voltalia

CRUACH CLENAMACRIE WIND FARM

CHAPTER 6:

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

November 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES

	DATE	NAME	FUNCTION
Elaboration	October 2024	Mary Fisher	Author
Validation	04/11/2024	Corey Simpson	Project Manager Review
Approval	15/11/2024	Alexander Hamilton	Applicant Approval

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	COMMENTS
1.0	14/10/2024	Mary Fisher	Issued for Client and Legal Review
2.0	07/11/2024	Mary Fisher	Update Following Reviews
3.0	15/11/2024	Mary Fisher	Submission

CONTENTS

6 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2

6.1 Introduction 2

6.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance 3

6.3 Consultation 4

6.4 Methodology 6

6.5 Baseline 9

6.6 Likely Significant Effects 11

6.7 Mitigation 13

6.8 Residual Effects 16

6.9 Cumulative Assessment 32

6.10 Summary 34

ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
ABC	Argyll and Bute Council
ABLWECS	Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS)
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, version 3
GW	Gigawatts
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LDP	Local Development Plan
LLA	Local Landscape Area
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
OWESG	Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance
OWPS	Onshore Wind Policy Statement
NCR	National Cycle Route
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NSA	National Scenic Area
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLQ	Special Landscape Qualities
WLA	Wild Land Area
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

6 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Background

This assessment defines the landscape and visual baseline environments and any known future changes; assesses their sensitivity to change; describes the key features and design rationale of Cruach Clenamacrie wind farm (the 'Proposed Development') in relation to the mitigation of landscape and visual effects; describes the nature of the anticipated changes to the landscape and views and assesses the effects arising during all stages of development.

6.1.2 The Site and Proposed Development

Figure 6.7 places the Proposed Development within its local context. The Site is an area of open moorland adjacent to Fearnoch Forest and to the south of the A85, plus an access route through Fearnoch Forest 7km east of Oban in Argyll and Bute. The Site is not located within a designated landscape and is identified as being within character type 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens by the local landscape character study (see **Section 6.5.2.1** below). Settled glens lie 1km to the south and 3.5km to the west of the Site, where local roads connect dispersed properties and small settlements.

6.1.3 Competence

This chapter has been prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects at Abseline. Key individuals working on this project have over 22 years of experience as chartered landscape architects. The Practice is a Landscape Institute registered practice and all work is prepared and reviewed internally by senior highly experienced landscape planners with Public Inquiry experience.

To inform the assessment, site visits were made between winter 2023-24 and summer 2024 to locations including representative viewpoints, the Site and wider Study Area by the assessment team.

6.1.4 Supporting Information and Terminology

Supporting appendices and figures have been prepared as listed below. These are important to the assessment and should be read alongside this chapter.

- **Appendix 6.1** Methodology
- **Appendix 6.2** Illustrative Views
- **Appendix 6.3** Non-Significant Effects
- **Appendix 6.4** Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)
- **Figures 6.1-6.11**
- **Visualisations**

Key terms used within the assessment are described in **Section 6.4** and **Appendix 6.1** which set out the methodology. A glossary is provided within **Appendix 6.1**.

6.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

6.2.1 National Planning Policy

Relevant national planning policy is set out within National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) [1]. Within NPF4, Policy 11 Energy is of specific relevance to the Proposed Development and indicates in relation to landscape and visual matters that project design and mitigation should demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:

- *"on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact …;*
- *significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/ or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;"*

Policy 11 also indicates that Policy 4 relating to Natural Places, will be taken into account in relation to effects on international or national designations but does not refer to Policy 4 in relation to local designations. Policy 4 sets out criteria identifying that the *"objectives of designation and the overall integrity"* of a National Park or National Scenic Area (NSA) should not be compromised by development. Other criteria within that policy indicate in relation to locally designated landscapes that significant effects on the qualities for which they are designated or on their integrity may be *"clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance"* – which would include the benefits arising from the Proposed Development.

Although not planning policy, the Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS)[2] sets out the Scottish Government's policy towards onshore wind and explicitly notes that:

"Meeting our climate targets will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape" (their underlining).

The OWPS also notes within the section relating to landscape and visual impacts that outside of National Parks and NSAs the criteria within NPF4 include *"stronger weight being afforded to the contribution of the development to the climate emergency"* and that *"Landscape Sensitivity Studies are strategic appraisals of the relative sensitivity of landscapes … a tool to help guide development to less sensitive locations. … [and] should not be used in isolation to determine the acceptability of a development type in landscape terms…, however they will continue to be a useful tool in assessing the specific sensitivities within an area."*

6.2.2 Local Planning Policy

Current local planning policy is described in the following adopted and emerging policy documents:

- Argyll and Bute LDP2 (LDP2), Adopted February 2024[3]

6.2.2.1 Local Development Plan 2

LDP2 includes the following policy of specific relevance to this assessment:

[1] Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/adopted-npf4/
[2] Scottish Government (2022). Onshore Wind Policy Statement. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-policy-statement-2022/
[3] Argyll and Bute Council (2023). Local Development Plan 2. Available at: Local Development Plan 2 | Argyll and Bute Council (argyll-bute.gov.uk)

- Policy 30 – The Sustainable Growth of Renewables – which indicates, inter alia, that projects will be supported where *"it can be adequately demonstrated that there would be no unacceptable environmental effects, whether individual or cumulative, on local communities, …, landscape character and visual amenity"*.
- Policy 70 – Development Impact on National Scenic Areas – which aims to *"provide landscapes of national importance located within Argyll and Bute with adequate protection against damaging development that would diminish their outstanding scenic value"*. Under this policy, the council seeks to only accept proposals which do not have adverse effects on or undermine the special qualities of NSAs unless effects are outweighed by social, environmental, or economic benefits of national importance, and that the proposal is supported by an LVIA that considers any relevant Argyll and Bute Landscape Capacity Assessment.
- Policy 71 – Development Impact on Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) – which seeks to protect the high scenic value of LLAs. The policy sets out the criteria against which development in, or affecting LLAs will be considered.

6.2.3 Policy Considerations

Effects on each of the receptors mentioned in the policies above (landscape character and locally and nationally designated landscapes) are considered in **Section 6.8.**

6.2.4 Other Relevant Guidance and Documents

Other published documents relevant to this assessment include the following documents which have informed this assessment and/or the design of the Proposed Development in relation to the mitigation of landscape and visual effects:

- Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS), 2017 [4];
- NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment, 2019 [5];
- Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas, 2011 [6];
- Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG), 2017 [7];
- NatureScot Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, (2017) [8]; and
- NatureScot Pre-application Advice for Wind Farms (February 2024) [9].

Baseline studies are further considered in **Section 6.5.2** and design advice in **Section 6.7.**

6.3 Consultation

The Scoping Opinion was received on 14/09/2023. Consultees responding on landscape and visual matters included NatureScot. Argyll and Bute Council did not respond at that stage or subsequently.

[4] Argyll and Bute Council (2017). Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study. Available at https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/landscape-wind-energy-capacity-study

[5] NatureScot (2019). Landscape Character Assessmnet. Available at https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions

[6] The Highland Council (2011). Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas. Available at https://www.highland.gov.uk/sla

[7] The Highland Council (2017). Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance. Available at https://www.highland.gov.uk/onshorewind

[8] NatureScot (2017). Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape. Available at https://www.nature.scot/doc/siting-and-designing-wind-farms-landscape-version-3a

[9] NatureScot (2024). Pre-application Advice for Wind Farms. Available at https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-pre-application-guidance-onshore-wind-farms

TABLE 6.1: CONSULTATION

CONSULTEE COMMENT	ACTION
Scoping Opinion – ECU 14 September 2023	
"The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 5.1-5.3 to be assessed … NatureScot suggests viewpoints from the Oban-Mull and Oban Lismore ferry routes and a wireline from Ben Starav are also included."	It was agreed with NatureScot that viewpoints 17 and 14 respectively provided suitable views to represent effects on users of the ferry route. Wirelines from locations closer to the mainland (Illustrative views A and B) are also provided in **Appendix 6.2.** A wireline from Ben Starav is provided as viewpoint 20.
"Naturescot … requests the proposed BESS should be shown on all visualisations within 7km of the Site boundary."	All associated infrastructure, including the BESS is included for photomontages within 7km where elements other than the turbines are visible.
"the LVIA as detailed in section 5 of the scoping report must include a robust Night Time Assessment with agreed viewpoints to consider the effects of aviation lighting and how the chosen lighting mitigates the effect."	The lighting design (including mitigation) is described at **Section 5.8.2** of **EIA Report Chapter 5: Project Description** and an assessment of night-time effects is provided at **Section 6.8.2.5.**
"NatureScot request the inclusion of a night-time visualisation from VP14 to allow assessment of effects of turbine lighting on the Lynn of Lorn NSA."	A night-time photomontage at viewpoint 14 has been provided.
NatureScot (appended to scoping opinion)	
See above regarding viewpoints.	See above regarding viewpoints.
"National Scenic Areas (NSA) are not shown on the ZTVs."	NSAs were shown on Scoping Figure 5.1. Further consultation was undertaken with NatureScot after this point was clarified.
"we recommend that an assessment of the impact on the Lynn of Lorn NSA and the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA and their Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ), with supporting assessment visualisations is undertaken in accordance with our draft guidance (which is available upon request). Effects of lighting on the NSA should also be fully considered. "	This assessment is provided at **Section 6.8.2.4.**
"It is not clear which viewpoints are selected to show aviation lighting."	Proposed night-time viewpoints were shown on Scoping Figure 5.3. Further consultation was undertaken with NatureScot after this point was clarified.
"If directional lighting is to be employed as a form of mitigation, then it would also be useful to include a lighting intensity ZTV within the assessment (this ZTV should also show the boundaries for the Lynn of Lorn NSA)."	The Proposed Development does not include a commitment that lights be provided by a specific manufacturer and therefore, although a reduction in lighting intensity below the horizontal plane would be confidently expected, it is not relied on as embedded mitigation.

CONSULTEE COMMENT	ACTION
	The NSA boundary is included as a light-sensitive receptor on **Figure 6.3**, which shows the visibility of the proposed aviation lighting (not allowing for any reductions as a result of 'directional lighting').
"We encourage the Applicant to consider the full range of available turbine lighting mitigation options."	The lighting design (including mitigation) is described at **Section 5.8.2** of **EIA Report Chapter 5: Project Description**
There is a high degree of interest in wind energy development in this area and we advise that the cumulative impact assessment (CLVIA) should focus on potentially significant cumulative interactions - both day time and night time. … Corr Chnoc wind farm, currently at the scoping stage, is located ~1km to the south west and it would be pertinent to include … we suggest that should a scoping site (with potential for significant cumulative effects) come forward as an application, we are likely to request that it is included in the assessment"	Corr Chnoc wind farm and other nearby wind farms at the scoping stage have not yet become applications at the time of finalising this assessment. The intention of NatureScot to request cumulative assessment when those sites come forward as applications is noted. Cumulative assessment is provided at **Section 6.9.** The list of cumulative projects was confirmed with NatureScot in February 2024 and has only changed since then in that one of the applications has been consented.

6.4 Methodology

The full methodology is described in **Appendix 6.1**, which also references the key guidance documents which inform the approach. A summary of key points is provided below.

6.4.1 Study Area and Viewpoints

It is accepted practice that the extent of the Study Area for a development proposal is broadly defined by where it will be visible. In this case, a Study Area of 25km, which encompasses parts of the Argyll and Bute and Highland Council administrative areas has been agreed with consultees.

The final list of viewpoints agreed through consultation is provided in **Table 6.6**.

