Technical Appendix 5.2: Landscape Character Assessment

Technical Appendix 5.2: Landscape Character Assessment

5.2.1 Introduction

5.2.1.1 This technical appendix comprises both baseline information and the detailed assessment of potential likely significant effects on landscape and coastal character types in the Study Area that would be brought about by the Proposed Development.

5.2.1.2 **Figures 5.3 and 5.4 (EIAR Volume 3a)** illustrate the location and extent of NatureScot[1] Landscape Character Types (LCTs). All the LCTs found in the Study Area are listed in Table 5.2.1 below. This table also notes the LCTs that are omitted from further assessment due to no or limited theoretical visibility, or due to intervening distance to the Proposed Development that mitigates effects. In Table 5.2.1 LCT are listed in numerical order according to the reference number given in the NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment (2019). Tables 5.2.2 to 5.2.4 list the LCT according to distance from Site with the closest LCT listed first.

5.2.1.3 Table 5.2.2 of this technical appendix describes each of the LCT that are assessed in this LVIA. Table 5.1.2 refers to the key characteristics described in the NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment (2019). Key characteristics that have relevance are highlighted in **bold** text. The sensitivity of each LCT has been appraised in accordance with the LVIA methodology described in **Appendix 5.1**.

5.2.1.4 Table 5.2.3 describes the assessment of effects on LCTs, and Table 5.2.4 describes the potential cumulative effects arising on each LCT as a result of the Proposed Development. Where the magnitude of change assessed for the Proposed Development in cumulative Scenario 1 i.e., the Proposed Development in addition to operational wind farms, is Negligible or Slight/Negligible, the in addition cumulative effects are not assessed as any potentially significant effects would result from the influence of cumulative development and not the addition of the Proposed Development. In combination effects are assessed for these receptors where relevant.

Table 5.2.1: Landscape Character Types in the Study Area

Landscape Character Type/Coastal Character Type	Distance and Direction from the Site	Assessed in LVIA	Justification for Omission
LCT134 Sweeping Moorland and Flows	33.3 km north	No	Very limited area of visibility over 30 km distance in an area that is largely under tree cover.
LCT135 Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland	8.9 km north	Yes	
LCT136 Rocky Hills and Moorland	30.5 km northwest	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT139 Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness & Sutherland	11.3 km north northwest and 13.3 km north	Yes	
LCT140 Sandy Beaches and Dunes	22 km northeast	Yes	
LCT142 Strath – Caithness & Sutherland	20 km northeast	No	Very limited areas of theoretical visibility
LCT145 Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting	19.5 km northeast	Yes	
LCT146 Coastal Farmland & Woodlands	22.5 km northeast	Yes	
LCT220 Rugged Massif - Inverness	24.5 km southwest	Yes	
LCT221 Rolling Uplands - Inverness	34.9 km southeast	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT222 Rocky Moorland Plateau - Inverness	27.5 km south	No	Long separation distance to the Site.
LCT223 Flat Moorland Plateau with Woodland	34 km southeast	No	Limited and distant area of theoretical visibility (over 34 km distance) largely in area of tree cover.
LCT224 Farmed and Wooded Foothills	11.5 km northwest	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT225 Broad Steep-sided Glen	30 km south southeast	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT226 Wooded Glen - Inverness	34.0 km southwest	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT227 Farmed Strath - Inverness	33.0 km southeast	No	Limited and distant area of theoretical visibility (over 33 km distance) largely in area of tree cover.
LCT228 Rolling Farmland and Woodland	28 km south	No	Long separation distance to the Site.
LCT229 Enclosed Farmland	25 km south	No	Enclosed character and long separation distance to the Site.

1 NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions [accessed on 29 September 2025].

Table 5.2.1: Landscape Character Types in the Study Area			
Landscape Character Type/Coastal Character Type	**Distance and Direction from the Site**	**Assessed in LVIA**	**Justification for Omission**
LCT281 Beaches, Dunes and Links – Moray & Nairn	30.8 km southeast	No	Coastal focus and - long separation distance to the Site.
LCT284 Coastal Farmland – Moray & Nairn	28 km southeast	No	Coastal focus and - long separation distance to the Site.
LCT285 Rolling Farmland and Forests – Moray & Nairn	34 km southeast	No	A very small part of the western extent of this LCT is in the 35 km Study Area.
LCT328 Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty	28 km southwest	No	Long separation distance to the Site.
LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif	Proposed Development in LCT	Yes	
LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty	0.8 km east	Yes	
LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty	21 km southwest	Yes	
LCT332 High Rocky Moorland and Plateau – Ross & Cromarty	31.8 km west	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT335 Wooded Glens and Rocky Moorland	14 km southwest	No	Very limited areas of theoretical visibility in areas of woodland.
LCT339 Inland Strath	3.5 km northeast	Yes	
LCT340 Strath – Ross & Cromarty	18 km southwest	No	No theoretical visibility
LCT341 Forest Edge Farming	1.4 km south	Yes	
LCT342 Farmed River Plains	11.5 km south	Yes	
LCT343 Coastal Shelf	28 km northeast	No	Coastal focus and - long separation distance to the Site.
LCT344 Lowland Farmed Plain – Ross & Cromarty	21 km east	Yes	
LCT345 Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty	6.5 km southeast	Yes	
LCT346 Open Farmed Slopes	10.8 km southeast	Yes	
LCT347 Open Steep Farmed Slopes	9.9 km south	No	Highly constrained and limited theoretical visibility
LCT348 Cliffs and Rocky Coasts – Ross & Cromarty	22 km east	No	Very limited theoretical visibility mainly at distances of more than 30km. Coastal focus.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif	Proposed Development in LCT	This LCT occurs in several areas in Ross and Cromarty, comprising high mountain groups with angular, steep sides. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: • *"**High, broad-based, smooth sided, lobed mountains found in discrete groups set within, and sweeping down to smooth, lower hills and high level straths and u-shaped valleys, giving a sense of grandeur.*** • ***Well-defined summits with either a rounded or angular profile. Often both occur on the same summit where rounded tops have been sculpted by glacial activity into corries and cliff faces.*** • *Similar height to Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross & Cromarty, but appear lower due to their landform.* • *Fresh snow lines disclose the true height of the mountains.* • *Rugged or stony summits and extensive moorland groundcover.* • *Strong relationship with adjoining Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty type which unifies the mountain groups into a vast landscape.* • ***Limited settlement, few footpaths or other structures, and little evidence of historic or current land use.*** • ***Far reaching views from upper reaches to the mountains, plains and firths in adjacent areas.*** • ***Vastness of the landscape due to simple lines of mountain profile, sweeping horizons, undifferentiated ground cover, and few man-made structures to indicate scale.*** • ***Wild character over much of the area."***	Susceptibility is Medium/Low in the eastern part of the LCT at the Site to the east of Loch Glass and southeast of Meall Beag. Susceptibility increases to Medium immediately west of Loch Glass increasing to High/Medium in more exposed and higher altitude parts that coincide with areas which exhibit greater wildness characteristics, and which are in places, categorised as a Wild Land Area and SLA. Value is Medium to Low in parts of the LCT that currently contain wind turbines and Medium to High in areas categorised as Wild Land. Sensitivity is Low at the Site, to the east of Loch Glass and southeast of Meall Beag. Medium/Low immediately west of Loch Glass. High/Medium in parts of the LCT coinciding with WLA and SLA.
LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty	0.8 km east	This LCT encompasses large areas of upland between the higher mountain landscapes of the Rounded Mountain Massif and the Rugged Mountain Massif LCTs of the southern and eastern part of Ross and Cromarty. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: • *"**Broad, rounded hills and upland moorlands with smooth, gentle slopes down to broad straths, creating an undulating skyline.*** • *Occurs in a large tract which weaves around and between the adjoining Rounded Mountain Massif and Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross &Cromarty and unifies the mountain groups.* • *Large areas of uniform moorland vegetation with occasional surface detail of rivers, lochs, riparian woodland, woodland patches, and regenerating trees.* • *Large coniferous forests on accessible lower slopes.* • *Broad straths with natural, meandering rivers and occasionally highlighted by green, unenclosed, improved pastures and riparian trees.* • *Occasional major trunk roads curve through the lowest major straths, with very little associated service development.* • *Small groups of mainly traditional buildings around road junctions and at rail stations.* • ***Man-made structures of pylons, wind farms and reservoirs occur as occasional features within a large-scale landscape.*** • *Many archaeological features on lower ground from prehistoric, medieval and later periods.* • ***Large, remote interior areas of vast scale with wildness characteristics."***	Susceptibility is Medium due to the large scale of this LCT and the influence of existing wind farms. Value is Medium in general, and Medium/High in areas categorised as Wild Land. Sensitivity is Medium generally, and Medium/High in areas categorised as Wild Land.
LCT341 Forest Edge Farming	1.4 km south	This LCT is largely in the eastern part of the Study Area, in broad bands along the upper slopes and extending to the lowland of Easter Ross on lower slopes. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are:	Susceptibility is Medium. This is a landscape strongly influenced by human activity. The scale of the landscape varies and there is a diversity of land use and land

