## **SEI Appendix A: S36 Consultation Response Table**

## Appendix A

## **S36 Consultation Response Table**

Table A.1 S36 Consultee Responses (as of 04.09.2024)

Consultee	Date	Consultee Response	Applicant Response	
Name	Received			
Statutory Consul	tees			
The Highland Council (THC) Holding Response	24/01/24	Roads, Transport and Access  THC's Transport Planning Team has no objection to the application and defer to Transport Scotland. Additional measures have been suggested to include in the final CTMP, subject to not conflicting with Transport Scotland's suggestions as Local Roads Authority.  Wider Access  THC's Access Officer has no objection. Several amendments will be required to make the final version of the Outline Access Management Plan acceptable to the Council, to be secured via planning condition.  Historic Environment	Roads, Transport and Access  The Applicant agrees the additional measures proposed subject to confirmation with Transport Scotland, to be secured in the final CTMP postconsent.  Wider Access  The Applicant submitted an Outline Access	
		THC's Archaeologist has no objection to the application but has confirmed that the CEMP should outline the process by which unexpected discoveries are reported and recorded.  Natural Heritage (including ornithology)  Awaiting formal response from THC's Ecology Officer. However, noted that NatureScot welcome the commitment to include a Breeding Bird Protection Plan; are content with the EIA Report with respect to the red throated diver, subject to the outlined mitigation measures; and welcome the proposed adoption of a Regional Eagle Conservation Management Plan for golden eagles. It is anticipated that this can be secured by a planning condition and will be in line with other schemes in the area.  THC noted NatureScot are content that if the mitigation measures identified for protected species are implemented then they are satisfied there will be no impacts to protected species in line with its standing advice.	Management Plan as part of the 2023 EIA which details mitigation to ensure safe access to existing paths and detailed path upgrades to the upper section of Meall Fuarmhonaidh. The final Access Management Plan will be written post-consent in consultation with The Highland Council.  Historic Environment  The Applicant agrees to providing additional information with respect to the process of recording unexpected within the CEMP.	
			Peat THC note NatureScot raise significant concerns with regards to peat and the level the enhancements proposed, and reiterate NatureScot's concerns (as set out below). Note that several public representations and the Community Councils have raised similar concerns about the impact of the development on peat, including Glen Urquhart Community Council (see below).  Note that SEPA have no objection subject to recommended planning conditions securing a finalised Peat Management	Natural Heritage  The Applicant is content that mitigation will be secured through condition with respect to the ornithological measures.  Peat  This SEI Report also sets out additional information

