Technical Appendix 7.2: Ecology Survey Results

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7.2.1 Introduction

7.2.1.1 This appendix presents full details of the results for the field surveys undertaken for the Proposed Development. Details of the related ecology study areas and assessment methodology, including references to best practice, can be found in **Technical Appendix 7.1 Assessment Methodology (EIAR Volume 4).**

7.2.2 National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and Habitats Survey Report

UKHab survey results

7.2.2.1 **Figure 7.2 (EIAR Volume 3a)** shows the habitats recorded during the UKHab survey in 2024. The dominant habitat type identified was f1a6 - Degraded blanket bog. The area surrounding the existing Turbine Array were composed of f1a6 - Degraded blanket bog, h1b5 – Dry heaths; upland (H4030), f1a – Blanket bog, and coniferous woodland habitats (w2 and w2c). Coniferous, broadleaved and mixed woodland habitats surround the access route. Summaries of ascribed UKHab habitat types are given below. Species lists for the NVC communities described with the habitats below are elaborated on in the NVC survey results in section 1.2.47.

Wetland habitats

F1A - BLANKET BOG

7.2.2.2 Blanket bog is the third most dominant habitat type throughout the field survey area, concentrated in the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area.

7.2.2.3 The habitats contain species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as M19 *Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire, H2a *Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor* heath, typical sub-community, M2 *Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum* bog pool community, M15 *Scirpus cespitosus-Erica tetralix* wet heath, and M17 *Scirpus cespitosus-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire.

F1A5 - BLANKET BOG (H7130)

7.2.2.4 Two areas of blanket bog classified as Annex 1: H7310 Blanket bog were found within the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area.

7.2.2.5 To be determined as a H7130 habitat, these blanket bog areas must have dominant or abundant peat forming species, such as bog-moss *Sphagnum* species.

F1A6 - DEGRADED BLANKET BOG

7.2.2.6 Degraded blanket bog is the most dominant habitat found within the field survey area, concentrated in the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area. Areas of bare peat are present and peat cuts were identified.

7.2.2.7 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as M19 *Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire, H2a *Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor* heath, typical sub-community, M2 *Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum* bog pool community, H10 *Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea* heath, and M17 *Scirpus cespitosus-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire.

F2C - UPLAND FLUSHES, FENS AND SWAMPS

7.2.2.8 Narrow areas of upland flushes, fens and swamps run through areas dominated by blanket bog and degraded blanket bog within the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area. One of these narrow stretches runs from the source of the Allt Srath nan Gleann, running east from the field survey area.

7.2.2.9 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as M7 *Carex curta-Sphagnum russowii* mire, M17 *Scirpus cespitosus-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire, and U2 *Deschampsia flexuosa* grassland.

Heathland and Scrub habitats

H1B - UPLAND HEATHLAND

7.2.2.10 Upland heathland is the fourth most dominant habitat type throughout the field survey area, concentrated in areas surrounding the existing Internal Tracks within the Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area.

7.2.2.11 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as H22 *Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus* heath and H13 *Calluna vulgaris-Cladonia arbuscula* heath.

H1B5 - DRY HEATHS; UPLAND (H4030)

7.2.2.12 Dry heaths; upland (H4030) is the second most dominant habitat type throughout the field survey area, concentrated in areas surrounding the Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area.

7.2.2.13 The Annex 1: H74030 European dry heaths [upland] habitat is defined typically as occurring on free-draining acidic to circumneutral soils with generally low nutrient content and are dominated by ericaceous dwarf shrubs (Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Heaths *Erica spp.* and Gorse *Ulex spp.).*

7.2.2.14 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as H2a *Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor* heath, typical sub-community, WH1, M19 *Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire, H10 *Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea* heath, H13 *Calluna vulgaris-Cladonia arbuscula* heath, and H22 *Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus* heath.

H1B6 - WET HEATHLAND WITH CROSS-LEAVED HEATH; UPLAND (H4010)

7.2.2.15 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; upland (H4010) is the fifth most dominant habitat type throughout the field survey area, concentrated in areas surrounding the Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area.

