

# Loch Liath Wind Farm Additional Information (AI) Report

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July 2025

**Volume 1: Updated Cumulative Landscape  
and Visual Impact Assessment**



**Statkraft**



**Loch Liath Wind Farm**

**Additional Information (AI) Report**

**Volume 1: Updated Cumulative Landscape and  
Visual Impact Assessment**

**Prepared by**

**LUC**

**on behalf of**

**Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited**

**July 2025**



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## Preface

This Additional Information (AI) Report is being submitted to the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA), in accordance with Section 20(6) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations').

The AI Report is submitted in support of an existing Section 36 (S36) consent application by Loch Liath Wind Farm Limited (Ltd) (the Applicant) to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) (Ref. ECU00002182), and the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the proposed development - DPEA Case Reference: WIN-270-26 (Section 36 Wind Farm) Loch Liath Wind Farm, Land Located Within The Balmacaan Estate, Directly West Of The Great Glen And Loch Ness, IV63 6TW.

A Section 36 consent and deemed planning permission is being sought by the Applicant to construct and operate Loch Liath Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') in The Highland Council (THC) administrative area. The Section 36 consent application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (hereafter referred to as 'the 2023 EIA Report'), and a Supplementary Environmental Information Report (hereafter referred to as 'the 2024 SEI Report') and were prepared in accordance with Part 6 of the EIA Regulations.

This AI Report comprises the following volumes which, where applicable, are structured to align with the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report volumes:

- **Volume 1: Updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** (this report)
- **Volume 2: Supporting Figures and Visualisations**

Details of the contents of each volume are set out in the AI Report, including a full list of Chapters, AI Figures and AI Visualisations.

The AI Report should be read in conjunction with the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report. Unless otherwise stated in the AI Report, the content of the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report remains valid.

The information will be published on the DPEA website, and will not be published separately, as the updated cumulative assessment was requested by the Reporters for the purposes of the PLI.



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### Background

**1.1** On the 28 April 2023 Loch Liath Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant) submitted an application to construct and operate Loch Liath Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) to the Scottish Ministers through the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) (reference ECU00002182) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. This includes a request for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.

**1.2** The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (hereafter referred to as 'the 2023 EIA Report') and was prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations').

**1.3** Following the submission of the Section 36 (S36) consent application to the ECU, a number of consultation responses have been received from statutory consultees. The Highland Council (the Local Planning Authority and hereby referred to as THC) and NatureScot responded with requests for additional information. The provision of 'supplementary information'<sup>1</sup>, in response to these original requests for additional information, were set out in the Supplementary Environmental Information Report submitted in October 2024 (hereafter referred to as 'the 2024 SEI Report'). The 2024 SEI Report was submitted to the ECU in accordance with Part 6 of the EIA Regulations.

**1.4** Since submission of the S36 application and subsequent SEI information, the cumulative baseline situation has continued to evolve. Several changes have arisen in the pattern of other existing and proposed wind energy developments within the study area considered for the original Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and cumulative assessment. Many of these changes were reflected in the 2024 SEI Report which included an updated cumulative assessment with supporting figures and visualisations.

**1.5** Following objection to the Section 36 application by THC (consultation response to ECU dated 10 February 2025) a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) will be held. At the Pre-Examination Meeting (PEM) on 30 June 2025 the Applicant detailed the intention to prepare a further update to the cumulative assessment presented in the 2024 SEI Report, to reflect the latest emerging cumulative situation prior to the PLI.

**1.6** Beyond the updated cumulative LVIA presented here, no other necessary updates to the cumulative assessments contained in the original 2023 EIA Report or 2024 SEI Report have been identified.

### Structure and Presentation of the AI

**1.7** This Additional Information Report (AI Report) presents the information reasonably required to assess whether there are any changes to effects as presented in the 2023 EIA Report and/or 2024 SEI Report.

**1.8** This AI Report comprises the following volumes which, where applicable, are structured to align with the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report volumes:

- **Volume 1: Updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** (this report)
- **Volume 2: Supporting Figures and Visualisations**

**1.9** The AI has been prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects (Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI)) at LUC, with support from LUC's in house team of GIS and visualisation specialists.

### AI Report Terminology

**1.10** To ensure clarity in the AI Report, the following terms are used:

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in EIA Regulations under Part 6, Section 19 (3)

- **The Site:** The area delineated by the redline application boundary on the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report figures.
- **The Proposed Development:** Shown as the components within the redline boundary for which consent is being sought as detailed in **Chapter 4: Project Description of the 2023 EIA Report**.
- **The 2023 EIA Report:** The EIA Report which was submitted to accompany the application for Section 36 consent and which was supplemented by the SEI Report.
- **The 2024 SEI Report:** The SEI report which includes the details set out above and which should be read in conjunction with the 2023 EIA Report.
- **This AI Report:** This report which details the updated cumulative LVIA and which should be read in conjunction with the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report.

## Approach to Updated Cumulative Assessment

**1.11** As was the case in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, operational wind farms and those under construction are included as part of the baseline for the LVIA and considered as part of the primary LVIA assessment. As was also the case for the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, the updated cumulative assessment contained in this AI Report considers the following baseline scenarios:

- **Scenario 1:** higher level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction and consented wind farms.
- **Scenario 2:** lower level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented and undetermined valid planning applications (including appeal/PLI stage schemes).

**1.12** For completeness, the updated assessment also considers a third more speculative emerging baseline scenario which includes proposals which have not yet progressed to a valid planning application (i.e. those at design/scoping stage). Overall, this scenario is considered to represent a highly speculative future baseline situation, given the number of additional pre-application stage proposals and the very low certainty that all or some of the proposals will progress to an application, be granted consent, and eventually constructed.

- **Scenario 3:** lowest level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented, undetermined valid planning applications (including appeal/PLI stage schemes) and wind farms that haven't progressed beyond scoping stage, and therefore may be subject to substantial change or may not become valid applications.

**1.13** Where it has been possible to establish greater certainty that individual design/scoping stage schemes may progress (i.e. where information has been able to be verified with the relevant developer) this is acknowledged within the assessment, and those which are of greatest importance and consequence to the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects that may arise in combination with the Proposed Development, such as Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension S36C Variation and Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm, these are afforded greater consideration in the updated assessment.

**1.14** The other developments considered in the updated cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment are detailed in **AI Table 2.1** in the following chapter.

## Assessment Methodology

**1.15** The updated cumulative assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology detailed in **Appendix 6.1: LVIA Methodology** of the 2023 EIA Report, which has been developed in accordance with good practice guidance from the Landscape Institute<sup>2</sup> and NatureScot<sup>3</sup>. Cumulative effects arising in respect to visible aviation lighting are considered with reference to the latest NatureScot good practice guidance<sup>4</sup>, published since the submission of the 2024 SEI Report.

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<sup>2</sup> The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3).

<sup>3</sup> NatureScot, (2021). Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments. Weblink: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments>

<sup>4</sup> NatureScot, (2024). Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment. Weblink: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-aviation-lighting-impact-assessment>

## Accompanying Supporting Materials

**1.16** As detailed in the contents of this AI Report, updated and additional figures and visualisations have been prepared to accompany the updated cumulative assessment. These supporting materials are presented in **Volume 2: Supporting Figures and Visualisations**. The figures and visualisations have been prepared in accordance with the methodology detailed in the original 2023 EIA Report, **Appendix 6.2: ZTV Mapping and Visualisation Methodology**.

**1.17** Updated cumulative zone of theoretical visibility (CZTV) figures have been prepared to illustrate the pattern of cumulative theoretical visibility of multiple wind energy developments at different development statuses, reflected in the cumulative assessment scenarios detailed above (Scenarios 1, 2 and 3). In addition, paired and combined ZTVs are presented to illustrate the combined visibility of the Proposed Development with other existing, consented or proposed wind energy schemes (typically those located closest to the Site of the Proposed Development). Whilst the updated assessment within this AI Report may not reference all CZTV figures individually, a comprehensive package of CZTV figures, comparable to the CZTV figure packages provided in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, has been provided to reflect the updated cumulative assessment scenarios (Scenarios 1, 2 and 3).

**1.18** Updated cumulative wireline visualisations (illustrating individual 90 degree included horizontal fields of view, up to 360 degrees, in accordance with the latest NatureScot visualisation guidance<sup>5</sup>) are presented to illustrate the updated cumulative baseline situation (Scenario 1 and Scenario 2) as considered in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report.

**1.19** Additional cumulative wireline visualisations are also presented in the same format illustrating the cumulative assessment scenario which includes design/scoping stage schemes (Scenario 3).

**1.20** To illustrate the key cumulative interactions between the Proposed Development and other wind energy developments in proximity to the Site, a select number of cumulative photomontage visualisations have been prepared for key viewpoints (VP2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 18) considered in the LVIA. These include the following consented and proposed developments located in proximity to the Proposed Development:

- Cumulative photomontage visualisations which include the Proposed Development, existing operational and under construction wind farms (present in the baseline photography) and the consented Bhlairaidh Extension Wind Farm and Chrathaich Wind Farm (and the Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme for VP2); and
- Cumulative photomontage visualisations which include the Proposed Development, existing operational and under construction wind farms (present in the baseline photography), the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm and the proposed (design/scoping stage) Bhlairaidh Extension Variation Wind Farm (and the Glen Earrach PSH for VP2).

**1.21** As detailed on the relevant visualisations no other currently consented or proposed (at application, appeal/PLI or design/scoping stage) beyond those listed above have been modelled in the 53.5 degree wireline or photomontage visualisations.

**1.22** The updated assessment within this AI Report refers to the most relevant viewpoints where key cumulative interactions between the Proposed Development and other developments are most likely to arise. As such, not all viewpoints (and corresponding updated cumulative wireline visualisations) are necessarily individually referenced within the updated assessment. However, a comprehensive package of updated cumulative wireline visualisations has been provided, for completeness, to reflect the updated cumulative assessment scenarios (Scenarios 1, 2 and 3).