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		Plan, micro-siting limit to avoid area of deeper peat, floating of tracks as outlined in the application, watercourse design, CEMP, accordance with the Schedule of Good Practice and Mitigation measures and borrow pit restoration and a finalised Decommissioning and Restoration Plan. However, SEPA consider that the delivery of peatland restoration should preferably be in line with the offsetting requirements outlined in NatureScot's peatland guidance.	with respect to how impacts on priority peatland have been addressed. It is understood from discussions with NatureScot that these form a satisfactory basis for an SEI submission.
		THC noted several recommendations and revisions outlined in Ironside Farrar Checking Report regarding the peat landslide hazard risk assessment for the site which should be reviewed and actioned.	Details relating to additional consultation with the Glen Urquhart Community Council are set out below.
		Socio-economic benefits	
		Note that Chapter 13 of the EIA Report identifies that there might be some option for community ownership. THC query whether any further thought gone into what form this may take, and consider it would be beneficial to provide an updated statement on community wealth building that would be used as part of the officers report to the Councils planning	The comments on the Ironside Farrar Checking Report have been addressed and confirmed by Ironside Farrar to be acceptable.
		committee.	Socio-economic benefits
		Advise there is a need to consider the opportunities available from a strategic perspective to ensure that communities across all of Highland benefit. Community benefit will be expected to form part of that strategic consideration, and conditions are anticipated to be imposed to secure the socioeconomic benefits reported in the EIA Report, as well as a scheme for community benefit.	A Socio-Economic Statement is provided as a Supporting Report to this SEI Report which provides details on the potential socio-economic benefits that could accrue from the
		Land and Visual Impact Assessment	Proposed Development.
		Cumulative Impacts: Requires an updated cumulative assessment which captures the submission of Chrathaich Wind Farm (23/03311/S36) and reflects the respective finalised site layout. THC requested up to date ZTVs showing both proposed developments in conjunction with each other, and updated wirelines for all viewpoints in which both schemes are seen together.	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment  Cumulative Impacts: A cumulative ZTV showing areas of visibility of the proposed Chrathaich Wind Farm and Loch Liath Wind
		THC note that an application for Culachy Wind Farm has since been submitted and is pending consideration, and both Corriegarth II and Cloiche Wind Farm can now be reported as consented. It is expected that the updated wireframes, and the associated updates to the LVIA capture the latest cumulative position.	Farm has been prepared as part of this SEI. Refer to SEI Figure 6.37.  Updated cumulative wireline visualisations have been prepared for all LVIA
		Baseline Photography: THC consider photomontages are not in compliance with THC's guidance. Request an improved version for VP18 Toll Creagach which is less hazy.	viewpoints, in accordance with both NatureScot¹ and Highland Council² guidance. Refer to SEI
		Awaiting landscape officer's feedback, but updated cumulative information is required before a formal response from THC's Landscape Officer is provided.	Figures detailed in Chapter 1, and contained in SEI Report Volume 3 and Volume 4
		Other Cumulative Impacts: Advise all Chapters of the EIA Report are reviewed to ensure that the cumulative assessment undertaken do not require updates, ensuring the worst-case scenario has been captured.	respectively. <u>Baseline Photography:</u>

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  SNH (2017). Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2  $^{\rm 2}$  The Highland Council (THC) (2016). Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments

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			Alternative photography, captured by the Applicant for the Chrathaich Wind Farm visualisation from this location has been used for an update to this visualisation. Refer to SEI Figure 6.31k-p.
			Other Cumulative Impacts
			A cut-off date of 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 was agreed with THC for the inclusion of other wind farm developments in the updated cumulative assessment (refer to <b>Table B.1</b> in <b>SEI Appendix B</b> ).
			A cumulative impact assessment update has been undertaken, and is set out in <b>Chapter 4</b> of this SEI Report.
THC Letter following meeting held on the 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	26/06/2024	<ul> <li>Further to the meeting held on the 14th June, THC provided written correspondence confirming that the Proposed Development in its present form is unlikely to receive officer support. THC raised three main concerns:</li> <li>1. Impact on Glen Affric / Great Glen Way: concerns with the introduction of larger turbines visible from the Glen Affric NSA, and effects are compounded by the additional visible aviation lighting.</li> <li>2. Impact on Meall Fuar-Mhonaidh: Concerns with perceived encirclement of the summit, albeit acknowledged that the horizontal extent has reduced through the Proposed Development's design evolution.</li> <li>3. Impact on Loch Ness: introduces larger scale turbines and a greater horizonal array in views where there is no existing or consented wind farm development</li> <li>Concluded that, at present, the impacts are not sufficient mitigated, nor the correct balance struck to allow officers to support the application. Suggested that more could be done to progress a more positive recommendation, including a reduction in the number of turbines. State that "a more meaningful overall improvement would be to maintain the proposed layout and reduce the scale of all turbines to a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m".</li> </ul>	The Applicant responded via email correspondence on the 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 circulating the minutes of the meeting, and setting out why the current layout of the Proposed Development is considered to meet planning policy tests. Furthermore, the correspondence sets out why no further changes have been made to the Proposed Development layout.
THC – email correspondence	27/08/2024	Advised that THC has established a Social Values Charter for Renewables Investment, and invited the Applicant to review the charter and provide a statement detailing the commitments proposed as part of the Proposed Development, and submit it concurrently with the SEI.  THC confirmed the scope of the material listed by LUC and agreed the cumulative list, noting one minor discrepancy with	A Socio-Economic Statement is provided as a Supporting Report to this SEI Report which provides details on the potential socio-economic benefits that could accrue from the Proposed Development.