[2] Distance from closest proposed turbine to nearest part of the LCT with theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
		▪ "Gentle to moderately steep convex slopes, occasional minor straths and glens with sinuous burns and rivers, and occasional high level, flatter undulating moorlands. ▪ Rocky, steeper slopes occur in the southern part of the type. ▪ Mix of agriculture and farming, varying from an equal balance to marginally more agriculture. ▪ A patchwork of semi-improved and improved pasture, arable fields, conifer forestry blocks, woodlands, shelterbelts, trees and hedges. ▪ The topography and geometric pattern of enclosure are emphasised by walls, hedges and hedgerow trees. ▪ Variable field sizes, many are large and open and dominate the landscape; others are smaller and create diverse patterns and textures. ▪ The contrasting upland character of higher ground emphasised by stone walls, rough grassland and less tree cover. ▪ The scale of woodlands is in keeping with the geometry of fields and narrow roads. ▪ Conifer forests vary in size, the larger ones superimposed on the field pattern. ▪ The edge of forestry blocks creates enclosed spaces around fields and buildings and forms a dark background to enclosed features. ▪ Tree cover creates enclosed or intermittent distant views and helps to screen structures such as pylons and masts, ▪ Far reaching views to the south and east from high ground or open areas, often framed and enhanced by foreground trees."	cover ranging from farmed pasture, forestry and other agricultural land uses. Value is Medium as there are no landscape designations and qualities of remoteness and wildness are not strongly evident. Sensitivity is Medium.
LCT339 Inland Strath	3.5 km northeast	In the Study Area this LCT relates to the Strath Canon, Strath Rusdale, and Contin by Strath Canon. There is one further unit of this LCT at Glen Achall near Ullapool. The LCT comprises a curved or linear channel enclosed by the surrounding uplands. These straths are generally sparsely populated supporting rough pasture on upper slopes and improved pasture at lower elevations. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Landlocked, sinuous or curved channels through upland hills and moorlands. ▪ Strath floors rise up to a strath head and peter out into upland moorlands. ▪ Lower ends of straths weakly enclosed and may pass through rocky moorlands into the adjoining farmed landscapes. ▪ Natural, meandering, central river often flowing through long, narrow lochs which are confined by landform. ▪ Relatively sheltered with green pastures divided into fields, often low intensity, and mixed with patches of native woodlands, riparian woodlands, trees and rough grassland. ▪ Small conifer forests which merge with larger scale forests in surrounding moorlands. ▪ Character varies along the length of straths, from high exposed rough pasture to lower, more sheltered and improved pastures. ▪ Central minor road or track runs along strath sides and terminates at upper end of strath. ▪ Estate houses and associated buildings, walls, enclosures and policy woodlands give an historic character. ▪ Contrast with surrounding exposed, uninhabited, upland moorland and hills, and the more intensely farmed or settled areas beyond the lower end of the strath. ▪ Confined views which direct attention towards the foreground details on the surrounding slopes and enclosing skyline. ▪ Landlocked, enclosed upland setting, and low use, cul-de-sac minor roads and tracks, which give a sense of isolation."	Susceptibility is Medium/High due to the smaller scale and intimate nature of the straths. Value is generally Medium rising to High where the LCT is in a designated landscape or Wild Land Area. Sensitivity is Medium/High.
LCT345 Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty	6.5 km southeast	The 'farmed and forested' slopes of this LCT are generally south-east facing, transitioning between the steeper higher slopes of adjacent hills and the gentle slopes and flatter land where they meet the coastal plain. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Complex pattern of farmland, tree cover, forests and woodland on sloped, often terraced land rising from firths or river plains to mid-elevations and often backed by large scale forest plantations where there are adjacent hills. ▪ Overall impression of a well-treed landscape, but within which farming is the dominant land use.	Susceptibility is Medium accounting for the farmed nature of much of the LCT. Value is Medium: although there are no designations, the landscape has a coherent rural character and contributes to the local identity.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
		▪ Generally higher proportion of trees, woodland and forest plantations in upper slopes, forming a well-connected network within which fields are located. ▪ Terraces of open land, interspersed with forest plantations and woodlands on mid slopes. ▪ Gradual change to more open landscapes at lower levels. ▪ Wide range and distribution of archaeological sites indicating a long history of human settlement. ▪ Occasional large settlements in a predominantly rural landscape. ▪ Views from more open, terraced areas across lowlands or firth to hills or out to sea."	Sensitivity is Medium.
LCT135 Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland	8.9 km north	There are various units of this LCT in the Caithness and Sutherland part of the Study Area, and it occurs in parts of Ross and Cromarty, south of Loch Shin and Dornoch Firth. It covers a large proportion of the northern part of the LVIA Study Area. The key characteristics of this LCT as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Rolling hills forming broad, subtly rounded summits but with some more pronounced hills also occurring, these often featuring steeper slopes along the coast or where truncated by deep glens. Hills cut by numerous narrow burns and small lochans lie within dips, corries and on plateau summits. ▪ Predominantly dense heather ground cover and moorland grasses, but also some areas of bog. ▪ Fragments of broadleaf woodland in inaccessible locations. ▪ Scarcely settled with a largely uninhabited interior and widely scattered crofts and ▪ **farms on lower slopes adjoining straths and farmed landscapes.** ▪ Narrow glens and lower hill slopes often rich in archaeology with features such as ▪ standing stones, brochs and medieval townships. ▪ **Wind farms located in more accessible and generally lower rolling hills, either close** ▪ **to extensive forestry or the high voltage transmission line aligned broadly parallel to** ▪ **the southeast Sutherland coast.** ▪ Convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops ▪ when travelling through the landscape. ▪ **Views into the interior of the hills very restricted.** ▪ **Strong sense of wild character can be experienced within the more remote and little** ▪ **modified parts of this landscape."**	Susceptibility is Medium given the large scale of the LCT, the restriction of views by the convex nature of the hills, and the presence of wind turbines in more accessible parts of these areas. Value is Medium where the LCT is in areas of human activity (generally the eastern parts of this LCT), and Medium to High in parts of this LCT that have a greater sense of wildness in the more remote parts of this LCT (largely the western and northern parts of this LCT). Sensitivity is: Medium – generally in eastern parts of the LCT where human activity (road corridors/coniferous forestry/operational wind turbines) has a modifying influence. Medium/High – generally in north and west parts where wildness characteristics are pronounced.
LCT346 Open Farmed Slopes	10.8 km southeast	This LCT is found mainly on the northwest facing slopes on the northern side of the inner Moray Firth and encompasses areas of the Black Isle and Nigg. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Open, convex, generally north-east facing farmed slopes. ▪ Smooth slopes of arable and pasture fields forming a regular pattern, lined with occasional small trees, fences or gorse hedges. ▪ Mix of crofting, small holdings and large farms giving rise to a patchwork of rectangular fields of different sizes. ▪ Areas of distinctive crofting patterns with generally smaller fields and regularly scattered croft buildings. ▪ Areas of distinctive, large, regular fields of large farms, with occasional small patches of birch woodland and conifer plantations and lines of trees descending the slopes. ▪ Scattered settlement patterns and network of minor roads running along contour lines, with few groupings in villages or towns. ▪ Ever present views which are open, expansive and outward looking."	Susceptibility is Medium. Although this is a largely rural landscape with panoramic views from higher slopes, operational wind turbines are an established feature visible from this LCT. Value is Medium since the vast majority of the LCT is undesignated and comprises farmed land with a distinct rural character albeit largely man-modified. Sensitivity is Medium.
LCT139 Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness & Sutherland	11.3 km north northwest and 13.3 km north	This LCT encompasses high mountains and rugged terrain, and there are two units of this LCT in the Study Area. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment, that are relevant to the LCT units in the Study Area are:	Susceptibility is Medium to High given the low degree of human influence and remote and wildness characteristics in this LCT.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

