Technical Appendix 5.4: Landscape Designations Assessment

Technical Appendix 5.4: Landscape Designations Assessment

5.4.1 Introduction

5.4.1.1 **Figure 5.9 (EIAR Volume 3a)** illustrates the location and extent of designated landscapes and wild land areas (WLA) within the 35 km Study Area. Where designated landscapes and WLA are omitted from this assessment, the reason for this is also noted in this table.

5.4.1.2 Tables 5.4.2 and 5.4.3 of this appendix provide a description of each landscape designation and an appraisal of the sensitivity. In general, a high sensitivity is ascribed to nationally important landscape designations such a National Scenic Areas. The effects on Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) are not described in this Technical Appendix. The effects on GDL are described in **Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)**.

5.4.1.3 Regional and local landscape designations are given less weight and protection in assessment terms. Notwithstanding this, determining the sensitivity of such designations requires careful evaluation of their value and susceptibility, relative to the Proposed Development, with reference to the special qualities expressly identified in designation citations.

5.4.1.4 Table 5.4.2 presents the landscape assessment of Dornoch Firth NSA, and Table 5.4.4 describes the landscape assessment the Highland Council SLAs. Table 5.4.5 presents potential cumulative effects arising on each designated landscape assessed in detail.

5.4.1.5 An assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on WLA 29 Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis is described in **Technical Appendix 5.6: Wild Land Area Impact Assessment (EIAR Volume 4)**.

National Scenic Areas

5.4.1.6 National Scenic Areas are assessed in accordance with NatureScot guidance: Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects[1]. This suggests a four-step process which is set out as follows:

- Step 1 – Review and Description: the full description is in **Chapter 5 (EIAR Volume 2)**. The key element that is likely to affect Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) is the change proposed, where 34 smaller (60 m to blade tip) turbines are proposed to be decommissioned and replaced by nine larger turbines (180 m to blade tip);
- Step 2 – Identify SLQs that may be affected: NSAs within the Study Area are identified in Table 5.4.1 below, and where SLQs may be affected they are identified in Table 5.4.2;
- Step 3 – The guidance advises that Step 3 assess effects on those SLQs identified in Step 2 as likely to experience significant effect. However, in the case of Dornoch Firth NSA no significant effects have been identified, and Step 3 is not required; and
- Step 4 – Summary of significant effects on SLQs: where significant effects are identified, NatureScot guidance advises that these should be summarised. As no significant effects are identified on SLQ of Dornoch Firth NSA Step 4 is not required in detail.

5.4.1.7 A similar approach is used in the assessment of effects on Special Landscape Areas (SLA). Significant effects are summarised in Table 5.4.4 and cumulative effects on SQs of SLAs are summarised in Table 5.4.5.

5.4.1.8 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.

[1] NatureScot, (January 2025). Special Landscape Qualities – Guidance on Assessing Effects

Table 5.4.1: National and Local Landscape Designations within the 35 km Study Area			
Designation	**Distance and Direction from Proposed Development**	**Assessed in LVIA**	**Justification for omission**
National Scenic Areas			
Dornoch Firth NSA	17.5 km northeast	Yes	
Glen Strathfarrar NSA	34.5 km southwest	No	No theoretical visibility within the 35 km Study Area.
Highland Special Landscape Areas (SLA)			
Ben Wyvis SLA	3 km west	▪ Yes	▪
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	11.5 km northwest	Yes	
Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA	21.5 km southeast	Yes	
Strath Cannon, Monar and Mullardoch SLA	29.5 km southwest	No	One very limited area of theoretical visibility at approximately 34.5 km distance.
Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loch SLA	31.5 km northeast	No	No theoretical visibility within the 35 km Study Area.
Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA	33.5 km south	No	One highly limited area of theoretical visibility at a distance of approximately 34 km.

Table 5.4.2: Detailed Assessment of SLQ of Dornoch Firth NSA

Step 1 – Description of the NSA, underlying Landscape Character and Potential Visibility of the Proposed Development.

Description

The Dornoch Firth NSA covers an area of approximately 115 km^2. It coincides with the Dornoch Firth extending from Bonar Bridge in the west almost to Portmahomack in the east. It includes the open waters at the mouth of the Firth and the narrow, sheltered tidal waters to the east of Bonar Bridge. The NSA also encompasses landward areas on the fringes of the Firth ranging from the settled and forested areas between Tain and Ardgay and between Bonar Bridge and Clashmore. These parts of the NSA contrast with areas of coastal links and dunes that are found to the south of Dornoch and east of Tain. Roads and railway lines are present in the landward areas where the influence of agriculture is stronger, particularly where flatter land is present. Steeper ground comprises of moorland and forestry/woodland with Loch Migdale set in a secluded valley and separated from the Firth by terrain.