7.2.2.16 The Annex 1: H74010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica teralix* [upland] habitat is defined typically as occurring on upland sites with impeded drainage often as a transitional community between heath and bog habitats. Typical species include Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, Deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* and Bog mosses *Sphagnum spp*.

7.2.2.17 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as M15 Scirpus cespitosus-Erica tetralix wet heath, H22 Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus heath, M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire, and H2a Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor heath, typical sub-community.

H1C - MOUNTAIN HEATHS AND WILLOW SCRUB

7.2.2.18 Several areas of mountain heaths and willow scrub occur concentrated in the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array to the north of the field survey area. These areas occur within blanket bog habitats or in rockier areas between degraded blanket bog habitats and dry heath habitats.

7.2.2.19 The areas contained species assemblages identified during NVC surveys as H13 Calluna vulgaris-Cladonia arbuscula heath, H22 Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus heath, H10 Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea heath, M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire, M15 Scirpus cespitosus-Erica tetralix wet heath, U2 Deschampsia flexuosa grassland, and M7 Carex curta-Sphagnum russowii mire.

H3E - GORSE SCRUB

7.2.2.20 Gorse *Ulex spp.* scrub occurs in scattered areas along the Access Route. Other species occurring within these areas included scattered Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Downy birch *Betula pubescens*, Silver birch *Betula pendula* and Spruce *Picea spp*.

H3H - MIXED SCRUB

7.2.2.21 Mixed scrub formed the main verge areas along the Access Route. The mixed scrub habitats varied but were mostly dominated by Broom *Cytisus scoparius* and Gorse *Ulex spp.*, with other species present including Sitka spruce saplings *Picea sitchensis*, Wavy hair grass *Avenella flexuosa,* Tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Common heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Rushes *Juncus spp.,* Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia.*

Woodland Habitats

W1 – BROADLEAVED AND MIXED WOODLAND

7.2.2.22 Broadleaved and mixed woodland was found in the south of the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access Route. These woodland parcels partially overlapped with areas classified within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Long-Established (of plantation origin) (LEPO).

W1D - WET WOODLAND

7.2.2.23 One area of wet woodland was found within the field survey area along the access route near a tributary of the Glen Burn which flows into the River Glass. This woodland does not have any overlap with woodlands classified within the AWI.

7.2.2.24 This habitat is dominated by Downy birch *Betula pubescens*, with frequent Grey willow *Salix cinerea*, and occasional conifer scattered throughout. The wet woodland contained an understory of mixed scrub, conifer saplings, Wavy hair grass *Avenella flexuosa*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Common bent *Agrostis capillaris,* and Heather *Calluna vulgaris*.

W1E - UPLAND BIRCHWOODS

7.2.2.25 Upland birchwoods occur in a stand close to the end of the access route to the south of the field survey area, within an area classified by the AWI as LEPO. These habitats are dominated by birch species.

W1H - OTHER WOODLAND; MIXED

7.2.2.26 Other woodland; mixed was found in the south of the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access Track. Both dead standing trees and woodland regeneration were noted within these habitats.

7.2.2.27 The other woodland; mixed habitats varied and species found within these habitats include Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris,* Silver birch *Betula pendula,* Fir *Abies spp.,* Grey willow *Salix cinerea,* Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia,* Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis,* and Larch *Larix spp.* The other woodland; mixed contained an understory of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Broom *Cytisus scoparius* and acid grassland spp.

W1H5 - OTHER WOODLAND; MIXED; MAINLY BROADLEAVED

7.2.2.28 Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved was found in the south of the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access TRoute.

7.2.2.29 The other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved habitats varied but was mostly dominated by Downy birch *Betula pubescens,* and Silver birch *Betula pendula,* with other species present including Spruce *Picea spp.,* Larch *Larix spp.* and Grey willow *Salix cinerea.*

W1H6 - OTHER WOODLAND; MIXED; MAINLY CONIFER

7.2.2.30 Other woodland; mixed; mainly conifer was found in the south of the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access Track. Some areas partially overlapped with areas classified within the AWI as LEPO. This habitat is suitable for pine marten and field signs indicate their presence in this habitat.