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		respect to the tip height at Dumnaglass (operational turbines are circa 120 m and not 125 m to blade tip).	
THC – email correspondence	28/08/2024	THC advised that Gail Ward should be the point of contact for the Social Values Charter for Renewable Energy Investment going forward.	The Applicant, and MKA- Economics, are due to meet with Gail Ward on the 11 <sup>th</sup> October. This has informed the Socio- economic report which has been provided as part of this SEI Report.
Historic Environment Scotland	16/08/2023	No objection  Content that sufficient information supplied in the EIA Report to come to a view on the application. Welcome the provision of specific visualisations which has assisted with assessment of effects. Content that methodology used for assessment adheres to the principles laid out in the Environmental Impact Handbook (SNH 2018). Disagree with the level of impact for the scheduled monuments considered in the assessment, but their own assessment does not identify any effects that would be significant in EIA terms.  HES recommend the Applicant should seek advice from Highland Council's archaeology and conservation advisers for matters including unscheduled archaeology and category B and C-listed buildings.  HES accept the conclusion that the ZTV demonstrates no theoretical impact on Urquhart Castle, but disagree with the statement that the proposals would have "no effect" on the setting of Urquhart Castle. By being visible in important views towards Urquhart Castle, as demonstrated in Figures 108., 10.9, and 10.11, consider that the proposals would have an effect on this monument's setting.  Recommend that the Applicant explore options to further reduce the number and extent of turbine hubs and masts that would be visible in views of Urquhart Castle and views from Garbeg.	As noted above, the Highland Council archaeologist did not object to the proposal. No further design changes are proposed.
SEPA	11/08/2023	No objection, subject to additional conditions  A finalised Peat Management Plan should be prepared which should demonstrate how micro-siting and other measures have been used to further minimise peat disturbance.  Micrositing of up to 50m, but not onto peat deeper than currently shown for the relevant infrastructure on the figures in Appendix 7.2 of the 2023 EIA Report.  Tracks to be floated as shown on Figure 4.1 of the 2023 EIA Report.  Production of, and adherence to, a finalised Restoration and Enhancement Plan.  All watercourse crossings to follow the design specifications outlined in Appendix 7.5 Watercourse Crossing Inventory.  Ensure that construction works are carried out in line with the measures prescribed in the submission	Noted. The Applicant is agrees to appropriately worded condition to address SEPA's concerns. It should be noted that Figure 8.9 will now be replaced by SEI Figure 8.9, and is provided as part of this SEI Report.

