

Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within 40 km of the proposed development are presented on EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.2 and landscape designations presented on EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.3. Table 4.2.1 below describes only those LCTs which would have potential visibility of the proposed development.

Table 4.2.1: Landscape Character Assessment Summary				
LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment				
LBR2	Mountain Massif	30 km/ SW	<p>Grey craggy peaks of vast and imposing scale with sweeping concave slopes of steep, smooth rock faces which plummet into glacial valleys;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strong visual force created by the slope profile and accentuated by fans of scree and bracken which draws the eye up and down slopes;Typical glacial forms such as aretes and corries within hills, and moraine and erratics along the glen floors;Dense patches of plantation woodland along the base and sides of the glens, often broken by plots of clear-felled forest;Deep rocky clefts within the hillside carved and highlighted by silvery burns and shadows, sometimes packed with birch trees, forming meandering mossy venison the rock face;Glens affording a small-scale refuge from the vast mountainous masses and often containing roads, footpaths, settlements and picnic areas;Rivers along the glen floor that are wide and shingly near the mouth, steep and rocky higher up the glen, these are often highlighted by clumps of alder, rowan and birch;Single track roads, often with dead ends, small bridges and stone dykes, concentrated along the small-scale glens; their scale provides a contrast to the experience of the vast scale of the landscape.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to the distinctive and prominent form of the topography in this LCT and due to the smaller scale elements on the lower slopes of the landscape and at the bae of glens within the LCT.</p> <p>Value: High, due to its designation within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA designation and Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores-Alder WLA classification.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
LBR5	Smooth Moorland Ridges	7.5 km/ WSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gently undulating hills with smooth elongated ridge profiles, developing a more undulating landform in transitional areas with Rugged Massif;Simple, large scale landscape pattern dictated by a simple landcover and uncomplicated landform;Plateau summits typified by a mosaic of habitats ranging from mixed grasses, heather and sedges, with some exposed peat hags and areas of bare rock;Large blocks of conifer plantations along the hill sides and lower foothills;Broadleaf woods on lower slopes and along loch edges, often framing crofts;Riparian vegetation within some drainage channels, along burnsidess;Scattered croft settlements with stone dykes concentrated on lower slopes, particularly along roads and south facing slope; andUpland tracks and roads are present.Viewpoints 4 and 13 are located in this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	<p>Susceptibility: High susceptibility in locations subject to and/or where scattered dwellings and crofts occur, and close to exposed edges of the LCT where development would occur as prominent features on the smoothly graded skyline in views from adjoining straths and glens.</p> <p>Value: High. This LCT contains areas designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLA) such as Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA and areas defined as the Braeroy, Glenshirra and Creag Meagaidh Wild Land Area (WLA), which, whilst not formal designations, indicates an assumed elevated value due to remoteness and a relative absence of human artefacts. It should be noted, however, that, within the LCT the wildness of the landscape is reduced by presence of a number of man-made artefacts, both within and immediately adjoining the LCT, including an existing 132 KV power line, the Beaully Denny line and associated infrastructure, and a number of hill and farm tracks, all of which reduces the remoteness and wild characteristics of the LCT. The Millennium Wind Farm whilst located on the opposite side of the Great Glen from this landscape, is particularly prominent in views from locations in the vicinity for the proposed development site.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Generally medium sensitivity due to the scale and simplicity of the landscape, but increasing to high in locations subject to designation as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) such as Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA and/or the Braeroy, Glenshirra and Creag Meagaid WLA.</p>
LBR6	Rocky Moorland	15 km/W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rugged, undulating plateaux of moorland with a textured and crinkled skyline and no distinct summits or peaks;Large patches of commercial coniferous forestry;Uniform expanses of marshy grassland, sedges and rushes, rocky outcrops and stunted trees;	<p>Susceptibility: Medium to high. Medium due to the scale and simplicity of the landscape. Highest susceptibility related to the presence of the Central Highlands WLA characteristics in part of this LCT, and exposed edges of the LCT where development may occur as prominent features on the skyline in views from adjoining straths and glens. The existing Millennium and Consented Beinneun Wind Farms are located within this LCT.</p>

¹ Based on closest boundary of LCT to turbines.