6.4.2 Distances

Where distances are given in the assessment, these are approximate distances between the nearest turbine and the nearest part of the receptor in question, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

6.4.3 Visualisations

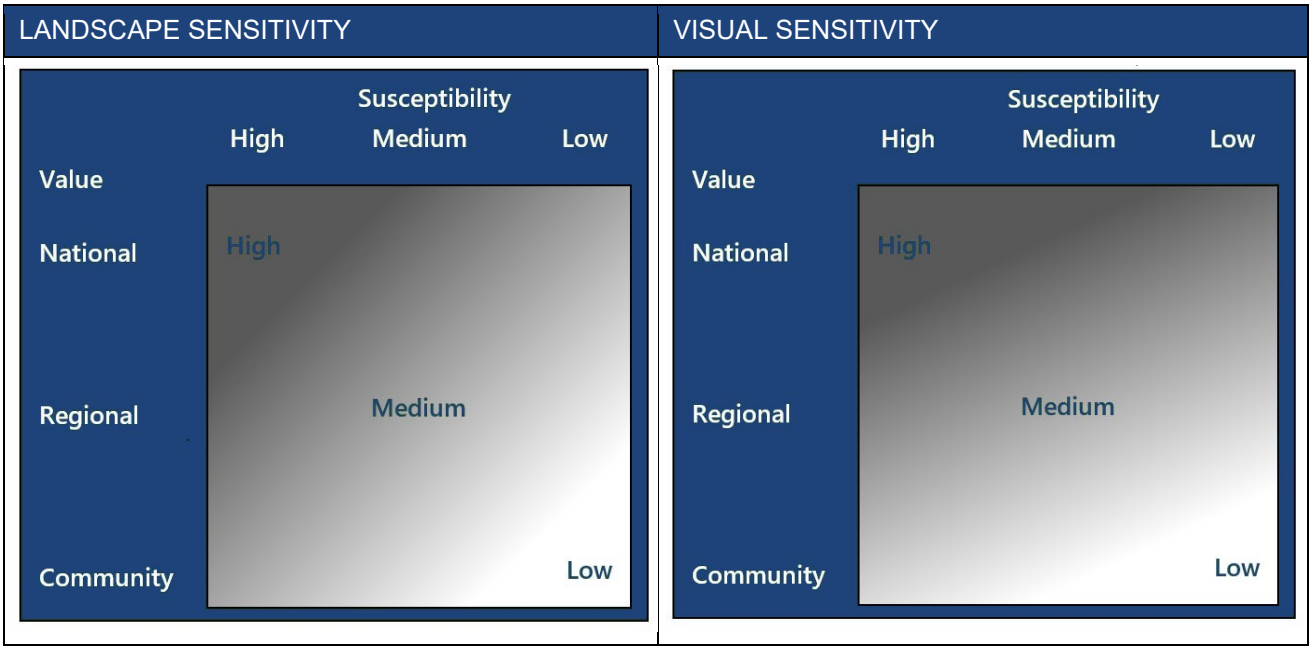
The method of visualisation selected has been informed by NatureScot 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms' (2017)[10]. The methodology of production for the visualisations (undertaken by Stephenson Halliday Ltd) is described in **Appendix 6.1.**

[10] Scottish Natural Heritage (2017). Visual Representation of Wind Farms. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance

6.4.4 Sensitivity

Sensitivity judgements take account of consideration of the value and susceptibility of the receptor as illustrated by the diagrams below. Where sensitivity is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment will be adopted. As comparison of the two diagrams indicates, a slightly greater weight is given to susceptibility in judging sensitivity of visual receptors.

TABLE 6.2: SENSITIVITY



6.4.5 Magnitude

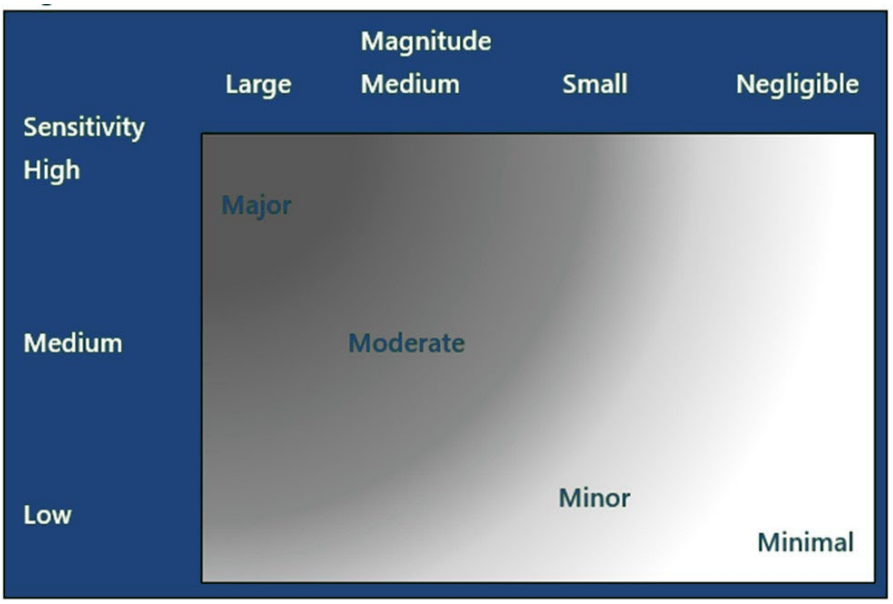
Magnitude of change (Large, Medium, Small, Negligible) judgements take account of the degree of change arising from the Proposed Development at any particular location in terms of its size or scale; extent of the area or receptor that is influenced, and the duration and reversibility of the change.

The maximum scale of change on the receptor is the primary factor in determining magnitude. However, for particularly widespread and/or long-lasting effects the magnitude judgement may be slightly greater than the scale of change; or for effects that are constrained in geographic extent and/or short-lived, the magnitude of change may be slightly lower than the scale of change.

6.4.6 Level and Significance of Effect

The level (Major, Moderate, Minor, Minimal or intermediate judgements between these) of any identified landscape or visual effect reflects a professional judgement as to the relative importance of the effects identified, taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of change as illustrated by the diagram below. Where the effect has been classified as Major or Major/Moderate this is considered to be equivalent to likely significant effects referred to in the EIA Regulations. The indication that some effects are 'significant' should not be taken to imply that they should warrant refusal in any decision-making process.

TABLE 6.3: LEVEL OF EFFECT



6.4.7 Positive/Adverse

Landscape and visual effects can be positive, adverse or neutral (different but neither better nor worse taking all factors into account). Taking a precautionary approach in making an assessment of the 'worst case scenario', the assessment considers that all effects which would result in a notable difference to the existing features, character, views or special qualities would be adverse unless indicated otherwise. It should be noted however that people's individual responses to change arising from development can vary markedly.

6.4.8 Night-time Assessment

The Proposed Development includes aviation lighting for which assessment of potential night-time impacts is provided in **Section 6.8.2.5**. The Study Area for night-time effects has been set at 20km to allow for the inclusion of the areas of visibility within Lynn of Lorn and Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSAs as requested by NatureScot.

Wirelines showing the positions of the aviation lights have been provided for all viewpoints, and photomontages have been provided for 4 viewpoints as agreed with consultees (see **Table 6.1**).

As set out within **Appendix 6.1**, effects on landscape character are not considered as notable effects on character at night are unlikely to arise. The assessment of effects on designated areas focus on those qualities that are likely to be appreciated at night. In relation to visual effects, the assessment considers locations where visual receptors are most likely to be present at night. The sensitivity of both visual receptors and designated areas may not be the same during the night as it is in the day as discussed in **Section 6.8.2.5.3.**

6.4.9 Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative assessment relates to the assessment of the effects of more than one development (as set out within **Appendix 6.1**). Operational developments are included in the baseline; consented development forms part of the future baseline, unless there is some uncertainty regarding the future construction of

consented developments in which case they may be considered as the first scenario of the cumulative assessment.

The main focus of the cumulative assessment is on developments in planning. The scenarios considered in this assessment are set out within **Section 6.9.**

6.4.10 Residential Amenity

This is a separate matter to the main LVIA; as set out within LI TGN 02/19 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)' [11]:

"Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has 'a right to a view.' …

It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook / visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before."

A 2km Study Area has been used for the consideration of Residential Visual Amenity (RVAA). The methodology for and assessment of effects on residential amenity for the most affected properties is included as **Appendix 6.4.**

6.5 Baseline

6.5.1 Introduction

LVIA is an iterative process; baseline studies have informed both design and early assessment before the final design and final assessment were prepared as documented in this chapter. This section provides a review of documented baseline studies (as listed at **Section 6.2.4**) and a baseline description of the Site and its landscape and visual context. The baseline description of the individual landscape and visual receptors is provided alongside the assessment in **Section 6.8** for ease of reference.

6.5.2 Baseline studies

6.5.2.1 Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS)

The ABLWECS predates a number of key policy and guidance documents and is identified as a 'Capacity Study' which has a bearing on its applicability to the consideration of wind farm applications in the current policy environment.

Policy 11e (ii) of NPF4 [12] recognises that significant landscape and visual impacts "*are to be expected*" for wind farms. Paragraph 3.6.1 of the Onshore Wind Policy Statement (OWPS) reinforces this point noting that meeting onshore wind targets "*will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape.*"

Advice on suitable/unsuitable locations or thresholds for development, or the 'landscape capacity' of any given area that predates this policy context may be predicated on thresholds of landscape or visual change

[11] Landscape Institute (2019). Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/

[12] Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/

which are lower (i.e. to avoid significant landscape and visual change). The ABLWECS indicates that it has used such by defining landscape capacity as "*the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type*" (section 2.1 and repeated in section 2.2 of the ABLWECS).

NatureScot: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance (2022) [13] provides further advice in relation to this, directing that a sensitivity-based (rather than capacity-based) approach be used to "*inform plans, policies, guidance and strategies at a range of scales*" including (inter alia) "*individual proposals, where their indication of relative sensitivity can inform the site selection process, pre-application stages, and can provide information for subsequent … LVIA*." This guidance specifically notes the following key points which have a bearing on the application of ABLWECS:

- *"A finding of 'high' sensitivity does not necessarily mean that there is no ability to accommodate development and 'low' sensitivity does not necessarily mean that there is definitely potential for development"*
- *"Most older studies should be considered as landscape sensitivity assessments, or even susceptibility assessments if value was not included, unless relevant quantities, e.g. for housing, were set for the study area."*
- *"Existing assessments provide useful evidence and understanding to inform spatial planning. However, updating may well be beneficial, particularly for wind farm studies, as development patterns and technology change."*

Taking the above considerations into account, the advice within the ABLWECS is used as follows within this LVIA:

- The landscape character types (LCTs) identified within the ABLWECS are considered as landscape character receptors.
- The detailed assessments of sensitivity provided within volume 2 of the ABLWECS are used to inform judgements of sensitivity for each landscape.
- The criteria of 'Scale', 'Landform', 'Landcover' and 'Built Environment' are used to inform the judgement of susceptibility.
- The criterion of 'Landscape Context' is considered in relation to the susceptibility of the host area only as it indicates the potential for development within the area to have effects on surrounding LCTs.
- The criterion of 'Visual Amenity' in the ABLWECS largely discusses potential effects on visual receptors, which are not relevant to the consideration of landscape character susceptibility or landscape value. Where the description discusses the visual characteristics of the host landscape or visual relationships with the host landscape this is taken into account in the consideration of susceptibility.
- The criterion of 'Perceptual Qualities', along with the presence or absence of designations indicating valued landscapes (which the 'Landscape Values' criterion also reflects), are used to inform the judgements of landscape value.

6.5.2.2 NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment

In the absence of an up-to-date landscape character assessment or landscape sensitivity study for the area of the Highland Council within the LVIA Study Area, this recent national character assessment is used to identify landscape character receptors within Highland. It should be noted that in general, where the

[13] NatureScot (2022). Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance (Methodology). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscape-sensitivity-assessment-guidance-methodology

OWESG does have coverage (see below) it identifies the very similar or the same landscape character boundaries and types as identified in the NatureScot assessment.

6.5.2.3 Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas

This document sets out the special qualities and reasons for designation of the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) within the Highland Council Area. There are two Highland Council SLAs in the Study Area as illustrated by **Figure 6.2** and the document is used to inform the assessment of effects by reference to the Special Qualities identified.

6.5.2.4 Highland Council Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OWESG)

This document sets out landscape sensitivities within some parts of the Highland Council area and provides design advice for developments within the Highlands. The landscape sensitivity advice does not cover the LVIA Study Area, and the Proposed Development is in Argyll and Bute. The advice provided within OWESG is therefore not considered further within this assessment.

6.5.3 Site and context

Figure 6.7 places the Proposed Development within its local context. The Site is an area of open moorland adjacent to Fearnoch Forest and to the south of the A85, 7.0km east of Oban in Argyll and Bute.

The Site is not located within a designated landscape and is identified as being within character type 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens by the ABLWECS. Settled glens lie 1km to the south and 3.5km to the west of the Site, where local roads connect dispersed properties and small settlements.

