

Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Volume 2: Main Report
Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual
Assessment

ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd

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Quality information

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Table of Contents

5	Landscape and Visual Assessment	1
5.1	Introduction	1
5.2	Legislation and Policy	2
5.3	Consultation	5
5.4	Study Area	6
5.5	Methods	6
5.6	Baseline Environment	9
5.7	Assessment of Effects	31
5.8	Cumulative Effects	39
5.9	Mitigation and Monitoring	45
5.10	Residual Effects	45
5.11	References	50

Tables

Table 5.1	Relevant Policies in NPF4 to Landscape and Visual Matters	3
Table 5.2	Summary of Consultation	6
Table 5.3	ZTV maximum height assumptions	11
Table 5.4	Zone of Theoretical Visibility Baseline	12
Table 5.5	Landscape Assessment Scope	14
Table 5.6	Representative Viewpoints	25
Table 5.7	Landscape and Visual Cumulative Schemes	40
Table 5.8	Summary of Effects: Construction	46
Table 5.9	Summary of Effects: Operation Year 1	47
Table 5.10	Summary of Effects: Operation Year 15	49

5 Landscape and Visual Assessment

5.1 Introduction

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) assesses the potential effects on landscape resources, Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and designated landscapes. It also assesses the nature and extent of effects on existing views and visual amenity. A full description of the Development is provided in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 2: Project and Site Description* and should be read in conjunction with the LVIA. The main above ground components of the Development are shown on *Figure 2.3 Above Ground Infrastructure (Sheets 1 & 2)* and *Figure 2.4 Below Ground Infrastructure (Volume 3: Figures)* and listed below:

- **Headpond:** comprised of Headpond reservoir, Embankment 1 (1635 metres (m) long x 482 m wide x up to 95 m high), Embankment 2 – (279 m long x 85 m wide x up to 13 m high), Headpond inlet / outlet structure, upper gate house and one borrow pit within the Headpond interior during construction.
- **Tailpond:** including lower gate houses (permanent) - Two lower gate houses location approximately 90 m south east of the inlet / outlet structure screens and the temporary cofferdam that will encircle the area required for Tailpond works.
- **Compounds:** eleven temporary Construction Compounds and eleven permanent compounds at various locations across the Development Site, note that this includes the Switching Station as also noted below.
- **Development Site Access:** via the public road network is from the A819 near Craig nan Sassanach. The A819 runs to the east of the Development Site from north to south. There is also the potential to access the Development Site further south along the A819 at Three Bridges utilising the proposed access for the Blarghour Wind Farm should this be constructed, and the necessary land rights secured.
- **Access Tracks:** temporary and permanent internal Access Tracks required to be constructed. Existing tracks to be upgraded total 12.9 kilometre (km) total length, new Access Tracks total 13.75 km (of which 7.75 km excavated and 6 km floated) and 10 m wide (reducing to 5 m wide at operation). Temporary construction track 4.1 km length and use of the Blarghour Wind Farm access 8.6 km length (this would not be built as part of the Development and only utilised should the wind farm be constructed and in operation, and if the necessary land rights can be secured).
- **Temporary Public Road Diversion:** To allow for construction of the Tailpond inlet / outlet structure a 1.5 km section of the B840 requires to be temporarily diverted. This will include two new sections, returned to former use post construction, and an upgraded section of an existing farming track.
- **Walking Routes:** Sections of existing informal walking routes within the Development Site will be temporarily diverted during construction and fully reinstated on completion of construction. Sections of the Access Tracks required to be constructed for the Development will be maintained as new walking routes for use by the public post construction.
- **Switching Station:** consists of one permanent secure electrical compound and a number of parking spaces and permanent welfare facilities.
- **Marine Facility:** a temporary jetty will be constructed within Loch Fyne approximately 180 m in length from the shoreline, 10 m wide, deck top level: 3.3 m AOD (1.6 m above Mean High Tide Level (MHTL)) and approximately 600 millimetres (mm) deep. The jetty will be temporary and will be in place for the duration of construction with the jetty platform being removed during demobilisation. The piles will remain in-situ.

Below ground construction components are detailed in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 2: Project and Site Description*.

The Development will be assessed during the construction and operational phases of the Development. The LVIA also considers potential cumulative effects of the Development in combination with other developments.

The LVIA has been carried out by Chartered Landscape Architects, with extensive experience of the assessment of pumped storage hydro projects in Scotland, and in accordance with best practice guidance and consultation with statutory stakeholders. This LVIA is supported by the following figures, appendices, and volumes:

- Volume 3: Figures
 - Figure 5.1 Topography;
 - Figure 5.2A Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Headpond and Embankments;
 - Figure 5.2B Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Compounds and Inlet Outlet;
 - Figure 5.2C Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Tracks;
 - Figure 5.2D Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined; and
 - Figure 5.2E Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined and Permanent Tracks
 - Figure 5.3 Wild Land Areas and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.4 Landscape Designations and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.5 Landscape Character Types and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.6 Recreational Routes and Core Paths and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.7 Representative Viewpoints and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.8 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 1) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
 - Figure 5.9 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 2) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility;
- Volume 4: Visualisations
- Volume 5: Appendices
 - Appendix 5.1 Landscape and Visual Methodology;
 - Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment;
 - Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment;
 - Appendix 5.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan;
 - Appendix 5.5 Forestry

5.2 Legislation and Policy

This section identifies and describes legislation, policy and guidance of relevance to the assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts associated with the Development. Legislation and policy have been considered on an international, national, regional and local level. The following is considered to be relevant to the landscape and visual assessment as it has influenced the sensitivity of receptors and requirements for mitigation or the scope and/or methodology of the EIA.

5.2.1 Legislation

European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Ref 1) was signed by the UK Government in 2006 and came into effect in March 2007. The ELC requires parties to recognise landscape in law. It focuses specifically on landscape issues and highlights the importance of integration of landscape into areas of policy, to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes including the assessment of landscape and analysis of landscape change.

The ELC defines landscape as “*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors*”. The ELC considers landscape as a whole (land or marine), from urban to rural areas, and whether special or degraded.

5.2.2 National Planning Policy

National planning policy relevant to landscape and visual matters includes:

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); and
- Planning Advice Note 60 – Planning for Natural Heritage (PAN 60) (2000).

National Planning Framework 4

The National Planning Framework (NPF4) (Ref 1 Council of Europe (2000). Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176).

Ref 2) is the national spatial strategy for Scotland. NPF4 highlights the importance and value of landscape to Scotland and notes the importance of landscape in place making and sustaining local distinctiveness.

Policy 11 of NPF4 sets out that development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported, including pumped storage hydro (which is recognised as a “national” development). It notes under criterion (e)(ii) that developments must demonstrate how project design and mitigation have addressed any significant landscape and visual impacts. It provides however, that it should be recognised that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy and where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered acceptable.

NPF4 (page 04) sets out six overarching spatial principles as follows:

- *“Just transition: We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive;*
- *Conserving and recycling assets: We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure, and services, locking in carbon, minimizing waste, and building a circular economy;*
- *Local living: We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work, and leisure locally;*
- *Compact urban growth: We will limit urban expansion so we can optimize the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure, and biodiversity;*
- *Rebalanced development: We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand; and*
- *Rural revitalisation: We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognizing the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.”*

By applying these spatial principles, the national spatial strategy will support the delivery of:

- *“Sustainable Places where we reduce emissions, restore, and better connect biodiversity;*
- *Liveable Places where we can all live better, healthier lives; and*
- *Productive Places where we have a greener, fairer, and more inclusive wellbeing economy.”*

Table 5.1 Relevant Policies in NPF4 to Landscape and Visual Matters below outlines the policies in the NPF4 most relevant for this Development in relation to landscape and visual matters.

Of note, Policy 4 (part d) refers to development proposal effects on local landscape designations. The policy sets out that *“Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where: i. Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance”*.

Table 5.1 Relevant Policies in NPF4 to Landscape and Visual Matters

Sustainable Places	Policy	Policy Principles
Tackling the Climate and nature crises	Policy 1	Policy Intent: To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis. Policy Outcomes: • Zero carbon, nature positive places.
Climate mitigation and adaptation	Policy 2	Policy Intent: To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change. Policy Outcomes: • Emissions from development are minimised; and

Sustainable Places	Policy	Policy Principles
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.
Biodiversity	Policy 3	<p>Policy Intent: To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.</p> <p>Policy Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.
Natural Places	Policy 4	<p>Policy Intent: To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.</p> <p>Policy Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural places are protected and restored. • Natural assets are managed in a sustainable way that maintains and grows their essential benefits and services.
Forestry, woodland, and trees	Policy 6	<p>Policy Intent: To protect and expand forests, woodland, and trees.</p> <p>Policy Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing woodlands and trees are protected, and cover is expanded. • Woodland and trees on development sites are sustainably managed.
Historic assets and places	Policy 7	<p>Policy Intent: To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.</p> <p>Policy Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change. • Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses. • Recognise the social, environmental, and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

Planning Advice Note 60 – Planning for Natural Heritage (PAN 60) (2000)

The Planning Advice Note 60 – Planning for Natural Heritage (PAN 60) (Ref 3) was published by the Scottish Government in 2000. This document refers to safeguarding and enhancing landscape character as well as the use of published Landscape Character Assessments.

5.2.3 Local Planning Policy

The Development is within the Argyll and Bute Local Authority Area. The implications of the statutory changes in relation to NPF4 means that if Local Development Plan (LDP) policies are not in accordance with the NPF4, then NPF4 will prevail until such time as all Local Planning Authorities update their LDPs. It is the more recently adopted policy that will prevail, where there is any incompatibility between NPF4 policies and LDP policies. Landscape character assessments will remain a relevant consideration where land is designated as a Local Landscape Area, Special Landscape or similar in the relevant LDP.

The Argyll and Bute LDP 2 (Ref 4) was adopted in February 2024. The Argyll and Bute LDP2 covers the entire Development Site and the majority of the Study Area, apart from the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Area (LLTNP), where a separate LDP is prepared by the National Park Authority. The Argyll and Bute LDP2 sets out the spatial strategy, general policies and local plan proposals relating to the Development.

For the purposes of the LVIA the policies contained in LDP2 have been considered. Differences between LDP 2015 and LDP2 relate to terminology in connection with local landscape designations. LDP2 redefines previously Areas of Panoramic Quality to Local Landscape Areas (LLAs). The LVIA refers to LLAs only. The policies which are relevant to landscape and visual matters and the Development are summarised below.

Policy 20 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)

This policy seeks to protect, preserve or enhance the cultural significance, character and integrity of nationally important GDLs. The policy notes that Developments should not significantly impact upon important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.

The policy sets out criteria for assessing potential impacts of proposed development in or adjacent to GDLs where particular attention shall be paid to: *“artistic, historical, horticultural, architectural, scenic, and nature conservation interest of the site; the site’s original design concept, overall quality and setting; and trees and woodlands and the site’s contribution to local landscape character within the site including the boundary walls, pathways, garden terraces or water features”*.

Policy 71 – Development Impact on Local Landscape Area

This policy recognises the importance of LLAs. The policy states that *“Argyll and Bute Council will resist development in, or affecting, a Local Landscape Area where its scale, location or design will have a significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape. All development proposals in or affecting a Local Landscape Area must demonstrate that: a) Any significant adverse effects on the landscape quality for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, economic or environmental benefits of community wide importance; b) The proposal is supported by a landscape and visual impact assessment and has taken account of the content of any relevant Argyll and Bute Landscape Capacity Assessment; and c) The location, scale, design, materials and landscaping would be of a high standard and would safeguard or enhance the special qualities and character of the Local Landscape Area”*.