Table 4.2.1: Landscape Character Assessment Summary				
LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Isolated, upland lochans;Infrastructure and engineered structures associated with hydro-electricity schemes such as pylons, dams and sub-stations;Closely related to Smooth Moorland Ridges with long views, but lacking the latter's distinctive smooth relief; andContains Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farm turbines and infrastructure.	<p>Value: High. Contains the Kinlochhourn -Knoydart – Morar WLA, the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Ranging from medium in large scale upland location, increasing to high within WLA, the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA, and close to exposed edges of the LCT.</p>
LBR7	Rugged Massif	8.5 km/SW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rugged character, a crinkled skyline and a landform accentuated by rock y outcrops and glacial debris;Large rocky masses drawing the eye upwards to ice-scoured rounded summits;Often a transitional landscape with indistinct boundaries with other landscape types;Often in remote, unsettled and inaccessible locations which, combined with the rugged relief, accentuates the wild character of these areas;Thin soils supporting sparse cover of grasses and heather on higher, drier slopes;Birch scrub and some oak woodland on lower slopes and within burn gullies and hanging valleys;Extensive sheep and deer grazing with stalking and hillwalking as popular activities; andPlantation forestry occurring over small areas on flatter, lower slope.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to the prominence of the mountains in views across the district and their steeply graded topography. The absence of obvious man-made elements means that the introduction of turbines and ancillary elements such as tracks would be especially conspicuous.</p> <p>Value: High due to the presence of the Kinlochhourn -Knoydart – Morar WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
LBR8	Interlocking Sweeping Peaks	20 km/ W	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pyramidal mountain summits with a jagged profile, often appearing as overlapping, peaks along glen views;Sweeping slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs with little or no flat shoreline fringe;Sparsely vegetated with few trees;Numerous rocky outcrops punctuate the steep, rugged terrain; andInaccessible and remote with wildland qualities.	<p>Susceptibility: High due to the prominence of this LCTs topography in views from adjoining LCTs, including Loch Arkaig and Loch Ness. The distinctiveness of the topographical forms and remote, wildland characteristics of the LCT also make it sensitive to the type of development proposed.</p> <p>Value: High due to the presence of the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
Inverness District Landscape Character Assessment				
INV1	Rugged Massif	15 km/ NW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ranges of massive mountains, enormous in size, which have an irregular landform that is accentuated by rocky outcrops and glacial debris;Individual mountain peaks are rare in this landscape type. In contrast, broad rounded summits tend to be connected by long ridges, forming extensive mountain ranges;The hills are mainly covered by rock outcrops and heather, creating a mottled appearance which varies only subtly from the top to the bottom of the hills. It is therefore difficult to perceive the size of the hills, as there is generally no obvious indication of either horizontal or vertical scale;Hill ranges predominantly viewed from adjacent straths, the broad summits and ridges creating an even undulating skyline and sense of enclosure. Views from hilltops at the edges of the massif tend to offer expansive views into the straths and adjoining character types;Occasional small areas of open birch woodland for small patches within the shelter of foothill undulations, and thin bands of scrubby trees occasionally line narrowed drainage channels;A largely uninhabited landscape. A small number of settlements and roads exist and are generally located around the edges of the massif, falling to the adjacent Wooded and Farmed Strath landscape type. Few signs of human activity or artefacts in the interior of this LCT, the only notable landuses being that of deer grazing on sporting estates. As a consequence, there is a sense of remoteness in the interior of the LCT; andArchaeological sites are sparsely distributed in this LCT, and comprise circle stone foundations of prehistoric houses.	<p>Susceptibility: High sensitivity due to the prominence of the mountains in views across the district and their steeply graded topography. The introduction of new elements into this LCT would have the potential for creation of new focal points and patterns which could compromise the massive scale and sense of remoteness of the landscape.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, some of the Millennium Wind Farm turbines are located within this LCT.</p> <p>Value: High due to this landscapes designation within the Glen Affric NSA and its partial classification as Wild Land.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>

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LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Millennium and Beinneun Wind Farms are located on the border of this LCT and LBR6.	