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<sup>5</sup> NatureScot, (2017). Visual representation of wind farms: Guidance – Version 2.2 Weblink:  
<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf>

## Chapter 2

### Updated Cumulative Baseline

**2.1** The updated cumulative baseline situation is detailed in **AI Table 2.1** below, and illustrated on **AI Figure 6.7b**. The list of wind energy schemes was shared with THC and other parties to the PLI, prior to the PEM, with a final updated list circulated on 2 July 2025, and the final list agreed in the note of the PEM issued by the Reporters on 8 July 2025. Updates to the cumulative baseline since submission of the previous 2024 SEI Report in October 2024 are highlighted in **Green** in **AI Table 2.1** below.

**2.2** Existing and proposed wind energy developments which require visible aviation obstruction warning lighting, either by virtue of their height ( $\geq 150\text{m}$ ) or proximity to an aerodrome or civil flightpath are indicated in **AI Table 2.1**, and illustrated on **AI Figure 6.7c** and **AI Figure 6.7d**. The total number, type and specific turbines which require visible aviation lighting may not yet be known for schemes at a preliminary stage (e.g. design/scoping stage schemes), however, it is anticipated that a reduced lighting scheme (e.g. where only a select number of turbines would be lit with 2000/200cd. nacelle lights, and 25cd. mid-mast lights would likely not be necessary) would be agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for each scheme, prior to submission of an application.

**2.3** In addition to other wind energy developments, given the proximity of the proposed Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme (ECU reference: ECU00005121)<sup>6</sup> has also been considered in the updated cumulative assessment (Scenario 2 and Scenario 3).

*AI Table 2.1: Other Developments within 45km radius of Proposed Development.*

| Name                                                                  | Status             | Number of Turbines | Maximum Blade Tip Height (m) | Distance (km) <sup>7</sup> | Visible Aviation Lighting (Y/N)                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Existing Baseline Situation – for ‘Primary Assessment of LVIA’</b> |                    |                    |                              |                            |                                                          |
| Bhlaraidh                                                             | Operational        | 32                 | 135m                         | 0.5km                      | N                                                        |
| Corrimony                                                             | Operational        | 5                  | 100m                         | 3.2km                      | Y (all turbines lit with minimum 32cd. nacelle lighting) |
| Millennium                                                            | Operational        | 26                 | 125m                         | 17.0km                     | N                                                        |
| Corriegarth                                                           | Operational        | 23                 | 120m                         | 20.1km                     | N                                                        |
| Beinneun Extension                                                    | Operational        | 7                  | 136m                         | 20.9km                     | N                                                        |
| Stronelairg                                                           | Operational        | 67                 | 135m                         | 20.9km                     | N                                                        |
| Beinneun                                                              | Operational        | 25                 | 132m                         | 22.5km                     | N                                                        |
| Dunmaglass                                                            | Operational        | 33                 | 120m                         | 24.0km                     | N                                                        |
| Aberarder                                                             | Under Construction | 12                 | 130m                         | 25.4km                     | N                                                        |

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.glenearrach.energy/>

<sup>7</sup> Approximate distance between the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development and other developments.

| Name                                                                        | Status                   | Number of Turbines | Maximum Blade Tip Height (m) | Distance (km) <sup>7</sup> | Visible Aviation Lighting (Y/N)                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Auchmore + Extension                                                        | Operational              | 2                  | 79m                          | 25.4km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Fairburn                                                                    | Operational              | 20                 | 100m                         | 26.9km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Glen Kyllachy                                                               | Operational              | 20                 | 110m                         | 32.9km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Farr                                                                        | Operational <sup>8</sup> | 40                 | 101m                         | 33.1km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Lochluichart                                                                | Operational              | 17                 | 125m                         | 40.9km                     | Y (cardinal turbines) <sup>9</sup>                                                        |
| Moy                                                                         | Operational              | 20                 | 125m                         | 41.0km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Corriemoillie                                                               | Operational              | 17                 | 125m                         | 41.6km                     | Y (cardinal turbines) <sup>10</sup>                                                       |
| Lochluichart Extension                                                      | Operational              | 6                  | 125m                         | 43.1km                     | N                                                                                         |
| <b>Scenario 1 (Existing Baseline Situation (above) + Consented Schemes)</b> |                          |                    |                              |                            |                                                                                           |
| Chrathaich                                                                  | Consented                | 13                 | 149.9m                       | 0.6km                      | N                                                                                         |
| Bhlaraidh Extension <sup>11</sup>                                           | Consented                | 15                 | 180m                         | 0.2km                      | N <sup>12</sup>                                                                           |
| Tomchrasky                                                                  | Consented                | 14                 | 185m                         | 14.7km                     | Y (6 turbines lit: T1, T4, T6, T7, T13 and T14 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting) |
| Millennium South <sup>13</sup>                                              | Consented                | 10                 | 132m                         | 17.4km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Dell <sup>14</sup>                                                          | Consented                | 14                 | 130.5m                       | 19.6km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Corriegarth 2                                                               | Consented                | 14                 | 149.9m                       | 19.9km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Cloiche                                                                     | Consented                | 29                 | 149.9m                       | 20.4km                     | N                                                                                         |
| Bunloinn                                                                    | Consented                | 10                 | 200m                         | 24.9km                     | Y (6 turbines lit: T1, T2, T6, T8, T9 and T10 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)  |
| Kirkan                                                                      | Consented                | 17                 | 175m                         | 41.5km                     | Y (6 turbines lit: T1, T3, T7, T10, T16 and T17 with                                      |

<sup>8</sup> A planning application to extend the operational period of Farr Wind Farm from 25 years to 35 years (ECU reference: ECU00002123) was consented on 23rd March 2021.

<sup>9</sup> As definitive information regarding visible aviation lighting could not be found in the public domain, all turbines of Lochluichart are indicated as having visible aviation lighting on AI Figure 6.7c and AI Figure 6.7d.

<sup>10</sup> As definitive information regarding visible aviation lighting could not be found in the public domain, all turbines of Corriemoillie are indicated as having visible aviation lighting on AI Figure 6.7c and AI Figure 6.7d.

<sup>11</sup> The previously consented proposal (ECU Planning Reference: ECU00001900) will be considered under the Scenario 1 future cumulative baseline.

<sup>12</sup> Despite turbines of greater than 150m, the CAA agreed to no requirement for visible aviation lighting.

<sup>13</sup> Consent now understood to have lapsed

<sup>14</sup> The previously consented proposal (DPEA Planning Reference: PPA-270-218) will be considered under the Scenario 1 future cumulative baseline.



| Name                                                                                                                               | Status                                       | Number of Turbines | Maximum Blade Tip Height (m) | Distance (km) <sup>7</sup> | Visible Aviation Lighting (Y/N)                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                    |                                              |                    |                              |                            | minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)                                                                              |
| Lochluichart Extension II                                                                                                          | Consented                                    | 5                  | 149.9m                       | 44.2km                     | N                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Scenario 2 (Existing Baseline Situation + Consented Schemes (above) + Application and Appeal/PLI Schemes)</b>                   |                                              |                    |                              |                            |                                                                                                                    |
| Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH)                                                                                            | Application Submitted                        | n/a                | n/a                          | 5.1km                      | n/a                                                                                                                |
| Dell 2 <sup>15</sup>                                                                                                               | Application Submitted (previously consented) | 9                  | 200m                         | 19.6km                     | Y (5 turbines lit: T1, T2, T6, T8 and T9 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)                                |
| Culachy                                                                                                                            | Appeal/Public Inquiry                        | 8                  | 200m                         | 20.7km                     | Y (4 turbines lit: T1, T2, T7 and T8 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)                                    |
| Lynemore                                                                                                                           | Application Submitted                        | 14                 | 200m                         | 36.2km                     | Y (7 turbines lit: T1, T4, T5, T7, T12, T13 and T14 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)                     |
| Highland                                                                                                                           | Application Submitted                        | 19                 | 230m                         | 37.2km                     | Y (8 turbines lit: T1, T2, T5, T14, T15, T17, T18 and T19 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)               |
| Carn Fearna                                                                                                                        | Application Submitted                        | 9                  | 200m                         | 37.3km                     | Y (4 turbines lit: T1, T4, T7 and T9 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting)                                    |
| Clune                                                                                                                              | Application Submitted                        | 26                 | 200m                         | 37.9km                     | Y (10 turbines lit: T02, T05, T08, T10, T12, T15, T18, T19, T24 and T26 with minimum 200/2000cd. nacelle lighting) |
| Abhainn Dubh                                                                                                                       | Application Submitted                        | 9                  | 149.9m                       | 42.1km                     | N                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Scenario 3 (Existing Baseline Situation + Consented Schemes + Application and Appeal/PLI Schemes (above) + Scoping Schemes)</b> |                                              |                    |                              |                            |                                                                                                                    |
| Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation <sup>16</sup>                                                                                 | Design/Scoping                               | 15                 | 230m                         | 0.2km                      | Y                                                                                                                  |

<sup>15</sup> The new application for the re-design of the consented scheme (ECU Planning Reference: ECU00003440/THC Planning Reference: 24/00933/S36) will be considered under the Scenario 2 future cumulative baseline.

<sup>16</sup> The re-design/variation of the consented scheme (ECU Planning Reference: ECU00006176) will be considered under the Scenario 3 future cumulative baseline.

| Name                      | Status         | Number of Turbines | Maximum Blade Tip Height (m) | Distance (km) <sup>7</sup> | Visible Aviation Lighting (Y/N) |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fiodhag                   | Design/Scoping | 46                 | 149.9m                       | 5.2km                      | N                               |
| Cnoc Farasd <sup>17</sup> | Design/Scoping | 6                  | 149.9m                       | 7.5km                      | N                               |
| Millennium East           | Design/Scoping | 8                  | 200m                         | 16.6km                     | Y                               |
| Ballach <sup>18</sup>     | Design/Scoping | 20                 | 230m                         | 22.2km                     | Y                               |
| Fairburn Extension        | Design/Scoping | 14                 | 200m                         | 23.7km                     | Y                               |
| Beinneun 2                | Design/Scoping | 22                 | 200m                         | 23.8km                     | Y                               |
| Carn na Saobhaidh         | Design/Scoping | 29                 | 200m                         | 28.2km                     | Y                               |
| Tarvie                    | Design/Scoping | 11                 | 200m                         | 32.7km                     | Y                               |
| Beinn Bheag               | Design/Scoping | 28                 | 230m                         | 35.0km                     | Y                               |
| Kyllachy                  | Design/Scoping | 11                 | 200m                         | 37.2km                     | Y                               |

<sup>17</sup> Application not anticipated until Q4 2025, layout included based on latest information from developer provided 27 June 2025.