Policy 72 – Development Impact on Areas of Wild Land

This policy outlines that Argyll and Bute Local Authority will resist proposed development within WLAs other than if the development meets renewable energy targets or is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business or croft or is required to support a fragile community in a rural area.

The policy sets out that if a development is located within an area of Wild Land, then a wild land impact assessment must accompany the application. This would include how *“design, siting, or other mitigation measures have been and will be used to minimise significant impacts on the qualities of the wild land, as well as any management and monitoring arrangements where appropriate”*.

Policy 77 – Forestry, Woodland, and Trees

This policy sets out that: *“There is a strong presumption in favour of protecting our woodland resources. Particular care will be taken to ensure that ancient semi-natural woodland, native or long-established woods (including Atlantic Oakwoods), hedgerows and individual trees (including veteran trees) of high nature conservation value are safeguarded, conserved and, where possible, enhanced. Removal of woodland resources will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits. These benefits will be secured by attaching a planning condition or by requiring a developer to enter into a planning obligation. Where woodland, hedgerows or individual trees are removed in association with development, adequate provision must be made for the planting of new woodland resources, including compensatory planting in accordance with the sequential approach set out in Policy 78 – Woodland Removal. Mitigation will be required where a development proposal would sever or impair connectivity between important woodland habitats.”*

Policy 78 – Woodland Removal

This policy sets out that: *“Proposals that would involve the removal of woodland resources will be assessed against the criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal, as explained in Annex C of the Scottish Government’s Control of Woodland Removal Policy. Where this assessment concludes that compensatory planting would be appropriate, developers will need to provide for this in accordance with the advice in Annex 5 of the Scottish Government’s Control of Woodland Removal Policy: implementation guidance, published February 2019, and the Argyll and Bute Woodland and Forestry Strategy. All agreed compensatory planting will be located in accordance with the following sequential approach: i) On-site (most preferable); ii) Off-site within Argyll and Bute, or iii) Elsewhere within Scotland (least preferable).”*

5.3 Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders relating to the LVIA is summarised within *Table 5.2 Summary of Consultation* below. This includes reference to consultation with NatureScot and Argyll and Bute Council.

Table 5.2 Summary of Consultation

Consultee	Key Issue	Summary of Response	Action Taken
NatureScot	Wild Land Areas	Date: 17/07/2023 Agreement that Wild Land Area 06 Ben Lui is scoped out of the assessment. Agreement that an appreciation of any potential change to the relevant special qualities will be considered as part of the landscape assessment for Wild Land Area 09 Loch Etive Mountains.	Updated scope of assessment regarding the Wild Land Areas, refer to <i>Table 5.5 Landscape Assessment Scope</i> .
NatureScot	Representative viewpoints, Zone of Theoretical Visibility Figures and visualisations	Date: 17/07/2023 Content with representative viewpoints. Request for a Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan for the Headpond Embankments and a Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan for the Access Tracks. Request that the visualisations show the minimum and maximum water levels of the Headpond given that this will fluctuate and expose the drawdown area.	Additional Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plans for the Headpond Embankments and Access Tracks. Where relevant, visualisations will show the minimum and maximum water levels of the Headpond. As the design has developed, two additional viewpoints (18 and 19) were included to account for the potential visual effects during the construction of the Marine Facility during the Development construction phase assessment.
Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot	Representative viewpoints	Date: 3/03/2023 In addition to the 11 viewpoints presented at the Scoping stage, six additional viewpoints have been suggested by Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot. The additional viewpoints have been selected to represent views from Wild Land Areas and other places of interest within the landscape, including from open water on Loch Awe.	Six additional viewpoints added to representative viewpoints, refer to <i>Table 5.6 Representative Viewpoints</i> .

5.4 Study Area

A Study Area of 20 km from the Headpond part of the Development has been identified for the LVIA in order to establish the baseline and anticipated limit of significant landscape and visual effects. The Study Area shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.1 Topography to Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.8 Cumulative Schemes and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* has been derived from a review of maps and aerial photographs as well as on-site appraisal and analysis. Occasional reference may be made to features beyond the defined Study Area where required. Landscape and visual effects beyond 20 km have been scoped out as they are unlikely to be significant.

5.5 Methods

The following section summarises the methodology for the LVIA which builds on the general assessment methodology presented in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 4: Approach to EIA*. For clarity and in accordance with good practice, the assessment of potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity, although closely related, are undertaken separately.

5.5.1 Guidance and Standards

The LVIA has been undertaken using the following best practice guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 5);
- Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments (Ref 6);
- Guide to Hydro Construction Good Practice (Ref 7);
- Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas (Ref 8);
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (Ref 9);
- Hydroelectric Schemes and the Natural Heritage (Ref 10); and
- Visual representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (Ref 11).

GLVIA3 places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of landscape and visual effects. The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects who are experienced in undertaking and reporting assessments of similar types of projects. Professional judgement has been used in combination with structured methods and criteria to determine the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (informed by their value and susceptibility to change), the magnitude of effects on those receptors (i.e. the nature of the effect), and the significance of effects.

The method for the production of visualisations which support the completion of the assessment is set out in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.1 Landscape and Visual Methodology*.

5.5.2 Assessment Scope

The assessment considers the effects during the three phases of the Development lifespan as identified in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 2: Project and Site Description*. The phases include pre-construction, construction, and operation.

The construction phase of works falls into two phases, pre-construction and construction. For the purposes of the LVIA, impacts associated with the two phases are considered as a single construction phase of works with sequenced activities extending over the seven-year construction period.

For the different parts of the Development, there are times within the construction phase where the presence of plant, movement of material and construction works would be heightened, as summarised below. The detailed construction programme can be referred to within *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 2: Project and Site Description*. The overall construction period is expected to span up to seven years, however the more intensive periods are as follows:

- Headpond construction: short-term (four years);
- Northern Access Track to the Headpond construction and movement of material: short-term (four years);
- Southern Access Track to the Headpond and movement of material: short-term (four years) (noting that this would only include movement of material as the track would already be constructed if being used (constructed as part of the Blarghour Wind Farm project));
- Access Track construction and movement of plant between the Tailpond and Headpond: short-term (four years);
- Tailpond construction: short-term (four years);
- Marine Facility construction, operation and demobilising: medium-term, the Marine Facility would be demobilised at the end of the seven-year construction period however the most intensive period of use would be over the first four years;
- Inland Access Tracks near to Marine Facility construction and movement of material: short-term (four years as the most intensive period of use for the Marine Facility would be within the first four years); and
- Above ground tunnel portals construction – short-term (three years).

Landscape and visual effects can differ from one stage of the Development to the next and change over time as mitigation planting establishes and matures. The assessment therefore considers potential effects of the Development at each of the following stages:

- Construction: including consideration of all temporary structures and works areas relating to construction, such as temporary Construction Compounds, lay-down areas, cofferdam within Loch Awe and the movement of plant and machinery, construction, operation, and demobilisation of the Marine Facility on Loch Fyne.
- Operation Year 1: including consideration of potential effects associated with the Development following completion of the construction phase and associated reinstatement. This stage is intended to represent the potential worst-case operational effects prior to establishment of mitigation planting.
- Operation Year 15: including consideration of potential longer-term effects of the Development 15 years after becoming operational. This stage is intended to help demonstrate how proposed mitigation planting will influence effects once established.

Decommissioning of PSH schemes is extremely rare and in the unlikely event that the Development was to be decommissioned, the Headpond would remain in situ. As a result, potential effects on the landscape and visual resource during decommissioning would be no worse than those assessed during the construction and operational phases of works. Decommissioning effects are therefore not considered further in this chapter.

5.5.3 Baseline Data Collection

Field work was undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects within summer and autumn 2023 to inform the iterative design process, assess the existing character of the landscape and visit representative viewpoints. This was carried out between 10th and 13th July 2023 and between 16th and 17th November 2023. Seasonal differences are taken into consideration within the LVIA, and the operational year 1 assessment on landscape character and visual amenity reports the worst-case scenario when broadleaf vegetation would not be in leaf.

Viewpoint photography was captured within April 2022, June 2023, September 2023 and November 2023.

Data sources that have been used to inform the baseline data gathering include but are not limited to the following:

- Planning policy and local plan evidence base documents;
- Published landscape character documents;
- Ordnance survey mapping;
- ZTV mapping;
- Aerial photography; and
- Fieldwork photography.

5.5.4 Assessment Methodology

A full explanation of the LVIA method and criteria used to assess sensitivity, magnitude of effect and classification of landscape and visual effects is included in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.1 Landscape and Visual Methodology*.

5.5.4.1 Summary of Landscape Assessment Methodology

In assessing and classifying the predicted effects from any likely impacts to the landscape resulting from the Development, the following criteria are considered:

- Landscape character baseline characteristics;
- Landscape sensitivity;
- Magnitude of landscape effects; and
- Resulting significance of landscape effects.

Landscape receptors are described as components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the Development. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.

The relationship between sensitivity and magnitude of effect allows an assessment of the relative significance of predicted landscape effects to be made. The sensitivity of the landscape to change is a combination of the value of the LCT combined with the degree to which a particular LCT or feature can accommodate changes or new features, without unacceptable detrimental effects to its key characteristics.

The magnitude of landscape effect relates to the size, extent or degree of change likely to be experienced as a result of the Development. The magnitude takes into account whether there is a physical change resulting in the loss of landscape components, or a change beyond the land-take of the Development that might have an effect on the character of the area, and whether the impact is permanent or temporary.

The combination of the sensitivity of the landscape receptor and the magnitude of landscape effect determines the significance of landscape effects. For the purposes of this assessment, moderate and major effects will be deemed 'significant'. Where significant environmental effects are identified, measures to mitigate these effects are proposed (where feasible) and remaining residual effects are identified.

5.5.4.2 Summary of Visual Assessment Methodology

The assessment of visual effects is structured by receptor groups (e.g. residential, recreational and road users). Individual receptors are identified through the analysis of the ZTV, within which views of the Development are likely to be possible, and field survey.

Individuals are subsequently categorised into receptor groups within different areas and representative viewpoints are selected. Views from each identified representative viewpoint are recorded, considering the receptor type, a baseline description of the existing views and the value of the view.

For the purposes of assessment, the sensitivity of a receptor and the magnitude of effect on that receptor are combined to determine the significance of effect that the Development is predicted to have on existing baseline visual conditions for that given receptor.

5.5.5 Limitations And Assumptions

Regarding limitations, no technical difficulties or practical problems were encountered in producing the landscape and visual assessment. Fieldwork to inform the design process and assessment of the Development was undertaken in variable weather with moderate visibility, however, photographs used to inform the assessment were taken with good visibility.

The assessment has been undertaken based on the worst-case scenario of the Development. This includes the maximum heights and footprints of the various component parts of the Development.

5.6 Baseline Environment

An overview of the current baseline conditions for landscape and visual amenity is outlined in this section. The baseline provides a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment that may be affected. In line with GLVIA3, the visual baseline therefore establishes the “*area in which the development may be visible*” (page 32) in order to define the relevant aspects of the current landscape and visual environment of the Study Area.

5.6.1 Landscape Baseline

5.6.1.1 Location and Landform

The Development Site is located within the Argyll and Bute Council area and is split into three separate parts, two of which are located immediately adjacent to the town of Inveraray, as shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 2.3, Above Ground Infrastructure*. The land within the application boundary is characterised predominantly by a craggy upland and plateau moor and forest landscape. The wider landscape setting includes a rocky coastland, upland glens and steep ridges and mountains.

