations and classifications within the 45 km Study Area and indicates which of these are assessed further and the reason why those that are not carried forward have been omitted. The zone of theoretical visibility for the Proposed Development is shown in relation to designations in **Figure 4.6** (EIA Report Volume 3a).

**Table 1.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within the Study Area**

Designation/ Classification	Distance and Direction to the Site	Assessed in the LVIA	Justification for Omission
<b>National Scenic Area (NSA)<sup>5</sup></b>			
NSA 36: Assynt - Coigach	14 km northwest	Yes	Not applicable (N/A).
NSA 39: Wester Ross	30 km southwest	No	<b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) illustrates the location and extent of this designation. There is limited potential for the Proposed Development to influence the SLQs of this NSA due to distance and intervening rugged mountains. Any visibility from summits to the southwest would be recessive and form part of a panoramic view and the primary focus of view amenity would be views to the coastline. NSA 39: Wester Ross is not assessed as a designation, but a viewpoint assessment is provided, see Viewpoint 4: Glas Mheall, <b>Figure 4.16</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
NSA 40: Dornoch Firth	18 km east	No	<b>Figure 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the western part of the Dornoch Firth NSA, with some potential visibility from the eastern part, at a distance of over 35 km. Field reconnaissance suggests that where theoretical visibility occurs, it would, in fact, be substantially filtered by intervening vegetation including Rhelonie, Hilton, Viewfield, and Strathcarron Woods. NSA 40: Dornoch Firth is not assessed as a designation, but a viewpoint assessment is provided, see Viewpoint 11: Approach to Bonar Bridge, <b>Figure 4.23</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
<b>Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)<sup>6</sup></b>			
SLA: 8 Ben Kilbreck and Loch Choire	27 km northeast	No	This designation is located beyond the detailed Study Area of 20 km. <b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) illustrates the location and geographical extent of this designation in relation to the Site. Visibility would be restricted to summits on the edge of the designation and views would be panoramic and recessive in nature. The majority of the designation would have no potential visibility. SLA: 8 Ben Kilbreck and Loch Choire is not assessed as a designation, but viewpoint assessments are provided, see Viewpoint 18: Ben Kilbreck Summit, see <b>Figure 4.30</b> and Viewpoint 19: Creag Mhor Summit, see <b>Figures 4.30 and 4.31</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
SLA: 9 Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth	31 km east	No	<b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) presents the location and geographical extent of this designation which is located outside of the 20 km detailed Study Area. Views from the interior of the designation are restricted by landform. Field reconnaissance confirmed that where theoretical visibility is shown, it would be filtered by intervening blocks of commercial forestry. There is limited potential for an influence on the key characteristics of this designation which mostly relate to views of the coastline.
SLA: 17 Ben Wyvis	22 km south	No	<b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) illustrates the location and extent of this designation. Visibility would be limited from the south due to intervening landform. Views would be possible from summits, but the majority of the designation would have no visibility. SLA: 17 Ben Wyvis is not assessed as a designation, but a viewpoint assessment is provided, see Viewpoint 12: Ben Wyvis Summit, <b>Figure 4.24</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
SLA18: Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie	3 km southwest	Yes	N/A

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH Commissioned Report No. 374. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-374-special-qualities-national-scenic-areas> [Accessed January 2025].

<sup>6</sup> The Highland Council in Partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage (2011) Commissioned Horner + Maclellan. Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas. Available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/2937/assessment-of-highland-special-landscape-areas> [Accessed January 2025]