INV2	Rolling Uplands	Which immediately abuts the northern side of the proposed development and which contains the proposed access track which would utilise the existing Stronelairst Wind Farm track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a series of large scale, smooth, rounded hills with summits of similar height which collectively form broad, undulating upland plateaux;views from hill tops and plateau areas are expansive, creating a strong feeling of openness and exposure although there is limited enclosure between the hills and within the straths and glens;heather moorland dominates, its uniform colour and texture accentuating the smooth, rounded landforms and the simplicity of the landscape;In some areas, the smoothness of the hills is broken by small areas of scree or occasional rocky outcrops which create localised pattern upon upper slopes together with occasional patches;Deeply incised burns cut occasional crevices between some hills, and powerlines occasionally cross hillsides;Hilltops and plateaux tend to be spaced far apart and are of an even height;Views from elevated positions within this LCT reveal the interlocking arrangement of the moorland and hill landform;A general absence of elements that indicate scale, and so it is difficult to estimate distances within this landscape;Small wind-cut trees and clumps of woodland occasionally line watercourses and remote glens;Coniferous plantations tend to occur on the edges of this LCT, although small plantations are found in sheltered straths, their rectilinear form contrasting with the curving forms of the underlying topography;This is a largely uninhabited landscape where settlement is confined to a small number of remote steep sided straths. Isolated farms within byre pastures cover the floor of the straths, whilst woodlands and forest extend up the strath sides;Few roads with the exception of narrow hill tracks, but where they occur they form prominent linear features; andUpland tracks, roads and transmission lines are evident following the base of the hills, and in places extend across the moorland. An existing 132 KV power line and the Beauldy Denny power line and associated infrastructure crosses this LCT in a north-west to south-east direction.Contains the majority of wind farm developments in the study area, as well as a reservoir.Viewpoints 2 and 3 are located within this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and are described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Susceptibility: High – medium. Any development within this landscape tends to be highly visible due to the openness of the landscape and its simplicity. Vertical structures, such as wind farms and masts form strong foci and indicate scale. However, the undulating topographical form of the landscape is such that there is potential for some mitigation through careful siting of developments. The LCTs greatest capacity for wind farm development is in the large scale wide open areas of this landscape and in areas where enclosure provides potential for partial or entire screening of development from external viewpoints and sensitive receptor locations. The acceptance of wind energy development in parts of this LCT is indicated by the number of existing, consented wind farm in this LCT including Corriegarth, Dunmaglass and Stronelairst Wind Farms.Value: High. The LCT also contains part of the Monadhliath WLA. However, despite the reported wild land characteristics of this classified part of the LCT it contains a number of prominent large-scale structures, including wind turbines/wind farms, power lines and masts which serve to reduce its overall wildness and sensitivity.Sensitivity: High - Medium – the highest sensitivity occurring in locations within the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, the Monadhliaths WLA and towards the edges of the LCT.