<sup>18</sup> Revised layout provided by developer 30 June 2025. Application to be submitted Q3 2025.

## Chapter 3

# Updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

**3.1** The following section provides a focused updated landscape and visual cumulative assessment, based on the changes to the cumulative baseline situation which have arisen since the assessments undertaken in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report (as summarised in **AI Table 2.1** above and illustrated on **AI Figure 6.7b**).

**3.2** Whilst considerable changes have arisen in the wider pattern of existing, consented and proposed wind energy development across the 45km radius study area for the original LVIA and cumulative assessments, the key changes in the cumulative baseline (under Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and Scenario 3) of greatest importance are generally those focused within the immediate proximity of the Site and Proposed Development – e.g. within approximately 20km of the Proposed Development. Whilst the updated assessment considers the wider emerging pattern(s) of wind energy development, focus is drawn to landscape and visual receptors which are most likely to be subject to significant cumulative effects as a consequence of the addition of the Proposed Development.

## Cumulative Landscape Effects

### Scenario 1

**3.3** Scenario 1 of the cumulative assessment in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report considered the addition of the Proposed Development to a future baseline scenario which included operational, under construction and consented wind farms. Additions to this cumulative scenario since the 2024 SEI Report include the consented Chrathaich and Tomchrasky Wind Farms (as set out in **AI Table 2.1** above).

**3.4** The addition of the consented Chrathaich and Tomchrasky Wind Farms to this future baseline scenario will result in some further intensification of wind farm development within the upland areas to the west of the Great Glen, including within LCT 220: Rugged Massif – Inverness, and LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness within which the Proposed Development is also sited. The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will increase the extent of LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness influenced by wind energy development, specifically in parts of the LCT near the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms, and the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm.

**3.5** As identified in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report, the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will further increase the extent of LCT 222 influenced by wind energy development, however the Proposed Development will be located within parts of the LCT already substantially characterised by the operational Corrimony, operational Bhlaraidh, consented Bhlaraidh Extension and consented Chrathaich Wind Farms. The Proposed Development will form a relatively compact and cohesive extension to the north, north-east of the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, consented Bhlaraidh Extension and consented Chrathaich Wind Farm. The level of additional cumulative effect under this scenario, which includes all consented developments, will remain **Minor (not significant)** for the LCT as a whole, as identified in the 2023 EIA Report LVIA and 2024 SEI Report.

**3.6** Changes to the landscape baseline resulting from the introduction of visible aviation lighting associated with the consented Tomchrasky Wind Farm are discussed separately in the 'Cumulative Effects Arising From Visible Aviation Lighting' section below.

### Scenario 2

**3.7** Scenario 2 of the cumulative assessment in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report considered the addition of the Proposed Development to a future baseline scenario which includes operational, under construction,

consented and proposed (subject of a valid submitted application, or live appeal/PLI) developments. Additions to this cumulative scenario since the 2024 SEI Report are mainly located beyond 20km of the Proposed Development, and include the proposed Lynemore, Highland, Carn Fearna and Clune Wind Farms. Given its proximity, the proposed Glen Earrach Pumped Hydro Storage (PSH) scheme (application submitted) is also considered under this future baseline scenario.

**3.8** The addition of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH to this future baseline scenario will result in further intensification of energy infrastructure within the upland areas to the west of the Great Glen, within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. The Glen Earrach PSH will increase the extent of LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness modified by energy infrastructure, though this will occur specifically in parts of the LCT near the operational Corrimony and Bhlaraidh Wind Farms, consented Bhlaraidh Extension and consented Chrathaich Wind Farm. Whilst the head pond of the PSH will complement the natural pattern of small lochs and lochans that are characteristic of the host LCT, the engineered appearance of infrastructure associated with the PSH scheme will contrast with the perceived naturalness and wider landscape pattern of the rocky moorland plateau. The assimilation of the infrastructure over time will also reduce its prominence over time as vegetation is reinstated and reestablishes – particularly in comparison to the level of disturbance which may be anticipated and perceptible during the construction phase and initial phase of operation.

**3.9** As identified in the original LVIA, subsequent 2024 SEI Report and for Scenario 1 in this AI Report, the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will further increase the extent of LCT 222 influenced by wind turbines, however the Proposed Development will be located within parts of the LCT already characterised by the operational Corrimony, operational Bhlaraidh, consented Bhlaraidh Extension, consented Chrathaich Wind Farm and the proposed Glen Earrach PSH. The level of additional cumulative effect under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments, will remain **Minor (not significant)** for the LCT as a whole, as identified in the 2023 EIA Report LVIA and 2024 SEI Report.

### Scenario 3

**3.10** Given the uncertainty of the likely final turbine layout for early-stage proposals, proposals that had not yet progressed beyond scoping stage were not considered within the cumulative assessment in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report. However, since the 2024 SEI Report, two wind farm proposals (within 10km of the Proposed Development) have submitted scoping requests. A scoping request has been submitted for a Section 36C variation for the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The variation comprises minor changes to the turbine layout, an increase in blade tip height (230m from 180m) and increase in turbine rotor diameter (and corresponding turbine blade length) of the proposed variation turbines. A scoping request has also been submitted for Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm, located 7.5km north of the Proposed Development. Given the proximity of these developments, scoping stage wind farms are considered within this update to the cumulative assessment. The proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm is located 5.2km to the west of the Proposed Development, although the project submitted a scoping Request in November 2019 and has not yet progressed to application stage. Other scoping stage schemes within the Study Area are located beyond 20km from the Proposed Development, and include the Ballach, Carn na Saobhaidh and Beinn Bheag Wind Farms.

**3.11** The addition of the scoping stage Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will increase the influence of wind turbines within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness, though in a unit of the LCT located to the north of Glen Urquhart which is not currently directly influenced by wind energy development located within it. The proposed Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will increase the extent of direct and significant landscape effects on LCT 222, into parts of the LCT to the north of Glen Urquhart. The proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will increase the scale of turbines within the cluster formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Chrathaich Wind Farm, as well as the consented Bhlaraidh Extension proposal it will replace, though it will occupy a very similar footprint to the consented scheme. The addition of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm to the west of this cluster will increase the influence of wind turbines within the LCT, extending further west and south-west of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, bringing development closer to the edge of the LCT near its transition towards the lower-lying landscape of Strathglass, and appearing much larger in scale than the operational Corrimony Wind Farm.

**3.12** As for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 above, the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will further increase the extent of LCT 222 influenced by wind energy development, however the Proposed Development will be located within parts of the LCT already substantially characterised by the operational Corrimony, operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich Wind Farm, proposed Glen Earrach PSH (at application) and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation (at Scoping). The proposed Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will increase the extent of turbines within LCT 222, such that parts of the LCT to the north of Glen Urquhart are directly affected, and will appear as a distinctly separate development. By comparison, the Proposed Development will form a relatively compact and coherent extension to the north-east of the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, consented

Chrathaich Wind Farm and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation with the emerging cluster formed by the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm and the operational Corrimony Wind Farm appearing in a slightly separate and lower lying part of the LCT to the west. The level of additional cumulative effect under this scenario, which includes all consented and proposed developments (including those at application and at scoping stage), will remain **Minor (not significant)** for the LCT as a whole, as identified in the 2023 EIA Report LVIA and 2024 SEI Report.

**3.13** Changes to the cumulative baseline resulting from the introduction of visible aviation lighting associated with the scoping-stage Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation are discussed separately in the 'Cumulative Effects Arising From Visible Aviation Lighting' section below.

## Cumulative Visual Effects

### Scenario 1

**3.14** As for the cumulative assessment in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report, the key cumulative interaction under this future baseline scenario will result from the introduction of the Proposed Development with the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, with the addition of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm to this scenario. Changes to this future baseline scenario resulting from the introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will lead to evident changes in some views within the study area. Chrathaich Wind Farm will introduce a further 13 turbines into the emerging cluster of development formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, with the Proposed Development further consolidating this emerging cluster.

**3.15** The introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will increase presence of wind turbines in views from elevated landform and summits on either side of the Great Glen (refer to **AI Figure 6.15a-d** and **AI Figure 6.15i-j**, VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh), seen beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. Chrathaich Wind Farm will increase the depth of the view west occupied by turbines and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view, with the Proposed Development, Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms extending across a wide angle of the view north-west to west. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development will remain as **Moderate (significant)**, as identified in the original LVIA and subsequent 2024 SEI Report.

**3.16** The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will also be seen in views from areas to the east of the Great Glen along the B862 (refer to **AI Figure 6.21a-c** and **AI Figure 6.21g-h**, VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint), beyond the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension. As for the Scenario 1 assessment in the original LVIA, the main cumulative interaction arising for views from this location will relate to the introduction of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under the Scenario 1 cumulative baseline will remain as **Minor (not significant)**.

**3.17** Chrathaich Wind Farm will be visible in views from lower-lying locations along the eastern shore of Loch Ness (refer to **AI Figure 6.26a** and **AI Figure 6.26c-d**, VP13: B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area)). The hubs and blades of up to one turbine and the blades of a further six turbines of Chrathaich will be seen above the skyline, with turbine bases mostly screened by intervening landform. The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will increase the horizontal extent of the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms seen across the skyline above channelled views looking down Glen Coiltie. The Proposed Development will be seen in front of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm, with turbines of the Proposed Development appearing larger in scale and with a greater proportion of turbine hubs visible. Whilst Chrathaich Wind Farm will result in a change to distant views from these locations, the level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as **Minor (not significant)**, as for the primary assessment.