Designation/ Classification	Distance and Direction to the Site	Assessed in the LVIA	Justification for Omission
<b>Wild Land Area (WLA)<sup>7</sup></b>			
WLA 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis	1.7 km west	Yes	The Proposed Development is located outwith the WLA classification and would have no direct effects on this area. However, given the proximity of the WLA, a WLIA was undertaken to inform the iterative mitigation/design proposals as a precautionary measure (see <b>Technical Appendix 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 4))
WLA 32: Inverpolly – Glen Canisp	22 km northwest	No	<b>Figure 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) indicates very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the margins of the classification. Visibility would be restricted to views from southeast facing summits. WLA 32: Inverpolly – Glen Canisp is not assessed as a designation, but two viewpoint assessments are provided, see VP 1: Cul Mor and VP 2: Canisp Summit, see <b>Figures 4.13 and 4.14</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
WLA 34: Reay - Cassley	3 km north	No	<b>Figure 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) indicates very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the margins of the classification. Visibility would be restricted to views from south facing summits. WLA 34: Reay – Cassley is not assessed as a designation, but two viewpoint assessments are provided, see Viewpoint 3: Ben More Assynt and Viewpoint 14: Beinn an Eoin Summit, see <b>Figures 4.15 and 4.26</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
WLA 35: Ben Kilbreck – Armine Forest	25 km northeast	No	<b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) illustrates the location and extent of this designation. The Proposed Development is located outwith the WLA classification and would have no direct effects on this area. Given the WLAs distance and the provisions of NPF4 this is not assessed further. Although WLA 35: Ben Kilbreck – Armine Forest is not assessed as a designation, viewpoint assessments are provided, see Viewpoint 18: Ben Kilbreck Summit, see <b>Figure 4.30</b> and Viewpoint 19: Creag Mhor Summit, see <b>Figures 4.30 and 4.31</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b).
WLA: 37 Foinaven – Ben Hee	22 km north	No	<b>Figure 4.5</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) illustrates the location and extent of this designation. The Proposed Development is located outwith the WLA classification and would have no direct effects on this area. Given the WLAs distance from the Site, the limited visibility and the provisions of NPF4, this is not assessed further.

<sup>7</sup> NatureScot (2020) Assessing the Impacts on Wild Land Area – Technical Guidance. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance> [Accessed April 2025]

- 5.1.2 **Table 1.2** lists the landscape designations and classifications included in the LVIA along with their special landscape qualities and sensitivity to the type of development proposed based on the methodology in NatureScot's 'Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects (January 2025).



5.1.3

**Table 1.2: Landscape Designations and Classifications Assessed**

Designation/ Classification	Distance & Direction to the Site	Special Qualities and Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Proposed Development
NSA 36: Assynt – Coigach  (See viewpoints 1, 2, and 3 ( <b>Figures 4.13, 4.14, and 4.15</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b))).	14 km northwest	NatureScot's report 'The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas' <sup>8</sup> sets out the special qualities of this NSA which are reported as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>"Spectacular scenery of lone mountains;</i></li> <li>– <i>Rocky topography of great variety;</i></li> <li>– <i>Settlements nestled within a wider landscape of mountain peaks, wild moorlands, and rocky seascapes;</i></li> <li>– <i>Extensive cnocan landscapes;</i></li> <li>– <i>A coastline of endless drama;</i></li> <li>– <i>An intricate multitude of lochs and lochans;</i></li> <li>– <i>A landscape of vast open space and exposure;</i></li> <li>– <i>Significant tracts of wild land;</i></li> <li>– <i>Unexpected and extensive tracts of native woodland; and</i></li> <li>– <i>A still, quiet landscape under a constantly changing sky."</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Susceptibility: High. Due to size and scale of the wild land within the designation and the open nature of the landscape character.</li> <li>– Value: High. Due to scenic quality of the area which is acknowledged in the national designation.</li> <li>– Sensitivity: High.</li> </ul>
SLA18: Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie  (See viewpoints 5, 13, and 23 ( <b>Figures 4.17, 4.25, and 4.35</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b))).	3 km southwest	The Special Landscape Area citation <sup>9</sup> states the following key characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>"An extensive, complex, mountainous interior of predominantly rounded summits encircling rocky corries, penetrated by long glens, and peppered with small lochans, possesses a strong sense of massive scale and unity of character derived from its similarity of landforms and consistency of rugged ground cover.</i></li> <li>– <i>The wide extent of the mountain ranges, limited access routes, rough ground and uninhabited character combine to create a great sense of wildness within an expansive, mountain vastness.</i></li> <li>– <i>There are forest plantations and native woodlands in the lower sections of the glens and straths around the edge of the area. However, the dominant characteristic over most of the area is open, heather and grassland slopes interspersed with areas of scree, boulders and rocky outcrops.</i></li> <li>– <i>North of the Ullapool Road, an intimate group of four Munros lie at the watershed between the Glascarnoch system, Gleann Sguaib, and Gleann Beag.</i></li> <li>– <i>Hydro electric infrastructure is present on the south western boundary of this area where the draw-down shorelines of Loch Glascarnoch reduce the sense of wildness perceived elsewhere.</i></li> <li>– <i>Small areas of clear human habitation, vast areas where there is none. The majority of human interaction within the landscape is centred around the River Broom in Strath More..."</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Susceptibility: High. Due to the wild and remote nature of the landscape character with limited contemporary features and human influence.</li> <li>– Value: High. Due to scenic quality of the area which is acknowledged by its local designation.</li> <li>– Sensitivity: High.</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH Commissioned Report No. 374. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/snh-commissioned-report-374-special-qualities-national-scenic-areas> [Accessed January 2025].

