5 Landscape and Visual

Executive Summary

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) considers the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity within a Study Area of 20 km from the nearest proposed turbine. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant published guidance and has involved desk-based and field-based assessments. The approach and scope of the assessment was agreed through scoping and further pre-application consultation with statutory consultees Perth and Kinross Council (PKC), Stirling Council (SC), NatureScot, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) and Mountaineering Scotland (MS). The baseline for the assessment includes landscape, visual receptors, and other operational developments in the area. Visual receptors include people in settlements, using the local area for recreation, and travelling through the area on roads.

Physical landscape effects on the moorland of the Site that would occur during construction are found to be localised and **not significant**. The assessment has identified that the significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are found within an area relatively local to the Site and surrounding context of the Study Area. The area in which the turbines and majority of infrastructure are located is not subject to any landscape planning designation and would be contained within a large-scale upland landscape, minimising the effects on nearby designated landscapes to the north, south and west. Significant landscape character effects are assessed to occur within a maximum of 12 km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Significant visual effects have been identified as occurring out to a range of approximately 16 km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Significant effects are also predicted for remote hill viewpoints at night within around 10 km as a result of turbine lighting within the 2000cd scenario, however, the majority of these effects drop to not significant for the 200cd scenario, considered to be the more realistic scenario when taking into account the effect of poor visibility conditions for the 2000cd scenario. As set out in **Technical Appendix 5.2 (EIAR Volume 4**) and **Chapter 13: Aviation (EIAR Volume 1**), a proposed reduced lighting scheme has been agreed in consultation with CAA such that the approved reduced lighting scheme has only 4 of the 12 turbines lit at the nacelle with no tower lights.

The Proposed Development turbine layout has been designed to minimise effects on the surrounding straths and glens in the Study Area and as a result, the extent of visibility in these lower lying parts of the Study Area is minimal. This has led to a marked reduction in landscape and visual effects across the lower lying parts of the Study Area, including within the straths and glens of nearby National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and LLTNP and along the key routes that connect these sensitive landscapes and serve as a gateway to the LLTNP. As a result, the significant landscape and visual effects found in the LVIA are largely limited to elevated parts of the Study Area for high sensitivity receptors.

When compared with other wind farm developments of this scale the level of limitation of effects on lower lying areas of the surrounding landscape is notable and illustrates the positive influence of the landscape and visual design mitigation embedded (see Section 5.6) in the Proposed Development design strategy and that Significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity are relatively localised in nature.

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter considers the potential effects on the landscape and visual resource associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The LVIA considers effects on the landscape resource - both direct effects and effects on how the landscape is perceived - and the effect on visual amenity (views) within the Study Area (**Figure 7.1**, **EIAR Volume 2**). Cumulative effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development to other wind farms are also considered.

5.1.2 The specific objectives of the chapter are to:

- describe the landscape and visual baseline;
- describe the assessment methodology and significance criteria used in completing the impact assessment;
- describe the potential effects, including direct, indirect, and cumulative effects;
- describe the mitigation measures proposed to address likely significant effects; and
- assess the residual effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation.

5.1.3 This LVIA has been prepared by landscape architects at OPEN, Part of SLR, directed by James Welch FLI BA Hons, Chartered Landscape Architect and Director. This Chapter is supported by the Figures (**EIAR Volume 2**) and Technical Appendices (TAs) (**EIAR Volume 4**) listed below in **Table 5-1,** which are referenced throughout the Chapter.

Table 5-1: Supporting Figures and Technical Appendices

Document Location	Document Description
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.1 - Site Location and Study Area
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.2 - Landform
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.3 - Landscape Character
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.4 - Landscape Designations
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.5 - Wild Land
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.6 - Principal Visual Receptors
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.7a - Blade tip ZTV with viewpoints (A3)
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.7b - Blade tip ZTV with viewpoints (A1)
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.8a - Hub height ZTV with viewpoints (A3)
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.8b - Hub height ZTV with viewpoints (A1)
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.9 - Horizontal Angle Blade Tip ZTV
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.10 - Landscape Character and Blade Tip ZTV
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.11 - Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.12 - Wild Land and Blade Tip ZTV
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.13 - Principal Visual Receptors and Blade Tip ZTV
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.14 - Cumulative Context Plan 45 km
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.15 - Cumulative wind farms within 20 km
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.16a - CZTV: Operational within 20 km + Proposed Development
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.16b - CZTV: Operational and Consented within 20 km + Proposed Development
Volume 2 - Figures	Figure 5.16c - CZTZ: Glen Lednock + Proposed Development
Volume 3 - Visualisations	Figures 5.17a – 5.42c - Visualisations
Volume 4 – Technical Appendices	TA 5.1 - Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology
Volume 4 – Technical Appendices	TA 5.2 - Assessment of Visible Aviation Lighting
Volume 4 – Technical Appendix Figures	Figure 5.2.1 - Baseline Light Pollution

Document Location	Document Description
Volume 4 – Technical Appendix Figures	Figure 5.2.2 - ZTV of Turbine Hub Lighting (reduced aviation lighting scheme)
Volume 4 – Technical Appendix Figures	Figure 5.2.3 - Hub Lighting Intensity ZTV (reduced aviation lighting scheme)

5.2 Legislation and Planning Policy

5.2.1 This section includes a short summary of planning policy with relevance to landscape and visual amenity and therefore relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development.

Strategic Policy

European Landscape Convention (ELC)

5.2.2 The ELC is devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe. Landscape is described as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors' (ELC, 2000). The definition applies to all urban and peri-urban landscapes, towns, villages, rural areas, the coast and inland areas. In addition, it applies to ordinary or even degraded landscape as well as those areas that are of outstanding value or protected.

5.2.3 The ELC came into force in respect of the United Kingdom (UK) from 1 March 2007. As a convention of the Council of Europe the UK remains a party to the ELC after 31st January 2020 when the UK left the European Union. As a signatory to the ELC, the UK government has undertaken to adopt general policies and measures to protect, manage and plan landscapes as follows:

- '*to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;*
- *to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures. These include awareness-raising, training and education, identification and assessment of landscapes, definition of landscape quality objectives and the implementation of landscape policies; to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in the bullet above; and*
- *to integrate landscape into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.*'

5.2.4 Given the UK's adoption of the ELC and its aims, the ELC gives an appropriate basis for the importance placed on the Scottish landscape. NatureScot references the ELC as providing a framework for work on Scotland's landscapes based on the following five guiding principles:

- *'**All landscapes** - Every landscape is important because everyone has a right to live in and enjoy the benefits of vibrant surroundings.*
- ***Shared landscapes** - Scotland's landscapes are a common asset and everyone has rights and responsibilities for looking after them.*
- ***Your landscapes** - People and communities should always be involved in decisions that shape their landscapes.*
- ***Understanding landscapes** - Decisions need to be based on understanding and awareness of both the cultural and natural dimensions of our landscapes.*
- ***Dynamic landscapes** - Landscapes will continue to change but change needs to be informed and managed to ensure they remain resilient.'*

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

5.2.5 Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) was adopted in February 2023. It replaces both NPF3 and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). It sets out 'spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.' Part 1 sets out the National Spatial Strategy for Scotland in 2045, a key focus of this strategy includes a commitment to reducing emissions and create net zero places that are adaptive to the impact of climate change - 'Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place. Every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation.' Part 2 sets out the National Planning Policy and states that Local Development Plans (LDPs) 'must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.' Policy 1 goes on to state that 'When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.'

5.2.6 The relevant Policies for the LVIA from NPF4 Part 2 are listed below and addressed in **Chapter 4: Planning and Energy Policy (EIAR Volume 1).**

- NPF4 – Policy 4 Natural Places
- NPF4 – Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees
- NPF4 – Policy 7 Historic Assets and Places
- NPF4 – Policy 11 Energy

NatureScot's Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines

5.2.7 NatureScot's Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines (NatureScot, 2015) sets out the main natural heritage considerations that should be considered when planning for onshore wind turbines. Annex 1 set out landscape objectives, as follows:

- '**Landscape Protection** - The aim of landscape protection is to maintain the existing landscape and visual resource, retaining or reinforcing its present character and protecting its quality and integrity'. This approach is likely to only be acceptable for nationally designated areas which NatureScot described in Annex 1 as 'within Group 1 and potentially group 2 areas' defined by the now revoked SPP.
- '**Landscape Accommodation** - The aim of landscape accommodation is to retain the overall character of the landscape yet accepting that development may be allowed which will have an impact on the landscape at the local scale. Within local landscape designations and Wild Land Areas, the degree of landscape protection will be less than for National Scenic Areas. In these areas, an appropriate objective may be to accommodate wind farms, rather than seek landscape protection.'
- '**Landscape Change** - This objective recognises that the area is one whose landscape character may be allowed to change, which could result in a perception of a wind farm landscape. Landscape change does not imply that 'anything goes', nor that change should occur across the whole area: good landscape design principles still need to be followed to ensure that the development is appropriate for the scale and character of the landscape.'

5.2.8 The Proposed Development is located within Landscape Character Type 376 - Summits and Plateaux – Tayside. As the Proposed Development is not nationally designated, a strategy of 'landscape protection' for the Site is not considered to be appropriate. Given the proximity of national and local landscape designation an objective of 'Landscape Accommodation' is appropriate for the Proposed Development.

Local Policy

Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2019

5.2.9 The Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2019. LDP Policies are described in detail and addressed in **Chapter 4 Planning and Energy Policy (EIAR Volume 1).** Key policies relevant to the LVIA include the following:

- Policy 29 – gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Policy 33 – Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy
- Policy 38 – Environment and Conservation
- Policy 39 – Landscape
- Policy 40 – Forestry, Woodland and Trees
- Policy 55 – Nuisance from Artificial Light and Light Pollution
- Landscape Supplementary Guidance (SG) (2020)
- Draft Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Guidance (2019)

Stirling Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018

5.2.10 The Stirling Council Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2018. LDP Policies are described in detail and addressed in **Chapter 4: Planning and Energy Policy (EIAR Volume 1).** Key policies relevant to the LVIA include the following:

- Policy 7.8: Development affecting Battlefields, Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Policy 9.1: Protecting Special Landscapes
- Policy 9.2: Wild Land Areas
- Policy 10.1: Development Impact on Trees and Hedgerows
- Policy 12.1: Wind Energy Developments

5.3 Assessment Methodology and Significance criteria

Consultation

5.3.1 **Table** 5-2 below summarises the consultation undertaken throughout the EIAR process, including Scoping and further pre-application consultation, relevant to the LVIA.

Table 5-2: Consultation

Organisation and Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
Energy Consents Unit Scoping Opinion dated 22nd Feb 2023	'The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 4.2 to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment. Perth and Kinross Council have largely accepted the proposed viewpoints but have requested visualisations that detail the impacts of the proposed Development on adopted PKC Core Path STFI/101. The Company should also refer to NatureScot's request for additional night time viewpoints, and viewpoints for the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) National Scenic Area. The Company should also come to an agreement with Mountaineering Scotland regarding their request for additional viewpoints.' 'As the maximum blade tip height of turbines exceeds 150m, the LVIA as detailed in section 4	Viewpoint locations have been agreed with PKC, SC, NS and MS. **TA 5.2 (EIAR Volume 4**) provides a robust assessment of the visual effects of aviation lighting including baseline lighting levels, ZTVs illustrating the extent and intensity of potential effects of lighting. Lighting mitigation is described in **TA 5.2 (EIAR Volume 4**) including a reduced aviation scheme produced by the aviation consultant and agreed with CAA.

Organisation and Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
	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 effects.'	
Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Scoping Opinion dated 2nd Feb 2023	'Having regard to the assessment methodology proposed along with the ZTV viewpoints noted, PKC agrees with the applicant that a 20 km radius for the detailed Study Area is acceptable for the consideration of any effects, including landscape character assessment. The LVIA should therefore be focused on key considerations and effects. The potential impacts noted in Section 4.7 and Table 4.3 are also generally agreed with. The impacts on those locations beyond 20 km are likely to be limited. '	Noted. A 20 km detailed Study Area has been adopted in the LVIA. See also Section 5.3 of the LVIA.
Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Scoping Opinion dated 2nd Feb 2023	'In terms of the viewpoints illustrated in Figures 4.2-4.4, they would appear to be appropriate, providing the opportunity for visualisations to be provided from all cardinal points. PKC is not aware of any additional viewpoints which would add to or further enhance an LVIA assessment of this development. It is not entirely clear how the viewpoints identified will take account of any potential impact directly on adopted PKC Core Path STFI/101 which is located close to the development. It would be helpful if any visualisations considered this specific vantage point – However, it is noted that these recreational areas are considered in the assessment methodology which is acceptable for this exercise.'	Viewpoint locations have been agreed with PKC, SC, NatureScot and MS. A wireline visualisation and assessment of PKC Core Path STFI/101 is included in the LVIA. PKC agreed the location of viewpoints in email dated 30.07.24.
Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Scoping Opinion dated 2nd Feb 2023	'The scoping out of visual amenity experienced by residential receptors beyond 2 km is acceptable noting the location and lack of such receptors in this case.'	Noted. In line with Landscape Institute guidance, any properties within 2 km of the Proposed Development turbines should be included in a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). There are no properties within 2 km and as such an RVAA is not required.
Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Scoping Opinion dated 2nd Feb 2023	'PKC agrees with the applicant regarding cumulative impacts and the proposed assessment methodology. PKC understands there may be further discussion with the applicant to agree the final list of Sites to be considered. It is noted in the consideration of cumulative impacts that any such effects may extend beyond the 20 km radius. This is accepted, noted and agreed with.'	Cumulative effects are considered throughout the LVIA. There have been no changes to the cumulative situation since scoping in the immediate area. Cumulative developments beyond 20 km are shown on baseline wireframe visualisations. The cumulative baseline is described in Section 5.4 of the LVIA.

Organisation and Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
NatureScot Scoping Opinion dated 30th Jan 2023	'2.1.2 Effects on National Scenic Areas (NSAs) Visibility over the River Earn (Comrie to St. Fillans) NSA is difficult to discern due to area identification text covering the entire NSA on the Landscape Designations and ZTV map (Figure 4.3). In the first instance a ZTV at a higher resolution would be required to assist us in gaining and understanding of potential visibility over the NSA. NatureScot advise that such further information is required to allow us to advise on representative viewpoints to include from the River Earn (Comrie to St. Fillans) NSA. 2.1.3 Effects on National Parks The proposal is likely to have an impact on the special landscape qualities of LLTNP. We advise as per section 2.1.2 that further information is required to allow us to advise on representative viewpoints from the LLTNP.'	A detailed blade tip ZTV of the scoping layout was provided to NatureScot in February 2024. Through subsequent email correspondence in February - April 2024 the additionally suggested viewpoint locations were agreed. Including - Mor Bheinn; St Fillan's Hill/ Dundurn; Lochan na Lairige pass; and Mealll an t-Seallaidh (included as viewpoint photomontage visualisations). The Caravan Park on the South Loch Earn road near Finglen was also included in the detailed assessment.
NatureScot Scoping Opinion dated 30th Jan 2023	'2.1.4 Aviation Lighting and Night-time Assessment The proposal will require visible red aviation lighting, it would have been helpful had a hub height ZTV been included for which would assist with understanding and advising on night-time viewpoint selection. We recommend that the applicant should submit a hub height ZTV to allow us to advise on night-time viewpoints/assessment points and scope of the night-time assessment.'	A hub height ZTV of the scoping layout was provided to NatureScot in February 2024 and night-time viewpoint locations were agreed. See below email responses in relation to approach to night-time assessment.
NatureScot Scoping Opinion dated 30th Jan 2023	'NatureScot agree in principle with the proposed 20 km detailed Study Area regarding assessment of effects on landscapes of National Importance (NSA/WLA) and LLTNP. We are also in agreement with the proposal to scope out Landscape Designations and Wild Land Areas set out in Table 4.3. '	Noted. A 20 km detailed Study Area has been adopted in the LVIA. See also Section 5.3 of the LVIA.
Mountaineering Scotland (MS) Scoping Opinion dated 6th Jan 2023	'5. The proposed location is surrounded by popular and nationally significant hills, mostly Munros (separate mountain summits with a height over 3,000 feet, or 914.4 m). The potential impact on hillwalking is clear when 14 of 20 proposed viewpoints are upland ones. We endorse the inclusion of Viewpoints 1,2,6-8, 9, 11,12, 15-20. 6. There is a gap in medium-distance upland viewpoints in the southwest quadrant. We suggest that the inclusion of the Corbett Meall an t-Seallaidh (GR NN541234) is appropriate, as other proposed upland viewpoints in this quadrant are around 2-3 times the distance of	The additional viewpoint location suggested by MS was incorporated into the final viewpoint consideration in March 2024. The viewpoint locations were subsequently agreed with PKC, SC, NatureScot and MS. The approach stated in the scoping report in relation to photomontages is in line with NatureScot guidance, however, for the LVIA photomontages have also been prepared for hilltop viewpoints assessed in detail out to 25 km including from Ben More.

Organisation and Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
	Meall an t-Seallaidh(c.12 km) from the nearest turbine. Corbetts are separate mountain summits over 2,500 feet (762 metres) and under 3,000 feet (914.4 metres). 7. The Report states that photomontages will be prepared for viewpoints within 20 km, with wirelines for greater distances. We suggest that the inclusion of a photomontage for Ben More (VP15) at 22.2 km would be useful as it is a highly popular summit destination for hillwalkers.'	
Stirling Council (SC) Scoping Opinion dated 13th Jan 2023	'i) Stirling Council generally content with the scope of the LVIA, and viewpoint locations. Note and welcome also that night-time visualisations will be produced in accordance with NatureScot guidance. ii) Section 4.6 PROPOSED MITIGATION states design will evolve as part of an iterative process, however it seems, as with similar scaled projects, blade tip height is already fixed, which does immediately constrain potential design mitigations such as reduced turbine height.'	Noted. Viewpoint locations have been agreed with PKC, SC, NatureScot and MS. SC confirmed agreement of the location of viewpoints in email dated 25.03.24. Landscape and visual mitigation of the Proposed Development is set out in Section 5.6 of the LVIA.
NatureScot / LLTNPA Emails dated 19.04.24 / 13.05.24 / 28.06.24 / 01.07.24 / 02.09.24 / 19.09.24 and Gatecheck response dated 07.10.24	As part of the LVIA viewpoint consultation, NatureScot requested a visualisation be prepared from a mountain top within the LLTNP during the hours of darkness, Mealll an t-Seallaidh or Ben Vorlich. In relation to visiting mountains at night the applicant is strongly of the opinion that these suggested mountain summits are far too remote and steep a climb for night time fieldwork / photography to be carried out safely. For this reason, we declined this NatureScot request for night-time photography on these summits, offering instead to produce a mountain top night-time visualisation using a manipulated day-time photograph. In subsequent email correspondence NatureScot argued that there are 'hills with very well managed paths and gentle terrain that would allow relatively easy access, such as Ben Vorlich' and suggested an alternate location close to the summit at 850m. The applicant disagrees that Ben Vorlich can be described as having 'gentle terrain' and this alternate location is still considered unsuitable for safety reasons. We offered a lower elevation location that avoids steeper sections, but NatureScot also declined this alternate on the basis that it 'will not provide the same long	Whilst it is preferrable to capture a photograph at dusk in order to illustrate baseline lighting, it is considered that the baseline context of the surrounding landscape can be described as dark and that there would be very little lighting in the view towards the Site from Ben Vorlich that would influence the baseline and therefore are required to be represented in photography. It is therefore considered that a manipulated day-time photograph does not misrepresent the baseline situation and will also present a worst-case situation reflecting the 'dark' surrounding context of the mountains and landscape context below. This is line with the NatureScot 2024 Pre-application guidance which states in relation to manipulated daytime photography - '*there may be instances where the approach could be used for remote locations where no other sources of artificial light may be present in the baseline.'* Given that NatureScot are not willing to accept our compromised proxy viewpoint location below the steep sections of the mountain to capture a

Organisation and Type of Consultation	Response	How Response has been Considered
	range views over the development Site and beyond'. In relation to the use of a manipulated day-time photograph, NatureScot's concluding email states that – 'This viewpoint is within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and was chosen as a popular place where the Special Landscape Qualities of the National Park are strongly expressed. This viewpoint is key to understanding how the proposed wind farm could affect the Special Landscape Qualities of the National Park and in order to do that any photography must accurately depict the existing baseline. As our guidance states, there may be instances where manipulated day-time photography could be used for remote locations where no other sources of artificial light are present in the baseline. However, this is not the case for the viewpoint we are discussing and we would expect other sources of artificial light to be in the view. We therefore cannot accept manipulated day-time photography for this viewpoint as it would be an inaccurate illustration of the baseline and would not allow for the effects of the proposed wind farm to be accurately assessed. Dusk/dawn baseline photography is required to assess the effects on this nationally important landscape and for the LVIA to be fit for purpose.' The inclusion of this night-time VP was reiterated by NatureScot in their Gatecheck response which stated that 'this viewpoint is key to understanding the impacts of the proposed development on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) of the National Park, a nationally important landscape. Without dawn/dusk bassline photography there will be insufficient information to fully assess the impacts of lighting on the SLQ's therefore the LVIA would not be fit for purpose.'	night-time photo, the LVIA has included a manipulated day-time photo from the summit of Ben Vorlich as the baseline image for the photomontage. We consider this to be the most appropriate and proportionate approach that remains and avoids the serious health and safety concerns of the applicant in safely accessing these mountains during the hours of darkness.

5.3.2 Full details of all consultation undertaken is provided in **TA 1.2: Consultation Register (Volume 4**).

Scope of Assessment

5.3.3 The assessment of Landscape and Visual impacts of the Proposed Development has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant published guidance and has involved desk-based and field-based assessments. The LVIA considers the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity within a Study Area of 20 km from the nearest proposed turbine including cumulative effects.

Guidance

5.3.4 The LVIA follows the methodology set out in **TA 7.1 (EIAR Volume 4),** devised specifically for the assessment of wind farm developments which is in line with the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition' (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) ('GLVIA3')[1], the key source of guidance for LVIA. Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council agreed with the LVIA methodology set out during scoping.

5.3.5 Other sources of guidance used and referenced in the LVIA include the following:

- NatureScot and The Countryside Agency (TCA) (2002). Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland;[2]
- NatureScot (2017). Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2;[3]
- NatureScot (2021). Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments;[4]
- Landscape Institute (2019). Visual Representation of Development Proposals: Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19;[5]
- NatureScot (2020). Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas Technical Guidance;[6]
- Landscape Institute (2019). Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment;[7]
- NatureScot (2024 Consultation Draft). Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities;[8]
- NatureScot (2017). Siting and Designing of Windfarms in the Landscape: Version 3a;[9] and
- NatureScot (2024). NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms[10].

5.3.6 The LVIA is based on the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Development Description (EIAR Volume 1)**.

5.3.7 The Proposed Development Site is entirely located within Perth and Kinross Council immediately west and south of the Stirling Council border. The Site location is shown on **Figure 5.1 - Site Location and Study Area (EIAR Volume 2).**

5.3.8 The Proposed Development consists of up to 12 turbines with a tip height of up to 180 m. For the purposes of assessment, the candidate turbines assessed in the LVIA have a hub height of 99 m and rotor diameter of 162 m. Other elements of infrastructure of the Proposed Development assessed in this chapter, which includes turbine access tracks, control building and substation, temporary construction compounds, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) turbine hardstands and borrow pits are also described in **Chapter 2: Development Description (EIAR Volume 1).**

[1] Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition ('GLVIA3'). Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (2013)

[2] Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland. NatureScot and The Countryside Agency (2002). Available at: https://digital.nls.uk/pubs/e-monographs/2020/216649977.23.pdf

[3] Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2. NatureScot (2017) Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf

[4] Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. NatureScot (2021). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments

[5] Visual Representation of Development Proposals: Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19. Landscape Institute (2019). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation-1.pdf

[6] Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas Technical Guidance. NatureScot (2020). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance

[7] Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. Landscape Institute (2019). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/

[8] Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. NatureScot (2024 consultation Draft). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq

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

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

Potential Effects Scoped Out

5.3.9 The scope and approach of the LVIA is in line with key guidance as described in **TA 5.1: LVIA Methodology (EIAR Volume 4).** This LVIA chapter includes a 'Preliminary Assessment' which identifies those aspects of the landscape and visual resource that do not have potential to undergo a significant effect as a result of the Proposed Development. These aspects of the landscape and visual resource are then scoped out of the detailed assessment. The Preliminary Assessment is presented in Sections 5.7, 5.8 and 5.9 of the LVIA chapter.

Method of Baseline Characterisation

Study Area

5.3.10 The initial step in the LVIA is the establishment of the Study Area for the assessment. Guidance developed by NatureScot[5] indicates that an area with a radius of 45 km from the nearest turbine is appropriate for the turbines of the size proposed in the Proposed Development. Based on the Proposed Development scoping layout PKC and NS agreed through scoping consultation that the LVIA should focus on a more detailed Study Area of 20 km. The LVIA has therefore adopted a 20 km Study Area **(see Figure 5.1, Site Location and Study Area (EIAR Volume 2)** for the assessment of potential effects of the Proposed Development. For reference, ZTVs and a cumulative context plan have been prepared out to 45 km from the Proposed Development. Also note that several of the agreed viewpoints are beyond 20 km, these are retained in the LVIA to illustrate the wider visual context and to support the agreed Study Area extents.

Desk Study

5.3.11 The assessment is initiated through a desk study of the Site and Study Area as described above. ZTV analysis of the Proposed Development has been carried out for the Study Area, as has mapping of landscape character, landscape related designations, wild land areas and principal visual receptors. The Study Area is not intended to provide a boundary beyond which the Proposed Development would not be seen, but rather to define the areas within which it may have a significant landscape or visual effect. A significant effect is, in reality, very unlikely to occur towards the edges of the identified Study Area. The desk study also utilises Geographic Information System (GIS) and Resoft Windfarm software to explore the potential visibility of the Proposed Development. The resultant ZTV diagrams (**Figures 5.7a – 5.13, LVIA Visualisations, EIAR Volume 2**) and wirelines (within the visualisation productions on **Figures 5.17a – 5.42c, EIAR Volume 3**) provide an indication of which landscape and visual receptors are likely to be key in the assessment.

Field Survey

5.3.12 To inform the LVIA and layout design process, field survey was undertaken between August 2022 and October 2024. Viewpoint photography was captured during field survey visits in periods of good visibility. Field surveys were carried out throughout the 20 km detailed Study Area, although surveys were concentrated within the areas shown on the ZTV to gain theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.

5.3.13 Field survey included visits to viewpoints (including several viewpoints beyond the detailed 20 km Study Area) as well as travel around the Study Area to consider potential effects (including cumulative) on landscape character and on the experience of views seen from travel routes through the landscape. These visits have allowed the landscape character and the visual amenity of the Study Area to be experienced

in a range of different conditions and seasonal variation. The field survey allows the assessors to judge the likely scale, distance, extent, and prominence of the Proposed Development directly.

5.3.14 The landscape of the Site was assessed for any particular features that contribute to the landscape character of the Site or are important to the wider landscape setting. In particular, the form and pattern of the land was assessed from the Site and surrounding area to better understand its character and to take these qualities into account in the siting and design of the Proposed Development. The landscape character types for the Study Area were reviewed and the key characteristics of the landscape were identified. The field surveys provided an experience of the character types of the Study Area and verification of how these areas might be affected by the Proposed Development. Visual amenity was surveyed including both static and sequential views, from receptors representative of the range of views and viewer types likely to experience the Proposed Development. Views from a variety of distances, aspects, elevations, and extents were included. Receptor types include settlement; transport routes; visitor locations; areas of cultural significance; the range of landscape character types within the Study Area; and the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other existing or proposed wind farms in the Study Area.

Method of Assessment

5.3.15 The assessment methodology is detailed in **TA 5.1: LVIA Methodology (EIAR Volume 4).** Including criteria for assessing sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of change, cumulative effects, and significance of effects.

Limitations and Assumptions

5.3.16 The following limitations relating to LVIA graphic productions are not considered to undermine the validity of the assessment reported in the LVIA.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis

5.3.17 There are limitations in the theoretical production of ZTVs, and these should be borne in mind in their consideration and use:

- The ZTVs illustrate the 'bare ground' situation, and do not take into account the screening effects of vegetation, buildings, or other local features that may prevent or reduce visibility;
- The ZTVs do not indicate the reduction in visibility that occurs with increased distance from the Proposed Development. The nature of what would be visible from 3 km away would differ markedly from what would be visible from 20 km away, although both are indicated on the ZTVs as having the same level of visibility; and
- There is a wide range of variation within the visibility shown on the ZTV. For example, an area shown on the blade tip ZTV as potentially having visibility of all the turbines may gain views of the smallest extremity of blade tips, or of full turbines. This can make a considerable difference in the effects of the Proposed Development on that area.

5.3.18 These limitations mean that while the ZTVs are used as a starting point in the assessment, providing an indication of where the Proposed Development theoretically would be visible, the information drawn from the ZTVs should not be completely relied upon to accurately represent actual visibility of the Proposed Development.

Visualisations

5.3.19 Photographs and other graphic material such as wirelines and photomontages used in the assessment are for illustrative purposes only and, whilst useful tools in the assessment, are not considered to be

completely representative of what would be apparent to the human eye. NatureScot provides the following information on the limitations of visualisations that are produced according to the NatureScot guidance[11] Visual Representation of Windfarms:

- 'Visualisations of windfarms have a number of limitations which you should be aware of when using them to form a judgement on a windfarm proposal. These include:
- a visualisation can never show exactly what the windfarm will look like in reality due to factors such as: different lighting, weather and seasonal conditions which vary through time and the resolution of the image;
- the images provided give a reasonable impression of the scale of the turbines and the distance to the turbines, but can never be 100% accurate;
- a static image cannot convey turbine movement, or flicker or reflection from the sun on the turbine blades as they move;
- the viewpoints illustrated are representative of views in the area, but cannot represent visibility at all locations;
- to form the best impression of the impacts of the windfarm proposal these images are best viewed at the viewpoint location shown;
- the images must be printed at the right size to be viewed properly (260mm by 820mm); and
- you should hold the images flat at a comfortable arm's length. If viewing these images on a wall or board at an exhibition, you should stand at arm's length from the image presented to gain the best impression.'

5.4 Baseline Conditions

Introduction

5.4.1 The landscape and visual baseline provides a description of the existing landscape and visual conditions in the area that may be affected. Establishing the baseline will, when reviewed alongside the description of the Proposed Development, form the basis for the identification and description of the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development.

5.4.2 The baseline description of the landscape that may be affected is primarily determined by the physical footprint of the Proposed Development components and their ZTV (**Figures 5.7a – 5.13, EIAR Volume 2**). The baseline also describes current pressures that may cause change in the landscape in the future, in particular drawing on information for wind energy developments that are not yet present in the landscape but are at other stages in the planning process. Operational and under construction wind energy developments are regarded as part of the baseline landscape character of the area. Any changes resulting from the Proposed Development are assessed within this context in the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

5.4.3 This section provides a baseline overview of the landscape and visual resource in the Study Area. A preliminary assessment has identified those landscape and visual receptors that may have the potential to experience significant effects, which require to be assessed in full. Detailed baseline descriptions are provided separately within the assessment for each receptor considered to have potential for significant effects following the preliminary assessment.

[11] Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2. NatureScot (2017) Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf

Landscape Baseline Overview

Site Context

5.4.4 The proposed Glentarken Windfarm Site is located approximately 3 km north-west of St Fillans, situated within the upland summits and plateaux found to the southwest of Glen Lednock, part of a broad upland ridge that separates Loch Earn and Loch Tay. The Site extends along the Beich Burn, which forms part of the western boundary, to accommodate the proposed access track. The A85, linking Crianlarich and Perth, forms a part of the southern boundary. The majority of the Site area, including much of the Proposed Development and the locations of proposed turbines lies within PKC with the access track and western extent of the Site located within SC. The Site in relation to the landscape and visual Study Area is shown on **Figure 5.1 (EIAR Volume 2)**.

5.4.5 The Site varies in topography and in addition to areas of plateau ridge tops has areas with steep sloping terrain and rocky outcrops. The Site lies between approximately 100 m AOD at Loch Earn / Beich Burn, rising to a high point of 712 m AOD, at Creag Ruadh. The proposed access track along the eastern slopes of Glen Beich is between 100 m AOD on the A85 rising to around 400 m AOD to the west of Creag Dhubh (510 m AOD). The area of the Site where turbines are proposed includes the Meall Daimh (690 m AOD) and Creag Ruadh (712 m AOD) summits on the northern boundary and Glen Tarken along the southern boundary. The slopes of Glen Tarken to the south are notably steep. To the east, the Site narrows to a point near the summits of Creag Odhar (550m AOD) and Meall nam Fiadh (612 m AOD).

5.4.6 The Site includes the upper reaches of the Glentarken Burn and several of its tributaries alongside several upland lochs on the plateau: Loch Eas Domhain and Lochan na Creige Ruaidhe. The Site largely comprises moorland, with several fence lines within the lower reaches of the valley and a vehicle track running along the lower slopes of the valley sides, splitting to enter Glen Beich past Creag Dubh. Pasture covers the area around the A85. Tree cover is limited to lower valley slopes along the Beich Burn. See also **Chapter 8 Geology, Peat, Hydrology and Hydrogeology and Chapter 7 Ecology (EIAR Volume 1).**

Landscape Character

5.4.7 The landscape assessment considers the effect of the Proposed Development on the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Site and the surrounding area. In early 2019, NatureScot published an update to the characterisation of Scotland's landscape as a digital resource[12] . The information builds on the characterisation studies published in the 1990's. NatureScot describe this 2019 characterisation as superseding the 1990s landscape character descriptions and mapping. At the time of publication, NatureScot added that *'Where there are topic-specific landscape capacity or sensitivity studies, they would take precedence for informing that development type, e.g. windfarms.'* Perth and Kinross Council published a landscape capacity study[13] over 14 years ago, which provides analysis in relation to the ability of the host landscape character type to accommodate wind energy development. Whilst this study can be regarded as 'topic specific', as a consequence of its age the study is considered to be outdated and not as relevant as it was at the time of publication.

5.4.8 It is therefore considered that the NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment forms the most up to date characterisation study for the Site and Study Area and its landscape character boundaries and

[12] Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions. NatureScot 2019. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions

[13] David Tyldesley and Associates. (2010) Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy. Final Report.

descriptions of key landscape characteristics form the basis of character assessment in this LVIA. The LCTs found in the Study Area are shown on **Figure 5.3, Landscape Character (EIAR Volume 2)** (**Figure 5.10, EIAR Volume 2)** shows LCTs with the blade tip ZTV of the Proposed Development). Where multiple areas of LCT are found within the Study Area, these have been renamed as separate units of that type according to the NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment geographical descriptions.