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		adherence to the Outline CEMP (Appendix 4.1), and the Schedule of Good Practice and Mitigation Measures (Appendix 4.2).	
		Borrow pit restoration at the end of the construction phase to ensure reinstatement and decommissioning works are carried out sensitively with respect to the environment.	
		Finalised Decommissioning and Restoration Plan with proposals in line with SEPA's guidance on the life extension and decommissioning of onshore wind farms.	
NatureScot	14/12/2023	Holding Objection	Two additional virtual
		NatureScot considers the Proposed Development would result in impacts on high quality Priority Peatland, and consider the impacts on this habitat have not been fully assessed. This raises an issue of national interest. In addition, the restoration proposals are considered significantly inadequate to offset the impacts of the Proposed Development. Therefore, NatureScot have raised a holding objection, and requested further information on the following:	meeting were held with NatureScot, ECU, the Applicant, OWC Ltd, Fluid Environmental Consulting Ltd and LUC's EIA and Ecology team on the 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2024, and the 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024.
		<ul> <li>A more realistic assessment of the area that will be impacted. Suggested a 30 m buffer to the proposed infrastructure, as it was considered that the 2.5 m buffer is inappropriate for assessing the impacts on peatland, and therefore the calculation of loss is a significant underestimate of what will occur.</li> <li>Increased quantity of restoration proposed to offset the impacts on peatland habitats.</li> <li>A more comprehensive and ambitious outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan, which clearly demonstrates that the areas chosen for restoration are suitable, and that the desired outcomes are likely to be delivered. NatureScot recommend a 1:10 (loss:restoration) multiplier should be applied.</li> <li>Landscape and Visual Impacts</li> <li>Advise that there is likely to be a significant adverse effect on three of the SLQs of Glen Affric NSA however, these effects would not compromise the overall integrity of the NSA. As such, whilst NatureScot consider effects on SLQ's would be significant, these effects would not be to the degree that the objectives of the designation and the overall integrity of the Glen Affric NSA would be compromised.</li> <li>Birds</li> </ul>	Responses are set out in full in Table 2.2 of this SEI Report.  Chapter 3 of this SEI Report sets out how this discussion informed the subsequent updated NVC survey and the new areas identified for peatland restoration. An updated assessment of impacts within the infrastructure footprint plus the 10 m buffer is presented.  The SEI Report was finalised and submitted, setting out the details of the work undertaken (refer to Chapter 3 and SEI Appendix C and D).
		Welcome the Applicant's proposal to include a Breeding Bird Protection Plan (BBPP). The measures in the BBPP should be in line with standing advice for birds and planning consultations.	
		Red-throated diver: the proposals will not have an adverse impact on the Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) 7 (Northern Highlands) population of red-throated diver if the measures detailed in Appendix 4.2 Schedule of Mitigation which includes a BBPP and the provision of a nesting raft as an alternative site are implemented.	

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		Golden Eagle: NatureScot considers that the level of additional mortality from collision risk mortality will not adversely affect the conservation status of golden eagle in NHZ 7. A suitably worded planning condition should be included which requires a RECMP for NHZ 7.	
		Protected Species	
		If the mitigation measures detailed in Appendix 4.2 Schedule of Mitigation, Appendix 4.1 Outline CEMP and the Species Protection Plans are implemented then NatureScot will be satisfied there will be no impacts to protected species.	
Non-Statutory Co	onsultees		
Aberdeen International Airport	01/06/2023	No comment as outside consultation area.	Noted.
BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen)	No response received	N/A	N/A
British Horse Society Scotland	No response received	N/A	N/A
ВТ	22/05/23	No objection	The Applicant will submit
		Requested turbines grid-references to plot exact positions for future reference.	'as built' turbine grid references to BT.
Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace	No response received	N/A	N/A
Crown Estate Scotland	02/08/2023	No objection	Noted.
Fisheries	29/05/23	No objection	Noted.
Management Scotland		Recommend referring to DSFB guidance during planning, construction and monitoring development.	
Fisheries – Local District Salmon Fisheries	No response received	N/A	N/A
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council	No response received	N/A	N/A
Highland and Islands Airport	27/06/23	No objection  Requested to be reconsulted if any revised changes to parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form and finishing materials).	Noted.