Landscape Character Type	Distance and Direction[2] form Site	General Description of LCT including key characteristics. Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the Proposed Development
		▪ "Mountains with very steep slopes which are often covered in scree and commonly feature narrow rocky ridges, buttresses, crags and pronounced peaks. ▪ High, generally lying above 800m. ▪ Different geology associated with each mountain group influencing their character. ▪ Mountain peaks form landmarks, rising above the interlocking mass of lower slopes and distinguished by their height, distinctive and recognisable profile. Largely uninhabited and difficult to access. The small number of settlements and roads which do exist tend to be located at the edges of this character type and at the intersection of a strath or loch. ▪ Interior of this landscape is mainly visited by hill walkers and deer stalkers. ▪ Limited visibility within the glens which lie between or at the foot of these mountains, due to their steepness of slope and immense size. ▪ Extensive views of the surrounding landscape and an exhilarating experience of openness and exposure from mountain ridges and summits. ▪ Natural unmodified character of the high mountains, with their remoteness, ruggedness, and difficulty of access, creating a strong wild character."	Value is Medium/High as the larger of the two units of this LCT in the Study Area, lies in Wild Land Area 29 Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis, and the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA. Sensitivity is Medium/High.
LCT342 Farmed River Plains	14.5 km south	This single LCT relates to the river plains immediately west of the Cromarty and Beauly Firths. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Broad expanse of mainly flat, connected river valley flood plains, with central meandering rivers. ▪ Contrast of the flat, open plain and the adjacent surrounding concave slopes rising to steep hill and mountain edges to the north, west and south. ▪ Meandering and mainly natural course of rivers and associated wetlands and salt marshes at lower reaches. ▪ Woodland and tree cover of roadside and field-side trees lines, shelterbelts and small plantations interspersed with large scale fields. ▪ Relatively sparse settlement, mainly of estate farms and cottages which avoid wetter areas, with occasional and relatively contained larger settlements on low plains as well as elevated sandy gravel deposits. ▪ Important prehistoric ceremonial monuments consisting of standing stones and henges."	Susceptibility is Medium. There is a strong sense of the presence of human activity and influence. Numerous roads provide access both locally, and longer distance in all directions, and the farmed land comprises of large-scale fields. Value is Medium, accounting for the local settlements and people travelling through the area on the numerous roads. Sensitivity is Medium.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
LCT145 Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting	20 km north northeast	This LCT encompasses the upper slopes of the Rounded Hills – Caithness LCT, between the steeper upper reaches of the slopes which are covered in heather, and the low-lying and more fertile farmland below. This LCT is characterised by coniferous and semi-natural woodlands. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment: ▪ "Rolling hill slopes and ridges cut by a number of valleys which radiate down from the Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland to the coast. ▪ Loch Migdale sitting within a dip between parallel steep-sided ridges in the west of this Landscape Character Type. ▪ Relatively simple ground cover of grassland on exposed summits with occasional areas of coniferous forest/shelterbelts. ▪ Elevated undulating basins lie at the foot of the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland above Lairg and Bonar Bridge. ▪ High proportion of woodland cover, with extensive conifer forest on ridges. ▪ Particularly rough and coarse-textured landscape on upper hill slopes, comprising extensive, mixed semi-natural woodland and fragments of heath and wetter moss. ▪ Small farms and crofts located in the broader valleys in the east, commonly set above long strip pastures, fenced or occasionally enclosed by boulder walls. ▪ Numerous prehistoric and historic environment features. ▪ The pattern of crofts and access roads reflecting the grain of the landform of ridges and valleys with croft houses located on valley sides below the lower forest margin. ▪ Pockets of pasture appear as if 'carved out' of woodlands in places. ▪ Density of housing increasing close to the larger settlements. ▪ Semi-enclosed character of this well-wooded landscape with occasional views. ▪ Attractive views from small roads high up the slopes, giving views to the Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland and glimpses of the Dornoch Firth."	Susceptibility is Medium The large degree of tree cover and topography limit long range views. The potential interaction of the Proposed Development and key characteristics of the LCT would be limited. Value is Medium to High since part of the LCT around Loch Migdale is in an SLA, and there are numerous archaeological features in the LCT. Sensitivity is Medium/High.
LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty	21 km southwest	This LCT occurs in one general location in the south-western part of the Study Area. The LCT lies between the higher hills to both north and south of the LCT. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Moderate scale, well-defined hills with rounded and domed profiles, relatively steep sides and rocky moorland surface texture. ▪ Hills separated by low, curving glens, lochs and straths. ▪ High proportion of exposed, glaciated rock at upper levels, with perched lochans, bogs and burns. ▪ Mosaic of vegetation and variety of textures at lower levels consisting of heather, rough grassland, pockets of broad leaved woodland and regenerating trees, and coniferous forests. ▪ Rocky landform and low, moorland land cover contrasts with surrounding sheltered wooded glens and smoother moorlands. ▪ Low intensity land use and limited access contrasts with adjacent farmed plains and straths. ▪ Extensive views of adjoining plains, firths and mountains from higher levels. ▪ Occasional masts and pylons tend to be visually absorbed by rocky landforms and vegetation. ▪ Wild character in the south-west area, which is more remote and has few built structures."	Susceptibility is Medium due primarily to the moderate to large scale of the landscape and the extensive tracts of coniferous plantation in parts of this LCT. Operational Fairburn wind farm is in the southeastern part of this LCT and is an influencing factor. Value is generally Medium since there are no landscape designations covering this LCT. The northern extent and southwestern edge of this LCT have stronger wildness characteristics and coincide with Wild Land Areas. These parts of the LCT have Medium/High value. Sensitivity is Medium generally, and Medium/High in areas categorised as Wild Land.
LCT344 Lowland Farmed Plain – Ross & Cromarty	21 km east	This LCT encompasses most of the peninsula between Tain, Tarbet Ness and Nigg, but excluding the higher ground of the Open Farmed Slopes. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are:	Susceptibility is Medium due to the long separation distance to the Site and layers of intervening vegetation interrupting views to the west.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
		▪ "Low-lying, flat to gently undulating plain rising to a gentle incline to the south-east, ending abruptly at a line of cliffs on the southeast coastline. ▪ Mainly open, large fields, enclosed by drains and fences, with stone walls on higher ground. ▪ Occasional tree groups, and small plantations of broadleaves and conifers, often associated with farms. ▪ Minor roads and occasional small settlements, and distance from the major trunk road. ▪ Limited impact of industrial development at Nigg on the rest of the area within the plain, due its physical containment on a low coastal shelf, and the screening and backdrop provide by the headland at the North Sutor. ▪ Wide views from elevated areas towards the Cromarty Firth, Morrich More, and mountains to the west. ▪ Visual prominence of the hill and smooth pastures and gorse at the North Sutor."	Value is Medium The LCT is not in a designated landscape. It is bounded to the north by the Dornoch Firth NSA, and to the south by the Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort Geoge SLA. The largely undeveloped character of the landscape and its relatively remote peninsular location combine to give some scenic value although not above those of an ordinary landscape. Sensitivity is Medium.
LCT140 Sandy Beaches and Dunes	22.0 km northeast	There is one unit of this LCT in the Study Area, located on the northern coast of Dornoch Firth. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Near continuous stretch of sandy beach between the Dornoch Firth and Brora. ▪ Low shingle ridges backing many of these sandy beaches and forming the base for dune systems. ▪ Large sand banks, splayed sandy beach and spit occurring at the mouth of the Dornoch Firth, backed by low dunes and expansive grassy links. ▪ Wide plain covered with gorse, heather and rough grazing land at Cuthill Links in the Dornoch Firth. ▪ Shingle bars at the mouth of Loch Fleet. ▪ Undulating machair abutting dunes and dune slacks along parts of the east Sutherland coast, with golf courses occupying some of these areas. ▪ Focus for recreation with camp sites, caravan parks and car parks located close to more accessible areas of coast with golf courses present where links and machair areas are more extensive. ▪ Many small crofting communities located on the fringes of beaches, particularly in north and west Sutherland. ▪ Castles with historic gardens and designed landscapes, as well as prehistoric brochs and cists, cairns, and hut circles. ▪ Strong sense of space, light and exposure, and extensive visibility on the larger and more open stretches of sandy beach. ▪ Wildness character to of all these seascapes, more intensely experienced on the more remote beaches along the north and west coasts of Sutherland."	Susceptibility is Medium as this LCT has an open landscape of sand and grassland with a strong horizontal emphasis potentially making vertical structures more noticeable. There is a coastal focus to the LCT, and the Site is situated a long distance from it. Value is High given the NSA designation which extends over much the LCT. Sensitivity is Medium/High.
LCT146 Coastal Farmland & Woodlands	22.5 km northeast	This LCT relates to the coastal margins on the northern shores of Dornoch Firth. It is located directly beyond the Sandy Beaches and Dunes LCT which form the shoreline. The landform of this LCT generally transitions from rolling topography in the west to being almost flat in the plain by Loch Fleet. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment: ▪ "Rolling landform to the west within the Dornoch Firth where this landscape tapers and is constrained to the north by a steep-sided densely wooded ridge. ▪ Gently undulating landform to the east of Skibo and Loch Fleet. ▪ Flat or gently sloping plain north of Loch Fleet. ▪ Well-wooded landscape with coniferous forests, often fringed by broadleaf trees, planted on steeper slopes and capping small ridges and knolls on the shores of the Dornoch Firth in the west. ▪ Policy plantings associated with estates with areas of parkland, tree avenues and ornamental plantings of broadleaves and tall conifers. Plantings of beech common along roadsides on northern lower slopes of Dornoch Firth, with a strong geometric framework of woodlands and mature trees contain large fields in this area. There is a sense of enclosure though much of this LCT as forestry foreshortens views. ▪ Medium to large fields of fertile soils, with a high proportion of arable cropping in some areas.	Susceptibility is Medium. There is an enclosed character to the LCT that limits outward views. The landscape is modified by farming and contains key routes such as the A9 which has a notable characterising influence. Value is Medium to High since a large portion of the LCT in the Study Area coincides with the Dornoch Firth SLA. Sensitivity is Medium/High.