<sup>9</sup> The Highland Council in Partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage (2011) Commissioned Horner + MacLennan. Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas. Available at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/2937/assessment-of-highland-special-landscape-areas> [Accessed January 2025]

Designation/ Classification	Distance & Direction to the Site	Special Qualities and Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Proposed Development
WLA 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis <sup>10</sup> (See viewpoints 5, 6, 12, 13, 17 and 23 ( <b>Figures 4.17, 4.18, 4.24, 4.25, 4.29, and 4.35</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b))).	1.7 km west	The wild land characteristics of this WLA are set out in <b>Technical Appendix 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 4)	– Addressed in <b>Technical Appendix 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 4).

<sup>10</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Description of Wild Land Area 29. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2021-06/Wild%20land%20Description%20Rhiddoroch-Beinn%20Dearg-Ben-Wyvis-July-2016-29.pdf> [Accessed January 2025]

## 6. Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

- 6.1.1 **Table 1.3** and **Table 1.4** contain detailed assessments of effects on NSA 36: Assynt – Coigach and SLA18: Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie. The effects of lighting during the hours of darkness within designated and classified landscapes is addressed in **Technical Appendix 4.5** (EIA Report Volume 4).
- 6.1.2 **Technical Appendix 4.6** (EIA Report Volume 4) contains the detailed Wild Land Impact Assessment for WLA 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis.

**Table 1.3: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications**

Residual Effects on Designations and Classifications		
Designation	Sensitivity and Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effects
NSA 36: Assynt – Coigach.  (See viewpoints 1, 2, and 3 ( <b>Figures 4.13, 4.14, and 4.15</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b))).	Sensitivity: High Magnitude of Impact: Up to Negligible	<p><b>Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development is located outwith the NSA designation and would have no direct physical effect on this designated area.</li> <li>– NSA: 36 is located over 14 km northwest of the Proposed Development. This distance is considered to be sufficient to mitigate landscape and visual effects. There would be barely discernible influences on the special qualities of the designation, especially considering the landscape context which includes existing operational wind energy visible in views. See viewpoints 1, 2, and 3 (<b>Figures 4.13, 4.14, and 4.15</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b))).</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Of the special qualities considered, the effects on the ‘<i>spectacular scenery of lone mountains</i>’, ‘<i>Significant tracts of wild land</i>’ and ‘<i>landscape of vast open space and exposure</i>’ would have the most potential to be affected, and even these qualities would be subject to a Negligible magnitude of impacts. SLQs are described in more detail below.</li> </ul> <p><b>Spectacular Scenery of Lone Mountains:</b> The Proposed Development is located outwith of the designation and would have no potential to have direct effects on the physical aspects of the NSA. There would be some potential for long-distance views from mountain summits such as Cul More, Canisp Summit, and Ben More Assynt summit. These views have a developed context in views to the southeast that includes operational wind farms. Consequently, the Proposed Development would not compromise the integrity of this SLQ.</p> <p><b>Landscape of Vast Open Space and Exposure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The expansive and panoramic nature of the views available from the mountain summits would remain, but there would be a discernible change and an increase in the influence of wind energy development on distant views to the southeast. Views to the coastline would be unaffected.</li> <li>– The underlying view composition would be consistent with the baseline cumulative context. Consequently, the Proposed Development would not compromise the integrity of this SLQ.</li> </ul> <p><b>Significant Tracts of Wild Land:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development would not affect the geographical extent of the designation. It is apparent from the ZTV in <b>Figure 4.6</b> (EIA Report Volume 3a) that visibility would be restricted to long-distance and recessive views from southeast facing summits within the margins and most of the designation would have no visual effects. Views would occur in the vicinity of Cul Mor, Canisp and Ben More Assynt summits. Any visual effects would be highly localised, not significant and would be in context with the cumulative baseline already visible in panoramic vistas. Consequently, the Proposed Development would not compromise the integrity of this SLQ.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Visibility would be restricted to southeast facing summits within the margins and most of the designation would have no visual effects. Views would occur in the vicinity of Cul Mor, Canisp and Ben More Assynt summits. The Proposed Development would not affect the special qualities of the designation or views to the coastline and any effects would be highly localised and would be in context with the baseline. Consequently, the Proposed Development would not compromise its integrity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs and Effects on Integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The receptor is assessed as High sensitivity and the magnitude of impact is assessed as up to Negligible resulting in an indirect, <b>Moderate/Minor</b> (not significant) adverse effect.</li> </ul>