7.2.2.31 The other woodland; mixed; mainly conifer habitats varied but was mostly dominated by Spruce *Picea spp.*, Fir *Abies spp*., Larch *Larix spp.* and Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris* (many covered in Reindeer moss *Cladonia rangiferina*), with other species present including Silver birch *Betula pendula*, Sycamore A*cer spp.* and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*.

W2 - CONIFEROUS WOODLAND

7.2.2.32 Coniferous woodland was found throughout the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access Track and within the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array. Areas of all condition partially overlap with areas classified within the AWI as LEPO.

7.2.2.33 The coniferous woodland habitat was mostly dominated by plantations of Spruce *Picea spp.* and Fir *Abies spp*. with clear forest rides throughout.

W2C - OTHER CONIFEROUS WOODLAND

7.2.2.34 Other coniferous woodland was found throughout the field survey area in the areas surrounding the Access Track and within the area surrounding the existing Turbine Array. An area of good condition coniferous woodland partially overlaps with an area classified within the AWI as LEPO. Regeneration of fir and spruce from previously felled plantation was observed.

7.2.2.35 The other coniferous woodland habitat varied but was mostly dominated by mature plantations of Spruce *Picea spp.* and Fir *Abies spp*., with other species present including Scot's pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Larch *Larix spp*. and Birch *Betula spp.* Reindeer moss *Cladonia rangiferina* was extensive on trees. The woodland contained verges and an understory of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum,* Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Gorse *Ulex spp*., Broom *Cytisus scoparius,* Soft rush *Juncus effuse,* Wavy hair grass *Avenella flexuosa*, Timothy *Phleum pratense* and conifer saplings.

Urban habitats

U1B – DEVELOPED LAND; SEALED SURFACE

7.2.2.36 This habitat type occurs in the areas of hardstanding with the field survey area, including roads, access tracks, and the existing Turbine Array and associated infrastructure.

U1C – ARTIFICIAL UNVEGETATED UNSEALED SURFACE

7.2.2.37 This habitat type occurs in the south end of the field survey area within an area of woodland in an area off the access route close to where it meets the B817 road.

Grassland habitats

G1B – UPLAND ACID GRASSLAND

7.2.2.38 Upland acid grassland occurs throughout the field survey area, including one area within the area surrounding the Turbine Array and in scattered areas along the access route.

7.2.2.39 The upland acid grassland habitats varied but were mostly dominated by Wavy hair grass *Avenella flexuosa*, Tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and other acid grass types, with other species present including Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Spruce *Picea spp.*, Rushes *Juncus spp.,* Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, and Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*.

G1C – BRACKEN

7.2.2.40 Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* occurs in scattered areas along the access route. Other species occurring within these areas included scattered Broom *Cytisus scoparius* and Gorse *Ulex spp.*, Spruce saplings *Picea spp*., and occasionally Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*.

G3C – OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

7.2.2.41 One area of other neutral grassland was present within the field survey area, in the area leading from the substation to the Boath road.

G4 – MODIFIED GRASSLAND

7.2.2.42 Modified grassland habitat occurs in scattered areas along the verges of the Access Route. Species occurring within these areas included acid grasses, Soft rush *Juncus effusus,* Fireweed *Epilobium angustifolium* and Spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*.

Cropland habitats

C1 - ARABLE AND HORTICULTURE

7.2.2.43 This habitat type occurs in the south end of the field survey area in an area of cropland where the Access Route meets the B817.

Target notes

7.2.2.44 Target notes recorded during the UKHab survey are detailed in Table 7.2.1 and shown **in Figure 7.5 (EIAR Volume 3a)**.