INV3	Rocky Moorland Plateau	18 km/ NW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small rocky hills which rise out of open, gently rolling moorland plateaux;Openness and exposure, although there is a contrast of experience between the small hills and plateau.The small hills and high points are formed by rocky outcrops and offer extensive views of the surrounding landform;Low points tend to be semi-enclosed, poorly drained and often occupied by a lochans;The plateaux possess distinct edges which isolate them from adjacent areas which are generally not visible from their interior, creating an impression of being within a vast, remote, upland moor. However, as one approaches the plateau edges, there is s an element of surprise as expansive views over inhabited straths and glens are revealed below;Rocky heather moorland dominates the hilltops and upper slopes, and numerous small lochans and areas of bog occupy depressions. Regenerating pine, birch and gorse	<p>Susceptibility: High to Medium. Key considerations in this LCT are its landform, openness and distinctive rugged ground and sense of remoteness. The nature of the ground cover and presence of small, distinctive lochs is particularly sensitive to the introduction of new elements, which would tend to create new foci and patterns where none existed before.</p> <p>Although single and well-designed small groups of turbines may be accommodated in this landscape type, the variable nature of the sloping landform makes it difficult to introduce large numbers of turbines. Notwithstanding this, the consented Bhlaraidh Wind Farm is located within this LCT. Wind farm infrastructure such as access tracks also has the potential for significant effect on the character of this landscape type.</p> <p>Value: High – Medium – high value where the LCT intersects with the Central Highlands WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Varies from High – medium.</p>

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LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			<p>concentrate along river valleys and form sporadic patches on hillsides. This mix of rocks, bogs and lochs and scrubby woodlands gives the area a patchy texture and an unrefined, rugged image.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An apparently random pattern closely tied to the landform and prevailing ground conditions. The rocky hills have no clear hierarchy and the bogs and lochans of the lower parts of the LCT have no clearly discernible pattern. As a result, the landscape has no dominant visual movement or foci;• The LCT contains few active landuses, other than sheep and deer grazing and there is an absence of human activity or artefacts. Consequently, it has a strong sense of remoteness and few size indicators;• The LCT is sparsely inhabited, the few settlements present being located along the edges of the LCT and adjacent character types.• The Bhlaraidh wind farm, roads and power lines are present in the landscape.• Viewpoint 1 is located within this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and are described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	
INV4	Rocky Moorland Plateau with Woodland	32 km/ N	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large coniferous plantations strongly influence the character of these areas; hills are extensively forested and are only occasionally revealed where rocky hilltops covered in open rough grassland form open summits or features of clearings. The colour, texture and shape of the coniferous plantations generally contrasts strongly with their moorland surroundings;• Open ground between areas of forest mostly comprises large fields of windswept rough pasture associated with isolated small hill farms. In contrast to the main type, these areas have a semi-exposed character with occasional views of distant hills and distinct edges formed by coniferous plantations;• Some lower fringes of the forests have a more broken pattern, fringed by small broadleaved woodlands which interlock with the farms and settlements of adjacent landscape types;• Settlement within this landscape is restricted to a few isolated small farms and crofts within open clearings accessed by a number of minor roads; and• In this sub-type, among the archaeological sites, prehistoric settlements are more abundant, particularly the circular stone foundations of prehistoric hut circles with evidence of arable fields and pastures.	<p>Susceptibility: Generally medium susceptibility due to the scale, predominance of woodland and forest cover. However, the edges of this LCT have a higher susceptibility, forming an important threshold between this LCT and neighbouring glens.</p> <p>Value: The LCTs boundary with Loch Ness is designated as part of the Loch Ness SLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Generally medium, increasing to high at the edges of this LCT.</p>
INV6	Farmed and Wooded Foothills	11 km/ NW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low rocky hills with open summits and lower slopes covered by coniferous plantations and broadleaved woodlands, and are interspersed with areas of rough and improved pasture;• The hills possess a complex and irregular landform of steep sided slopes, rocky ridges and peaks. Some areas are divided by deep conies and glens which are occasionally occupied by lochs;• There is a contrast of experience between the upper and lower slopes. The limited visibility of the lower landform combines with the screening effect of the woodland to create a strong sense of shelter and enclosure. In contrast, the upper slopes are generally open, offering extensive and panoramic views which convey a sense of exposure;• Mid and lower slopes tend to be covered by woodlands, within which, fields of pasture, lochs and small scattered farming settlements create constantly changing views of open and enclosed spaces, framed by trees and crags. The woodlands are actively used for recreation, especially the routes up to the summits of the rocky hills where there is an experience of enclosure and screening which culminates in panoramic views, revealed at the end of the climb;• Visual character is strongly influenced by the nature and ever pattern of its plantations;• A network of narrow roads cut through woodlands and connecting scattered farmsteads which are indicated by evidence of agricultural land management; and• A long tradition of settlement evidenced by archaeological remains including burial cairns, circular stone foundations of prehistoric hut circles. Later abandoned settlements are also evident, some of which are medieval and associated with runrigs and sheilings. A section	<p>Susceptibility: Varied, low in densely forested areas where intervisibility is substantially restricted, but increases to high in open elevated locations where intervisibility increases and the topographical form is complex and prominent in views from adjoining LCTs.</p> <p>Value: High, as it is covered by the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Varied, low in densely forested areas, increasing to high in open elevated locations.</p>

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LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			of General Wades Road also crosses this LCT.	