Settlement in the area close to the Site includes the coastal town and port of Oban, settlement on the north and south shores of Loch Etive and the dispersed settlement mentioned above. Key routes through the Study Area include the A85 and Glasgow-Oban railway line which pass along the southern shores of Loch Etive between Oban and Taynuilt, the A828 which heads north from Connel Bridge and National Cycle Route 78 which heads eastwards from Oban via Glen Lonan to the south of the Site. As illustrated by **Figure 6.2**, the most widespread views towards the Site are those looking across from the north shores of Loch Etive, from where the Site forms part of the skyline seen across the Loch. In closer areas, views towards the Site are more frequently screened by vegetation or limited by nearby slopes.

The nearest nationally designated landscape is the Lynn of Lorn NSA which is located 8.8km to the north-west as illustrated by **Figure 6.1**. Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA is located 15km to the north-east. The nearest locally designated landscapes are the North Argyll LLA located 6.4km to the north-west, North West Argyll (Coast) LLA 6.5km south-west and Knapdale / Melfort LLA 8.4km to the west.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) within the local context include Achnacloich (3.1km, north) and Ardchattan Priory (5km, north) which are considered within the LVIA in relation to the effects on views for visitors to publicly accessible landscapes. Effects on these landscapes as heritage assets are considered in **EIA Report Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.**

6.6 Likely Significant Effects

6.6.1.1 Construction

The construction of the project would take place over an 18 month period. It would involve construction of the turbines and associated tracks, hardstandings, substation and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and localised felling and re-stocking along the main access track as shown by **Figure 13.3.**

Effects during construction on landscape fabric would arise from:

- Felling to create the main site access track and for habitat management;
- Habitat management and peatland restoration;
- Construction of some new tracks and crane hardstandings within formerly forested areas and open moorland;
- Borrow pits;
- Construction of the turbine foundations, substation; and
- Site reinstatement.

Effects during construction on landscape character would arise from:

- The changes to landscape fabric within the Site;
- The change of the Site character from forestry and moorland to construction site; and
- Views towards the construction activity, particularly the cranes and part completed turbines.

Effects during construction on visual receptors would arise from:

- Views towards the construction activity, particularly the cranes and part completed turbines.

Effects during construction on designated landscapes would arise from:

- Short-term changes to the special qualities as a result of views towards the construction activity, particularly the cranes and part completed turbines.

6.6.1.2 Operation

A 50-year consent is sought for the Proposed Development, and effects are assessed as though permanent for the purposes of this assessment as the duration exceeds the 25-year 'long-term' duration as defined in **Appendix 6.1**. Effects during operation on landscape fabric would arise from both the construction of the Proposed Development and associated on and off-site habitat management/enhancement measures as illustrated by **Figure 10.5.5** in **Appendix 10.5**, this includes:

- The presence of the turbines and other site infrastructure;
- The growth of woodland re-stocked after felling;
- Removal of conifers and establishment of bog habitats in restored peatland areas;
- Control of Bog Myrtle and bracken to the northeast of the Clais Dheargh SSSI, and
- Removal of Rhododendron at Loch Etive Woods/Clais Dhearg SSSI.

Effects during operation on landscape character would arise from:

- The permanent inclusion of wind turbines and other infrastructure within the forestry and moorland; and
- Changes to vegetation cover as a result of the ongoing habitat management within the Site and offsite areas as shown by **Figure 10.5.5** in **Appendix 10.5**.

Effects during operation on visual receptors would arise from:

- Changes to views towards the Site to include the wind turbines; and
- Smaller scale, close range changes to views into the Site where other infrastructure may be visible.

Effects during operation on designated landscapes would arise from:

- Changes to the special qualities arising from visibility of the turbines (and associated infrastructure where visible).

6.6.1.3 Decommissioning

Effects during decommissioning would be short-term (over a period of up to 1 year) and similar to those arising during construction except in reverse in terms of the Site being reinstated to moorland.

6.7 Mitigation

6.7.1 Relevant Guidance

Design guidance (as listed at **Section 6.2.4** above) has informed the evolving design and mitigation of landscape and visual effects as set out below.

6.7.1.1 NatureScot - Siting and designing wind farms in the landscape

The design advice in this document predates NPF4 and some aspects of it are superseded by advice in the more recently published NatureScot Pre-application Advice for Wind Farms discussed below.

The advice provided focus on how to improve the visual appearance of a wind farm by considering skylines, terrain and character, and the position and scale of turbines in relation to those. The guidance also advises that effects which may arise from the creation of access routes and on-site infrastructure should be carefully considered within the design process. This advice has been followed insofar as that is possible allowing for on-site constraints such as watercourses, steep slopes, deep peat and other factors such as proximity to sensitive ecological and ornithological receptors – all of which have an influence on turbine locations and the detailed siting of other infrastructure.

6.7.1.2 NatureScot Pre-application Advice for Wind Farms

This document advises that Wild Land Assessment may be a useful tool for informing the design of a wind farm outwith a Wild Land Area, despite the fact that policy 4g of NPF4 indicates that "*effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration*". As shown by **Figure 6.1**, the closest Wild Land Area (WLA) to the turbines would be WLA 9 Loch Etive Mountains, 7.7km to the north-east. Viewpoints 16 and 20 are located within this area and viewpoint 7 nearby and it is considered that given the distance from the WLA, the limited visibility from the WLA as illustrated by **Figure 6.1** and the separation provided by Loch Etive, consideration of the design informed by these viewpoints is sufficient and a detailed Wild Land Assessment is not necessary to inform the design process.

Annex 1 to the NatureScot advice relates to aviation lighting and sets out four potential ways to mitigate the effects of aviation lighting, which is required for turbines of over 150m tip height:

- Reduced lighting scheme: An approach where not all of the turbines are lit, only those agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to be necessary for aviation safety. Additionally, it may be agreed to not include the dimmer mid-tower lights, and just have a nacelle light for lit turbines.
- Automatic dimming in clear conditions: An approach where the lights automatically dim to 200 candela (cd) in good visibility and only be at 200cd in poor visibility conditions.
- Directional lighting: 'Directional lighting' is a feature of aviation lighting, which is designed to cast light horizontally and upwards, rather than downwards. The relevant standards set minimum (rather than maximum) intensities for lighting, which reduce below the horizontal. Different manufacturers produce lights which vary in whether they are set at the minimum, or above the minimum, and thus this form of mitigation can only be relied on where a commitment is made to a specific make and model of light at the application stage (as recognised by the NatureScot guidance).

- Transponder activated lighting: This form of mitigation detects the proximity of aircraft and only switches lights on when aircraft are near enough for lighting to be necessary. As advised by the guidance it cannot be applied at present.

In relation to the Proposed Development the aviation lighting mitigation options included in the design are set out in **Table 6.4** below.

6.7.1.3 Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS)

The capacity study provides design advice at a number of scales including a recommended landscape strategy for Argyll and Bute as a whole; area based advice for the Kintyre Peninsula, Loch Fyne and Loch Awe areas (which do not include the Site); and, specific advice for each landscape type. As discussed at **Section 6.5.2.1** above, the design advice is predicated on seeking to avoid significant effects and not entirely compatible with current national policy, however, it still identifies those aspects of the landscape character which are more/less sensitive to wind farm development and the advice provided has informed the design of the Proposed Development.

The advice within the landscape strategy for Argyll and Bute relates mostly to the siting of wind farms and identifies that siting away from designated landscapes, mountainous areas with 'wild land qualities', the coast, islands and settled loch fringes; and within "*less sensitive upland landscapes*" are considered to be preferable.

In relation to the host LCT (7a Craggy Upland and Settled Glens), the ABLWECS does not consider the landscape type to be suitable for turbines over 80m in height due to its settled nature, diverse landform and proximity to the 7b Craggy Coast and Islands LCT and does not provide specific design advice in relation to turbines of that scale. For the 50-80m turbines the advice on suitable siting is within the "*more extensive plateau-like areas with a less complex topography, unsettled character*" and "*simpler vegetation cover of moorland or forestry*", "*away from the small scale glens and lochs*" and "*avoid intrusion on prominent skylines*" seen from the glens and the 7b Craggy Coast and Islands LCT.

Reviewing these criteria, it is considered that the Site meets this guidance well in terms of being with a more extensive plateau area with simple land cover of moorland and forestry. It is also relatively distant from LCT 7b and there would be limited visibility from within that LCT as illustrated by **Figure 6.6**, with the nearest area of visibility being more than 6km from the turbines. It is not possible to entirely avoid visibility of the turbines on the skylines above the settled glens, as illustrated by viewpoints 1-4, but woodland and the terrain provide some screening in all areas of the glens and complete screening in places.

6.7.2 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The design has been informed by landscape and visual considerations. Key factors include:

- The potential effects on the residential visual amenity of nearby homes;
- The appearance of the wind farm from the main area of visibility along the north shore of Loch Etive – particularly given the undulating terrain of the Site;
- The appearance of the wind farm from Glen Lonan, given the potential for turbines in the south part of the Site to dominate the small scale of the valley and appear incongruous.

Measures included within the design to prevent or reduce landscape and/or visual effects are set out in **Table 6.4**:

TABLE 6.4: EMBEDDED MITIGATION MEASURES

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION
Siting	Plateau area with simple landcover of moorland and forestry. Not within a designated area. Very low number of residential properties within 2km. Limited visibility from settlements and key routes within 5km.
Turbine height	Greater heights would have appeared disproportionate compared to the scale of the landform in views across Loch Etive, but there would be limited mitigation achieved by reducing heights.
Turbine layout	Within the limitations of the undulating terrain, achieves a relatively evenly spaced layout. The turbines are set back from Glen Lonan avoiding turbines being overly dominant on the nearby skyline through the centre of the glen.
Aviation lighting	A reduced lighting scheme has been agreed with the CAA and as a result, only 5 of the 6 turbines would have nacelle lights and there would be no mid-tower lights. Standard mitigation including automatic dimming to 200 candela in good visibility conditions (exceeding 5km) would also be included.
Substation and BESS	Would be set back on the plateau and screened in most views by terrain and forestry as illustrated by **Figure 5.6 - Site Layout**. Depending on the felling cycle, the substation may be partly visible in some views – e.g. Viewpoint 16 at Ben Cruachan and viewpoint 6 at Achnacree Bay.
Tracks and hardstandings	The main views of access tracks will be from the A85 at the entrance to the Site, the main access track ascends through forestry which will limit its visibility, and the remainder of the tracks are not situated on openly visible slopes. There will be some glimpsed views of parts of tracks, and more open but distant visibility from more elevated hill summits – e.g. Viewpoint 16 at Ben Cruachan.
Borrow Pits	Borrow pits would be situated within the forestry and are not likely to be visible from outside the Site.

Measures included within the design to enhance the landscape and/or views are set out in **Table 6.5**:

TABLE 6.5: EMBEDDED ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION
Habitat Management Measures	The proposed habitat management will have some benefit by adding to the ecological value of the Site, resulting in a consequential enhancement to landscape value. However, this is not the primary purpose of these measures.

All mitigation measures for landscape and visual effects are embedded within the design of the Proposed Development and thus all landscape and visual effects identified are residual effects.

6.8 Residual Effects

The effects on landscape character, designations and visual receptors during construction and decommissioning would arise for a short-term period from a noticeable presence of vehicles and plant on site during groundworks and the use of cranes to erect/dismantle the turbines. While standing turbines are on site, the most notable effects would arise from these and effects during the construction and decommissioning stages are assessed to be the same as during operation except where otherwise specifically noted in the assessment below.

6.8.1 Construction

Changes to landscape fabric would arise from groundworks to form turbine foundations, hard standings, 10.1km of new/upgraded access tracks and the substation compound along with the working of 2 No. borrow pits. The Proposed Development would also include the felling of approximately 18ha.forestry, of which 6.8ha. would be restocked as set out in **EIA Report Chapter 13: Forestry**. These changes to landscape fabric, which include some vegetation removals adjacent to the A85 near the proposed Site entrance would include both positive and adverse changes.

Effects on landscape fabric are not considered to be significant. The elements which make up the landscape fabric of the Site are commonplace both within the Study Area and within Scotland, and the felling of forestry is an expected outcome within its normal lifecycle.