Table 7.2.1 Target Notes

Target Note Number	Grid Reference	Comment
1	NH5472	Male Hen harrier
2	NH5571	Mountain hare
3	NH5472	Red kite
4	NH5372	Photo for mire habitat
5	NH5472	Common lizard
6	NH5767	Pond in woodland. In "ravine"
7	NH5767	Veteran sycamore
8	NH5866	Standing deadwood with PRF
9	NH5866	Standing deadwood with PRF

Table 7.2.1 Target Notes

Target Note Number	Grid Reference	Comment
10	NH5767	Rock with pine marten scats
11	NH5767	Mature Scot's pine with reindeer moss all throughout
12	NH5767	Rock with pine marten scats
13	NH5767	Rock with pine marten scats
14	NH5767	Steep hillside with spruce regeneration
15	NH5767	Numerous Veteran Scot's pine with PRF
16	NH5767	Water crossing
17	NH5867	Gorse, broom and sapling road margins
18	NH5867	Dead tree with PRF
19	NH5867	Veteran oak with PRF
20	NH5867	Veteran oak with PRF
21	NH5867	Veteran oak with PRF
22	NH5867	Scrub habitat on verges
23	NH5867	Lodgepole pines
24	NH5967	Gorse, and broom along roadside
25	NH5967	Lodgepole pine
26	NH5967	Multiple veteran larches
27	NH6067	Red wood veteran
28	NH5273	Detector 1 repositioned visit 2
29	NH5571	Water-filled ditch. Photo facing south
30	NH5571	Watercourse flowing west. Juncus and soft rush
31	NH5471	Potential hen harrier
32	NH5471	Felled woodland underneath turbines
33	NH5470	Regrown woodland
34	NH5470	Running water into pool
35	NH5470	Leaching iron
36	NH5570	Pine marten scat
37	NH5470	Fresh pine marten scat
38	NH5470	Pine marten scat
39	NH5470	Flowing water stream next to track
40	NH5570	Heather family plant equally spaced bands creeping down slope next to Access Track
41	NH5570	Fox moth
42	NH5570	Unidentified small falcon

Table 7.2.1 Target Notes		
Target Note Number	**Grid Reference**	**Comment**
43	NH5570	Downy and silver birch woodland with some larch and wet willow
44	NH5570	Wet willow woodland
45	NH5569	Gorse bordering track
46	NH5569	Conifer woodland border
47	NH5669	Image of stream
48	NH5669	Possible badger latrine and mammal track behind it
49	NH5669	Images of Access Track border with scrub and trees
50	NH5669	Potential roost feature
51	NH5767	Potential roost feature
52	NH5767	Potential roost feature
53	NH5571	Peat hags
54	NH5571	Land management feature
55	NH5472	Exposed peat hags
56	NH5472	Damaged peat cutting
57	NH5571	Rushes scattered rushes within wetted area
58	NH5571	DB5
59	NH5570	Scattered spruce
60	NH5571	Heath ridges, artificial
61	NH5571	Peat hag
62	NH5571	Stream in small valley

NVC Survey

7.2.2.45 Fifteen habitats were surveyed to NVC level to assess their potential to be Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE). The dominant NVC habitat present in the Ecology Field Study Area is M19 *Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire as shown on **Figure 7.3 (EIAR Volume 3a)**.

7.2.2.46 Table 7.2.2 to Table 7.2.16 detail the plant species and abundance data collected during these surveys.

Table 7.2.2 NVC Quadrat 1 BB1		
NVC: M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	D
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	A
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	F

Table 7.2.2 NVC Quadrat 1 BB1		
NVC: M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	O
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cotton grass	O
Sphagnum papillosum	Papillose bog-moss	O
Carex binervis	Green ribbed sedge	R
Erica tetralix	Cross leaved heath	R
Sphagnum cuspidatum	Feathery bog-moss	R

Table 7.2.3 NVC Quadrat 2 DH1		
NVC: H2a Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor heath, typical sub-community		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	D
Hylocomium splendens	Moss	A
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	F
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	F
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry	F
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	O
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	O
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	O
Carex binervis	Green ribbed sedge	R
Kindbergia prealonga	Common feather-moss	R

Table 7.2.4 NVC Quadrat 3 BB2		
NVC: M2 Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum bog pool community		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Sphagnum cuspidatum	Feathery bog-moss	D
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	R

Table 7.2.5 NVC Quadrat 4 BB3		
NVC: M3 Eriophorum angustifolium bog pool community		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cotton grass	D