**3.18** The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm is located approximately 8.5km to the east of the Glen Affric National Scenic Area (NSA)<sup>19</sup>. The Proposed Development is located approximately 10.5km to the east of the Glen Affric NSA<sup>20</sup>. In outward views from elevated summits in the east of the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.22a-c** and **AI Figure 6.22g-h**, VP9: Meall Mor and **AI Figure 6.23a-b** and **AI Figure 6.23e-f**, VP10: Creag Dubh), the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will be seen slightly in front of the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms, extending turbines slightly closer towards the NSA, and increasing the horizontal extent of turbines within this emerging cluster of development in views from VP10: Creag Dubh (though to a slightly lesser extent than the proposed 14-turbine

<sup>19</sup> Measured from the outermost wind turbine of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm.

<sup>20</sup> Measured from the outermost wind turbine of the Proposed Development.

scheme<sup>21</sup>). The operational Corrimony Wind Farm appears slightly closer in the view, though forming a smaller cluster of turbines in both number and scale given the lower blade tip height of the operational turbines. Relatively direct views will be available towards Chrathaich Wind Farm from these locations as the development will be sited on west-facing slopes of the ridgeline located west of Meall a Chrathaich (679 m AOD), though the bases of some turbines will be partially screened by intervening landform.

**3.19** The introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario, which includes the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm, will result in an additional increase to the horizontal extent of turbines. The Proposed Development will appear slightly more distant than the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm in views and will appear partially screened beyond intervening landform given the containment of the Proposed Development to the east of the ridgeline located along the western boundary of the Loch Liath site. The Proposed Development, consented Chrathaich, operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms will appear as one broadly contiguous cluster of development extending across a relatively wide angle of views from these locations within the NSA. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as identified within the primary assessment, **Moderate (significant)** for both VP9: Meall Mor and VP10: Creag Dubh.

**3.20** In views from lower-lying parts of the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.28a-d**, VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric) blades of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in between the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm and the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, appearing slightly larger in scale than both other developments albeit at distances exceeding 20km. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as identified within the primary assessment, **Minor (not significant)** for VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric).

**3.21** In more distant views from elevated summits within the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.31a-d** and **AI Figure 6.31i-j**, VP18: Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.32a-b**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean) Chrathaich Wind Farm will be seen slightly closer in the view than the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, appearing more discernibly on the west-facing slopes in front of Meall a Chrathaich (679 m AOD) and slightly increasing the horizontal extent of turbines in this emerging cluster. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will result in an additional increase in the horizontal extent of turbines in the view, with the Proposed Development, consented Chrathaich, operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms appearing as one broadly contiguous cluster of development extending across a medium angle of relatively distant views. The landform located along the western boundary of the Loch Liath Site partially screens the bases of the turbines and provides a substantial degree of containment to the Proposed Development, consented Bhlaraidh Extension and operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farms in distant views. The operational Corrimony Wind Farm appears slightly closer in the view, forming a smaller cluster of turbines in both number and scale given the lower blade tip height of the operational turbines. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as identified within the primary assessment, **Minor (not significant)** for both VP18: Toll Creagach and VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean).

**3.22** Given the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm forms part of the baseline considered under cumulative Scenario 1, the assessment of cumulative effects within the 2023 EIA Report LVIA (refer to Table 6.44 of the 2023 EIA Report) identifies a reduction in the level of effect between the primary assessment and the level of effect under cumulative baseline Scenario 1 for some receptors. This remains relevant to the cumulative assessment included in this AI Report. Table A1 identifies a reduction in effects resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this cumulative baseline Scenario 1 (given the presence of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm) for the following receptors:

- **Viewpoint 2** - Meall Fuar-mhonaigh, Major (significant) visual effect identified under the primary assessment, reducing to a **Moderate (significant)** additional cumulative visual effect under Scenario 1);
- **Viewpoint 8** - B862 Suidhe Viewpoint Moderate (significant) visual effect identified under the primary assessment, reducing to a **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative visual effect under Scenario 1);
- **B826** - Moderate (significant) visual effects identified for localised sections of the road under the primary assessment, reducing to a **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative visual effect under Scenario 1); and

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<sup>21</sup> Chrathaich Wind Farm was originally proposed as 14 turbines at 149.9m blade tip height, but following consultation responses, the number of turbines was reduced to 13 (T14 was removed and not granted consent).



- **The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail** - Moderate (significant) visual effects identified for localised sections of the route under the primary assessment, reducing to a **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative visual effect under Scenario 1).

**3.23** The cumulative magnitude of change and resulting visual additional cumulative effects under Scenario 1 will otherwise remain as identified in the 2023 assessment and 2024 SEI Report (refer to **Table A1**).

## Scenario 2

**3.24** The introduction of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH scheme will result in a change to some views under this future baseline scenario, although visibility of the proposed PSH scheme will be contained within relatively close proximity of the Loch Liath Site and the surrounding landscape. The main cumulative interaction between the Proposed Development and the Glen Earrach PSH scheme will result from the introduction of the head pond and associated earthworks and infrastructure, located approximately 5.7km to the east of the nearest proposed turbine. In views from hill summits and elevated areas near the Site (refer to **AI Figure 6.15a-d** and **AI Figure 6.15i-j**, VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh), the head pond of the PSH scheme will extend across a relatively wide angle of the view, extending across lower-lying areas of the rocky moorland between the hill summit and the nearby summit of Glas-bheinn Mhor (651 m AOD). The introduction of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH scheme will increase the horizontal extent of human influence in views west from the summit. Whilst located within a landscape of smaller lochs and lochans, the introduction of the much larger scale waterbody of the proposed head pond and the engineered appearance of other associated infrastructure of the PSH scheme will contrast with the perceived naturalness and landscape pattern of the rocky moorland plateau. However, the assimilation of the infrastructure over time will reduce its prominence in these views – particularly in comparison to the level of disturbance which may be anticipated and perceptible during the construction phase and initial phase of operation.

**3.25** From the hill summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, the Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of wind turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms, extending northwards towards the Glen Earrach PSH scheme. The proposed Glen Earrach PSH scheme will form a noticeable man-made influence situated closer than the emerging cluster of turbines seen in the panoramic views available from this viewpoint. With the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm present in the cumulative baseline considered under cumulative Scenario 1 and 2, the assessment of cumulative effects within the 2023 EIA Report LVIA (refer to Table 6.44 of the 2023 EIA Report) identified a reduction in the level of effect between the primary assessment and the level of effect under cumulative baseline Scenario 1 and 2 for views from VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. This remains relevant to the cumulative assessment included in this AI Report, also taking into consideration the addition of the Glen Earrach PSH scheme which will increase the influence of energy infrastructure seen in views west from the summit, where the consolidated cluster of wind energy developments will appear alongside the infrastructure of the technologically complementary PSH development.

**3.26** The cumulative magnitude of change and resulting visual cumulative effects under Scenario 2 will remain as identified in the 2023 assessment and 2024 SEI Report (refer to **Table A1**).

## Scenario 3

**3.27** Scoping stage schemes within 20km of the Proposed Development, as illustrated on **AI Figure 6.7b**, include Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, Fiodhag and Cnoc Farasd Wind Farms. Other scoping stage schemes within the Study Area are located beyond 20km from the Proposed Development, and include Ballach, Carn na Saobhaidh and Beinn Bheag Wind Farms.

**3.28** The addition of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation to this future baseline scenario will result in increased visibility over that of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension, owing to the minor changes in the turbine layout, increase in blade tip height and increase in turbine rotor diameter (and corresponding turbine blade length) of the proposed variation turbines (230m vs 180m to blade tip height). The larger turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will be perceptible in views from VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (refer to **AI Figure 6.15k-l**). The turbines of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario, by comparison, will appear slightly smaller in scale than the nearest turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, and at a slightly greater intervening distance in these views. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development will however remain as **Moderate (significant)**, as identified in the Scenario 1 and 2 cumulative assessments.

**3.29** Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will also appear more prominent (as compared to the consented scheme) in areas to the east of the Great Glen along the B862 (refer to **AI Figure 6.19d-f**, VP6: B862 near Whitebridge and **AI Figure 6.21d-f**, VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint). The Proposed Development will be seen beyond the proposed Bhlaraidh

Extension - S36C Variation and, by comparison, will appear smaller in scale and more distant. In sections of the B862 to the south of Dores (refer to **AI Figure 6.29b** and **AI Figure 6.29e-f**, VP16: B862 south of Dores), the turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will be more perceptible, albeit in distant views. The Proposed Development will appear in a similar angle of the view, and turbines will appear slightly smaller in scale than Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation. The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as identified within the primary assessment, **Minor (not significant)**, for both VP6: B862 near Whitebridge and VP8: B862 Suidhe Viewpoint).

**3.30** The addition of Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will introduce turbines to the north of Glen Urquhart, with these turbines often appearing as a separate and distinct cluster to other operational, consented and proposed wind farms in the view. Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views from elevated landform and summits to the west of the Great Glen (refer to **AI Figure 6.15e-h** and **AI Figure 6.15k-l**, VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaigh). Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will appear on the skyline of views from parts of Glen Urquhart (refer to **AI Figure 6.14a-c**, VP1: Affric Kintail Way near Braefield and **AI Figure 6.16a-c**, VP3: Balbeg), although turbines will be partially screened and filtered by intervening woodland in some views, open views northwards from the southern slopes and foot of the glen will experience the introduction of turbines at relatively close proximity, seen above the often wooded northern slopes of the glen. The Proposed Development will be seen in a different direction of the view, to the south of Glen Urquhart, and at a greater intervening distance. Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will also form an evident skyline feature in views from Strathglass (refer to **AI Figure 6.17d-f**, VP 4: Affric Kintail Way West of Cannich), though seen beyond the steel lattice towers of the existing Beaully-Denny 400kV transmission line. The Proposed Development will be seen in an alternative direction of view, and will be predominantly screened by intervening landform. In views from elevated landform and summits within the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.22d-f**, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, **AI Figure 6.23c-d**, VP10: Creag Dhubh, **AI Figure 6.31e-h**, VP18: Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.33c-d**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean), Cnoc Farasd will appear as a separate and distinct cluster of turbines from other operational, consented and proposed (at application) wind farms in the view, though occasionally appearing in combination with the scoping stage Fiodhag Wind Farm (refer to **AI Figure 6.23c-d**, VP10: Creag Dhubh and **AI Figure 6.32c-d**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean). The Proposed Development will appear in a similar angle of the view as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, consented Chrathaich and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation Wind Farms in views from these summits forming part of a consolidated cluster of wind turbines largely contained within the interior of the upland rocky moorland plateau.