5.4.9 The landscape of the Site and its immediate context is characterised by the large scale upland landscapes of northwest Perthshire (including the broad upland ridge plateau of the Site area and the surrounding hills and mountains), contrasting with the glens and strath below these uplands (including Loch Tay and Loch Earn to the north and south of the Site area). These glens and straths have steep sides but allow access into this mountainous area, connecting settlements such as St Fillans, Lochearnhead and Killin and forming a gateway into the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The Study Area also contains more settled lowland landscapes to the southeast surrounding Comrie and Crieff where the landscape has a more rural and agricultural character than the uplands of the Site and areas to the north and west.

Landscape Designations

5.4.10 A landscape designation is an area of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local level, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents. The landscapes are designated in relation to their special qualities or features which warrant special consideration through the planning system. National and local designations occur in parts of the Study Area and are designated at a national level by Scottish Ministers or NatureScot and at a local level by the local planning authority.

5.4.11 There are three ways in which such designations are relevant to the LVIA:

- The presence of a designation can give an indication of a recognised value that may increase the sensitivity of a landscape character receptor, viewpoint or visual receptor, and may therefore affect the significance of the effect on that receptor;
- The presence of a relevant designation can lead to the selection of a representative viewpoint within the designated area, as the viewpoint will provide a representative outlook from that area; and
- Designated areas may be included as landscape character receptors so that the effects of the Proposed Development on these features of the landscape that have been accorded particular value can be specifically assessed.

5.4.12 In relation to the Proposed Development, landscape designations within the Detailed Study Area include:

- Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP);
- National Scenic Areas (NSAs) – Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA; and River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA;
- Perth and Kinross Council Special Landscape Areas (LLAs) – Loch Tay LLA; Loch Lyon & Loch an Daimh LLA; Glen Quaich LLA; Sma Glen & Glen Almond LLA; and Upper Strathearn LLA;
- Stirling Council Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) – Glen Lochay LLA; Creag Gharbh LLA; and Uamh Bheag LLA;
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) – Meggernie Castle; Taymouth Castle; Monzie Castle; Ochtertyre; Drummond Castle; Aberuchill Castle; and Dunira.

5.4.13 Landscape designations found in the Detailed Study Area are shown on **Figure 5.4, Landscape Designations (EIAR Volume 2)** with **Figure 5.11, Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)** showing landscape designations with the blade tip ZTV of the Proposed Development overlaid.

Wild Land

5.4.14 Wild Land Areas are also found within the Study Area, including: WLA07 Ben More-Ben Ledi; WLA10 Breadalbane-Schiehallion; WLA11 Lyon-Lochay; and WLA12 Ben Lawers. WLAs are shown on **Figure 5.5, Wild Land (EIAR Volume 2)** with **Figure 5.12, Wild Land and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)** showing WLAs with the blade tip ZTV of the Proposed Development overlaid. Wild land is not an environmental designation and is not statutorily protected in the way that National Parks and National Scenic Areas are for their scenic qualities. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 4 recognises WLAs as one of the '*Natural Places'* which should be afforded protection but noting that '*Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development out with wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.'* Given the distance of around 10 km to the nearest WLAs 11 and 12 to the north of the Site area and the limited level of theoretical visibility it is considered that the Proposed Development is not a '*significant consideration'* for the WLAs found in the Study Area and are therefore scoped out of consideration in the LVIA.

Visual Baseline Overview

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Blade Tip ZTV

5.4.15 The blade tip ZTV for the wider 45 km Study Area is shown on **Figure 5.7a, Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A3) (EIAR Volume 2)** with the blade tip ZTV for the Detailed Study Area shown on **Figure 5.7b, Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A1) (EIAR Volume 2)** on detailed 50k mapping and at A1 size. The blade tip ZTV for the Detailed Study Area is also shown alongside landscape character, landscape designations, wild land areas and visual receptors on **Figures 5.10-5.13 (EIAR Volume 2).**

5.4.16 Blade tip theoretical visibility is relatively consistent across the unit of host character type. The landform of the Site and surrounding area has a notable influence on the extent of visibility across the Study Area which has a containing influence on the overall visibility extents of the Proposed Development. The pattern of theoretical visibility produced by the Proposed Development responds to the surrounding landform in the following ways.

5.4.17 Theoretical visibility is very limited beyond around 15 km. The upland landscape within 5-10 km limits theoretical visibility to the northeast and south. Between 10 and 20 km theoretical visibility is restricted to elevated slopes and hill summits facing the Site and beyond around 20-25 km to the north and west which dissipates almost entirely, leaving only extremely small patches of theoretical visibility on distant mountain summits. To the southeast, theoretical visibility stretches out along the wooded landscape that follows the River Earn, occasionally interrupted by the undulated lowland landscape surrounding Comrie and Crieff, before terminating on the north facing slopes of the Ochils.

Hub ZTV

5.4.18 The hub height ZTV for the wider 45 km Study Area is shown on **Figure 5.8a, Hub Height ZTV with Viewpoints (A3) (EIAR Volume 2)** with the hub height ZTV for the Detailed Study Area shown on **Figure 5.8b Hub Height ZTV with Viewpoints (A1) (EIAR Volume 2)** on detailed 50k mapping and at A1 size. The hub height ZTV is run at the turbine hub (or nacelle) height of 99 m and shows potential visibility of any part of a wind turbine up to the height of its hub or nacelle (but not all of the wind turbine tower would necessarily be seen). Comparison between ZTVs to blade tip and hub allows identification of those areas

from which the turbine towers might not be visible, but the blades (or part of these) would. The areas of visibility shown on the blade tip ZTV but not on the hub height ZTV are the areas from which parts of the blades may be visible, and not the towers.

5.4.19 The overall extent of theoretical visibility shown in the hub height ZTV is similar to the blade tip ZTV within around 20 km, with reduced theoretical visibility extent beyond 20 km where only small patches of theoretical visibility are found. However, a notable difference is that fewer turbines are recorded as theoretically visible in all parts of the ZTVs that show theoretical visibility, particularly on the slopes of surrounding hills and mountains within 20 km.

Horizontal Angle ZTV

5.4.20 The Horizontal Angle ZTV (HZTV) is shown on **Figure 5.9, Horizontal Angle Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)**. The Horizontal Angle ZTV measures how much of the horizontal field of view is theoretically occupied by the Proposed Development. It measures the maximum lateral spread from the furthest left to the furthest right theoretically visible turbine of the Proposed Development. The information is presented as a horizontal angle in degrees. The horizontal angle ZTV provides further information on the likely magnitude of effect of the Proposed Development because the results reflect the effect that distance has on the apparent size of the Proposed Development: a large object up-close has more visual impact than the same sized object further away (all other things being equal). The horizontal angle ZTV is displayed using coloured bands showing incremental degrees of horizontal angle, in order to highlight areas of higher effect.

5.4.21 The horizontal angle ZTV shows that the widest, theoretical, horizontal field of view is occupied in close proximity to the Proposed Development, particularly within the footprint of the proposed turbines themselves, where the turbines could occupy more than 180 degrees (50 %) of the field of view. Within around 2.5 km of the proposed turbines the HZTV drops to between 50-90 degrees (14 to 25%) and within around 5 km drops further to between 30-50 degrees (8 to 14%).

5.4.22 The Proposed Development will have a slightly wider horizontal extent in views from the north-east and south-west, where the proposed wind farm will appear more spread out on the skyline across the width of the Site and will have a reduced horizontal extent in views from the north-west and south-east, where the proposed turbines will appear more clustered within a smaller part of the skyline. As a result of this, the HZTV drops to less than 30 degrees (8%) of the view close to the turbines at the south-east edges of Site area and within 1 km to the north-west.

5.4.23 The HZTV is notable for the magnitude at which the horizontal angle occupied by the Proposed Development decreases with distance. From around 10 km, the horizontal angle occupied by the Proposed Development drops to around 10-20 degrees (3-5%) to the north-east / south-west and 5 - 10 degrees (1-3%) to the north-west / south-east. Beyond 10 km, larger areas of the Study Area are at 5 - 10 degrees (1-3%) with the strip of 10-20 degrees (3-5%) to the north-east / south-west narrowing out to the 20 km boundary.

5.4.24 The visual effect of the Proposed Development will therefore diminish with distance; generally resulting in a higher magnitude of change from locations at closer proximity, where the Proposed Development occupies a wider horizontal extent (or 'lateral spread'), and a lower magnitude of change from distant

locations for much of the Detailed Study Area where the extent of the horizon occupied by the Proposed Development is small.

Principal Visual Receptors

Settlements

5.4.25 Settlements[14] within 20 km are found within surrounding glens and straths. The closest of these is St Fillans, the western settlement edge of which is 2.8 km from the Proposed Development turbines. There is also a large caravan park located on the southern shores of Loch Earn close to St Fillans at around 3.8 km from the Proposed Development turbines. Within 10 km the settlements of Lochearnhead (8.3 km), Killin (8.5 km), Ardeonaig (5.7 km) and Comrie (11 km) are found. Within 10-20 km the settlements of Balquhidder (14.7 km), Strathyre (15.3 km), Callander (20.5 km), Muthill (21.7 km), Crieff (19.2 km), Kenmore (18.7 km), Achairn (16.4 km), Fearnan (15.6 km) and Fortingall (18.5 km) are found. Settlements are shown on **Figure 5.6** and with the blade tip ZTV overlain on **Figure 5.13, Principal Visual Receptors and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2).**

Residential Properties

5.4.26 The upland landscape of the surrounding landscape context has very few properties and there are no properties within the immediate context of the Proposed Development turbines. In line with current guidance, Residential Visual Amenity Assessments (RVAA) are carried out for properties within 2 km of proposed turbines. There are no properties within this area and therefore it is not required and scoped out of the assessment.

Transportation Routes

5.4.27 'A' class roads within 20 km includes: the A85 which connects Crieff to Lochearnhead along Strathearn before turning north towards Glen Dochart; the A827 which runs along the northern shoreline of Loch Tay connecting Kenmore with Killin; the A84 which runs along Strathyre connecting Lochearnhead to Callander; and short sections of the A822 and A823 to the north and south of Crieff. The A827 and A84 form part of 'Heart 200' one of Scotland's Scenic Routes. 'B' class roads within 20 km are limited to the B827, an elevated road to the south of Comrie. There are no railway routes within 20 km. Transportation routes are shown on **Figure 5.6, Principal Visual Receptors (EIAR Volume2)** and with the blade tip ZTV overlain on **Figure 5.13, Principal Visual Receptors and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2).** See also **Chapter 11: Traffic and Transport (EIAR Volume 1).**

Recreational Routes

5.4.28 Long distance walking routes within 20 km include the Scottish National Trail and the Rob Roy Way. Within the detailed Study Area, the Scottish National Trail connects Callander and Comrie through Glen Artney, then across Glen Lednock / Glen Almond / Glen Quaich to connect with Aberfeldy. The Rob Roy Way connects Callander to Killin via Strathyre and Glen Ogle before climbing south along the rocky uplands close to the Proposed Development before descending at Ardeonaig and following the southern banks of Loch Tay. The Rob Roy Way splits into two separate routes at Ardtalnaig, one following the loch and the other climbing up to Glen Almond / Glen Quaich before rejoining at Aberfeldy. National Cycle Route 7 crosses the Detailed Study Area from north from Callander along Strathyre and Glen Ogle and the east from Killin along the southern banks of Loch Tay to Kenmore. Recreational routes are shown on **Figure 5.6** and with the blade tip ZTV overlain on **Figure 5.13, Principal Visual Receptors and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2).** See also **Chapter 12 Socio-economic and Tourism (EIAR Volume 1).**

[14] Settlements are identified using Local Development Plan information from both Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority.

Core Paths

5.4.29 There are no Core Paths within the Site area of the Proposed Development, where the turbines, infrastructure and access track is located. The routes of Core Paths would not therefore deviate or be permanently affected due to the introduction of the Proposed Development.

5.4.30 The closest Core Path to the Proposed Development is STFI/101 (Tarken Lodge (LL&TTNP) - Allt an Fhionn - Glen Tarken) which links St Fillans to the uplands to the south of the Site through the wooded northern shores of Lochearnhead. See **Figure 5.6, Principal Visual Receptors (EIAR Volume 2)** and with the blade tip ZTV overlain on **Figure 5.13, Principal Visual Receptors and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2).**

Viewpoints

5.4.31 22 viewpoints for the landscape and visual assessment have been selected in consultation with PKC, SC, NatureScot, LLTNP and MS. The viewpoints used in the assessment have been selected to cover points of specific importance such as recognised viewpoints, designated landscapes, settlements, important routes, and attractions, and to inform the definition of the likely extent of significant visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. Of the 22 agreed viewpoints, 16 are from surrounding hills and mountains including 9 Munros as follows - Ben Chonzie (931 m AOD); Ben Vorlich (925 m AOD); Ben Lawers (1,214 m AOD); Meall Ghaordaidh (1,039 m AOD); Ben More (1174 m AOD); Beinn Sheasgarnaich (1,078 m AOD); and Schiehallion (1,083 m AOD). A variety of landscape character types and points from different directions and distances have also been represented in the selected views.

5.4.32 **Table 5-3** lists the viewpoints and provides information on their location, the receptors which may experience views at these locations, viewpoint distance, elevation, and view direction to the Proposed Development. Viewpoint locations are shown in conjunction with the blade tip ZTV on **Figure 5.7a Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A3) (EIAR Volume 2)** and **Figure 5.7b, Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A1) (EIAR Volume 2)** and the hub height ZTV on **Figure 5.8a, Hub Height ZTV with Viewpoints (A3) (EIAR Volume 2)** and **Figure 5.8b, Hub Height ZTV (A1) (EIAR Volume 2)**. Photomontage visualisations have been prepared for these viewpoints (**Figures 5.17a to 5.38h, EIAR Volume 3**) to meet the requirements of NS (Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, December 2017).

Table 5-3: LVIA Viewpoints

VP No	VP Name	Grid Ref		Receptor Type / LCT / Designation	Nearest proposed turbine (km) / Elevation (AOD m) / View Direction		
1	Rob Roy Way near Meall Odhar	263986	732044	Recreational Walkers / LCT 147 - Summits and Plateaux – Central	2.3	581.4	SE
2	Ben Chonzie	277319	730855	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Upper Strathearn LLA (8)	9.9	930.3	W
3	Breadalbane Park, Killin	257135	733214	Settlement / LCT 253 – Straths and Glens / LLTNP	8.7	114.4	SE
4	Carstran, minor road overlooking Lochearnhead	260046	722583	Road Users, Settlement / LCT 254 – Straths and Glens with Lochs / LLTNP	8.7	137.4	NE
5	Comrie	277434	720645	Settlement / LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens / Upper Strathearn LLA (8)	11.8	65.9	NW

VP No	VP Name	Grid Ref		Receptor Type / LCT / Designation	Nearest proposed turbine (km) / Elevation (AOD m) / View Direction		
6	Carn Chois	279142	727748	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Upper Strathearn LLA (8)	11.2	783.3	W
7	Ben Vorlich	262919	718914	Hill Walkers / LCT 251 – Highland Summits / LLTNP	10.1	982.7	N
8	Ben Lawers	263582	741412	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA	16.3	1196.4	S
9	Meall na Samhna	249108	732535	Hill Walkers / LCT 251 – Highland Summits / LLTNP	16.3	848.3	E
10	A827 near Fearnan	272071	744377	Road Users, Settlement / LCT 374 – Mid Upland Glens with Lochs / Loch Tay LLA (3)	15.3	109.3	SW
11	Meall Ghaordaidh	251445	739703	Hill Walkers / LCT 147 – Summits and Plateaux – Central / Glen Lochay LLA (1)	16.8	1038.1	SE
12	Sron Bealaidh	283434	733804	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Sma' Glen and Glen Almond LLA (7)	16.6	723.9	W
13	MacRosty Park Crieff	285884	722518	Settlement / LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens	18.7	68.0	NW
14	A822 near Muthill	286327	717060	Road Users / LCT 384 – Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside / Drummond Castle GDL, Upper Strathearn LLA	21.2	81.5	NW
15	Ben More	243278	724418	Hill Walkers / LCT 251 – Highland Summits / LLTNP	22.6	1165.7	E
16	Beinn Sheasgarnaich	241458	738264	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Loch Lyon & Loch an Daimh LLA	25.2	1047.0	SE
17	Schiehallion	271379	754767	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 - Summits and Plateaux – Tayside / Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA	25.2	1065.1	S
18	Kinpauch Hill – core path from Blackford	289151	706449	Recreational Walkers / LCT 382 - Lowland Hill Ranges / Ochil Hills LLA	29.9	280.7	NW
19	Lochan na Lairige pass	260890	737753	Road Users / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA	8.8	417.0	S
20	Mor Bheinn	271631	721179	Hill Walkers / LCT 376 – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside / River Earn (Comrie to St. Fillans) NSA.	7.5	636.0	NW
21	St Fillans Hill	270826	723250	Recreational Walkers / LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens / River Earn (Comrie to St. Fillans) NSA.	5.3	176.3	NW
22	Meall_an_t-Seallaidh	254216	723410	Hill Walkers / LCT 251 – Highland Summits / LLTNP	12.7	848.5	NE

5.4.33 'Wireline only' illustrative viewpoints were also agreed in consultation and whilst not included as assessment viewpoints, wireline visualisations have been prepared for these locations, see **Figures 5.39a – 5.42c (Volume 3). Table 5-4** lists these wireline locations along with information on their location.

Table 5-4: Wireline only Viewpoints

VP Ref	VP Name	Grid Ref		Nearest proposed turbine (km)
A	Ben Lui (1,130 m AOD)	226628	726298	38.7
B	Ben Lomond (974 m AOD)	236730	702862	39.1
C	Core Path STFI/101	267339	727012	0.9
D	Caravan Park at Ardrostan	267939	723817	3.8

Wind Energy Development Baseline

Introduction

5.4.34 The cumulative assessment set out in the LVIA assesses only the additional landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development, in the context of different baseline scenarios that make assumptions about existing and proposed wind farms. It does not present an assessment of the combined effects of all of the relevant wind farms on the landscape. Details of baseline scenarios are provided in Section 7 of **TA 5.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**. The baseline scenarios considered in this CLVIA are as follows:

- Operational / Under Construction Scenario – the effect of the Proposed Development in addition to the landscape and visual baseline, including wind farms already present in the landscape or under construction wind farms.
- Consented Scenario - the effect of the Proposed Development in addition to wind farms already present in the landscape (operational/under construction scenario) and wind farms that are likely to soon be present (consented wind farms).
- Application Scenario - the effect of the Proposed Development in addition to the operational, under construction and consented wind farms, but also those that have valid (but as yet undetermined) planning applications.
- Scoping Scenario - the effect of the Proposed Development in addition to the operational, under construction, consented and application wind farms, but also those that are at pre-application stage (scoping).

Scope of Cumulative Assessment

5.4.35 A review of the broad wind farm context within 45 km radius has been undertaken, as shown on **Figure 5.14, Cumulative Context Plan (EIAR Volume 2)**. The cumulative context mapping includes operational, consented and application stage wind energy developments and where the turbines are greater than 50 m to blade tip, as of August 2024. Any changes in the cumulative situation after this date are not incorporated in the assessment. Scoping stage Sites are also included on this map for reference. It is considered that any potential cumulative effects would arise as a result of the pattern of development within a 45 km Study Area radius, rather than as a result of changes beyond this.

5.4.36 Cumulative development in this wider area includes – to the northeast, the operational Griffin and Calliachar wind farms along with the consented North Calliachar; to the southeast on the Ochils, the operational Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, the consented Forestmill, the Brunt Hill / Craighead applications and Windburn scoping; and to the south the operational Rosehill Farm, Durieshill, Earlsburn, Earlsburn North, Craigengelt, Craigannet, the consented Shelloch, Craigton & Spittal, the application Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock. Based on surrounding topography, the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and the locations of groups of wind farm developments within the wider 45 km Study Area, it is considered that there is no potential for significant cumulative effects between the Proposed Development and any of the cumulative Sites located beyond 20 km.

5.4.37 Taking this into account, the cumulative assessment has focussed on the effects with those Sites that lie within the 20 km Detailed Study Area, see **Figure 5.15, Cumulative wind farms within 20 km (EIAR Volume 2)**.

5.4.38 Cumulative developments within 20 km include the following:

- Operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm (36 turbines at 100 m to blade tip)
- Operational Strathallan Wind Farm (4 turbines at 93 m to blade tip)
- Consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm (5 turbines at 93 m to blade tip)
- Scoping Glen Lednock Wind Farm (25 turbines at 220 m to blade tip)

5.4.39 Diagrams showing Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (CZTV) of these developments within 20 km of the Proposed Development are shown on **Figures 5.16a-c (EIAR Volume 2).** For additional context, cumulative schemes within 45 km are also included in baseline wireframe diagrams, shown on visualisations on **Figures 5.17a - 5.42c (EIAR Volume 3)** and are referred to in the viewpoint assessments where visible.

5.4.40 In line with GLVIA3 and NS cumulative guidance, scoping stage Sites are generally not considered in the detailed assessment due to layout and design uncertainties at the pre-application stages. In relation to the Proposed Development, the exception to this is the Glen Lednock Wind Farm which has been included in the cumulative assessment in the LVIA as a result of its close proximity to the Proposed Development Site. It should be noted however that a large degree of uncertainty applies to the findings in this assessment scenario.

Future Baseline

5.4.41 In order to ensure that the Proposed Development is assessed against a realistic baseline scenario, i.e., what the baseline conditions are likely to be once the Proposed Development is operational, a description of the likely future baseline conditions is provided within this section.

5.4.42 The main driver of future change within the landscape and visual resource is climate change. Aspects that may cause change are likely to take two forms; measures to mitigate against the adverse effects of climate change and measures put in place to try and limit the future effects of it. Increased walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure may result in changes within urban and rural areas to accommodate this with the aim of reducing vehicular travel and providing increased amenity resources. Net Zero carbon emission targets are likely to see an increase in renewable energy development, which is likely to include further onshore and offshore wind farm development, tidal and wave power projects and solar development.

5.4.43 In the absence of the Proposed Development proceeding on the Site, the land is considered most likely to remain in its present condition. The ridgeline of moorland topped upland would continue to be the principal land cover. Existing tracks on the slopes to the south and north of the Site area would remain with continued recreational access from lower slopes. The Glen Lednock scoping stage wind farm would be located within close proximity to the Site. This along with the need for further renewable energy development to achieve net zero carbon emission targets may also result in a need for further grid infrastructure development to connect to the national grid and consumers. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is anticipated to be some change in the future baseline, the LVIA has not assessed these due to the uncertainty surrounding the nature, type and timing of changes to the baseline.

5.5 Sensitive Receptors and Potential Effects

5.5.1 Potential effects are those which could result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. **Table 5-5** describes the typical landscape and visual effects that can arise from the construction and operation of a wind farm, see also the more detailed project description in **Chapter 2: Development Description (EIAR Volume 1)** (it should be noted that their inclusion in this table does not imply that they will occur, or be significant, in the case of the Proposed Development).

Table 5-5: Potential Effects

Specific Element	Potential Effects	Potential Sensitive Receptors
Construction		
Site compound areas, borrow pits, batching plant facilities, construction plant (including cranes for turbine erection), temporary construction facilities and temporary telecoms infrastructure.	Temporary physical effects on landscape fabric. Permanent physical effects on landscape fabric (i.e. permanent removal of vegetation / forestry / ground cover). Temporary effects on landscape character. Temporary effects on views. Temporary cumulative effects.	Physical landscape features Landscape character receptors Visual receptors (See also Preliminary Assessment presented in Section 5.7)
Operation (Day-Time)		
Turbines, turbine hardstands, access tracks, substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), restored construction compound areas and working areas.	Long term effects on landscape character including cumulative effects. Long term effects on views including cumulative effects.	Landscape character receptors Visual receptors. (See Preliminary Assessment presented in sections 5.8 and 5.9)
Operation (Night-Time)		
Turbine lighting on turbines	Long term effects on views	Visual receptors

5.5.2 The effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual resource would arise principally from the construction and operation of the turbines and access tracks. The temporary construction facilities, such as cranes, construction vehicles, borrow pits, construction compound and delivery vehicles required during the construction phase would also have effects on the landscape and visual resource during the anticipated 18 month construction period of the Proposed Development. The operational lifespan of the Proposed Development would be 50 years, after which it would be appropriately decommissioned. It is expected that decommissioning would take approximately 12 months and involve activities similar in nature to that of construction resulting in similar effects.

5.5.3 Due to the large scale of the Proposed Development, it is considered that there would be no instances where construction/decommissioning effects trigger a significant landscape and visual effect for receptors where operational effects are found to be not significant. For this reason, construction and decommissioning effects are not considered separately to the operational effects of the Proposed Development.

5.6 Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation

5.6.1 The design process for the layout of the Proposed Development is a vital part of the EIA process and is where the biggest contribution can be made to mitigate potential landscape and visual effects, creating a wind farm which is appropriate for the existing landscape character and visual features of an area. The design of the Proposed Development has evolved as part of an iterative process which has aimed to provide an optimal design in environmental, as well as technical and economic terms and landscape and visual mitigation measures have been a central consideration in the design process. As a result of the embedded nature of the mitigation, all of the effects assessed in the LVIA should be considered residual.

Mitigation of Physical Landscape Effects

5.6.2 Ground disturbance on the Proposed Development Site would be restricted as far as practicable and any soil materials excavated would be retained for re-use on areas to be re-vegetated following the construction phase. The proposed construction compound, tracks, turbine hardstands and associated working areas have been considered throughout the design process to minimise landscape and visual impacts where possible.

Mitigation of Landscape Character and Visual Effects

5.6.3 The design strategy, Site selection rationale and iterative design process for the Proposed Development is described in **Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 1)**. The proposed turbine layout has been designed to minimise the effect on the surrounding landscape and visual resource. Therefore, the turbine layout design has evolved with the intention and key objective of presenting a simple, well-balanced image of the Proposed Development in the majority of views and the reduction of turbine visibility within lower lying straths and glens. The landscape and visual aspects of the layout iteration process are summarised below.

- The turbine layout has been rationalised in each design iteration to reduce clustering / overlapping of turbines and create a balanced and cohesive array from surrounding views.
  In positioning the layout within the eastern part of the Site, the turbines are located further back from the neighbouring uplands within the LLTNP providing a degree of separation from this sensitive landscape.
- The location of the layout in the eastern part of the Site, has also -
  - Avoided the interruption of key views into the LLTNP from the Rob Roy Way and Ben Lawers such as to the distinctive steep slopes of Ben Vorlich or towards the incised glen of Strathyre.
  - Reduced turbine visibility from the south facing slopes of the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridgeline (on the southern edge of the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA).
  - Greatly reduced turbine visibility from within Strathearn and the lower lying parts of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA. From which, the turbines typically appear tucked behind Creag Odhar in available views.
- The layout is organised within a part of the Site that appears similar in upland character and elevation to ensure a cohesive underlying upland context and avoid notable differences in topography when seen from surrounding views.
- Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland ridge that lies between Loch Tay to the north and Loch Earn to the south and is set back from these upland edges to ensure minimal visibility within these closely neighbouring straths and glens.
- Turbine positions within this central area of the upland ridge, has also greatly reduced the amount of turbine visibility within the lower lying straths and glens in the wider landscape.

- The position of the Proposed Development turbines, high above Glen Beich and Glen Tarken when viewed from the elevated hills in the southern edges of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA, creates a sense of separation from Loch Earn, the floor of the River Earn strath and the lower slopes that follow Strathearn.

Additional Mitigation

Turbine Lighting Mitigation

5.6.4 **Chapter 13: Aviation (EIAR Volume 1)** assesses turbine lighting requirements of the Proposed Development. As described in **Chapter 13** and **TA 13.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**, it is proposed that visibility sensors are installed on relevant turbines to measure prevailing atmospheric conditions and visibility range. Should atmospheric conditions (for example an absence of low cloud cover, rain, mist, haze or fog) mean that visibility around the Site is greater than 5 km from the Proposed Development, CAA policy permits visible aviation lights to operate in a lower intensity mode of 200 cd (being 10% of their minimum peak intensity). If visibility is restricted to 5 km or less, the lights would operate at 2000 cd.

5.7 Assessment of Residual Physical Landscape Effects

Introduction

5.7.1 The first category of effects covered in the assessment is physical effects, which are direct effects on the fabric of the Site, such as changes to ground cover. Physical effects are found only on the Site, where existing landscape elements may be removed or altered by the Proposed Development. The methodology for the assessment of physical effects is described in full in **TA 5.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**. It should be noted that landscape elements are assessed with reference to their contribution to the landscape character rather than in ecological terms.

5.7.2 A section of the access track infrastructure at the Site entrance would be located in grazed fields next to the A85 at Dalveich, the physical change results from a very short section of the access track and is therefore not considered to have the potential for significant effects. The areas of the Site in which the turbines and all other infrastructure would be located, lies within areas of moorland. As a result, the physical landscape effect of the Proposed Development on the Moorland landscape element has been assessed in detail below.

Moorland

Baseline and Sensitivity

5.7.3 The construction of access tracks and other infrastructure will require the removal of areas of moorland ground cover. The moorland on the Site comprises grasses and heathers typical of the Scottish uplands and upland areas within northern Perthshire and Stirlingshire. The value of moorland is medium; it is a widespread landscape element in the Study Area that is not rare or specifically recognised for its value, but it is a key characteristic element of LCT 147 Summits and Plateaux Central and LCT 376 Summits and Plateaux Tayside that cover the Site and surrounding areas. There is also value in the contrast that the moorland has with the deep straths of Loch Tay and Loch Earn to the north and south of the upland plateau of the Site area, particularly in providing a large-scale backdrop to scenic views. The susceptibility to change of this landscape element is medium-low due to the potential for reinstatement and restoration of the ground cover following construction and at the end of the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The combination of the medium value and medium-low susceptibility to change of the landscape element results in a medium sensitivity for moorland ground cover.

Magnitude of Change

5.7.4 The Proposed Development would result in an alteration to the moorland ground cover from the removal of parts of this landscape element during the construction phase. The access tracks, crane hardstanding's, turbine foundations, substation and BESS, construction compounds, borrow pits and cable routes are all proposed to be located within this land cover. Following construction, moorland would be reinstated over the areas not permanently occupied by infrastructure that have been disturbed by landform change including the restored construction compound and cable routes. The remaining moorland within the Site would be retained over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

5.7.5 The area of moorland to be removed in the construction and operation of the Proposed Development is relatively limited in relation to the total area of moorland on the Site and elsewhere within the LCT 147 Summits and Plateaux Central and LCT 376 Summits and Plateaux Tayside. The magnitude of change of this removal is therefore considered to be low.

Significance of the Effect

5.7.6 The effect of the Proposed Development on moorland is considered to **Minor and Not Significant**. The extent of removal is not considered to constitute a redefinition of this landscape element either as a component of the Site area or the wider landscape.

5.8 Assessment of Residual Landscape Character Effects

Introduction

5.8.1 Landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and the way that this pattern is perceived. Effects on landscape character arise either through the introduction of new elements that physically alter this pattern of elements, or through visibility of the Proposed Development, which may alter the way in which the pattern of elements is perceived. This category of effects is made up of landscape character receptors, which fall into two groups: landscape character types and landscape-related designated areas. Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are shown on **Figure 5.3, Landscape Character (EIAR Volume 2)** and Landscape Designations are shown on **Figure 5.4, Landscape Designations (EIAR Volume 2).**

Preliminary Assessment

Landscape Character Types

5.8.2 LCTs in the Study Area are assessed using ZTV analysis (**Figure 5.10, Landscape Character and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)**), to identify which of the LCTs are likely to be influenced by the Proposed Development. Using this analysis, **Table 5-6** identifies the LCTs within 20 km that have the potential to undergo significant effects and require to be assessed in detail.

Table 5-6: Preliminary Assessment LCTs

Landscape Character Type (LCT)	**Comment**
Status – Potential for significant effects and included in detailed assessment.	
LCT 147 (ii) – Summits and Plateaux – Central (Beinn Leabhainn)	The section of the Proposed Development access track through Glen Beich would be located within this LCT.
LCT 254 (iii) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Earn)	Whilst theoretical visibility is limited in this LCT, it is included in detailed assessment due to close proximity to the Proposed Development.
LCT 251 (ii) – Highland Summits (Ben More/Ben Vorlich) LCT 376 (i) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Forest of Glenartney, south of Loch Earn) LCT 376 (iii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich)	Potential for significant effects in these LCTs due to the elevated visibility of the Proposed Development within the context of a neighbouring upland hill range.
LCT 371 (ii) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Lednock)	Neighbouring LCT that fringes the host LCT. Theoretical visibility is relatively widespread across this LCT and in relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development.
LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens LCT 374 – Mid Upland Glens with Lochs	Potential for significant effects in these LCTs due to the visibility of the Proposed Development from lower lying areas which have the host LCT uplands within their surrounding context.
LCT 376 (ii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Chonzie/Sron Mhor/Meall nam Fuaran)	The Proposed Development turbines and majority of the proposed infrastructure would be located within the western part of this LCT.
Status – Considered further in preliminary assessment but found to have no potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Comment
LCT 147 (i) – Summits and Plateaux – Central (Glen Lochay)	Theoretical visibility is found on south facing slopes and summits of this upland. The Proposed Development would appear within the distant upland backdrop as a small feature away from the more immediate context of the neighbouring Glen Lochay that forms the immediate context and focus of views from this LCT. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
LCT 148 – Upland Glen Central	There is no theoretical visibility within western parts of Glen Lochay and much of the eastern part of the glen (where theoretical visibility is found) is well wooded further limiting visibility of the Proposed Development. Visibility from this eastern area is also limited in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible (small blade tips) above the distant upland ridgeline above Loch Tay, parts of which are also forested. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
LCT 251 (i) – Highland Summits (Beinn Bhreac to Beinn Odhar)	Theoretical visibility is found on elevated parts of this upland ridgeline of hill summits. The Proposed Development would appear within the distant upland backdrop as a small feature away from the more immediate context of the neighbouring Glen Dochart and its closely surrounding uplands that form the context of this LCT. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.

Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Comment
LCT 251 (iii) - Highland Summits (Ben Ledi)	Theoretical visibility is found on elevated and eastern parts of this upland LCT. The Proposed Development would appear within the distant upland backdrop as a small feature on an upland that is separated from this LCT by the more immediate context of Strathyre and the uplands around and including Ben Vorlich that form the context of this LCT. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
LCT 253 (i) – Straths and Glens (Glen Dochart/Strath Fillan)	There is no theoretical visibility within Strath Fillan. There is also no theoretical visibility from the floor of Glen Dochart or the southern slopes. Whilst there is theoretical visibility on parts of the elevated northern slopes it is limited in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible. It is considered therefore that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
LCT 253 (ii) – Straths and Glens (Strathyre)	There is no theoretical visibility within Strathyre and although there are patches of theoretical visibility within the northern part of this LCT, where it transitions with the Balquhidder area, actual visibility in this area is restricted by intervening woods and / or is of limited extents. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
LCT 380 (i) – Lowland Hills – Tayside (Uamh Bheag/Ben Clach/Torlum)	Theoretical visibility within this LCT is found on elevated and north facing slopes of Ben Clach and Choire Odhar and the wooded foothills around Torlum. The Proposed Development would be located on uplands to the northwest of this LCT separated by the more immediate intervening context of neighbouring lowlands in Strathearn and Glen Artney. Visibility from Torlum and Ben Clach is also limited in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible above the distant upland ridgeline and the Proposed Development would appear as a small feature within the distant upland backdrop to the intervening lowlands. It is considered that there is no potential for the character of this LCT to be significantly affected.
Status – Limited level of influence to the defining characteristics, due to limited / restricted or distant visibility of the Proposed Development, such that there is no potential for significant effects.	
LCT 149 – Lowland Hills – Central LCT 254 (i) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Voil) LCT 254 (ii) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Lubnaig) LCT 252 (i) – Upland Glens – Loch Lomond & the Trossachs (Glen Buckie) LCT 252 (ii) – Upland Glens – Loch Lomond & the Trossachs (Glen Ogle) LCT 370 (i) – Upper Upland Glens (Glen Almond)	LCT 371 (i) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Lyon) LCT 371 (iii) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Artney) LCT 376 (iv) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Cairn Gorm/Schiehallion) LCT 377 – Transitional Moorland and Forest LCT 380 (ii) – Lowland Hills – Tayside (Keillour Forest to Glen Almond) LCT 384 – Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside
Status – No theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. No potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
LCT 150 – Lowland Hill Fringes – Central LCT 253 (iii) – Straths and Glens (Teith)	LCT 255 – Parallel Ridges – Loch Lomond & the Trossachs LCT 370 (ii) – Upper Upland Glens (Glen Quaich)

Landscape Designations

5.8.3 Landscape Designations in the Study Area are assessed using ZTV analysis (**Figure 5.11, Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)**), to identify which are likely to be influenced by the Proposed Development. Using this analysis, **Table 5-7** identifies the landscape designations within 20 km that have the potential to undergo significant effects and require to be assessed in detail.

Table 5-7: Preliminary Assessment Landscape Designations

Landscape Designation	**Comment**
Status – Potential for significant effects and included in detailed assessment.	
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA Creag Gharbh LLA Loch Tay LLA	Included in detailed assessment due to proximity to the Proposed Development, extent of theoretical visibility and locational relationship with the underlying landscape of the Proposed Development Site.
Status – Considered further in preliminary assessment but found to have no potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
Landscape Designation	Comment
Glen Lochay LLA	There is no theoretical visibility within western parts of Glen Lochay and much of the eastern part of the glen (where theoretical visibility is found) is well wooded further limiting visibility of the Proposed Development. Visibility from this eastern area is also limited in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible (small blade tips) above the distant upland ridgeline above Loch Tay, parts of which are also forested. Theoretical visibility is also present on the south facing slopes and summits that contain Glen Lochay, however, the Proposed Development would appear within the distant upland backdrop as a small feature away from the more immediate context of the neighbouring Glen Lochay that forms the immediate context and focus of views. It is considered that there is no potential for the special qualities of this LLA to be significantly affected.
Upper Strathearn LLA	Theoretical visibility largely occurs within this LLA south of the River Earn in the elevated Torlum area south of Comrie and the lowlands to the south and west of Crieff. Within the lowlands that follow the River Earn the amount of Proposed Development visible is limited to between 1 and 3 turbines and with close comparison of the blade and hub ZTVs, it is apparent that this would be limited to blade tips. The Visibility from the Torlum area is limited by its forestry cover and where visible, the Proposed Development would appear as a small feature within the distant upland backdrop to the intervening lowlands. It is considered that there is no potential for the special qualities of this LLA to be significantly affected.
Aberuchill Castle GDL	Whilst theoretical visibility is found in eastern parts of this GDL the amount of Proposed Development visible is limited within these areas, which are largely wooded. It is considered that there is no potential for this GDL to be significantly affected.
Status – Limited level of influence to the defining characteristics or special qualities, due to limited / restricted or distant visibility of the Proposed Development, such that there is no potential for significant effects.	
Uamh Bheag LLA	Glen Quaich LLA

Landscape Designation	Comment
Loch Lyon & Loch an Daimh LLA Sma Glen & Glen Almond LLA	Drummond Castle GDL
Status – No theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. No potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
Meggernie Castle GDL Taymouth Castle GDL Monzie Castle GDL	Ochtertyre GDL Dunira GDL

Summary of Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment

5.8.4 The preliminary assessment has identified the following landscape character receptors that require to be assessed in detail as a result of the potential effects of the Proposed Development.

Landscape Character Types

- LCT 147 (ii) – Summits and Plateaux – Central (Beinn Leabhainn)
- LCT 254 (iii) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Earn)
- LCT 251 (ii) – Highland Summits (Ben More/Ben Vorlich)
- LCT 376 (i) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Forest of Glenartney, south of Loch Earn)
- LCT 376 (iii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich)
- LCT 371 (ii) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Lednock)
- LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens
- LCT 374 – Mid Upland Glens with Lochs
- LCT 376 (ii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Chonzie/Sron Mhor/Meall nam Fuaran)

Landscape Designations

- Creag Gharbh LLA
- Loch Tay LLA
- Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)
- Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA
- River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA

Detailed Assessment of LCT 147 (ii) – Summits and Plateaux – Central (Beinn Leabhainn)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.5 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Distinctive landforms of individual mountain peaks, ridges and corries.
- Open, large scale topography of upper glen and hill slopes.
- Remote, wild mountain atmosphere generated in upper glens due to predominantly uninhabited state and lack of penetration by metalled roads.
- Dominance of semi-natural vegetation types including montane habitats of European significance.
- Remains of settlements and other archaeological features provide important reminders of earlier, more productive agricultural systems within glens of the Glen Lochay Group.
- Linear and geometric margins and shapes of established coniferous forest blocks often not well related to the underlying topography.

- Some areas of semi-natural grassland/moorland/montane habitats subject to high densities of grazing stock.
- Important views of the mountain groups are possible from tourist routes and roads passing through adjacent valleys.'

Sensitivity

5.8.6 This LCT unit is found within the Creag Gharbh LLA and value is considered to be High-Medium. The LCT unit is within close proximity to the Proposed Development turbines and the access track would be located within it and the open aspect of this LCT unit potentially increases susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.7 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is found across the ridge tops at the western edge of this LCT, across the upper parts of Glen Beich within a central part of the LCT and along the elevated parts of the glen that holds the Ardeonaig Burn. The steep slopes found at the north and south edges of the LCT have little or no visibility of the Proposed Development.

5.8.8 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the experience of the landscape character of the LCT resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines within a closely neighbouring LCT and the introduction of the associated track infrastructure within the LCT.
- The Proposed Development would introduce the influence of wind energy development to the landscape where there is none currently experienced within the immediate context of this LCT.
- The potential reduction in open moorland character across the upland plateau which form part of this LCT .
- The level of Proposed Development construction-related activity experienced within this LCT.

5.8.9 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The Proposed Development would appear to sit clearly within a large upland landscape which has a moorland landcover and is composed of a series of hills that combine to create a broad upland ridgeline landscape type.
- Views to the wider landscape are largely experienced when at the edges of the ridge slopes and as the Proposed Development is located in a central position on the ridge, the scenic views towards the lower lying Loch Tay, Strathearn, Loch Earn to the north and south would be uninterrupted.

5.8.10 Taking these factors into account the magnitude of change for this LCT is considered to be High.

Significance of Effect

5.8.11 The effect on the LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Major and Significant.**

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.12 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LCT and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.13 The Glen Lednock scheme would be located in the neighbouring LCTs across a similar part of the broad upland plateau as the Site area. The Proposed Development turbines would be apparent in the foreground of views on this plateau with the Glen Lednock turbines either appearing behind or slightly to the east of the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced due to the level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. However, the Proposed Development would add to the horizontal extent of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the plateau contributing to a wider extent of views and landscape characteristics affected and at closer range. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the closer proximity of the Proposed Development which intensifies the cumulative effect experienced.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 254 (iii) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Earn)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.14 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Strongly enclosed by steep and often rugged hill slopes with lochs filling much of the space between, leaving only a narrow flatter margin against the loch shore.
- Lochs generally long and narrow.
- Narrow passes occur between some lochs. Subtle promontories and narrow beaches feature on loch shorelines, – these particularly appreciated in long views down the length of the lochs. Modification of natural lochs and water catchments in the Park, giving rise to a variety of structures including dams and aqueducts – many of these comprise distinctive 19th Century structures.
- Settlements often located at the head of lochs and major through roads are aligned through some of these glens and straths.
- Scattered traditional dwellings or clusters of buildings usually located close to alluvial pastures at the intersection with side glens and water courses on some loch shores.
- Tourism and recreation facilities along loch shores.
- Highland-type designed landscapes, grand houses, hunting lodges and associated features, policies and parklands occupy prime loch shore positions. Pier and timber boat houses are a common feature in association with houses and estates particularly on Loch Ard.
- Lochs are highly visible, with roads and cycle/walking routes aligned close to their shores.
- Long views are possible across open water to the Highland Summits and the combination of craggy towering hills and smooth water is an essential component of the scenic richness of the National Park.'

5.8.15 There are no operational wind farms visible from this LCT.

Sensitivity

5.8.16 This LCT unit is found within the LLTNP, and value is considered to be High. The LCT unit is within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development which is located on the uplands that contain this unit of LCT, increasing susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.17 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is largely found along parts of the southern edges of Loch Earn, including to the west of St Fillans and to the south of Lochearnhead. In these areas, the southern shoreline has limited levels of visibility due to intervening upland landform that rises up from the lochs northern edge. The northern edge of Loch Earn has no visibility of the Proposed Development.

5.8.18 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the north experienced from the southern edges of Loch Earn.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to the uplands that surround Loch Earn, detracting from the views *'across open water to the Highland Summits'* noted in the key characteristics.

5.8.19 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT have no visibility of the Proposed Development including the settled areas and the A85 corridor.
- The change to key characteristics would be minimal from affected areas of this LCT due to limited visibility resulting from the intervening ridgeline that rises up from the lochs northern edge.
- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines create a new focus above the eastern end of the loch, the large scale of the hill slopes of the intervening upland of Creag Odhar creates a sense of separation and provides an underlying large scale upland context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

5.8.20 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.21 The effect on the LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant**.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.22 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LCT and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.23 From affected areas of this LCT, the Glen Lednock scoping layout turbines would occupy a wider part of the view north than the Proposed Development. The CZTV shows that Glen Lednock will share a similar overall pattern of visibility to the Proposed Development. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. Whilst the Proposed Development would also slightly add to the spread of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a slightly wider extent of the view affected, the additional turbines would only very slightly intensify the effect, fitting comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock scheme. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Not Significant** cumulative effect. In this scenario, the effect is considered

to be not significant due to the moderating effect of the Glen Lednock scheme which provides a wind energy context within which the Proposed Development would only slightly add to.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 251 (ii) – Highland Summits (Ben More/Ben Vorlich)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.24 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'High mountains generally lying above 800 metres, but lower and intensely craggy in the core of the Trossachs where geology is particularly complex.
- Steep slopes often covered in scree.
- Narrow rocky ridges, deeply scooped corries and rocky gullies on many of these mountains.
- Narrow glens deeply cut into the mountains, often contain fast-flowing burns and waterfalls.
- Strongly patterned landscape with exposed rock, crags, small lochs and myriad water courses significantly increasing complexity.
- Simple vegetation cover is, largely comprising semi-natural grassland with patchy heather and ground-hugging alpine species on upper slopes and summits. Bracken and bog occurs on lower slopes and within glen floors. Coniferous forestry present on some lower slopes, extending up into glens.
- Broadleaf woodlands rare, confined to steeper slopes with fragments of oak and birch tracing burns and gullies.
- Very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes.
- Impounded lochs, coniferous forestry and hydroelectric infrastructure and transmission lines close to the mountains northwest of Loch Lomond.
- Highly visible massive peaks and ridges of the mountains forming a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores, glens and straths.
- Instantly recognisable mountain forms such as the Cobbler and Ben Lomond. Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond are important landmark features, marking the Highland edge seen widely from the Central Lowlands of Scotland.
- Popular mountains with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character, and the presence of 'Munro' and 'Corbett' peaks. The higher summits offer extensive views.
- Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry.
- Where snow is held on the high summits and the corries of Ben Lui and Ben Oss long in the year, this accentuates the exposure and wild character.'

Sensitivity

5.8.25 This LCT unit is found within the LLTNP, and value is considered to be High. The LCT unit is within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development which is located on neighbouring uplands beyond Loch Earn to the east and north. This LCT unit is considered to have a High susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

<u>Magnitude of Change</u>

5.8.26 The ZTV shows that within the 20 km Study Area, theoretical visibility extends across - the east facing ridgeline slopes above the elevated Glen Kendrum to the north of Lochearnhead (including the Meall an t-Seallaich ridge); the forest covered northern slopes of the Strathyre Forest; the north facing slopes of Ben Vorlich; and the steep slopes of the Meall Reamhar ridge to the east of Ben Vorlich.

5.8.27 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the east and north of the LCT.
- The addition of large-scale wind turbines to the backdrop of Loch Earn which forms a key focus from the affected parts of this LCT unit either as a view across the loch from the Ben Vorlich area or as a view along the loch from the ridges above Glen Kendrum.
- The alignment of the Proposed Development turbines across the Site (east to west), results in a relatively wide horizontal spread being apparent from the Ben Vorlich area.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to views from this LCT where there is largely none experienced except for distant development in the successive views from high hilltops.

5.8.28 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT have no visibility of the Proposed Development including much of the area to the south of the Ben Vorlich or west of the Glen Kendrum ridge.
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in views from affected parts of this LCT.
- The Proposed Development would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Earn reducing its influence on the focussed views of this feature.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

5.8.29 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change for this LCT unit is Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.30 The effect is assessed as **Moderate and Significant.** Whilst the Proposed Development is relatively distant from this LCT unit, the moderate level effect is considered to be significant in this instance due to the position of the Proposed Development in the backdrop to elevated views across Loch Earn. The significant effect is restricted to the north facing slopes of Ben Vorlich and the Meall Reamhar ridge to the east of Ben Vorlich.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.31 Consented and application schemes are largely not visible from areas of this LCT where the Proposed Development would be visible from. The exception is from the summit of Ben Vorlich. From here, the consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.32 The Glen Lednock scheme would appear on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Glen Lednock would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development with both schemes viewed as a ridgeline design and appearance increasing the level of integration for the

Proposed Development. From the upland ridge above Glen Kendrum, the Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view northeast, on the same part of the broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau, closer to its upland edge with Loch Earn. From the Ben Vorlich and Meall Reamhar ridge, there is a degree of overlap between both layouts, however, the Proposed Development would increase the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau, particularly from the Ben Vorlich area. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by increasing the extent of development that would be apparent across the plateau contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from the Ben Vorlich and Meall Reamhar ridge.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 376 (i) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Forest of Glenartney, south of Loch Earn)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.33 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Areas of upland incised by and separating the principal Tayside glens.
- Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy.
- Areas of the Mounth Highlands in the east comprising the southern extents of 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.
- Large scale vegetation patterns closely reflecting altitude and exposure and including heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities; variations reflecting the underlying geology.
- Most of the area managed as open moorland, with characteristic muirburn patterns.
- Little or no settlement, with minor tracks used for sporting, forestry and some recreation access, as well as newer more visible tracks for access to wind farms, pylon construction and forestry.
- A few patches of semi-natural broadleaf woodland on slopes up to about 600 metres.
- Remote and wild character.
- Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths.
- Panoramic views both into and out of adjacent mountainous areas, such as the Cairngorm Massif, and lower lying areas like Strathmore.'

Sensitivity

5.8.34 This LCT unit is found within the River Earn NSA and value is considered to be High. The LCT unit is within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development which is located on neighbouring uplands beyond the lowlands of the River Earn to the northwest. This LCT unit is considered to have a High susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.35 The ZTV shows that separate areas of theoretical visibility are found on the north facing rocky slopes of Mor Bheinn, Ben Halton, Beinn Dearg and Meall na Fearna.

5.8.36 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the north on a neighbouring unit of this LCT (376ii).
- The addition of large-scale wind turbines to the backdrop of Strathearn which forms a key focus from the affected parts of this LCT unit either as a view across River Earn from the eastern edges of the LCT unit or across Loch Earn.
- The alignment of the Proposed Development turbines across the Site (east to west), results in a relatively wide horizontal spread being apparent from this LCT unit.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to views from this LCT unit where there are none experienced.

5.8.37 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT unit have no visibility of the Proposed Development.
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in views from affected parts of this LCT unit.
- The Proposed Development would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Earn reducing its influence on the focussed views across Strathearn.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

5.8.38 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change for this LCT unit is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.39 The effect is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant.** Whilst the position of the Proposed Development above Strathearn would bring an additional focus to the backdrop of Strathearn, the large scale of the underlying upland of the Site, and neighbouring LCT unit of this type, would not be diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development when experienced from this LCT unit. As such, the moderate level effect is considered to be not significant in this instance. The ZTV shows that large areas of the LCT unit are unaffected and the affected areas of this LCT unit are small in size.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.40 From elevated parts of this LCT unit, the consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the south. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The

cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.41 From elevated parts of this LCT unit, the Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view north, on a different part of the same broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a larger section of this ridge than the Proposed Development and would be slightly closer to this LCT unit. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would also intensify the view of wind farm development by further adding to this spread of turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a wider extent of the view affected. The scale and position of the Proposed Development on the ridge and its contribution to the increased spread of wind farm development on the ridge, is a key factor of consideration. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium resulting in a **Major-Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 376 (iii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.42 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Areas of upland incised by and separating the principal Tayside glens.
- Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy.
- Areas of the Mounth Highlands in the east comprising the southern extents of 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.
- Large scale vegetation patterns closely reflecting altitude and exposure and including heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities; variations reflecting the underlying geology.
- Most of the area managed as open moorland, with characteristic muirburn patterns.
- Little or no settlement, with minor tracks used for sporting, forestry and some recreation access, as well as newer more visible tracks for access to wind farms, pylon construction and forestry.
- A few patches of semi-natural broadleaf woodland on slopes up to about 600 metres.
- Remote and wild character.
- Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths.
- Panoramic views both into and out of adjacent mountainous areas, such as the Cairngorm Massif, and lower lying areas like Strathmore.'

Sensitivity

5.8.43 This LCT unit is found within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and value is considered to be High. The LCT unit is within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development which is located on neighbouring uplands beyond Loch Tay to the south. This LCT unit is considered to have a High susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.44 The ZTV shows that within the 20 km Study Area, theoretical visibility extends across the south facing ridgelines of Tarmachan and Ben Lawers in a consistent band on the steep slopes that rise up from the northern side of Loch Tay. Theoretical visibility is also found on Meall nam Maigheach and Meall Garbh further to the north.

5.8.45 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the south.
- The addition of large-scale wind turbines to the backdrop of Loch Tay which form a key focus from the affected part of this LCT unit in relation to the 'panoramic views' key characteristic.
- The alignment of the Proposed Development turbines across the Site (east to west), results in a relatively wide horizontal spread being apparent across the neighbouring upland above Loch Tay.
- The Proposed Development would introduce further wind turbines to views south from the southern edge of this LCT unit and at closer proximity than currently experienced.

5.8.46 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT have no visibility of the Proposed Development including much of the area to the north of the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridge.
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view south.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view south from the affected part of this LCT unit, it would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Tay reducing its influence on this feature.
- The existing turbines of the Griffin and Calliachar wind farms seen to the southeast, whilst not in the same part of the panorama, provide an existing wind energy baseline, within the wider context of which the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

5.8.47 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change for this LCT unit is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.48 The effect is assessed as **Moderate and Significant**. Whilst the Proposed Development is relatively distant from this LCT unit, the moderate level effect is considered to be significant in this instance due to the position of the Proposed Development above the dramatic views along Loch Tay. The significant effect is restricted to the south facing slopes of the Tarmachan and Ben Lawers ridgeline overlooking Loch Tay.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.49 From this LCT unit, the consented North Calliachar scheme would appear in the view southeast and would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to it appearing within close context to the existing Calliachar and Griffin schemes. The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and

Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.50 The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south of this LCT unit on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Both schemes would appear to have a ridgeline design and appearance from this LCT, increasing the level of integration. Whilst from some parts of the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridgeline, a degree of overlap between these schemes would be experienced, the Proposed Development would largely occupy a part of the plateau to the west of Glen Lednock, increasing the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau from this location. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario also provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from the south facing slopes of the Tarmachan and Ben Lawers ridgeline overlooking Loch Tay.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 371 (ii) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Lednock)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.51 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- ‘Middle sections of the principal glens, where there is a notable increase in the width of the glen floor, however the steep concave valley sides still dominate and define the glen.
- Predominantly uninhabited glens of medium to small scale, with sparse scatter of isolated farms, lodges and cottage.
- Important lines of communication into and through the highlands, with access by tracks or dead-end minor roads. Other infrastructure including prominent pylon lines also take advantage of the accessibility in the confining glens.
- Predominantly unenclosed rough grazing, bracken, heather moorland on valley slopes with a concentration of agricultural activity on narrow but distinct valley floor of enclosed improved pasture and pockets of arable, contrasting in colour and texture with the contained steep glen sides.
- Typically, the rivers meander through the flatter gradients of the glen floors, the intricacy of the meander loops dictated by the narrowness of the valley sides.
- Viewed from above, the river alignment draws the eye along and down the valley.
- Rapids, gorges and waterfalls where bands or harder rocks occur.
- Glacial and post glacial features including morainic deposition emphasising the natural and intricate small scale character of many of the glen features.
- Wind clipped native birch and oak woodland in small copses on steeper poorer ground and along river sides. Larger blocks of conifer forest on both valley sides and floor.
- Scatter of small scale farmsteads and small villages located on dry Site break of slopes to avoid flooding and maximise shelter and solar gain.

- Proliferation of forts and castles constructed in local stone, add local points of interest and reinforce distinctiveness of glens.
- Several major mansion-houses associated with extensive designed landscapes.
- Views channelled along the valley corridor.
- Relatively remote due to lack of settlement and winding minor roads.'

Sensitivity

5.8.52 This LCT unit is not found within any landscape designations and value is considered to be Medium. The LCT unit is within relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development which is located on uplands that contain Glen Lednock to the west potentially increasing susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.53 The ZTV shows that there is extensive visibility along the northern edges of this LCT on the steep sloping sides of the glen. There are also patches of theoretical visibility that are more limited in extent on the southern edges of the glen, where the amount of the Proposed Development is also limited.

5.8.54 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the experience of the landscape character of the LCT unit resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the west of it, at relatively close proximity.
- Where visible, the Proposed Development would introduce large-scale vertical elements above the upland ridgeline that encloses the medium-scale glen.
- The Proposed Development would introduce the influence of wind energy development to this LCT unit.

5.8.55 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The large-scale of the upland ridgeline horizon to the west is considered an appropriate underlying landscape type and scale for the type of development proposed.
- Where visible, the Proposed Development would appear set back from the ridgeline horizon and immediate context of Glen Lednock within the broad upland landscape beyond to the west.

5.8.56 Taking these factors into account the magnitude of change for this LCT unit is considered to be High-Medium.

Significance of Effect

5.8.57 The effect on the LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Major-Moderate and Significant.**

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenarios)

5.8.58 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LCT and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.59 The Glen Lednock scheme would be located within this LCT unit and in neighbouring upland to the west. The Proposed Development would appear behind the Glen Lednock scheme, occupy less of the view with Glen Lednock turbines at much closer proximity and within the immediate context of the glen and LCT unit. The Proposed Development turbines would appear smaller in scale and have more limited visibility. Whilst increasing the number of turbines in the view west, the smaller scale and position of the Proposed Development beyond the ridge fits comfortably within the backdrop of the Glen Lednock scheme, resulting in a high level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.60 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Lower sections of the principal glens north of the Highland Boundary Fault.
- Larger scale landscapes than the mid and upper reaches of these glen, which are generally wider with broader floodplains.
- Combinations of upland and lowland attributes, with evidence of glaciation, but lacking many of the classic glacial features, such as corries, hanging valleys and misfit rivers, found higher up.
- Broad floodplains, often with meandering rivers, interspersed with narrower, gorge like sections where harder rocks cross the glens.
- The most settled parts of the glens, with transport corridors housing main roads and railways, large towns, castles, fortified manor houses, historic estates and estate villages.
- Modern expansion of larger settlements, with pockets of smaller housing development out of the main settlements.
- Fertile farmland on valley floor and valley slopes with large fields separated by hedgerows with tree lines, woodland belts and post and wire fences.
- Substantial and varied woodland cover - broadleaf woodlands clothing steeper slopes, around estate properties and along rivers, with conifer forests on valley sides and associated with estates
- Influence of large estates, castles and Victorian development, with their historic buildings and parkland.
- Corridor views along the valley.'

5.8.61 The Strathallan operational wind farm is visible from this LCT.

Sensitivity

5.8.62 Western parts of this LCT are found within the River Earn NSA with much of the eastern area within the Upper Strathearn LLA. Value is considered to be High. The LCT unit is to the east of the Proposed Development which is located beyond the steep sloping glen sides that define the edges of the strath potentially increasing susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.63 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is largely found to the east of the Comrie area (beyond around 9 km) and is limited in the amount of Proposed Development visible due to intervening landform. There is

also a small amount of closer proximity theoretical visibility (at around 5 km) found in the glen of Allt Ghoinean, however, this glen is forest covered and actual visibility would be restricted.

5.8.64 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the northwest experienced from the pastoral lowland of Strathspey.
- The Proposed Development would increase the perception of wind energy development on uplands that surround and define Strathspey, bringing development to a different part of the surrounding upland than currently experienced to the south with Strathallan Wind Farm.

5.8.65 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT have no visibility of the Proposed Development including much of the area to the west of Comrie and the northern sides of Strathspey.
- The change to key characteristics would be minimal from large area of this LCT which have limited visibility due to the wooded character of the Strathspey lowlands.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create an additional focus to the west, the turbines would appear set well back into the upland and have a restricted level of turbine visibility resulting in only turbine blades being experienced from much of the affected area of this LCT.
- Given this restricted level of visibility, and the wooded context of settlements within this LCT, it is considered that the rural setting of Comrie and Crieff would not be eroded by the Proposed Development.
- The Proposed Development would appear to sit clearly beyond a large upland ridgeline to the west which is of a relatively simple broad upland landscape form creating a sense of separation from the underlying pastoral characteristics of the strath floor below.

5.8.66 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.67 The effect on the LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant.**

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented Scenario)

5.8.68 The consented Strathallan Phase 2 turbines would be visible from parts of this LCT between Comrie and Crieff where views are less obstructed by other intervening landscape elements such as woods and trees. The presence of the Strathallan Phase 2 scheme in this scenario further increases the wind energy baseline created by the operational Strathallan turbines from these areas of the LCT. The cumulative interaction between these schemes is minimal given the successive nature of views south to this scheme in comparison with the view west to the Proposed Development. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Application Scenario)

5.8.69 There are no application schemes visible from this LCT and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in this scenario.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.70 From affected areas of this LCT, the Glen Lednock scheme would appear to extend across the same upland ridgeline in the view west as the Proposed Development. In contrast to the limited visibility of the Proposed Development turbines, it would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view, with turbines sitting up on the horizon and closer to the LCT. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would appear diminutive in the backdrop of the Glen Lednock turbines, due to their smaller scale, limited visibility and position on the same part of the ridge and the cumulative interaction would be minimal as a result. Taking this into account the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 374 – Mid Upland Glens with Lochs

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.71 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- Expansive lochs surrounded by sloping valley sides, with no valley floor.
- Geological and physical structure similar to Mid Upland Glens, the glacial erosion creating relatively straight, glaciated valley cross sections.
- Large-scale landscape created by the combination of the extensive lochs and large enclosing mountains.
- Sparsely settled with a concentration of settlement and farming activity on lower slopes and at the ends of the lochs.
- Clear transition from lower pastures through heather mid-slopes to bare upper summits.
- Extensive woodland on lower slopes, including significant areas of Caledonian pinewoods.
- Encircled by roads.
- Planned settlements at head and foot of lochs usually with picturesque bridge crossings.
- Extensive corridor views along the glens.

Sensitivity

5.8.72 This LCT is found within the Loch Tay LLA and value is considered to be High-Medium. The LCT unit is to the north of the Proposed Development which is located beyond the steep sloping glen sides that define the edges of Loch Tay potentially increasing susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.73 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is found along the steep south facing slopes of the northern side of Loch Tay. Further theoretical visibility is also found on lower slopes and stretch of Loch Tay between Fearnan and Kiltyrie. The southern edge of Loch Tay has no visibility of the Proposed Development except for a very limited area near Ardeonaig, limited to 1-2 blade tips and on the forest covered slopes of Beinn Bhreac.

5.8.74 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LCT characteristics resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the south and west experienced from the northern edges of Loch Tay.

- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to the uplands that surround Loch Tay, detracting from the *'extensive lochs and large enclosing mountains'* key characteristic.

5.8.75 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LCT have no or limited visibility of the Proposed Development including the settled areas around Killin and the southern shoreline of Loch Tay.
- The change to key characteristics would be moderated due to intervening upland ridgelines which limits the amount of the Proposed Development turbines visible from affected parts of this LCT.
- The area of this LCT closest to the Proposed Development (directly to the north west) is less affected by the Proposed Development and the affected areas would have successive layers of upland slopes and ridgelines that follow the southern edges of Loch Tay in the intervening view, providing a degree of separation from this LCT unit.
- The '*corridor views along the glens'* key characteristic, along Loch Tay would not be encroached upon by the Proposed Development.

5.8.76 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.77 The effect on the LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant**.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.78 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LCT and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.79 The cumulative ZTV for Glen Lednock shows that there is a similar extent of visibility for Glen Lednock and the Proposed Development across this LCT. However, the cumulative wireline at viewpoint 10 also illustrates that Glen Lednock would have limited levels of visibility within eastern parts of the affected area due to the intervening landform of Beinn Bhreac. From western parts the Glen Lednock scheme would largely appear to extend across the same upland ridgeline in the view south as the Proposed Development. It's presence in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced, however, the Proposed Development would also contribute to the wider amount of the southern upland ridge affected from western parts of the affected area. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Not Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the moderate effect is considered not significant due to the reduced level of visibility for both schemes within the affected area of the LCT, reducing the cumulative interaction for eastern parts and moderating the cumulative effect in western parts.

Detailed Assessment of LCT 376 (ii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Chonzie/Sron Mhor/Meall nam Fuaran)

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.80 The NatureScot 2019 Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of this LCT as follows.

- 'Areas of upland incised by and separating the principal Tayside glens.
- Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy.
- Areas of the Mounth Highlands in the east comprising the southern extents of 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.
- Large scale vegetation patterns closely reflecting altitude and exposure and including heather, grassland, blanket bog and arctic alpine plant communities; variations reflecting the underlying geology.
- Most of the area managed as open moorland, with characteristic muirburn patterns.
- Little or no settlement, with minor tracks used for sporting, forestry and some recreation access, as well as newer more visible tracks for access to wind farms, pylon construction and forestry.
- A few patches of semi-natural broadleaf woodland on slopes up to about 600 metres.
- Remote and wild character.
- Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths.
- Panoramic views both into and out of adjacent mountainous areas, such as the Cairngorm Massif, and lower lying areas like Strathmore.'

Sensitivity

5.8.81 Eastern parts of this LCT are found within the Glen Quaich LLA, Sma Glen & Glen Almond LLA and Upper Strathearn LLA. Value is considered to be High-Medium. The Proposed Development turbines and much of the associated infrastructure will be located within this LCT unit and the open aspect of this LCT unit potentially increases susceptibility. This LCT unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.82 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the experience of the landscape character of this LCT resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines and associated infrastructure within it.
- The potential reduction in open moorland character within the character type.
- The potential effects of the large-scale turbines on the character of the craggy outcrops within the broader upland plateau.
- The Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind energy development across the LCT in addition to the existing Calliachar Wind Farm at the eastern edge of this LCT and the Griffin Wind Farm close to this edge.
- The level of Proposed Development construction-related activity experienced within this LCT and the associated disruption to the sense of 'remote' character described in the key characteristics for this LCT.

5.8.83 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The Proposed Development would appear to sit clearly within a large upland landscape which has a moorland landcover and is composed of a series of hills that combine to create a broad upland ridgeline landscape type.
- The presence of existing wind turbines within and in close context to this LCT means that the Proposed Development would not be introducing elements that are entirely uncharacteristic, albeit at a larger scale than currently experienced and in a different part of the upland.

- Views to the wider landscape are largely experienced when at the edges of the ridge slopes and as the Proposed Development is located in a central position on the ridge, the scenic views towards the lower lying Loch Tay, Strathearn, Loch Earn to the north and south would be uninterrupted.