Table 5.2.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal			
Landscape Character Type	**Distance and Direction[2] form Site**	**General Description of LCT including key characteristics.** **Key characteristics highlighted in bold have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development**	**Sensitivity to the Proposed Development**
		▪ Large castles, estate buildings and grand houses on the shores of the Dornoch Firth, as well as the visually prominent and architecturally distinct Dunrobin Castle on the coast north of Golspie, whose turrets and grand tree-lined avenue can be seen from the A9, as well as its lodges, gatehouses and buildings in and around Golspie associated with the Sutherland Estate. ▪ Dispersed farms throughout the area and occasional clusters of crofts, often on the edge of woodland and associated with smaller pastures on higher slopes at the transition with the Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofts or close to the coast at Skelbo. ▪ High visibility from the east coast railway and coastal trunk roads, as well as the network of other roads which cross this area."	
LCT220 Rugged Massif - Inverness	24.5 km southwest	This LCT relates to the rugged and exposed mountains in the area around Inverness. The key characteristics of this LCT, as noted in the NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment are: ▪ "Parallel ranges of massive mountains of irregular landform divided by deep glaciated valleys. ▪ Mainly broad, sometimes rounded rugged summits connected by long ridges and relatively few individual mountain peaks, particularly in the east. ▪ Steep terrain with many mountain-side burns and occasional lochans in corries and depressions. ▪ Landcover of rock outcrops, glacial debris, deer-grazed heather and rough grassland create a smooth surface with mottled texture, with alpine habitats on high land to the west. ▪ Almost uniform texture and cover from lower to upper levels in the east makes the size of the hills difficult to perceive. ▪ Tracts of Caledonian pinewoods and occasional small patches of open birch woodland add colour, texture and seasonal diversity. ▪ Largely uninhabited, few signs of human activity or human artefacts in the interior, and sparse archaeological evidence. ▪ Hill ranges combine to create a fairly even undulating skyline and a sense of enclosure when viewed from straths. ▪ Views from the hill tops at the edges of the massif offer expansive views of the adjacent straths and surrounding landscape character types. ▪ A sense of remoteness and wildness which is particularly strong within the interior."	Susceptibility to the Proposed Development is Medium. The Proposed Development would have the potential to affect the way in which this landscape is perceived although it would not be uncharacteristic of views. Value is Medium to High due to the classification of part of this LCT as a Wild Land Area and SLA. Sensitivity is Medium/High.