Effects on landscape character, views and designations during construction would be short-term and would primarily arise from views of the crane and part-completed turbines. During this stage, effects would be very similar to those from the operational stage and are not assessed separately.

6.8.2 Operation

This section sets out the effects that the Proposed Development would have on landscape and visual receptors during operation. Some receptors are only briefly discussed and for these receptors, effects "*have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further*" (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).

Effects on landscape character and visual receptors are set out before those on designated areas as it is common for designations to encompass both character and visual considerations within their special qualities or purposes of designation.

Although the Proposed Development is proposed for 50 years of operation and is thus temporary and mostly reversible (foundations are typically not removed during decommissioning, but would be covered in appropriate vegetation as part of the Site restoration), the timescale of operation exceeds the 25-year 'long

term' duration defined within the methodology. On this basis, effects during operation are assessed as having a 'permanent' duration.

Where effects on receptors are judged to be not significant they are described in **Appendix 6.3** and summarised below.

6.8.2.1 Geographic Distribution of Effects

6.8.2.1.1 ZTV Study

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies have been prepared (**Figures 6.1-6.3**) to indicate the potential visibility of the Proposed Development; inform viewpoint selection and site assessment work; and ensure that this assessment focuses on the likely significant effects. Where receptors are outside of the area of visibility indicated by **Figure 6.2**, minimal effects would arise and they are not considered further.

Figure 6.1 provides a bare ground ZTV Study to 45km as required by NatureScot guidance. It indicates limited visibility from land-based receptors beyond 25km. **Figure 6.2** shows a more detailed ZTV Study covering the area within 25km of the Proposed Development and including screening by woodland and buildings (see methodology set out in **Appendix 6.1**). This provides a more realistic visibility pattern for the Proposed Development although it should be noted that the extent and height of forestry will vary over time as part of the felling cycle – often being taller than the 15m modelled and sometimes less than 15m when there has been recent felling and/or replanting.

Figure 6.2 shows that within 5km visibility would be fragmented by forestry and terrain. There would be an area of open views from the moorland within the Site and the open slopes within 1km to the north and west. Beyond this, there would be areas of more limited visibility (1-4 blade tips) within the valleys to the south and west. Beyond the valleys, there would be more extensive visibility from surrounding slopes which face towards the Site, and more patchy visibility from unwooded areas of the lower-lying A85 corridor between Taynuilt and Connel.

Between 5-15km there would be very limited visibility from the east or south of the Site, with visibility mainly confined to the west facing slopes of Ben Cruachan to the east, and areas to the west and south-west of Carraig Gheal wind farm to the south. To the south-west of the Site, there would be patchy visibility from the mainland to the south of Oban, and some views of the turbines from the south-eastern side of Kererra. To the north-west, there would be extensive visibility across the Firth of Lorn and more patchy visibility from Lismore and the Lynn of Lorn. To the north and north-east there would be views of the turbines from Loch Etive extending to around 11km north-east of the Site; from the sparsely settled north shore of Loch Etive and from south facing hill slopes beyond.

Between 15-25km visibility would be more limited, with the main areas of visibility arising on the east-facing shores and slopes of Mull; aligned views along the Sound of Mull; the south-east facing shores and slopes beyond Loch Linnhe; hill summits and facing slopes within the North Argyll LLA to the north and east, and to the north and north-east of Ben Starav within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the north-east.

Figure 6.10 provides a cumulative ZTV for the Proposed Development and the operational and consented wind farms to the west, south and south-east of the Site. The ZTV shows that the areas of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and the operational and consented wind farms are largely the same. Visibility of the Proposed Development on its own would primarily occur within the Site and in low-lying areas within 5km of the Site, with limited areas of more distant visibility in the Firth of Lorn/Loch Linnhe to the west, and on hills to the north and north-east.

6.8.2.1.2 Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint analysis has been undertaken from 20 viewpoints. The final list of viewpoints and visualisation formats was prepared following consultation with NatureScot and Argyll and Bute Council, although Argyll

and Bute Council did not respond to the scoping or follow-up requests. **Table 6.6** provides a summary of the scale and nature of the changes to views at each viewpoint.

The viewpoint locations are shown on **Figures 6.1, 6.2, 6.6, 6.7 and 6.10**. Visualisations are provided with reference to the viewpoint numbers listed below.

TABLE 6.6: VIEWPOINT ANALYSIS SUMMARY

NO.	VIEWPOINT	DISTANCE, DIRECTION	SCALE OF EFFECT
1	Barguillean	3.5km, E	Large/medium
2	Glen Lonan	2.1km, S	Medium
3	Barranrioch	4.1km, W	Large/medium
4	Ardchonnel	3.5km, NW	Medium
5	A828 Connel Bridge	5.2km, NW	Medium
6	Achnacree Bay	5.7km, N	Medium
7	B845 Inveresragan	6.5km, NE	Medium
8	Taynuilt	5.5km, E	Medium/small
9	Barran an Fhraoich Viewpoint	4.7km, W	Medium
10	Loch Nell	5.9km, SW	Medium
11	Knipoch Viewpoint	10.0km, SW	Small
12	Balliemore - Kerrera	10.9km, W	Small
13	Dunstaffnage Castle	6.7km, NW	Medium/small
14	Achnacroish - Lismore	13.6km, NW	Small/negligible
15	A828, Strath of Appin	14.7km, N	Negligible
16	Ben Cruachan	11.9km, E	Small/negligible
17	Duart Castle - Mull	19.0km, W	Negligible
18	Rubha nan Sailthean (wireline only)	21.1km, W	Negligible
19	Inninmore Bay and Garbh Shlios SLA (wireline only)	20.9km, NW	Negligible
20	Ben Starav (wireline only)	21.5km, NE	Negligible

6.8.2.1.3 Outcomes

Each of the viewpoints is a ‘sample’ of the potential effects, representing a range of visual receptors including people at the viewpoint and nearby or at a similar distance and/or direction. From the ZTV and viewpoint analysis it can be seen that changes to views would arise as follows:

- The extent of Large scale visual changes, where the Proposed Development would form a major alteration to key elements, features, qualities and characteristics of the view such that the baseline would be fundamentally changed, would generally be limited to locations within approximately 2km of the turbines – primarily affecting visual receptors within Glen Lonan and users of the core path to the north-west of the Site as shown on **Figure 6.7**.

- Beyond this area, Large/medium scale changes to views would arise within up to 3-4km, primarily affecting visual receptors in the valley to the west of the Site.
- Medium and Medium/small scale effects would arise within up to 6km and 7km from the turbines respectively, affecting visual receptors around Loch Etive, to the south-west near Kilmore, to the east near Taynuilt and westwards to the edges of the forestry which lies to the east of Oban.
- Small scale effects would extend beyond this area, to approximately 11km, mainly affecting visual receptors to the south-west of the Site, and beyond 11km effects would tend towards Negligible scale, with some Small/negligible changes to views in views up to 14km to the north-west, north, north-east and east.

The ZTV and viewpoint analysis also inform the consideration of effects on character. Typically, the scale of change to character at a particular location will be slightly less than the changes to views, as character derives from a more holistic experience of the landscape, not just views. The degree to which a proposal changes character depends on a combination of:

- The degree to which it is 'in keeping' with the existing character;
- Proximity and visibility; and
- The importance of views towards the Site to the existing character.

These factors vary by character type and are considered below.

6.8.2.2 Landscape Character

Descriptions for each of the assessed character types are provided below, based on the review of the baseline documents discussed in **Section 6.5.2**. **Figure 6.5** shows character types within the 25km Study Area.

Based on the geographic distribution of changes set out at **Section 6.8.2.1**, character types beyond 10km would experience at most Small scale changes to views in limited areas of visibility, and changes to character would be Negligible. **Figure 6.6** shows the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from character types within 10km.

6.8.2.2.1 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (includes the Site)

As shown on **Figures 6.5 and 6.6**, this character type includes the Site and extends 9km to the east and 10km southwest. The ABLWECS describes the key characteristics of the LCT as follows:

- *"The narrow and secluded Glen Lonan with the rugged hill of Deadh Choimhead a prominent feature seen from the minor road.*
- *Archaeological features, such as the Dun seen in the foreground, tend to be concentrated within the floors and lower hill slopes of the glens.*
- *Narrow glen floors accommodate enclosed pastures, buildings and woodlands and have a small scale.*
- *Loch Nell and its associated broadleaved woodlands contributes to the often rich diversity of this landscape.*
- *Small hills containing the glens often have a complex craggy character accentuated by woodland, scrub and rocky outcrops.*
- *Views often extend down the length of the glens where more distinctive higher hills located in the adjacent Craggy Upland (7) form a focus."*

Based on the approach set out at **Section 6.5.2.1** above, the ABLWECS identifies factors contributing to landscape sensitivity within the LCT as set out in **Table 6.7**. It should be noted that the ABLWECS does

not identify sensitivity to turbines of greater than 130m in height for this LCT so susceptibility ratings have been used for 80m-130m turbines.

TABLE 6.7: LCT7A – SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

CRITERION	ANALYSIS
Value	
Designations	**Community** – The LCT is mostly undesignated, parts of the eastern and south-western edges lie within LLAs.
Perceptual Qualities	**Regional/community** – "*Narrow dead-end roads and sparse settlement gives this area a secluded feel ... a distinct sense of naturalness away from more extensive commercial forestry."* However, the Site is adjacent to a large area of commercial forestry and closer to the settled coast than much of the LCT.
Susceptibility	
Context	**High/medium** – The LCT forms the skyline to Craggy Coasts and Islands to the west, though the Site is further inland than much of the LCT.
Scale and Openness	**High –** *"Scale varies from small within glens such as Glen Lonan… to medium within broader upland and more undulating plateau areas SE of Connel*." Deep glens are enclosed and plateaux are more open.
Landform	**High/medium** – "… *deep glens contained by steep craggy slopes. Many glens have hummocky terrain interspersed with flat, smooth valley floor and lochs... Elsewhere the landform forms an irregular and complex craggy upland plateau with occasional pronounced hills, for example Deadh Choimhead on the edge of Glen Lonan*". The Site is located within one of the less sensitive plateau areas, but close to Deadh Choimhead and Glen Lonan.
Landcover	**Medium** - "*Coniferous forestry covers the more extensive plateau areas of Fearnoch.. Broadleaved woodlands … wood pasture and mixed policy plantings also feature within the glens together with occasional wetlands and heath. Small fenced and walled fields of smooth pasture cover the flat glen floor. Rough pasture, heather and grass moorland cover craggy hill slopes. Lochs within the glens form landmark features.*"
Built Environment	**High** – "*Settlement is concentrated within the glens…. Large estate houses and lodges are sited in some of these glens and the area is rich in visible archaeological features. Upland areas separating the glens and some largely forested plateaux areas are less settled*."
Visual Amenity (relating to susceptibility)	**High** - "*steep slopes and skylines of the hills containing the glens and coastal fringe*" and "*Views along Glen Lonan focus on Ben Cruachan to the east and the mountains of Morven and Mull to the west*."

Taking into account the factors set out above, the LCT is considered to be of High susceptibility, Community Value and High/medium sensitivity.

As shown by **Figure 6.6**, wind turbines would not be a new feature within this landscape, but the two existing turbines at Barran Caltum are smaller in scale. There would be Large scale changes to character within approximately 1km of the Site, where the area of open moorland contained by forestry would become a wind farm. To the south and east in Glen Lonan, glimpsed views of the turbines above the skyline from more open parts of the glen (such as from **Viewpoint 2**) would create scale contrasts with the enclosed character of the glen, giving rise to Large/medium scale effects on character. The turbines may distract from, but in most places would not intrude into, views of Deadh Choimhead and Ben Cruachan from within

the LCT. In more distant areas to the east and west (as illustrated by **Viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 9, and 10**), including at Loch Nell, the turbines would be visible more frequently and would appear more in scale with the landscape, giving rise to Medium/small scale changes to character within up to 4km, decreasing to Small scale to 6km and Negligible beyond. Considered together, Large and Large/medium scale changes to character would arise for an Intermediate extent of the LCT and Medium/small to Small scale changes would arise across a Wide extent of the LCT, giving rise to impacts of Large/medium magnitude. Taking account of the High/medium sensitivity of the LCT, effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant.**

6.8.2.2.2 20 Rocky Mosaic (2.0km, N and 4.9km N)

As shown on **Figures 6.5 and 6.6**, this character type forms the undulating sloped shores of Loch Etive to the north of the Site. The southern shore is a key transport corridor with the railway and A85 passing through the area. The northern shore is narrower and more steeply sloped, with local roads and more limited settlement. There is a mix of woodland, pasture, coastline and settlement in this LCT.