Loch Awe forms the boundary of the central part of the Development Site and Loch Fyne lies immediately to the south, both with a very small section extending into the lochs. Beyond these lochs there are areas of higher ground to the north and north-east which are characterised by craggy uplands and remote rugged mountains. The proposed Headpond location at Lochan Airigh sits at approximately 360 m above ordnance datum (AOD) and lies approximately 3 km to the east of the village of Balliemanoach. The proposed temporary Marine Facility is located south of Inveraray off the A83. The Development Site is predominantly located within the catchment of the Allt Beochlich watercourse. The catchment consists of several watercourses which ultimately flow into Loch Awe, these

originate from smaller Lochs (including Airigh, Dubh and Romach). Topography is shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.1, Topography*.

5.6.1.2 Movement and Connectivity

There are several A roads within the Study Area and near to the Development Site. This includes the A819, which runs northwards from Inveraray towards Dalmally and lies adjacent to the Development Site, as well as the A83, which lies adjacent to the shoreline of Loch Fyne and lies partially within the Development Site near to the site of the temporary Marine Facility. The B840 follows the loch shore of Loch Awe and lies within the Development Site, including near the site of the proposed Tailpond. The wider Study Area is served by various smaller B and C roads. The West Highland Line railway line also crosses the Study Area in two locations, in the northern and south-eastern parts.

Several core paths traverse the Study Area and are predominantly concentrated in the western part of the Study Area. Two core paths cross the Development Site, including one (C203 – Bealach an Fhuarain, Inveraray) to the north of the Tailpond, partially along Upper Avenue, and another one (C201 – Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray) crossing an Access Track upgrade between the A83 and A819 to the north of Inveraray. Two recreational routes pass across the Study Area, including the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way which lies within the eastern part of the Study Area on the opposite side of Loch Fyne to the Development Site and a small part of the Three Lochs Way in the south-eastern part of the Study Area.

There is a network of local paths across the Study Area and Development Site, including through plantation forest, along the loch shores and in and around Inveraray, as shown on the Scottish Record of Walking Routes, as well as heritage paths which are historic (yet still existing) public rights of way. The Caledonia Way, a promoted cycle route, also passes through the northern side of Loch Awe predominantly in forestry. Loch Fyne is regularly used for recreational purposes, including private boats, however, this is less common on Loch Awe. Visual receptors and the nature of views from them are covered in detail in the visual baseline.

5.6.1.3 Land Use, Built Form and Vegetation

The land use within the Development Site comprises a mixture of lowland grazing fields and commercial coniferous plantation. Forestry operations including felling are commonplace within the Study Area. Inveraray is the most notable settlement within the Study Area. Other relevant small settlements within the Study Area include Inverinan, Dalavich and Balliemanoch. In addition, there are numerous farmsteads and standalone residential properties scattered throughout the landscape, which are accessed from a network of minor roads.

The Development Site is predominantly comprised of upland moorland where vegetation cover is dominated by bog. Occasional linear belts of broadleaf woodland and clusters of established trees are concentrated on the lower slopes of glens and watercourses. The Development Site includes more substantial linear belts of woodland glens which rise from the loch shore, the condition of which is established and includes ancient woodland. The Development Site also contains pockets of plantation forest. Plantation forest is at various stages of maturity and subject to woodland management plans. The following felling plans (*Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.4.4, Felling Plan*) have been obtained:

- Three Bridges – which comprises the area of plantation forest where the southern Access Track to the Headpond passes through to the northwest of Inveraray and west of the A819.
- Upper Sonachan Keppochan E Claddich – which comprises several areas of plantation to the northeast of the Headpond, which the northern Access Track to the Headpond passes through, this includes Keppochan, Upper Sonachan and Keppochan East & Tullich.
- Argyll Estates – which comprises the area of forestry plantation surrounding Inveraray and where the two inland Access Tracks near to the Marine Facility.

Where plantation forest and its current condition varies, it has informed the description and value judgements for the Landscape Character Types.

5.6.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility

The landscape and visual baseline is largely defined by the ZTVs. The ZTVs identify those areas that have the potential to experience views of the Development and are illustrated on the following figures:

- Volume 3, Figure 5.2A Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Headpond and Embankments;
- Volume 3, Figure 5.2B Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Compounds and Inlet Outlet;

- Volume 3, Figure 5.2C Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Tracks;
- Volume 3, Figure 5.2D Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined; and
- Volume 3, Figure 5.2E Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined and Permanent Tracks.

ZTVs show the area in which the Development would theoretically be visible, highlighting the locations where people may experience views of the Development and assisting in the identification of viewpoints in those locations that may be affected. The ZTV parameters and limitations are detailed below:

- The ZTV is based on a bare earth ground model, generated using Ordnance Survey (OS) Terrain 5, which is a 5 m grid resolution terrain model and does not take into account the screening effects of vegetation, buildings or other structures;
- Some areas of theoretical visibility may comprise woodland, moorland, or agricultural land, where there is effectively no public access and the likelihood of views being experienced is consequently low;
- The ZTV does not take account of the likely orientation of a viewer, such as the direction of travel and there is no allowance for reduction of visibility with distance, weather, or light;
- Headpond Embankments (Figure 5.2A): The ZTV is based upon a series of points along the Embankment spaced approximately 50 m apart with elevations with an observer eye height of 1.6 m; and
- Permanent Access Tracks (Figure 5.2D): The ZTV is based upon a series of points along the permanent Access Tracks with 2 m high vehicles at 50 m intervals.

The following table outlines the maximum height parameter assumptions used within the ZTV maps.

Table 5.3 ZTV maximum height assumptions

Feature	Height (m)	Location of Maximum Elevation on Feature
Inlet / Outlet Screen	5.84	4 m spacing on model
PC03 Gatehouses	4	Corners of structures
PC03 Site Office & Welfare Facilities	5	Corners of structures
PC09 Building	5	Corners of structure and mid between
PC05, PC06 & PC14 Tunnel Portals	0.1	2 m spacing edge of model
PC15 Switchgear	8 - 12	Highest points of each structure from model
PC15 Buildings	5	Corners of structure
PC17 Gatehouse	10	Corners of structure and mid between
PC18 Upper Surge Shaft Structure	10	Corners of structure
PC19 Upper Ventilation Structure	4	Corners of structure
Security Fences	2.4	20 m intervals
Plant & Equipment Sheds	4	Corners of structure(s)

These limitations mean that the ZTV maps tend to overestimate the extent of the visibility, both in terms of the area from which the Development is visible and the extent of the Development which is visible. It should be considered as a tool to assist in assessing the theoretical visibility of the Development and not a measure of the visual effect.

It should be noted that the southern Access Track leading to the Headpond across the craggy upland would be constructed as part of the Blarghour Wind Farm development and only utilised for the Development, without any further amendments, if the wind farm is built and the necessary land rights secured. The southern Access Track is therefore not included in the ZTVs.

Table 5.4 Zone of Theoretical Visibility Baseline below outlines the parts of the Development which ZTVs have been produced for as well as a brief description of the extent of theoretical visibility across the Study Area.

Table 5.4 Zone of Theoretical Visibility Baseline

Zone of Theoretical Visibility	Part of Development included	Brief description of the extent of theoretical visibility	Figure reference
Headpond and Embankments	All permanent aspects of the Headpond: Embankment 1, Embankment 2 and the Headpond waterbody	<p>The extent of the theoretical visibility of the two Headpond Embankments and Waterbody is broadly limited to the northern, western and south-western parts of the Study Area. The majority of theoretical visibility lies within 10 km of the Development.</p> <p>Specifically relating to Headpond Embankment 1, theoretical visibility is predominantly located to the west and south-west of the Development and the higher parts of the rugged mountain landscape further north.</p> <p>Specifically relating to Headpond Embankment 2, theoretical visibility is predominantly located to the north of the Development.</p> <p>There are several very small pockets of theoretical visibility in which the Headpond waterbody is visible, but the Embankments are not.</p> <p>Specifically relating to where both Headpond Embankments and the waterbody are visible, this is generally limited to within 10 km of the Development. This is located in areas immediate landscape around the Headpond, within the craggy upland, the higher parts of the rugged mountain landscape further north, and pockets of higher land to the west and southwest of the Development including near to Durran and Bragleenmore. There is no theoretical visibility to the east of the Development beyond Cruach Mhor area as the land falls in this direction.</p>	<i>Volume 3, Figure 5.2A Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Headpond and Embankments</i>
Tailpond and Permanent Compounds	All permanent aspects of the Tailpond infrastructure including the inlet / outlet structure and permanent compounds.	<p>The extent of the theoretical visibility of the permanent Tailpond infrastructure and permanent compounds is broadly limited to the northern, western and south-western parts of the Study Area. This includes part of the rugged mountain landscape further north as well parts of the rocky coastland and craggy upland.</p> <p>The theoretical visibility is highly concentrated within the 10 km buffer of the Development, notably to the north, west and south.</p>	<i>Volume 3, Figure 5.2B Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Compounds and Inlet Outlet</i>
Permanent Access Tracks	All permanent Access Tracks including new Access Tracks, construction tracks, existing tracks to be upgraded and Wind Farm Access Tracks.	<p>The extent of the theoretical visibility of the permanent tracks is spread across the Study Area, however, is largely concentrated within 10 km of the Development. As well as this area, theoretical visibility extends into the rugged mountain landscape further north as well as the rocky coastland, craggy upland, plateau moor and forest and steep ridges and mountains.</p> <p>There are specific areas where only the Wind Farm Access Tracks are theoretically visible to the south and east of the higher point in the landform at Cruach Mhor.</p> <p>There is a small pocket of land where only the construction tracks are theoretically visible to the west and north-west of Balliemeanoch in close proximity to the Development.</p> <p>There are small pockets where only the existing tracks to be upgraded would be theoretically visible, predominantly to the east of the Development on either side of the A819, around</p>	<i>Volume 3, Figure 5.2C Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Permanent Tracks</i>

Zone of Theoretical Visibility	Part of Development included	Brief description of the extent of theoretical visibility	Figure reference
		Inveraray and further south outside of the 10 km buffer. There are also small pockets where only the new Access Tracks would be theoretical, however these are very small and typically located outside of the 10 km buffer.	
Operational Elements Combined	All permanent operational aspects including the permanent compounds, Tailpond inlet / outlet structure, Headpond Embankments 1 and 2 and Headpond Waterbody. Excluding permanent Access Tracks.	The extent of theoretical visibility of the operational elements combined is broadly limited to the northern, western and south-western parts of the Study Area. This includes part of the rugged mountain landscape further north as well parts of the rocky coastland and craggy upland. The theoretical visibility is highly concentrated within the 10 km buffer of the Development, notably to the north, west and south.	<i>Volume 3, Figure 5.2D Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined</i>
Operational Elements Combined and Permanent Tracks	All permanent operational aspects including the permanent compounds, Tailpond inlet / outlet structure, Headpond Embankments 1 and 2, Headpond Waterbody and permanent Access Tracks.	The extent of theoretical visibility of the operational elements combined along with the permanent tracks is spread across the Study Area, however, is largely concentrated within 10 km of the Development. As well as this area, theoretical visibility extends into the rugged mountain landscape further north as well as the rocky coastland, craggy upland, plateau moor and forest and steep ridges and mountains. There are specific areas where only the existing tracks to be upgraded would be theoretically visible, including within the town of Inveraray and small pockets within predominantly the central, north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the Study Area including outside of the 10 km buffer.	<i>Volume 3, Figure 5.2E Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Operational Elements Combined and Permanent Tracks</i>

The theoretical visibility for the different elements of the scheme is shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figures 5.2 A-E*. The theoretical visibility is varied dependent on the project elements but is generally concentrated within the 10 km buffer of the Development. The theoretical visibility is broadly limited to the northern, western and south-western parts of the Study Area for the Headpond and Tailpond permanent infrastructure, as well as the permanent compounds. The Headpond permanent infrastructure alone has less theoretical visibility than when combined with the Tailpond permanent infrastructure and the permanent compounds. This includes less theoretical visibility predominantly within the 10 km buffer, including to the east of the A819, within the Development Boundary and on the northern shore of Loch Awe.