Table 5.2.3: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effects
LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif (host LCT) Proposed Development within LCT	Low at the Site, to the east of Loch Glass and southeast of Meall Beag. Medium/Low immediately west of Loch Glass. High/Medium in those parts of the LCT coinciding with WLA and SLA and where the influence of existing wind farm development is lower.	Moderate (within approximately 4 km) and Moderate/Slight (beyond approximately 4 km) in the comparative baseline scenario. Substantial/Moderate (within approximately 4 km). Moderate (within approximately 8 km) reducing to Moderate/Low within approximately 10 km and Low beyond 10 km in the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV illustrates that areas of theoretical visibility are mainly within a few kilometres of the operational Novar 1 Wind Farm, and on northeast facing slopes in the part of the LCT that is in a Wild Land Area. Three viewpoints illustrate the visual change in this host LCT. Viewpoint 3: Loch Glass Wyvis Lodge (Figure 5.28a-g) is indicative of the nature of views likely from the lower elevations alongside the Loch Glass, and Viewpoint 20: Glen Glass (Figure 5.45a-g) demonstrates the view from Glen Glass, from the opposite bank of the Loch. Viewpoint 16: Ben Wyvis (Figure 5.41a-g) illustrates the view from in the Wild Land Area and Ben Wyvis SLA. This is from the Ben Wyvis lower summit which overlooks the operational Novar 1 Wind Farm. All three viewpoints demonstrate that the proposed change simplifies the present layout by reducing the overall number of turbines and introducing larger turbines that trace the side of the low ridge. In the **comparative scenario** this increase in size of the proposed turbines would intensify the presence of wind turbines in the LCT noticeably increasing the influence of wind farm development at the Site and within a distance of approximately 4 km. The magnitude of change in this area would be Moderate primarily due to the increase in scale of the proposed turbines compared to the baseline. Beyond 4 km the notable increase in influence would decrease as the Proposed Development would be seen in a wider context. The increase in size would be appreciable, but the characterising influence of this factor would lessen, and the proposed turbines would present a simpler, more balanced design that responds to underlying landform and reduces the sprawl of turbines across the landscape. Beyond 4km the magnitude of change would reduce to Moderate/Slight. In the **restored scenario**, the characterising influence of Novar 1 turbines would not be present. However, Novar 2 turbines would be present adjacent to the Site, and they would be an existing influence on landscape character of the LCT in that area and environs. The introduction of the proposed turbines would increase the contrast with baseline and there would be a noticeable difference in the size of the turbines compared to those of Novar 2. The proposed turbines would be a noticeable addition but would be spaced widely apart and correspond well to the shape and height of the underlying ridge landform. The magnitude of change within 4km would be Substantial/Moderate primarily due to the large size of the proposed turbines and the notable increasing influence their addition would make to the perception of wind farm development in the LCT. Beyond 4 km the magnitude of change would reduce to Moderate up to about 8km, thereafter reducing to Moderate/Slight within approximately 10 km and beyond reducing to Low at most.	**Comparative scenario**: Minor and not significant within 4 km. Moderate/Minor and not significant beyond 4 km. Moderate and not significant at most. The reduction of the total number of turbines from 34 to nine larger turbines would slightly intensify the experience of wind turbines in the LCT, yet overall, the composition would be simplified in the comparative baseline scenario. **Restored scenario**: Moderate and not significant within 4 km due the presence of Novar 2 and the low sensitivity of the landscape. **Major/Moderate** and **significant** within 4 km to 8 km due to the increased sensitivity of the LCT. Moderate and not significant at most beyond 8 km. In the restored baseline scenario, the magnitude of change would be greater due to a greater contrast with the baseline which is mitigated to a degree by the presence of Novar 2 turbines and the simple design of the Proposed Development that corresponds well with underlying landform.
LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty 0.8 km east	Medium generally. Medium/High in parts of LCT categorised as Wild Land.	This extensive LCT wraps around LCT329 (the 'host' LCT), coming to within 0.8 km of the nearest proposed turbine. The ZTV illustrates that the main areas of theoretical visibility are the upper slopes facing the proposed turbines. There is little theoretical visibility in the larger portion of this LCT which lies in the western section of the Study Area. Viewpoints 9: Loch Morie (Figure 5.34a-g), 10: Beinn Tharsuinn (Figure 5.35a-g) and 11: Cnoc Fyrish (Figure 5.36a-f) illustrate the change likely to be experienced from parts of the LCT nearest to the proposed turbines. In the **comparative scenario**, the proposed turbines would slightly intensify the influence of wind turbines in the LCT since the proposed turbines would be larger in size. In some locations, such as Viewpoint 11, the proposed turbines would slightly extend the influence of wind turbines associated with Novar 2 Wind Farm. Notably, the western parts of the LCT would experience very little visibility of the proposed turbines. The magnitude of change would be Moderate within approximately 3.5 to 4 km of the Proposed Development. This would reduce to Moderate/Slight in areas to the north and northeast which are influenced by operational Beinn Tharsuinn and Coire na Cloiche wind farms. Magnitude would reduce to Slight in the west where visibility coincides mainly with isolated summits and where the proposed turbines would be seen as a minor addition in wider views. In the **restored scenario**, the large size of the proposed turbines would contrast with those of the Novar 2 Wind Farm and intensify the presence of wind turbines in the eastern part of this LCT within approximately 4km. The magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate. The perception of the contrast in size would reduce with distance and the proposed turbines would be more noticeable than those of the Novar 2 Wind Farm within approximately 4-8 km. The magnitude of change would reduce to Moderate within 4-8 km and Slight beyond 8 km.	**Comparative scenario**: Moderate and Not Significant at most. **Restored scenario**: **Major/Moderate** and **significant** within 4 km. Moderate and not significant at most beyond 4 km to 8 km due to the increased sensitivity of the LCT.