**3.31** The addition of Fiodhag Wind Farm will increase the influence of turbines in the moorland plateau to the west of the Site, although on the edge of the plateau near its transition to Strathglass. The proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm will introduce visibility of wind turbines in views south from parts of Glen Urquhart, though appearing most evident in areas to the west within or near Strathglass and Glen Affric. Fiodhag Wind Farm will extend across a wide angle of the skyline where views east and south-east are available from Strathglass (refer to **AI Figure 6.17d-f**, VP4: Affric Kintail Way West of Cannich). The Proposed Development will appear in a slightly different angle of the view, increasing the horizontal extent of turbines north of the ridgeline which forms part of the skyline in views east. However, given the partial screening of the Proposed Development by intervening landform and the relatively small angle of the view occupied by the Proposed Development, the level of additional cumulative effect will remain as **Minor (not significant)**.

**3.32** In views from elevated landform located near the north-eastern edge of the Glen Affric NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.18c-d**, VP5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric), Fiodhag Wind Farm will appear in front of the operational Corrimony, operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation Wind Farms, increasing the horizontal extent of turbines on the skyline of views. Fiodhag Wind Farm will be perceptibly more prominent than these other wind farms, given its location closer to the viewpoint, with limited intervening forestry or woodland screening views towards these turbines. The Proposed Development will be seen beyond Fiodhag Wind Farm, with turbines contained beyond intervening landform and appearing of a more comparable vertical scale to the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. When considered under this future baseline scenario, the introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative effect for views from VP5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric.

**3.33** Fiodhag Wind Farm will also increase the influence of wind turbines in outward views east and north-east from the NSA, extending across a wide horizontal extent of views where seen from elevated landform and hill summits within the NSA, and appearing as the closest wind farm in these views (refer to **AI Figure 6.22d-f**, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, **AI Figure 6.23c-d**, VP10: Creag Dhubh, **AI Figure 6.31e-h**, VP18: Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.33c-d**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean). Under this future baseline scenario, the Proposed Development would often be seen beyond Fiodhag Wind Farm, as an extension to the more distant cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich Wind Farms and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation. When considered under this future baseline scenario, the introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative effect for views from Viewpoint 9 - Meall Mor, above Glen Affric and Viewpoint 10 - Creag Dhubh

(daytime), which is a reduced level of effect from the primary assessment, and Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 cumulative assessments. However, at this stage it is understood to be unlikely that the Fiodhag Wind Farm proposal would progress to application in its current form (46-turbines at 149.9m to blade tip height).

**3.34** Fiodhag Wind Farm will also appear in lower-lying views from the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.28e-h**, VP15: Core Path at Loch Affric), although turbines will be partly screened by intervening landform and will appear in a similar angle of the view as the turbines of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear beyond the operational Corrimony Wind Farm and proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm, with several turbines appearing against the skyline and increasing the horizontal extent of turbines between Corrimony, Fiodhag and the most northerly turbines of Chrathaich Wind Farm.

**3.35** Other proposed wind farms (at scoping stage), located beyond 20km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, will increase the presence of wind turbines in views, typically from hill summits and upland areas, although cumulative interactions with the Proposed Development will be limited given the intervening distance. Many of these proposed scoping stage schemes also consolidate existing and emerging clusters of wind farm development found to the south and north of the Great Glen whilst generally maintaining the pattern of wind energy development.

**3.36** The cumulative magnitude of change and resulting visual effects resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under Scenario 3 will reduce to minor (not significant) for views experienced from elevated landform and summits within or near the north-east of the NSA, given the presence of Fiodhag Wind Farm in these views. The cumulative magnitude of change and resulting visual effects for all other visual receptors under Scenario 3 will otherwise remain as identified in the Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 assessments (refer to **Table A.1**).

## Cumulative Effects on Designated Landscapes

### Glen Affric NSA

**3.37** The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm is located approximately 8.5km to the east of the Glen Affric NSA<sup>22</sup>. The Proposed Development is located approximately 10.5km to the east of the Glen Affric NSA<sup>23</sup>. The introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will be most relevant to views from hill summits within the NSA, and SLQ6 (*"A historic and popular route through the Highlands"*), though related to the experience from the hills surrounding the glen and not the *"popular route"* of the Affric Kintail Way, which passes at lower elevation through the glen. Under this future baseline scenario, the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will be seen slightly in front of the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farms, extending the influence of wind turbines towards the NSA (though seen at a comparable or greater intervening distance than the operational Corrimony Wind Farm). The scheme will also increase the horizontal extent of turbines seen as part of this emerging cluster of development in views from summits and elevated landform within the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.22a-c** and **AI Figure 6.22g-h**, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric and **AI Figure 6.23a-b** and **AI Figure 6.23e-f**, VP10: Creag Dubh, **AI Figure 6.31a-d** and **AI Figure 6.31i-j**, VP18: Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.32a-b**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean). The introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will make the 'perceived edge' of the NSA slightly more defined in views east and north-east, given the emerging influence of wind energy development. The introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in views from summits and elevated landform within the NSA, though forming a coherent and cohesive cluster of turbines alongside the operational Bhlaraidh, consented Bhlaraidh Extension and consented Chrathaich Wind Farms. The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm will exert an additional influence on views from upland areas and hill summits within the NSA.

**3.38** Under a future baseline scenario which includes schemes at scoping stage (Scenario 3), the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm will further increase the influence of wind turbines in outward views east and north-east from the NSA, with turbines extending across a wide angle of views available from elevated landform and hill summits within the NSA, and appearing as the closest wind farm in views to the east and north-east (refer to **AI Figure 6.22d-f**, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, **AI Figure 6.23c-d**, VP10: Creag Dubh, **AI Figure 6.31e-h**, VP18: Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.32c-d**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean). The introduction of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm will make the 'perceived edge' of the NSA more defined in views east and north-east, given the more extensive presence of wind turbines in these views. Under this future baseline scenario, the Proposed Development would be seen beyond Fiodhag Wind Farm, forming an extension to the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich Wind Farms and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation. In views from elevated landform and summits within the NSA (refer to **AI Figure 6.22d-f**, VP9: Meall Mor, above Glen Affric, **AI Figure 6.23c-d**, VP10: Creag Dhubh, **AI Figure 6.31e-h**, VP18:

<sup>22</sup> Measured from the outermost wind turbine of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm.

<sup>23</sup> Measured from the outermost wind turbine of the Proposed Development.

Toll Creagach and **AI Figure 6.32c-d**, VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean), Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm (at scoping stage) will appear as a separate and distinct cluster to other operational, consented and proposed wind farms in the view. The Proposed Development will appear in a similar angle of the view as the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, consented Chrathaich and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation Wind Farms in views from these summits.

**3.39** As for the primary assessment within **Appendix 6.3: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (AESLQ)** which accompanies the LVIA, effects resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development on SLQ6 (*"A historic and popular route through the Highlands"*) under the updated future baseline scenarios will remain as **Moderate (significant)** additional cumulative effect for localised extents of the NSA, limited to hill summits and elevated landform near the eastern boundary of the NSA (within approximately 16km of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, near Meall Mor AESLQ01/VP9 and elevated slopes Doire Mhor). However, this SLQ is most strongly expressed in the more popular and frequented lower-lying routes along the floor and lower slopes of the glen, and from remote hill summits in the west of the NSA, where the Proposed Development would result in **Minor (not significant)** additional cumulative effects. As such, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not compromise the objectives of designation and the integrity of the Glen Affric NSA under any of the cumulative assessment scenarios considered (Scenario 1, 2 and 3).

### Loch Ness and Duntelchaig Special Landscape Area (SLA)

**3.40** The proposed Glen Earrach PSH is located within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, and will result in direct effects to the SLA and a change to views from the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (refer to **AI Figure 6.15i-j**, VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh). The introduction of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH scheme will increase the horizontal extent of human influence in views west from this vantage point within the SLA, though seen in the opposite direction of views as *"the massive scale and alignment of the Great Glen fault"*. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh and consented Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms, though also seen in the context of a landscape modified by the Glen Earrach PSH scheme. As for the primary assessment within the original LVIA (refer to Table 6.43 of the LVIA), given the existing and emerging influence of other development in views, and the direction of views looking away from the Great Glen, the introduction of the Proposed Development to this cumulative scenario will not significantly affect the integrity of the SLA by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.