There is comparatively more theoretical visibility when the new Access Tracks are included in the ZTVs and this is spread across the Study Area, however, is largely concentrated within 10 km of the Development. The theoretical visibility is similar in the northern, western and south-western parts of the Study Area to those ZTVs including the Headpond, Tailpond and permanent compounds. However, there is considerably more theoretical visibility in the central, eastern and south-eastern parts of the Study Area for the new Access Tracks. This includes to the east of the A819 and to the east of Inveraray and to the south of Loch Fyne.

5.6.3 Landscape Assessment Scope

The landscape receptors included within the Study Area are outlined in *Table 5.5 Landscape Assessment Scope* below with further information on inclusion and exclusion within the Landscape Assessment (refer to *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*). A rationale is also included for explanation.

An appraisal of potential changes to the relevant key attributes and special qualities of WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains is also included within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*.

Table 5.5 Landscape Assessment Scope

Receptor	Within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (in Study Area)	Within Wild Land Area (in Study Area)	Inclusion or exclusion of landscape assessment	Rationale for inclusion or exclusion
Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park	Yes	Yes – Ben Lui	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the special landscape qualities of the National Park or its setting due to a lack of intervisibility.
Inveraray Castle GDL	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the designed landscape due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the designed landscape due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
Ardanaiseig House GDL	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the designed landscape due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
Crarae GDL	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the designed landscape due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
Achnacloich GDL	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the designed landscape due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
Ardchattan Priory GDL	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the designed landscape due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
North Argyll LLA	No	Yes – Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains	Included	Potential for significant effects on the landscape qualities due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the landscape qualities due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the landscape qualities due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
Knapdale / Melfort LLA	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the landscape qualities due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
North West Argyll (Coast) LLA	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the landscape qualities due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 34: Steep Ridges and Mountains	No	Yes – Ben Lui	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
LCT 35: Rugged Mountains	No	Yes – Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
LCT 37: Upland Glens – Argyll	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.

Receptor	Within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (in Study Area)	Within Wild Land Area (in Study Area)	Inclusion or exclusion of landscape assessment	Rationale for inclusion or exclusion
LCT 39: Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
LCT 40: Craggy Upland – Argyll	No	Yes – Ben Lui	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
LCT 43: Upland Parallel Ridges – Argyll	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll	No	No	Included	Potential for significant effects on the key characteristics due to proximity and intervisibility with the Development.
LCT 57: Craggy Coast and Islands	No	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 250: Steep Ridges and Hills	Yes	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 251: Highland Summits	Yes	Yes – Ben Lui	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 252: Upland Glens – Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	Yes	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 253: Straths and Glens	Yes	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.
LCT 265: Settled Coastal Fringe	Yes	No	Excluded	Unlikely for significant effects on the key characteristics due to distance and a lack of intervisibility.

5.6.4 Landscape Designations

The landscape of certain parts of the Study Area have been designated or defined due to their scenic qualities or historic landscape qualities as shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.4 Landscape Designations and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility*. The ZTVs have been used to identify landscape designations and defined areas within the Study Area that may have visibility of the Development. Any designations and defined areas that are not within the ZTVs are scoped out of the LVIA and are not included within the baseline section as there is no potential for the Development to result in effects on receptors outside the ZTVs.

5.6.4.1 Inveraray Castle GDL

Inveraray Castle GDL encompasses part of the Development Site near to Inveraray. The GDL is located within North Argyll LLA and West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA. There are several local paths and core paths through the GDL.

Inveraray Castle GDL is a designed estate landscape with Inveraray Castle as its focal point incorporating an 18th century improvement landscape (parklands, garden buildings and vast woodland plantations) and the planned town of Inveraray. Inveraray GDL provides the setting for over one hundred listed buildings, with many listed buildings ancillary to the castle, and is described as one of the most culturally significant designed landscapes in Scotland.

The focal point of the designed landscape is Inveraray Castle, located at the mouth of the River Aray on the north-western shores of Loch Fyne. The planned town of Inveraray is located 600 m north-west of the castle. The GDL has an outstanding nature conservation value. Three fingers of naturally low-lying land extend outward from the castle. These low-lying areas form the parklands and pastures of the designed landscape. Loch Fyne, one of Scotland's largest sea-lochs, borders the designed landscape to the southeast. The boundary of the Inveraray GDL broadly follows the sloping contours of plantation surrounding these three flatland areas including Ballantyre Wood, Brackley Wood, Dub-Loch Wood and the plantations at Sron-ghabh and Tom-breac. The Woodlands, covering more than four thousand acres, are a key component of the landscape intervention.

To the north-west of Inveraray Castle, within the GDL, Dun Na Cuaiche (the hill of the cup) and the watchtower on its summit, are key in the local topography and contribute to the overall experience of the designed landscape. Viewpoints include the introductory view of the town from the Garron Bridge at the mouth of Glen Shira and the view of the town and castle simultaneously from the Aray Bridge. Key views across the designed landscape are from the watchtower at the summit of Dun Na Cuaiche, including elevated views of the castle, town, parklands and plantations with the loch, moorland and mountains of Argyll forming the wider backdrop. Long-range views include the hills of Strachur and Cruach-nan-Capull and the A815 road along the opposite side of Loch Fyne.

The landscape value of Inveraray Castle GDL is deemed to be **Very High**.

5.6.4.2 Ardkinglas and Strone GDL

Ardkinglas and Strone GDL is located within the Study Area on the southern side of Loch Fyne. The GDL is located within the North Argyll LLA. There are several local paths through the GDL.

Ardkinglas and Strone GDL is of outstanding horticultural interest for its woodland garden collections. As well as mixed woodland, the GDL consists of large specimen trees, historic buildings (including Ardkinglas House), areas of parkland and formal gardens. The woodlands include a series of woodland trails. Ardkinglas House is located on a terrace overlooking Loch Fyne, with its gardens, estate buildings and parks on the surrounding flat ground. Woodlands extend along the shore to the southwest, up onto the higher ground behind Ardkinglas House, and either side of the deeply incised Kinglas Water, which flows into Loch Fyne at Cairndow.

In views across and along Loch Fyne, the extensive woodlands and parkland are an important scenic element of the Ardkinglas and Strone GDL, with the canopy and large specimen trees providing visual contrast with the adjacent surrounding uplands. There are also views south over Loch Fyne from the various woodland trails within the GDL.

The landscape value of Ardkinglas and Strone GDL is deemed to be **Very High**.

5.6.4.3 Ardanaiseig House GDL

Ardanaiseig House GDL is located within the Study Area on the western side of Loch Awe. The GDL is located within the North Argyll LLA. A minor road and woodlands form the northern and southern boundaries of Ardanaiseig House GDL. The GDL is an 18th century designed landscape at the lochside comprising mainly woodland, walled gardens, parkland and architectural features. The gardens contain a notable collection of trees and shrubs. The GDL includes built form, including Ardanaiseig House which has framed views of Loch Awe through shelter woodlands and a loch side timber structure.

There are extensive panoramas of the upland scenery from various locations, especially to Ben Cruachan and east across Loch Awe to Ben Lui. There are several local walks through the woodlands.

The landscape value of Ardanaiseig House GDL is deemed to be **Very High**.

5.6.4.4 Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

LDP2 identifies a suite of LLAs (formerly known as Areas of Panoramic Quality) as areas of regional importance in terms of their landscape quality. There are no descriptions of the LLAs or the defining characteristic within LDP2, but it does note that they are important for "*their physical landforms and scenic value, but also for the environmental assets that they represent*". A combination of field survey and the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (Ref 12) has been used to inform landscape value.

There are five LLAs within the Study Area as listed below and shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.4 Landscape Designations and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility*. Those LLAs that are scoped into the landscape assessment include a description and landscape value judgement, those scoped out are explained in *Table 5.5 Landscape Assessment Scope*.

- North Argyll LLA;

- West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA;
- East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA;
- Knapdale / Melfort LLA; and
- North West Argyll (Coast) LLA.

North Argyll LLA

The LLA is located within the northern, eastern and south-eastern parts of the Study Area.

Within the Study Area, the LLA spans several LCTs, including the rugged mountains comprising the summits of Ben Cruachan and Ben Lui, which fall towards the craggy coast and islands and craggy upland, upland glens and finally the rocky coastland. The LLA also includes the northern part of Loch Awe and lies adjacent to the boundary of Loch Fyne. There are dramatic, panoramic outward views available from the higher parts of the LAA, including Ben Cruachan, across this varied landscape of forestry plantations and open moorland with sparse built form, pockets of woodland vegetation including along glens, mature loch side vegetation and open water expanses of the lochs. There are views of wind turbines and overhead power lines which run through the LLA.

The LLA is located within the Inveraray GDL, Ardinglas and Strone GDL, Ardanaiseig House GDL, Ben Lui WLA and Loch Etive Mountains WLA. Despite some detracting features in the landscape, there is high scenic quality, sense of identity, wildness and tranquillity, cultural and natural heritage value and recreational opportunities. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LLA in the Study Area is deemed to be **Very High**.

West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA

The LLA is located within the central and southern part of the Study Area.

Within the Study Area, the LLA is located within two LCTs, comprising the plateau moor and forest and rocky coastland. The LLA has outward views towards expansive upland landscapes, including the rugged mountains which forms a backdrop to views. Where views are restricted by landform and woodland, outward views are focused on opposite loch shores. The LLA comprises recreational opportunities and is relatively more settled and farmed than the upland landscapes. There are detracting features including transport routes alongside lochs and views of forestry plantation, overhead lines and wind farms.

The LLA is located within the Inveraray GDL and Crarae GDL. Despite some detracting features in the landscape, there is high scenic quality, cultural and natural heritage value and recreational opportunities. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LLA in the Study Area is deemed to be **High**.

East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA

The LLA is located within the central and southern part of the Study Area.

Within the Study Area, the LLA is located within several LCTs, comprising the steep ridges and mountains, rocky coastland and plateau moor and forest. The LLA has outward views towards expansive upland landscapes, including the rugged mountains which forms a backdrop to views. Where views are restricted by landform and woodland, outward views are focused on opposite loch shores. The LLA comprises recreational opportunities and is relatively more settled and farmed than the upland landscapes. There are detracting features including transport routes alongside lochs and views of plantation forests and wind farms.

The LLA is not located in any other landscape designations within the Study Area. Despite some detracting features in the landscape, there is high scenic quality, natural heritage value and recreational opportunities. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LLA in the Study Area is deemed to be **High**.

5.6.5 Wild Land Areas (WLAs)

WLAs are identified as nationally important in NPF4 but are not covered by a statutory designation. There are two WLAs located within the Study Area.

- WLA 06 Ben Lui; and
- WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains.

These WLAs are shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.3 Wild Land Areas and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility*. It has been agreed with NatureScot to scope out potential effects on the special qualities of WLA 06 Ben Lui due to the lack of intervisibility between WLA 06 Ben Lui and the Development Site.

For WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains, an appreciation of potential effects on the special qualities is included within the landscape assessment as agreed with NatureScot.

5.6.5.1 WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains

The Loch Etive Mountains WLA is located within the northern part of the Study Area.

The key attributes and qualities of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA are as follows:

- *“Arresting, steep, high mountains with precipitous rocky tops and ridges that offer panoramic views of elevated tops continuing far into the distance.*
- *A series of deep glens carved through the mountains, with arresting side slopes and spectacular geological features that contribute to a strong sense of naturalness.*
- *A high number of visitors that seek different wild land qualities and are able to experience a wide range of remoteness, risk and physical challenge”.*

Other aspects of the published WLA description that are relevant to the Study Area are set out as follows:

- *“The WLA is largely uninhabited, although there are a few isolated estate buildings within some of the glens”.*
- *“Land use is used mainly for deer stalking, fishing, woodland, recreation and nature conservation”.*
- *“Many people view the WLA from outside its edges”.*
- *“Although views into the interior are limited due to the screening effect of the adjacent slopes, it is nonetheless possible to experience some of the wild land qualities of the area, including a perception of naturalness and ruggedness”.*
- *“The area is bordered by extensive forest plantations to the south, west and north that create a more obvious edge”.*
- *“In combination with evidence of dynamic erosion and weathering processes such as rock falls, this contributes to a strong sense of naturalness”.*
- *“It is difficult to see the full profile of the mountains from their tops or bases due to visual foreshortening or landform screening; however, their arresting forms are clearer where seen against an open space”.*
- *“The steep glen slopes create dramatic framed views through the landscape, but these also limit visibility in opposite directions”.*
- *“Native woodland occurs within some of the glens”.*
- *“The trees create shelter within the landscape and contribute to the sense of naturalness. In some places, this is influenced by deer fences that indicate human intervention in grazing regimes and thus diminish the sense of naturalness, as well as appearing as a human artefact”.*
- *“The main access routes within and just outside this WLA run through glens. This includes some key infrastructure corridors around the outside containing roads, railway lines and/or power lines that appear as human artefacts, whilst their associated activity and noise diminishes the sense of sanctuary”.*
- *“Large forest plantations extend from outside the north, west and southern edges of this WLA, whilst isolated blocks are located within some of the glens within the interior. These diminish the perception of naturalness and represent contemporary land use”.*

The landscape value of Loch Etive Mountains WLA is deemed to be **Very High**.

5.6.6 Landscape Character Types

In 2019, NatureScot published national LCTs. The LCTs represent areas of consistent and recognisable landscape character. There are thirteen LCTs within the Study Area as listed below and shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.5 Landscape Character Types and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility*. Any LCTs that are not within the ZTVs are scoped out of the LVIA and are not included within the baseline section as there is no potential for the Development to result in effects on receptors outside the ZTV. Other LCTs are either scoped into the landscape

assessment and include a landscape value judgement or further information is given in *Table 5.5 Landscape Assessment ScopeError! Reference source not found.* as to why the LCT is scoped out of the landscape assessment.

- LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains;
- LCT 35 Rugged Mountains;
- LCT 37 Upland Glens – Argyll;
- LCT 39 Plateau Moor & Forest – Argyll;
- LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll;
- LCT 43 Upper Parallel Ridges – Argyll;
- LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll;
- LCT 57 Craggy Coast and Islands (not included in the baseline as not within the ZTVs);
- LCT 250 Steep Ridges and Hills;
- LCT 251 Highland Summits;
- LCT 252 Upland Glens – Loch Lomond and the Trossachs (not included in the baseline as not within the ZTVs);
- LCT 253 Straths and Glens; and
- LCT 265 Settled Coastal Fringe.

LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains

This LCT is within the eastern part of the Study Area. The LCT consist of two compartments and occupies much of the land at the head of Loch Fyne. This LCT is characterised as having a strong sense of seclusion where access is predominantly limited to loch side roads. There are several power stations and a few reservoirs and dams located within the LCT and views of onshore wind farms. Dundarave Castle is noted as being a distinctive local landmark and that buildings on the loch shore are often prominent due to being painted white. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Dramatic mountain ridges with steep, plummeting slopes and numerous rocky outcrops.*
- *Ribbon lochs and meandering rivers on narrow floodplains form dramatic contrast to surrounding slopes.*
- *Extensive conifer forests on lower slopes and open moorland, with bare rock faces on upper slopes and summits.*
- *Contrast between open land on upper slopes beyond the head dyke, and large fields enclosed by stone walls within lower glens.*
- *Scattered birch woodland alongside burns and on upper slopes and oak woodland on sheltered lower slopes.*
- *Settlement confined to narrow strip along loch edge and concentrated in small bays and at heads of lochs”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT is located within the Ben Lui WLA, the North Argyll LLA, East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA, Inveraray Castle GDL and Ardinglas and Strone GDL. Within the Study Area, the LCT also comprises part of the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way and occupies the land just outside the western boundary of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Despite the presence of power stations and onshore wind farms, there is a strong sense of identity, scenic quality, wildness, tranquillity and range of recreational opportunities. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **High**.

LCT 35 Rugged Mountains

This LCT is within the northern and eastern parts of the Study Area. The LCT is located to the north and further east of Loch Awe and is divided in the northern part by Loch Etive. The LCT includes the summit of Ben Cruachan, which forms part of a highly scenic backdrop to more settled landscapes and comprises open moorland. The LCT is described as being an open, exposed landscape and with national importance for nature conservation. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Rugged, steep sided mountain ranges with a massive scale.*

- *Diverse landform with gullies, scarp slopes and rocky screes.*
- *Striking exposed rock faces, with scrubby birch-oak woodland in gullies.*
- *Relatively wide glens between mountain ranges.*
- *Fast-flowing burns, waterfalls and small upland lochs are distinctive features.*
- *Extensive conifer forests on some lower slopes.*
- *Inaccessible and relatively uninhabited, with strong wildness qualities.*
- *Dramatic mountain scenery”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT occupies areas within the Ben Lui WLA and Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The LCT has a strong sense of identity, wildness, tranquillity and functional in terms of being a highly scenic backdrop to coastal and settled landscapes which are indicators of high landscape quality and condition. There is also strong recreational value including Walking Routes to summits such as Ben Cruachan. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **Very High**.

LCT 37 Upland Glens – Argyll

There are several compartments of this LCT within the Study Area, one of which borders a very small section of the Development Site at the A82, near Clachan. The LCT typically consist of linear strips of relatively flat land along the floor of narrow glens and is typically of a small-scale which contrast with the surrounding moorland ridges of mountains. There are examples within the Study Area of where the LCT is located near to castles, including Dunderave Castle and Kilchurn Castle. The LCT includes detracting elements such as quarries, substations and overhead transmission lines (OHLs) and runs adjacent to roads, including the A85 and A83. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Flat glen floor of narrow, linear mountain glens with a sharp break of slope at glen sides.*
- *Long ribbon lochs in lower glen; glacial moraine creates uneven landform with small, rounded lochs on floor of upper glen.*
- *Mudflats and winding creeks at loch heads and at the mouth of the glen.*
- *Meandering river, fringed with groups of trees, contrasts with rectangular pastures drained by straight ditches.*
- *Small blocks of woodland and some conifer plantations.*
- *Linear settlements strung out along lanes at the foot of the steep side slopes.*
- *Castles and estates are important local landmarks”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT is located within the Inveraray GDL and the North Argyll LLA. Despite some detracting features, including the influence of infrastructure and nearby roads, there are strong cultural associations and sense of identity, the contrast in scale differs from the wider moorland and mountains, and it is served by a range of core paths, recreational pursuits within the wooded glens and upland vantage points. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **High**.

LCT 39 Plateau Moor & Forest – Argyll

This LCT occupies a central part of the Study Area, between Inveraray and Tullich. There are two compartments separated by a narrow band of the Rocky Coastland Argyll LCT along the A819 corridor. The LCT consists of extensive blocks of plantation forest and upland moor with smaller pockets of pasture. Wind farms and an OHL are prominent features within this LCT. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Upland plateau with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile.*
- *Upland lochs.*
- *Winding narrow glens and wider glens with rivers.*
- *Extensive, large-scale mosaic of open moorland and forestry.*
- *No field boundaries.*
- *Very few buildings; occasional isolated dwellings on edges of moor.*

- *Small, enclosed pastures and occasional farms and houses on lower hill slopes at the transition with adjacent character types and within the narrow glens which dissect these uplands.*
- *Little access roads follow shorelines”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT is located within the Inveraray GDL, Craeae GDL, East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA, West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA and North Argyll LLA. However, the quality and condition of the special landscape qualities associated within these designations are not prevalent within this LCT and Study Area. The LCT includes several core paths. This upland landscape forms the backdrop to Loch Fyne. The large scale nature of plantation, forestry operations and electrical infrastructure limits the overall quality and condition of landscape elements within the Study Area. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **Medium**.

LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll

This LCT occupies two compartments across most of the central and western part of the Study Area. The landscape is characterised by remote upland moor with pockets of plantations forest between. The LCT comprises multiple wind farms but is predominantly ‘wild’ and of ‘natural character”. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Upland moor with irregular, rather amorphous landform.*
- *Rounded knolls, rock outcrops and numerous lochs in low-lying hollows and glens.*
- *Open moorland predominates, but extensive conifer plantations camouflage the landscape pattern in some areas.*
- *Oak-birch woodland on lower slopes.*
- *Stone walls enclose an irregular patchwork of pastures within glens on margins of moorland.*
- *Isolated farmsteads and small villages in sheltered sites within glens.*
- *Numerous archaeological remains, often concentrated on rounded knolls on lower slopes.*
- *Historic intricate, irregular landscape pattern in glens”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT is located within the North Argyll LLA, Knapdale / Melfort LLA and Ben Lui WLA. However, the quality and condition of the special landscape qualities associated within these designations are not prevalent within this LCT and Study Area. Recreational routes include several local paths and part of the Caledonia Way cycle route. Wind farms and forestry operations curtail the otherwise prevailing sense of wildness, however, accessible parts of the upland moor offer higher levels of scenic quality. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **Medium**.

LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll

This LCT is within several parts of the Study Area. The LCT is located in linear coastal bands either side of Loch Etive, Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. The LCT is described as being located on the more settled and farmed shores of Loch Etive and Loch Awe. The LCT is also described as having a wild, natural character with managed woodland being a common land use. Recreation is important for the LCT, including highly scenic views across lochs. The LCT includes the town of Inveraray, which is described as being one of the finest examples of 18th century estate town planning and lies adjacent to the A83 and A819. The key characteristics are as follows:

- *“Uneven, hummocky landform with rocky outcrops and narrow glens.*
- *Raised beaches, cliffs and distinctive rounded knolls.*
- *Rocky, indented coastline with offshore islands and small sandy bays.*
- *Relatively small-scale landscape with a diverse mix of colours and textures.*
- *Steep wooded cliffs and hummocky, gorse-covered slopes.*
- *Stone walls provide partial enclosure.*
- *Relatively well-settled, with scattered isolated farm buildings and small villages in sheltered sites.*
- *A wide variety of archaeological sites.*
- *Complex transitional landscape”.*

Within the Study Area, the LCT is located within the Inveraray GDL, Ardanaiseig House GDL, Achnacloich House (Stonefield) GDL, Ardchattan Priory GDL, Crarae GDL, East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA, West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA and North Argyll LLA. The LCT includes local paths and a core path near to Inveraray. The LCT also includes the Caledonia Way cycle route. The LCT has cultural heritage value in terms of archaeological sites, scenic quality of views across the lochs, recreational value, sense of identity in terms of the various GDLs present, natural heritage value in terms of the trees and woodland and functional value as a transitional landscape from moorland to the loch. Wildness and tranquillity are limited due to the settled nature of the landscape and proximity of loch side roads but it is also described as being wild and natural in places. Taking all of this into account, the landscape value of this LCT in the Study Area is deemed to be **High**.