The ABLWECS describes the key characteristics of the LCT as follows:

- *"Views from the Rocky Mosaic fringing narrow lochs focus on the opposite shore…*
- *The setting to these small scale and often diverse landscapes is important with immediate skylines formed by 'edge' hills of the adjoining uplands being particularly sensitive to development".*

Based on the approach set out at **Section 6.5.2.1** above, the ABLWECS identifies factors contributing to landscape sensitivity within the LCT as set out in **Table 6.8.** It should be noted that the ABLWECS does not identify sensitivity to turbines of greater than 130m in height for this LCT and the susceptibility ratings for turbines of 80-130m are used.

TABLE 6.8: LCT20 – SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

CRITERION	ANALYSIS
Value	
Designations	**Regional/community** – GDLs at Achnacloich and Ardchattan Priory, but otherwise undesignated.
Perceptual Qualities	**Community** – ABLWECS identifies perceptual qualities as being of Medium-Low sensitivity in more remote areas (which the instances of the LCT within 10km are not).
Susceptibility	
Context	Not applicable (non-host LCT)
Scale and Openness	**High** (from ABLWECS – volume two – page 287-288)
Landform	**High** (from ABLWECS – volume two – page 287-288)
Landcover	**High** (from ABLWECS – volume two – page 288)
Built Environment	**High** (from ABLWECS – volume two – page 288-289)
Visual Amenity	Not applicable (non-host LCT)

Taking into account the factors set out above, the LCT is considered to be of High susceptibility, Regional/community Value and High/medium sensitivity.

Visibility of large wind turbines to the south of Loch Etive would be a new characteristic within this landscape, as existing turbines at Beinn Ghlas and Barran Caltum are smaller and more distant, though typically seen from the same locations as the Proposed Development would be. As shown by **Figure 6.6** and **Viewpoints 6 and 7**, views of the turbines would be infrequent from the south shore where a combination of terrain, settlement and tree cover provide screening, with the most extensive and open area of visibility arising 4-6km from the turbines near Connel Bridge as illustrated by nearby **Viewpoint 5**. From the north shore, the focus of views is southwards, and the Proposed Development would form a focal feature in views across the Loch at distances of 5-6km. As illustrated by **Viewpoint 7**, there would be marked scale contrasts between the turbines and the coastal settlement. There would be Large/medium scale changes to character for a Wide extent of the LCT, giving rise to impacts of Large/medium magnitude. Taking account of the High/medium sensitivity of the LCT, effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

6.8.2.2.3 Effects on Other LCTs

As set out at **Section 6.8.2.2**, effects on landscape character beyond 10km would be negligible. Effects on the following character types (shown on **Figures 6.5 and 6.6**) are assessed to be not significant and are described within **Appendix 6.3**:

- **7c North Loch Awe Craggy Upland (1.7km, S)** – This open upland LCT is host to some existing wind farms and is of Medium/low sensitivity and would have some limited areas of visibility within 10km, mostly near existing wind farms. Character changes would primarily arise as a result of views of the turbines within an area 2-5km to the south of the turbines. The magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **Moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.
- **4 Mountain Glens (4.3km, E)** - This character type occupies a small area between Loch Awe and Airds Bay, around Taynuilt. This Medium sensitivity LCT is low-lying and gently undulating with settlement, woodland and pasture and the A85 and railway passing through. Small scale changes to character as a result of glimpsed views of the turbines would arise in more open parts of the glen north of Taynuilt. The magnitude of impact would be Small, and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **18 Lowland Ridges and Moss (4.7km, N)** - This Medium sensitivity LCT forms the shoreline of Ardmucknish Bay to the north of Connel Bridge and includes coastal settlements, the A828 and Achnacree Moss. Changes to character arising from open views of the turbines across Loch Etive from closer parts of the LCT, along with more distant views from further north within the LCT, would give rise to impacts of Medium/small magnitude. Effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **7b Craggy Coasts and Islands (5.6km, SW)** – This LCT forms the coast where the Craggy Uplands LCTs meet the sea and is of High sensitivity. Localised views of the turbines would be a new characteristic within this LCT, creating scale contrasts with coastal settlement and landform, giving rise to impacts of Small magnitude. Effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and Not significant**.
- **2 High Tops (6.7km, NE)** - This character type includes the hills and mountains to the north of Loch Etive and Loch Awe. It is an open, mountainous and largely unsettled landscape with limited infrastructure and few routes passing through and is of Medium sensitivity. Localised views of the turbines would arise from open slopes facing towards the Site and summits, giving rise to impacts of Small/negligible magnitude. Effects would be **Minor, adverse and not significant**.

6.8.2.3 Visual Receptors

Three types of visual receptors are considered within this assessment:

- Groups – Based around settlements or rural areas and representing effects on the community within public spaces including streets and local recreational routes (including core paths, cycle routes, rights of way, hill tracks or Heritage Paths) in that place. Views from groups of homes may also be noted in the descriptions, but as noted at **Section 6.4.10**, effects on these are a separate matter.
- Routes – Users of longer distance transport and recreational routes through the Study Area including ferry routes.
- Specific viewpoints – Visitors to locations which are recognised and valued for the views available.

Based on the geographic distribution set out at **Section 6.8.2.1** some visual receptors within the LVIA Study Area as shown on **Figure 6.2** would experience minimal effects and do not require detailed assessment. **Figure 6.7** shows the detailed Study Area for visual effects which extends up to 10km to the south, south-east and south-west and approximately 15km in other directions. The uneven radius of the Study Area reflects the distribution of visibility as shown by **Figure 6.2** and the presence of wind farms to the south of the Site which limits the degree to which views are changed in that direction.

6.8.2.3.1 Glen Lonan (0.8km, SW)

Glen Lonan has a generally open valley floor enclosed by low hills and small areas of deciduous woodland on the southern slopes and more extensive areas of forestry on the northern slopes. A single-track road, which is also a core path and part of National Cycle Route (NCR) 78 passes through the valley, which is sparsely settled. As shown by **Viewpoint 2**, the rocky form of Deadh Choimhead forms a key focus in views in the central and western part of the glen, whilst views towards Ben Cruachan can be appreciated looking eastwards. Visual receptors in the glen would include local residents, visitors to Angus' garden, walkers, cyclists, tourists staying in the holiday accommodation, and occasional road users who would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to the views which are of Community value.

As shown by **Figure 6.7** and **Viewpoint 2**, through the more enclosed central and western parts of the glen up to 2 of the turbines would be visible, seen above the forestry alongside Deadh Choimhead. From a more elevated area at the east end of the glen (**Viewpoint 1**) there would be a brief more open view of the Proposed Development. There would also be short stretches of the road with no visibility, due to screening by woodland and/or terrain. Visitors to Angus' Garden would have a clear view of one turbine blade and visibility of the tips of others looking across the Loch from both the lochside (as shown by illustrative view G in **Appendix 6.2**) and more elevated viewpoints above. The scale of change to views would be Medium, affecting a Wide extent of the glen and giving rise to impacts of Medium magnitude. Effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

6.8.2.3.2 Area between woodlands east of Oban and Fearnoch Forest (1.5km, W)

As shown by **Figure 6.7**, this visual receptor group includes users of core paths that follow local roads and tracks between Connel and Oban; local road users, and residents of the isolated properties and the small, dispersed settlements of Ardchonnel and Barranrioch. Views in the area are often enclosed by trees, buildings and/or local undulations in terrain, but offer more open vistas in places and some homes are situated to take advantage of these more open views – particularly to the south and east. Views in this area are of Community value, and visual receptors would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

As shown by **Figure 6.7** and **Viewpoints 3 and 4**, where the wind farm is openly visible, the scale of change to views would be Large/medium. Taking account of localised screening of views by vegetation not included in the ZTV study, an Intermediate extent of the public views would be affected giving rise to impacts of Large/medium magnitude. Effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

6.8.2.3.3 North shore of Loch Etive between Bonawe and North Connel (4.6km, N)

As shown by **Figure 6.7**, the north shore of Loch Etive is more settled toward the west, with North Connel located to the west of Connel Bridge, Black Crofts to the east and relatively continuous linear settlement continuing eastwards around Achnacree Bay. Further to the west, dispersed settlement continues along the local road to Bonawe. Views in the area typically focus either southwards towards Loch Etive and include distant visibility of turbines at Beinn Ghlas and Barran Caltum wind farms, or east towards Ben Cruachan. Trees occasionally provide some screening of views from the road, but most homes have more open views. Views in this area are of Community value, and visual receptors including local residents, visitors to the beach at North Connel, local road users and people using core paths would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

As shown by **Figure 6.7** and **Viewpoints 5, 6, 7** and **Figure 7.32**, the Proposed Development would be seen in views across Loch Etive, set among the undulating hills which form the skyline and appearing markedly larger and closer than the existing wind farms. Where the turbines are visible, they would be a focal feature in views, giving rise to Medium scale changes to views for a Wide extent of the receptor group. Impacts would be of Medium magnitude and effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

6.8.2.3.4 Ardchattan Priory (5km, NE)

As shown by **Figure 6.7**, Ardchattan Priory GDL is located on the north shore of Loch Etive, within the receptor group considered at **Section 6.8.2.3.3** above. The garden is open to visitors one day a week during summer months and the visual amenity of the gardens is of National value. Visitors to the garden would have a High susceptibility and High sensitivity.

Visibility of the Proposed Development would mainly arise from the front gate and gardens to the south of the house (illustrated by **Figures 7.21** and **7.32**), and from the open fields to the east and west of the formal gardens. Individual trees and small groups within the grounds would provide additional screening in the summer months when visitors are present. From the north-east corner of the walled garden, the turbines would be likely to be seen above the nearby trees and outbuilding. Where the turbines are openly seen, the scale of change to views would be Medium, affecting an Intermediate extent of views and giving rise to a Medium magnitude of impact. Effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

6.8.2.3.5 Effects on Other Visual Receptors

Effects on the following visual receptors are assessed to be not significant and are described within **Appendix 6.3**.

- **Taynuilt, Brochroy and Fearnoch (2.3km, NE)** - Views in this area are often enclosed by woodland and/or local undulations in terrain, but sometimes offer more open vistas and visual receptors would be of High/medium sensitivity. As illustrated by **Viewpoint 8** (and nearby **Viewpoint 1**), where the wind farm is seen, the scale of change to views would vary between Medium and Small scale, giving rise to impacts of Medium/small magnitude. The access track passes through this area but would appear a little different to a typical forest track. Effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Connel (4.1km, N)** - The general orientation of views from roads and properties within the settlement is north towards Loch Etive and receptors would have High/medium sensitivity. Visibility would be very limited from within the settlement with only more elevated locations at St Oran's church and Grosvenor crescent having views towards the turbines and there would be a Medium/small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Kerrera and the area between Oban and Loch Feochan (5km, SW)** – This area has directional views due to the south-west – north-east orientation of glens and ridgelines. Visual receptors in this area would be of High/medium sensitivity. Visibility would be limited from local roads and settlement with some more open views of the Proposed Development including from Loch Nell (**Viewpoint**

10), Druim Mòr and south-east facing slopes towards the northern end of Kererra (**Viewpoint 12**). The magnitude of impact arising would be Medium/small to the north-east of the A816, reducing to Small to the south-west. Effects would be **Moderate to the north-east of the A816, reducing to Moderate/minor to the south-west** and would be **Adverse and not significant**.