Underpinning Landscape Character

The main underpinning LCT are:

- LCT140 Sandy Beaches and Dunes
- LCT145 Farmed and Forested Slopes with Crofting
- LCT146 Coastal Farmland and Woodlands
- LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross and Cromarty
- LCT343 Coastal Shelf
- Potential Visibility of the Proposed Development
- The ZTVs shown on Figures 5.7 to 5.9 show there would be theoretical visibility of hubs and tips of up to eight proposed turbines from part of the NSA at Dornoch Bridge and to the north between Skibo Castle and Dornoch. LVIA Viewpoint 14: Dornoch Point (Figure 5.39a-f) and Viewpoint 15: Dornoch Bridge (Figure 5.40a-f) show that two nacelles and one blade tip would potentially be seen from Dornoch Point with up to seven blade tips visible from Dornoch Bridge. At distances of 22-30 km the Proposed Development would be seen as a minor feature in views. A second area of theoretical visibility is shown to the east of Tain at the Ministry of Defence firing range. From this area potentially up to four nacelles and up to eight blade tips would be seen at distances of over 28 km. At such distances the Proposed Development would be a very minor feature in views.

Step 2 – Identification of SLQ that could be affected by the Proposed Development

SLQ	**Sensitivity of the SLQ to the Proposed Development**	**Potential for the SLQ to be affected by the Proposed Development**
The contrast between the enclosed west and the expansive east The Dornoch Firth exhibits a surprising variety of landscapes, with dramatic contrasts to east and west.	The small scale enclosed landscapes in the west of the NSA are sensitive to tall structures which, if situated close to the NSA, could result in adverse scale comparisons with the small scale landforms where the Firth narrows against a backdrop of rounded hills. Given the distance to the Proposed Development from the NSA susceptibility to change is evaluated as medium/low.	Viewpoints 14 and 15 show that the Proposed Development would be perceived as a distant feature in views west from the NSA. Strathrory wind farm would have a

Table 5.4.2: Detailed Assessment of SLQ of Dornoch Firth NSA		
To the east there is expansiveness where offshore views lead out to sea and a limitless horizon. To the west there is a sinuous firth and a sense of enclosure, where inland views are bounded by opposing shores against a backcloth of hills.	Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	greater influence on views being position between the NSA and the Proposed Development. The turbines of Strathrory would appear larger and more numerous than those of the Proposed Development. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
Inhabited surrounds within a wilder backdrop of hills and moors The inner firth wends its way inland until the hills and moors sweep round to provide an undulating backdrop to the green and fertile alluvial lands. This horizon of wilder hills contrasts markedly with the mosaic of farms and woods on the coastal flats – which comes across as an ordered, long-inhabited land.	The uninhabited and undeveloped moorland and hill backdrop to the NSA is sensitive to wind farm development which could become a focal point and reduce the contrast with the settled and farmed edge of the NSA. Development that is noticeable in the wilder backdrop has the potential to change this SLQ. Susceptibility to change of this SLQ is evaluated as high. Sensitivity is evaluated as High.	Viewpoints 14 and 15 show that the Proposed Development would be set back a considerable distance from the NSA beyond the immediate enclosing hills and moorland. The Proposed Development would be visible and perceived as a minor feature in views. It would occupy a very small proportion of available views, and the proposed turbines would be partly backdropped by distant landform and would not stand out above the horizon. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
A wide diversity of woodland cover The interplay of open ground, trees and woods results in a landscape mosaic of great beauty. In places, dark forests of conifers clothe the hillsides, in others lighter, more rounded, broadleaved woodland reaches the shore. On farmland the fields are often interspersed with small copses or lines of boundary trees, whilst policy plantings adorn the Skibo Estate. This rich variety of vertical form and texture complements the horizontals of the firth itself.	The Proposed Development could not affect the 'landscape mosaic' or the pattern, form and texture of woodland cover and the rich variety of vertical form. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	Woodland would not be affected by the Proposed Development. There would be no significant impacts on this SLQ, and it is not considered further.
A rich variety of alluvial lands, dunes and links The low ground of the coastal flats shows endless variety and contrast, whether sandy links or well-managed farmland; level saltmarsh or undulating sand dunes; policy woodland or thickets of whin and broom.	The Proposed Development could not affect the variety and contrast of the coastal flats and the varied land cover of this SLQ. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The rich variety of alluvial lands, dunes and links would not be affected by the Proposed Development. There would be no significant impacts on this SLQ, and it is not considered further.
The ever-changing firth Above all it is the firth itself, with its innumerable bays, sands, flats, shallows and promontories which presents a constantly changing scene – a dynamic foreground to the landscape of farms and hills beyond. Dynamism comes from the ebb and flow of the tides, the shifting of sediments, the clouds scurrying above, the waves below, and flocks of birds feeding or flying along the shore. The reflections off the water and the wet sands, together with wide-open skies, show dramatic changes in colour and texture on a daily and seasonal basis, with light itself the determining factor in the experience.	This SLQ is susceptible to change from wind farm development which could compete with the natural forces that dominate the Firth and the factor of dynamism which stems from the movement of tides and flocks of birds rather than movement of man-made features. The Proposed Development could reduce the contrast between these dynamic forces and the hills beyond the NSA. Given the distance to the Proposed Development from the NSA susceptibility to change is evaluated as medium/low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	The Proposed Development would be set far back from the NSA. It would be seen in the hills beyond the NSA, and the proposed turbines would be seen as minor features on a distant horizon as shown by Viewpoint 14 and Viewpoint 15. The movement of rotors the proposed turbines may be discernible although Strathrory would be more of an influence on this SLQ as it is closer to the NSA and the turbines appear larger. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
The tranquillity of an undeveloped coastline	The 'further information' in the published description of this SLQ notes that "the Firth is not without its obvious structures." These include the railway on the south side of the Firth, the A9 crossing on a long straight bridge and the metal bridge at Bonar Bridge which carries the A836 across the Firth. Movement of vehicles and trains	The Proposed Development would be situated approximately 17.5 km to the southwest of the NSA. The nearest part of