Table 7.2.6 NVC Quadrat 5 BB4		
NVC: M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	D
Calluna spp.	Heather	A
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	A
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	A
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	O
Erica tetralix	Cross leaved heath	O
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cotton grass	O
Woolly fringe-moss	Racomitrium lanuginosum	R

Table 7.2.7 NVC Quadrat 6 DH2		
NVC: H13 Calluna vulgaris-Cladonia arbuscula heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	D
Arctostaphylo alpinus	Alpine bearberry	F
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	F
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	O
Woolly fringe-moss	Racomitrium lanuginosum	O
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	R
Juncus squarrosus	Heath rush	R
Lotus corniculatus	Common bird's foot trefoil	R
Pleurozium schreberi	Red-stemmed feathermoss	R
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	R
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	D

Table 7.2.8 NVC Quadrat 7 DH3		
NVC: H22 Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna vulgaris	Common heather	D
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum spp.	A
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Hylocomium splendens	Moss	F
Polytrichium sp.		F
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry	F

Table 7.2.8 NVC Quadrat 7 DH3		
NVC: H22 Vaccinium myrtillus-Rubus chamaemorus heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	F
Ajuga chamaepitys	Ground pine	O
Arctostaphylo alpinus	Alpine bearberry	O
Galium saxatile	Heath bedstraw	O
Juncus squarrosus	Heath rush	O
Kindbergia prealonga	Common feather-moss	O
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	O
Cytisus scoparius	Common broom	R
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath spotted orchid	R
Erica tetralix	Cross leaved heath	R
Euphrasia nemorosa	Eyebright	R
Juniper	Juniper	R
Racomitrium sp.		R
Salix repens	Creeping willow	R

Table 7.2.9 NVC Quadrat 8 WH1		
NVC: M15 Scirpus cespitosus-Erica tetralix wet heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	D
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	A
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	A
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Hylocomium splendens	Moss	F
Kindbergia prealonga	Common feather-moss	O
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	O
Picea sitchensis	Sitka spruce	R

Table 7.2.10 NVC Quadrat 9 DH4		
NVC: H10 Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	D
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	O
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	O

Table 7.2.10 NVC Quadrat 9 DH4		
NVC: H10 Calluna vulgaris-Erica cinerea heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	O
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	O
Racomitrium		O
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	O
Arctostaphylo alpinus	Alpine bearberry	R
Lotus corniculatus	Common bird's foot trefoil	R
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	R
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	R

Table 7.2.11 NVC Quadrat 10 MG1		
NVC: U2 Deschampsia flexuosa grassland		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	F
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	F
Juncus squarrosus	Heath rush	F
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	F
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	F
Ranunculus spp.	Buttercup	F
Rumex acetosa	Common sorrel	F
Viola riviniana	Dog violet	F
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	O
Calluna spp.	Heather	O
Cerastium fontanum	Common mouse ear	O
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	O
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	O
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	O
Pleurozium spp.		O
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	R
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged robin	R
Saxifraga stellaris	Starry saxifrage	R

Table 7.2.12 NVC Quadrat 11 DH5		
NVC: M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Calluna spp.	Heather	A
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	A

Table 7.2.12 NVC Quadrat 11 DH5		
NVC: M19 Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	A
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	A
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	A
Hylocomium splendens	Moss	A
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry	A
Arctostaphylo alpinus	Alpine bearberry	F
Kindbergia prealonga	Common feather-moss	F
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	F
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum spp.	O
Picea spp.	Spruce	R

Table 7.2.13 NVC Quadrat 12 BB5		
NVC: H16 Calluna vulgaris-Arctostaphylos uva-ursi heath		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	D
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum spp.	D
Calluna spp.	Heather	A
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	A
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Empetrum spp.	Crowberry	O
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry	O

Table 7.2.14 NVC Quadrat 13 MG2		
NVC: M7 Carex curta-Sphagnum russowii mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	D
Carex bigelowii	Stiff sedge	A
Carex canescens	White sedge	A
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum spp.	A
Carex echinata	Star sedge	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	F
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	F
Sphagnum fallax	Flat-topped bog-moss	F
Sphagnum palustre	Blunt-leaved bog-moss	F
Sphagnum papillosum	Papillose bog-moss	F