5.8.84 Taking these factors into account the magnitude of change for this LCA is considered to be High locally (the area of LCT that stretches from the west of the Site to approximately 5 km to the east). The magnitude of change would reduce to Medium for the affected area of this LCT between approximately 5-10 km to the east and beyond 10 km to the east would drop to Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.85 The effect for this LCT resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Major and Significant** within 5 km and **Moderate and Significant** within 5-10 km. Beyond 10 km the effect is considered to be **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant**.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.86 The consented scheme of North Calliachar would be located in the eastern side of this LCT beyond 20 km from the Proposed Development. The consented Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would also be visible from elevated eastern parts of this LCT. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them being located and appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes. There is also a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.87 The Glen Lednock scheme would be located partly within this LCT unit and also within the neighbouring LCT 371 (ii) - Mid Upland Glens. The Proposed Development turbines would be apparent in a similar underlying landscape context as the Glen Lednock scheme when experienced within this LCT appearing in the foreground when viewed from the west and in the background when viewed from the east. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced due to the level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. However, the Proposed Development would add to the horizontal extent of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the plateau contributing to a wider extent of views and landscape characteristics affected. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low within 5 km resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extents of development experienced which intensifies the cumulative effect. Beyond 5 km the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Detailed Assessment of Creag Gharbh LLA

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.88 The SC 2019 SG (Appendix 4 - Citations for Local Landscape Areas[15]), lists the special qualities of this LLA as follows.

- 'Core area has a remote, wild mountain atmosphere with a sense of seclusion and isolation, despite the modern human intervention evidenced by the hydro-power scheme.
- Marked contrast between the bleak, uninhabited mountain slopes and green pastureland, woods and settlement of the lochside and valley farmland.
- On the lower hill slopes and small peripheral valleys, the impression of productive land use coupled with relative isolation create a strong sense of place and an attractive, calm and undisturbed character.
- Outstanding panoramic outward views – especially from open areas on the side of Loch Tay and from the hills above looking towards Ben Lawers and, near to Killin, looking east down the loch.
- Views to the LLA are equally important, particularly from the A827 and the Ben Lawers range.'

Sensitivity

5.8.89 The value of this LLA is considered to be High-Medium. The LLA is immediately west of the Proposed Development turbines and the access track would be located within it and the open aspect of this LLA potentially increases susceptibility. This LLA unit is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.90 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is found across the ridge tops at the western edge of this LLA, across the upper parts of Glen Beich within a central part of the LLA and along the elevated parts of the glen that holds the Ardeonaig Burn. The steep slopes found at the north and south edges of the LLA have little or no visibility of the Proposed Development.

5.8.91 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the experience of the special qualities of the LLA resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines within a closely neighbouring LLA and the introduction of the associated track infrastructure within the LLA.
- The Proposed Development would introduce the influence of wind energy development to the landscape where there is none currently experienced within the immediate context of this LLA.
- The potential reduction in open moorland character across the upland plateau for which this LLA is a part of.
- The level of Proposed Development construction-related activity experienced within this LLA.

5.8.92 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The Proposed Development would appear to sit clearly within a large upland landscape which has a moorland landcover and is composed of a series of hills that combine to create a broad upland ridgeline landscape type.
- Views to the wider landscape are largely experienced when at the edges of the ridge slopes and as the Proposed Development is located in a central position on the ridge, the scenic views towards the lower lying Loch Tay, Strathearn, Loch Earn to the north and south would be uninterrupted.

[15] Supplementary Guidance, Appendix 4 – Citations for Local Landscape Areas. Stirling Council (November 2019).

Taking these factors into account the magnitude of change for this LLA is considered to be High.

Significance of Effect

5.8.93 The effect on the LLA resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Major and Significant.**

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.94 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LLA and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.95 The Glen Lednock scheme would be located in the neighbouring uplands to the east of the LLA across a similar part of the broad upland plateau as the Site area. The Proposed Development turbines would be apparent in the foreground of views on this plateau with the Glen Lednock turbines either appearing behind or slightly to the east of the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced due to the level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. However, the Proposed Development would add to the horizontal extent of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the plateau contributing to a wider extent of views and landscape characteristics affected and at closer range. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the closer proximity of the Proposed Development which intensifies the cumulative effect experienced.

Detailed Assessment of the Loch Tay LLA

Baseline Characteristics

5.8.96 The PKC Landscape SG 2020 lists the special qualities of this LLA as follows.

- 'Elongated, sinuous loch, framed by steep slopes and waterfalls, all overlooked by Ben Lawers massif.
- Focus for tourism, sport and recreation: walking, riding, sailing, canoeing and more.
- Gateway between Perth and Kinross and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.
- Distinctive character and architecture of loch-side settlements.
- Crannogs and crofting settlements hint at longevity of settlement.
- Long views along and across the loch.'

5.8.97 Wind energy proposals are listed as one of the 'Forces for Change' within the SG with the following also listed as one of the 'Objectives' - 'Ensure particular care in siting and design of potentially intrusive structures such as masts and wind turbines'.

Sensitivity

5.8.98 The value of this LLA is considered to be High-Medium. The LLA is to the north of the Proposed Development which is located beyond the steep sloping glen sides that define the edges of Loch Tay

potentially and is considered to have a High-Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. Taking this into account sensitivity is considered to be High-Medium.

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Magnitude of Change

5.8.99 The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is found along the steep south facing slopes of the northern side of Loch Tay. Further theoretical visibility is also found on lower slopes and stretch of Loch Tay between Fearnan and Kiltyrie. The southern edge of Loch Tay has no visibility of the Proposed Development except for a very limited area near Ardeonaig, limited to 1-2 blade tips and on the forest covered slopes of Beinn Bhreac.

5.8.100 Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change to the LLA special qualities resulting from the addition of large-scale wind turbines to the south and west experienced from the northern edges of Loch Tay.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to the uplands that surround Loch Tay, detracting from the *'Long views along and across the loch'* special quality.

5.8.101 Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Large areas of the LLA have no or limited visibility of the Proposed Development including the settled areas around Killin and the southern shoreline of Loch Tay.
- The change to special qualities would be moderated due to intervening upland ridgelines which limits the amount of the Proposed Development turbines visible from affected parts of this LLA.
- The area of this LLA closest to the Proposed Development (directly to the north west) is shown to have much less theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and from these areas the views across the loch would be largely unaffected.
- From affected areas further to the east successive layers of upland slopes and ridgelines that follow the southern edges of Loch Tay in the intervening view, provide a degree of separation from this LLA, moderating the level of change potentially experienced.
- In long views along Loch Tay from the east, it is considered that the Proposed Development would not encroach upon the focussed view towards the western end of the loch, which is evident in the way in which the loch curves around the northern shores thereby drawing the eye to this point with the more muted and distant landforms in the background.

5.8.102 Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Low.

Significance of Effect

5.8.103 The effect on the LLA resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant**.

*Cumulative Assessment (See CZTVs on **Figures 5.16a-c**)*

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.104 There are no consented or application schemes visible from this LLA and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.105 The cumulative ZTV for Glen Lednock shows that there is a similar extent of visibility for Glen Lednock and the Proposed Development across this LLA. However, the cumulative wireline at viewpoint 10 also

illustrates that Glen Lednock would have limited levels of visibility within eastern parts of the affected area due to the intervening landform of Beinn Bhreac. From western parts the Glen Lednock scheme would largely appear to extend across the same upland ridgeline in the view south as the Proposed Development. It's presence in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced, however, the Proposed Development would also contribute to the wider amount of the southern upland ridge affected from western parts of the affected area. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Not Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the moderate effect is considered not significant due to the reduced level of visibility for both schemes within the affected area of the LLA, reducing the cumulative interaction for eastern parts and moderating the cumulative effect in western parts.

National Designations - Special Landscape Qualities Assessment

Introduction

5.8.106 The assessment of effects on Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) follows draft guidance set out by NatureScot[16] which is aimed specifically at landscape professionals undertaking LVIA for developments with potential to impact on the SLQs of NSAs or National Parks (NPs). The preliminary assessment has identified that the LLTNP, Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA and River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA require detailed assessment which is considered in this section of the LVIA. The draft guidance sets out a four-step approach under the following four headings:

- 'Step 1 – The Proposal
- Step 2 – The Scope of the Assessment of Effects of Special Landscape Qualities (AESLQ) and Baseline Conditions
- Step 3 – Assessment of effects on SLQ's
- Step 4 – Summary of significant effect on SLQ's'

5.8.107 In relation to Step 1, a detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 1)**. The key part of the Proposed Development that is relevant in the assessment of effects on SLQs are the 12 proposed turbines (with a maximum height of 180 m). Associated tracks and infrastructure would also be visible at close range. During construction and commissioning there would also be temporary works and plant including borrow pit extraction, construction compounds, and tall cranes. The Proposed Development is located entirely out with the LLTNP and NSAs, therefore any effects on SLQs would be indirect, arising as a result of visibility of the Proposed Development.

5.8.108 Steps 2-4 are specific to each of the designations assessed in detail, these are therefore considered in the following sections. The assessment of SLQs also considers whether or not the effects experienced would have a significant effect on the overall integrity of each of these national designations assessed. The term integrity is referred to in NPF4 (Policy 4), which notes that: 'c) Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where: i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been

[16] Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. NatureScot (2024 consultation Draft). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq

designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.' The term integrity is also referred to in NatureScot guidance on NSAs[16] which notes the following in a checklist of potential qualities of NSAs - 'Authenticity and integrity expressed, for example, as areas of distinctiveness, sense of place, unspoilt character or historic environment'. In this assessment, 'integrity' refers to the degree to which perceptions such as 'distinctiveness, sense of place, unspoilt character or historic environment' are expressed through the SLQs, across the designation as a whole, reflecting the purpose of the designation.

Detailed Assessment of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)

Step 2 - The Scope of the AESLQ and Baseline Conditions

5.8.109 The assessment of effects on LLTNP is based on the effects that the Proposed Development would have on Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs). The SLQs of LLTNP are set out in NatureScot/LLTNPA documentation[17], in which the overarching SLQs of LLTNP are presented as 'General Qualities', with further SLQs provided specifically for four landscape areas that form subdivisions of LLTNP; these are Argyll Forest, Loch Lomond, Breadalbane and The Trossachs (as shown on page 10 of the NatureScot Commissioned Report, No.376[18]).

5.8.110 The study area considered in the assessment of LLTNP SQs is dependent to a large degree on the visibility of the Proposed Development and its relationship to the relevant SLQs. **Figure 5.11, Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)** illustrates that the extent of theoretical visibility is very limited within the LLTNP beyond around 20 km from the Proposed Development. This is due to successive layers of hill and mountain landform that intervenes to restrict visibility within the majority of the LLTNP to the south and west of the Proposed Development. In relation to the landscape areas of LLTNP, the majority of theoretical visibility is found in the Breadalbane area with only negligible and distant theoretical visibility found in the Argyll Forest, The Trossachs and Loch Lomond areas.

5.8.111 The study area is therefore defined as covering the eastern half of the Breadalbane area (within around 20 km of the Proposed Development) as this is the only part of the LLTNP where there is potential for significant effects on SLQs to arise (LLTNP Study Area).

5.8.112 The SLQs within the LLTNP Study Area include the following 'General Qualities' (as listed in report 376):

1. 'A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty'
2. 'Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands'
3. 'Water in its many forms'
4. 'The rich variety of woodlands'
5. 'Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop'
6. 'Famous through-routes'
7. 'Tranquillity'
8. 'The easily accessible landscape splendour'

5.8.113 In addition, the 'Breadalbane' area SLQs are listed in report 376 as follows:

9. 'Steep mountains and long glens'
10. 'Crossroads within remote mountain ranges'

[17] The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Commissioned Report No. 376.NatureScot (2010). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-commissioned-report-376-special-landscape-qualities-loch-lomond-and-trossachs-national

[18] The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Commissioned Report No. 376.NatureScot (2010). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-commissioned-report-376-special-landscape-qualities-loch-lomond-and-trossachs-national

11. 'A landscape of distinctive glens and straths'
12. 'The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon'
13. 'Beautiful Balquhidder'
14. 'Wide and straight Loch Earn'
15. 'The rocky pass of Glen Ogle'
16. 'Killin and the Falls of Dochart'
17. 'Expansive Glen Dochart'
18. 'Wide Strath Fillan'
19. 'Sinuous Glen Falloch'

5.8.114 NOTE – Whilst the order and naming of listed SLQs has been maintained as they appear in each section of report 376, the SLQs have been numbered in this report (as above) for ease of reference.

5.8.115 In line with the NatureScot draft guidance[19], **Table 5-8** includes the baseline descriptions of each of the SLQs relevant to the LLTNP Study Area and whether or not these are required to be assessed in detail (based on the susceptibility of the SLQs to the Proposed Development and predicted significant effects).

Table 5-8: Preliminary Assessment of LLTNP SLQs

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
SLQ1: A world-renowned landscape famed for its rural beauty 'This world-renowned landscape has Loch Lomond as its centre, an immense, island studded loch that leads from the pastoral Lowlands into the heart of the mountainous Highlands, with dramatic contrasts in scenery along its length. The loch's iconic status is reinforced by the well-known traditional song that endows it with romantic connotations. The words are perceptive in encapsulating Loch Lomond's landscape, its 'bonnie banks, bonnie braes, shady glens, hieland hills, the steep, steep side of Ben Lomond, the wild birdies, the wild flowers, the sunshine on the waters'. This portrait underpins the 'love of the countryside' that the area engenders, so that the loch symbolises the rural beauty of Scotland, an appreciation that endures. Hence the loch and its surrounds epitomises Scotland: a distinctive and inspiring country of loch, farmland, glens and mountains. The loch was one of the highlights of the Scottish tour of the 18th and 19th centuries, when it was the visitor's last experience of Highland scenery or, where the route started from Glasgow, the first. In the accounts, poetry and paintings of these early travellers, a huge contrast was drawn between the sombre dramatic scenery of Glencoe and Loch Lomond's Highland pastoral beauty.'	The Proposed Development would not affect the Loch Lomond area of the LLTNP settlement and habitation patterns in LLTNP in any way. There is no theoretical visibility from the Loch Lomond area with only very limited and distant visibility from hills surrounding this area of LLTNP. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ2: Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands	The external influence of the Proposed Development would have some effect on the perceived 'wild and

[19] Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. NatureScot (2024 consultation Draft). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
'Mountains and large hill ranges are found across the Park, the massifs separated by sea lochs, freshwater lochs and deep, glacially scoured glens. The Arrochar Alps, the Luss Hills, the East Lomond hills, the Beinn Mhor hills, the Trossachs and the Breadalbane mountains are wild upland landscapes, all with distinctive characters. Individual, well known summits are present, including Ben Lomond, The Cobbler, Ben Vorlich, and Ben Venue. The flat-bottomed glens that penetrate the hills are inhabited and farmed, presenting a pleasing contrast to the bare hills and summits above. Additionally, the whole area of mountains and glens, comprising great tracts of wild and rugged land, contrasts sharply with the gentle, rolling, low-lying farmlands and parklands found in the south. The uplands, with their pasture on the glen floors, their sides of rough moorland, native woodland or dark conifer plantations and their craggy hills, presents a highly textured, more desolate and generally, less populated scene than the green and fertile lowlands'	rugged' quality described for these upland landscapes within areas that gain readily apparent visibility of the turbines such as in the eastern Breadalbane area including on Ben Vorlich to the south of the Site. Included in the detailed assessment of SLQs.
SLQ3: Water in its many forms 'Water in its many forms is rarely absent from the view. There occur deep, indented sea lochs, long inland lochs, some straight, some sinuous, lochans, rivers, burns, waterfalls and rapids; a lowland lake, and also wetlands, marshes and mires of many sizes and types. This great variety in combination with the range of landscape settings results in a diverse and beautiful landscape. As well as Loch Lomond itself, other well-known lochs are Loch Katrine, Loch Earn, Loch Voil and the Lake of Menteith.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the watercourses and waterbodies that are found in LLTNP, or the relationship between them and the way that they are combined in the landscape. Whilst theoretical visibility is found on the southern edges of Loch Earn it is limited in extent due to the steep sloping hills above the northern banks of the loch that limit visibility towards the Proposed Development**. No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ4: The rich variety of woodlands 'Despite vast swathes of commercial forest cover in some areas, previous woodland management has led to great woodland variety throughout the Park, with ancient broadleaved plantations, wood pasture, farmland trees and policy plantings. The woodlands define the lower and mid-glen slopes, distinguishing them from the open uplands, they enclose settlements, and they clothe loch shores and islands. The woods and the trees are important visually, bringing a tapestry of texture and colour that changes throughout the year.'	The Proposed Development would not affect any of the woodlands found within the LLTNP. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ5: Settlements nestled within a vast natural backdrop 'The area possesses a long and rich history of habitation, with houses and other structures, both ancient and modern, confined mainly to the lower-lying land. Nowadays human populations are low across much of the Park, and the settlements that are present are often	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the settlement and habitation patterns in LLTNP in any way. There is no or very limited theoretical visibility from settlements within the LLTNP and the effect on these settlements is therefore negligible. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
small-scale, nestled within the backdrop of vast landforms of mountain, hill, glen and loch. This engenders a strong sense of surrounding, all-enveloping nature, even though much of the landscape has been modified by human activity over the centuries.'	
SLQ6: Famous through-routes 'Throughout the Park, major communication routes lead along the main glens. These long-established routes, both roads and tracks, date from many different periods. They overlie one another because they are constrained within narrow passes, so that there is a concentration of features – road and rail bridges, viaducts, ancillary buildings, lengths of track and road – often all intervisible, within short distances of each other. Some routes have associations with late medieval pilgrimages, such as to sites associated with St Fillan, and the earliest droving routes formed the basis for the early 18th century military roads leading north and westwards. The 19th century saw the arrival of the railways. Some have since disappeared, leaving a legacy of bridges and viaducts that remain as marked features. The scenic and world-renowned West Highland Railway traverses the Park, through the contrasting scenery of inhabited villages, farmland, loch shore, glens, moorland and mountainside. The 20th century saw the creation of the West Highland Way, giving the opportunity for a slower journey from lowland to highland, deep into the Breadalbane mountains and beyond. Overall, these routes create a strong sense of movement through the area, with the National Park being at the crossroads of cultures and human transport throughout time.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect any long distance recreational routes within LLTNP, including the Rob Roy Way. Other key routes in the LLTNP as a result of being '*constrained within narrow passes'*, have limited long range visibility except along the glens and passes in which they are found. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is extremely limited in the glens and passes where these routes are found. The visual effect of the Proposed Development is therefore minimal on these routes including on routes through Loch Earn to St Fillans. There is limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the parts of the Rob Roy Way that pass through the LLTNP (limited to a short, forested section to the south of Lochearnhead). While there would be localised significant effects on views from a part of the Rob Roy Way to the north of LLTNP, the effects are isolated in extent to a short section of the route where views towards LLTNP would not be interrupted by the presence of the Proposed Development. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ7: Tranquillity 'It is easy to find tranquillity within the Park, to find uncrowded places where there is a predominance of natural sounds and sights, whether beside a shimmering loch, following the course of a mountain burn, walking the sheltered woodlands or climbing an open hill. This sense of peacefulness is enhanced by the small scale of human settlement within the expansive landforms, and by the general absence of large-scale development.'	The addition of an external influence of large-scale development such as the Proposed Development may affect the perception of scale of human elements from those parts of LLTNP where the Proposed Development would be readily apparent or where both the Proposed Development and the existing 'small scale of human settlement' are experienced together. Included in detailed assessment of SLQs.
SLQ8: The easily accessible landscape splendour 'The landscape splendour of the Park is easily accessible from major centres of population within the Central Belt, with some three million people within one hour's easy travel. Although the area is popularly known as 'Glasgow's playground', it is also a major draw for visitors not just from nearby Glasgow but from all over the world. It is a prime tourist destination, and an end it	The Proposed Development would not affect the accessibility of LLTNP in any way, and 'Glasgow's playground' would remain 'easily accessible from major centres of population within the Central Belt' and 'from all over the world'. As described for SLQ6, theoretical visibility on the major routes through the LLTNP is very limited and the 'landscape splendour' would not be affected on these routes that helps create the ability to

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
itself, with many not venturing further into the Highlands beyond.'	easily access the LLTNP area. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
Breadalbane SLQs	
SLQ 9: Steep mountains and long glens Breadalbane is a great tract of hills and mountains rising steeply and dramatically from the glen floors: Ben Lui, Cruach Ardrain, Ben More, Ben Vorlich, Ben Ledi, and others. These form the Southern Highlands – the southernmost extent of the Grampian mountains. The hills dominate the scene, with human activity constrained. The bare upper hillsides and summits appear untouched, remote and wild, rising above the long glens where farming, forestry and infrastructure are found. Flat land is scarce, but where it does occur, it is settled and intensively used.	Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is found on surrounding hill tops including on those mentioned in the description of this SLQ. Included in detailed assessment of SLQs. This SLQ is similar in nature to the general qualities expressed in SLQ2 (albeit as more locally relevant). SLQ9 and 2 are therefore assessed together.
SLQ 10: Crossroads within remote mountain ranges Although Breadalbane's mountains form formidable ranges, the glens provide natural communication routes east to west, and north to south, the area having long been a crossroads of many ways and routes, ancient and modern. This gives an overwhelming sense of the passage of people and cultures over time. The experience of movement, constrained at the base of such large mountains, acutely emphasises the remoteness and silence of the high summits. There is a strong feeling of travelling through constrained passes, of a limited choice of direction along the way.	As described for SLQ6, theoretical visibility on the major routes through the LLTNP is very limited and the 'remoteness and silence of the high summits' experienced from these routes would be unaffected. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ 11: A landscape of distinctive glens and straths Each glen or strath has its own distinctive character, although the following tend to be common to all: • A sparsity of settlement, with dispersed and secluded farms and a scattering of Highland villages straddling the main roads. • Many ruins found in now uninhabited areas, indicating the region was once more populous. • Farmed glen floors, adding a living, working feel to the glens. • Broadleaved woodland and trees along rivers and burns, contributing to the pastoral scene. • Considerable tree cover on the lower slopes, often of dense, impenetrable commercial forestry. • Higher slopes of open, rocky moorland, the craggy summits standing proud on the skyline. • Uninhabited side glens with fast flowing burns and waterfalls and a rugged terrain of crags, screes and boulders, used for grazing and often containing ancient shielings.	Theoretical visibility is limited or completely absent from the glens and straths found within the LLTNP. Where limited visibility does occur (i.e. in the Balquhidder area), actual visibility is obstructed by the woods and forestry found along the floor and lower slopes of the glen. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
• Landmarks natural and man-made, ancient and modern, contributing to the individual sense of place.	
SLQ 12: The narrow Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig ribbon The Gaelic name of Loch Lubnaig translates as 'crooked loch', aptly describing its distinctive, curving shape. It is nestled between the steep hill flanks of Ben Ledi and Ben Vorlich, their summits unseen from within the strath itself. The narrowness of the strath, its north-south orientation, its heavily afforested slopes and over-shadowed road, altogether mean that the strath can appear dark, sombre and constricted. The rocky, mountainous slopes of Ben Ledi dominate the view from the main road, the loch itself glimpsed only between stands of broadleaved trees and shore-line woodland. The settlement of Strathyre is a distinctive village, domestic in scale with houses forming a formal street-line and some Victorian gabled houses interspersed and set back behind the main frontage. The village invites exploration, for further westward lies the older settlement of Strathyre, a quiet, secluded area that typifies the rural qualities of the strath away from the bustle of the main road. The elongated, ribbon-like forms of loch, strath and settlement form a unified character which relates well to the flow of movement along the contemporary, major transport route. But there are dramatic changes when entering or and leaving the strath: at the junction with Balquhidder, distant views to the mountains beyond offers a strong feeling of relief from the tightly constrained route; and at the southern end, Loch Lubnaig issues into the Garbh Uisge, a river which tumbles in spectacular manner through the narrow and enclosed Pass of Leny, over the Falls of Leny, and with a sense of relief as the glen finally opens out into Callander.	There is no theoretical visibility from Strathyre and Loch Lubnaig. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ 13: Beautiful Balquhidder The Glen of Balquhidder has changing qualities along its twelve mile length, from the broad lower glen with the meandering River Balvag, through the Braes of Balquhidder alongside 27 Loch Voil, then into the remote, craggy upper glen with its strong sense of wildness. From a broad, relatively well settled strath it becomes a narrow, incised and sparsely populated glen. In the middle, the broad expanse of Loch Voil and its attendant Loch Doine fill most of the glen floor, contributing to the exceptional views looking both up and down the glen. While Balquhidder shares qualities in common with the other major Breadalbane glens, it surpasses them for solitude, remoteness and tranquility. These qualities are not confined to the higher hill slopes and summits but can readily be found along the glen and loch shore, owing to it being the only glen that is	Whilst theoretical visibility is found in the Balquhidder area, it is limited in extent and amount of Proposed Development visible. Furthermore, actual visibility is obstructed by the woods and forestry found along the floor and lower slopes of the glen. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ**.

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
not also a principal transport corridor. Overall, Balquhidder possesses a jewel-like quality. It is a highly coloured mosaic of cultural and natural elements that come together to form a memorable and lasting visual impression: a working landscape of farm and forestry, with features of past use still visible; the estate village of Balquhidder, with its church and burial ground; rocks, often weathered into curious shapes, scattering the hillsides; beautiful woodlands and wood pasture; lochs, rapids, waterfalls, rocky burns and rivers; and magnificent uplands. The variation, intricacy and combinations of features in Balquhidder makes the richest and most varied of all these Breadalbane glens. With its long history of habitation, and much visited by artists and poets for its scenery, it is its quality as the living, working Highlands that endures. It is this memorable quality which Wordsworth expressed in the poem The Solitary Reaper that he was inspired to write from his memories of Balquhidder. The glen has many important associations with the archetypal Scottish hero immortalised by Sir Walter Scott, Rob Roy MacGregor, who is buried at Balquhidder.	
SLQ 14: Wide and straight Loch Earn Surrounded by high mountains, with Ben Vorlich in particular towering above the loch, the waters of Loch Earn fill the floor of the western end of Strath Earn. The loch is straight and wide, with only a narrow strip of level ground between the loch and the hill slopes, excepting the occasional alluvial fans which push out into the loch, providing space for pasture and farms. With plentiful native woods of oak, birch and alder along the shore and on the lower slopes, this large loch can in turn be peaceful, with the woods and hills reflected in mirror-calm waters, or stormy, with the wind howling down the loch, raising white horses and foamflecked waves. The back road along the southern shore meanders in and out of the woods and provides a quiet contrast to the trunk roads that normally traverse these Breadalbane glens. Lochearnhead is nestled at the foot of Glen Ogle at the loch's eastern end. From the south shores of Loch Earn, the village in its setting presents a classic scene against the backdrop of the huge Breadalbane mountains. Edinample Castle policies on this south shore consolidate the rural qualities of Loch Earn at this, its western end. St Fillans presents a similar scene at the eastern end. Overlooking the loch and the river, it stands at the extreme eastern edge of the park and at the edge of the River Earn National Scenic Area and is the start of the transition to the Perthshire lowlands. Rocky St Fillans Hill, rising straight from the flat glen floor surmounted by Dundurn hill-	Theoretical visibility within the Loch Earn area is limited in extent and in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible. There is no or limited visibility from Lochearnhead, the northern banks of Loch Earn, St Fillans and much of the Loch itself. Whilst there is some limited visibility from the southern shore and St Fillans Hill, the Proposed Development would not interrupt the focus of views 'overlooking the loch and river' or interrupt views of the 'wide and straight Loch Earn'. Taking this into account it is considered that there is **no potential for significant effects to this SLQ**, despite the relatively close proximity of the Proposed Development.

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
fort, is a site of great historical significance and a grand viewpoint, both looking westwards into the National Park and eastwards into the National Scenic Area.	
SLQ 15: The rocky pass of Glen Ogle Glen Ogle, a rugged pass through the mountains linking Lochearnhead with Glen Dochart, is a major thoroughfare where a busy trunk road clings to the eastern slopes, a relict railway line the western slopes (now the route of the Rob Roy Way) and an old military road the glen floor. It is memorable for the spectacular, old railway viaduct, high up on the west side, and also for the impressive rockfalls that the railway passed through. However, the glen possesses a desolate air, with its name derived from the Gaelic Gleann-eagal 'The Valley of Dread.' This is emphasised by deserted townships that lie to both sides of the road near the southern foot of the glen and by its looming, steep rocky slopes marked with runnels, crags and irregular rocky ridgelines. The rock outcrops, however, are nowadays the heartland of sport climbing in Scotland. From the glen, the mountain of Ben Vorlich provides a grand prospect to the south, and fine views of the mountains to the north can be head when descending into Glen Dochart.	There is no theoretical visibility from Glen Ogle. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ 16: Killin and the Falls of Dochart Killin and the Falls of Dochart form a highlight within Breadalbane, memorable places with a strong identity in a spectacular mountain setting. The River Dochart rushes out of Glen Dochart in a series of spectacular waterfalls. The water gathers speed and falls more steeply as it heads towards Loch Tay, to become a very broad, rocky, series of rapids at Killin where it is crossed by the Bridge of Dochart, unusual with seven-spans, four main arches and seven culverts. The Falls of Dochart present high drama – all enveloping sounds, sights, feel of the spray and smell of the waters make the falls an open-air, enveloping spectacle. Killin is dominated by the sight and the sound of the falls, a roaring backdrop to human activity. Its traditional, stone buildings and its bridge are low, small, domestic in scale and strongly horizontal in form. In contrast, the mountain backdrop soars vertically skyward, while the river and falls plunge dramatically down. Inchbuie or Innes Bhuidhe, an island in the river, contains the Clan McNab burial ground surrounded by verdant riverside plantings. Nearby features, such as the prehistoric stone circle and medieval castle, stand witness to an even older past and long history of human presence in this area.	Whilst there is theoretical visibility in the area of Killin, it is limited to 1 blade tip and actual visibility is obstructed by intervening forestry on the slopes above Loch Tay that intervene. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ**.

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
SLQ 17: Expansive Glen Dochart Glen Dochart is broad and wide with an open, expansive feel. The main road flanks the southern slopes, which are characterised by dense forestry plantations alternating with steep slopes leading directly to the summit of Ben More. The River Dochart meanders across a level flood plain, a landscape of enclosed pastures, traditional farms at the base of the hills, and rough slopes of moorland, woods and crags rising to the northern hills. The glen's Highland pastoral scenery is of notable quality, having been lauded since the 18th century. Highlights are the two enclosed and intimate lochs of Dochart and Iubhair, the former famous for the ruins of Castle Dochart on its small island. These lochs formed picturesque highlights of the 18-19th century 'Highland Tour.' Although the landscape has changed significantly in recent years, particularly through commercial afforestation, the continual presence of fields, rough grassland, native trees and woods, intimate lochs and the sinuous river means that the glen maintains a rich pastoral quality.	There is no theoretical visibility from the floor of Glen Dochart or the southern slopes. Whilst there is theoretical visibility on parts of the elevated northern slopes it is limited in terms of the amount of Proposed Development visible and it is considered that this would have minimal effect on the 'Highland pastoral scenery' of this glen, as noted in the SLQ description as of 'notable quality'. The focus of which is within the glen floor itself or from the A82 which 'flanks the southern slopes'. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ 18: Wide Strath Fillan Strath Fillan is the extension of Glen Dochart north-westwards, the river also changing its name from Dochart to Fillan. It shares many of the characteristics of Glen Dochart, although its southern slopes are less steep, and the river and its pastoral flood plain are mainly hidden from view from the road. The river tightly meanders across the strath floor, forming a series of gravel-shored islets, while riparian trees and regenerating stands of native woodland further divide up the strath, creating quiet, secluded areas. Most of the floodplain is farmed, with smooth green fields, contrasting with the hill slopes above of rough hummocky moorland or dense forestry plantation. The old mines at Tyndrum, highly visible on the slopes of Sron nan Colan, stand out barren within the surrounding woodlands, and are witness to the economic activity of the past. The strath has strong associations with the 8th century St FIllan, who retired to the area, and later with Robert the Bruce. The ruined priory of St Fillan and the nearby St Fillan's Holy Pool in the River Dochart were once important places of pilgrimage. Common to all routes through the strath, whether modern road, railway or path, or older military road, drove road or pilgrimage way, are distinctive views to the high summits of Beinn More and Stob Binnein to the south. Glimpses are also obtained of Ben Lui at the head of the Glen Cononish, with its spectacular eastern cliffs retaining their snows until well into the summer. The flat-bottomed Glen Cononish leads into the heart of	There is no theoretical visibility from Strath Fillan. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
General Qualities	
high mountains and at its eastern end is found the ancient Caledonian pinewood of Coille Coire Chuilc, a dark canopy of rounded crowns and orange bark.	
SLQ 19: Sinuous Glen Falloch The floor of Glen Falloch, wherein lies the river, road, railway and West Highland Way, is narrow and winding, tightly constrained by its surrounding slopes, with views outwards restricted by numerous trees and woods. The picturesque Falls of Falloch and the conical hill of Dun Falloch are focal features within the glen, although the former are largely obscured by trees. It is only from the summit of Dun Falloch, or the other higher slopes of the glen, that the memorable quality of Glen Falloch can be experienced, that is a feeling of spaciousness brought about by the expansive open hillsides. The ridges and rocky summits that surround the glen are visually dominant, although no one summit, or hill is especially distinctive in form. They form a stark backcloth contrasting with the pockets of native woodland on the lower slopes, and along the burns draining the steep, rough hillsides. The northern end of the glen contains the southernmost remnant of native Caledonian pinewood, dark trees with rounded crowns scattering the hillside. The nearby Allt Criche wood pastures also present a fine prospect – of pollarded trees spilling downslope, with a hummocky appearance which complements the rounded, hummocky landform. Regenerating woodland alongside the railway line is also a distinguishing feature, marking its route across the landscape.	There is no theoretical visibility from Glen Falloch. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ**.

5.8.116 The preliminary assessment has found that of the 19 SLQs of LLTNP within the LLTNP Study Area, 16 are considered to have no potential for significant effects (7 of these due to no visibility of the Proposed Development from the specific area in which the SLQ relates to and 9 due to limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQ). The 3 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects are SLQ 2, SLQ 7 and SLQ 9.

5.8.117 In addition to the SLQ descriptions, the underpinning landscape characteristics of these SLQs are referenced in the **Table 5-9**.