5.6.7 Visual Baseline

5.6.7.1 Visual Receptors

Visual receptors within the scope of this assessment are described in the following section and are grouped into the following categories:

- Residential, comprising those in residential dwellings;
- Recreational, including walkers and users of promoted cycling routes;
- Visitors to places of interest, including those visiting summits;
- Road users, including users of the local transport network; and
- Rail users, including users of the local transport network.

The visual receptors included within this scope of assessment are those located within the ZTVs as those outside of this area are not considered to be affected by the Development.

Residential

There are a limited number of settlements and scattered properties within the Study Area where residents experience a range of views that have the potential to be affected by the Development.

Inverinan: This is a very small settlement that is located on the northern side of Loch Awe. The majority of the small number of residential properties form ribbon development along the length of loch side in close proximity to the loch shore of Loch Awe. Inverinan is in close proximity to the Development Site. The majority of the residential properties have been orientated to take advantage of the wide-angle views towards the loch and the upland hills that form the backdrop of the view which is partly screened by mature vegetation along the loch shore of Loch Awe.

Dalavich: This is a small settlement that is located on the northern side of Loch Awe and is set behind mature loch side vegetation. The residential properties are clustered into a compact settlement pattern between the road and Loch Awe. The settlement is set on low lying ground and although immediately adjacent to Loch Awe, lower storey views are generally screened by mature loch side vegetation which is present around the settlement and between the settlement and Loch Awe. Upper storey views from residential properties have more open and expansive views of the surrounding landscape.

Balliemanoch: This is a small cluster of caravans that is located on the southern side of Loch Awe and is also located within the Development red line boundary. The small cluster of properties are along either side of the B840 on the edge of Loch Awe, with views both across Loch Awe and inland along the rising craggy upland. The properties are generally situated within or near to mature loch side vegetation.

Inveraray: This settlement is located on the northern shore of Loch Fyne. Inveraray town is a planned town with low lying parklands and pastures surrounded by woodlands. Inveraray Castle and its associated formal gardens and wider gardens and designed landscape setting contribute to the views of, and throughout, Inveraray.

Individual properties and farmsteads: Residential receptors are scattered throughout the Study Area including along the edges of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Views from such properties are sometimes screened partially by mature loch side vegetation but often, at least from upper stories, have expansive views across lochs and the rising craggy upland, steep ridges and mountains and plateau moor and forest in the wider landscape. Such properties include scattered properties alongside the A815 on the southern side of Loch Fyne where views are orientated across Loch Fyne towards Inveraray.

Views experienced from residential receptors are represented by Viewpoints 2, 4 and 6, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Recreational

Recreational routes and core paths are shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.6 Recreational Routes and Core Paths and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* and are described below. The recreational routes, core paths and local paths, as shown on the Scottish Record of Walking Routes, are evaluated further in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 16: Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism* in terms of their recreational merit.

Core Paths: There is a network of core paths within the Study Area, mainly concentrated to the north of Loch Awe. The network of core paths includes routes alongside the various lochs in the Study Area, including Loch Avich and Loch Awe, as well as across the craggy upland landscape and near to settlements including Inveraray. Views experienced vary due to the network of forestry plantations and landform within the Study Area, which restricts views in places. In other places, there are wide panoramic views comprising lochs, rising land and a backdrop of rugged mountains. Views experienced from recreational receptors on core paths are represented by Viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 6 and 16, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Recreational routes: There are two recreational routes within the Study Area, including the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way and Three Lochs Way, in the south-eastern part of the Study Area. The routes within the Study Area are often within or adjacent to forestry and woodland vegetation which restricts long distance views.

Local walking paths and informal tracks: There is a network of local walking paths within the Study Area, which are shown on the Scottish Record of Walking Routes and informal tracks. This includes through blocks of plantation forest, along the loch edges and in and around Inveraray. There are local walking paths in close proximity and within the red line boundary of the Development, including adjacent to several of the proposed Access Tracks and adjacent to the temporary Marine Facility. Due to the coverage of local walking paths across the Study Area, there is varied visibility from such routes, including those restricted by forestry cover and landform and others with panoramic views across lochs, rising land and a backdrop of rugged mountains. Views experienced from recreational receptors on local walking paths are represented by Viewpoints 5, 8 and 12, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Cycling routes: The Caledonia Way, a promoted cycle route, lies on the northern side of Loch Awe through the Study Area. Views from this route in the Study Area include views across Loch Awe and the rising craggy upland, which is partially screened by forestry vegetation and loch shore vegetation in the foreground and middle ground in places. Views experienced from recreational receptors on The Caledonia Way is represented by Viewpoints 3 and 6, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Recreational watercraft: There are several lochs within the Study Area which allow recreational use, including boating, fishing and kayaking on Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Views from the lochs are typically expansive, comprising the loch waterbody and rocky coastland, the rising craggy upland and plateau moor and forest and then the rugged mountains and steep ridges and mountains in the backdrop. Views experienced from recreational receptors on recreational watercraft is represented by Viewpoint 17, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Visitors to places of interest

Elevated local landmarks and viewpoints: There are several elevated local landmarks and viewpoints within the Study Area, including Dun Na Cuaiche to the north-east of Inveraray, of which some of the lower sections of the Dun Na Cuaiche Walk also include Sweetie Seat Walk, Kilmaha viewpoint and the Duncan Bann Macintyre Monument. Receptors at such locations typically experience elevated, panoramic views with minimal screening elements across the various lochs and surrounding landscape including rocky coastland, craggy upland, rugged mountains, steep ridges and mountains and plateau moor and forest. Views experienced from visitors to places of interest at elevated local landmarks and viewpoints are represented by Viewpoints 1, 3 and 16, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Low-lying places of interest: There are several low-lying places of interest within the Study Area, including Dorlin Point picnic area on the loch shore of Loch Avich, scenic rest stops along the A85 and Ardanaiseig GDL on the loch shore of Loch Awe. Receptors at such locations typically have open views across the loch and rocky coastland and the wider landscape of rising craggy upland, rugged mountains, steep ridges and mountains and plateau moor and forest. Views experienced from low-lying places of interest are represented by Viewpoints 9, 10 and 11, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Mountain summits: There are numerous mountain summits within the Study Area, including Ben Cruachan, Stob Garbh, Ben Eunaich, Beinn a' Chleibh and Ben Lui. Receptors at such locations have views focused on their surroundings and these are typically panoramic views across the landscape. Views experienced from mountain summits are represented by Viewpoints 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15, as shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

Road users

The existing roads within the Development Boundary and wider Study Area are shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 1.1 Location Plan*.

A83: This road is located along the northern side of Loch Fyne and along the edge of the town of Inveraray. Within the Study Area, the A83 broadly follows the alignment of Loch Fyne, with some sections further inland, and continues eastwards at the head of Loch Fyne towards Loch Goil. The A83 lies immediately to the north of the temporary Marine Facility and the inland Access Tracks near to the Marine Facility extend from the A83. Views from road users along parts of the A83 experience expansive and attractive views along and across Loch Fyne to the steep ridges and mountains, rugged mountains and steep ridges and hills beyond, as well as facilitating views towards Inveraray town and Inveraray Castle GDL. However, large sections of the road are enclosed by mature loch side vegetation and forestry plantation, which limits outward views.

A815: This road is located on the southern side of Loch Fyne and extends from the A83 near to the head of Loch Fyne. The road then broadly follows the alignment of Loch Fyne before continuing eastwards at Strachur towards Loch Eck. The road is largely enclosed by mature loch side vegetation and forestry plantation, which limits outward views. Where views are available on small sections of the road, including several laybys, there are views across Loch Fyne towards the rising plateau moor and forest, craggy upland and steep ridges and mountains.

A819: This road is the main road between Dalmally and Inveraray. The A819 extends south from the A85 at the head of Loch Awe and joins the A83 within the town of Inveraray. The northern part of the road, including adjacent to where the northern Access Track to the Headpond extends off, has varied outward views. There are sections of the road that is enclosed by mature vegetation and nearby plantation and landform screens distant views, however, other long sections of the road have expansive outward views to the surrounding landscape. Closer to Inveraray, the southern part of the road is comparatively more enclosed due to surrounding plantation which limits outward views.

B840: This road is located on the southern side of Loch Awe. It extends off the A819 at Cladich and broadly follows the alignment of Loch Awe within the Study Area. The B840 lies within the red line boundary of the Development and passes directly through the part of the Development associated with the Tailpond. The road has a mixed outward visibility, with some sections enclosed by mature loch side vegetation, plantation forest and steep landform rising from the edge of Loch Awe. However, other sections of the road allow expansive views both across Loch Awe towards the craggy upland and rugged mountains in the distance, as well as in the opposite direction towards the rocky coastland and rising craggy upland, plateau moor and forest and steep ridges and mountains.

A85: This road is located in the northern part of the Study Area near to the head of Loch Awe and is the main route east to west between Taynuilt and Dalmally. Due to the undulating landscape in the part of the Study Area where the road passes through, long distance views are sometimes truncated. However, there are long stretches of the road allowing long distance views across Loch Awe with the steep ridges and mountains in the distance. There are also a series of scenic rest stops along the route, which are covered above in the 'Visitors to places of interest' section. Refer specifically to Viewpoint 11 within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*.

Local roads: There is a smaller network of local roads traversing the landscape linking farmsteads and settlements to the main transport corridors. Views from these roads range from more open views across the moorland plateau landscape and lochs to being enclosed and contained by woodland planting and blocks of forestry plantation. The local roads include the local network through Inverinan and Dalavich on the opposite side of Loch Awe to the Development (refer specifically to Viewpoints 2, 3 and 6 within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*).

Rail users

West Highland Line: The West Highland Line runs through two parts of the Study Area, including through the northern part broadly adjacent to the A85 and in the south-eastern part broadly adjacent to the A814. Both sections exhibit parts which have more open views of the wider landscape and others where outward views are screened due to intervening vegetation and landform.

5.6.8 Representative Viewpoints

A total of 19 representative viewpoints have been selected in consultation with NatureScot and Argyll and Bute Council to represent the visual receptors within the Study Area most likely to be significantly affected by the construction and operation of the Development. Viewpoint locations are shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.7 Representative Viewpoints and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* and baseline photography and visualisations for each is provided in *Volume 4: Visualisations*.

It is acknowledged that part of the landscape within the Study Area is comprised of plantation forests at different felling stages. It is assumed that this would be remain to some degree within the description and value judgements for each representative viewpoint below. Where any planned felling would affect views, this has been considered at the assessment phase.