**3.41** In a future baseline scenario which includes schemes at scoping stage (Scenario 3), the proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation and Cnoc Farasd will also be seen in views from the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (refer to **AI Figure 6.15e-h**, VP2: Meall Fuar-mhonaidh). The addition of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation to this future baseline scenario will result in views of larger turbines than those of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension (230m as opposed to 180m to blade tip height). In contrast, the Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm will appear as a separate and distinct cluster to other operational, consented and proposed wind farms seen within the panoramic views from this hill summit, increasing the horizontal extent of turbines further north, north-west. The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of the cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich Wind Farms and proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, though also seen in the context of a landscape modified by the Glen Earrach PSH scheme. In views from elevated sections of the B862 which overlook Loch Ness (refer to **AI Figure 6.29b** and **AI Figure 6.29e-f**, VP16: B862 south of Dores), the turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will be more perceptible (when compared to the consented Bhlaraidh Extension), albeit in reasonably distant views. The Proposed Development will appear in a similar angle of the view, and turbines will appear smaller in scale beyond those of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation. Turbines within this emerging cluster will appear as relatively distant features, beyond the containing landform on either side of the Great Glen. These developments will not undermine the *"striking profile of the glen"* and will not form distinctive skyline features which detract from the *"distinctive views of grand proportions and long vistas along a vast expanse of the loch"* given the intervening distance and proportion of the view occupied by turbines. As for the primary assessment within the original LVIA (refer to Table 6.43 of the LVIA), given the existing and emerging influence of other development in views, the direction, context or intervening distance in which the Proposed Development will be seen (beyond or in the opposite direction as the Great Glen), the introduction of the Proposed Development to this cumulative scenario will not significantly affect the integrity of the SLA by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated, under any of the cumulative assessment scenarios considered (Scenario 1, 2 and 3).

### Cumulative Effects Arising From Visible Aviation Lighting

**3.42** The primary assessment within **Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment** of the 2023 EIA Report considered the potential effects resulting from visibility of turbine aviation lighting associated with the Proposed

Development, against a night-time baseline which included operational/under construction wind farms. Visible lighting on the nacelles of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm was considered as part of the existing baseline of the primary assessment.

**3.43 Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment** of the 2023 EIA Report also considered the potential for cumulative effects resulting from visibility of turbine aviation lighting of the following wind farms (Scenario 1):

- The proposed Tomchrasky Wind Farm (14 turbines at 185m blade tip height);
- Bunloinn Wind Farm, which was proposed as 10 turbines at 230m blade tip height at the time of the 2023 EIA Report assessment and was subsequently consented with 10 turbines at 200 m blade tip height; and
- Kirkan Wind Farm, which was proposed as 17 turbines at 175m blade tip height at the time of the 2023 EIA Report assessment and has since been consented.

**3.44** The 2024 SEI Report considered the addition of the following wind farms which had entered the planning system by October 2024 (Scenario 2), which will also require aviation lighting should they be consented and constructed:

- The proposed Culachy Wind Farm (8 turbines at 200m blade tip height); and
- The proposed Dell 2 Wind Farm (9 turbines at 200 m blade tip height).

**3.45** Since October 2024, several other wind energy developments have entered the planning system which will require visible aviation lighting by virtue of the height of their proposed turbines (e.g.  $\geq 150\text{m}$  to blade tip height). These include the following proposals (Scenario 1 and Scenario 2), as detailed in **AI Table 2.1** and shown on **AI Figures 6.7c** and **6.7d**:

- Tomchrasky Wind Farm has now been consented (14 turbines at 185m blade tip height);
- An application for the proposed Lynemore Wind Farm has been submitted (14 turbines at 200m blade tip height);
- An application for the proposed Highland Wind Farm has been submitted (19 turbines at up to 230m blade tip height);
- An application for the proposed Carn Fearna Wind Farm has been submitted (9 turbines at up to 200m blade tip height); and
- An application for the proposed Clune Wind Farm has been submitted (26 turbines at up to 200m blade tip height).

**3.46** As detailed in Chapter 1, this updated cumulative assessment also considers a more speculative and less certain future cumulative baseline situation that assumes all design/scoping stage wind energy developments are consented and constructed, and therefore present in the landscapes of the study area. Since the original 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report were prepared the following design/scoping stage wind energy proposals have entered the preliminary stages of the planning system which will require visible aviation lighting:

- Bhlaraidh Extension (S36C) Variation Wind Farm (15 turbines of up to 230m blade tip height);
- Millennium East Wind Farm (8 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height);
- Ballach Wind Farm (20 turbines of up to 230m blade tip height);
- Fairburn Extension Wind Farm (14 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height);
- Beinneun 2 Wind Farm (22 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height);
- Carn na Saobhaidh Wind Farm (29 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height);
- Tarvie Wind Farm (11 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height);
- Beinn Bheag Wind Farm (28 turbines of up to 230m blade tip height); and
- Kyllachy Wind Farm (11 turbines of up to 200m blade tip height).

**3.47** As for day-time effects arising in the cumulative LVIA, the cumulative effects of greatest importance arising from the introduction of multiple developments with a necessity for visible aviation lighting are generally focused within the immediate proximity of the Site and Proposed Development – e.g. within approximately 20km of the Proposed Development. Whilst visible aviation lighting may be evident over greater distances than 20km, good practice from



NatureScot<sup>4</sup> outlines that “*Experience suggests that a study area of between approximately 10km - 20km, depending on the extent of predicted visibility and relevant sensitivities, should be sufficient to ensure significant effects are captured.*” (para. 58).

**3.48 AI Figures 6.7c and 6.7d** also illustrate existing light pollution arising from sources of artificial light. The UK wide dataset, developed as part of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Night Blight: Mapping England's Light pollution and dark skies<sup>24</sup> provides detail of the level of radiance (light pollution) shining up into the night sky. Sources of light are generally focused around settlements and areas of scattered rural habitation (e.g. from street lights and property lights etc.) along the glens and straths found across the study area. As detailed in the NatureScot guidance, due to the nature of aviation obstruction warning lighting as points of red light, they ‘*will not cause sky glow*’ (paragraph 26).

### Cumulative Scenario 1

**3.49** Under a future baseline scenario which includes operational, under construction and consented wind farms (Scenario 1), the additional presence of the now consented Tomchrasky Wind Farm will result in an increase in visible aviation lighting across the study area beyond that originally considered within **Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment** of the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report.

**3.50** Aviation lighting associated with the consented Tomchrasky Wind Farm will be seen in views near Glen Moriston and some hill summits and upland areas to the north and south of Glen Affric. Whilst this will result in an increase in the overall visible aviation lighting experienced from parts of the study area, the consented Tomchrasky Wind Farm will typically be seen in a different direction of the view to the Proposed Development (i.e. VP18: Toll Creagach and VP19: Sgurr nan Conbhairean), or will appear separate to the Proposed Development due to the intervening distance. The level of effect during hours of darkness resulting from the introduction of the visible aviation lighting associated with the Proposed Development under the Scenario 1 cumulative baseline will remain as identified in the 2023 EIA Report LVIA and 2024 SEI Report.

### Cumulative Scenario 2

**3.51** Under a future baseline scenario which includes operational, under construction, consented and proposed wind farms (Scenario 2), the presence of the additional proposed wind farms of Culachy, Dell 2, Lynemore, Highland, Carn Fearn and Clune will introduce a wider pattern of visible aviation lighting throughout the study area. This overall increase in visible aviation lighting will be most perceptible from hill summits, although lighting associated with these other developments will typically be seen in a different direction of the view as the Proposed Development, or will appear separate to the Proposed Development due to intervening distance. The level of effect during hours of darkness resulting from the introduction of the visible aviation lighting associated with the Proposed Development under the Scenario 2 cumulative baseline will remain as identified in the 2023 EIA Report LVIA and 2024 SEI Report.

### Cumulative Scenario 3

**3.52** Under a future baseline scenario which includes operational, under construction, consented, proposed and design/scoping stage wind farms (Scenario 3), the presence of the additional proposed wind farm of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will form the most relevant addition to the cumulative baseline in relation to the Proposed Development. As illustrated by the CZTV on **AI Figure 6.40b**, aviation lighting associated with Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will typically be seen in similar parts of the study area as the Proposed Development, including summits to the north and south of Glen Affric, parts of the northern slopes of Glen Urquhart, the summit of Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, and other summits and areas of elevated landform within the wider study area. Lighting associated with Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation may introduce visibility of aviation lighting to parts of Glen Moriston, though lighting associated with the consented Tomchrasky will be seen in similar views. Lighting associated with Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation may be seen in views from parts of Loch Ness to the south-east of the Site and occasionally in combination with visible lighting associated with the Proposed Development from parts of Loch Ness to the north-east of the Site. Lighting associated with Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation may also be seen in views from sections of the B862 to the east of the Great Glen, albeit in relatively distant views.

**3.53** The introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will increase the horizontal extent of views with visible aviation lighting present from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (VP2), although the aviation lighting associated with Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation will also appear prominent in these views as it will be seen at or

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<sup>24</sup> For details on the methodology and background associated with this dataset, please see the LUC Background and Methodology Report here: [http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/images/resources/Englands\\_Light\\_Pollution\\_and\\_Dark\\_Skies\\_LUC\\_Report.pdf](http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/images/resources/Englands_Light_Pollution_and_Dark_Skies_LUC_Report.pdf)



near to full luminous intensity due to the associated viewing angle between receptors at the hill summit and the nacelles of the turbines on which the lights will be situated. As identified for the assessment of visual effects during the day, the presence of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation in the baseline view during hours of darkness will exert an adverse influence due to visibility of aviation lighting. As such and as identified for the assessment of visual effects during the day, the level of effect associated with the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will result in a **Moderate (significant)** additional cumulative visual effect, reducing from the **Major (significant)** effect identified under the primary assessment.

**3.54** Other additional proposed wind farms which will introduce a wider pattern of visible aviation lighting under this future baseline scenario include Millennium East, Ballach, Fairburn Extension, Beinneun 2, Carn na Saobhaidh, Tarvie, Beinn Bheag and Kyllachy. This overall increase in visible aviation lighting will be most perceptible from hill summits, although lighting associated with these other developments will typically be seen in a different direction of the view as the Proposed Development, or will appear separate to the Proposed Development due to intervening distance.