- **Ardmucknish Bay (5.9km, N) -** As shown by **Figure 6.7**, and Illustrative View E included in **Appendix 6.2,** views from Ardmucknish Bay primarily focus towards the west and south-west, away from the Site and towards the islands of Lismore and Mull. There would be some distant visibility of the Proposed Development from Tralee beach and very limited visibility elsewhere in this receptor group, giving rise to impacts of Small/negligible magnitude. Effects would be **Minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Core paths alongside Loch Etive east of Bonawe and Taynuilt (7.3km, NE)** – Walkers using these routes alongside Loch Etive would have a High sensitivity to changes to views from within the North Argyll LLA. Due to screening by terrain and vegetation, there would only be very short sections of visibility giving rise to views aligned along the loch for walkers heading south-west. The magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible and effects would be **Minor, Adverse and not significant.**
- **Lismore (13.2km, NW)** – Typically views from the interior of the island to the southeast tend to be of nearby higher ground and vegetation, with glimpses of distant hill summits including Ben Cruachan above. People living in and visiting this National Scenic Area (NSA) have a High sensitivity to changes to views. The main views of the Proposed Development from island routes and settlements would be from the south-east shore near the ferry port at Achnacriosh, and intermittent, elevated views from short stretches of the B8045 north-east of Loch Fiart and as it passes through Clachan. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible and effects would be **Minimal, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Oban-Mull and Oban-Lismore ferry routes (7.5km, W) -** Many ferry users on these short routes would be tourists seeking to enjoy the views and would have a High sensitivity. For both routes, there would be consistent visibility between the islands and up to approximately 2.5km from Oban. As shown by Illustrative Views A and B in **Appendix 6.2** and viewpoints 14 and 17, the turbines would be seen on the mainland skyline, creating scale contrasts with coastal settlement. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant.**
- **National Cycle Route 78 / Caledonia Way (0.9km, S)** – Cyclists using this long-distance route which passes through the Study Area via the B845 through Glen Nant, local roads through Glen Lonan to Connel and the A828 northwards from Connel Bridge would be of Medium sensitivity. Changes to views as the route passes between Connel Bridge and Glen Lonan would give rise to impacts of Medium magnitude and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **A85 (2.7km, N)** - The A85 passes through the detailed Study Area between Oban, Connel, Taynuilt and along the glen of the River Awe to Loch Awe. There are pleasant views from parts of this main road, but it is not promoted as a tourist/scenic route and road users would have Medium/low sensitivity. There would be very brief glimpses of the turbines between or through roadside vegetation from near Taynuilt Road, Airds Park and a more open view from east of Dunstaffnage Bay, and close views of the site access as road users pass by. These changes to views would give rise to a Small/negligible magnitude of impact and effects would be **Minor, adverse and not significant**.
- **Oban-Glasgow Railway (3.0km, N)** - Travellers on this scenic railway would have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. The railway follows lower-lying ground and inland views are typically screened by terrain and/or vegetation. Visibility (if any) of the Proposed Development would be restricted to very brief glimpses unlikely to be noticeable to rail passengers. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible, and effects would be **Minimal, Neutral and not significant**.
- **A828 (5.0km, NW)** – Road users heading south via this primary route would experience distance views of blade tips north of Loch Creran, closer views of the turbine through trees as they approach Connel Bridge and brief open views at Connel Bridge before the ironwork obscures the turbines

(**Viewpoint 5**). Road users heading north would have the turbines behind them throughout the journey. Road users would be of Medium/low sensitivity, the magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.

- **A816 (7.0km, SW)** – Road users on this main road would be of Medium sensitivity. Visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited to brief glimpses with only one turbine noticeable from Knipoch for northbound road users and, near Ariogan for road users heading in both directions. The magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible and effects would be **Minimal, Neutral and not significant.**
- **Barran an Fhraoich Viewpoint (Viewpoint 9 – 4.9km, W)** - Access to this viewpoint has been fenced off and it is unlikely to be visited by people appreciating the view. It is therefore not considered in detail.
- **Pulpit Viewpoint, Oban (7.9km, W)** - Pulpit Hill is a panoramic viewpoint located in the southern part of Oban. The primary focus of the views is towards the west and north looking out over the sea and towards the nearby islands and visitors would have High sensitivity to changes to views. The turbines would be seen in front of Ben Cruachan when stood near the fence around the viewpoint open space. The magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Knipoch Viewpoint (Viewpoint 11 – 10km, SW)** - This location is a panoramic viewpoint located on the steep slopes to the south of Loch Feochan and visitors have a High sensitivity. The views focus northwards over the woodland and Loch Feochan, although there are also open views to the west and south-west. The Proposed Development would be visible set among hills seen beyond the head of the loch, with one turbine seen standing above the skyline, but others mostly screened. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.

In addition, the following visual receptor groups in the detailed Study Area would experience minimal effects due to limited visibility and are not considered in detail:

- North-west of the A85 between Oban and Dunbeg;
- Oban;
- North of Benderloch around Lynn of Lorn and Loch Creran;
- Core path and B845 through Glen Nant;
- All visual receptors beyond 4km to the south of the turbines, including core paths, roads and settled areas at Kilmore, Barran, Kilchrenan and Annat;
- Travellers on the ferry route through the Sound of Kerrera;
- Visitors to Achnacloich GDL;
- Hill walkers on Ben Cruachan, and
- Visitors to the panoramic viewpoint at Connel.

6.8.2.4 Designated Areas

No significant effects have been identified on designated landscapes within the Study Area. Effects on the following designations within the 25km Study Area are assessed to be not significant and are described within **Appendix 6.3**;

- **Lynn of Lorn NSA (8.7km, NW)** – The NSA incorporates the island of Lismore and part of the mainland as shown on **Figure 6.1.** The landscape has a strong NE-SW alignment and forms a small scale green oasis set within the larger scale context of the lochs and mountains. There are important connections between the island and the area's rich history including with the castles and lochs. There would be impacts of Small/negligible magnitude on the special qualities of 'small scale, low-lying landscape within a vast highland backdrop' (High sensitivity); and 'coastline of great

variety and diversity' (Medium sensitivity). These effects would be **Minor, Adverse and not significant**.

- **Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA (15km, NE**) – This NSA extends beyond the LVIA Study Area to the north-east and would have very limited visibility of the Proposed Development as shown by **Figure 6.1**. Effects on the special quality of 'a land of classic Highland vistas' would be Negligible as illustrated by viewpoint 20 at Ben Starav.
- **North Argyll LLA (6.4km, E) –** This locally designation is located across extensive areas beyond 5km to the north and east of the Site and is judged to have High/medium sensitivity to changes to its 'scenic value'. Clachan Flats wind farm is located within the LLA and these is extensive visibility of existing wind farms as shown by **Figure 6.9**. Changes to the 'scenic value' would arise primarily in the closer areas along the shore of Loch Etive to the north-east of the Site, as illustrated by viewpoint 7, reducing to Negligible beyond approximately 12km (the area contained by the taller summits to the north-east and east). The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.
- **North West Argyll (Coast) LLA (6.5km, SW) –** This is a small LLA that encompasses a peninsula of land between Loch Feochan and the Sound of Kerrera, and the island of Kererra. The 'scenic value' of the LLA is judged to be of High/medium sensitivity. Viewpoints 11 and 12 illustrate changes to inland views from limited areas of the mainland part of the LLA and from the east-facing slopes and summits on Kererra which would give rise to impacts of Small magnitude on the 'scenic value'. Effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant.**

In addition, the following locally designated landscapes in the detailed Study Area would experience minimal effects due to limited visibility and distance as shown by **Figure 6.2** and the wirelines for **Viewpoints 18 and 19**, and are not considered in detail:

- Knapdale / Melfort LLA (11.8km, SW);
- Inninmore Bay and Garbh Shlios SLA (17.7km, NW);
- Central, South and West Mull LLA (21km, W); and
- Ardgour SLA (22.2km, N).

6.8.2.5 Night-time Effects

6.8.2.5.1 Introduction

The lighting requirements and embedded mitigation measures for the Proposed Development are described in **Section 6.7** above.

The aviation lights would be visible as points of light, especially where there would be a high degree of contrast at the viewpoint (i.e. the lights were seen against a dark sky / dark landmass or where there would be little or no existing artificial light sources present).

During periods of greater ambient light, (e.g. sunset, twilight, dusk, dawn) there would be a reduced effect as the contrast of the aviation lighting against the background would be less. The lights would be switched on 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. This variation means that in summer the lighting would not be switched on when people are predominantly active and contrast with the background would be reduced. However, in winter the lighting would be switched on during peak active times.

Due to the location of the lighting on the turbines relative to the rotating blades, this can result in a blinking effect caused by the screening effect of blades as they travel past the lights. These effects are dependent upon the rotation speed of the blades, the direction of the wind and the location of the receptor. Where a number of lit turbines are present in the view, such blinking is likely to be at the same frequency but uncoordinated.

6.8.2.5.2 Approach and Scope

There is a distinction between light pollution or nuisance and the effect of lighting on the visual amenity of the landscape at night. This is not a technical lighting assessment but focuses on the night-time effects resulting from the introduction of new artificial lighting. This part of the assessment is still an emerging discipline regarding the scope and receptors which would be impacted as a result of the visible aviation lighting. Both the Landscape Institute GLVIA3 panel and the Scottish Government Aviation Lighting Working Group are currently working on guidance. It is clear that night-time impacts would occur on the visual amenity of the area, and that night-time effects are important for locations valued for their night skies, especially where these are either part of a national landscape designation or recognised specifically for dark skies. There has been greater debate regarding effects on landscape character, though emerging consensus from the Aviation Lighting Working Group is that landscape character is not likely to be affected. Page 12 of Crystal Rig Wind Farm Phase IV Scottish Ministerial Determination Letter dated 24 March 2021) stated that:

"Reporters conclude that proposed aviation lighting would be a visual impact alone and consider that without being able to see and fully appreciate the features of the landscape and the composition of views, it is not possible to carry out a meaningful landscape character assessment. The Scottish Ministers concur with this conclusion."

As such, this assessment focuses on visual effects at night.

6.8.2.5.3 Sensitivity of Receptors

For landscape receptors, susceptibility is judged based on the degree to which they are currently characterised by darkness. Value is judged based on similar factors as for the daytime assessment unless suggested otherwise. For example, identification of a Dark Sky Park which would increase value; or if value is based on scenic qualities which are not appreciable at night, the value may decrease.

For visual receptors, the value attached to night-time views is considered to be low unless there is a particular feature that can be best appreciated in the hours of darkness. This may include views of stars and the night sky that are only possible in particularly dark areas or views of well-known landmarks that are lit up at night. The susceptibility of visual receptors also differs at night reflecting the different activities people undertake in the hours of darkness. For example, drivers using roads at night tend to be more focused on the road and the area illuminated by their headlights than during the day and may have oncoming headlights, cats eyes, or other reflective signage drawing their attention, resulting in lower susceptibility. This is particularly the case on unlit rural roads that may be narrow and winding. On the other hand, people taking part in activities requiring darkness, such as stargazing, would be of higher susceptibility.

6.8.2.5.4 Baseline

Figure 6.11 gives a broad impression of the levels of existing lighting within the Study Area based on satellite observations of light pollution. It illustrates that the existing night-time environment in the Study Area is typically dark with limited sources of light pollution. Brighter areas in the Study Area are associated with towns and scattered villages; Oban, located within 10km to the west of the Site, is seen to be the lightest part of the Study Area, with brighter areas extending northwards along the coast and otherwise associated with villages, and with Glensanda quarry 20km to the north-west of the Site. Street lighting in settlements is mostly of a modern LED variety which limits sky glow but results in quite stark white lighting in the illuminated areas and a strong contrast with the dark areas beyond the settlement. This results in views from within settlements being dominated by the streetlighting, with little sense of the darkness beyond unless the viewer is located at the settlement edge, and settlements appearing as very bright but well contained areas of light when viewed from the dark surrounding landscapes.

The operational Barran Caltum turbines have red aviation lights, and navigation lighting around the coastline is noticeable in views looking out to sea. In views from the islands, lighting in coastal settlements is also a notable feature, although not as bright as navigation lights.

There are no Dark Sky Parks or Discovery sites within the Study Area. The isle of Eriska, near Port Appin, is listed online as a local stargazing site. However, this is a private island that hosts a hotel and spa, with star gazing listed as part of the hotel experience. It is not considered further as a local star gazing site due to the private nature of the views.

None of the local or national landscape designations have darkness or night skies identified as special qualities though all are associated with darker areas as shown by **Figure 6.11**.