Table 5-9: LLTNP SLQs and Baseline Characteristics

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
SLQ2: Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands Baseline Description - 'Mountains and large hill ranges are found across the Park, the massifs separated by sea lochs, freshwater lochs and deep, glacially	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to 'mountains and large hill ranges' are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 251 Highland Summits, particularly including –

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
scoured glens. The Arrochar Alps, the Luss Hills, the East Lomond hills, the Beinn Mhor hills, the Trossachs and the Breadalbane mountains are wild upland landscapes, all with distinctive characters. Individual, well known summits are present, including Ben Lomond, The Cobbler, Ben Vorlich, and Ben Venue. The flat-bottomed glens that penetrate the hills are inhabited and farmed, presenting a pleasing contrast to the bare hills and summits above. Additionally, the whole area of mountains and glens, comprising great tracts of wild and rugged land, contrasts sharply with the gentle, rolling, low-lying farmlands and parklands found in the south. The uplands, with their pasture on the glen floors, their sides of rough moorland, native woodland or dark conifer plantations and their craggy hills, presents a highly textured, more desolate and generally, less populated scene than the green and fertile lowlands'	'Highly visible massive peaks and ridges of the mountains forming a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores, glens and straths. Instantly recognisable mountain forms such as the Cobbler and Ben Lomond. Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond are important landmark features, marking the Highland edge seen widely from the Central Lowlands of Scotland. Popular mountains with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character, and the presence of 'Munro' and 'Corbett' peaks. The higher summits offer extensive views. Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry.' Those that relate to 'flat bottomed glens' are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 254 – Straths and Glens with Lochs, particularly including - 'Lochs are highly visible, with roads and cycle/walking routes aligned close to their shores. Long views are possible across open water to the Highland Summits and the combination of craggy towering hills and smooth water is an essential component of the scenic richness of the National Park.'
SLQ7: Tranquillity Baseline Description - 'It is easy to find tranquillity within the Park, to find uncrowded places where there is a predominance of natural sounds and sights, whether beside a shimmering loch, following the course of a mountain burn, walking the sheltered woodlands or climbing an open hill. This sense of peacefulness is enhanced by the small scale of human settlement within the expansive landforms, and by the general absence of large-scale development.'	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to 'tranquillity' are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 251 Highland Summits, particularly including – 'Very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes. Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry.' WLA 10 Breadalbane – Schiehallion and WLA 07 Ben More – Ben Ledi overlap with these LCTs at the western edges of the Study Area.
SLQ 9: Steep mountains and long glens Baseline Description - 'Breadalbane is a great tract of hills and mountains rising steeply and dramatically from the glen floors: Ben Lui, Cruach Ardrain, Ben More, Ben Vorlich, Ben Ledi, and others. These form the Southern Highlands – the southernmost extent of the Grampian mountains. The hills dominate the scene, with human activity constrained. The bare upper hillsides and summits appear untouched, remote and wild, rising above the long glens where farming, forestry and infrastructure are found. Flat land is scarce, but where it does occur, it is settled and intensively used.	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to 'steep mountains' are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 251 Highland Summits, particularly including – 'High mountains generally lying above 800 metres, but lower and intensely craggy in the core of the Trossachs where geology is particularly complex. Steep slopes often covered in scree. Narrow rocky ridges, deeply scooped corries and rocky gullies on many of these mountains. Narrow glens deeply cut into the mountains, often contain fast-flowing burns and waterfalls. Instantly recognisable mountain forms such as the Cobbler and Ben Lomond. Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond are important landmark features, marking the Highland edge seen widely from the Central Lowlands of Scotland.

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
	Popular mountains with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character, and the presence of 'Munro' and 'Corbett' peaks. The higher summits offer extensive views. Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry.' Those that relate to 'long glens' are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 254 – Straths and Glens with Lochs, particularly including - 'Strongly enclosed by steep and often rugged hill slopes with lochs filling much of the space between, leaving only a narrow flatter margin against the loch shore. Lochs generally long and narrow. Narrow passes occur between some lochs. Subtle promontories and narrow beaches feature on loch shorelines, – these particularly appreciated in long views down the length of the lochs. Modification of natural lochs and water catchments in the Park, giving rise to a variety of structures including dams and aqueducts – many of these comprise distinctive 19th Century structures. Settlements often located at the head of lochs and major through roads are aligned through some of these glens and straths. Scattered traditional dwellings or clusters of buildings usually located close to alluvial pastures at the intersection with side glens and water courses on some loch shores. Lochs are highly visible, with roads and cycle/walking routes aligned close to their shores.'

Step 3: Assessment of Effects on SLQs

5.8.118 Step 3 considers the potential for mitigation through design and assesses the effects on the SLQs identified in Step 2.

Mitigation

5.8.119 In relation to mitigation, the design strategy for the Proposed Development has been applied to the layout iteration process in order to ensure that key mitigation objectives are realised, see **Chapter 3 Evolution of Design and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 1).** The turbine layout design has evolved with the intention of presenting a simple, well-balanced image of the Proposed Development in the majority of views. Given that mitigation for the Proposed Development is embedded within the design of the final layout, it is not reconsidered in the assessment of SLQs as effects assessed are already considered to be residual.

5.8.120 Key landscape and visual design objectives for the Proposed Development are described in Section 5.6 of the LVIA which provides a summary of the embedded mitigation, those with particular reference to the LLTNP include –

- Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland, set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay to the north and Loch Earn to the south to ensure minimal visibility within these closely neighbouring glens. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ 14: Wide and straight Loch Earn.

- The layout is organised within a part of the Site that appears similar in upland character and elevation to ensure a cohesive underlying upland context and avoid notable differences in topography. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ2: Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands.
- In positioning the layout to the eastern part of the Site, the turbines are located further back from the uplands within the LLTNP. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ2: Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands and SLQ7: Tranquillity.
- The location of the layout in the eastern part of the Site, avoids the interruption of key views into the LLTNP from the Rob Roy Way and Ben Lawers such as to the distinctive steep slopes of Ben Vorlich or towards the incised glen of Strathyre. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ2: Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands and SLQ 9: Steep mountains and long glens.

Assessment of effects

5.8.121 The 3 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects (SLQ 2, SLQ 7 and SLQ 9) are assessed in **Table 5-10** below. SLQ 9 is similar in nature to the general qualities expressed in SLQ2 and where SLQ 9 is more locally relevant to the Proposed Development, is also the area in which the Proposed Development potentially affects the qualities of SLQ 2. SLQ 9 and SLQ 2 are therefore assessed together.

Sensitivity

5.8.122 Given the level of scenic and recreational value denoted in a national park designation and the unique features and qualities outlined in the description of special qualities the overall value of the LLTNP is generally considered to be of higher value than the landscape that immediately surrounds it. Value is considered to be High. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development varies across the LLTNP depending on the potential for the Proposed Development to influence the SLQs of the LLTNP. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is considered to be High for SLQs 2, 7 and 9 within the LLTNP Study Area (Breadalbane area of the LLTNP). Taking this into account, and combined with the high value, sensitivity is considered to be High.

Table 5-10: Detailed Assessment of LLTNP SLQs

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
SLQ 2 - Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands. SLQ 9 - Steep mountains and long glens	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the landscape characteristics/ landform/ topography/ vegetation that distinguish the 'Wild and rugged highlands' from the 'pastoral lowlands', and the contrast between these various parts of LLTNP would be maintained. The external influence of the Proposed Development would have some effect on the perceived wild and rugged quality of upland landscapes, but this would be limited to those areas that gain readily apparent visibility of the turbines where the Proposed Development would be experienced within, as an addition to a neighbouring upland, lowland or glen. In relation to the location of the Proposed Development it is considered that this would be restricted to the elevated slopes and summits of hills to the south and east of Loch Earn (including Ben Vorlich). Whilst there is a view of parts of Loch Earn from Ben Vorlich or Meall an t-Seallaidh, the Proposed Development does not interrupt or encroach on these views. Visibility is very limited within other glens and straths in the LLTNP Study Area and where patches of visibility occur on hilltops in the wider LLTNP Study Area, the Proposed Development would be a small feature in a distant view and the contrast between the 'long glens' and the 'steep mountains' would be unaffected. Magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low.	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Significant.** Whilst the baseline features and elements of the landscape that underpin these SLQs would not be directly affected, and the effect on contrast between upland, lowland and glen would be minimal, the Proposed Development would affect the perceived wild and rugged quality at the north-east edges of the LLTNP.

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
SLQ 7 - Tranquillity	Given the Proposed Development is located outside the LLTNP it would not directly affect the 'predominance of natural sounds and sights, whether beside a shimmering loch, following the course of a mountain burn, walking the sheltered woodlands or climbing an open hill' described for this SLQ. The addition of an external influence of large-scale development may, however, affect the perception of scale of human elements from those parts of LLTNP where the Proposed Development would be readily apparent and have a significant landscape/visual effect. The Proposed Development would therefore be perceived as an external influence of large-scale development, located to the north-east of the LLTNP, where the Proposed Development would be experienced within as an addition to a neighbouring upland such that the tranquillity of an area of the LLTNP could be disrupted. The movement of the turbines would also affect tranquillity. The effect on this SLQ would therefore be limited to the elevated slopes and summits of hills to the south and east of Loch Earn (including Ben Vorlich). There would be a localised and indirect, perceived effect on the 'tranquillity' experienced in some parts of LLTNP, in areas where the scale and movement of the Proposed Development are readily apparent (elevated slopes and summits of hills to the south and east of Loch Earn). Magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low.	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Not Significant.** The effect on tranquillity is judged to be not significant as it would be a localised and indirect, perceived effect on the 'tranquillity' experienced limited to where the scale and movement of the Proposed Development are readily apparent.

Step 4 – Summary of significant effect on SLQ's'

5.8.123 For SLQ 7 (Tranquillity) the Medium-Low magnitude of change resulted in a **Moderate and Not Significant effect**. For SLQ 2 (Wild and rugged highlands contrasting with pastoral lowlands) and SLQ 9 (Steep mountains and long glens) the Medium-Low magnitude of change resulted in a **Moderate and Significant** effect.

5.8.124 The Proposed Development would therefore have a significant effect on two of the 19 relevant SLQs of LLTNP (SLQs 2 and 9). This does not, however, imply a significant effect on the overall 'integrity' of the LLTNP. The Proposed Development is located outside the LLTNP and as such there would be no direct effects on the physical attributes of the SLQs and the effects on LLTNP SLQs would be perceived only. This ensures that SLQs that are dependent upon physical attributes or geographical context found within the LLTNP would not be affected by the Proposed Development. This assessment has indicated that of the 19 SLQs of LLTNP within the Study Area, 16 are considered to have no potential for significant effects (7 of these due to no visibility of the Proposed Development from the specific area in which the SLQ relates to and 9 due to limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQ). While visibility of the Proposed Development may affect the SLQs that are reliant on perceived qualities, the assessment of effects has indicated that other than two SLQs (SLQ2 and 9), the effects would be not significant. In the context of the 19 relevant SLQs of the LLTNP, it is considered that this represents a very limited effect.

5.8.125 The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from LLTNP is restricted to limited parts, with the vast majority of LLTNP, having no visibility of the Proposed Development. This ensures that effects would be localised, and very extensive areas would remain unaffected. The significant effects assessed for SLQs 2 and 9 are also further limited in extents to the north-east edges of the LLTNP and LLTNP Study Area. The significant effects would therefore not apply to the full extent of

LLTNP but to the elevated north-east edges of the Breadalbane area only. The nature of the LLTNP is an enclosed loch-based landscape, which is inherently contained and focussed on the lochs (with Loch Lomond as the key focus), enclosing glens and straths, and the surrounding high hills and mountains that contain these glens and straths. While external influences are relevant to the characterisation of the landscape, the introverted nature of the LLTNP ensures that they would retain integrity despite the addition of the external feature of the Proposed Development.

5.8.126 Taking all of this into account, it is considered that in relation to the LLTNP that the *'objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised'* by the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

5.8.127 Consented and application schemes are largely not visible from areas of the LLTNP where the Proposed Development would be visible from. The exception is from the summit of Ben Vorlich. From here, the consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect on SLQs 2, 7 and 9.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.128 The Glen Lednock scheme would appear on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Glen Lednock would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development with both schemes viewed as a ridgeline design and appearance increasing the level of integration for the Proposed Development. From the upland ridge above Glen Kendrum, the Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view northeast, on the same part of the broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau, closer to its upland edge with Loch Earn. From the Ben Vorlich and Meall Reamhar ridge, there is a degree of overlap between both layouts, however, the Proposed Development would increase the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau, particularly from the Ben Vorlich area. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by increasing the extent of development that would be apparent across the plateau contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change for SLQs 2, 7 and 9 is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from the Ben Vorlich and Meall Reamhar ridge and would have significant cumulative effects on SLQs 2, 7 and 9.

Detailed Assessment of the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA

Step 2 - The Scope of the AESLQ and Baseline Conditions

5.8.129 The assessment of effects on Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA is based on the effects that the Proposed Development would have on SLQs. The SLQs of Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA are set out in NatureScot Commissioned Report, No.374[20].

5.8.130 The study area considered in the assessment is dependent to a large degree on the visibility of the Proposed Development and its relationship to the relevant SLQs. **Figure 5.11, Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)** illustrates that the extent of theoretical visibility is very limited within the LLTNP beyond around 11 km from the Proposed Development where it is largely found along the south facing side of the mountainous ridges of Tarmachan and Ben Lawers that follows the northern shores of Loch Tay.

5.8.131 The focus of this assessment is therefore within this southern edge of the NSA as this is the only part of it where there is potential for significant effects on SLQs to arise (Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA Study Area).

5.8.132 The SLQs for the NSA are listed in report 374 as follows:

1. *'Epitome of the mountain grandeur of Highland Perthshire*
2. *A clear linkage of land use and landform*
3. *A combination of natural and cultural beauty*
4. *The great diversity of woodland*
5. *Secluded side glens and ancient shielings*
6. *The wild summits*
7. *Peacefulness and tranquillity*
8. *Rich, varied cultural features*
9. *The long, narrow and sinuous Glen Lyon*
10. *The great expanse of Loch Rannoch*
11. *The long, symmetric mass of Schiehallion*
12. *The dominance of Ben Lawers'*

5.8.133 In line with the NatureScot draft guidance[21], **Table 5-11** includes the baseline characteristics of each of the SLQs relevant to the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA Study Area and whether or not these are required to be assessed in detail (based on the susceptibility of the SLQs to the Proposed Development and predicted significant effects').

Table 5-11: Preliminary Assessment of the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA SLQs

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
SLQ1: Epitome of the mountain grandeur of Highland Perthshire 'The long, narrow, sinuous Glen Lyon, and Loch Rannoch in its glen to the north, penetrate deep into high mountains and hills, and epitomise the exceptional landscape and scenery of Highland Perthshire. The enclosing mountains create a monumental	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**

[20] The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 374.NatureScot (2010). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-commissioned-report-374-special-qualities-national-scenic-areas

[21] Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. NatureScot (2024 consultation Draft). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
backdrop, dwarfing the more intricate, human-scale and detailed features at loch side, glen floor and lower slopes. The seasonal changes in texture and colour of vegetation serve to enhance the drama of this vast outer landscape, against which human activity is set.'	
SLQ2: A clear linkage of land use and landform 'The area makes up a substantial part of the historical territory of Breadalbane, covering a great tract of the southern Grampians. Here 'fingers of lowland farming and settlement infiltrate into Grampian mountainland' (Whittow, 1977). The landform varies from fertile and farmed alluvial flats, through steep hill slopes to exposed mountain summits. The intensity and type of land-use, the settlement pattern, the degree of exposure and the sense of remoteness is strongly related to the landform, giving a strong structure to the scenery.'	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the 'fingers of lowland' described here. The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility on the Ben Lawers, Tarmachan ridgeline. Whilst the view north from this ridgeline includes views across the 'fingers of lowland' within the NSA, the Proposed Development would have little effect on this in the successive view south and it is considered that the 'strong structure' of scenery and the 'clear linkage of land use and landform' within the NSA would not be diminished. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ3: A combination of natural and cultural beauty 'The mountain ranges are timeless and unchanging in comparison to the small scale human activity on the lower ground. They frame the scenic views and panoramas gained from within the NSA and are the focus or backdrop of views into the NSA. Where development does occur, it is closely restricted to loch-side, to glen floors and to the lower hill-slopes. However, this lower ground is a working landscape and possesses an ordered, scenic beauty of its own – from the pattern of fields, dykes, woodland plantings and vernacular buildings. The vast natural background combined with the more intimate scale of human activity creates an area of great visual appeal.'	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the 'fingers of lowland' described here. The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility on the Ben Lawers, Tarmachan ridgeline. The framed 'scenic views and panoramas gained from within the NSA' are therefore not affected, neither is the 'backdrop of views' created by the mountain ranges that include the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridge as viewed from within the NSA. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ4: The great diversity of woodland 'The woodlands and trees across the area are scenically of great importance due to their richness of form, species and age structure. The ancient Caledonian pinewoods – the Black Wood of Rannoch and the smaller woods in Glen Lyon – stand dark against the hillsides. The lighter, native birchwoods prevalent in many areas are particularly notable in their autumn colours. Rivers, water courses and lochs are often highlighted by trees along their banks, and the policy woodlands of the settlements and big houses provide a focus on the glen floors.'	The Proposed Development would not affect any of the woodlands found within the NSA. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ**.
SLQ5: Secluded side glens and ancient shielings 'Development and human activity is centred along the two main glens running east-west, and most roads also follow these. The side glens, of which there are many, are generally hidden and secluded, limited to access by foot. However, they often contain visible signs	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility within the Lochan na Lairige pass which is one of the side glens. SLQ included in the detailed assessment.

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
of past habitation, in particular the presence of old shielings. These abandoned, historic Sites accentuate the current remoteness of the glens, and contrast with the comparatively well settled and managed Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch areas.'	
SLQ6: The wild summits 'The high tops, slopes and moors are mountain terrain, only accessible on foot. A climb to the summits is a journey from habitation into a wild landscape of ridges, corries and cliffs, seemingly remote from civilisation and at the mercy of the elements.'	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility on the Ben Lawers, Tarmachan ridgeline. SLQ included in the detailed assessment.
SLQ7: Peacefulness and tranquillity 'The sense of remoteness increases westwards up Glen Lyon or along Loch Rannoch. The roads are not through-routes and still mirror the landform, with traffic limited to local use. There is a comparative lack of large-scale modern development. These factors engender a sense of peacefulness and tranquillity, reinforced by the predominance of natural sounds of wind and birdsong, and by the presence of water: the broad expanse of Loch Rannoch, with the lapping of waters along its southern shores; the tumbling of the rapids of the River Lyon and its more calmly but swiftly flowing meanders; the sound of the many burns and waterfalls draining the surrounding hill-slopes. The presence of native woodland, where it provides shelter and an intimate feel in an otherwise exposed landscape, also reinforces the tranquillity. Additionally, human settlement and man-made features are dwarfed by the large, expansive landforms, resulting in a peaceful, rural feel.'	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch and the 'sense of peacefulness and tranquillity' described for this SLQ would be unaffected by the Proposed Development. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ8: Rich, varied cultural features 'The area boasts many rich and varied cultural features that date from different periods, thereby infusing a great time depth and attesting to man's long settlement and diverse land use. These can take the form of focal landscape features or imbue the wider landscape with a sense of history – for instance in designed landscapes and field patterns. In themselves they may comprise the major scene as within the estate village of Fortingall; or they may have associations or have given rise to history, folk history, songs and poems. These are more often evoked in the minds of those acquainted with the area and its histories.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect cultural features of the NSA. There is no theoretical visibility within the glens and straths within the NSA where these features are located. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ9: The long, narrow and sinuous Glen Lyon 'Glen Lyon is deeply incised, narrow and winding, and reputed to be the longest glen in Scotland. Scenery in the westernmost, upper glen is of dramatic glacial landforms. These distinct, towering, pyramidal summits are scored by numerous waterfalls and burns falling, parallel to one another, down into the River Lyon. Wild, rocky mountain tops and rough grasslands on the upper slopes give way to relatively poor, rough pasture enclosed below head dykes. The mountain slopes enclosing the glen to the south soar upwards from the glen floor, and there is a feeling of being deep within the enclosing mountain ranges. At Meggernie the glen broadens out to become a strath, marking mid-Glen Lyon, which with its wide-ranging woodland diversity, farmed lands, isolated farmsteads and	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from Glen Lyon. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
features forms the most complex, rapidly unfolding series of scenes to be found. A further change in character to lower-Glen Lyon is marked by the Pass of Glenlyon at Chesthill and Coille Dhubh (the Black Wood). Here the strath narrows, to become a deeply incised gorge, tightly enclosed by mountains, the steep sides heavily wooded with deciduous trees. The river takes a rapid change of course and character by rounding bends of rocks to leap over Sput Ban (the White Cascade), descend between crags, and then flow a straight 'southward course until broadening out after the Bridge of Lyon.'	
SLQ10: The great expanse of Loch Rannoch 'Loch Rannoch creates a vast sense of space and possesses an air of natural calmness and openness. Across the waters from the north shore there are spectacular views to the soaring, almost perfect cone of Schiehallion; and westwards, views along the broad loch focus on the distant hills of Rannoch and Glen Coe. Most settlement, tourist facilities and farming occur along its east and northern shores. Here, drystone dykes and fences establish clear field divisions, and policy plantings around farms and houses create a mature, tended landscape that contrasts with the surrounding, wilder moorlands and mountains.'	The ZTV shows no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from Loch Rannoch**. No potential for significant effects to this SLQ**.
SLQ11: The long, symmetric mass of Schiehallion 'Schiehallion is a prominent landmark, a shapely, symmetrical conical peak with a long east-west axis. It is visible and readily identifiable across a wide area because it stands alone, separate and apart from other summits and ridges. As an elevated viewpoint at 1083m (3,547ft) nearly in the centre of Scotland, its summit of shattered quartzite scree provides extensive views over Loch Rannoch, the expansive Rannoch Moor and the Central Highlands generally. Schiehallion has an important place in scientific history and discovery because in the 18th century its regular form made it suitable for the first accurate determination of the mass of the earth.'	The ZTV shows some limited and distant theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the Schiehallion summit. There are no simultaneous views of the Schiehallion summit and the Proposed Development from within the NSA and this 'prominent landmark' feature of the NSA and this SLQ would not be diminished. The 'extensive views over Loch Rannoch' would be unaffected by the Proposed Development. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ12: The dominance of Ben Lawers 'The high massif of Ben Lawers and its associated peaks, together with the more uneven ridge of the Tarmachan range to the west, dominate the landscape around Loch Tay. The open hills provide a dramatic and contrasting backdrop to the farmed and wooded shores of the loch. Ben Lawers is internationally important for both its flora and archaeology and is also readily accessible to the hillwalker. It is a spectacular vantage point for vistas to the surrounding highlands, and also down to the gently curving Loch Tay.'	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility on the Ben Lawers, Tarmachan ridgeline. SLQ included in the detailed assessment.

5.8.134 The preliminary assessment has found that of the 12 SLQs of this NSA, 9 are considered to have no potential for significant effects due to no or limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQs.

5.8.135 The 3 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects are SLQ 5 'Secluded side glens and ancient shielings', SLQ 6 'The wild summits' and SLQ 12 'The dominance of Ben Lawers'. In addition to the SLQ descriptions, the underpinning landscape characteristics of these SLQs are referenced in the **Table 5-12**.

Table 5-12: Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA SLQs and Baseline Characteristics

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions and Further Information	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
SLQ5: Secluded side glens and ancient shielings Baseline Description - 'Development and human activity is centred along the two main glens running east-west, and most roads also follow these. The side glens, of which there are many, are generally hidden and secluded, limited to access by foot. However, they often contain visible signs of past habitation, in particular the presence of old shielings. These abandoned, historic Sites accentuate the current remoteness of the glens, and contrast with the comparatively well settled and managed Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch areas.' Further Information - 'The landscape is heavily dissected, with the two main glens all possessing side glens, generally orientated north-south. The narrow road from Loch Tay to Glen Lyon via Lochan na Lairige provides the one opportunity for the public to experience these glens by car. The glens generally contain previous summer grazings (shielings) and some are long, such as at Gleann Mòr which stretches for five miles along the southern flanks of Schiehallion. This glen also contains caves and wells (e.g. Uamh Tom a Mhòr-fhir). The shielings date from before the change from the transhumance and cattle droving system to large scale sheep farming.	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to this SLQ are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 376 Summits & Plateaux – Tayside, particularly including – 'Remote and wild character. Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths Panoramic views both into and out of adjacent mountainous areas, such as the Cairngorm Massif, and lower lying areas like Strathmore.'
SLQ6: The wild summits Baseline Description - 'The high tops, slopes and moors are mountain terrain, only accessible on foot. A climb to the summits is a journey from habitation into a wild landscape of ridges, corries and cliffs, seemingly remote from civilisation and at the mercy of the elements. Further Information - 'The distance to the summits from the nearest road is generally not great, enabling hill walkers to be able to leave the comforts of the Central Belt, drive to the area, ascend the summits and return home easily within one day. The wildness of the hills is emphasised by the absence of built structures, although hydro-electric infrastructure ascends to 500m at Lochan na Lairige between Ben Lawers and Meall nan Tarmachan.'	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to this SLQ are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 376 Summits & Plateaux – Tayside, particularly including – 'Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy. Remote and wild character.' WLA 11 Lyon – Lochay and WLA 12 Ben Lawers overlap with the southern edges of the NSA. WLA 10 Breadalbane – Schiehallion overlaps with the central and western area of the NSA. The description of WLA 12 Ben Lawers includes the following description which is relevant to this SLQ - 'From the tops and higher slopes, there are distant views of dispersed buildings and improved fields, hydro infrastructure, tracks and forest plantations in Glen Lyon and along Loch Rannoch below, which affect the sense of remoteness and sanctuary. The eye is drawn more, however, by the succession of ridges that seems to extend well beyond this WLA, reinforcing the sense

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions and Further Information	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
	of ruggedness, awe inspiring qualities and large scale of the Ben Lawers massif, and reducing the relative effects of the human elements. The extent is more evident to the south, especially towards the margins of the wild land area, where the gentler slopes allow views of human artefacts and contemporary land use. Forest plantations facing Loch Tay are especially visible from the tops and south-facing slopes of the WLA. The only wind farms that are clearly visible lie to the east, where turbines are sufficiently close to allow blade movement to be seen, adversely affecting the sense of remoteness and sanctuary. Slopes above Glen Lyon and Lochan na Lairige are steeper and views into these glens drop away more quickly on ascent, so limiting visibility in this direction.'
SLQ12: The dominance of Ben Lawers Baseline Description - 'The high massif of Ben Lawers and its associated peaks, together with the more uneven ridge of the Tarmachan range to the west, dominate the landscape around Loch Tay. The open hills provide a dramatic and contrasting backdrop to the farmed and wooded shores of the loch. Ben Lawers is internationally important for both its flora and archaeology and is also readily accessible to the hillwalker. It is a spectacular vantage point for vistas to the surrounding highlands, and also down to the gently curving Loch Tay.' Further Information - 'Ben Lawers (1,214 metres, 3,984 feet) is the dominant feature of the north Loch Tayside landscape. It is the 10th highest mountain in Scotland and the highest peak in the Southern Highlands. Together with the Tarmachan range to the west, it contains seven Munros. Known as the botanists' Mecca since the 1760s, it is botanically the most species-rich mountain in Britain, owing to the outcropping of Dalradian calcareous schists at high altitude. The rich soils provide suitable habitat for many arctic and alpine plants rare in Britain. There has been extensive archaeological research in the area through the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project. Ben Lawers has significant archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to the present day. It contains a rare surviving example of an extensive medieval and post-medieval farming landscape of shielings and townships stretching over 400 years and is regarded as both nationally and internationally important.'	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to this SLQ are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 376 Summits & Plateaux – Tayside, particularly including – 'Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy. Remote and wild character. Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths. Panoramic views both into and out of adjacent mountainous areas.

Step 3: Assessment of Effects on SLQs

5.8.136 Step 3 considers the potential for mitigation through design and assesses the effects on the SLQs identified in Step 2.

Mitigation

5.8.137 In relation to mitigation, the design strategy for the Proposed Development has been applied to the layout iteration process in order to ensure that key mitigation objectives are realised, see **Chapter 3 Evolution of Design and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 1)**. The turbine layout design has evolved with the intention of presenting a simple, well-balanced image of the Proposed Development in the majority of views. Given that mitigation for the Proposed Development is embedded within the design of the final layout, it is not reconsidered in the assessment of SLQs as effects assessed are already considered to be residual.

5.8.138 Key landscape and visual design objectives for the Proposed Development are described in Section 5.6 of the LVIA which provides a summary of the embedded mitigation, those with particular reference to the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA include –

- Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland, set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay to the north and Loch Earn to the south to ensure minimal visibility within these closely neighbouring glens. This has also helped to mitigate overall effects on the Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA reducing the amount of the Proposed Development potentially experienced where visibility is found within the southern edges of the NSA. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ 6: The wild summits and SLQ 12: The dominance of Ben Lawers.
- The location of the layout in the eastern part of the Site, avoids the interruption of key views from the NSA into the LLTNP such as from Ben Lawers to the distinctive steep slopes of Ben Vorlich or towards the incised glen of Strathyre. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ 6: The wild summits.
- Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland, set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay to the north to ensure minimal visibility within these closely neighbouring glens and reducing visibility from the south facing slopes of the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridgeline. This has helped to mitigate effects on SLQ 5: Secluded side glens and ancient shielings.

Assessment of effects

5.8.139 The 3 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects (SLQ 5, SLQ 6 and SLQ 12) are assessed in **Table 5-13**.

Sensitivity

5.8.140 Given the level of scenic and recreational value denoted in a National Scenic Area designation and the unique features and qualities outlined in the description of special qualities the overall value of an NSA is generally considered to be of higher value than the landscape that immediately surrounds it. Value is considered to be High. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development varies across the NSA depending on the potential for the Proposed Development to influence its SLQs. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is considered to be High for SLQs 5, 6 and 12 Taking this into account, and combined with the high value, sensitivity is considered to be High.

Table 5-13: Detailed Assessment of Loch Rannoch & Glen Lyon NSA SLQs

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
SLQ 5: Secluded side glens and ancient shielings	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of NSA, from areas of visibility within the Lochan na Lairige pass which is one of the side glens. The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility is limited to the southern end of this side glen with little theoretical visibility across Lochan na Lairige. Viewpoint 19 is located at the southern end of this glen. The visualisation for Viewpoint 19 illustrates the limiting level of turbine visibility due to the intervening upland ridge above Loch Tay	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Not Significant.**

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
	and the position of the Proposed Development within a central area of the upland beyond which results in the turbines appearing set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay. The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view south from this area and the ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development. The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area also provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. The magnitude of change for this SLQ is assessed as Medium-Low, this reflects the visual assessment at viewpoint 19.	This effect is consistent with the visual effect assessed for viewpoint 19, which considered the effect to be not significant due to a combination of distance, intervening landform which moderates visibility and the appearance of the Proposed Development turbines as set back from the leading ridge above Loch Tay.
SLQ 6: The wild summits	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of the NSA, from areas of visibility on the summits of Ben Lawers, Tarmachan ridgeline. The existing turbines of the Griffin and Calliachar wind farms seen to the southeast of the southern edges of the NSA, whilst not in the same part of the panorama, provide an existing wind energy baseline context that reduces the wildness attributes experienced at this southern edge. The Proposed Development would introduce further wind turbines to views south from the southern edge of this LCT unit and at closer proximity than currently experienced, albeit that this would occur within the wider context of existing wind turbines which the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic. The Proposed Development would introduce large-scale wind turbines to the backdrop of Loch Tay, however, the commercial forestry visible from this southern ridgeline of the NSA, has a moderating influence on this effect. Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland, set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay and the location of the layout in the eastern part of the Site, avoids the interruption of key views from the NSA into the LLTNP such as from Ben Lawers to the distinctive steep slopes of Ben Vorlich or towards the incised glen of Strathyre. The magnitude of change for this SLQ is assessed as Medium-Low.	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Not Significant.** This effect is considered to be not significant due to a combination of distance and the moderating influence of other man made features evident in views south. The significant effect is restricted to the south facing slopes of the Tarmachan and Ben Lawers ridgeline overlooking Loch Tay.
SLQ 12: The dominance of Ben Lawers	The Proposed Development would appear in the upland landscape to the south of the NSA, from areas of visibility including the summit and summit ridge of Ben Lawers. The existing turbines of the Griffin and Calliachar wind farms seen to the southeast of this summit, whilst not in the same part of the panorama, provide an existing wind energy baseline context within which the wider context of existing wind turbines which the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic. Views towards the 'high massif of Ben Lawers' from Loch Tay and from elsewhere in the NSA north of the Ben Lawers ridge would not be affected by the Proposed Development. The addition of large-scale wind turbines to the backdrop of Loch Tay would detract from this key focus across Loch Tay, albeit that the Proposed Development would be relatively distant and set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Tay, adding a degree of visual separation and reducing its influence on the views of the loch. The magnitude of change for this SLQ is assessed as Medium.	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Major-Moderate and Significant**. This is consistent with the visual effect assessed for Viewpoint 8 – Ben Lawers.

Step 4 – Summary of significant effect on SLQ's.

5.8.141 This assessment has indicated that of the 12 SLQs of NSA within the Study Area, 9 are considered to have no potential for significant effects (due to limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQ). For both SLQ 5 and SLQ 6 the Medium-Low magnitude of change resulted in a **Moderate and Not Significant** effect. For SLQ 12 the Medium magnitude of change resulted in a **Major-Moderate and Significant** effect.

5.8.142 The Proposed Development would therefore have a significant effect on one of the 12 SLQs of the NSA (SLQ 12). This does not, however, imply a significant effect on the overall 'integrity' of the NSA. The Proposed Development is located outside the NSA and as such there would be no direct effects on the physical attributes of the SLQs and the effects on NSA SLQs would be perceived only. This ensures that SLQs that are dependent upon physical attributes or geographical context found within the NSA would not be affected by the Proposed Development. While visibility of the Proposed Development may affect the SLQs that are reliant on perceived qualities, the assessment of effects has indicated that other than SLQ 12, the effects would be not significant. In the context of the 12 SLQs of the NSA, it is considered that this represents a very limited effect.

5.8.143 The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the NSA is restricted to an area largely limited to the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridge, with the vast majority of NSA to the north, having no visibility of the Proposed Development. This ensures that effects would be localised, and very extensive areas would remain unaffected. The lower lying areas of Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch, within which many of the SLQs are focussed on or influenced by, would be unaffected by the Proposed Development.

5.8.144 While external influences to the NSA are relevant to views from the NSA and the characterisation of the wider landscape, the limited level of effect on these glens, central to the NSA, ensures that they would retain integrity despite the addition of the external feature of the Proposed Development.