Table 5.4.2: Detailed Assessment of SLQ of Dornoch Firth NSA		
The Dornoch Firth lacks any major ports or industry along its shoreline and possesses a rural ambience of great tranquillity.	on these transport routes introduces movement into the NSA. The proposed Development could be perceived as increasing the influence of structures visible from the NSA and also increasing sources of man-made movement. Given the influence of existing structures and movement along transport routes susceptibility to change of this SLQ is evaluated as medium. Sensitivity is evaluated as High/Medium.	the NSA from which it would be visible is over 20 km from the Proposed Development and indicates theoretical visibility of up to four blade tips. Viewpoint 14 and Viewpoint 15 show that where visible the Proposed Development would be seen as a minor feature and it would not influence the experience of tranquillity and lack of development. In particular, Viewpoint 15 Dornoch Bridge shows that Strathrory would have an influence as it would be seen on the skyline and closer to the NSA than the Proposed Development. The effects of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be significant. Impacts on this SLQ are not considered further.
Migdale, a microcosm of the wider Dornoch Firth Migdale, with its loch, agricultural land, woodland, moorland and crag, expresses, an inland variation of the same themes of water, lowland and upland. This diversity in a small area gives Migdale great visual appeal.	The ZTV shown on Figure 5.9 indicates that the Proposed Development would not be visible from the Migdale part of the NSA nor would it be visible to the east and south of Migdale. It would be visible from areas outwith the NSA to the northwest and north at distances of over 18 km. The "visual appeal" of Migdale could not be affected by the Proposed Development due to the oblique angle of views and distance to the proposed turbines. Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is evaluated as low. Sensitivity is evaluated as Medium.	Migdale would not be affected by the Proposed Development. There would be no significant impacts on this SLQ, and it is not considered further.