## Combined Cumulative Effects

**3.55** As detailed in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, GLVIA3 refers to the focus of cumulative LVIA being either *“additional effects of the main project under consideration, or on the combined effects of all the past, present and future proposals together with the new project.”* (paragraph 7.18), but in doing so acknowledges that *“...assessing combined effects involving a range of different proposals at different stages in the planning process can be very complex.”*

**3.56** Therefore, this type of cumulative effect is only described where it is considered likely to be a relevant consideration in the determination of the Proposed Development. In considering the detailed cumulative landscape and visual effects assessed in the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, broad observations were made within the summary of effects relating to how the combined cumulative effects of multiple future wind farm developments may influence landscape character, views and visual amenity and designated landscapes. Similar commentary related to broad observations on combined cumulative effects, focused on key changes to the cumulative position since the submission of the 2023 EIA Report and 2024 SEI Report, are provided below, and consider the emerging cumulative pattern of operational, consented and proposed wind energy development. In addition to the existing, consented and proposed developments considered previously, a high-level consideration of potential combined cumulative effects arising from the introduction of all design/scoping stage schemes (as detailed in **AI Table 2.1** and shown on **AI Figure 6.7b**) is included below.

**3.57** The introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm to the Scenario 1 cumulative baseline will result in further intensification of wind farm development within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. In combination with operational and consented wind farms the Proposed Development will intensify effects of wind turbines on LCT 222, within which Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms are located and would have a strong characterising effect on the interior of this LCT. Areas in the south-west of the LCT and along the transitional edges of the LCT would remain without direct influence of wind turbines. Whilst views of turbines will be experienced from the majority of LCT 222, a clear pattern of wind farm development will be perceived, with a consolidated cluster of turbines located within the central interior of the plateau. Whilst the Proposed Development will contribute to combined cumulative effects on this LCT, wind farm development will not become the defining feature of the whole LCT, and the characteristics of the LCT will not become subservient to wind turbines.

**3.58** The introduction of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH to the Scenario 2 cumulative baseline will result in further intensification of energy infrastructure within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness. However, as for the Scenario 1 assessment, the wind turbines of Bhlaraidh, Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms, and the Proposed Development will form a consolidated cluster of wind energy development and appear alongside the infrastructure of the technologically complementary Glen Earrach PSH development within the central interior of the plateau.

**3.59** The introduction of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the less certain Scenario 3 cumulative baseline will result in further intensification of development within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness, extending and intensifying the presence of wind turbines within the west of the host unit of the LCT, slightly breaking with the emerging cumulative pattern of development within the interior of the plateau.

**3.60** The 2023 EIA Report LVIA cumulative assessment acknowledged that the presence of all operational, consented and proposed developments was likely to result in a substantial change in parts of the landscape and some views, but that the contribution of the Proposed Development to these combined cumulative landscape and visual effects was judged to be no greater than reported in the primary LVIA and will not tip the balance towards significant combined

cumulative effects. The Proposed Development will appear as part of an emerging and consolidated cluster of turbines formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind farm, and consented Bhlaraidh Extension (or proposed scoping stage Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation) and Chrathaich Wind Farms. The changes to the cumulative baseline scenarios considered in the assessment (i.e. Scenario 1, 2 and 3, as detailed in **AI Table 2.1** above) are not considered to alter the findings of the 2023 EIA Report LVIA assessment of combined cumulative effects.

## Chapter 4

# Updated Appraisal against THC Supplementary Guidance Landscape and Visual Criteria

**4.1** THC Onshore Wind Supplementary Guidance (SG) sets out ten landscape and visual factors that THC will use as a framework for assessing proposals. The criteria are not policy but seek to ensure that Applicants are aware of key constraints to development, which should be taken account of when progressing the assessment and design of wind energy proposals.

**4.2** An assessment of the Proposed Development against the ten criteria is set out **Table 6.45** of the 2023 EIA Report and **Table 4.2** of the 2024 SEI Report. Criteria 6, 7 and 9 are specifically related to the consideration of cumulative effects. As such, an update to the assessment of these criteria is provided in **AI Table 4.1**, below, reflecting key changes to the cumulative baseline set out in **AI Table 2.1**.

*AI Table 4.1: Updated Appraisal of Development against THC SG Landscape & Visual Criteria*

| Criterion                                                           | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Criterion 6</b>                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>The existing pattern of Wind Energy Development is respected</b> | <p>The degree to which the proposal fits with the existing pattern of nearby wind energy development, considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Turbine height and proportions,</li> <li>■ Density and spacing of turbines within developments,</li> <li>■ Density and spacing of developments,</li> <li>■ Typical relationship of development to the landscape,</li> <li>■ Previously instituted mitigation measures,</li> <li>■ Planning Authority stated aims for development of area.</li> </ul> | <p>As described in <b>Table 6.45</b> of the 2023 EIA Report LVIA, the Proposed Development was designed as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, with the design of the layout also taking into account the potential future presence of the consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm. Whilst the introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm also forms an extension to this cluster, these developments in combination will result in a consolidated group of turbines. The consented Bhlaraidh Extension and Proposed Development will appear of similar turbine height and proportions, whilst the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm and operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm would appear slightly smaller in scale.</p> <p>As identified in the decision letter for the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm<sup>25</sup>, the operational wind farm “has been designed to reduce landscape intrusion by its compactness and being set back into the interior of the upland plateau area”. The Proposed Development will be located within the interior of the elevated plateau, set back from the edge of the plateau away from the Great Glen, which minimises visibility of the</p> |

<sup>25</sup> The Scottish Government Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Electricity Division, ‘Consent and Deemed Planning Permission by The Scottish Ministers to Construct and Operate The Bhlaraidh Wind Powered Electricity Generating Station Near Invermoriston, Highlands’ (17 January 2014). ECU planning reference: EC00003142.

| Criterion                                                                                                                                                           | Measure                                                                                                                 | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:<br/>The proposal contributes positively to existing pattern or objectives for development in the area.</p> |                                                                                                                         | <p>Proposed Development from the glen. The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm follows a similar pattern and will be located broadly within the interior of the plateau above the Great Glen.</p> <p>The siting of the Proposed Development also considers the relationship of the turbine layout to the underlying landform within and surrounding the site in views from the Glen Affric NSA. The Proposed Development will appear partially screened in views from the Glen Affric NSA, beyond intervening landform located along the western boundary of the Loch Liath site.</p> <p>The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm reflects a slightly different underlying pattern of development, in that the wind farm is more closely related to the west-facing slopes located west of Meall a Chrathaich, which is more perceptible in elevated views from the Glen Affric NSA. However, the 13-turbine consented scheme has slightly reduced visibility from lower-lying parts of Glen Affric NSA.</p> <p>The proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm (at Scoping) would reflect a slightly different underlying pattern of development, extending and intensifying the presence of wind turbines to the west and south-west of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would appear separate to this emerging cluster, forming part of a more consolidated cluster alongside the operational Bhlaraidh, consenting Bhlaraidh Extension (or the proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, under Scenario 3) and consented Chrathaich Wind Farms.</p> <p>Under Scenario 3, the proposed Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm (at scoping) would introduce turbines into a new area north of Glen Urquhart which is otherwise largely unaffected by wind energy development, breaking from the existing pattern of development found west and east of the Great Glen. The Proposed Development would however, have limited direct interaction with this proposed scheme, rarely appearing in combined, or close successive views.</p> |
| <b>Criterion 7</b>                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>The need for separation between developments and/ or clusters is respected</b></p>                                                                            | <p>The extent to which the proposal maintains or affects the spaces between existing developments and/ or clusters.</p> | <p>The SG notes that within LN10 there <i>"is no clear pattern, beyond presence within the Plateau area"</i>. Separation of developments is considered to be of greater importance for wind farms to the east of the Great Glen within LN6: Monadhliath ridge and tops, Rolling Uplands, for which the SG notes that <i>"maintaining space between the developments is important to prevent coalescence."</i></p> <p>As noted in <b>Table 6.45</b> of the 2023 EIA Report LVIA, the Proposed Development will be located within the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:<br/>The proposal maintains appropriate and effective separation between developments and/ or clusters.</p> |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Criterion                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Measure                                                                                                   | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                           | <p>interior of the plateau area of LN10 and will appear as an extension to the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, forming a consolidated cluster of development which is distinct from other wind farms to the west of the Great Glen, including the cluster formed by the operational Millennium, Beinneun and Beinneun Extension Wind Farms. The consented Chrathaich Wind Farm would form a westerly extension to this cluster, bringing turbines closer to the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, though the cluster will remain distinct from other existing and emerging clusters of development to the west of the Great Glen.</p> <p>The proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm (at scoping) would extend the presence of wind turbines to the west and south-west of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, though the gap between this emerging cluster and the cluster formed by the operational Bhlaraidh, consenting Bhlaraidh Extension (or proposed Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation) and consented Chrathaich Wind Farms would still remain.</p> <p>Under Scenario 3, the proposed Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm (at scoping) would introduce turbines into a new area north of Glen Urquhart which is otherwise largely unaffected by wind energy development, breaking from the existing pattern of development found west and east of the Great Glen. The Proposed Development would however, have limited direct interaction with this proposed scheme, rarely appearing in combined, or close successive view and a degree of separation between the Proposed Development and this scheme would be maintained.</p> |
| Criterion 9                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Landscape setting of nearby wind energy developments is respected                                                                                                                                               | The extent to which the landscape setting of nearby wind energy developments is affected by the proposal. | <p>The SG notes that within LN10, proposed wind farms should “<i>minimise visual confusion from higher ground to the west and north and with Meall Fuar-mhonaidh</i>”. As noted in Table 6.45 of the LVIA, the turbine layout of the Proposed Development was reduced from 26 turbines (Scoping Layout) to 13 turbines, with a key objective of the design strategy to reduce the horizontal (north-south) extent of turbines in views from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh. The refinement of the turbine layout has taken into consideration the appearance of the Proposed Development in combination with the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, as seen in views from key locations within the Study Area (including Meall Fuar-mhonaidh). Whilst the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm would increase the depth of the view west occupied by turbines, all four wind farms would form a consolidated cluster of turbines in views from Meall Fuar-mhonaidh, and introduce relatively limited areas of additional visibility of turbines from the landscapes surrounding the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Development should seek to achieve a threshold where:</p> <p>Proposal relates well to the existing landscape setting and does not increase the perceived visual prominence of surrounding wind turbines.</p> |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Criterion | Measure | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           |         | <p>developments.</p> <p>The proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm (at Scoping) would be mostly screened by intervening landform in views from Meall Fuar-mhonaigh, though where visible would also increase the depth of the view west occupied by turbines. The nearest turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation (at scoping) would appear larger in scale (as compared to the consented scheme), and therefore slightly more prominent in views from the hill summit. The turbine scale of the Proposed Development would appear comparable with some of the more distant turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, though slightly smaller in scale than the nearest turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation.</p> <p>Under Scenario 3, the proposed Cnoc Farasd Wind Farm (at scoping) would introduce turbines into a new area north of Glen Urquhart and would have limited direct interaction with the Proposed Development and other existing, consented and proposed wind farms within this consolidated cluster south of Glen Urquhart. A degree of separation between the Proposed Development and this scheme would be maintained.</p> |