5.8.145 Taking all of this into account, it is considered that in relation to the NSA that the 'objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will <u>not be</u> compromised' by the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects

<u>Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)</u>

5.8.146 From elevated and southern parts of this NSA, the consented North Calliachar scheme would appear in the view southeast and would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to it appearing within close context to the existing Calliachar and Griffin schemes. The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would also be visible from this elevated ridge at the southern edge of the NSA. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect on SLQs 5, 6 and 12.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

5.8.147 The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south of the NSA on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Both schemes would appear to have a ridgeline design and appearance, increasing the level of integration. Whilst from some parts of the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridgeline a degree of overlap between these schemes would be experienced, the Proposed Development would largely occupy a part of the plateau to the west of Glen Lednock, increasing the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau from this location. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario also provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect for SLQ 12. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from the south facing slopes of the Tarmachan and Ben Lawers ridgeline overlooking Loch Tay. For both SLQ 5 and SLQ 6 the Medium-Low magnitude of change would result in a **Moderate and Not Significant** cumulative effect for the same reasons provided in Table 5-13 which are considered to also apply to the cumulative effect.

Detailed Assessment of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA

Step 2 - The Scope of the AESLQ and Baseline Conditions

5.8.148 The assessment of effects on the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA is based on the effects that the Proposed Development would have on SLQs. The SLQs of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA are set out in NatureScot Commissioned Report, No.374[22].

5.8.149 The study area considered in the assessment is dependent to a large degree on the visibility of the Proposed Development and its relationship to the relevant SLQs. **Figure 5.11, Landscape Designations and Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)** illustrates that the extent of theoretical visibility limited to elevated parts of the NSA, however, this is a very small NSA and as such all of the area is considered within the assessment (River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA Study Area).

5.8.150 The SLQs for the NSA are listed in report 374 as follows:

1. *'A harmonious combination of highland and lowland*
2. *An enclosed and unified strath*
3. *The sinuous river at the heart of the NSA*
4. *Rocky hillocks rising out of the level floodplain*
5. *Diverse tree cover of woods and forests*
6. *A managed, ordered landscape*
7. *The spectacular De'ils Cauldron and Dunmore Hill*
8. *The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill'*

5.8.151 In line with the NatureScot draft guidance[23], **Table 5-14** includes the baseline characteristics of each of the SLQs relevant to the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA Study Area and whether or not these are

[22] The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 374.NatureScot (2010). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-commissioned-report-374-special-qualities-national-scenic-areas

[23] Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. NatureScot (2024 consultation Draft). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq

required to be assessed in detail (based on the susceptibility of the SLQs to the Proposed Development and predicted significant effects').

Table 5-14: Preliminary Assessment of the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA SLQs

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
SLQ1: A harmonious combination of highland and lowland 'Entering this NSA gives a feeling of transition, of leaving the rugged highlands behind and entering the fertile lowlands (or vice versa). The highland aspects of rocky hills, enclosing glen, fast flowing rivers, waterfalls and gorges are all present, but so are fertile lowland fields and ordered designed landscapes of hedges, policy woodlands and big houses. These lowland features soften the harsher highland elements, resulting in a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing landscape of great charm.'	Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is found on the summits and more elevated north facing slopes of the hills found at the southern edges of the NSA. Views along Strathearn (both to the west towards the highlands and east towards the lowlands) are available from these hills. Included in the detailed assessment of SLQs.
SLQ2: An enclosed and unified strath 'With its bare, rocky open hills descending through slopes of wood and bracken to the fields on the flat valley floor, this area of Strathearn exhibits a unity and coherence. There is a feeling of enclosed and encircled space at the centre, which reinforces its compact and unified nature.'	The Proposed Development would not affect the sense of enclosure experienced within the flat valley floor of the strath due to no limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from these low lying areas. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ3: The sinuous river at the heart of the NSA 'The River Earn, running through the heart of the NSA, meanders across its level flood plain. With its pools, riffles and rapids, it is both swift and leisurely, providing constant variety and change. Sometimes it is visible hard against the main road, at other times it takes its own course through the fields and woods.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the landscape context of the River Earn. There is also no or very limited theoretical visibility from the flat plain that follows the River Earn corridor. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ4: Rocky hillocks rising out of the level floodplain 'The flat floor of the strath is punctuated by rounded hillocks, often rocky and planted with trees. Contrasting with the surrounding open fields, these create a picturesque and balanced landscape of open ground and woodland cover.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the landscape context of these features. There is also no or very limited theoretical visibility from the areas of farmland from the main road (A85) or the flat plain that follows the River Earn corridor. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ5: Diverse tree cover of woods and forests 'As well as the wooded hillocks, there is a great variety of other woodland, so that no one type dominates. Policy woodlands surround the big houses, hedgerow and isolated trees stand out in the fields, alders follow the river, native woodland of birch and oak occurs on the hill slopes, and there are many stands of commercial conifer plantation. The varied cover of trees, woods and forests provides constant interest throughout the year – in colour, form, species, type, canopy spread and coverage.'	The Proposed Development would not affect any of the woods and forests found within the NSA. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ6: A managed, ordered landscape 'Two extensive designed landscapes cover much of the eastern half of the NSA. The clipped hedges, ordered fields, parklands and policy woodland associated with these and the other farmland give the appearance of a managed and ordered land. Buildings are generally traditional in appearance and well-integrated into the landscape.'	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the designed landscapes, parklands and policy woodlands in these designed landscapes. There is also no or very limited theoretical visibility from these designed landscapes (Dunira and Aberuchil

SLQ and Baseline characteristics	Detailed assessment of SLQ required? (based on 'susceptibility and predicted significant effects')
	Castle). **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ7: The spectacular De'ils Cauldron and Dunmore Hill 'At the eastern extremity of the NSA the River Lednock leaves its glen and descends to Comrie in a spectacular narrow gorge, the De'ils Cauldron, surrounded by beautiful native woodland of oak and birch. In contrast to this enclosed and highly focussed experience, a short walk away can be found the Melville Monument on the summit of Dunmore Hill. Here a magnificent panorama of the NSA to the west unfolds, with Loch Earn beyond. Views to the south extend to the Ochils, and northwards can be seen Glen Lednock, with its Munro of Ben Chonzie towering above.'	There is no theoretical visibility from this location within the NSA. **No potential for significant effects to this SLQ.**
SLQ8: The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill' 'At the western end of the NSA lies the early historic fort of Dundurn atop St Fillans Hill, indicating its past strategic importance. Nowadays this isolated, rocky hill offers grand views of the ordered landscape of Strathearn.'	Viewpoint 21 is located on this hill. The Proposed Development turbines would be visible in the view to the north west, potential for significant effects to the views from the fort. Included in detailed assessment of SLQs.

5.8.152 The preliminary assessment has found that of the 8 SLQs of this NSA, 6 are considered to have no potential for significant effects due to no or limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQs.

5.8.153 The 2 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects are SLQ 1 'A harmonious combination of highland and lowland' and SLQ 8 'The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill'. In addition to the SLQ descriptions, the underpinning landscape characteristics of these SLQs are referenced in Table 5-15.

Table 5-15: River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA SLQs and Baseline Characteristics

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions and Further Information	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
SLQ1: A harmonious combination of highland and lowland Baseline Description – 'Entering this NSA gives a feeling of transition, of leaving the rugged highlands behind and entering the fertile lowlands (or vice versa). The highland aspects of rocky hills, enclosing glen, fast flowing rivers, waterfalls and gorges are all present, but so are fertile lowland fields and ordered designed landscapes of hedges, policy woodlands and big houses. These lowland features soften the harsher highland elements, resulting in a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing landscape of great charm.' Further Information – 'The NSA represents the boundary or interface between highland and lowland landscapes, and comprises three principal elements:	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to this SLQ are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 372 Lower Upland Glens, particularly including – 'Combinations of upland and lowland attributes, with evidence of glaciation, but lacking many of the classic glacial features, such as corries, hanging valleys and misfit rivers, found higher up. Substantial and varied woodland cover - broadleaf woodlands clothing steeper slopes, around estate properties and along rivers, with conifer forests on valley sides and associated with estates. Influence of large estates, castles and Victorian development, with their historic buildings and parkland.' In addition, as key landscape characteristics for LCT 376 – Summits and Plateaux (Tayside), particularly including -

SLQ and Baseline Descriptions and Further Information	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics of SLQs
• Highland landscapes of distinctively shaped, steep-sided, hills of bare rock (not high in relative terms); and moorland of bracken and heather. • Gentler hilly slopes which mark the transition from highland to lowland, and which consist of rough grazing, grassland pasture. • A lowland landscape along the flat valley bottom in the middle of the NSA; this is intensively grazed and consists of improved, rectilinear, fields of grass. The east end of the NSA is close to the Highland Boundary Fault.'	'Areas of upland incised by and separating the principal Tayside glens. Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy. Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths.'
SLQ8: The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill' Baseline Description – 'At the western end of the NSA lies the early historic fort of Dundurn atop St Fillans Hill, indicating its past strategic importance. Nowadays this isolated, rocky hill offers grand views of the ordered landscape of Strathearn.' Further Information – 'Although there are few physical remains of this fort dating from the seventh century or earlier, it is particularly significant in the development of Scotland in the early historic period. West of the hill are remains of St Fillan's chapel and burial ground. The present chapel is 16th century and is on the site of an earlier chapel said to have been erected by St Fillan (7th century) and of which nothing remains except a round stone basin. The village of St Fillans adjacent to the NSA is named after this saint.'	Underpinning Landscape Characteristics within the Study Area that relate to this SLQ are described as key landscape characteristics for LCT 372 Lower Upland Glens, particularly including – 'Corridor views along the valley.' In addition, as key landscape characteristics for LCT 376 – Summits and Plateaux (Tayside), particularly including - 'Western areas comprising distinct summits and ranges, separated by fault line lochs; the hills are sharply defined and often craggy. Important scenic and dramatic backdrop to lower glens and straths.'

Step 3: Assessment of Effects on SLQs

5.8.154 Step 3 considers the potential for mitigation through design and assesses the effects on the SLQs identified in Step 2.

Mitigation

5.8.155 In relation to mitigation, the design strategy for the Proposed Development has been applied to the layout iteration process in order to ensure that key mitigation objectives are realised, see **Chapter 3 Evolution of Design and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 1)**. The turbine layout design has evolved with the intention of presenting a simple, well-balanced image of the Proposed Development in the majority of views. Given that mitigation for the Proposed Development is embedded within the design of the final layout, it is not reconsidered in the assessment of SLQs as effects assessed are already considered to be residual.

5.8.156 **Key landscape and visual design objectives for the Proposed Development are described in Section 5.6 of the LVIA which** provides a summary of the embedded mitigation, those with particular reference to the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA include –

- Turbines are positioned within a central area of the upland, set back from the upland edges of Loch Tay to the north and Loch Earn to the south to ensure minimal visibility within these closely

neighbouring glens. This has helped to mitigate overall effects on the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA reducing the level of visibility potentially experienced across the floor of the strath but also in reducing the level of effect for areas where visibility remains (a key factor for SLQ1 and SLQ8).

- In positioning the layout to the eastern part of the Site, the turbines appear tucked behind Creag Odhar in views from St Fillans Hill, reducing turbine visibility and potential effects on SLQ8: The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill.
- The position of the Proposed Development turbines, high above Glen Beich and Glen Tarken when viewed from the elevated hills in the southern edges of the NSA, creates a sense of separation from the Loch Earn, the floor of the River Earn strath and the lower slopes that follow Strathearn. This helps to mitigate effects on SLQ1: A harmonious combination of highland and lowland.

Assessment of effects

5.8.157 The 2 SLQs found to have potential for significant effects (SLQ 1 and SLQ 8) are assessed in **Table 5-16**.

Sensitivity

5.8.158 Given the level of scenic and recreational value denoted in a National Scenic Area designation and the unique features and qualities outlined in the description of special qualities the overall value of an NSA is generally considered to be of higher value than the landscape that immediately surrounds it. Value is considered to be High. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development varies across the NSA depending on the potential for the Proposed Development to influence its SLQs. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is considered to be High for SLQs 1 and 8 Taking this into account, and combined with the high value, sensitivity is considered to be High.

Table 5-16: Detailed Assessment of River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA SLQs

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
SLQ1: A harmonious combination of highland and lowland.	The Proposed Development would not directly affect the landscape characteristics/ landform/ topography/ vegetation that distinguish the 'rugged highlands' from the 'fertile lowlands', and the contrast between these various parts of NSA would be maintained. The external influence of the Proposed Development would however have an effect on the perceived 'harmonious combination' of these elements by introducing new focus to the uplands beyond the NSA. This would be limited to those areas that gain readily apparent visibility of the turbines where the Proposed Development which is largely limited within the NSA to the summits and more elevated north facing slopes of the hills found at the southern edges of the NSA. Whilst views west along the River Earn from these elevated hills includes the Proposed Development Site area close to the horizon, the position of the Proposed Development turbines, high above Glen Beich and Glen Tarken when viewed from the elevated hills in the southern edges of the NSA, creates a sense of separation from Loch Earn, the floor of the River Earn strath and the lower slopes that follow Strathearn. Magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low.	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Not Significant.** The effect is considered to be not significant for the following reasons. The baseline features and elements of the landscape that underpins this SLQ would not be directly affected. The external influence of The Proposed Development would be experienced as an addition to a neighbouring upland separated and set back from the transitional qualities described in the citation.
SLQ8: The viewpoint of Dundurn, St Fillans Hill.	Whilst the view of the Proposed Development turbines from this location would not interrupt views of the 'ordered landscape of Strathearn' in the strath floor below or the nearby historic connections with the chapel remains or the settlement beyond to the west, it would introduce wind turbine development to the uplands beyond in the view northwest. Viewpoint 21 is located at	In combining the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude of change the effect is considered to be **Moderate and Not Significant.**

SLQ	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
	this location and the visualisation illustrates the limited level of turbine visibility due to the intervening upland ridgeline. The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the Proposed Development would be visible, and the visible turbines are largely limited to turbine blades or blade tips. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would not obstruct or encroach upon the focussed view along the strath to the west, which is evident in the way in which the upland ridges curve around the northern shores of Loch Earn (obscured from view) thereby drawing the eye west along this ridgeline. The magnitude of change for this SLQ is assessed as Medium-Low, this reflects the visual assessment at viewpoint 21.	This effect is consistent with the visual effect assessed for viewpoint 21, which considered the effect to be not significant due to the screening effect of the intervening upland ridge, the resulting reduced level of visibility and the degree of separation from the pastoral lowlands due to the large scale of the intervening upland hill slopes in the view northwest.

Step 4 – Summary of significant effect on SLQ's'

5.8.159 The Proposed Development is located outside the NSA and as such there would be no direct effects on the physical attributes of the SLQs and the effects on NSA SLQs would be perceived only. This ensures that SLQs that are dependent upon physical attributes or geographical context found within the NSA would not be affected by the Proposed Development.

5.8.160 This assessment has indicated that of the 8 SLQs of NSA within the Study Area, 6 are considered to have no potential for significant effects (due to limited visibility and / or experience of the Proposed Development within the context of the SLQ). For both SLQ 1 and SLQ 8 the Medium-Low magnitude of change resulted in a **Moderate and Not Significant** effect. The Proposed Development would therefore have **no significant effects** on the SLQs of this NSA and it is considered that in relation to this NSA that the *'objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will <u>not be</u> compromised'* by the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects

<u>Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)</u>

5.8.161 From elevated parts of this NSA, the consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the south. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect on SLQs 1 and 8.

<u>Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)</u>

5.8.162 From elevated parts of this NSA, the Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view north, on a different part of the same broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a larger section of this ridge than the Proposed Development and would be slightly closer to the NSA. From lower elevated parts of the NSA, the Glen Lednock scheme would appear beyond a different part of the same

broad upland ridge as the Site area. From St Fillans Hill, the Glen Lednock turbines in the scoping layout would be visible as 3 blade tips and 1 turbine with hub close to the horizon. Whilst limited in number these turbines would occupy a much wider part of the view north at closer proximity than the Proposed Development. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would also intensify the view of wind farm development by further adding to this spread of turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a wider extent of the view affected. The scale and position of the Proposed Development on the ridge and its contribution to the increased spread of wind farm development on the ridge, is a key factor of consideration. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium resulting in a **Major-Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect for SLQs 1 and 8.

5.9 Assessment of Residual Visual Effects

Introduction

5.9.1 Effects on views are the changes to views experienced by people that result from the introduction of the Proposed Development. As described in the baseline overview, the assessment of effects on views includes effects on people at representative viewpoints and on principal visual receptors (i.e. groups of people in settlements, motorists on roads or users of recreational routes). The following preliminary assessment identifies which of these views and visual receptors may experience significant effects and therefore which require to be assessed in full. A detailed baseline description is provided separately within the assessment section for each viewpoint and visual receptor identified as requiring more detailed assessment.

Preliminary Assessment of Effect on Views

Viewpoints

5.9.2 LVIA viewpoint (VP) locations are shown in conjunction with the blade tip ZTV on **Figures 5.7a, Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A3) (EIAR Volume 2)** and **5.7b, Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints (A1)** (**EIAR Volume 2**) at a detailed scale. Visualisations have been prepared (**Figures 5.17a – 5.42c (EAIR Volume 3)**) to meet the requirements of NatureScot[3]. It should be noted that the 53.5 degree photomontage view does not always include a view of key existing wind farms in the view. It is important therefore that the 90 degree baseline panoramas provided are reviewed alongside the 53.5 degree photomontages when reviewing the visualisations, so that these existing wind farms are properly taken into account.

5.9.3 The majority of the 22 agreed viewpoint locations have been included in the detailed assessment. This is with the exception of viewpoint 3 at Killin. Theoretical visibility at viewpoint 3 (and elsewhere in Killin) is limited a small blade tip and actual visibility is restricted by forestry on the intervening ridgeline obscuring the Proposed Development from view. There is therefore no potential effect at viewpoint 3.

Principal visual receptors

5.9.4 The principal visual receptors in the Study Area are shown on **Figure 5.6, Principal Visual Receptors (EIAR Volume 2)** and with the Proposed Development blade tip ZTV on **Figures 5.13, Principal Visual Receptors with Blade Tip ZTV (EIAR Volume 2)**. **Table 5-17** identifies which of the principal visual receptors have the potential to undergo significant effects (including cumulative effects), and which of them do not require further detailed assessment.

Table 5-17: Preliminary Assessment of Principal Visual Receptors

Receptor	**Comment**
Status – Potential for significant effects and included in detailed assessment.	
Comrie	Theoretical visibility occurs within these settlements and whilst this is limited by settlement build up and vegetation, there are potential for views of the Proposed Development to the west along Strathearn from the edges or elevated parts of settlements. Included in the detailed assessment.
Crieff	
Muthill	
Fearnan	Theoretical visibility is found on the northern shoreline of Loch Tay, including at the Fearnan settlement. Included in detailed assessment.
A827	Theoretical visibility is found on the section of this road as it runs along the northern shoreline of Loch Tay, to the west of Fearnan and as it passes through Killin. Included in detailed assessment.
B827	Theoretical visibility is found on the section of this road to the west and south of Comrie. Potential significant visual effects are limited to short sections that have visibility along Strathearn towards the Proposed Development. Included in the detailed assessment.
Rob Roy Way	Theoretical visibility is limited for much of this route except for the short, elevated section that climbs south from Killin along the rocky uplands close to the Proposed Development before descending at Ardeonaig. Included in detailed assessment due to close proximity to the Proposed Development.
Core Path STFI/101 (Tarken Lodge (LL&TTNP) - Allt an Fhionn - Glen Tarken)	This Core Path is in close proximity to the Proposed Development and has theoretical visibility for much of its route beyond St Fillans and lower Glen Tarken. Included in detailed assessment due to close proximity to the Proposed Development.
Caravan Park at Ardtrostan	Theoretical visibility found across this visitor destination which is located on the southern banks of Loch Earn, at the eastern side of the loch. Included in detailed assessment due to relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development.
Status – Considered further in preliminary assessment but found to have no potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
Receptor	Comment
St Fillans	Theoretical visibility is limited within St Fillans which would in reality be obscured by the intervening forested slopes that intervene. **No potential for significant effects.**
Killin	Whilst there is theoretical visibility found within Killin, it is limited to a small blade tip and actual visibility is restricted by forestry on the intervening ridgeline obscuring the Proposed Development from view. **No potential for significant effects.**
Ardeonaig	Very limited levels of theoretical visibility from within the small settlement on the southern shores of Loch Tay. **No potential for significant effects.**
A85	There is no theoretical visibility along the majority of this road within the Study Area. Some limited areas of theoretical visibility occurs in Crieff and Comrie, however, this is further limited by the settlement build up and vegetation. **No potential for significant effects.**
A84	Theoretical visibility on this road is limited to a short, wooded section near Balquhidder. **No potential for significant effects.**
A822, A823	Theoretical visibility on this road is limited to short sections in Crieff where settlement build up and vegetation restricts views towards the Proposed Development. **No potential for significant effects.**

Receptor	Comment
Scottish National Trail	Theoretical visibility is limited for the vast majority of the route which follows glens and straths through the Study Area. **No potential for significant effects.**
National Cycle Route 7	There is no theoretical visibility for the vast majority of the route which follows glens and straths through the Study Area. Limited theoretical visibility is found on a short, forested section north of Ardtalnaig and within the wooded context of Balquhidder, in north Strathyre. **No potential for significant effects.**
Core Paths	Core paths in the Study Area are within glens and straths and as such there is no or very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from these routes. This is with the exception of STFI/101 as described above.
Status – No theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. No potential for significant effects and not included in detailed assessment.	
Lochearnhead, Fortingall, Kenmore, Achairn, Balquhidder, Strathyre, Callander.	

Summary of Preliminary Assessment on Principal Visual Receptors

5.9.5 The preliminary assessment has identified the principal visual receptors that require to be assessed in full as a result of the potential visual effects of the Proposed Development, these are listed as follows:

- Comrie – assessed at viewpoint 5
- Crieff – assessed at viewpoint 13
- Muthill – assessed at viewpoint 14
- Fearnan – assessed at viewpoint 10
- A827 – assessed at viewpoint 10
- B827 – assessed at viewpoint 14
- Rob Roy Way – assessed at viewpoint 1
- Core Path STFI/101 – assessed as sequential route
- Caravan Park at Ardrostan – assessed as visitor destination

Detailed Assessment of Views

Viewpoint 1: Rob Roy Way near Meall Odhar

Table 5-18: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 1: Rob Roy Way near Meall Odhar

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on an elevated stretch of the Rob Roy Way, that climbs up the steep slopes to the south of Loch Tay. The Rob Roy Way is a popular long distance route, this elevated section of the route climbs steeply from Killin through forestry before crossing rocky moorland to the north of the Site before descending along the glen of the Ardeonaig Burn to Ardeonaig and the minor road that follows the southern banks of Loch Tay. The viewpoint is located on a high point that skirts around Meall Odhar to the east of the upland reservoir Lochan Breaclaich. From the viewpoint and immediately surrounding ridge the landscape has an open and exposed character. Views towards the Site area, to the southeast, are across the upper Glen Beich towards the wide and rounded profile of Meall Daimh. Views to the south and west are across a broad upland created by several interconnected hills that create an undulated (and at time rocky) intermediate horizon, punctuated by Glen Tarken and Glen Beich, with the larger hills and mountains of the LLTNP forming the backdrop in these views. To the south, the hill profile of Ben Vorlich forms a distinctive feature in the view forming a focus to views, framed by the slopes of Glen Beich which in turn draws the eye along the steep slopes of Strathyre to the west of Ben Vorlich in the distance. Views to the north and east are restricted by the close proximity landform of the neighbouring hill shoulder of Meall Odhar. There are no operational turbines visible from this viewpoint.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational Walkers	This viewpoint is not within a designated landscape recognised for its scenic quality; however, it is located on a section of the Rob Roy Way. The value of this viewpoint is considered to be high-medium.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 2.3 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location, 5 would be visible to turbine base, 3 with almost all towers visible with bases screened and 4 with only the top half of towers visible.
- The substation, access tracks and hardstands of 5 the turbines would be visible from this location.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 27 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines within close proximity to the viewpoint.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has nonvisible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the upland moorland setting. Several of the Proposed Development turbines are also overlapping in this view.
- The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the southeast from this location and other nearby sections of the Rob Roy Way within the wider context of existing views in other directions towards key hill profiles within the LLTNP.

Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus to the southeast, the Proposed Development turbines would not interrupt or encroach on the distinctive view of Ben Vorlich to the south.
- The layout of the Proposed Development turbines follow the profile of the intermediate horizon with the layout appearing to flow around the southern slopes of Meall Daimh. As such the Proposed Development is considered to fit within the underlying topographical context of this broad upland ridgeline landscape.
- The rough moorland landcover and overall large upland scale of the landscape in the view southeast towards the Proposed Development provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be High.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Recreational Walkers at this viewpoint is considered to be **Major and Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)

There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view southeast, on a similar part of the broad upland plateau as the Site area. The Proposed Development turbines would occupy a similar horizontal extent of the view as the Glen Lednock turbines, albeit that the Glen Lednock turbines would appear behind and slightly to the east of the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced due to the level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. However, the Proposed Development would add to the horizontal extent of

Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the plateau contributing to a wider extent of the view affected and so extending the amount of the view affected at closer range. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the closer proximity of the Proposed Development which intensifies the cumulative effect experienced.

Viewpoint 2: Ben Chonzie

Table 5-19: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 2: Ben Chonzie

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located at the summit of Ben Chonzie (931 m AOD). It can be accessed from Invergeldie in Glen Lednock and is a steady climb along a metalled track to Creag Gharbh (at around 700 m AOD) and then worn track up moorland slopes to the summit (at 931 m AOD). It is the tallest of the summits in the uplands between Strathtay to the north and Strathearn to the south and occupies a central position to the south of Glen Almond. There are panoramic views from the summit that offer a clear contrast between views of the hills and mountains of the southern highlands to the west and the Perthshire lowlands to the east. To the north views along Glen Almond are a key feature of the panorama which allows a glimpse of Loch Tay with the distinctive profiles of Ben Lawers and Schiehallion appearing either side of this view on the horizon. To the east, the lower elevated hills beyond the summit plateau are not visible which exaggerates the drop in elevation to the Perthshire lowlands. This lowland landscape is a mix of farmland and woodlands and has a rich and varied landscape pattern and texture contained in the distance by the simpler, continuous upland ridge of the Ochil Hills which form the horizon. To the west, the broad upland plateau and muted moorland of the Site area can be seen at lower elevation. Glen Lednock is not visible from the summit, albeit its presence creates a degree of separation from the upland of the Site area. In the distance beyond the Site area the distinctive summits of Ben More and Ben Lui, the pointed summits of which sit up within the context of the other hills seen on the horizon. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Calliachar and Griffin to the north; Strathallan and Braes of Doune to the south with Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Durieshill, Craigengelt, Craigannet, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance south.			
Receptor Type	**Value**	**Susceptibility**	**Sensitivity**
Hill Walkers	This viewpoint is located at the edges of the Upper Strathearn LLA and value is considered to be high-medium.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 9.9 km to the nearest turbine to the west of the viewpoint. • All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location with various amounts of tower visibility due to the intervening landform with two turbines only visible as blades above this intervening horizon. • The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened from this location by the intervening landform. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 16 degrees of the view.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the lower elevated upland, beyond the immediate context of Ben Chonzie to the west. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a part of the view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the upland moorland setting.			

• The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the west from this location within the same part of the view as the more distant Ben More and Ben Lui which form part of the distant horizon. Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The Proposed Development turbines appear below the horizon and whilst within the visual context of Ben More and Ben Lui, the Proposed Development turbines would not obstruct distant views of these mountains. • Whilst the Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus to the west, the Proposed Development turbines would not affect the key views to the north along Glen Almond or to the east across the Perthshire lowlands. • The large scale of the upland moorland plateau of the Site area is evident in views west from this elevated location which provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium.
Significance of Effect
The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is considered to be **Major-Moderate and Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented schemes of North Calliachar, Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the upland plateau in the view west, in the foreground of the Site area. It would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view than the Proposed Development and would be closer to the viewpoint. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. Whilst increasing the number of turbines in the view west, the smaller scale and position of the Proposed Development beyond the ridge fits comfortably within the backdrop of the Glen Lednock scheme, resulting in a high level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 4: Carstran, minor road overlooking Lochearnhead

Table 5-20: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 4: Carstran, minor road overlooking Lochearnhead

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on a minor road overlooking the western end of Loch Earn. The viewpoint location has moved from the edges of the Lochearnhead settlement, where previous areas of theoretical visibility for earlier design iterations has since been designed out. This location is to the east of the Kendrum Bridge close to Edinample Castle. Views to the west, south and east are limited by the nearby sloping landform that rises up to the south from Loch Earn. The wooded glen where the falls of Edinample are found breaks these steep slopes to the east. The foreground of the view north is occupied by the grounds and Castle of Edinample which has a wooded and undulated parkland that slopes steeply don to the loch shore. Beyond this, to the northeast, the eastern edges of the Lochearnhead settlement can be seen on the opposite banks of Loch Earn with Glen Ogle behind. To the northwest and towards the Site area, Glen Beich creates another break in the otherwise massif hill forms that line the northern side of Loch Earn. These steep slopes are forested in a patchwork that drapes down the south facing aspect of slopes. There are no operational wind farms in the view.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road Users	This viewpoint is located within the LLTNP and value is considered to be high.	The viewpoint is located on a minor road with passing places. Road users would likely be travelling at speeds of approximately 30-40 mph along this stretch of road which is winding in nature and whilst there are views across the loch attention will be on the road ahead. Susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-low.	Medium
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • Only 1 of the proposed turbines as a very small blade tip would be visible at 8.7 km to the north of the viewpoint. • The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of a turbine blade to the upland, beyond the immediate context of Loch Earn. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The Proposed Development would occupy a very limited part of the panoramic view. • The extremely limited amount of Proposed Development visible from this location would be barely perceptible above the horizon. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible.			
Significance of Effect			
The effect on Road Users at this viewpoint is considered to be **Minor and Not Significant.**			
Cumulative Assessment			
Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)			
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.			
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)			
One of the turbines of the Glen Lednock scoping layout would be seen in the view east along Loch Earn from this location. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the very limited visibility of the Proposed Development (one very small blade tip) results in only very minimal cumulative interaction. Taking this into account the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.			

Viewpoint 5: Comrie

Table 5-21: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 5: Comrie

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on the B827 at the western edges of the Comrie settlement. During scoping this viewpoint was located within Comrie, however, the view from within Comrie is restricted by the trees and buildings of the settlement such that no clear view is publicly available towards the Proposed Development turbines. The viewpoint was relocated to represent available views from the settlement edge.

Views to the south are along the B827 towards the hill of Cowden Wood. Views to the east are along the wide strath floor of Strathearn which is well wooded and features small wooded hills and undulations. Several properties on the western edges of Comrie are nestled into the trees that are found within and surrounding the settlement. To the north, the settlement edge of Comrie merges with the route of the B827 beyond which the ridges and summits of the hills behind Glen Lednock form a large scale and undulated backdrop. The closer foothills to the north, are steep sloping with rocky tops and wooded aprons creating a more textured appearance to the immediate backdrop of Comrie.

Views west, towards the Proposed Development are along the wide strath floor of Strathearn. The foreground of the view is across arable farmland where a few farmsteads can be seen settled into the wooded backdrop. Beyond the immediate context of the arable land that stretches across the Water of Ruchill, small woods and wooded undulations appear to converge in the middle distance, channelling the view along the wider (largely wooded) floor of Strathearn. The hills and rocky ridges of Ben Halton and Mor Bheinn appear to gradually fall towards the River Earn in the centre of the view west, similarly the hills of Creag Liath and Creag Bhuidhe help to focus and frame the view along the River Earn. This provides a directional focus to views from Strathearn. There are no operational wind farms visible from this location.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Settlement	This viewpoint is not within a designated landscape recognised for its scenic quality, however, views across the surrounding landscape will be valued by local residents. The value of this viewpoint is considered to be high-medium.	The viewpoint represents views of residents at the edge of the Comrie settlement who share a similar view across Strathearn. Susceptibility to change is high.	High
Road Users		The viewpoint is located on a relatively straight section of the B827 that crosses the arable farmland at the edge of Comrie. Road users would be travelling at speeds of approximately 50-60 mph along this stretch of road which is relatively open in nature with views across the strath floor. Susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-low.	Medium

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 11.8 km to the nearest turbine to the northwest of the viewpoint.
- 3 small blade tips would be visible from this location.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 5 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbine blades to the uplands in the view northwest, beyond the more immediate context of the Strathearn landscape in which the viewpoint is located.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the distant context of the upland ridge to the northwest.
- The Proposed Development would create a minor new focus to the northwest from this location, above the horizon that falls towards the focussed view along the River Earn.

Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the panorama would be affected.
- The visible blade tips of the Proposed Development would not obstruct or encroach upon the crease in the upland backdrop that represents the focussed view towards the River Earn beyond Strathearn to the west.
- The Proposed Development turbine blades appear beyond a part of the upland ridge that is relatively subtle in its undulation compared with the more distinct pattern of steep slopes and rocky outcrops to the north and west.

• The large scale of this intervening upland ridge creates a sense of separation and provides an underlying large scale landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed and the visible blade tips would be diminutive in scale to the underlying ridgeline. The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible.
Significance of Effect
The effect on both settlement receptors and road users at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the same upland ridgeline in the view west as the visible blade tips of the Proposed Development. It would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view than the Proposed Development, with turbines sitting up on the horizon and would be closer to the viewpoint. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development blade tips would appear diminutive in the backdrop of the Glen Lednock turbines, due to their smaller scale and position on the same part of the ridge and the cumulative interaction would be minimal as a result. Taking this into account the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect for both settlement receptors and road users.

Viewpoint 6: Carn Chois

Table 5-22: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 6: Carn Chois

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located at the summit of Carn Chois (786 m AOD). It can be accessed from the car park at the Glen Turret reservoir. There are panoramic views from the summit that offer a clear contrast between views of the hills and mountains of the southern highlands to the west and the Perthshire lowlands to the east. To the north and east views are dominated by the other nearby hills and deeply gorged glens that cut through this area of upland hills with the larger profile of Ben Chonzie, restricting more distant views to the north. To the southeast the Perthshire lowlands are visible beyond the uplands. This lowland landscape is a mix of farmland and woodlands and has a rich and varied landscape pattern and texture contained in the distance by the simpler, continuous upland ridge of the Ochil Hills which form the horizon. To the south this lowland landscape continues along Strathearn but is framed by hills within the Forest of Glen Artney area. In the view to the southwest views are across lower Glen Lednock, Strathearn and along Glen Artney with the various hill shoulders defining the routes of these different glens, with the distinctive profile of Ben Vorlich in the background. To the west and towards the Site area, an elevated view into upper Glen Lednock gives way to the higher upland ridges beyond which the Site area is found. In the far distance the distinctive summits of Ben More and Ben Lui, the pointed summits of which sit up within the context of the other hills seen on the horizon. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Griffin to the north; Strathallan and Braes of Doune to the south with Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Durieshill, Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the south.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walkers	This viewpoint is located within the Upper Strathearn LLA and value is considered to be high-medium.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 11.2 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- 11 of the 12 proposed turbines would be visible from this location with various amounts of tower visibility due to the intervening landform with two turbines only visible as blades above this intervening horizon.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened from this location by the intervening landform.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 11 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the lower elevated upland, beyond the immediate context of Glen Lednock to the west.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the upland moorland setting.
- The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the west from this location within the same part of the view as the more distant Ben More and Ben Lui, which form part of the distant horizon.

Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The Proposed Development turbines would largely appear below the horizon and whilst within the visual context of Ben More and Ben Lui, the Proposed Development turbines would not obstruct distant views of these mountains.
- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus to the west, the Proposed Development turbines would not affect the key views to the north along Glen Almond or to the east across the Perthshire lowlands.
- The large scale of the upland moorland plateau of the Site area is evident in views west from this elevated location which provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is considered to be **Major-Moderate and Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the upland plateau in the view west, in the foreground of the Site area. It would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view than the Proposed Development and would be closer to the viewpoint. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. Whilst increasing the number of

turbines in the view west, the smaller scale and position of the Proposed Development beyond the intervening ridgeline fits comfortably within the backdrop of the Glen Lednock scheme, resulting in a high level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 7: Ben Vorlich

Table 5-23: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 7: Ben Vorlich

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located on the summit of Ben Vorlich (925 m AOD) close to the summit cairn. There is a well-established route to the summit from the southern shores of Loch Earn but the summit can also be accessed on longer routes from south such as from Loch Lubnaig or Glen Artney. Ben Vorlich has a distinctive conical summit that is seen and recognised from a wide area and its elevation and position of the conical summit amongst neighbouring hills provides long panoramic views across central Scotland. Views to the East are focussed along Glen Artney towards the Perthshire lowlands and Ochil Hills beyond. Views to the south are towards the closely neighbouring rocky summit of Stuc a Chroin with a view across the carse of forth towards the Campsie Hills beyond. Views to the west are across the dramatic and large area of the LLTNP including a view to many of the key hill summits such as Ben Lomond, Ben Venue and Ben More. In the foreground to the west is an elevated view across the Strathyre Forest and along the steep sided glen of Loch Voil. Views to the north, towards the Site, are across Loch Earn, the upland of the Site area with the northern hills and mountains of the Breadalbane range beyond, including Ben Lawers. The elevated view along Glen Vorlich provides a focus for views along the route taken to the summit but also due to the view of Loch Earn which is seen beyond. Immediately opposite Glen Vorlich, on the northern shores of Loch Earn, the steep hill slopes of Creag Each and Sron Mhor separates Glen Tarken and Glen Beich. Glen Tarken is hidden by this landform however the line of sight from the summit allows a clearer view along Glen Beich. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Strathallan and Braes of Doune to the south with Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Rosiehill Farm, Durieshill, Craigengelt, Craigannet, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the south.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within LLTNP and value is considered to be High.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 10.1 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint. • All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location. • The bases of towers along with most other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would also be visible. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 19 degrees of the view.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies beyond and to the north of Loch Earn in this view. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to the view north and closer than currently experienced elsewhere in the panorama. • The higher elevation of Ben Vorlich results in all of the Proposed Development being seen, including the layout of turbines and the connecting access track infrastructure and hardstands.			

• The alignment of the Proposed Development turbines across the Site (east to west), results in a relatively wide horizontal spread being apparent across the neighbouring upland. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view north. • Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view north, it would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Earn. • The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development. • The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium.
Significance of Effect
The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Major-Moderate and Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the north on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Both schemes appear to have a ridgeline design and appearance from this location, increasing the level of integration. There is a degree of overlap between both layouts, however, the Proposed Development would increase the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau from this location. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by increasing the extent of development that would be apparent across the plateau contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from this elevated viewpoint.

Viewpoint 8: Ben Lawers

Table 5-24: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 8: Ben Lawers

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on the summit of Ben Lawers (1,214 m AOD) close to the trig point. There is a well-established route to the summit from the car park at the southern side of the Lochan na Lairige pass. Whilst well established, the route to the summit is steep and crosses a narrow ridge in the final section. Ben Lawers is a distinctive summit that is recognisable in views from both the Perthshire lowlands and other surrounding hills and mountains of the Perthshire Highlands. Views from this summit are panoramic and include distant views in all directions. Views to the southwest and west are across the dramatic and large area of the LLTNP including a view to many of the key hill summits such as Ben Lomond, Ben Venue and Ben More. The western end of Loch Tay and Killin is also visible in this view

southwest. Views to the north include views across the southern Grampian mountains including Ben Alder and Schiehallion, a glimpse into Glen Lyon and a distant view into Rannoch Moor. Views to the east are focussed along Loch Tay towards Kenmore and Aberfeldy beyond.

Views to the south, towards the Site, are across Loch Tay, the upland of the Site area with uplands of Ben Vorlich and Forest of Glen Artney beyond. From the summit, the summit ridge and much of the route up to Ben Lawers, all of Loch Tay is visible and it forms a key focus to views from this mountain. The elevation of the summit provides a particularly dramatic view down into the steep glen that holds Loch Tay. Killin and Kenmore can be seen at either end of the loch (to the west and east) with the smaller settled glens of Ardtalnaig and Ardeonaig visible to the south, punctuating the otherwise steep sloping glen sides.

Operational wind farms visible in the view include Griffin and Calliachar to the southeast; Strathallan and Braes of Doune to the south with Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Rosiehill Farm, Durieshill, Craigengelt, Craigannet, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the south.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and value is considered to be High.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 11.4 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location with varied levels of tower visibility and 3 turbine hubs close to the intervening ridge such that only top of tower visible.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 10 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies beyond and to the south of Loch Tay in this view (all of Loch Tay is a key focus from Ben Lawers).
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to the view south and at closer proximity than currently experienced elsewhere in the panorama.
- The alignment of the Proposed Development turbines across the Site (east to west), results in a relatively wide horizontal spread being apparent across the neighbouring upland.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view south.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view south, it would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Tay.
- The view towards the distinctive profile of Ben Vorlich would not be interrupted by the Proposed Development.
- The existing turbines of the Griffin and Calliachar wind farms seen to the southeast, whilst not in the same part of the panorama, provide an existing wind energy baseline, within the wider context of which the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Major-Moderate and Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented North Calliachar scheme would appear in the view southeast and would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to it appearing within close context to the existing Calliachar and Griffin schemes. The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development. Both schemes appear to have a ridgeline design and appearance from this location, increasing the level of integration. Whilst there is a small overlap between the layouts, the Proposed Development would largely occupy a part of the plateau to the west of Glen Lednock, increasing the extent of turbine development visible across the plateau from this location. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by contributing to a wider extent of the view north affected, however, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario also provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. On balance, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the cumulative effect is considered to be significant due to the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased extent of the view affected which would be readily apparent from this elevated viewpoint.

Viewpoint 9: Meall na Samhna

Table 5-25: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 9: Meall na Samhna

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on Meall na Samhna (848 m AOD), a high summit which is part of a string of hills forming the northern ridge to Glen Dochart at the northern edge of the LLTNP. It can be accessed from the minor road near Auchlyne. The view to the south east includes a view along Glen Ogle with the distinctive profile of Ben Vorlich in the distance behind. To the south, the Ledcharrie Glen leads the eye into the wider summits and plateaux of the hills and mountains found within the LLTNP with the pointed summit of Ben Ledi forming a feature on the distant horizon. A dramatic view of Ben More dominates the view to the south west, with the full profile of this distinctive mountain visible from this location. The lower slopes of Ben More fall into Glen Dochart leading the eye west towards Crianlarich. The view to the north and west is dominated by the other hills and mountains in the Breadalbane range. The view to the north east includes a view along Loch Tay and the successive summits and ridges north of Loch Tay with Ben Lawers the tallest of these. To the east and towards the Site area, the uplands are lower elevated than the mountains to the north and south and appear as a broad plateau with the hills east of Glen Lednock slightly higher in the distance. The lower slopes of this upland plateau are forested (at the western end of Loch Tay), which provides a sense of visual separation between the lower parts of the strath and the uplands on which the Site area is found. The hills that form the ridge above the south east end of Loch Tay (Creag Gharbh, Meall Odhar and Cul na Creige) intervene in the view of the Site area such that the Glen Beich area of the Site is not visible. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Griffin and Calliachar to the east; Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill and Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders in the far distance to the southeast; with Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the south.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the LLTNP and value is considered to be High.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 16.3 km to the nearest turbine to the east of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location including hubs and most of the towers.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks whilst theoretically visible would be barely discernible at this distance.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 6 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies to the east in this view.
- The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible in views to the east and at closer proximity than currently experienced.
- The Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus in the view to the east above the southwest end of Loch Tay.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view east.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view east, it would be set back within the broad upland plateau that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges at the southwest end of Loch Tay. The principal focus towards Ben More and along Glen Dochart to the southwest would be unaffected.
- The view towards the distinctive profiles of Ben Lawers (and along Loch Tay) and Ben Vorlich would not be interrupted or encroached upon by the Proposed Development, which occupy a different part of the panorama.
- The Proposed Development turbines form a cohesive grouping that align with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted moorland and large scale of the uplands of Site area and underlying broad plateau landscape provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant.** The moderate level effect is considered to be not significant in this instance due a combination of distance to the Proposed Development and the position of the Site area on an underlying large scale broad plateau, away from key foci in other parts of the view.

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

The consented North Calliachar scheme would appear in the view east and the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the south / southeast from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the east on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau than the Proposed Development and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would only slightly increase the horizontal extent with the Proposed Development largely appearing to sit on a similar distant ridgeline with several turbines appearing to sit in front of the Glen Lednock turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and whilst some of the Proposed Development turbines appear to occupy a closer position on the plateau than Glen Lednock, it is considered to fit comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock extent of development. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 10: A827 near Fearnan

Table 5-26: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 10: A827 near Fearnan

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located in the small settlement of Fearnan which is around 4 km to the west of Kenmore close to the eastern end of Loch Tay, on the A827. The viewpoint is located at the western edge of Fearnan by a small, grassed area and jetty in order to represent the most open view along Loch Tay. Views to the west are along the A827 and the hill slopes that define the northern edges of Loch Tay. To the north views are contained by the hill slopes that rise up from Loch Tay with nearby properties that align with the A827 in the foreground view. Views to the east from this viewpoint are restricted by the vegetation found along the loch shore and A827. Views to the south and southwest towards the Site area are across Loch Tay, which forms a focus to views from Fearnan and the A827. Beinn Breac is a large hill that sits against the southern shores of Loch Tay and from this viewpoint appears as a broad summit that occupies much of the view south. Its forest covered slopes appearing as a patchwork of recently planted and more established forestry with more naturalised woods closer to the shoreline. The western end of Loch Tay (and Killin) is not visible due to the slight curve in the loch's shape. The slopes of the hills that contain Loch Tay gradually reduce in size with distance, leading the eye along the length of the loch towards the rocky hilltops of Stuc Mhor and Creag Gharbh. There are no operational wind farms visible from this location.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Settlement	This viewpoint is located within the Loch Tay LLA and views across the surrounding landscape will be valued by local residents. The value of this viewpoint is considered to be high-medium.	The viewpoint represents views of residents at the edge of the Fearnan settlement who share a similar view across Loch Tay. Susceptibility to change is high.	High
Road Users		The viewpoint is located on a relatively straight section of the A827 that follows Loch Tay. Road speed is limited to 20 mph along this stretch of road. Views are relatively open in nature including distant views along the length of Loch Tay. Susceptibility to change is medium.	High-Medium
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 15.3 km to the nearest turbine to the southwest of the viewpoint.			

• 7 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location, 5 as very small blade tips and 2 as blades with hubs close to the horizon. • The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would not be visible. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 5 degrees of the view.
Magnitude of Change
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the uplands in the view west, beyond the more immediate context of Loch Tay and its shoreline, in which the viewpoint is located. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the distant context of the uplands to the west. • The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the west from this location, above the horizon that falls towards the focussed view along Loch Tay. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the panorama would be affected and the visible turbines are largely limited to turbine blades. • The Proposed Development would not obstruct or encroach upon the focussed view towards the western end of the loch, which is evident in the way in which the loch curves around the northern shores thereby drawing the eye to this point with the more muted and distant landforms in the background. • The Proposed Development turbines appear beyond a broad and somewhat elongated shallow ridge slope that reduces in vertical height with distance, emphasising the distance to the Proposed Development. • The large scale of this intervening upland ridge creates a sense of separation and provides an underlying large scale landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Low.
Significance of Effect
The effect on settlement receptors at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant** the effect on road users is assessed as **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would be largely screened from view except for two small blade tips. The small scale and limited visibility of these blade tips greatly reduces their cumulative influence in this view despite them appearing within the same part of the ridgeline as the Proposed Development turbines. The cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development is therefore also considered to be minimal despite their similar context. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect for both settlement receptors and road users.

Viewpoint 11: Meall Ghaordaidh

Table 5-27: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 11: Meall Ghaordaidh

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on Meall Ghaordaidh (1,039 m AOD) a high summit that sits on a ridge of hills between Glan Lochay and Glen Lyon. It can be accessed from Duncroisk in Glen Lochay.

The floor of Glen Lochay is a key focus for views to the southeast and west from the summit and when walking up the steep slopes from Glen Lochay. Views to the west are along the mountainous ridge that leads to Beinn Sheasgarnaich with Glen Lyon and Glen Lochay stretching out below in the same direction. Views to the north are panoramic and across other hills and mountains in the southern and central highlands including Ben Nevis in the far distance. Ben More is recognisable to the southwest on the horizon as are Ben Vorlich and Ben Ledi in the view south. The view to the southeast is dominated in the other parts of the mountainous ridge that follows Glen Lochay to the western end of Loch Tay. Views towards the Proposed Development Site area can be seen beyond these nearby hills which appears as a broad plateau of upland with forest covered steep facing slopes. Lochan Breadaich, which lies immediately to the north of the Site area can be seen on this plateau. Views to the east are along the successive summits and ridges north of Loch Tay with Ben Lawers the tallest of these taking a central position on the horizon.

Operational wind farms visible in the view include Strathallan, Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill Extension and Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Braes of Doune, Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the southeast.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the Glen Lochay LLA and value is considered to be High-Medium.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 16.8 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location including hubs and most of the towers.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks whilst theoretically visible would be barely discernible at this distance.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 5 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies to the southeast in this view.
- The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible in views to the southeast and at closer proximity than currently experienced.
- The Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus in the view beyond Glen Lochay to the southeast.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view southeast.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view southeast, it would be set back within the broad upland plateau that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges at the southwest end of Loch Tay.
- The key focus along Glen Lochay to the southeast would not be encroached upon by the Proposed Development and would be unaffected to the west.
- The view towards the distinctive profiles of Ben Lawers and Ben Vorlich would not be interrupted or encroached upon by the Proposed Development, which occupy a different part of the panorama.
- The Proposed Development turbines form a cohesive grouping that align with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted moorland and large scale of the uplands of Site area and underlying broad plateau landscape provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant.** The moderate level effect is considered to be not significant in this instance due a combination of distance to the Proposed Development and the position of the Site area on an underlying large scale broad plateau, away from key foci in other parts of the view.
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the southeast from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the far distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the southeast on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau than the Proposed Development and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would only slightly increase the horizontal extent with the Proposed Development largely appearing to sit on a similar distant ridgeline with several turbines appearing to sit in front of the Glen Lednock turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and whilst some of the Proposed Development turbines appear to occupy a closer position on the plateau than Glen Lednock, it is considered to fit comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock with a reasonable level of visual integration and cohesion between the Sites. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 12: Sron Bealaidh

Table 5-28: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 12: Sron Bealaidh

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located at the summit of Sron Bealaidh (725 m AOD). It can be accessed via a long route along tracks either from the A822 at Newton or along a section of the Rob Roy Way from the minor road at Loch Freuchie. The summit plateau is wide, limiting views of the surrounding landscape to the north and east and views are also limited by the immediately surrounding hills which are at a similar elevation. To the northeast the Griffin Wind Farm can be seen through a gap in this wide summit plateau. To the south the view is across Glen Almond (albeit that the glen floor is not visible) towards a long ridge of upland hills which has Stonefield Hill at its centre. This ridge obscures views to the Perthshire lowlands although glimpses are seen in the far distance along Glen Almond when it turns southwards. To the west and towards the Site area, an elevated view into upper Glen Almond gives way to the higher upland ridges of intervening hills including the tallest of these Ben Chonzie which is recognisable on the horizon. In the far distance the very top of the Ben More summit can be seen on the horizon. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Calliachar and Griffin to the north with Greenknowes in the far distance to the south.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walkers	This viewpoint is located within the Sma Glen and Glen Almond LLA and value	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Existing wind turbines in the view slightly moderates	High-Medium

	is considered to be high-medium.	susceptibility. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high-medium.	

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The very small blade tips of 8 of the 12 proposed turbines would be visible at 16.6 km to the nearest turbine to the west of the viewpoint.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened from this location by the intervening landform.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 3 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbine blade tips to the upland, beyond the context of Glen Almond and within the same part of the horizon as Ben more to the west.
- The Proposed Development would slightly increase the amount of wind energy development visible from this location to a part of the panorama that currently has none visible.

Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:

- The Proposed Development would occupy a limited part of the view from this hilltop with only very small blade tips visible in the distance.
- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus to the west, the small scale of the visible parts of the Proposed Development turbines would not encroach upon views west along Glen Almond.
- The large scale of the intervening upland moorland ridges and hills evident in views west from this elevated location, provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. The visible blade tips would appear diminutive in scale to this underlying large scale upland.

The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is considered to be **Minor and Not Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented Scenario)

Only one of the turbines of the North Calliachar consented scheme would be visible within the close context of Calliachar and as such would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to it appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view. The cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development would also be minimal. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Application Scenario)

There are no application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in this scenario.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scheme would be visible to the west in the same part of the view as the Proposed Development. It is similarly screened by intervening landform such that only blade tips would be visible but would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view than the Proposed Development, with more blades visible and at closer proximity. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The smaller scale and position of the Proposed Development beyond the intervening ridgeline fits comfortably within the backdrop of the Glen Lednock scheme, resulting in a high level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 13: MacRosty Park Crieff

Table 5-29: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 13: MacRosty Park Crieff

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located in the Crieff at the western edges of the settlement. Given the amount of settlement build up and vegetation that screens many of the outward facing views from within Crieff itself, the viewpoint location was selected as overlooking MacRosty Park which has occasional elevated views to the south and west through the tree canopy. The viewpoint location is therefore situated on the A85 to make best use of its elevation and is representative of similar views experienced by properties found in this area of Crieff. The view from this location is the only unobstructed view from a publicly accessible location, albeit that similar views may be available from nearby properties. From the viewpoint location on the pavement of the A85 road, views to the north, east and south are screened by the trees that enclose the road corridor. Views to the west and towards the Site area are therefore framed by these trees creating a narrow and glimpsed view from the road. The area of MacRosty Park below the viewpoint is narrow and has steep paths that navigate around the Barvick Burn below. Mature trees follow the burn corridor and are scattered through the park giving the appearance of a well wooded parkland. The northwest settlement edge of Crieff occupies much of the view beyond the parkland with the residential area of Turretbank appearing on the lower slopes of Laggan Hill. The larger scale forested slopes of Glen Turret appear to the northwest, channelling views along Strathearn. Beyond this, the distant uplands that form the backdrop to upper Strathearn can be seen as a narrow band on the horizon. There are no operational wind farms visible from this location.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Settlement	This viewpoint is located within the Upper Strathearn LLA and views across the surrounding landscape will be valued by local residents. The value of this viewpoint is considered to be high-medium.	The viewpoint represents views of residents at the edge of the Crieff settlement who share a similar elevated views across the landscape to the west. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Road Users		The viewpoint is located on a winding section of the A84 that follows the settlement edge and MacRosty Park. Road speed is limited to 30 mph along this stretch of road. Views are largely enclosed in nature apart from fleeting glimpses through trees to the west. Susceptibility to change is considered to be low.	Medium-Low
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 18.7 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint. • Only 2 very small blade tips are theoretically visible from this location which would be screened by intervening trees when viewed form the viewpoint. The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would not be visible.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbine blade tips to the view west, beyond the more immediate context of the settlement edge, intervening tree canopy of MacRosty Park and nearby low lying Laggan Hill. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • Only a limited amount of the distant view west would be affected.			

• The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of the intervening landscape and more distant hills and the scale of the intervening landscape would not be diminished by its introduction. • The Proposed Development turbines are distant to the immediate landscape context and a large degree of visual separation would be experienced due to the various successive layers of intervening landscape that are seen between the settlement edge and the Proposed Development. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible for settlement receptors that are not obscured by intervening trees. There would be no effect for road users due to the intervening trees that screen views of the Proposed Development in this glimpsed view.
Significance of Effect
The effect on settlement receptors at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant,** with no effect on road users.
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The turbines of the Glen Lednock scheme would be seen in the same part of the view as the visible blade tips of the Proposed Development. The Glen Lednock turbines would be more visible due to the turbines sitting up on the distant horizon. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development blade tips would appear diminutive in the backdrop of the Glen Lednock turbines, due to their smaller scale and position on the same part of the ridge and the cumulative interaction would be minimal as a result. Taking this into account the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** effect on settlement receptors and **Negligible and Not Significant** for road users.

Viewpoint 14: A822 near Muthill

Table 5-30: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 14: A822 near Muthill

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located at the edges of the small settlement of Muthill which is around 3.5 km to the south of Crieff. The viewpoint is located at the southern edges of Muthill on a minor road close the A822. It is located on the minor road for safety and to avoid the potential screening towards the Site area of intervening trees within the nearby fields. Views to the south and east are of nearby properties found at the edges of the settlement or sloping fields and a tree lined horizon. The tree lined road corridor of the A822 is also a key feature of the view east, restricting the view further along Strathearn. The view to the north is more open in nature due to the elevation of Muthill but also due to the foreground of large scale arable fields. The wooded settlement edges of Crieff can be seen beyond these fields with the steep slopes of the uplands beyond rising up to form the horizon. Views west are across the edges of the landscape of the Drummond Castle GDL, which is agricultural in nature from this viewpoint. To the north-west and towards the Proposed Development the large scale agricultural land slopes gently into the wide strath floor of Strathearn. The uplands to the north and west form a large scale and undulated backdrop that spans much of the north and west horizons. The hilltops and profiles of Ben Halton and Creag Liath appear to channel the view along Strathearn with Glen Lednock also breaking the upland horizon with its steep sloping glen sides and rocky ridges. There are no operational wind farms visible from this location.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Settlement	This viewpoint is located within the Upper Strathearn LLA and overlooks the landscape of the Drummond Castle GDL. Views across the surrounding landscape will also be valued by local residents. The value of this viewpoint is considered to be high.	The viewpoint represents views of residents at the edges of the Muthill settlement who share a similar elevated views across the landscape to the north and west. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Road Users		The viewpoint is located close to a section of the A822 that runs through Muthill. Road speed is limited to 30 mph within Muthill albeit that views west from this road are from the 60 mph stretch of A822, at the edge of settlement. Views from the A822 are framed by roadside trees which form a long avenue along this straight stretch of A822 between Muthill and Crieff, allowing only filtered glimpses of the surrounding landscape. Susceptibility to change is considered to be low.	Medium-Low

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- Only 2 of the proposed turbines as a very small blade tips would be visible at 21.2 km to the northwest of the viewpoint.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbine blades to the uplands in the view northwest, beyond the more immediate context of the Strathearn landscape in which the viewpoint is located.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the distant context of the upland ridge to the northwest.
- The Proposed Development blades would create a new distant focus to the northwest from this location, above the horizon that falls towards the focussed view along the River Earn.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the panorama would be affected.
- Trees and woods both within the intervening landscape and at the edges of the settlement / A822, restrict views of the Proposed Development and where it is visible (such as at the viewpoint) these intervening landscape elements emphasise the distance to the Proposed Development which is separated from and outside of the visible context of the Strathearn landscape.
- The Proposed Development turbine blades would appear beyond a part of the upland ridge that is relatively subtle in its undulation compared with the more distinct pattern of steep slopes and rocky outcrops to the north and west.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible.

Significance of Effect

The effect on settlement receptors at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant** the effect on road users is assessed as **Negligible and Not Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented / Application Scenario)

There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the same upland ridgeline in the view west as the visible blade tips of the Proposed Development. It would occupy a wider horizontal extent of view than the Proposed Development, with turbines sitting up on the horizon. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development blade tips would appear diminutive in the backdrop of the Glen Lednock turbines, due to their smaller scale and position on the same part of the ridge and the cumulative interaction would be minimal as a result. Taking this into account the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** effect on settlement receptors and **Negligible and Not Significant** for road users.

Viewpoint 15: Ben More

Table 5-31: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 15: Ben More

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located at the summit of Ben More (1174 m AOD). It is an easily recognised mountain in the north of the LLTNP due to its seemingly uninterrupted slopes and pyramidal profile. It can be accessed from the A85 in Glen Dochart. The summit sits up amongst its neighbouring hills and as such there are panoramic views in all directions. From the southeast to the southwest the view across the southern Highlands is a sweeping panorama of mountainous uplands where successive layers of hill ridges and summits disappear into the visible distance. The hill profiles of Ben Vorlich and Ben Ledi notable features on this horizon. To the west Ben Lui rises up between Strath Fillan and Glen Falloch which forms a dramatic focus for views to the west. To the north the view is across Glen Dochart towards another sweeping panorama of hills and mountains across the southern and central highlands including Ben Nevis in the far distance. To the north east the view along Glen Dochart is dramatic with Loch Tay in the distance and Ben Lawers and Meall nan Tarmachan sitting high above the northern side of Loch Tay. To the east and towards the Site area, the uplands are lower elevated than the mountains to the north and south and appear as a broad plateau with the hills east of Glen Lednock slightly higher in the distance. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Calliachar to the east; Greenknowes, Braes of Doune, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Extension and Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders in the far distance to the southeast; with Rosehill Farm, Durieshill, Craigengelt, Craigannet, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance to the south.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the LLTNP and value is considered to be High.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 22.6 km to the nearest turbine to the east of the viewpoint. • All 12 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location including hubs and most of the towers. • Much of the Proposed Development infrastructure such as access tracks and substation are theoretically visible but at this distance would be barely perceptible. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 6 degrees of the view.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies to the east in this view. • The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible in views to the east and at closer proximity than currently experienced.			

• The Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus in the view to the east appearing to the south of Loch Tay in this view. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The Proposed Development would be a distant and appear as a small feature in the panorama to the east. • Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view east, it would be set within the broad upland plateau away from the key foci of Loch Tay and Ben Vorlich, which appear in a different part of the view. Other parts of the panorama to the south, west and north would be unaffected by the Proposed Development. • The Proposed Development turbines form a cohesive grouping that align with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development. • The large scale of the uplands of Site area and underlying broad plateau landscape provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Low.
Significance of Effect
The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented schemes of North Calliachar, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible in the far distance from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the far distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the east on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau than the Proposed Development and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would only slightly increase the horizontal extent with the Proposed Development largely appearing to sit on a similar distant ridgeline with several turbines appearing to sit in front of the Glen Lednock turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and whilst some of the Proposed Development turbines appear to occupy a closer position on the plateau than Glen Lednock, it is considered to fit comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock extent of development with a high level of visual integration and cohesion between the Sites. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 16: Beinn Sheasgarnaich

Table 5-32: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 16: Beinn Sheasgarnaich

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on Beinn Sheasgarnaich (1,078 m AOD) a high summit that sits on a ridge of hills between the upper stretches of Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon. Whilst the summit is named Beinn Sheasgarnaich on OS maps it is also known as Beinn Heasgarnaich (such as in references within the NatureScot 2019 landscape character descriptions). It is a long route to this mountain and can be accessed from Kenknock in Glen Lochay or via the tracks on the northern shores of the Loch Lyon Reservoir.

The view west includes a view along Strath Tarabhan towards Bridge of Orchy and across the upper slopes of Strath Fillan, however, the lower lying parts of Strath Fillan are not visible. Views to the north are panoramic and across other hills and mountains in the southern and central highlands including Ben Nevis in the far distance. The elevated view across Rannoch Moor to the north is a particular focus from this location. Ben More is recognisable to the southwest on the horizon as are Ban Vorlich and Ben Ledi in the view south. Views to the east are along the mountainous ridge that leads to Meall Ghaordaidh with Glen Lyon and Glen Lochay stretching out below in the same direction. More distant views to the east include the successive summits and ridges north of Loch Tay with Ben Lawers the tallest of these taking a central position on the horizon. The Proposed Development Site area is visible in the far distance beyond the view along Glen Lochay, the lower elevation of which allows a view of the broad plateau of upland with forest covered steep facing slopes that rises from the western end of Loch Tay.

Operational wind farms seen from the summit include Greenknowes, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill and Extension, Burnfoot Hill West Rhodders, Braes of Doune, Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North. However, from this location these schemes are very distant and not readily perceived.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the Loch Lyon and Loch an Daimh LLA and value is considered to be High-Medium.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 25.2 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All 12 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location including hubs and most of the towers.
- Much of the Proposed Development infrastructure such as access tracks and substation are theoretically visible but at this distance would be barely perceptible.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 4 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the distant upland that lies to the southeast in this view.
- The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible in views to the southeast and at closer proximity than currently experienced.
- The Proposed Development turbines would create a new distant focus in the view beyond Glen Lochay to the southeast.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development would appear very distant in the view southeast and would affect a very small amount of the panorama seen from the summit.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view southeast, it would be set back within the broad upland plateau that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges at the southwest end of Loch Tay.
- The view towards the distinctive profiles of Ben Lawers and Ben Vorlich would not be interrupted or encroached upon by the Proposed Development, which occupy a different part of the panorama.
- The Proposed Development turbines form a cohesive grouping that align with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted moorland and large scale of the uplands of Site area and underlying broad plateau landscape provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Low-Negligible.

Significance of Effect
The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented Shelloch scheme along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible in the far distance from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the far distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south east on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau than the Proposed Development and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would only slightly increase the horizontal extent with the Proposed Development largely appearing to sit on a similar distant ridgeline with several turbines appearing to sit in front of the Glen Lednock turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and whilst some of the Proposed Development turbines appear to occupy a closer position on the plateau than Glen Lednock, it is considered to fit comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock extent of development with a high level of visual integration and cohesion between the Sites. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low-Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 17: Schiehallion

Table 5-33: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 17: Schiehallion

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on the summit of Schiehallion (1,083 m AOD), a well know Munro that is found to the south of the River Tummel, between Loch Rannoch and Loch Tay. It is accessed from the Braes of Foss to the east of the summit from a specific car park and along a well-trodden path. The views from the summit are panoramic in all directions due to the conical nature of the hill profile and summit. Views along Loch Rannoch and Loch Tummel are particularly scenic to the west and east providing a strong focus. Views to the north are across the lower lying uplands of Glen Errochty towards the Cairngorm mountains on the horizon in the far distance. To the south, the other hills and mountains in the Breadalbane range create successive layers of high upland ridges. Notable on the horizon are Ben More, Ben Lawers and Ben Vorlich to the south-southwest. The Proposed Development Site area, to the south is not visible from this location, as despite the viewpoint elevation, large upland ridges intervene. Loch Tay is also not visible in this view, however, there is a clear sense of the wide strath in which it is found from this location due to differences in distance (and clarity of visibility) of the upland ridges that are found to the north and south of Loch Tay. The Proposed Development Site area lies beyond the more distant southern upland ridge to Loch Tay. Operational wind farms visible in the view include Griffin and Calliachar to the southeast; and Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Extension, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Braes of Doune, Craigengelt and Earlsburn North in the far distance to the south.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and value is considered to be High.	Hill Walkers will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 25.2 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location with various amounts of tower visibility due to the intervening landform with seven turbines appearing as top half of tower, three as most of tower visible and two as only blades above this intervening horizon.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened from this location by the intervening landform.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 7 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the distant upland that lies to the south in this view.
- The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible from this location.
- The Proposed Development turbines would create a new distant focus in the view beyond Strathtay to the south in a similar part of the panorama as the hill profile of Ben Vorlich.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development would appear very distant in the view south and would affect a very small amount of the panorama seen from the summit.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view south, it would be set back within the broad upland plateau that lies beyond the upland ridges at the southwest end of Loch Tay.
- The view towards the distinctive profiles of Ben Lawers and Ben More would not be interrupted or encroached upon by the Proposed Development, which occupy a different part of the panorama.
- The Proposed Development turbines are partially obscured by the topography of intervening uplands, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Low-Negligible.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

The consented schemes of North Calliachar, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible from this location. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the far distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south on a similar part of upland plateau as the Proposed Development Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau than the Proposed Development and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the

addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would increase the horizontal extent of Glen Lednock in this view with around half of the Proposed Development overlapping with that of Glen Lednock.

The addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and whilst some of the Proposed Development turbines appear to occupy a lower elevated position on the plateau than Glen Lednock, it is considered to fit comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock scheme with a reasonable level of visual integration and cohesion between the Sites. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 18: Kinpauch Hill – core path from Blackford

Table 5-34: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 18: Kinpauch Hill – core path from Blackford

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located to the south of Blackford and the A9 on the western side of the Ochils. The viewpoint is located on a metalled track that rises quickly up the north facing slopes of the Ochils allowing elevated visibility across Strathallan and Strathearn. The view to the north is across the gently rolling lowland landscape of Strathearn. It is a mosaic of woods and agricultural land with many minor roads connecting the scattered small settlements. The view to the east and south is dominated by the hill slopes of Kinpauch Hill. The view west is across Strathallan towards the Menteith Hills with Ben Lomond a notable feature on the horizon in the far distance. The view northwest and towards the Site area is elevated across Strathallan with the hills of Coire Odhar and Ben Clach forming a low ridge that defines the edges of the Strath. Beyond these lower hills, the more elevated hills of the Site area can be seen in the distance. Either side of the Site area, these distant hills include the recognisable summits of Ben Vorlich and Ben Lawers. Operational wind farms in the view include Strathallan and Braes of Doune.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the Ochil Hills LLA and value is considered to be High-Medium.	Whilst recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape this viewpoint is located in close context to an existing windfarm and although a core path is not a recognised scenic route. Susceptibility to change is considered to be Medium.	High-Medium
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 29.9 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint. • 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location with 9 appearing as top half of towers and 2 as blade above the horizon. • The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 3 degrees of the view.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies to the northwest in this view. • The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind turbines visible in views to the northwest creating an additional focus. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are: • The Proposed Development would be a distant and appear as a small feature in the panorama to the northwest.			