Table 5.4.3: Highland Special Landscape Areas (SLA) Descriptions and Sensitivity		
SLA	**Description of Special Qualities**	**Sensitivity Evaluation**
Ben Wyvis SLA Main underpinning LCT: ▪ LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif ▪ LCT331 Rounded Rocky Hills – Ross and Cromarty	The Highland Council Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas document notes that Ben Wyvis is a dominant landmark within the wider area and *"is an important part of the wider landscape setting for settlement in the inner Moray Firth, not least Inverness"*. The citation notes the following special qualities: "Dominant Landmark and Uninterrupted Panoramas ▪ Standing well above a surrounding range of much lower foothills, Ben Wyvis has a commanding presence with its broad and fairly level summit ridge stretching more than 7 kms from Garbat to Loch Glass. It is a dominant landmark feature from many locations, most notably from the south and northwest, including Inverness and the Black Isle. Little Wyvis also appears prominent at a local level; ▪ The summit of Ben Wyvis provides some of the most extensive panoramas in Scotland. These include the wild and dramatic mountain profiles of Wester Ross and Sutherland to the north and west, the indented coastline and settled, fertile lowlands of Easter Ross and the Black Isle to the east, and the distant summits of the Cairngorms and Ben Nevis to the south. ▪ Views of the top and the overall profile of the mountain are limited from the immediate surroundings, due to its massive scale and convex upper slopes. The form of the mountain is most clearly appreciated when viewed from a distance, for example from Inverness and the Black Isle. ▪ Ben Wyvis is a popular Munro due in part to its proximity to Inverness but also because it is a relatively straightforward walk with a broad, easy ridge from which the panoramic views can be appreciated. It is also popular for cross-country skiing".	High/Medium
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA Main underpinning LCT: ▪ LCT281 Beaches, Dunes and Links – Moray and Nairn ▪ LCT284 Coastal Farmlands – Moray and Nairn	This SLA encompasses a large area of mountains and moorlands, ranging from rugged mountainous areas to more gentle, fertile glens and valleys that are inhabited. The Highland Council identify the following special qualities: "Rugged Mountains and Lonely Glens and Spectacular Panoramic Views ▪ A complex pattern of interconnected and remote groups of mountains, penetrated by long glens and strongly enhanced by a virtual absence of habitation, offers a powerful sense of isolation and wildness	High/Medium

Table 5.4.3: Highland Special Landscape Areas (SLA) Descriptions and Sensitivity		
SLA	**Description of Special Qualities**	**Sensitivity Evaluation**
▪ LCT343 Coastal Shelf ▪ LCT346 Open Farmed Slopes ▪ LCT348 Cliffs and Rocky Coasts – Ross and Cromarty	amidst physically challenging terrain. From many of the glens, it is difficult to see the mountain tops and, from the tops, it is difficult to see the glen floors. ▪ In the southwest of this area, the Fannichs are a cluster of high, well-defined peaks within a relatively small area. Most of the main summits are connected by a continuous, high ridgeline which makes them popular for high-level walks. ▪ From the glens, it is very difficult to see the mountain tops and, from the tops, it is difficult to see the glen floors. ▪ Further north, the broad peaks in the Freevater area – Seana Bhraigh, Carn Bàn and An Socach – give the experience of a remote high plateau which drops off dramatically on its northern side. ▪ The view northwest through the Dirrie More across the waters of Loch Droma to the distant peak of An Teallach often captures the attention of travellers en route to the west coast. This channelled view is particularly striking on a clear winter's day when Loch Droma is frozen over and the strata of the cliffs of An Teallach are clearly etched by snow. ▪ The view down Strath More from the elevated position of the A832 near its head, is a striking one and the viewpoint here is a popular stop for tourists. The lush pastoral quality of the valley floor and its attendant diverse woodland contrasts with, and is tightly framed by the steep rugged hillsides above. ▪ The remains of a number of cleared townships survive in Glencalvie. ▪ A series of quiet, uninhabited glens, punctuated only by a few lonely bothies, and remote coires extend towards the core of the mountain heartland, contributing to a landscape where solitude and isolation are key characteristics."	
Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA Main underpinning LCT: ▪ LCT135 Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland ▪ LCT139 Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness and Sutherland ▪ LCT328 Rugged Mountain Massif – Ross and Cromarty ▪ LCT329 Rounded Mountain Massif LCT330 Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross and Cromarty	This SLA encompasses a large area of mountains and moorlands, ranging from rugged mountainous areas to more gentle, fertile glens and valleys that are inhabited. The Highland Council identify the following special qualities: "Distinctive Variety of Coastal Scenery ▪ The main scenic interest of the area is the visual interplay of land and sea at these two distinctive gateways to the Inverness and Cromarty Firths. The opposing spits of Chanonry and Fort George together represent a feature which is uncommon and this juxtaposition can be enjoyed from a variety of perspectives (e.g. from Chanonry Point itself, which is also notable for dolphin sightings, or more majestically from the high points of the road between Janefield and Eathie). The high viewpoints also reveal the full extent of the sandbanks off Fort George and Whiteness Head. The Sutors also provide high vantage points, with contrasting views of the narrow mouth of the deep Cromarty Firth and the wide expanse of the Outer Moray Firth. ▪ The diversity of coastal landscape here includes the dramatic contrasts between steep cliffs and low sand and shingle bars. ▪ The area is experienced in a number of ways including birds' eye views from aircraft, elevated views from areas of high ground and low level views from boats, ferries and the shoreline. Expanse and Containment ▪ The area offers a wide range of visual and perceptual experiences within a restricted area. In large part this stems from strong contrasts associated with the proximity of exposed and sheltered situations, developed and undeveloped coastline, and the availability of different perspectives from varying elevations and viewpoints. ▪ Unusual visual and perceptual contrasts are provided by oil-rigs and large ships viewed within enclosed firths against settled landscape backdrops. The remains of a number of cleared townships survive in Glencalvie. Strong Cultural and Military Landscape Links ▪ The location and form of settlement typically shows a very strong response to the landscape, including the impressive Hanoverian fortress of Fort George, which has a very dramatic and direct strategic relationship with the coastline of the firth. ▪ Cromarty is known as "the jewel in the crown of Scotland's vernacular architecture" and it is a truly outstanding collection of 18th and early 19 century dwelling houses and public buildings. ▪ Located at the North Sutor, and highlighting the strategic importance of this area throughout history, are the Scheduled remains of Dunskeath Castle, a 12th century defensive motte and bailey, flanked on either side by 20th century coastal batteries.	High/Medium

