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For the attention of Debbie Flaherty

Our reference

11057

Date

21 June 2023

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NatureScot Visualisations Clarification

Dear Debbie,

I am writing to you to clarify an element of the application submission following a query that has been raised by a member of the public directly with Statkraft. The query concerned the extent of information shown in the NatureScot compliant visualisations within the Loch Liath Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report). The visualisations (Figures 6.14-6.36, as listed at Appendix A to this letter) include cumulative wirelines with legends which reference design/scoping schemes. However whilst these schemes are shown within the legend, they are not shown within the content of the visualisations. A similar point also applies to the accompanying viewpoint map pages associated with the cumulative wirelines.

To clarify, as set out within the Loch Liath Scoping Report (Dec 2020), the methodology proposed for the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment proposed to include other wind farm developments which are operational, under construction, consented or the subject of a valid application submitted to the relevant authorities, but not yet determined. Wind farms at design/scoping stage were **not** proposed to be included in the cumulative assessment (see Scoping Report para 2.19). In the Scoping Opinion (dated 30 April 2021) the Scottish Ministers did not disagree with this proposal.

This same methodological approach to the assessment of cumulative effects in the landscape and visual impact assessment is set out within Chapter 6 and Appendix 6.1 of the EIA Report (April 2023). Paragraph 6.80 of the LVIA (Chapter 6) notes that *“Proposals that had not yet progressed beyond Scoping stage were not considered within the assessment.”* Schemes included in the cumulative assessment (and shown in cumulative wirelines and **Figure 6.7b**) are detailed in Table 6.8 of **Chapter 6**, which excludes the design/scoping schemes.

The final list of wind farms included in the cumulative assessment was agreed with NatureScot and the Highland Council in October 2022 (see Table 6.8 of Chapter 6). No design/scoping stage wind farms were specifically requested for inclusion by NatureScot or the Highland Council.

This agreed approach was further confirmed by **Figure 6.7a** which does show design/scoping schemes for wider context and included the following informative note “*Schemes at scoping are shown for context. Given the early stage and associated uncertainty of these proposals, schemes which have not yet progressed beyond scoping are not considered within the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment*”

Unfortunately, the standard legend was not updated when producing the visualisations referred to above (and in Appendix A) and so the reference to schemes at design/scoping has been retained even though it was not intended for them to be captured. In essence, this is a typographical error and the assessment is unaffected by the misprint in the legend.

I trust the above clarifies that design/scoping schemes were never intended to be shown in the cumulative wirelines visualisations and the visualisations should, be reviewed alongside the methodology text set out in **Chapter 6** of the EIA Report, and in particular the list of schemes included in the cumulative assessment detailed in Table 6.8.

Yours sincerely

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Appendix A

The relevant figures where the legends make reference to the Design/scoping proposals (NatureScot compliant visualisations only) are as follows:

- Figure 6.14: Viewpoint 1 Affric-Kintail Way, near Braefield (map page, 6.14a-b)
- Figure 6.15: Viewpoint 2 Meall Fuar-mhonaidh (map page, 6.15a-d)
- Figure 6.16: Viewpoint 3 Balbeg (map page, 6.16a-b)
- Figure 6.17: Viewpoint 4 Affric Kintail Way, West of Cannich (map page, 6.17a)
- Figure 6.18: Viewpoint 5 Coire Loch Trail, Glen Affric (map page, 6.18a)
- Figure 6.19: Viewpoint 6 B862 near Whitebridge (map page, 6.19a-c)
- Figure 6.20: Viewpoint 7 A833 near Balnagrantach (map page, 6.20a-b)
- Figure 6.21: Viewpoint 8 B862 Suidhe Viewpoint (map page, 6.21a-b)
- Figure 6.22: Viewpoint 9 Meall Mor, above Glen Affric (map page, 6.22a-b)
- Figure 6.23: Viewpoint 10 Creag Dhubh (map page, 6.23a-b)
- Figure 6.24: Viewpoint 11 Carn na Leitire (map page, 6.24a-d)
- Figure 6.25: Viewpoint 12 Beinn a' Bha'ach Ard (map page, 6.25a-c)
- Figure 6.26: Viewpoint 13 B852 Erchite Wood, east of Loch Ness (picnic area) (map page, 6.26a)
- Figure 6.27: Viewpoint 14 Meall Dubh (map page, 6.27a-d)
- Figure 6.28: Viewpoint 15 Core Path at Loch Affric (map page, 6.28a-c)
- Figure 6.29: Viewpoint 16 B862 South of Dores (map page, 6.29a)
- Figure 6.30: Viewpoint 17 Carn na Saobhaidhe (map page, 6.30a-b)
- Figure 6.31: Viewpoint 18 Toll Creagach (map page, 6.31a-d)
- Figure 6.32: Viewpoint 19 Sgurr nan Conbhairean (map page, 6.32a-d)
- Figure 6.33: Viewpoint 20 Carn Dearg (map page, 6.33a-b)
- Figure 6.34: AESLQ5: Track near Alltbeithe (map page, 6.34a)
- Figure 6.35: AESLQ6: Core Path at Loch Coulavie (map page, 6.35a)
- Figure 6.36: WLA6: Bealach Toll Easa (map page, 6.36a-b)