Table 7.2.14 NVC Quadrat 13 MG2		
NVC: M7 Carex curta-Sphagnum russowii mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry	O

Table 7.2.15 NVC Quadrat 14 BB6		
NVC: M17 Scirpus cespitosus-Eriophorum vaginatum blanket mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	A
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	A
Racomitrium		A
Sphagnum capillofolium	Red bog-moss	A
Sphagnum papillosum	Papillose bog-moss	A
Calluna spp.	Heather	F
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer moss	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	F
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cotton grass	O
Erica tetralix	cross leaved heath	R
Rubus chamaemorus	Cloudberry	R

Table 7.2.16 NVC Quadrat 15 MG3		
NVC: M7 Carex curta-Sphagnum russowii mire		
Latin name	**Common name**	**Abundance**
Sphagnum fallax	Flat-topped bog-moss	D
Sphagnum denticulatum	Cow-horn bog-moss	A
Sphagnum tenellum	Soft bog-moss	A
Carex nigra	Common sedge	F
juncus effusus	Soft rush	F
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cotton grass	R
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	R
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	R

Protected Species Survey Report

Designated Nature Conservation Sites

7.2.2.47 Table 7.2.17 details the designated sites for nature conservation that occur within the Ecology Desk Study Area but are not considered to have connectivity with the Proposed Development. As a result, they are not considered further in this assessment. All designated nature conservation sites are shown on **Figure 3.1 (EIAR Volume 3a)**.

Table 7.2.17 Designated Sites

Site name	Qualifying feature(s)	Distance from Site at closest point	Connectivity with Proposed Development
Ben Wyvis Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Acidic scree Alpine and subalpine heaths Blanket bog Clear-water lochs with aquatic vegetation Dry heaths Montane acid grasslands Plants in crevices on acid rocks Tall herb communities	1.8 km to the west	Separated from the Site by forestry, the Glenglass road and Loch Glass, therefore no direct or indirect impacts on the habitats or plant species are considered to be possible.
Ben Wyvis Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Blanket bog Upland assemblage habitats Dystrophic and oligotrophic lochs Vascular plant assemblage	1.8 km to the west	Separated from the Site by forestry, the Glenglass road and Loch Glass, therefore no direct or indirect impacts on the habitats or plant species are considered to be possible.
Allt nan Caorach SSSI	Upland birch woodland Subalpine dry heath	1 km to the west	Separated from the Site by forestry, the Glenglass road and the River Glass (Allt Graad), therefore no direct or indirect impacts on the habitats or plant species are considered to be possible.
Cromarty Firth SSSI	Saltmarsh Mudflats Sandflats	1.3 km to the south	Separated from the Site by the A9 and B817 roads, therefore no direct impacts on the qualifying features are considered to be possible. The Access Route for the Proposed Development travels over multiple tributaries feeding into the River Glass (Allt Graad), which flows into the Cromarty Firth creating river connectivity between these sites. However, as this is an existing road, these tributaries are already bridged or culverted, any further impacts to these tributaries through road widening are considered to be localised and therefore no indirect impacts on the qualifying features are considered to be possible.
Cromarty Firth Ramsar	Mudflats Estuarine alder woodland Open water transition fen Saltmarsh	1.3 km to the south	Separated from the Site by the A9 and B817 roads, therefore no direct impacts on the qualifying features are considered to be possible. The Access Route for the Proposed Development travels over multiple tributaries feeding into the River Glass

Table 7.2.17 Designated Sites			
Site name	**Qualifying feature(s)**	**Distance from Site at closest point**	**Connectivity with Proposed Development**
			(Allt Graad), which flows into the Cromarty Firth creating river connectivity between these sites. However, as this is an existing road, these tributaries are already bridged or culverted, any further impacts to these tributaries through road widening are considered to be localised and therefore no indirect impacts on the qualifying features are considered to be possible.

PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY RESULTS

7.2.2.48 As detailed in Table 7.2.1, the protected species survey recorded signs of pine marten, mountain hare and possibly badger within the field survey area, as shown on **Figure 7.5 (EIAR Volume 3a).** No field signs of other protected species were recorded during the survey.

Bat Survey Results

7.2.2.49 Nine turbines were surveyed with bat detectors (detector numbers D1-D10) deployed across three seasons (Spring, Summer and Autumn 2024) to assess the presence of bats and the locations for these detectors are shown in **Figure 7.6 (EIAR Volume 3a).** Any detector showing a fault and therefore not having gathered data has been removed from the results tables. The results for the Spring season cover 10 days from the 3rd – 12th of May inclusive. The results for the Summer season cover different 10-day periods per detector from May through August 2024. The results for the Autumn season cover 10 days from the 15th – 24th of October inclusive. Table 7.2.18 to Table 7.2.23 detail the data collected during these surveys.

7.2.2.50 Table 7.2.18 details the number of species per detector during the Spring season, Table 7.2.19 details the number of species per detector during the Summer season, Table 7.2.20 details the number of species per detector during the autumn season, Table 7.2.21 details the total number of passes per detector, per season, Table 7.2.22 details the total number of passes per species, per season, and Table 7.2.23 details the total number of species detected across all seasons.

Table 7.2.18 Total number of species per detector during the Spring season								
Shortname and common name	**Latin name**	**D3**	**D4**	**D6**	**D7**	**D8**	**D9**	**D10**
PIPPIP - Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	3	0	1	1	1	3	0
PIPPYG - Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
MYODAU - Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MYONAT - Natterer's bat	Myotis nattereri	28	1	3	0	5	1	0
MYOTIS - Myotis species	Myotis spp.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		37	2	4	1	6	4	**1**

Table 7.2.19 Total number of species per detector during the Summer season								
Shortname and common name	**Latin name**	**D2**	**D3**	**D4**	**D6**	**D8**	**D9**	**D10**
PIPPIP - Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	2	3	0	168	6	4	6
PIPPYG - Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	1	1	0	17	1	1	1
MYODAU - Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MYONAT - Natterer's bat	Myotis nattereri	27	3	0	2	8	0	0
MYOTIS - Myotis species	Myotis spp.	4	0	0	17	50	1	1
Total		**35**	**7**	**0**	**204**	**65**	**6**	**8**

Table 7.2.20 Total number of species per detector during the Autumn season							
Shortname and common name	**Latin name**	**D4**	**D6**	**D7**	**D8**	**D9**	**D10**
PIPPIP - Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	0	0	0	0	0	0
PIPPYG - Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	0	0	0	0	0	0
MYODAU - Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	0	0	0	0	0	0
MYONAT - Natterer's bat	Myotis nattereri	0	0	0	10	0	0
MYOTIS - Myotis species	Myotis spp.	0	27	1	31	5	9
Total		**0**	**27**	**1**	**41**	**5**	**9**

Table 7.2.21 Total number of passes per detector, per season				
Detector	**Spring**	**Summer**	**Autumn**	**Total**
D2	No data	35	No data	35
D3	37	7	No data	44
D4	2	0	0	2
D6	4	204	27	235
D7	1	No data	1	2
D8	6	65	41	112
D9	4	6	5	15
D10	1	8	0	18

Table 7.2.22 Total number of passes per species, per season					
Spring		**Summer**		**Autumn**	
Shortname	**Total**	**Shortname**	**Total**	**Shortname**	**Total**
PIPPIP	9	PIPPIP	189	PIPPIP	0
PIPPYG	3	PIPPYG	22	PIPPYG	0
MYODAUB	1	MYODAUB	1	MYODAUB	0
MYONAT	38	MYONAT	40	MYONAT	10
MYOTIS	4	MYOTIS	73	MYOTIS	73

Table 7.2.23 Total number of species detected across all seasons		
Shortname and common name	**Latin name**	**Total passes**
PIPPIP - Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	198
PIPPYG - Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	25
MYODAU - Daubenton’s bat	Myotis daubentonii	2
MYONAT - Natterer’s bat	Myotis nattereri	88
MYOTIS - Myotis species	Myotis spp.	150