Table 5.4.3: Highland Special Landscape Areas (SLA) Descriptions and Sensitivity		
SLA	**Description of Special Qualities**	**Sensitivity Evaluation**
	▪ In the most northern area of this SLA stand the remains of the oldest defensive structures; an Iron Age fort, consisting of three ruinous walls and two outer ramparts, with a later circular structure crowning the top of summit (possibly a dun or a well-built hut circle) and, some 250 m to the west, a structure that crowns the top of a prominent knoll which has been levelled to accommodate it.“	

Table 5.4.4: Highland SLA Assessment of Residual Effects		
SLA	**Magnitude of Change**	**Residual Effect**
Ben Wyvis SLA	Slight in the comparative scenario. Moderate/Slight in the restored scenario. The special qualities of Ben Wyvis SLA relate directly to Ben Wyvis as a landmark feature and views towards the mountain from the surrounding area. The special qualities are also about panoramic views from the summit of Ben Wyvis. Panoramic views from the summit of Ben Wyvis are considered to be exceptional, providing extensive visibility across much of the rugged mountains within the northern part of Scotland. The Proposed Development has the potential to affect the special quality of panoramic views. The following special qualities would not be affected: Dominance of Ben Wyvis as a landmark feature would not be affected as the Proposed Development would not appear in front of Ben Wyvis in views from Inverness and the Black Isle. The Proposed Development would not compete with Ben Wyvis as a focal point and landmark feature from the surrounding area. The form of Ben Wyvis when viewed from a distance would not be affected as the Proposed Development would not appear in front of the mountain in views from Inverness and the Black Isle. Regarding the special quality of popularity of the mountain for recreation, the Proposed Development would affect panoramic views which visitors to the mountain enjoy. The ZTV (Figure 5.9) indicates large areas of potential visibility on the lower slopes overlooking Glen Glass. There are further, patches of theoretical visibility from slopes that face the Site. Viewpoints 3: Loch Glass Wyvis Lodge (Figure 5.28a-g) and 16: Ben Wyvis Figures 5.41a-g) show views from the SLA. Viewpoint 3 is from near the northern edge of the SLA, from Ben Wyvis Lodge, overlooking Loch Glass, and Viewpoint 16 is from the lower summit of Ben Wyvis, namely An T Socach. These viewpoints show that there are views of existing turbines of the Novar 1 Wind Farm from parts of the SLA. In the **comparative scenario** where Novar 1 is present in the baseline, the Proposed Development would slightly increase the influence of wind farm development on views from Ben Wyvis. However, it would reduce the number of turbines visible, and the larger turbines would be spaced further apart in a linear array that corresponds well with the scale of the landscape and the underlying ridge landform. The proposed turbines would be behind Novar 2 turbines and would not bring development any closer to the SLA. The magnitude of change would be Moderate/Slight. In the **restored scenario** the Proposed Development would introduce nine larger scale turbines and remove 34 small turbines that extend over the lower elevations. This change would simplify the composition as visible from higher elevations, as illustrated in Viewpoint 16. The larger proposed turbines would extend visibility slightly into parts of the SLA that have no view of the operational Novar turbines. Overall, the potential visibility of the proposed turbines within the SLA remains limited to the slopes overlooking Loch Glass and a few more patchy areas of potential visibility on higher slopes. The larger extent of the SLA would experience no change. The magnitude of change would be Moderate in the restored scenario.	Moderate and **not significant** in the comparative scenario. Major/Moderate and **significant** in the restored scenario. Where visible, the Proposed Development would appear within the context of the operational Novar 2 turbines, and the man-modified part of the Study Area (eastern coast). It would not introduce turbines into a landscape that hitherto has no turbines, nor would it alter the panoramic views towards the wilder and more remote parts of the landscape to the west and northwest. The significant effects on Ben Wyvis SLA would be limited in geographical extent and would affect the special quality of panoramic views from the summit of Ben Wyvis. Eastward views only in the direction of the Proposed Development would be affected. Wider views of the mountains to the north and west and the settled lowlands and firths to the southeast and south would not be affected. The overall integrity of the designated area would not be compromised.
Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA	Slight/Negligible in both the **comparative scenario** and the **restored scenario**. The special qualities of the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA are connected to the interplay between the rugged mountains and the largely uninhabited ‘lonely’ glens, and the panoramic views within and from the SLA. The ZTV (Figure 5.9) shows that theoretical visibility is patchy and fragmented, relating to peaks and high ridges. Three viewpoints illustrate the type of visibility likely from the SLA: Viewpoints 1: Beinn Dearg, 22: Tom Ban Mor and 23: Diebidale Ridge (Figures 5.26a-g, 5.47a-g and 5.48a-g). Viewpoint 1 is over 28 km away on the summit of Beinn Dearg. Viewpoint 22, from the summit of Tom Ban Mor illustrates visibility closer to the Site, as does Viewpoint 23 from Diebidale Ridge.	Minor and **not significant** in both the comparative scenario and the restored scenario. The Proposed Development would introduce a very small change to a limited part of the SLA. The overall integrity of the designated area would not be compromised.