• The Proposed Development would appear set back within a distant upland and separated from the more immediate context of Strathallan and Strathearn and the lower elevated hills that define its edges. • The existing turbines of the Strathallan and Braes of Doune wind farms are seen to the northwest and west, are closer to the viewpoint and provide an existing wind energy baseline, within the wider context of which the Proposed Development would not be entirely uncharacteristic. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Negligible.
Significance of Effect
The effect on hill walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Minor and Not Significant.**
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented Scenario)
The consented Strathallan Phase 2 scheme would be visible within the close context of the Strathallan turbines, increasing the horizontal extent of development on the intervening horizon, beyond which the Proposed Development would be visible on the distant horizon. The presence of the Strathallan Phase 2 scheme in this scenario further increases the wind energy baseline created by the operational Strathallan turbines in this part of the view, further moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would increase the extent of the view affected; however, it is clearly separated by distance from the Strathallan schemes and would not be read as occupying the same landscape context. Whilst these developments are smaller in scale to the Proposed Development, the separation through distance between the schemes negates any scale distortion. Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Application Scenario)
There are no application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in this scenario.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The turbines of the Glen Lednock scheme would be seen in the same part of the view as the Proposed Development and the Strathallan schemes. The Glen Lednock turbines would be more noticeable due to the turbines sitting up against the distant horizon occupying a wider horizontal extent. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario further increases the wind energy development context in the view, including on the distant horizon, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would increase the extent of turbines seen on the distant horizon and it would appear in the gap between the Strathallan Phase 2 scheme and Glen Lednock (albeit that distance between these schemes would prevent these schemes being read as occupying the same landscape context). Taking all of this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 19: Lochan na Lairige pass

Table 5-35: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 19: Lochan na Lairige pass

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
This viewpoint is located on the minor road that connects Loch Tay to Glen Lyon. It is an elevated road that has steep climbs a narrow road surface with steep and rocky road verges with frequent passing places. Lochan na Lairige is a large reservoir and dam which provides water via a pipeline to Finlarig Power Station on the northern banks of Loch Tay. There are also a number of parking spots along this road away from the steep climbs either side of the pass. The viewpoint is located close to the southernmost parking area, common for walkers to use when climbing Ben Lawers. The view to the east is towards the summit ridge of Ben Lawers. The view south is along the minor road and Lochan na Lairige pass but is restricted by sloping terrain. The view west is towards the steep slopes of Meall nan Tarmachan. The view to the south across Loch Tay is a key focus for views from this location. Whilst there is no

view up and down the loch (to the east and west) due to intervening hill slopes, the view south across the loch to the pastoral lower slopes and shoreline attracts the eye due to its contrasting landscape pattern and texture with the surrounding large scale uplands. From the shoreline of the loch the land rises steeply and has a mottled appearance due to the patches of moorland, heather and scrub interspersed with rocky outcrops. The upper parts of these slopes including the upland horizon has a much more uniform appearance of muted moorland across an undulated horizon. There are no operational wind farms seen from this location.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road users	This viewpoint is located within Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and value is considered to be High.	The viewpoint is located on a narrow minor road with passing places. Road users would likely be travelling at speeds of approximately 30-40 mph along this stretch of road which is winding in nature with steep embankments. Attention will likely be on the road ahead, however there are open elevated views to the south which are a point of focus and scenic interest on this pass. Susceptibility to change is considered to be Medium.	High-Medium

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 8.8 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- 10 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location, 5 appearing as top of tower with hubs close to the horizon, 1 blade and 4 blade tips.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would be screened.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy 8 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies beyond and to the south of Loch Tay in this view.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to the view, which are not currently experienced from this location.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view south and much of the proposed turbines in view would be partially screened by intervening landform.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view south, it would be set back within the broad upland that lies beyond the steep slopes and ridges north of Loch Tay.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Road Users at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant.** The moderate level effect is considered to be not significant in this instance due to a combination of distance, intervening landform which moderates visibility and the appearance of the Proposed Development turbines as set back from the leading ridge above Loch Tay.

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would appear to the south on top of and beyond a different part of the same broad upland ridge as the Proposed Development. Whilst much of the Glen Lednock scoping layout would be partially screened by the landform of the ridge, 3 of the turbines would be visible to base. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would also intensify the view of wind farm development by increasing the extent of development that would be apparent on the ridge contributing to a wider extent of the view south affected increasing the magnitude of change. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the effect is considered to be significant due to the increased extent of view occupied by turbines.

Viewpoint 20: Mor Bheinn

Table 5-36: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 20: Mor Bheinn

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
Mor Bheinn is a rocky hill found to the south of the River Earn to the east of St Fillans. The hill summit is 640m AOD and rises up from the wooded section of the River Earn between Dundurn and Dalchonzie. The lower slopes of this hill are wooded (Dundurn Wood) and it forms part of a ridge of hills which are also collectively known as Mor Bheinn but include Beinn Bhearnach and Bioran Dalchonzie, with Ben Halton slightly separated from the ridge to the south. The view from the summit is panoramic and has a strong focus to the east and west along Strathearn. The view to the west is across the uplands of the Forest of Glen Artney towards the distinctive hill profile of Ben Vorlich. To the north the view is across an elevated foreground view into Strathearn and across the uplands on which the Site area is found with the Ben Lawers and Tarmachan ridgelines seen in the distance beyond this on the horizon. The uplands in this area are large in scale and the Site area sits high above the lower upland glens of Glen Tarkan and Glen Beich. The view into Strathearn below includes views of the pastoral landscape that follows the River Earn corridor and the eastern end of Loch Earn. The St Fillans settlement appears nestled into the woods found on Cnoc a Mhadaidh, the tree lined River Earn corridor and Glentarken Wood beyond. Views to the east are across the wider settled landscape of Strathearn including across the settlements of Comrie and Crieff and towards Perth with Kinnoull Hill visible on the distant horizon. The view south is across the uplands that surround Glen Artney with the western Ochills and Gargunnock Hills in the far distance. Operational turbines are visible in the view south including – Strathallan and Braes of Doune with Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot East, Burnfoot Hill Ext, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders, Rosehill Farm, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North visible in the far distance.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA and value is considered to be High.	Hill Walkers will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 7.5 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint. • All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location. 6 turbines visible to base, 5 visible as top of tower above intervening landform and 1 visible as blade tip.			

- The bases of 6 of the towers along with those access tracks would be visible with the substation screened by intervening landform.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 10 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies beyond and to the north of Strathearn.
- The turbines would appear above the eastern end of Loch Earn and the St Fillans settlement creating a new focus in this view north.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to the view north and closer than currently experienced in the view south.
- The high elevation of this location results in all of the Proposed Development being seen, including some of the connecting access tracks.
- The position of the Proposed Development turbines on the neighbouring upland results in the turbines sitting in front of the more distant ridge created by Ben Lawers and Tarmachan.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view north and the layout of turbines has a relatively compact arrangement that follows the landform of the underlying uplands of the Site area.
- Whilst the Proposed Development would create a new focus in the view north, it would be set back beyond the broad upland ridgeline that forms an intervening horizon against more distant hills.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with this underlying topography, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- The Proposed Development would therefore appear separated from the lower upland glens of Glen Tarken and Glen Beich, the shores of Loch Earn, the pastoral strath floor of the River Earn and the St Fillans settlement.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium.

Significance of Effect

The effect on Hill Walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Major-Moderate and Significant.**

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

The consented schemes of Strathallan Phase 2, Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the south. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view north, on a different part of the same broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a larger section of this ridge than the Proposed Development and would be slightly closer to the viewpoint. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would also intensify the view of wind farm development by further adding to this spread of turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a wider extent of the view affected. The scale and position of the Proposed Development on the ridge and its contribution to the increased spread of wind farm development on the ridge, is a key factor of consideration. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of

change in this scenario is considered to be Medium resulting in a **Major-Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect.

Viewpoint 21: St Fillans Hill

Table 5-37: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 21: St Fillans Hill

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This viewpoint is located on the top of St Fillans Hill, a small rocky hill (176 m AOD) to the east of St Fillans. St Fillans Hill is also known locally as Dundurn and is the Site of a pictish hillfort. It can be accessed from the west via the track that cuts across the golf course then past Wester Dundurn and the remains of St Fillans Chapel. The views north and south are of the surrounding hills that enclose the strath. To the north this includes Little Port Hill and Creag Odhar. To the south the rocky summits of Mor Bheinn and Beinn Fuath dominate the view separated by Gleann Goinean, which allows a more distant view of Beinn Dearg further to the south. The principal focus for views from this hill and viewpoint are to the east and west along the River Earn. To the east the view is across a foreground of pastoral landscape that follows the River Earn and its flat bottomed strath. Wooded lower slopes of the enclosing hills create a jagged edge to the pastoral landscape which is also punctuated by a series of other wooded hills and hummocky knolls. Dun More and the Melville Monument are visible in the distance where the northern ridge of hills descends towards Comrie. To the west the view is across the golf course and surrounding farmland that follows the River Earn. The circular outline of the ruined St Fillans Chapel is notable from this elevated position. The edges of the St Fillans settlement is partially visible within and between the mosaic of woods on Cnoc a Mhadaidh and the tree lined River Earn corridor. These intervening trees obscure views of much of the settlement and further west to Loch Earn. The ridge of uplands that follows the northern shores of Loch Earn contains distant views to the west with Creag Each a notable hill on this horizon. There are no operational wind farms seen from this location.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational Walker	This viewpoint is located within the River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA and value is considered to be High.	Recreational Walkers will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Description of Change: • The proposed turbines would be visible at 5.3 km to the nearest turbine to the northwest of the viewpoint. • 5 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location, 2 as hubs close to the horizon, 1 as turbine blade only and 2 as small blade tips. • The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would not be visible. • The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 8 degrees of the view.			
Magnitude of Change			
Factors that increase the magnitude of change are: • Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the uplands in the view northwest, in relatively close proximity beyond the more immediate context of Strathearn. • The introduction of turbine development to the ridgeline of uplands that provide the contrasting upland context to the pastoral lowlands of the strath floor below. • The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour to the view northwest. • The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the northwest from this location, on the horizon above the edge of the St Fillans settlement. • Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:			

• The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the Proposed Development would be visible and the visible turbines are largely limited to turbine blades or blade tips. • The Proposed Development would not obstruct or encroach upon the focussed view along the strath to the west, which is evident in the way in which the upland ridges curve around the northern shores of Loch Earn (obscured from view) thereby drawing the eye west along this ridgeline. • Whilst the Proposed Development turbines create a new focus above the settlement edge of St Fillans, the large scale of the hill slopes of the intervening upland of Creag Odhar creates a sense of separation and provides an underlying large scale upland context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed. • The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.
Significance of Effect
The effect on recreational receptors at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant.** In this instance, the moderate effect is considered to be not significant due to the screening effect of the intervening upland ridge, the resulting reduced level of visibility and the degree of separation from the pastoral lowlands due to the large scale of the intervening upland hill slopes in the view northwest.
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view north, appearing beyond a different part of the same broad upland ridge as the Site area. The Glen Lednock turbines in the scoping layout would be visible as 3 blade tips and 1 turbine with hub close to the horizon. Whilst limited in number these turbines would occupy a much wider part of the view north at closer proximity than the Proposed Development. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. However, the Proposed Development would also intensify the view of wind farm development by further adding to this spread of turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a wider extent of the view affected. The scale and position of the Proposed Development on the ridge and its contribution to the increased spread of wind farm development on the ridge, is a key factor of consideration. Taking this into account, the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect. In this instance the effect is considered to be significant due to the increased spread of turbines on the horizon for which the Proposed Development contributes to.

Viewpoint 22: Meall an_t-Seallaidh

Table 5-38: Detailed Assessment of Viewpoint 22: Meall an t-Seallaidh

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
The summit of Meall an t-Seallaidh is located on a ridge of hills that follows the alignment of Glen Kendrum and Gleann Dubh at the eastern side of the Braes of Balquhidder. It is accessed from Balquhidder via a long metalled track through Glen Kendrum and then a walk across the rocky ridge to the summit (852 m AOD). The view to the south is focussed along Strathyre and is an elevated view across Strathyre Forest and Loch Lubnaig with Ben Ledi rising up in the distance. The view to the west is across the other hills and upland ridges of the Braes of Balquhidder with Ben More and Stob Binnein notable summits that contain more distant views. The alignment of Loch Voil and Glen Dochart can be seen in the view west albeit the floors of these glens are not visible from this location. To the north, the foreground view is dominated by the other parts of the Meall an t-Seallaidh ridge and the steep rocky slopes of Creag MacRanaich which sits above Glen Kendrum. Beyond these

uplands more distant hills and mountains span across the horizon including Meall Ghaordaidh, Meall nan Tarmachan and Ben Lawers.

The view to the east is focussed along the wide strath occupied by Loch Earn. To the southeast the distinctive conical shape and steep slopes of the Ben Vorlich summit rises above the other surrounding hills. Whilst the deeper straths of Loch Tay and Loch Earn are aligned east to west, the upland topography between these straths includes a series of upland glens that are aligned north to south. From this location, this is experienced as series of successive layers of upland ridge, partly defined by the incised upland glens that separate them. To the northeast towards the Site area, the view is across these successive layers of upland ridge becoming less defined with distance. The Site area can be seen beyond the rounded of summit of Creag Each which rises in this view which in itself sits behind the wide hill shoulder of Eildreach which rises above Glen Ogle.

Operational turbines visible from this viewpoint include – to the southwest, Braes of Doune Greenknowes, Burnfoot Hill West / Rhodders in the far distance; and to the south, Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Earlsburn North.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Hill Walker	This viewpoint is located within LLTNP and value is considered to be High.	Recreational users will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 12.7 km to the nearest turbine to the southeast of the viewpoint.
- All of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location.
- The bases of 9 towers along with the majority of other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would also be visible.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 14 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the upland that lies to the north of Loch Earn in the view northeast.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines to the view northeast and closer than currently experienced in the distant view to the south and southeast.
- The higher elevation of this location relative to the upland ridge of the Site area results in all of the Proposed Development being seen, including the substation and much of the connecting access track and hardstands.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The Proposed Development is relatively distant in the view northeast.
- The level of setting back from the edges of the upland plateau, in relation to Loch Earn and Loch Tay, is clearly evident in this elevated view across the broad upland landscape. It is considered that whilst introducing a new focus to the northeast, that the Proposed Development turbines do not encroach upon the focussed view along the wide strath of Loch Earn to the east.
- The ridgeline appearance of the Proposed Development turbines fits well with the underlying topography of the upland of the Site, the large scale of which is not diminished by the scale of the Proposed Development.
- This ridgeline appearance also fits well with the successive layers of upland ridge that occupy the intervening landscape, with the layout occupying a ridge beyond Creag Each with Meall nam Fiadh a central high point when seen from this location.
- The muted upland moorland and overall large upland scale of the Site area and intervening upland ridges provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.

The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

The effect on hill walkers at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Not Significant**. In this instance, the moderate effect is considered to be not significant due to a combination of distance, the large scale of the

plateau upland to the northeast in which the Proposed Development would be located and the sense that focussed views in other parts of the panorama would be maintained or not be encroached upon (including the view east along Loch Earn).
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
The consented schemes of Shelloch and Craigton & Spittal Hill along with the application schemes of Brunt Hill, Craighead, Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension would be visible to the south. It is considered that these consented and application schemes would have minimal cumulative influence on the baseline situation due to them appearing within a similar context to other operational schemes in the distant view and a lack of cumulative interaction due to the visual separation inherent in the views between these schemes and the Proposed Development. The cumulative magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Negligible resulting in a **Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view northeast, on the same part of the broad upland ridge as the Site area. It would occupy a slightly wider part of the upland plateau, closer to its upland edge with Loch Earn and would consist of twice as many turbines as the Proposed Development. When considering the addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario, the presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would also slightly add to the spread of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a slightly wider extent of the view affected. On balance, the addition of the Proposed Development would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and its additional turbines would only very slightly intensify the effect, fitting comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock scheme. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Low resulting in a **Moderate-Minor and Not Significant** cumulative effect.

Core Path STFI/101

Table 5-39: Detailed Assessment of Core Path STFI/101

Baseline Conditions			
Baseline Description			
This Core Path (STFI/101) is named - Tarken Lodge (LL&TTNP) - Allt an Fhionn - Glen Tarken. It is a long circular loop which links St Fillans to the uplands to the south of the Site through the wooded northern shores of Lochearnhead. See Figure 5.6 and with the blade tip ZTV overlain on Figure 5.13. The route is steep from the outset as it traverses the steep south facing slopes of Glentarken Wood towards Allt an Fhionn. From there the path follows the eastern side slopes of Glen Tarken below Creag Odhar before cutting across to the western side of Glen Tarken below Creag Each. From there the path is a steep sloping route to the jetties and parking on the A85 or back through Glentarken Wood to the start point. There are no operational turbines seen from this route.			
Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational Walkers	This route is not located within any national, regional or local scenic designations; however, it does have views south across the northern edges of the LLTNP. Value is considered to be Medium-High.	Recreational walkers will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be High. Taking this into account sensitivity is assessed as High for this route.	High
Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)			
Magnitude of Change			
The magnitude of change varies along this route depending on the level of visibility and proximity to the Proposed Development turbines. Lower parts of the route would experience less visibility of Proposed Development turbines and some screening from Glentarken Wood. There are no potential for effects found on the sections of route on the lower slopes above Loch Earn and within Glentarken Wood where there is no or very			

limited visibility. Between Glentarken Wood and the Allt an Fhionn crossing the number of turbines visible is less than in other sections of the route due to intervening landform. The closest section of the route being the most elevated would experience the greatest levels of visibility of the Proposed Development.

Whilst these differences in the amount of visibility are apparent for the different sections of the route, the route is relatively short and is focussed on linking to the uplands that lie within the close context of the Site area, and as such it is the overall experience of recreational receptors travelling around this relatively short route that is considered in the assessment of magnitude.

- Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:
- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines within close proximity to the core path.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour into the surrounding upland moorlands.
- The position of the Proposed Development turbines above the route of the core path increases the prominence of turbines.
- The Proposed Development would create a new focus to the north from this route within the wider context of existing views in other directions towards the LLTNP to the south.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines would create a new focus to the north, the Proposed Development turbines would not interrupt or encroach on the focussed views south across the northern edges of the LLTNP.
- The rough moorland landcover and overall large upland scale of the landscape in the view north towards the Proposed Development provides a landscape context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- When considering the introduction of the Proposed Development to views experienced from this route, the overall magnitude of change is considered to be High.

Significance of Effect
The effect on recreational walkers on this route is considered to be **Major and Significant.** There are no effects found on the sections of route on the lower slopes above Loch Earn and within Glentarken Wood where visibility is limited.
Cumulative Assessment
Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)
There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.
Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)
The Glen Lednock scheme would extend across the horizon in the view north, appearing beyond the same part of the upland ridge as the Site area. The Glen Lednock turbines, whilst limited in number, provide a large-scale wind energy development context, potentially moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would intensify the view of wind farm development by notably adding to this spread of turbines apparent on the ridge and so contributing to a wider extent of the view affected, albeit that there is moderate level of integration and cohesion between these schemes. On balance the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario is considered to be Medium resulting in a **Major-Moderate and Significant** cumulative effect.

Caravan Park at Ardrostan

Table 5-40: Detailed Assessment of Caravan Park at Ardrostan

Baseline Conditions
Baseline Description
The caravan park occupies the part of the southern shoreline of Loch Earn at its eastern side not far from St Fillans. It is accessed via the South Loch Earn Road, a minor road that is wooded with occasional gaps through trees towards the loch. The caravans are aligned to face north towards the loch, from their gable end windows.

Views in this direction are through gaps in the mature trees that line the shoreline or past the other neighbouring caravans within the park. There is also a jetty on the loch shore that can accommodate moorings for a number of leisure boats and a smaller area for touring caravans. Whilst trees found along the shoreline intervene in views to the north, views north are experienced by all visitors to the park and the view across the loch is considered to form the principal focus. There is also a view towards St Fillans to the northeast and from the jetty, a view west along the loch. There are no views beyond the immediate wooded hillside in other directions from the park area. There are no operational turbines seen from the park.

Receptor Type	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Visitors	The Caravan Park is located within the LLTNP and value is considered to be High.	The viewpoint represents views of visitors to the caravan park who will have an appreciation of the surrounding landscape and will be focussed on views. Susceptibility to change is considered to be high.	High

Assessment (including operational and under construction cumulative sites)

Description of Change:

- The proposed turbines would be visible at 3.8 km to the nearest turbine to the north of the viewpoint.
- 3 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this location, 1 as hubs close to the horizon, and 2 as turbine blades.
- The bases of towers, other infrastructure, substation and access tracks would not be visible.
- The proposed turbines theoretically occupy approximately 20 degrees of the view.

Magnitude of Change

Factors that increase the magnitude of change are:

- Change in the view resulting from the addition of wind turbines to the uplands in the view north, in relatively close proximity beyond the more immediate context of Loch Earn.
- The introduction of turbine development to the ridgeline of uplands that provide the visual backdrop to the view across Loch Earn and its settled northern shoreline, creating a new focus in the view.
- The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development to a view that currently has none visible, introducing movement and contrasting colour to the view north.
- Factors that decrease the magnitude of change are:
- The view of the Proposed Development is limited from this location by the landform of intervening upland ridges such that only a limited amount of the Proposed Development would be visible.
- Whilst the Proposed Development turbines create a new focus above the settlement edge of St Fillans, the large scale of the hill slopes of the intervening upland of Creag Odhar creates a sense of separation and provides an underlying large scale upland context considered suitable for wind energy development of the type proposed.
- The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is considered to be Medium-Low.

Significance of Effect

The effect on recreational receptors at this viewpoint is assessed as **Moderate and Significant.** In this instance, the moderate effect is considered to be significant due to the high sensitivity of visitors and the introduction of development (including movement and contrasting colour) to the principal view experienced by visitors to the caravan park. Noting that this effect is of borderline significance given the limited amount of the Proposed Development being visible beyond the intervening landform.

Cumulative Assessment

Cumulative Assessment (Consented and Application Scenarios)

There are no consented or application schemes visible from this viewpoint and therefore no cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development occurs. As a result, there is no cumulative change and **No Effect** in these scenarios.

Cumulative Assessment (Scoping Scenario)

The Glen Lednock scoping layout turbines would occupy a wider part of the view north than the Proposed Development, with 1 of the turbines almost visible to tower base as seen through a dip in the upland horizon that aligns with Glen Tarken. The presence of the Glen Lednock scheme in this scenario provides a large-scale wind energy development context, moderating the magnitude of change experienced. The Proposed Development would also slightly add to the spread of Glen Lednock turbines apparent on the ridge contributing to a slightly wider extent of the view affected. On balance, the addition of the Proposed Development (acknowledging the smaller effect of the small blade tips) would only slightly increase the extent of view affected in the scenario that includes Glen Lednock and its additional turbines would only very slightly intensify the effect, fitting comfortably within the context of the Glen Lednock scheme. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium-Low resulting in a **Moderate and Not Significant** cumulative effect. In this scenario, the effect is considered to be not significant due to the moderating effect of the Glen Lednock scheme which provides a wind energy context within which the Proposed Development would only slightly add to.

5.10 Monitoring

5.10.1 There are no monitoring requirements for the significant landscape and visual residual effects predicted in the LVIA in order to accord with the EIA Regulations.

5.11 Summary of Significant Effects

Landscape Effects

5.11.1 The areas of moorland required to be removed in the construction and operation of the Proposed Development would be very limited in relation to the total area on the Site, elsewhere within the upland landscapes of LCT 147 Summits and Plateaux Central and LCT 376 Summits and Plateaux Tayside and also when considered alongside the large areas of moorland in the wider landscape of the Study Area. The physical landscape effects of the Proposed Development on these landscape elements are considered to be not significant.

5.11.2 The LVIA has identified significant effects for landscape character types in the Study Area as follows:

- A Major Significant Effect was found for: LCT 147 (ii); and LCT 376 (ii) within 5 km.
- A Major-Moderate Significant Effect was found for: LCT 371 (ii).
- A Moderate Significant Effect was found for: LCT 251 (ii); LCT 376 (iii); and LCT 376 (ii) within 5-10 km.

5.11.3 Such significant effects would arise largely due to the close proximity and clear visibility of the Proposed Development. The significant landscape character effects are found within a maximum range of approximately 12 km.

5.11.4 The LVIA has identified significant effects for landscape designations in the Study Area as follows:

- A Major Significant effect was found for the Creag Gharbh LLA.
- A Major-Moderate Significant Effect was found for: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA SLQ 12.
- A Moderate Significant Effect was found for: LLTNP SLQs 2 and 9.

5.11.5 All other landscape designations in the Study Area were found to be not significant.

Visual Effects

5.11.6 The assessment of effects on views is informed by a series of 22 agreed LVIA Viewpoints that were selected to represent visibility from a range of receptors throughout the Study Area. The LVIA has identified significant visual effects at 6 Viewpoint locations, as follows:

- A Major Significant Visual Effect was found for: recreational receptors at Viewpoint 1.
- A Major-Moderate Significant Effect was found for: recreational receptors at Viewpoints 2, 6, 7, 8 and 20.

5.11.7 These significant visual effects are as a result of open views of the Proposed Development turbines from high sensitivity recreational receptors, the majority of which are found at elevation related to recreational hill walkers in the Study Area. A Moderate Significant Effect was found for visitors to the Caravan Park at Ardrostan and a Major Significant visual effect was also found on Core Path STFI/101 immediately to the south of the Proposed Development.

5.11.8 At night the 4 turbines that are proposed to have visible aviation lighting would not in themselves be visible during times of darkness. Similarly, the other 8 turbines that would not be visibly lit would also not be visible during the hours of darkness. Nevertheless, the assessment of night time effects for the Proposed Development has predicted significant effects for some of the viewpoints. This is largely due to the appearance of lighting on an upland horizon which has a currently dark baseline characteristic and the high sensitivity of the receptors experiencing this lighting. **TA 5.2, Assessment of Visible Aviation Lighting (EIAR Volume 4**) identifies significant effects resulting from the visible aviation lighting have been found at viewpoints 2, 6, 7, 8 and 20 for the 2000 cd scenario, however, when considered for 200cd in clear visibility for these viewpoints, the effect is considered to be not significant. Significant effects have been found for viewpoint 1 in both the 2000 and 200 cd scenarios largely due to the close proximity of this viewpoint.

Cumulative Effects

5.11.9 There are no consented or application cumulative wind energy developments in close proximity to the Proposed Development. Where consented and application cumulative schemes are visible from key landscape and visual receptors, they would appear within a context and backdrop of existing wind energy development, substantially limiting their cumulative influence and interaction with the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would **not result** in significant landscape or visual effects with the consented and application cumulative schemes included in the LVIA.

5.11.10 As described in the LVIA methodology, the effects identified for scoping scenarios are considered as being less likely to arise than the application stage and consented scenarios, as it is possible that scoping stage projects will not ultimately be developed in the form set out at Scoping, or may not gain consent or become operational, which reduces the likelihood of scoping stage scenario effects arising in full. Therefore, when considering the influence of the Glen Lednock scheme in the scoping scenario it is important to note the uncertainty with this scenario.

5.11.11 Glen Lednock scheme in its current design would be located immediately to the east of the Proposed Development which for the majority of landscape and visual receptors results in the Proposed Development having a far lesser degree of change than in other scenarios assessed. This is due to the Proposed Development appearing to fit within the horizontal extent of the larger footprint Glen Lednock scheme in many key views from the surrounding landscape and the similar scale of turbines between the two developments and so creating visual integration and cohesion between the sites. These factors have generally combined in the LVIA to result in not significant cumulative effects in the scoping scenario for many of the landscape and visual receptors. However, as a result of the contribution of the Proposed Development to the increased horizontal extent development experienced by receptors in the area, the LVIA has identified significant cumulative effects within the scoping scenario, as follows:

- A Major-Moderate Significant Effect was found for: LCT 376 (i): River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA SLQs 1 and 8; Viewpoint 20 and Core Path STFI/101

- A Moderate Significant Effect was found for: LCT 147 (ii); LCT 251 (ii); LCT 376 (iii); LCT 376 (ii) within 5 km; Creag Gharbh LLA; LLTNP SLQs 2, 7 and 9; Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA SLQ 12; Viewpoints 1, 7, 8, 19 and 21.

5.11.12 It is the author's professional opinion that the introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a perception of a 'landscape with wind farms' characteristic within the immediate landscape and visual context of the Site. Whilst the operational Calliachar and Griffin Wind Farms are within or close to the edge of the host LCT unit for the Proposed Development (LCT 376 (ii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Chonzie/Sron Mhor/Meall nam Fuaran)), they are beyond 20 km from the Proposed Development and have not been found to have a strong influence on the effects assessed in the LVIA.

5.11.13 As described in **TA 5.1, LVIA Methodology (EIAR Volume 4**) the cumulative assessment set out in the LVIA assesses only the additional landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development in the context of different baseline scenarios that make assumptions about existing and proposed wind farms. It does not present an assessment of the combined effects of all of the relevant wind farms on the landscape and/ or visual receptors. Notwithstanding this, it is the author's professional opinion that the perception of a 'landscape with wind farms' would be maintained across each of the cumulative scenarios. There are no consented or application wind farm developments within close enough proximity to alter this perception and whilst the cumulative scoping scenario would further intensify this characteristic (as a result of the introduction of Glen Lednock within the host LCT to the east of the Proposed Development), it is considered that the perception of a 'landscape with wind farms' would be maintained.

Conclusion

5.11.14 The assessment has identified that the significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are found within an area relatively local to the Site and surrounding context of the Study Area. The area in which the turbines and majority of infrastructure are located is not subject to any landscape planning designation and would be contained within a large-scale upland landscape, minimising the effects on nearby designated landscapes to the north, south and west.

5.11.15 Significant landscape character effects are assessed to occur within a maximum of 12 km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Significant visual effects have been identified as occurring out to a range of approximately 16 km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development turbine layout has been designed to minimise effects on the surrounding straths and glens in the Study Area and as a result, the extent of visibility in these lower lying parts of the Study Area is minimal. This has led to a marked reduction in landscape and visual effects across the lower lying parts of the Study Area, including within the straths and glens of nearby NSAs and LLTNP and along the key routes that connect these sensitive landscapes and serve as a gateway to the LLTNP. As a result, the significant landscape and visual effects found in the LVIA are largely limited to elevated parts of the Study Area for high sensitivity receptors.

5.11.16 When compared with other wind farm developments of this scale the level of limitation of effects on lower lying areas of the surrounding landscape is notable and illustrates the positive influence of the landscape and visual design mitigation embedded in the Proposed Development design strategy and that Significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity are relatively localised in nature.

Table 5-41: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
Physical Landscape Effects									
Moorland	Medium	Low	Minor Not Significant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Landscape Character Effects									
LCT 147 (ii) – Summits and Plateaux – Central (Beinn Leabhainn)	High-Medium	High	Major Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
LCT 254 (iii) – Straths and Glens with Lochs (Loch Earn)	High	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant
LCT 251 (ii) – Highland Summits (Ben More/Ben Vorlich)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
LCT 376 (i) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Forest of Glenartney, south of Loch Earn)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant
LCT 376 (iii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
LCT 371 (ii) – Mid Upland Glens (Glen Lednock)	High-Medium	High-Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant

Table 5-41: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
LCT 372 – Lower Upland Glens	High	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
LCT 374 – Mid Upland Glens with Lochs	High-Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant
LCT 376 (ii) – Summits & Plateaux – Tayside (Ben Chonzie/Sron Mhor/Meall nam Fuaran)	High-Medium	High (within 5 km)	Major Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
		Medium (within 5-10 km)	Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
		Low (beyond 10 km)	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
Creag Gharbh LLA	High-Medium	High	Major Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
Loch Tay LLA	High-Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)	High	SLQ2 Medium-Low	Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
		SLQ9 Medium-Low	Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant

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Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
		SLQ7 Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA	High	SLQ5 Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant
		SLQ6 Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant
		SLQ12 Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA	High	SLQ1 Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant
		Medium-Low SLQ8	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant
Visual Effects									
VP 1 Rob Roy Way near Meall Odhar	High	High	Major Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
VP 2 Ben Chonzie	High	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant

Table 5-41: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
VP 4 Carstran, minor road overlooking Lochearnhead	Medium	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
VP 5 Comrie	High (settlement)	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
	Medium (road users)		Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
VP 6 Carn Chois	High	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
VP 7 Ben Vorlich	High	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
VP 8 Ben Lawers	High	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
VP 9 Meall na Samhna	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
VP 10 A827 near Fearnan	High (settlement)	Low	Moderate Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
	High-Medium (road users)		Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
VP 11 Meall Ghaordaidh	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant

Table 5-41: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
VP 12 Sron Bealaidh	High-Medium	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
VP 13 MacRosty Park Crieff	High (settlement)	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
	Medium-Low (road users)	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Negligible Not Significant
VP 14 A822 near Muthill	High (settlement)	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Minor Not Significant
	Medium-Low (road users)	Negligible	Negligible Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Negligible	Negligible Not Significant
VP 15 Ben More	High	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
VP 16 Beinn Sheasgarnaich	High	Low-Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low-Negligible	Minor Not Significant
VP 17 Schiehallion	High	Low-Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
VP 18 Kinpauch Hill – core path from Blackford	High-Medium	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
VP 19 Lochan na Lairige pass	High-Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant

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Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	Operational / Under Construction Scenario		Consented Scenario		Application Scenario		Scoping Scenario	
		Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance	Cumulative Magnitude	Cumulative Significance
VP 20 Mor Bheinn	High	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant
VP 21 St Fillans Hill	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant
VP 22 Meall_an_t-Seallaidh	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Negligible	Minor Not Significant	Low	Moderate-Minor Not Significant
Core Path STFI/101	High	High	Major Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium	Major-Moderate Significant
Caravan Park at Ardrostan	High	Medium-Low	Moderate Significant	No Change	No Effect	No Change	No Effect	Medium-Low	Moderate Not Significant