INV7	Broad steep-sided glen	11 km/ NW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This landscape is dominated by a broad, steep sided, V-shaped glen, the floor of which is occupied by a deep loch;• Steep linear sides, and long even skylines create a very strong sense of linear enclosure which creates, in turn, a distinct corridor;• Visual movement directed either along the linear route of the glen or across the water to the opposite shore. Access routes typically follow the water's edge where views of the loch tend to be intermittently screened or filtered by woodland. In contrast, occasional lay-bys offer expansive views across the loch;• Sequential experience along the glen, with long stretches of undeveloped land punctuated by occasional settlements and/or isolated grand houses, monuments or forts;• An undulating landscape with views of farmsteads and settlements restricted to locations at the intersection of side glens or areas of gentler topography;• Major land use of the western side of the glen is that of a transport corridor where human artefacts dominate, particularly the busy trunk road. The road is also the main visual element and organising feature, dominating the adjacent landscape elements such as shoreline, watercourses and lower valley slopes;• Although there are glimpses of the loch and glensides from the road, its busy nature means that concentration is often focused of the road corridor rather than the adjacent loch and landscapes;• Many of the settlements along the western side of the loch provide services for tourists and visitors. These settlements, once based on the sheltered bays and bridging points, are now dominated by an assortment of tourist related services and commuter housing;• The eastern side of the loch has a more remote sense. Here, minor roads follow the lochside and settlements are clustered leaving large areas undeveloped;• Woodland and coniferous plantations typically occur on the glen sides, coniferous plantation dominating lower slopes, and its rectilinear edge and form contrasting with the form of the underlying topography of the glen edge;• Semi-natural woodlands frequently line the loch edges, often extending up adjoining river valleys;• Agricultural landuses are confined to small scale pastoral farms in a few places on the shore, at the intersections of side glens, and in some areas of the gentler higher slopes; and• A wide diversity of archaeological sites are evident including prehistoric burial cairns, prehistoric settlements (indicated by the presence of low stone walls enclosing isolated rocky outcrops. Later abandoned settlements area also present.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to the distinctive form and linear enclosure of the glen and channelled nature of views.</p> <p>Value: The glen is partially covered by the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA and contains a concentration of key recreational, tourist and residential receptors and is a nationally recognised resource.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
Ben Alder, Adverikie and Creag Meagaid Landscape Character Assessment				
LGN1	Isolated Mountain Plateau	7 km/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plateaux formed by distinctive, smooth topped hills with angular shoulders, often giving hills a square appearance. Hills appear as individuals, divided and isolated by glens or areas of moorland. The profile of the hills is seen most clearly from a far distance, as the plateau edges obscure views of their top from their base;• The hills are of a massive scale and high in elevation and are generally have open and exposed;• The hills are located far from public roads and are uninhabited, lending an acute sense of remoteness throughout the mountains;• In some places rocky outcrops, pyramidal peaks, ridges and scree slopes and corries occur on upper slopes creating a distinctive focus;• Landcover predominated by heather moorland, grassland and occasional patches of dwarf willow;• Few man-made elements, but including rough tracks and paths that follow low ground	<p>Susceptibility: High due the extent of remoteness and wildness and general absence of man-made artefacts.</p> <p>Value: High, this LCT contains part of the Ben Alder, Laggan, as well as Glen Banchor SLA and Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores- Ben Alder WLA and the Braeroy, Glenshirra and Creag Meagaidh WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>

Table 4.2.1: Landscape Character Assessment Summary				
LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			<p>between hills; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is one cottage, Ben Alder Cottage (or MacCooks Bothy, on Loch Ericht, but no other built development is present).Viewpoints 7, 8 and 15 are located within this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and are described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	
LGN2	Smooth Rounded Hills	10km/S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Large scale hills to around 800 m, with rounded landform, gentle slope, forming a smooth skyline;Open and simple landscape that emphasises the skyline and mountain tops;Proximity to higher, craggier plateaux in adjacent LCTs means that hills appear relatively small and as a minor contrast. The lack of definition of landscape pattern adds to the difficulty in discerning the hills true scale;The hills surround a wide shallow basin of which the foci is Loch Pattack. The loch is fed by tributary burns. The basin has a distinct sense of enclosure akin to an amphitheatre, as the central open space is encircled by hills which emphasises their presence in clear, simple shapes and slopes;The hills are separated by u-shaped valleys. Both the basin and upper reaches of the Pattack contain features of glacial deposition, principally hummocks of moraine;Vegetation is principally rough grassland with occasional areas of heather moorland.The vegetation accentuates the smooth surface of the hills; andConiferous plantations are the main indication of human activity in the landscape, but rough tracks and footpaths are also evident.	<p>Susceptibility: High due the extent of remoteness and wildness and general absence of man-made artefacts.</p> <p>Value: High, : High, this LCT contains part of the Ben Alder, Laggan, and Glen Banchor SLA and Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores- Ben Alder WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
LGN3	Small Craggy Knolls and Hills	9 km/ S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Distinctive craggy landform of hills and rocky incised glens;Small scale with overall sense of enclosure;Variable views conditioned by topography;An intricate and variable character compared with neighbouring landscapes and contrasts with the smoother topography of adjoining LCTs;South-west to north-east alignment of most of the hills and lochs follows the main geological fault in the area;Folding and faulting of the hard, resistant schists has produced a diverse landform with frequent outcrops;Strong presence of water ranging from deep rocky gorges or the Pattack to small lochans and burns;Mixture of landuses related to underlying ground conditions and comprising rough grassland and scattered trees around estate margins. Species mainly birch and scots pine on lower and upper edges of woodlands;Combination of rock outcrops, mature pines and deep gorges creates an association with historical 'picturesque' landscape;Views out towards the distant, larger hills with their changing appearance and different qualities of light increase the variety of visual experience; andPart form coniferous plantations, man-made elements in the landscape comprise ATV tracks, low-key bridges, stone dykes and fences, giving a relatively managed appearance to the landscape.	<p>Susceptibility: Often high due the extent of remoteness and wildness and general absence of man-made artefacts, but reducing to medium in locations where coniferous plantations predominate.</p> <p>Value: High, this LCT contains part of the Ben Alder, Laggan, and Glen Banchor SLA and Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores- Ben Alder WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
Tayside Landscape Character Assessment				
TAY2	Highland Glens with Lochs (Loch Ericht)	25 km/ S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medium scale linear landscape;Geological and physical structure similar to Upper Highland Glens;Visual dominance of lochs, enlarged to provide hydroelectric power;The expanse of water, changing its appearance according to weather, adds to the sense	<p>Susceptibility: High due to wildness and remoteness of landscape and linearity of landscape and channelled nature of views.</p> <p>Value: High due to locations in the Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores- Ben Alder (No.14) WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>

Table 4.2.1: Landscape Character Assessment Summary				
LCT	Name	Distance and Direction from Nearest Turbine ¹	Key Characteristics	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			<p>of exposure, remoteness and desolation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geometric patterns of plantations on mid slopes, more natural shapes on upper slopes;• Rough pasture on valley slopes;• Largely unsettled;• Rocky outcrops and glacial features; and• Views channelled along the loch.	