6.8.2.5.5 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Analysis

Figure 6.3 indicates that visibility of the aviation lights would be relatively widespread, but patchy within approximately 6km of the proposed turbines and this would be the main areas of visibility at night as much of the more distant visibility is from open hills where visual receptors are less likely to be present at night. Theoretical visibility of the aviation lights at night from the roads and settlement within 5km is illustrated by the wirelines for **Viewpoints 1, 2 and 4**. and a night-time photomontage is provided for **Viewpoint 3**. These illustrate that in the most open views from the east and west, all or all but one of the lights are likely to be seen, whereas from within Glen Lonan this would more typically be zero to two lights.

Visibility of the lighting from the south shore of Loch Etive would be limited to occasional more open or elevated views such as those within Connel and along the A85 shown by illustrative views C, D (Grosvenor Drive and St Oran's Church in Connel) and G (A85 near Dunstaffnage) in **Appendix 6.2**.

More continuous visibility would arise from the road and settlement between Achnacree Bay and Bonawe, looking southwards across Loch Etive as illustrated by the night-time photomontage for **Viewpoint 6** and the wireline from **Viewpoint 7**.

To the east, there would be some patchy theoretical visibility around Taynuilt. This would include views of the aviation lights seen through and between roadside vegetation for drivers heading west towards Taynuilt for approximately 1km of the route and views from near the church and school in Taynuilt as illustrated by the night-time photomontage for **Viewpoint 8**.

From the south-west, there would be open views of most of the lights for users of the local road past Loch Nell (**Viewpoint 10**).

Beyond this area, visibility of the lighting would be patchy and would typically not coincide with visual receptor locations. **Viewpoint 12** at Bailliemore illustrates open visibility of the turbine lighting seen above Oban from a small area of Kererra and **Viewpoint 14** at Achnacroich illustrates views of some of the lights in the distance, adding to navigation and settlement lighting, and the red lights on the Barran Caltum turbines from areas of Lismore with south-east facing views. Travellers on ferry routes would also see the aviation lighting at a distance of 10km or more if on late or early sailings.

6.8.2.5.6 Night-time Visual Effects

Core paths and other outdoor recreational locations are generally unlikely to be used at night and are not considered. The main visual receptors likely to have views of the aviation lighting are summarised above. Those requiring detailed consideration are as follows:

<u>Glen Lonan (0.8km, SW)</u>

This area is sparsely settled, and the only lights seen are those in the small number of homes along the glen. Views in this area are of Community value, and visual receptors would mostly be local residents travelling to or from their homes and would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

As shown by **Figure 6.3**, where views of the lights arise, typically only one or two would be seen, as shown by the wireline for **Viewpoint 2**. There the only area of greater visibility being at **Viewpoint 1**, where three of the lights would be seen above the skyline as shown by the wireline. Close views of the red lights in elevated positions above the skyline would be a marked change and the scale of change would be Large where visibility arises – for an Intermediate extent of the glen. The magnitude of impact would be Large/medium and effects would be **Major/moderate, adverse and significant**.

Area between woodlands east of Oban and Fearnoch Forest (1.5km, W)

At night, this visual receptor group includes local road users, and residents of the isolated properties and the small dispersed settlements of Ardchonnel and Barranrioch. There is no street lighting and the area is dark at night. Views in this area are of Community value, and visual receptors would mostly be local residents travelling to or from their homes and would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

As shown by **Figure 6.3** and **Viewpoints 3 and 4**, where the wind farm is openly visible, the red lights would be seen above the skyline looking east and there would be Large scale changes to views. While there would be localised screening of views by vegetation not included in the ZTV study, the lights would be seen through branches in the winter and a Wide extent of the views would be affected giving rise to impacts of Large magnitude in darker areas such as **Viewpoint 3** at Barranrioch to Large/medium magnitude in areas such as Ardchonnel were there is more visibility of lights in homes. Effects would be **Major/moderate, Adverse and significant**.

North shore of Loch Etive between Bonawe and North Connel (4.6km, N)

At night, this visual receptor group includes local road users and residents of the dispersed settlements of along the north shore of Loch Etive. There is no street lighting and the area is dark at night. Views in this area are of Community value, and visual receptors would mostly be local residents travelling to or from their homes and would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

As shown by **Figure 6.3** visibility of the lights from Black Crofts would be screened by trees, and the same would largely be the case from the road as it passes through Achnacree, although here the lights would be seen through branches in winter and homes in Achnacree have more open views. Neither of these settlements is street-lit and they are dark at night apart from lights in nearby homes. North Connel has street lighting and visibility of the aviation lighting would be limited to the southern edge close to the beach, where nearby lighting on the bridge and in the settlement on the southern shore is seen.

Viewpoints 5 to 7 show that where there are open views across the loch, all of the aviation lights would typically be seen above the skyline along with nearby lights in homes and the movement of head and tail lights along the A85 on the south shore, giving rise to a Medium/small scale of change to views for an Intermediate extent of the receptor group. Impacts would be of Medium/small magnitude and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.

Effects on other visual receptors

Effects at night on the following visual receptors are assessed to be not significant. The summary descriptions below are informed by more detailed descriptions of the receptors and visibility during the daytime as set out in **Section 6.8.2.3** and **Appendix 6.3** and the ZTV and viewpoint analysis at **Section 6.8.2.6.** Unless stated otherwise the visual receptors being considered are local residents travelling to or from, or out walking in the evenings/mornings near their homes and would have a High susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to changes to views of Community value.

- **Taynuilt, Brochroy and Fearnoch (2.3km, NE)** - As illustrated by the night-time photomontage from **Viewpoint 8** and illustrative view H in **Appendix 6.2,** in the Localised extent where the wind farm is seen, the scale of change to views would vary between Medium/small and Small scale, depending on the presence or absence of street-lighting. Impacts would be Medium/small magnitude and effects would be **Moderate, Adverse and not significant**.

- **Connel (4.1km, N)** - Visibility of the lights would be very limited from within the settlement with only more elevated locations at St Oran's church and Grosvenor Crescent having views and, taking account of street lighting within Connel, there would be a Medium/small scale of change in a Limited extent of the settlement. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.
- **Kerrera and area between Oban and Loch Feochan (5km, SW)** – There would be very a limited extent of open views of the lights in this area – mostly for drivers passing **Viewpoint 10** at Loch Nell and local residents and road users near **Viewpoint 12** on the eastern side of Kererra. From Kererra the lights would be seen above those in the town at Oban and would give rise to Small/negligible scale changes to views. At Loch Nell, 3-4 lights would be seen from the dark lake shore giving rise to Medium scale changes to views. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible across most of this area, increasing to Small for road users on the local road past Loch Nell. Effects would be **Minor at Loch Nell, reducing to Minimal elsewhere in this area and would be Adverse and not significant**.
- **Ardmucknish Bay (5.9km, N) –** As set out in **Appendix 6.3** and shown by **Figure 6.3**, there would be limited visibility of the Proposed Development for this receptor group. Some of the aviation lights would be seen in the distance from Tralee beach (by the few people present at night), along with the light on one of the Barran Caltum turbines and lights in settlements and holiday parks along the shoreline. Changes to views would be Small scale for a Limited extent of the area, giving rise to impacts of Small/negligible magnitude. Effects would be **Minimal, Neutral and not significant**.
- **Lismore (13.2km, NW)** – As set out in **Appendix 6.3**, and as shown by **Figure 6.3** and **Viewpoint 14 (night)**, there would be limited visibility of the aviation lighting from the island. Views towards the mainland at night include bright lights on navigation aids, dispersed lighting in settlements – particularly Dunbeg and parts of Oban, and one (or both) of the red lights on the turbines at Barran Caltum. Views to the north-west include bright lights at Glensanda quarry and occasional flashing orange lights on vehicles moving around the quarry. Changes to views would be Small/negligible scale for a Limited extent of the island. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible and effects would be **Minimal, Neutral and not significant**.
- **Pulpit Hill Viewpoint, Oban (7.9km, W)** – Visitors to this view would have a High sensitivity to changes to views – the same as during that day, but would be fewer in number than during the day. Lighting within the town, on navigation aids and vessels in the sea would be seen looking out at the main vista to the north and west. Looking towards the Site, the aviation lights would be seen above nearby lights in town, with separation provided by the elevation of the Site and woodland beyond the town. Changes to views would be Medium/small scale and would affect a Localised extent of the view. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant**.

In addition, the following visual receptors in the detailed Study Area would experience minimal effects as briefly summarised below:

- **A85, A828, A816, railway** - As reported in **Section 6.8.2.3.5**, drivers on A-roads and rail travellers would typically have limited visibility of the Proposed Development and would have a Low sensitivity to visibility of red lights at night as set out at **Section 6.8.2.5.3** above. The most open views from the main road and rail network at night are likely to be when heading south across the brightly lit Connel Bridge – towards areas that are lit. Otherwise, visibility would be restricted to occasional glimpses and short stretches such as near the garden centre on the A85 east of Dunbeg and approaching Taynuilt from the east on the A85. Changes to views from these routes at night are considered to be at most Small scale and Limited in extent – giving rise to impacts that would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal and Neutral.
- **Oban-Mull and Oban-Lismore ferry routes** (7.5km, W) – Ferry users at night would largely be those seeking to travel to their destination rather than enjoy views and would have a Medium susceptibility to changes to views ranging between National and Community value, and would have

High/medium sensitivity. The ferry itself would be lit at night and the aviation lights would be seen beyond navigation aids with green and red lights, looking towards the lighting of the Port and town at Oban, standing above the town. The resultant changes to views at distances of 10km or more would be at most Small/negligible scale The magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible and effects would be Minimal and Neutral.

6.8.2.6 Night-time effects on designated areas

The Local Landscape Areas in Argyll and Bute are not specifically designated for their night-time views or character and the effects that would arise would be on visual receptors within those areas as described above.

6.8.2.6.1 Lynn of Lorn NSA (8.7km, NW)

During the scoping process, NatureScot specifically requested consideration of night-time effects on this designated area. The identified special qualities, (considered in **Appendix 6.3**), do not include views at night or particular qualities of the landscape at night. The night-time assessment provided in **Appendix 6.3** considers the degree to which each of the special qualities may be appreciated at night in identifying their susceptibility and sets out the effects which would arise on those qualities as a result of views of the aviation lights. The night photomontage from **Viewpoint 14** illustrates the likely appearance of the aviation lights in views at night from Lismore. The assessment indicates that impacts on the special qualities at night would be of Negligible magnitude and effects would be **Minimal, Neutral and not significant**.

6.8.3 Decommissioning

Effects on landscape fabric would involve very localised changes within the Site consisting of the removal of all above ground infrastructure and reinstatement to moorland, covering over the turbine foundations.

Effects on landscape character, views and designations during decommissioning would be short-term and would primarily arise from views of the crane and part-dismantled turbines. During this stage, effects would be very similar to those from the operational stage and are not assessed separately.

6.9 Cumulative Assessment

6.9.1 Introduction

The assessment is based on the same landscape and visual baseline and receptor groups as the main LVIA, and the methodology is the same in terms of forming and expressing judgements. Two types of judgement are provided:

- Additional effects –The effects that would arise from the addition of the Proposed Development to a baseline which includes the cumulative development(s) being considered.
- Combined effects – The effects that would arise from the addition of both the Proposed Development and the cumulative development(s) being considered to the main assessment baseline.

Typically, only the additional effects need to be considered, and the cumulative assessment is provided to inform decision-making in the event that one or more of the cumulative developments have been consented prior to the Proposed Development (i.e. the future baseline has changed). The combined effects may be relevant where two or more development applications are determined together.

Landscape and visual receptors that are considered to receive effects of small-negligible or negligible magnitude from the Proposed Development are not included in this assessment, as an effect of such low

magnitude adds nothing or very little regardless of the effects of other developments. If significant cumulative effects arise on those receptors, they would be as a result of other developments and are not relevant for consideration as part of this application.

6.9.2 Assessment Scenarios

All cumulative schemes within the 25km Study Area are illustrated on **Figure 6.9**. Operational and consented developments have been included within the landscape and visual baseline within the main assessment. Those located within the detailed Study Area include:

- Operational wind farms within approximately 4-10 km: Barran Caltum – two 54m turbines to the west; Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal – larger wind farms to the south; and
- Operational and consented wind farms beyond approximately 17km south-east: Blarghour Variation and An Suidhe.

Table 6.9 lists wind farms in planning or scoping stages within or close to the Study Area (also illustrated on **Figure 6.9**).