Table 5.2.3: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types			
Landscape Character Type	**Sensitivity**	**Magnitude of Change**	**Residual Effects**
LCT341 Forest Edge Farming 1.4 km south	Medium	Two units of this LCT lie to the northeast and southwest of the proposed turbines with the northeastern unit being the larger. The ZTV shows that there are large areas of theoretical visibility in the north-eastern unit of the LCT, and Viewpoints 6: Boath (Figure 5.31a-g), 8: Minor Road, Ardross Distillery (Figure 5.33a-g), and 30: Ardross Community Hall (Figure 5.55a-g) show potential views. In the **comparative scenario** the Proposed Development would be perceived as fewer, larger turbines associated with the moorland landscapes beyond the LCT. The random, overlapping array of Novar 1 turbines would be replaced with a simpler image of turbines arranged to correspond to the topography of the Site. The scale of the proposed turbines would be larger relative to the small scale features of LCT341 and they would be more noticeable in views. The magnitude of change would be Moderate in the western part of the LCT and Moderate/Slight in the east. In the **restored scenario**, the proposed turbines would be seen as large new features adding to the smaller Novar 2 turbines. In the west of the LCT the change would be very noticeable and the contrast with the baseline would be notable, and the magnitude of change would be Substantial/Moderate. In the eastern part of the LCT where views open out and there is greater context and intervening distance, the magnitude of change would reduce to Moderate.	**Comparative scenario**: Moderate and not significant in the west of the LCT. Moderate/Minor and not significant in the east of the LCT. **Restored scenario**: **Major/Moderate** and **significant** in the west of the LCT. Moderate and not significant in the east of the LCT. The proposed turbines would be very notable features in the western part of the LCT contrasting with small scale features of the baseline. This would result in significant effects in a small part of the LCT in the restored baseline scenario only.
LCT339 Inland Strath 3.5 km northeast	Medium/High	The ZTV shows that the theoretical visibility would be limited to one of the three units of this LCT, namely Strath Rusdale which lies at approximately 4.5 km northeast of the proposed turbines. The ZTV demonstrates that potential visibility would be limited to the southern and northern edges of the Strath Rusdale. Viewpoints 4: Strath Rusdale and 7: Minor Road Inchlumpie (Figures 5.5.29a-g and 5.32a-g respectively) illustrate that the proposed turbines would be partially visible over the brow of the slope, appearing to relate to the landscape beyond the LCT. In the **comparative scenario** the proposed turbines would be more noticeable in the southern part of the strath and appear larger on the enclosing skyline. However, the reduced number of turbines from 34 to nine, the wider spacing of the proposed turbines and the reduction in overlapping turbines creates a much simpler image that corresponds well to the skyline. The proposed turbines would not be uncharacteristic of views to the enclosing skyline in the south of the strath. In the north of the strath the proposed turbines would be a new feature and a comparison with Novar 1 would not be made. However, throughout the strath although the proposed turbines would be present on the skyline they would not affect the scale or wider character of the Strath Rusdale LCT unit. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight. In the **restored scenario** effects in the south of the strath would differ in that the proposed turbines would introduce large new features into the enclosing skyline. The proposed turbines would be seen with turbines of Novar 2 and although scale comparisons would be made between the two developments the proposed turbines would not impinge upon the overall scale of the strath or other key characteristics that define it although it would be a notable change to the scale of development and influence on the enclosing skyline. The magnitude of change would be Moderate.	**Comparative scenario**: Moderate and not significant. **Restored scenario**: **Major/Moderate** and **significant**. The proposed turbines would influence a very small part of a single unit of this LCT at the northern and southern edges of Strath Rusdale. There would be no change to the other two units in the LVIA Study Area.
LCT345 Farmed and Forested Slopes – Ross & Cromarty 6.5 km southeast	Medium	Negligible magnitude of change in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV illustrates areas of theoretical visibility in the more distant parts of the LCT (over 10 km). There is no visibility of the proposed turbines in the parts of the LCT that are closest. Viewpoints 21: A817 Invergordon (Figure 5. 46a-g) and 28: A9 East of Alness (Figure 5.53a-g) show the type of visibility likely from the east, where visibility is not obstructed by intervening vegetation and built form objects. The well-treed nature of this LCT prevents visibility in general. Where there is clear visibility, this often includes the operational turbines which contribute to the baseline character. The magnitude of change is considered to be Negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario** since visibility of the proposed turbines would be restricted and heavily filtered in general, and where it is possible to see the proposed turbines they would appear in the same arc of view as operational Novar 2 Wind Farm turbines	Minor and not significant in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The proposed turbines would introduce a very limited change to the existing baseline.
LCT135 Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland 8.9 km north	Medium in eastern parts Medium/High in western parts	Slight magnitude of change in eastern parts where there is greatest theoretical visibility in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV indicates that potential visibility of the proposed repowering turbines will be largely limited to the south-facing slopes on the east side of Achany Glen. There is little potential visibility in other parts of this LCT. Where potential visibility is shown, the ZTV indicates that this is highly limited with constrained theoretical visibility in other parts of this LCT.	Minor and not significant for both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The Proposed Development is outside the LCT and would therefore have no direct physical effect on it. Visibility would be highly constrained and limited in the western parts of the LCT which have a higher

Table 5.2.3: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types			
Landscape Character Type	**Sensitivity**	**Magnitude of Change**	**Residual Effects**
		There would be no views to the proposed turbines from the valleys or the lower slopes in this LCT, and the western parts of the LCT that exhibit a greater degree of wildness would not, in general, experience potential visibility, although there is some limited and constrained theoretical visibility from some of the higher peaks. In eastern parts of this LCT, visibility of turbines would be extended slightly further uphill. The change would be discernible but would not alter the underlying characteristics of the landscape character in both the **comparative scenario** or the **restored scenario**.	sensitivity. In eastern parts, around Achany Glen, there would be increased visibility of turbines from some of the higher slopes. This increase would be discernible but there would be limited effects on perceived key characteristics in both the comparative scenario and the restored scenario.
LCT346 Open Farmed Slopes 10.8 km southeast	Medium	The ZTV shows area of visibility across the northwest facing slopes of the LCT most of which are situated on the Black Isle. Viewpoints 5: A9 Duncanston (Figure 5.30a-g), 13: Easter Brae Black Isle (Figure 5.38a-g), 17: A835 Leanaig Junction (Figure 5.42a-g), 19: Culbokie (Figure 5.43a-g), and 24: Knocfarrel (Figure 5.49a-g) demonstrate the nature of the potential views. The viewpoints show that the operational Novar 2 turbines, and single domestic/farm turbines already influence views from part of the LCT. In the **comparative scenario** the proposed turbines would be larger and more noticeable but fewer in number occupying the same part of the view as Novar 1 turbines. This is illustrated in Viewpoint 19 which shows that the proposed turbines would present a simpler image in expansive outward facing views. The magnitude of change would be Slight. In the **restored scenario**, the proposed turbines would be a noticeable new focal point in wider outward views from the LCT. This would change the composition of views to a degree resulting in a Moderate/Slight magnitude change at most.	**Comparative scenario**: Moderate/Minor and not significant. **Restored scenario**: Moderate and not significant. The proposed turbines would slightly intensify the influence of wind turbines on outward facing views from this LCT. The change would be more apparent in the restored baseline scenario where the proposed turbines would appear as a minor focal point on the horizon from the closer parts of the LCT within wider views.
LCT139 Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness & Sutherland 11.3 km north northwest and 13.3 km north	Medium/High	Slight/Negligible magnitude of change in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility is restricted to the highest peaks and some upper slopes. Such visibility is constrained in the larger of the two units of this LCT in the Study Area, and the greatest visibility is from the southern slopes of Carn Salachaidh. This is illustrated in Viewpoints 2: Carn Salachaidh (Figure 5.27a-g) and 23: Diebidale Ridge (Figure 5.48a-g). The operational Novar turbines are visible from the southern slopes of Carn Salachaidh (Viewpoint 2), and, to a lesser degree from the ridge along the southern side of Glen Diebidale (Viewpoint 23). In the **comparative scenario** the proposed turbines would slightly increase the visibility of turbines in both viewpoints effectively drawing them slightly closer. However, the proposed turbines are located in the same part of the view as the existing Novar turbines, and they form a small part of the panoramic views from the tops of hills as illustrated in Viewpoints 2 and 23. Therefore, the Proposed Development represents a very limited change to the landscape character in the comparative baseline scenario. In the **restored scenario** the proposed turbines would be a noticeable new feature in views of uplands beyond the LCT. The Proposed Development would influence the key characteristics of *'extensive views of the surrounding landscape'* to a degree. Given intervening distance to the Proposed Development the main influence on views would be the open, mountainous landscapes and expansive nature of views to which the Proposed Development would be a minor addition.	Moderate/Minor and not significant for both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The Proposed Development is outside the LCT, therefore there would be no direct physical effect on the LCT. Whilst the proposed turbines would be slightly clearer and larger as perceived from areas of potential visibility in this LCT, the overall effect is limited in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario.
LCT342 Farmed River Plains 11.5 km south	Medium	Negligible magnitude of change in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV indicates areas of theoretical visibility to the north, west and south of Muir of Ord. However, the low-lying nature of the topography combines with the numerous treelines and woodlands to ensure that any actual visibility would be filtered. Given screening by intervening vegetation and the distance of over 14km, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. since the proposed turbines would be imperceptible from most parts of this LCT. Where there are views of the proposed turbines, these would be very limited.	Minor and not significant in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The Proposed Development is outwith this LCT and as such would have no direct physical effects on it or its constituent elements, and any actual visibility would be largely screened/heavily filtered by the mature lines of trees and woodland in the LCT.
LCT145 Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting 20 km north northeast	Medium/High	Negligible magnitude of change in both the comparative baseline scenario and the restored baseline scenario. The ZTV indicates that potential visibility in the closest part of this LCT (near Bonar Bridge) would be largely in areas of forestry and woodland, and such visibility would be over 20 km distance. Theoretical visibility in the LCT unit near Lairg is fragmented and over 28 km from the proposed turbines. In both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario** there would be very limited change to the key characteristics identified in Table 5.2.2.	Minor and not significant for both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The proposed turbines would not be visible from much of this LCT. Where there is potential visibility, this is either in areas of mature woodland, or distant and fragmented. In both the comparative scenario