TAY3	Highland Summits and Plateaux	21 km/ S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas of upland separating the principal glens;• West highlands comprise distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs, the hills are sharply defined and often craggy;• South Highlands comprise a more extensive area of upland with spurs extending southwards, the hills are more rounded than those to the west and rock outcrops are fewer;• Vegetation patterns closely reflect altitude and exposure and include heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities; variations reflecting the underlying geology;• Most of the area managed as open moorland;• Little or no settlement;• Some extensive plantations; and• One of the remotest and wildest landscapes in the UK.	<p>Susceptibility: High due to wildness and remoteness of landscape and form and openness of landscape.</p> <p>Value: High due to locations in a Rannoch-Nevis – Mamores- Ben Alder WLA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
SNH Cairngorms Landscape Character Assessment				
CGN1	Cairngorm Plateau (The Central Massif)	29 km/ ESE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A broad granite plateaux, which forms the high mountain of the Cairngorm National Park and comprises a bare, boulder strewn mountain summit over 800 m in height and rising to over 1200 m. The height and huge scale of the landform is the dominant feature of the LCT as is the distinctive broadness and gentle slopes of the plateaux and individual summits, which are dramatically cut by deeply incised corries and sheer sided trough-like glens. The expansiveness and altitude of the plateaux are accentuated by the ground hugging vegetation cover. The plateaux are unsettled and remote and exhibit substantial wild qualities.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to its prominent and distinctive form, and openness.</p> <p>Value: High, the plateau forms the core of the Cairngorm National Park and Cairngorm Mountains NSA.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
CGN2	Uplands and Glens (Monadhliaths & Adverikie)	Contains the proposed development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comprises a vast range of rolling hills, generally between 400 m and 700 m in height and partially surrounding the mountain plateaux. These hills have smooth, rounded summits and evenly graded slopes, predominantly covered with heather moor and rough grassland. The extensiveness of the uplands is a striking feature, providing vistas of successive smooth ridges and summits from many viewpoints and accentuated by the generally uniform vegetation cover. Broad, gently sloping glens penetrate deep into these hill ranges. This landscape has little settlement and has a remote character.• Viewpoints 5, 12, 14, 16 and 17 are located within this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and are described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to the prominence of the landscape that forms part of the enclosure and horizon of adjoining straths and the transition between the Monadhliaths and the interior of the adjoining Corrieyairack Pass and the Spey Headwaters.</p> <p>Value: Parts of the straths are located within the Cairngorm National Park, the Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA and areas classified as Wild Land.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>
CGN3	Cairngorm Straths (Spey Headwaters)	2 km/ S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The strath contains one of the major river systems of the area and is relatively low lying compared with other LCTs that borders it.• The strath contains the man concentrations of communications and scattered settlement and is subject to cultivation and management by man. The strath contains a diverse mix of farmland, woodlands, forest and scattered dwellings/estate buildings, as well as grid infrastructure, estate roads, creating a variety of landscape patterns on the valley floor and lower hill slopes and providing a distinctive visual contrast with the other less managed landscapes of the adjoining uplands and lens landscape.• Viewpoints 10 and 11 are located within this LCT and are presented in EIAR Volume 3: Figure 4.7 and are described in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.7.	<p>Susceptibility: High, due to the enclosed and relatively small scale of the landscape and channelled nature of views that emphasise the sides of the strath.</p> <p>Value: High. Parts of the straths are located within the Cairngorm National Park, the Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Banchor SLA and areas classified as Wild Land.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High.</p>