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Ironside Farrar's Checking Report 1	04/09/23	Finds that the PLHRA requires minor revisions: although much of the PLHRA is sound, there are some key elements that are considered to be insufficiently robust to support the PLHRA conclusions and minor revisions are required. Areas of attention will be advised in the review of the findings and may be progressed by the developer through either an appendix to the original submission or by clarification letter.	The Applicant provided additional information to the ECU and Ironside Farrar on the 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 to address queries raised by the State 1 Check Report. Ironside Farrar's Stage 2 Audit (14 <sup>th</sup>
Ironside Farrar's Reponses on Peat Matters	14/05/2024	The Developer's response adequately addresses the queries raised in the Stage 1 Report and the PLHRA is considered acceptable.	May 2024) confirmed the Applicant's response adequately addressed their concerns.
Joint Radio	20/06/23	No objection	Noted.
Company		The Proposed Development is cleared with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by the local energy networks. However, if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal.	
John Muir Trust	No response received	N/A	N/A
Marine Scotland	No response received	N/A	N/A
Mountaineering Scotland	No response received	N/A	N/A
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	30/05/23	No objection  Recommended the following conditions:  Condition - Aviation Lighting	The Applicant is happy to agree to the proposed conditions as suggested by the MoD.
		Prior to commencing construction of any wind turbine generators, or deploying any construction equipment or temporal structure(s) 15.2 metres or more in height (above ground level) the undertaker must submit an aviation lighting scheme for the approval of the Scottish Government in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Defence defining how the development will be lit throughout its life to maintain civil and military aviation safety requirements as required under the Air Navigation Order 2016 determined necessary for aviation safety by the Civil Aviation Authority.	
		This should set out:	
		details of any construction equipment and temporal structures with a total height of 15.2 metres or greater (above ground level) that will be deployed during the construction of wind turbine generators and details of any aviation warning lighting that they will be fitted with; and	
		the locations and heights of all wind turbine generators and any anemometry mast featured in the development identifying those that will be fitted with aviation warning	

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		lighting identifying the position of the lights on the wind turbine generators; the type(s) of lights that will be fitted and the performance specification(s) of the lighting type(s) to be used.	
		Thereafter, the undertaker must exhibit such lights as detailed in the approved aviation lighting scheme. The lighting installed will remain operational for the lifetime of the development.	
		Reason for condition: To maintain aviation safety.	
		Condition - Aviation Charting and Safety Management	
		The undertaker must notify the Ministry of Defence, at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the works, in writing of the following information:	
		the date of the commencement of the erection of wind turbine generators;	
		the maximum height of any construction equipment to be used in the erection of the wind turbines;	
		the date any wind turbine generators are brought into use; and	
		the latitude and longitude and maximum heights of each wind turbine generator, and any anemometer mast(s).	
		The Ministry of Defence must be notified of any changes to the information supplied in accordance with these requirements and of the completion of the construction of the development.	
		Reason for condition: To maintain aviation safety.	
NATS	22/05/23	No objection	Noted.
Safeguarding		Does not conflict with NATS safeguarding criteria. If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.	
Ness & Beauty Fisheries Trust	No response received	N/A	N/A
RSPB Scotland	13/06/23	No comment due to limited capacity to respond to casework.	N/A
Scottish	15/06/2023	No objection	Noted. Scottish Forestry
Forestry		Noted that the site layout plans all show access using existing tracks through woodland. Scottish Forestry should be further consulted if any woodland removal or compensatory planting is required.	will be further consulted should any woodland removal or compensatory planting be required.
		The Applicant should note that any compensatory planting required as a result of the proposed development, may also need to be considered under The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.	

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Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotsWays)	24/07/23	No objection  Welcome the OAMP – suggests applicant liaise with access authority as the site access affects a route recorded in ScotWays record.	Noted.
Scottish Water	15/06/23	No objection	Noted.
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No response received	N/A	N/A
Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	No response received	N/A	N/A
Transport Scotland	26/06/23	Condition 1 – prior to commencement of deliveries to site. proposed route for any abnormal loads on trunk road network must be submitted to/approved by planning authority, in consultation with TS as the truck roads authority  Condition 2 – prior to the movement of any abnormal load any accommodation measures required, removal of street furniture, junction widening, and traffic management must be approved and implemented to the satisfaction of the planning authority, in consultation with TS.  Condition 3 – prior to the movement of any wind turbine components /construction materials, additional signing/temporary traffic control measures deemed necessary due to size or length of any loads being transported must be undertaken by a recognised QA traffic management consultant to be approved by TS.  Condition 4 – prior to commencement of deliveries to site, a CTMP must be submitted to and approved by TS to ensure general construction traffic and abnormal loads can be transported along the trunk road network safely and efficiently.	The Applicant is happy to agree to the conditions suggested by Transport Scotland.
Visit Scotland	No response received	N/A	N/A
Community Coun	cils		
Glen Urquhart Community Council	26/06/23 (reflecting comments raised at Community Council meeting on the 20th June 2023)	Objection  The GUCC have objected for the following reasons:      Peat Management – GUCC note that by reusing peat by excavating and then reusing on site, the Proposed Development will have an overall adverse impact on the environment and carbon release. Details from Peat Management Plan do not align with details in the Carbon Balance Calculator.      Carbon Balance Assessment - note net adverse impact on carbon due to soil carbon losses with soil carbon losses estimated at around 6,000 tonnes. GUCC request the Applicant provide guidance on the	The Applicant responded on the 20.07.2023 seeking to address GUCC's comments. These were responded to on the 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 (see below).