Table 5.6 Representative Viewpoints

ID	Viewpoint	Receptor Groups	Relevant LCT	Easting	Northing
1	Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	210013	710137
2	Minor road – near A815	Residential and road users	Within LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains	210296	705864
3	Kilmaha	Recreational, visitors to places of interest and road users	Within LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll	194065	708443
4	Dalavich Jetty	Recreational and residential	and Within LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll	197049	712740
5	Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich	Recreational	Within LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll	199618	715747
6	Inverinan	Residential, recreational and road users	Within LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	199949	717718
7	Eilean na Moadail peninsula	Recreational	Within LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	200840	716917
8	Ben Cruachan	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	206969	730472
9	Dorlin Point	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll	191510	713749
10	Ardanaiseig GDL	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 40 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	209356	724557
11	A85	Road users and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	209914	725862
12	Stob Garbh	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	209558	730246
13	Ben Eunaich	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	213563	732797
14	Beinn a' Chleibh	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Boundary of LCT 35 Rugged Mountains and LCT 251 Highland Summits	225046	725606
15	Ben Lui	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Boundary of LCT 35 Rugged Mountains and LCT 251 Highland Summits	226631	726297
16	Duncan Bann Macintyre Monument	Recreational and visitors to places of interest	Within LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll	214415	725855
17	Loch Awe watercraft	Recreational	Between LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll and LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll	199815	716025
18	A815 – St Catherines	Residential and road users	Within LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains	211787	707197

ID	Viewpoint	Receptor Groups	Relevant LCT	Easting	Northing
19	A83 lay-by	Road users recreational	and Within LCT 53 Coastland – Argyll	Rocky 208540	707183

5.6.8.1 Viewpoint 1 – Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational visitors to the watchtower at the summit of Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray. The watchtower is located in the central part of the Study Area. The view is an elevated expansive open view south over the Loch Fyne with the waterbody of Loch Fyne and the steep ridges and mountains beyond framing the view south to the head of the loch. The skyline is clearly defined by distant gently undulating landforms. Despite there being a panoramic view from the elevated position, the focus of the view is across Loch Fyne. The loch side comprises a series of inward and outward curved edges creating headlands, including the low-lying settlement of Inveraray which extends across two headlands.

In the middle distance, due to the elevated positioning of receptors, the top of Inveraray Castle and Inveraray town near to the shoreline are visible. The tall Inveraray Bell Tower is visible, however, is not prominent from the elevated position as it does not break the skyline and is set against existing built form within Inveraray. Small fishing vessels are present adjacent to Inveraray within Loch Fyne.

The southern part of the Inveraray Castle GDL is also visible and the parkland vegetation associated with the Inveraray Castle GDL and mature, deciduous loch side vegetation is distinctly different from the upland moorland, plantation and pockets of woodland further inland. This is separated by relatively open pastoral land. The mature loch side vegetation has several small breaks but has the perception from this elevated position of being continuous, except the low-lying settlement of Inveraray. There is little movement in the view, except vehicles along the road network, however, this is largely screened by vegetation adjacent to the local road network. Further in the middle and long distance, there are several small jetties and slipways extending into Loch Fyne.

Aside from the focus of the view along Loch Fyne, elsewhere in the middle distance and long distance comprises a patchwork of forestry at various felling cycle stages, a prominent overhead line and associated tracks across the plateau moor and forest and craggy upland.

The historic landscape setting of Inveraray Castle in the view is an important Cultural Heritage consideration (detailed further in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage*).

This is an iconic view with strong cultural associations and very few notable detractors in the focus of the view across Loch Fyne resulting in a very high scenic quality. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.2 Viewpoint 2 – Minor road near A815

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by scattered residential properties on the loch shore to the west of the A815 and vehicular travellers along a minor road, also the west of the A815. This is located within the central part of the Study Area. The viewpoint is representative of intermittent and partially screened views from users of the A815, which is elevated in comparison to the viewpoint location due to intervening mature loch side vegetation. The receptors are located on the southern side of Loch Fyne.

This view consists of a framed view across Loch Fyne through a gap in mature loch side vegetation along the adjacent shoreline. The view across the loch is characterised by the expanse of water of Loch Fyne. The view includes the distinct white buildings of the town of Inveraray on the far shoreline in the middle distance surrounded by mature loch side vegetation and Inveraray Castle, however, this is not prominent due to some screening by loch side vegetation and the backdrop of the plantation beyond. The mature loch side vegetation continues along the loch edge with some breaks. The rising landform beyond is characterised by plateau moor and forest and craggy upland and includes forestry plantations at various felling cycle stages and an overhead line set against the wooded backdrop.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with some detracting features including forestry plantations and an overhead line. The value of the view is deemed to be **medium**.

5.6.8.3 Viewpoint 3 – Kilmaha

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by those recreational receptors visiting the Kilmaha viewpoint and local walking trails. This viewpoint is located at a small car park located on high ground near the northern shore of Loch Awe within the western part of the Study Area. The car park is used by walkers and those using the Caledonia Way cycle route and is surrounded by dense plantation forest. The viewpoint is also representative of those using the local road network.

The view comprises middle-distance and long-distance views across Loch Awe to the northeast, which are incidental to the focus of the view. The foreground is dominated by the adjacent plantation vegetation, which largely screens views along the loch. Owing to the elevation there is a heavily restricted view of the waterbody of the loch. This restricted view means that the eye is drawn to the craggy upland on the far side of the loch, with plantation and moorland. There are also filtered views to isolated residential dwellings along the loch shore, interspersed between mature loch side vegetation. There is minimal movement within the view. It should be noted that further along the local road network, there are pockets of forestry plantation removal which allows open views towards the loch and rising craggy upland on the far side of the loch. From these locations, views typically include small moving turbines on moorland in the long distance and very distant wind turbines against the horizon.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape. Due to mature vegetation in the foreground, longer distance views down the loch are not appreciated and the focus of the view is on rising plantation vegetation. The Kilmaha viewpoint is mapped as a scenic viewpoint, however vegetation has restricted open expansive views across the loch. Taking this into account the value of the view being deemed to be **medium**.

5.6.8.4 Viewpoint 4 – Dalavich Jetty

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users as they use the edge of Loch Awe for recreational purposes and those staying in tourist camping pods on the loch shore. The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors on the edge of Dalavich on elevated land just west of the Loch Awe shoreline, which have upper storey views across the loch. Dalavich Jetty is located off a stony beach along the northern side of Loch Awe in close proximity to the settlement of Dalavich and is located in the western part of the Study Area.

This view comprises an open expansive view along Loch Awe with the craggy upland in the distance forming the skyline. The view is dominated by the expansive water body of Loch Awe in the foreground with mature loch side vegetation also visible. The rocky coastline and craggy upland make up the majority of this view across Loch Awe in the middle and long distance. There are patches of forestry plantation at various felling cycle stages, moorland and several small wind turbines visible on the rising craggy upland. As the eye is drawn down the loch, the vegetation on the craggy upland is predominantly deciduous and moorland dominates.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and forestry plantation. There are few perceptible detracting features as the eye is drawn down the loch, as such the value of the view is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.5 Viewpoint 5 – Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich

This viewpoint is representative of views from recreational receptors along the shoreline of Loch Awe. This is located within the western part of the Study Area. This includes walkers who use the various tracks to the loch edge. It also includes filtered views through mature loch side vegetation from walkers, just west of the loch edge.

This view comprises an open view across Loch Awe with craggy uplands defining the skyline. The foreground is dominated by the expansive water body of Loch Awe where it meets mature loch side vegetation, with some breaks, in the middle distance. Loch Awe has minimal activity on the loch in this location. There are also several caravans along the loch shore set within mature vegetation and minor roads visible. Further in the middle and long distance, the view is characterised by rising pastoral fields, moorland and deciduous vegetation following the course of glens as they flow down into the loch. There is a pocket of plantation forestry on the horizon, however, it comprises a small part of the overall panorama.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and vegetated glens. Any detracting features do not diminish the scenic quality of the view, such that the value is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.6 Viewpoint 6 – Inverinan

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents of properties in Inverinan through upper storey windows that are orientated towards Loch Awe. Lower storey windows of properties are largely screened by mature loch shore vegetation in the foreground. Inverinan is located on the north side of Loch Awe. The residential properties form ribbon development along the length of the road through Inverinan. The viewpoint is also representative of road users along the local road network through Inverinan and those using the Caledonia Way cycle route. This is located within the western part of the Study Area.

This view comprises views across Loch Awe, however, such views are largely screened by mature loch shore vegetation in the foreground. The foreground also comprises a wood pole line, which detracts from the scenic composition of the view. The skyline is formed by the rising craggy uplands across Loch Awe. This landscape

comprises mature loch side vegetation, with some breaks, and pastoral fields, as well as moorland and vegetated glens on the rising landform. There is a pocket of plantation vegetation on the horizon, however, this does not form a prominent part of the view.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape with rising craggy upland comprising pastoral land, moorland and vegetation. However, views of the expansive Loch Awe are screened somewhat by foreground vegetation and there are detracting features in the view. The value of the view is deemed to be **medium**.

5.6.8.7 Viewpoint 7 – Eilean na Maodail peninsula

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users. This includes walkers who use the various tracks to the loch edge. The Eilean na Maodail Peninsula is located along the southern side of Loch Awe to the north-west of Balliemanoch and is located in the western part of the Study Area.

This view comprises an open view across Loch Awe with craggy uplands defining the skyline. The foreground is dominated by the expansive water body of Loch Awe where it meets mature loch side vegetation, with some breaks, in the middle distance. Loch Awe has minimal activity on the loch in this location. There is one residential property visible amongst the trees in the centre of the view, as well as several caravans along the loch shore set within mature vegetation and minor roads visible. There are also views of large-scale agricultural buildings closer to the visual receptor, which is set back from the loch edge and partially screened by mature loch side vegetation. Further in the middle and long distance, the view is characterised by rising pastoral fields, moorland and deciduous vegetation following the course of glens as they flow down into the loch. There is a pocket of plantation forestry on the horizon, however, it comprises a small part of the overall panorama.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and vegetated glens. Any detracting features do not diminish the scenic quality of the view, such that the value is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.8 Viewpoint 8 – Ben Cruachan

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users to the summit of Ben Cruachan. Ben Cruachan is located in the northern part of the Study Area and is within the southern part of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.

This view is an elevated, expansive and open view across rugged mountains in the foreground and middle ground which fall towards the rocky coastline and Loch Awe. The edge of Loch Awe consists of mature loch side vegetation with some breaks. There are pockets of development visible along the loch shore, however, they are not the focus of the view. From Loch Awe, the rocky coastline rises to craggy upland and plateau moor and forest in the long distance. The rugged mountains and craggy upland landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Several lochs are visible in this landscape, including Loch Tromlee and Loch na Gealaich, which typically are adjacent to blocks of mature vegetation. The Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is visible in the long distance, against a wooded backcloth.

The view is from an elevated position from within a Wild Land Area and has a high scenic quality despite the pockets of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.9 Viewpoint 9 – Dorlin Point

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users at Dorlin Point. Dorlin Point is a small picnic area located on flat ground on the northern shore of Loch Avich. Dorlin Point is located within the western part of the Study Area.

This view comprises Loch Avich in the foreground with a small, well vegetated, island. The middle ground comprises rising craggy upland from the mature loch side vegetation at the loch edge, containing both forestry plantation and deciduous woodland. The craggy upland contains moorland and forestry plantation at different felling cycle stages. Distant views are screened by rising landform at the head of Loch Avich at Tom an t-Saighdeir and landform and vegetation in the foreground and middle distance.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Avich set against a backcloth of rising moorland and plantation vegetation. Detracting features include the extensive forestry plantation and limited distant views, such that the value is deemed to be **medium**.