Table 5.2.3: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types			
Landscape Character Type	**Sensitivity**	**Magnitude of Change**	**Residual Effects**
			and the restored scenarios effects would be very limited.
LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross & Cromarty 21 km southwest	Medium generally, Medium/High in areas categorised as Wild Land.	The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility would be limited to the unit of this LCT that lies between Strathconon and Glen Orrin in which Fairburn Wind Farm is located, at distances of over 21 km. Visibility of the proposed turbines would be at relatively long distances and seen in the context of existing operational wind energy development. The other two units of this LCT would experience no change. Therefore, the magnitude of change is judged to be Negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**.	Minor and not significant for both the **comparative** and **restored scenarios**. The Proposed Development is outwith this LCT and as such would not have direct physical effects on it or any of its characteristic elements. Potential visibility would be limited to a part of the LCT that is relatively distant and in the context of the operational Fairburn Wind Farm and operational Novar 2 Wind Farm.
LCT344 Lowland Farmed Plain – Ross & Cromarty 21 km east	Medium	The ZTV illustrates theoretical visibility for much of the south-eastern unt of this LCT. The topography of this LCT is low-lying, and whilst there are wide open views over the Cromarty Firth and westwards towards the mountains, the frequent hedge planting alongside fields limits visibility of features that lie closer to the horizon. Therefore, views of the proposed turbines would be filtered and distant (over 21 km), and when visible, they would be seen in a panoramic context as recessive features with very limited influence on landscape character. The magnitude of change would be Negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. since the proposed turbines would introduce a very limited alteration to key characteristics of this LCT.	Moderate/Minor and not significant in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. There would be limited visibility of the proposed turbines, and where they are visible, they would appear as a very small element in the wider panoramic view. The key characteristics would remain unaltered.
LCT140 Sandy Beaches and Dunes 22 km northeast	Medium/High	The ZTV shows potential visibility from all parts of this LCT. However, Viewpoints 14: Dornoch Point (Figure 5.39a-g) and 15: Dornoch Bridge (Figure 5.40a-g) illustrate the limited nature of the theoretical visibility from this low-lying LCT. There would potentially be views of blade tips of the proposed turbines at distances of between 22 to 31km. Viewpoints 14 and 15 demonstrate that the degree of change would be very limited and barely perceptible in views from this LCT. In both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario** there would be very limited change to the key characteristics identified in Table 5.2.2.	Moderate/Minor and not significant for both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. Potential visibility would be distant and limited. Blade tips may be discernible on lower parts of the skyline, but this would not alter the key characteristics of this LCT in both the comparative scenario and the restored scenario.
LCT146 Coastal Farmland & Woodlands 22.5 km northeast	Medium/High	The ZTV indicates there would be potential visibility of part of the proposed turbines from this LCT. However, actual visibility would be greatly reduced by the large amount of mature woodland, some of which is policy related, and mature hedgerows and tree planting around field boundaries. Since this LCT is relatively low-lying, it is likely that any visibility would be of blade tips in the distant hills (over 22 km). In both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario** there would be very limited change to the key characteristics identified in Table 5.2.2.	Minor and not significant for both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. Theoretical visibility would be much reduced by intervening mature planting, and potential visibility would be distant, and the Proposed Development would not influence key characteristics of this LCT.
LCT220 Rugged Massif – Inverness 24.5 km southwest	Medium/High	Theoretical visibility is restricted to north and northeast facing slopes and summits. The proposed turbines would be seen distantly (over 24 km) and would occupy a small part of what are generally panoramic views from elevated locations in the LCT. The proposed turbines would be perceived in the context of the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm turbines which would be retained, and beyond the operational Fairburn Wind Farm which would have more of an influence on landscape character **Figure 5.5 (EIAR Volume 3a)** shows that the Proposed Development would introduce additional areas of theoretical visibility to the LCT. In the **comparative scenario** this would be perceived as increasing slightly the presence of wind farm development in distant views. In the **restored scenario**, the Proposed Development would be noticeable as a small feature on the distant horizon. It would have a very limited influence on views out from the LCT and the 'sense of remoteness and wildness' due to intervening distance and the influence of Fairburn wind farm. The magnitude of change is judged to be negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario.**	Moderate/Minor and not significant in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The Proposed Development is located outside this LCT and would therefore have no direct physical effects on it. Although the change in scale of the proposed turbines would be perceptible, the turbines would be distant, and the change is limited to views from a small part of the LCT coinciding with upper slopes and summits.

Table 5.2.4: Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Cumulative Change	Residual Cumulative Effect
LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif Proposed Development within LCT	Low at the Site, to the east of Loch Glass and southeast of Meall Beag. Medium/Low immediately west of Loch Glass. High/Medium in those parts of the LCT coinciding with WLA and SLA and where the influence of existing wind farm development is lower.	The Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development into part of the LCT unit in which wind farm development is an established characteristic and would continue to be so with the presence of the Novar 2 Wind Farm. There are no other cumulative wind farms in the host LCT unit. Scenario 2 (Consented) All consented but not yet constructed wind farms are situated adjacent to operational wind farms or in LCT where effects arising from the Proposed Development would not be significant. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in limited cumulative change to the perceived landscape character of LCT329. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Slight/Negligible. Scenario 3 (In Planning) Abhainn Dubh, Ceislein and Carn Fearna are situated in LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes and LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills which are adjacent to the host LCT329 unit. Viewpoint 16 in the southwest of the host LCT329 unit and Viewpoints 11 and 13 show that Abhainn Dubh would influence views outward from LCT329 and views towards the LCT and the notable landmark of Ben Wyvis. These viewpoints show that the Proposed Development would be separated from Abhainn Dubh by intervening distance and terrain and situated where wind farm development is an established feature. There would be combined visibility of the Proposed Development and Ceislein and as shown in Viewpoint 16 the Proposed Development would extend wind farm development across views from in the LCT unit. Given the presence of Novar 2 the perceived increase in wind farm development and effects on landscape character would be limited. In views towards the host LCT unit from the southeast there would be combined visibility of the Proposed Development and Ceislein in which the proposed turbines would be seen behind Ceislein extending the influence of wind farm development but not interrupting views of Ben Wyvis which is a landmark feature. Ceislein would be a notable influencing factor and the addition of the Proposed Development would result in limited cumulative change in Scenario 3. The magnitude of cumulative change assessed for the addition of the Proposed Development would be Slight within 4 km and Slight/Negligible beyond 4 km. Scenario 4 (Scoping) There is the potential for cumulative interactions with the Proposed Development and Glasa to result in effects on LCT329. Glasa would be situated in the adjacent LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes. The magnitude of cumulative change assessed for the addition of the Proposed Development would be Slight within 8 km and Slight/Negligible beyond 8 km.	Scenario 2 (Consented) Minor and not significant at most. Scenario 3 (In Planning) Moderate/Minor and not significant at most. Scenario 4 (Scoping) Moderate/Minor and not significant at most.
LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross & Cromarty 0.8 km east	Medium generally. Medium/High in parts of LCT categorised as Wild Land.	LCT330 is a large unit that surrounds the host LCT in all directions except to the southwest. Eight to ten kilometres to the northeast of the Site LCT330 is influenced by operational Beinn Tharsuinn and operational Coire na Cloiche. Eighteen kilometres to the west southwest the LCT unit is influenced by operational Lochluichart and Extension and Corriemoillie. Scenario 2 (Consented) All consented but not yet constructed wind farms are situated adjacent to operational wind farms or in LCT where effects arising from the Proposed Development would not be significant. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in very limited cumulative change to the perceived landscape character of LCT330. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Negligible due to consented sites being distant and associated with operational wind farms. Scenario 3 (In Planning) The main cumulative interaction affecting LCT330 would be with Ceislein. The Proposed Development would be seen in combination with Ceislein in views to and from LCT330. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind farm development on the undulating skyline of LCT330 but would not affect the remote interior or directly influence most of the key characteristics. Abhainn Dubh and Carn Fearna. Abhainn Dubh would be situated in LCT330 4.8 km south southwest of the Proposed Development with Carn Fearna 14.9 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development in the adjacent LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills. The ZTV shown on Figure 5.16 indicates visibility mainly in the part of LCT330 within 10 km of the Proposed Development to the northeast and south. Viewpoint 10 in the eastern part of LCT330 shows that Abhainn Dubh would be a minor feature and Carn Fearna would not be visible. Viewpoint 11 shows that Abhainn Dubh would influence southwestern part of the LCT. The addition of the	Scenario 2 (Consented) Minor and not significant at most. Scenario 3 (In Planning) Moderate/Minor and not significant at most. Scenario 4 (Scoping) Moderate/Minor and not significant at most.