## Chapter 5

### Conclusions

#### Summary of Changes to Significance of Effects

**5.1** A key change to the cumulative baseline situation considered under Scenario 1 includes the introduction of the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm, located approximately 0.6km to the west of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Chrathaich Wind Farm will form a westerly extension to the cluster of wind energy development formed by the operational Bhlaraidh Wind Farm, consented Bhlaraidh Extension Wind Farm, and the Proposed Development. Whilst it would be located within the same host LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness as the existing and other consented developments, Chrathaich Wind Farm would bring development closer to the Glen Affric NSA than these developments, and the Proposed Development, located on west-facing slopes to the west of Meall a Chrathaich (679m AOD) from elevated areas across much of the NSA. The Proposed Development will be seen beyond the consented Chrathaich Wind Farm in views east from elevated areas of the NSA. **However, the level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline cumulative scenario will remain as assessed under the primary assessment.**

**5.2** The introduction of the proposed Glen Earrach PSH to the cumulative baseline situation considered under Scenario 2 will increase the influence of energy infrastructure within close proximity of the Loch Liath Site. This development will be located within the same host Rocky Moorland Plateau LCT as the existing (Bhlaraidh Wind Farm) and consented wind farm developments (Bhlaraidh Extension and Chrathaich Wind Farms), with these developments forming a relatively consolidated cluster of development within the interior of the plateau. **The level of additional cumulative effect resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development under this future baseline scenario will remain as assessed under the primary assessment.**

**5.3** This AI Report considers a less certain future baseline scenario which includes wind farms at scoping (Scenario 3), given the addition of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation, Cnoc Farasd and Fiodhag Wind Farms within relatively close proximity of the Loch Liath Site. Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation would slightly increase the scale of the tallest turbines within the cluster formed by the operational Bhlaraidh, consented Chrathaich and Proposed Development, with turbines of Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation proposed at a proposed blade tip height of 230m. Bhlaraidh Extension - S36C Variation would also increase the influence of visible aviation lighting within this emerging cluster of wind farms which includes the Proposed Development Site, with aviation lighting likely to be seen across very similar extents of the study area as those associated with the Proposed Development.

**5.4** The addition of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm will increase the influence of wind turbines within LCT 222: Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness further west and south-west of the operational Corrimony Wind Farm, introducing further wind energy development closer to the edge of the LCT near its transition to the lower-lying landscape of Strathglass. Fiodhag Wind Farm will extend across a wide angle of views from Strathglass and the Glen Affric NSA, where visible. Particularly in views east and north-east from elevated landform and hill summits within or near the Glen Affric NSA, the turbines of the proposed Fiodhag Wind Farm will extend across a wide horizontal extent of many views from the NSA, and will appear as the closest wind farm in views to the east and north-east, forming a more discernible 'edge' to the NSA. When considered under a future baseline scenario which includes Fiodhag Wind Farm, the introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a **Minor (not significant)** effect for views from Viewpoint 5: Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric; Viewpoint 9 - Meall Mor, above Glen Affric and Viewpoint 10 - Creag Dhubh (daytime), representing a reduction in the level of effect from the primary, Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 assessments. However, at this stage it is understood to be unlikely that the Fiodhag Wind Farm proposal would progress to application in its current form (46-turbines at 149.9m to blade tip height).

## Appendix A

### Summary of Effects

**A.1 Table A.1** below sets out the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects identified within the updated cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment presented in this AI Report, alongside the cumulative effects identified in the original 2023 LVIA and the 2024 SEI Report.

**Table A.1 Summary of Landscape and Visual Cumulative Effects**

| Receptor                                               | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                   | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Construction Effects</b>                            |                         |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |
| The Site                                               | Medium                  | n/a                                                                                        | n/a                                                                                             | n/a                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Operational Effects on Landscape Character</b>      |                         |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |
| The Site                                               | Medium                  | n/a                                                                                        | n/a                                                                                             | n/a                                                                                                                                       |
| Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (LCT 222), host     | Medium                  | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Broad Steep-Sided Glen (LCT 225)                       | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Wooded Glen – Inverness (LCT 226), host (access track) | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Rugged Massif – Inverness (LCT 220)                    | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                                                |

| Receptor                                                                         | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                               | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2        | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                  |                         | significant)                                                                                           | significant)                                                                                           | significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)                                                                                   |
| Farmed Strath – Inverness (LCT 227)                                              | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)     |
| Rolling Uplands – Inverness (LCT 221)                                            | Medium                  | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)     |
| Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Inverness (LCT 230)                                | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)     |
| <b>Operational Effects on Views and Visual Amenity</b>                           |                         |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |
| Viewpoint 1 - Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield (daytime)                       | High                    | n/a                                                                                                    | n/a                                                                                                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b>                                       |
| Viewpoint 1 - Affric Kintail Way, near Braefield (dusk/night-time) <sup>26</sup> | Medium                  | n/a                                                                                                    | n/a                                                                                                    | n/a                                                                                                                                           |
| Viewpoint 2 - Meall Fuar-mhonaidh                                                | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 3</u> : <b>Moderate</b> |

<sup>26</sup> See **Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment** of the 2023 LVIA

| Receptor                                                   | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                             | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2      | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                            |                         |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      | <b>(significant)</b>                                                                                                                               |
| Viewpoint 3 -<br>Balbeg                                    | High                    | n/a                                                                                                  | n/a                                                                                                  | <u>Scenario 1:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                     |
| Viewpoint 4 -<br>Affric Kintail<br>Way, West of<br>Cannich | High                    | n/a                                                                                                  | n/a                                                                                                  | <u>Scenario 1:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                     |
| Viewpoint 5 -<br>Coire Loch Trail,<br>Glen Affric          | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 6 -<br>B862 near<br>Whitebridge                  | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 7 -<br>A833 near<br>Balnagrantach                | Medium                  | n/a                                                                                                  | n/a                                                                                                  | <u>Scenario 1:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                     |
| Viewpoint 8 -<br>B862 Suidhe<br>Viewpoint                  | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 9 -<br>Meall Mor,<br>above Glen<br>Affric        | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant) |

| Receptor                                                                      | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                               | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2        | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Viewpoint 10 -<br>Creag Dhubh<br>(daytime)                                    | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 10 -<br>Creag Dhubh<br>(dusk/night-time) <sup>26</sup>              | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                                 | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                                 | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)                                 |
| Viewpoint 11 -<br>Carn na Leitire                                             | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 12 -<br>Beinn a' Bha'ach<br>Ard                                     | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 13 -<br>B852 Erchite<br>Wood, east of<br>Loch Ness<br>(picnic area) | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 14 -<br>Meall Dubh                                                  | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)             |
| Viewpoint 15 -<br>Core Path at<br>Loch Affric                                 | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                                                            |

| Receptor                                                     | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                   | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                              |                         |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 | <u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant)                                                                                               |
| Viewpoint 16 - B862 South of Dores                           | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 17 - Carn na Saobhaidhe                            | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 18 - Toll Creagach (daytime)                       | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 18 - Toll Creagach (dusk/night-time) <sup>26</sup> | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                     | <u>Scenario 1</u> : n/a<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)                          | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 19 - Sgurr nan Conbhairean                         | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Viewpoint 20 - Carn Dearg                                    | High                    | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)      | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| <b>Operational Effects on Settlements</b>                    |                         |                                                                                            |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                           |



| Receptor                                                                                                                                               | Sensitivity of Receptor | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                                 | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2          | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Balnain                                                                                                                                                | High                    | n/a                                                                                                      | n/a                                                                                                      | <u>Scenario 1:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 2:</u> n/a<br><u>Scenario 3:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> for localised extent of settlement<br><br>Minor (not significant) for the settlement as a whole |
| <b>Operational Effects on Routes</b>                                                                                                                   |                         |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| B862                                                                                                                                                   | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                       |
| Affric Kintail Way                                                                                                                                     | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                       |
| The Caledonia Way cycle route and the South Loch Ness Trail                                                                                            | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)             | <u>Scenario 1:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> Minor (not significant)                                                       |
| Other rights of way within 5km of the Site (Other Route - H/HI53/1; Recorded Right of Way HI/HI67/1; Other Route HI/HI71/1; and Other Route HI/HI70/1) | High                    | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b> | <u>Scenario 1:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><br><u>Scenario 2:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b><br><br><u>Scenario 3:</u> <b>Moderate (significant)</b>                                     |
| <b>Operational Effects on Designated Landscapes and Wild Land Areas</b>                                                                                |                         |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Receptor                               | Sensitivity of Receptor                | 2023 EIA Report LVIA<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2                       | 2024 SEI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 | 2025 AI – Updated<br>Cumulative Assessment<br>Cumulative Effects:<br>Scenario 1, Scenario 2 and<br>Scenario 3                                     |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Glen Affric NSA <sup>27</sup>          | High                                   | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)  | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Central Highlands WLA 24 <sup>28</sup> | High                                   | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)  | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |
| Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA          | High (medium within localised extents) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant) | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)  | <u>Scenario 1</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 2</u> : Minor (not significant)<br><br><u>Scenario 3</u> : Minor (not significant) |

<sup>27</sup> See **Appendix 6.4: Wild Land Impact Assessment** of the 2023 LVIA

<sup>28</sup> See **Appendix 6.5: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment** of the 2023 LVIA