TABLE 6.9: CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

NAME	DESCRIPTION	PLANNING STATUS	DISTANCE, DIRECTION
An Carr Dubh	13 turbines, up to 180m	Planning	18.5km, SE
Ladyfield	13 turbines, up to 180m	Planning	20.1km, SE
Barachander	11 turbines, up to 180m	Scoping	7.3km, SE
Beinn Ghlas Repowering	18 turbines, up to 180m	Scoping	4km, SE
Corr Chnoc	18 turbines, up to 200m	Scoping	1.6km, S
Eredine	26 turbines, up to 230m	Scoping	22.3km, S
Musdale	26 turbines, up to 200m	Scoping	4.8km, S

Blarghour variation was consented in August 2024 the formerly consented application is not considered on the basis that the new variation is considered to be more likely to be constructed than the older consent.

Proposals in scoping (or that have been screened for EIA purposes) may not proceed to application with the same design as scoped and may not become applications before the Proposed Development is determined and are therefore less certain and are not typically included in the cumulative assessment. As shown by **Figure 6.9**, there are four nearby schemes in scoping to the south of the Site. Due to the uncertainty around these developments, a detailed cumulative assessment is not provided for these, as it is highly likely that any assessment at this stage would need to be revised if and when applications for those schemes come forward and the final designs are known.

The scenarios considered within this cumulative assessment are:

- Scenario 1 – The Proposed Development with operational and consented development – as described in **Section 6.8.**
- Scenario 2 – The Proposed Development with schemes in planning (Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms).

6.9.3 Cumulative ZTV Studies

Figure 6.9 provides a cumulative ZTV for the Proposed Development and the operational and consented wind farms and is described in **Section 6.8.2.1.1** above.

Figure 6.10 shows a cumulative ZTV for the Proposed Development, An Carr Dubh and Ladyfield wind farms. Visibility of the schemes in planning would mostly occur to the east and south of the Site, where there is limited visibility of the Proposed Development. The main areas of combined visibility for all three developments would occur on hills to the west of the Firth of Lorne and Loch Linnhe, at the western edge of the Study Area, and in limited patches on the south facing hills to the north and east of the Site. Combined visibility of the Proposed Development and An Carr Dubh is limited and follows a similar pattern to the three schemes combined; the same is true for combined visibility of the Proposed Development and Ladyfield Wind Farm.

Within 10km of the Site there would be limited combined visibility and generally the Proposed Development would be seen without either Ladyfield or An Carr Dubh wind farms.

6.9.4 Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis

The scale of effect at viewpoints arising from adding the Proposed Development to a baseline including the relevant cumulative developments for each scenario is set out in **Table 6.11** below. Only viewpoints where the effects of the Proposed Development are greater than negligible and Ladyfield and/or An Carr Dubh wind farms would be visible are considered for the reasons set out in **Section 6.9.1** above.

TABLE 6.10: CUMULATIVE SCALE OF CHANGE AT VIEWPOINTS

NO.	VIEWPOINT	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2
7	B845 Inveresragan	Medium	Medium
16	Ben Cruachan	Small/negligible	Small/negligible

6.9.5 Scenario 2 – with Schemes in Planning

As shown by **Figure 6.10** and **Table 6.10** above, there would be very limited interaction between the Proposed Development and other wind farms in planning. Cumulative effects would not differ from those identified for Scenario 1 – the main LVIA as set out in **Section 6.8.**

6.10 Summary

6.10.1 Scope and Purpose

This assessment describes the existing landscape and views, considers their sensitivity to change and identifies changes likely to arise from the Proposed Development, providing judgements of the importance of the effects arising.

6.10.2 Design

The design has been informed by landscape and visual considerations. Key factors which have influenced the design include:

- The potential effects on the residential amenity of nearby homes;
- The appearance of the wind farm from the main area of visibility along the north shore of Loch Etive – particularly given the undulating terrain of the Site;
- The appearance of the wind farm from Glen Lonan given the potential for turbines in the south part of the Site to dominate the small scale of the valley and appear incongruous; and
- The tracks, substation and other infrastructure would be sited to minimise external visibility and tree removals.

6.10.3 Effects on Character

Significant effects on landscape character would arise on the host 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens character type. This is a landscape of contrasts with small scale, intimate valleys, enclosed by rocky hills and woodlands. Wind turbines would not be a new feature within this landscape, but the two existing turbines at Barran Caltum are smaller in scale. The most pronounced changes to character would arise within Glen Lonan where the occasional views of the turbines above the skyline would contrast with the otherwise small scale and enclosed character. With greater distance, including at Loch Nell, where visibility arises the scale contrasts would be less pronounced. The turbines may distract from, but in most places would not intrude into, views of Deadh Choimhead and Ben Cruachan from within the LCT.

Significant effects would also arise within LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic which runs along the shores of Loch Etive to the north of the Site. Visibility would be limited from the south shore, but significant effects would arise as a result of views of the turbines from the north shore. Visibility of large wind turbines which would contrast with the scale of the coastal settlement around the loch to the south of Loch Etive would be new characteristic within this landscape, as existing turbines at Beinn Ghlas and Barran Caltum are smaller and more distant, though typically seen from the same locations as the Proposed Development would be.

These significant effects on character would arise as a result of changes within up to 6km north and north-east and 3-4km south and south-west of the proposed turbines – affecting a localised area.

6.10.4 Visual Effects

Significant visual effects would arise as a result of changes to views experienced by people living in, visiting and/or travelling through Glen Lonan – including visitors to Angus' Garden; the area to the west of the Site between the woodlands east of Oban and Fearnoch Forest; and along the north shore of Loch Etive – including visitors to the gardens at Ardchatten Priory. The most open views of the turbines in in these areas would be from the west and east ends of Glen Lonan, and from the north shores of Loch Etive. This area is localised, extending approximately 3-4km to the south, 5km east and west and 6km north from the proposed turbines.

From the key transport routes, settlement along the south shore of Loch Etive and from Oban, visibility would be limited by the hills rising to the south and by woodland and buildings. Visibility from within settlements will be limited to occasional more elevated locations in Connel and Taynuilt and short, more open stretches of the A85 near the garden centre at Dunbeg and east of Taynuilt.

There would be more distant views from the islands of Lismore, Mull and Kererra, Tralee beach; ferry routes; the summit of Ben Cruachan, and panoramic viewpoints at Pulpit Hill and Knipoch. Effects on these views would not be significant.

6.10.5 Effects on Designated Areas

Effects on designated landscapes within the Study Area would not be significant.

The Lynn of Lorn NSA lies approximately 9km north-west of the Site and encompasses the island of Lismore, areas of sea and a small area of the mainland to the north-east of the island. The landscape has a strong NE-SW alignment and forms a small scale green oasis set within the larger scale context of the lochs and mountains. The enclosed nature of the island views and limited visibility from the mainland would limit the extent of effects to views from the south-east facing shoreline and some areas of higher ground on Lismore, giving rise to minor effects on the special qualities of 'small scale, low-lying landscape within a vast highland backdrop' and 'coastline of great variety and diversity', as a result of distant views of the turbines where there are more open views towards the mainland to the south-east.

The Local Landscape Areas (LLA) within Argyll and Bute do not have identified special qualities and are designated for their 'scenic value'. There would be moderate, adverse effects on the North Argyll and North

West Argyll LLAs which respectively lie approximately 6.5km east and south-west of the Site, arising from localised views towards the turbines from areas of higher ground and slopes facing towards the Site.

6.10.6 Night-time Effects

Significant adverse effects would arise for local residents and road users within Glen Lonan and between Barranrioch and Ardchonnel to the south and west of the Site as a result of patchy visibility of the red aviation lights from a rural area that otherwise only has views of lights in the small number of homes.

The most extensive area of visibility of the aviation lights would be from the road and settlements north of Loch Awe between Connel Bridge and Bonawe. From this area, the aviation lights would be seen above the skyline, to the left of the red lights on the turbines at Barran Caltum, and above the moving head and tail lights seen along the A85. Taking account of the existing lights seen from this area, effects would not be significant.

6.10.7 Cumulative effects

Effects with operational and consented wind farms are considered in the main LVIA. The only wind farms in planning within the 25km Study Area are Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh wind farms, both beyond 18km to the south-east of the Site. There would be limited combined visibility of the Proposed Development and the two wind farms and cumulative effects would be the same as for the Proposed Development alone.

6.10.8 Residential Visual Amenity

The Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) provided in **Appendix 6.4** concludes that none of the five properties within (and just beyond) the RVAA Study Area would experience effects of the highest magnitude and the RVAA threshold would not be reached for any home as a result of the Proposed Development.

6.10.9 Conclusion

Significant effects would arise as a result of changes to the landscape character and views within 4km south, 5km east and west and 6km north of the Site. These effects would be localised in their extent and would not affect landscape or views of regional or national importance.

NPF4 Policy 11(e) part 2 recognises that significant landscape and visual effects will generally be considered acceptable where impacts are localised in their extent, as they are for the Proposed Development. As concluded in **Section 6.10.5**, effects on designated landscapes within the Study Area were found not to be significant. This confirms that Policy 11(d) (and, with it, Policies 4(c) and 4(d)) will not be engaged in the LVIA context.

6.10.10 Assessment summary tables

Only non-Minimal effects are included in the summary table. Significant effects are shown in **bold**.

TABLE 6.11: MAIN ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

RECEPTOR	DISTANCE, DIRECTION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Character types				
7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens	**Includes Site**	**Medium**	**Large/medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**

RECEPTOR	DISTANCE, DIRECTION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
20 Rocky Mosaic	**2km, N and 4.9km, N**	**High/medium**	**Large/medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
7c North Loch Awe Craggy Upland	1.7km, S	Medium/low	Medium/small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
4 Mountain Glens	4.3km, E	Medium	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
18 Lowland Ridges and Moss	4.7km, N	Medium	Medium/small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
7b Craggy Coasts and Islands	5.6km, SW	High	Small	Moderate, Adverse
2 High Tops	6.7km, NE	Medium	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse
Visual receptors				
Glen Lonan	**0.8km, S**	**High/medium**	**Medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
Area between woodlands east of Oban and Fearnoch Forest	**1.5km, W**	**High/medium**	**Large/medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
North shore of Loch Etive between Bonawe & North Connel	**4.6km, N**	**High/medium**	**Medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
Ardchattan Priory	**5km, NE**	**High**	**Medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
Taynuilt, Brochroy and Fearnoch	2.3km, NE	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse
Connel	4km, N	High/medium	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
Kerrera and area between Oban and Loch Feochan	5km, SW	High/medium	Medium/small (NE of A816)	Moderate, Adverse
			Small (SW of A816)	Moderate/minor, Adverse
Ardmucknish Bay	5.9km, N	High/medium	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse
Core paths alongside Loch Etive east of Bonawe and Taynuilt	7.3km, NE	High	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse
Oban-Mull and Oban-Lismore ferry routes	7.5km, W	High/medium	Small	Moderate, Adverse
National Cycle Route 78 / Caledonia Way	0.9km, S	Medium	Medium	Moderate, Adverse
A85	2.7km, N	Medium	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse
A828	5km, NW	Medium	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
Pulpit Hill	7.9km, W	High	Medium/small	Moderate/minor, Adverse
Knipoch Viewpoint	10km, SW	High	Small	Moderate, Adverse
Designated areas				
Lynn of Lorn NSA	8.7km, NW	High	Small/negligible	Minor, Adverse

RECEPTOR	DISTANCE, DIRECTION	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
North Argyll LLA	6.4km, E	High/medium	Small	Moderate, Adverse
North West Argyll LLA	6.5km, SW	High/medium	Small	Moderate, Adverse
Night-time effects				
Glen Lonan	**0.8km, S**	**High/medium**	**Large/medium**	**Major/moderate, Adverse**
Area between woodlands east of Oban and Fearnoch Forest	**1.5km, W**	**High/medium**	**Large/medium**	**Major, Adverse**
North shore of Loch Etive between Bonawe & North Connel	4.6km, N	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse
Taynuilt, Brochroy and Fearnoch	2.3km, NE	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse
Connel	4km, N	High/medium	Medium/small	Moderate, Adverse
Local road past Loch Nell	5km, SW	Medium	Small	Minor, Adverse
Pulpit Hill	7.9km, W	High	Small	Moderate/minor, Adverse