Residual Effects on Designations and Classifications		
Designation	Sensitivity and Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effects
<p>SLA18: Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie.</p> <p>(See viewpoints 5, 13, 17, and 23 (Figures 4.17, 4.25, 4.29, and 4.35 (EIA Report Volume 3b)).</p>	<p>Sensitivity: High Magnitude of Impact: None to Slight</p>	<p><b>Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Proposed Development is located outwith the SLA designation and would have no direct physical effect on this designation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SLQs with the most potential to be affected include ‘<i>The wide extent of the mountain ranges, limited access routes, rough ground and uninhabited character combine to create a great sense of wildness within an expansive, mountain vastness</i>’ and ‘<i>Small areas of clear human habitation, vast areas where there is none. The majority of human interaction within the landscape is centred around the River Broom in Strath More.</i>’ There would be potential for an influence on the perceptual qualities of views and a diminishment of the sense of wildness. These effects which have potential to be significant in Viewpoints 5, and 23 (see Figures 4.17, and 4.35 (EIA Report Volume 3b)). would be highly localised and would relate to views that already have a developed context.</li> <li>Visibility would vary across the designation with areas with no visibility and greater visibility from summits and elevated areas of land associated with Bodach Mor. Only a small proportion of the designation would be subject to views.</li> <li>Views to the Proposed Development would be backclothed and partially filtered by intervening landform.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There would be potential for influences on the perceptual qualities of views and a diminishment of the sense of wildness.</li> <li>The Proposed Development would represent a modest alteration to the influence of wind energy development such as Creag Riabhach (operational), Rosehall (operational), Achany (operational), Gordonbush (operational) and Kilbraur (operational) wind farms on the character of the landscape and/ or the composition of views.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs and Effects on Integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility would vary across the designation with areas with no visibility and greater visibility from summits and elevated areas of land associated with Bodach Mor. Only a small proportion of the designation would be subject to views. The Proposed Development would have potential to influence, but not compromise the integrity of this SLQ.</li> <li>The magnitude of impact on the SLA would range from None in areas of no visibility of the Proposed Development to Slight along the northern margins.</li> </ul> <p>The receptor is identified of High sensitivity and the predicted magnitude of change is assessed as up to Slight resulting in an indirect, <b>Moderate</b> (not significant) adverse residual effect.</p>

## 7. Residual Cumulative Effects

- 7.1.1 **Table 1.4** provides a summary of the residual cumulative effects on landscape designations and classifications.
- 7.1.2 In assessing potential cumulative effects of the Proposed Development on each landscape designation and classification carried forward to assessment, consideration has been given to 'In-Addition' effects attributable specifically to the Proposed Development, as well as its 'In Combination' effects, where the combined effect of the Proposed Development and other cumulative schemes are taken into account. **Chapter 4** (EIA Report Volume 2) contains a detailed description of the methodology used in the assessment of cumulative effects, which is divided into three scenarios.
- 7.1.3 The potential residual cumulative effects in relation to the operation of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other existing (operational), (consented but not yet built), in-planning and in-scoping (should they progress into operational assets) are assessed for the assessment viewpoints within the landscape designations and classifications. See **Technical Appendix 4.3** (EIA Report Volume 4).
- 7.1.4 There would be potential for significant cumulative effects on NSA: 36 in consideration of In-Combination effects during Scenario 3 which includes in-scoping developments. No significant effects were identified for Scenarios 1 and 2.
- 7.1.5 SLA: 18 would have potential for In-Addition and In-Combination significant cumulative effects on viewpoints from Bodach Mor and Carn a Choin Deirg on the margins of the classification. Overall, given the geographical extent of the classification and the relatively localised effects, significant cumulative effects on viewpoints within the classification would relate to In-Combination effects during Scenarios 1 to 3.