Table 5.4.4: Highland SLA Assessment of Residual Effects		
SLA	**Magnitude of Change**	**Residual Effect**
	These viewpoints demonstrate that there are views to existing turbines within the Novar 1 Wind Farm from the higher summits of the SLA, and that the proposed turbines would form a very small feature in wide panoramic views from the elevated parts of the SLA. The potential visibility of the proposed turbines within the SLA is limited to the summits and higher ridges, and the proposed turbines appear distant within the large-scale views. There is no theoretical visibility from lower elevations and the glens, and the majority of the SLA would experience no change. The magnitude of change is judged to be Slight since the Proposed Development would introduce a very limited change to the SLA. Whilst the proposed turbines may be discernible in some areas of visibility, they would be distant and affect a very small portion of the landscape. There would be no appreciable change to the landscape of the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA.	
Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA	Negligible in both the comparative scenario and the restored scenario. The special qualities of the Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA are varied and range from the cultural influences of the military to perceptual qualities of expanse and containment, and the distinctive coastal scenery which is also varied. The ZTV (Figure 5.9) shows that theoretical viability, is almost entirely limited to the coastal area in the northwest of the SLA. Viewpoints 12: Cromarty and 27: Sutors of Cromarty (Figures 5.37a-g and 5.52a-g) illustrate the type of visibility likely from this area of the SLA. Viewpoint 12 is closest edge of the SLA to the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint shows the likely view of the proposed turbines which would occupy the same area as those existing, however, they would be larger and fewer. The turbines would form a small feature on the horizon, beyond the busy firth. Coastal development and rigs within the water form key elements of the landscape within this viewpoint. Viewpoint 27 is more distant and elevated. The proposed turbines would be visible as a small element within the view relating to the horizon which presently contains the operational turbines associated with the Novar 1 Wind Farm. The landscape and views are strongly influenced human activity and features many manmade structures. These viewpoints demonstrate that in all views from the coastal part of the SLA the proposed turbines would form a small element within the wider landscape, on the horizon, within the part of the view that already contains wind turbines. Although the proposed turbines would appear larger within the views, the extent of activity within the foreground and middle ground would detract from this, and whilst they would be discernible, they would not alter the baseline characteristics of the landscape. Since potential visibility from the SLA is limited to this coastal area, the magnitude of change is judged to be Negligible since the Proposed Development would introduce a very limited change to the SLA, and there would be little appreciable change to the landscape of the Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA.	Minor and **not significant** in both the comparative scenario and the restored scenario. Whilst discernible, the Proposed Development would barely alter the landscape visible from this limited part of the SLA. The overall integrity of the designated area would not be compromised.