Table 5.2.4: Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types			
Landscape Character Type	**Sensitivity**	**Magnitude of Cumulative Change**	**Residual Cumulative Effect**
		Proposed Development would lead to a limited increase in the influence of wind farm development on the perceived landscape character of LCT330. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Slight/Negligible. Scenario 4 (Scoping) Glasa and Beinn Tharsuinn Repowering would be situated in LCT330. Glasa and Beinn Tharsuinn Repowering would be notable additions to the LCT having a substantial influence on landscape character around each site. The addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a small increase in the influence of wind farm development on the perceived landscape character of LCT330. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Slight/Negligible.	
LCT341 Forest Edge Farming 1.4 km south	Medium	There are no operational wind farms situated in this LCT and there are no consented, in planning or scoping sites in this LCT. Cumulative effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development would be limited to instances of combined visibility in views from the LCT to the Proposed Development. As such the main cumulative interaction would be with Ceislein (In Planning). Viewpoints 6: Boath (Figures 5.31a-g), 8: Minor Road, Ardross Distillery (Figures 5.33a-g) and 30: Ardross Community Hall (Figures 5.55a-g) show that the Proposed Development would be a noticeable addition to Ceislein increasing the influence of wind energy development with Ceislein being a notable influence in Scenario 3. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind farm development, but this would not fundamentally change the key characteristics of LCT341. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Moderate in western and eastern parts of the LCT.	Scenario 3 (In Planning) Moderate and not significant in the west of the LCT
LCT339 Inland Strath 4.5 km northeast	Medium-High	There are no operational wind farms situated in this LCT and there are no consented, in planning or scoping sites in this LCT. Cumulative effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development would be limited to instances of combined visibility in views from the LCT to the Proposed Development. As such the main cumulative interaction would be with Ceislein (In Planning). Viewpoints 4: Strath Rusdale (Figures 5.29a-g) and 7: Minor Road, Inchlumpie (Figures 5.32a-g) show that the Proposed Development would be a noticeable addition to Ceislein extending wind farm development across views of the enclosing skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind farm development, and it would be a notable additional feature visible on the enclosing skyline already influenced to a degree by Ceislein. However, it would not fundamentally change the key characteristics of LCT339. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Moderate.	Scenario 3 (In planning) **Major/Moderate** and **significant**.
LCT135 Rounded Hills - Caithness & Sutherland 8.9 km north	Medium in eastern parts Medium/High in western parts	Operational Rosehall, Achany, Lairg and Kilbraur Extension wind farms are situated in this LCT at distances of more than 30 km from the Proposed Development. There is very limited interaction between the Proposed Development and these sites due to intervening distance. Scenario 2 (Consented) Consented Meall Buidhe, Lairg 2 and Garvary would be situated in LCT135. These sites are at distances of 23 km or more from the Proposed Development and they would be the main influence on the part of LCT135 in which they would be located. The addition of the Proposed Development would not lead to an increase in the magnitude of change assessed for the Proposed Development with the operational baseline. Scenario 3 (In Planning) Allt an Tuir, Balblair, Coille Beith, Lairg 3, Inveroykel and Strath Oykel would all be situated in LCT135 at distances of more than 24 km from the Proposed Development. These wind farms would be the main influence on the part of LCT135 in which they would be located. The addition of the Proposed Development to Ceislein would increase the influence of wind farm development in the area immediately surrounding the two schemes. The cumulative change to LCT135 would be very limited due to intervening distance The addition of the Proposed Development would not lead to an increase in the magnitude of change assessed for the Proposed Development with the operational baseline. Scenario 4 (Scoping) Achany Extension, Braelangwell, and Inverecassley would all be situated in LCT135 and would mainly affect landscape character in the area around them. The addition of the Proposed Development to these sites would result in very limited or no cumulative change.	Scenario 2 (Consented), Scenario 3 (In Planning) and Scenario 4 (Scoping) Minor and not significant.

Table 5.2.4: Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types			
Landscape Character Type	**Sensitivity**	**Magnitude of Cumulative Change**	**Residual Cumulative Effect**
		Glasa and Beinn Tharsuinn Repowering would all be situated between LCT135 and the Proposed Development. These two schemes would have a greater influence on LCT135 and the addition of the Proposed Development would result in very limited cumulative change to LCT135. The distance between LCT135 and Tarvie means the addition of the Proposed Development would result in Negligible cumulative change. For Scenarios 2, 3 and 4 the magnitude of cumulative change would be Slight.	
LCT346 Open Farmed Slopes 10.8 km southeast	Medium	There are no operational wind farms situated in this LCT and there are no consented, in planning or scoping sites in this LCT. Cumulative effects arising from the addition of the Proposed Development would be limited to instances of combined visibility in views from the LCT to the Proposed Development. As such the main cumulative interactions would be with Abhainn Dubh (In Planning) and Ceislein (In Planning). <u>Scenario 3 (In Planning)</u> Viewpoints 13: Easter Brae, Black Isle (Figures 5.38a-g) and 19: Culbokie (Figures 5.44a-g) show that there would be combined visibility of the Proposed Development and Abhainn Dubh which would be situated on lower terrain in front of Ben Wyvis. The Proposed Development would increase the amount of wind farm development visible occupying a small proportion of the view beyond an intervening ridge. The Proposed Development would be a noticeable addition to Ceislein extending wind farm development across views of the undulating skyline affecting the "*open, expansive and outward facing views.*" While the addition of the Proposed Development would increase in the influence of wind farm development on views from LCT346 it would not change the majority of underlying key characteristics. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Slight.	<u>Scenario 3 (In Planning)</u> Moderate/Minor and not significant.