**Table 1.4: Assessment of Residual Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications**

Designation	Sensitivity and Magnitude of Impact	Residual Cumulative Effects
<p>NSA 36: Assynt – Coigach.</p> <p>(See viewpoints 1, 2, and 3 (<b>Figures 4.13, 4.14, and 4.15</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b)).</p>	<p>Sensitivity: High</p> <p>Magnitude of Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-combination: Moderate</li> <li>– In-addition: Negligible</li> </ul>	<p><b>Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development is located outwith the NSA designation and would have no direct physical effect on this designated area.</li> <li>– NSA: 36 is located 14 km northwest of the Proposed Development. This distance is considered to be sufficient to mitigate landscape and visual effects. There would be barely discernible influences on the special qualities of the designation, especially considering the landscape context which includes existing operational wind energy visible in views.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The operational, consented, in-planning and scoping wind farms visible from summits is widespread and complex. The Proposed Development would not be visible in views to the north or west but would be a discernible addition to views to the southeast. It would add a layer of complexity to the view and increase the scale of vertical elements in the landscape. The change would be limited to an area already influenced by wind energy development so the experience and landscape context from elevated vantage points would largely remain the same.</li> <li>– The Proposed Development would be situated within a developed context, grouped with the operational wind farms of Gordonbush, Kilbraur, Achany, Lairg, Rosehall Beinn Tharsuinn and Coire Na Cloiche and would be viewed alongside a cluster of the consented wind farms, Strath Oykel and Meall Buidhe.. It should be noted that a large proportion of the NSA would have no visibility or would be focused on views to the coastline to the west. Where views are available to the Proposed Development they are from summits and the cumulative developments form a small part of a very expansive view.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development would represent a modest alteration to the influence of wind energy development. There would be minimal impacts on the baseline condition of the landscape character or view composition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs and Effects on Integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-Addition: Indirect, <b>Moderate/ Minor</b> residual cumulative adverse effect (not significant).</li> <li>– In-Combination: Indirect, <b>Major/Moderate</b> residual cumulative adverse effect (and significant).</li> </ul>
<p>SLA18: Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glen Calvie.</p> <p>(See viewpoints 5, 13, 17, and 23 (<b>Figures 4.17, 4.25, 4.29, and 4.35</b> (EIA Report Volume 3b)).</p>	<p>Sensitivity: High</p> <p>Magnitude of Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-combination: Moderate to Substantial</li> <li>– In-addition: Slight character or view composition.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Step 1 – Review and Describe the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development is located outwith the SLA designation and would have no direct physical effect on this designation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be Affected by the Proposed Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The SLQs with the most potential to be affected include '<i>The wide extent of the mountain ranges, limited access routes, rough ground and uninhabited character combine to create a great sense of wildness within an expansive, mountain vastness</i>' and '<i>Small areas of clear human habitation, vast areas where there is none. The majority of human interaction within the landscape is centred around the River Broom in Strath More.</i>' There would be potential for an influence on the perceptual qualities of views and a diminishment of the sense of wildness. These effects would be highly localised and would relate to views that have a developed context and would not introduce a wholly new feature within the view.</li> <li>– Visibility would vary across the designation with areas with no visibility and greater visibility from summits and elevated areas of land associated with Bodach Mor. Only a small proportion of the designation would be subject to views.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 3 – Assessment of Effects on SLQs and Design Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development would add 11 turbines to the complex and diverse array of operational, consented, in-planning and in-scoping wind farms to the north and northwest (views permitting).</li> </ul>



Designation	Sensitivity and Magnitude of Impact	Residual Cumulative Effects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Proposed Development would be a noticeable addition to the influence of wind energy development in some views, but visibility would be variable throughout the designation. There would be minimal impacts on the baseline condition of the landscape</li> <li>– The Proposed Development would be located in the mid-ground with a backdrop or alongside operational and consented wind farms. Landform undulations would partially filter views of the array. The baseline condition of the landscape or view composition would be affected in some views noticeably at Viewpoint 5 but the character and context would remain the same. Visibility would be intermittent, and most views of the Proposed Development and its cumulative baseline would be extensively filtered.</li> </ul> <p><b>Step 4 – Summary of Significant Effects on SLQs and Effects on Integrity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In-Addition: Indirect, <b>Moderate</b> residual cumulative adverse effect (not significant).</li> <li>– In-Combination: Indirect, up to <b>Major/Moderate</b> residual cumulative adverse effect (and significant).</li> </ul>