5.4.1.9 Note: As mentioned in paragraph 5.4.1.6 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 cumulative effects are not assessed as significant cumulative effects are unlikely to arise from the addition of the Proposed Development to cumulative schemes. Dornoch Firth NSA, Fannichs, Beinn Dear and Glen Calvie SLA and Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA have therefore not been considered in the cumulative assessment.

Table 5.4.5: National and Local Landscape Designations Assessment of Residual Cumulative Effects		
Designation	**Magnitude of Cumulative Change**	**Residual Cumulative Effect**
Highland Special Landscape Areas (SLA)		
Ben Wyvis SLA	Figure 5.13 (Cumulative Location Plan) shows the pattern of operational and wind farm development and indicates that the nearest development to Ben Wyvis SLA is Novar 2 wind farm. Operational Coire na Cloiche and Beinn Tharsuinn are approximately 10 km to the northeast of the SLA beyond operational Novar 1 and Novar 2. Operational Corriemoillie is 7 km to the west and operational Fairburn is 9 km to the south. The intervening distance to existing and consented schemes provides separation from the SLA and avoids wind farm development interrupting key views of Ben Wyvis from the south and southeast. Scenario 2 (Consented) Lochluichart Extension II and Kirkan would be situated in the cluster of operational Loch Luichart, Loch Luichart Extension and Corriemoillie wind farms and, as shown on Viewpoint 16: Ben Wyvis (Figure 5.41a-g) there would be limited interaction of the Proposed Development and these schemes as they would be seen in the opposite	Scenario 2 (Consented) Moderate/Minor and **not significant** Scenario 3 (In Planning) Moderate/Minor and **not significant** Scenario 4 (Scoping) Moderate/Minor and **not significant**

Table 5.4.5: National and Local Landscape Designations Assessment of Residual Cumulative Effects		
Designation	**Magnitude of Cumulative Change**	**Residual Cumulative Effect**
	direction. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in limited cumulative change to the special qualities of Ben Wyvis SLA. The magnitude of change would be Slight/Negligible. Scenario 3 (In Planning) Viewpoint 16 indicates that Abhainn Dubh would have an influence on views from the SLA being seen on lower foothills of Ben Wyvis and appearing close to the edge of the SLA. The Proposed Development would be seen on a separate ridge from Ben Wyvis and associated with Novar 2 wind farm which would be in front of the proposed turbines. Viewpoints 13: Easter Brae, Black Isle (Figure 5.37a-g) and 19: Culbokie (Figure 5.43a-g) show that Abhainn Dubh would be seen in front of Ben Wyvis with the Proposed Development separated from Abhainn Dubh and Ben Wyvis by landform and partly screened by an intervening ridge. The Proposed Development would add to the amount of wind turbines visible, but Abhainn Dubh would have the main influence on special qualities of the SLA due to its position in front of Ben Wyvis in views from the southeast. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in a small increase in the influence of wind farm development on the special qualities of the SLA. Viewpoint 16: Ben Wyvis (Figure 5.41a-g) indicates that Ceislein would be very noticeable in views from Ben Wyvis being seen in a group of small, steep, rounded hills to the east of operational Novar 2. Ceislein would extend the influence of wind farm development into these small hills and beyond the established area of wind farm development at Novar 1 and Novar 2. The Proposed Development would add turbines of a similar size to those of Ceislein but on a broad ridge where wind farm development is an established feature. The addition of the Proposed Development would be a notable increase in wind farm development with Ceislein already having a notable influence in this scenario The magnitude of change would be Slight. Scenario 4 (Scoping) Beinn Tharsuinn Repowering would be visible behind intervening landform and separated from the Proposed Development by terrain. It would have a limited influence on views. Glasa would be visible in succession to the north and the turbines would appear in a large scale low-lying open landscape and of similar size to those of the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development would be a noticeable increase in wind farm development in part of the view where it is an established feature. The magnitude of change would be Slight.	