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		alignment of these assessments, and also confirm that details are accurately reflected in the Non-Technical Summary.  Habitat Management – GUCC consider that the OREP does not make reference to the findings or management of all the species noted in the Protected Species Report. Similarly, a number of bird species are noted in the Ornithology assessment, but mitigation only relates to the Golden Eagle breeding site. GUCC propose that is not acceptable and construction will impact this, and other High Nature Conservation species.  Community Benefits - The £5000/MW installed is discretionary and has been at this level since 2014. It's effectively worth less than £4k in real terms now and will decrease each year and the scheme if it were to go ahead would not energised until at least 2027.  Landscape and Visual Amenity - study confirms Major (significant) and Moderate (significant) impact on a number of Landscape Character Types (LCT), including key recreation routes and roads and confirms the development will have a Major or Moderate Residual Effect based on Primary Assessment. Request a 3D model to understand impacts. Note there are no confirmed or noted mitigation plans as part of the Proposed Development. However, GUCC note it is not possible to reasonably mitigate the visual impacts of the Proposed Development.	
Glen Urquhart Community Council – further consultation	14/09/2023	Upheld their objection on the following grounds:  - Visual Impact  - Peat Management  - Environmental Benefits – Carbon Balance Assessment  - Habitat Management – Ornithology  - Community Benefits  - Noise Cumulative with close proximity of Bhlaraidh Wind Farm and extension	Visual Impact  As part of this SEI, further information is provided with respect to the updated cumulative impact of the Proposed Development, with Chrathaich, and the now consented Cloiche and Bunloinn Wind Farms. This includes updated wirelines and photomontages.  Peat Management  An updated OREP is contained within SEI Appendix 8.5. The total area of peatland restoration proposed now comprises 104.8 ha, representing a ratio of 1:9.4 (loss:restored). There is a high degree of confidence that such extensive peatland restoration is deliverable, and it has been ground-truthed by experienced

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			ecologists. In addition, the SEI sets out that the habitat loss in relation to priority peatland is not considered to adversely affect the viability or integrity of these habitats in the wider context.
			Environmental Benefits
			The Carbon Balance Assessment has been updated to reflect the significant increase in proposed peatland restoration, and accompanies this SEI Report (see SEI Appendix 14.1).
			Community Benefits
			An updated Socio- Economic Statement is provided as a Supporting Report to this SEI Report which provides details on the potential socio- economic benefits that could accrue from the Proposed Development.
			<u>Noise</u>
			An updated Cumulative Noise assessment has been undertaken in Chapter 4 of the SEI Report to consider the updated cumulative position of the Proposed Development.
Strathglass Community Council	10/12/23	Objection – SCC do not believe the true cumulative effect, in conjunction with other existing and proposed developments, has been fully explored for both visual and noise modelling. They re-emphasise that some turbines from this proposal will be seen from the lowest main public path within Glen Affric National Scenic Area (NSA), and feel this is unacceptable as this path circumnavigates Loch Affric, being the most used by visitors to the NSA. Noted that Glen Affric NSA and the surrounding area accepted by the Scottish Government to work toward nomination as a new National Park for Scotland.	Chapter 4 of this SEI Report sets out the updated cumulative position of the Proposed Development, in the context of the developments now in planning as of the 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2024, as agreed with THC.
Strathglass Marketing Group	No response received	N/A	N/A