5.6.8.10 Viewpoint 10 – Ardanaiseig GDL

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users of the loch side, including walkers, and visitors to Ardanaiseig House. Ardanaiseig House GDL is situated on the western headland of Loch Awe where the River Awe joins the loch and is located within the northern part of the Study Area. Ardanaiseig House GDL is a

Lochside estate with formal gardens and terraces around Ardanaiseig House and a wider setting of parkland and woodland beyond.

This view is dominated by the expansive waterbody of Loch Awe in the foreground, and this extends into the long distance. The view contains mature loch side vegetation both within the foreground and visible in the long-distance, which is mixed deciduous and plantation vegetation. Beyond the rocky coastland, there are views of rising craggy upland. This landscape is dominated by moorland and the upper parts by large-scale blocks of plantation vegetation. The rising craggy upland restricts views further to the distance.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and mixed vegetation. Detracting features include the extensive forestry plantation and limited distant views. The view has cultural associations as it is from a GDL and North Argyll LLA, such that the value is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.11 Viewpoint 11 – A85

This viewpoint is representative of transient views experienced by vehicular travellers as they move along the A85. Along this part of the A85, there are a series of scenic rest stops which are focused on Loch Awe. The A85 is in the northern part of the Study Area at the northern end of Loch Awe. In the locality, the A85 follows the shoreline and is the main route east to west between Taynuilt and Dalmally.

This view is dominated by the expansive waterbody of Loch Awe in the foreground, and this extends into the long distance. This includes several vegetated islands in Loch Awe in the middle distance, which restrict some views of the long distance, and includes the woodland canopy associated with Ardanaiseig House GDL which contributes to the Loch Awe shoreline scenery. The view contains mature loch side vegetation in the long-distance, which is mixed deciduous and plantation vegetation. Beyond the rocky coastland, there are views of rising craggy upland. This landscape is dominated by moorland and the upper parts by large-scale blocks of plantation vegetation. The rising craggy upland restricts views further to the distance.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and mixed vegetation. Detracting features include the extensive forestry plantation and limited distant views. The view has cultural associations as it contains a GDL and North Argyll LLA in the middle distance, such that the value is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.12 Viewpoint 12 – Stob Garbh

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users to the summit of Stob Garbh. Stob Garbh is located in the northern part of the Study Area and is within the southern part of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.

This view is an elevated, expansive and open view across rugged mountains in the foreground and middle ground which fall towards the rocky coastline and Loch Awe. The edge of Loch Awe consists of mature loch side vegetation with some breaks. There are pockets of development visible along the loch shore, however they are not the focus of the view. From either side of Loch Awe, the rocky coastline rises to craggy upland. On the eastern side of Loch Awe, the craggy upland rises to plateau moor and forest in the long distance, however this is screened somewhat by intervening landform in the foreground. The rugged mountains and craggy upland landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Several lochs are visible in this landscape, including Loch Tromlee and Loch na Gealaich, which typically are adjacent to blocks of mature vegetation. The Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is visible in the long distance, against a wooded backcloth.

The view is from an elevated position from within a Wild Land Area and has a high scenic quality despite the pockets of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.13 Viewpoint 13 – Ben Eunaich

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users to the summit of Ben Eunaich. Ben Eunaich is located within the northern part of the Study Area and is within the southern part of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.

This view is an elevated view across rugged mountains in the foreground which foreshorten views to the south-west. Loch Awe is visible in the long-distance, part of which is screened by intervening landform in the foreground. The land rises away from Loch Awe to the east, comprising the rocky coastland, craggy upland and then plateau moor and forest in the long distance. The rugged mountains and craggy upland landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Tracks through the landscape are also visible. In the long distance, Loch Fyne is visible in a very small

part of the wider panorama. There is one small loch visible in the long distance which lies adjacent to a block of plantation vegetation and the An Suide Wind Farm in the long distance, set against rising moorland and vegetation.

The view is from an elevated position from within a Wild Land Area and has a high scenic quality despite the pockets of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.14 Viewpoint 14 – Beinn a’ Chleibh

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users to the summit of Beinn a’ Chleibh. Beinn a’ Chleibh is located within the north-eastern part of the Study Area and is within the northern part of the Ben Lui Wild Land Area.

This view is an elevated view across rugged mountains in the foreground. This landform falls across steep ridges and mountains, craggy upland, plateau moor and forest and rocky coastland towards Loch Awe in the long distance. Across Loch Awe, the rocky coastland and craggy upland rise to the distance. The rugged mountains and craggy upland landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Tracks through the landscape are also visible, as well as the summit of Ben Cruachan. The Carraig Gheal Wind Farm and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm are visible in the long distance, set against the rising moorland.

The view is from an elevated position from within a Wild Land Area and has a high scenic quality despite the pockets of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.15 Viewpoint 15 – Ben Lui

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational users to the summit of Ben Lui. Ben Lui is located within the north-eastern part of the Study Area and is within the northern part of the Ben Lui Wild Land Area.

This view is an elevated view across rugged mountains in the foreground. This landform falls across steep ridges and mountains, craggy upland, plateau moor and forest and rocky coastland towards Loch Awe in the long distance. Across Loch Awe, the rocky coastland and craggy upland rise to the distance. The rugged mountains and craggy upland landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Tracks through the landscape are also visible, as well as the summit of Ben Cruachan. The Carraig Gheal Wind Farm and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm are visible in the long distance, set against the rising moorland.

The view is from an elevated position from within a Wild Land Area and has a high scenic quality despite the pockets of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **very high**.

5.6.8.16 Viewpoint 16 – Duncan Ban Macintyre Monument

This viewpoint is representative of recreational users visiting the Duncan Ban Macintyre Monument and walkers in the local area. This is located within the northern part of the Study Area.

This view comprises pockets of forestry plantation at various felling cycle stages dominating the foreground and middle distance to the south-west. The craggy upland continues into plateau moor and forest in the long distance and falls towards the rocky coastland towards Loch Awe, which is visible in part of the view in the long distance. The craggy upland and plateau moor and forest landscape, which dominate the view, comprises of pockets of forest plantation at various felling cycles, deciduous vegetation, vegetated glens and moorland. Tracks through the landscape are also visible. The Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is prominent on the skyline in the distance. There is an overhead line visible but set against the rugged mountains rising towards the summit of Ben Cruachan. The focus of the view is towards the various WLAs, the Loch Etive Mountains to the north and Ben Lui to the east.

The view is from an elevated position and comprises a typical view across the vegetated landscape and lochs in this location. Detracting features include the domination of forestry plantation. The value of the view is deemed to be **high** due to cultural associations of the Duncan Ban Macintyre Monument and the scenic qualities of the North Argyll LLA.

5.6.8.17 Viewpoint 17 – Loch Awe watercraft

This viewpoint is representative of recreational users of watercraft travelling on Loch Awe. This is located within the western part of the Study Area.

This view comprises an open view across Loch Awe with craggy uplands defining the skyline. The foreground is dominated by the expansive water body of Loch Awe where it meets mature loch side vegetation, with some breaks, in the short to middle distance dependent on location within Loch Awe. Loch Awe has minimal activity on the loch

in this location. There are also several caravans along the loch shore set within mature vegetation and minor roads visible. Beyond the loch edge, the view is characterised by rising pastoral fields, moorland and deciduous vegetation following the course of glens as they flow down into the loch. There is a pocket of plantation forestry on the horizon, however it comprises a small part of the overall panorama.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with the focus of the view being Loch Awe set against a backcloth of rising moorland and vegetated glens. Any detracting features do not diminish the scenic quality of the view, such that the value is deemed to be **high**.

5.6.8.18 Viewpoint 18 – A815 – St Catherines

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential properties along the loch shore of Loch Fyne adjacent to the A815. Such properties typically have open views across Loch Fyne due to breaks in mature loch side vegetation. The viewpoint is also representative of road users along the A815, however, noting that visibility is varied along the road network due to mature loch side vegetation restricting views in parts. This is located within the central part of the Study Area. The receptors are located on the southern side of Loch Fyne.

This view consists of an open view across Loch Fyne along part of the A815 where there is a break in mature loch side vegetation along the adjacent shoreline. The view across the loch is characterised by the expanse of water of Loch Fyne. The view includes the distinct white buildings of the town of Inveraray on the far shoreline in the middle distance surrounded by mature loch side vegetation and Inveraray Castle, however, this is not prominent due to some screening by loch side vegetation and the backdrop of the plantation beyond. The mature loch side vegetation continues along the loch edge with some breaks. The rising landform beyond is characterised by plateau moor and forest and craggy upland and includes forestry plantations at various felling cycle stages. There is also an overhead line which is predominantly set against the wooded backdrop but does break the skyline in several places.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with some detracting features including forestry plantations and an overhead line. The value of the view is deemed to be **medium**.

5.6.8.19 Viewpoint 19 – A83 lay-by

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users along the A83 in close proximity to the southern edge of Inveraray. The viewpoint is also representative of users of the local walking track just to the west of the viewpoint location which continues into Inveraray. Such receptors are likely to be shortly within the town context of Inveraray or having just left. This is located within the central part of the Study Area. The viewpoint is taken from a break in mature loch side vegetation. The receptors are located on the northern side of Loch Fyne.

This view consists of an open view across Loch Fyne. The view across the loch is characterised by the expanse of water of Loch Fyne with bands of mature loch side vegetation on the loch shore both in the middle ground and long distance on the opposite side of Loch Fyne. The loch shore on the northern side of Loch Fyne comprises a series of inward and outward curved edges creating headlands. The view includes built form on the loch shore in pockets, including towards ribbon development along the A886 near to Strachur and a caravan park along the loch shore also off the A886 in the distance. The rising steep ridges, mountains and hills are interspersed in the central part of the view by a rising glen near to Strachur. This landform comprises a mixture of moorland and pockets of forestry at various felling cycle stages.

The view contains a typical loch side landscape, with some detracting features including forestry plantations. The value of the view is deemed to be **medium**.

5.7 Assessment of Effects

This section presents the findings of the landscape and visual impact assessment for the construction and operational phases of the Development. The key components of the Development are detailed in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 2: Project and Site Description*.

It is acknowledged that part of the landscape within the Study Area is forestry plantation at different felling stages. The landscape and visual assessment assumes that this would remain to some degree.

5.7.1 Summary of Assessment of Effects

This section presents the findings of the landscape and visual impact assessment for the construction and operational phases of the Development. A detailed assessment of landscape and visual effects is provided in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment* and *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual*

Assessment. The following section provides a summary of the likely significant effects during construction and operation on the landscape and visual resource.

5.7.1.1 Summary of Construction Effects

Effects on Landscape Designations during Construction

Loch Etive Mountains Wild Land Area

At construction, activity would not directly affect the landscape elements of the WLA, as such effects would be limited to the setting and perceptual qualities of the WLA. Based on ZTV coverage, the intervisibility and impression of construction activity associated with the Headpond and associated compounds and Access Tracks would be concentrated in a limited area in the southern part of the WLA. Construction of the Tailpond inlet / outlet and Marine Facility would not affect the WLA. The panoramic views from the WLA would be affected by the intensity of the construction activity however such activity would not block long distance views. The Development is likely to result in a slight alteration to the key attribute and quality of the WLA in a limited area in the southern part of the WLA.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **very high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

Inveraray Castle GDL

Construction activity would result in direct but slight change to the landscape components, setting and perceptual associations of this GDL. Intervisibility of most construction operations would be limited to the immediate context of the Marine Facility and elevated parts of the landscape at Dun Na Cuaiche where the scenic quality and views are closely associated with the landscape setting of the parklands and woodlands of the GDL. The Marine Facility would occupy a small part of the GDL and within the loch. The intensity and nature of construction and operation of the jetty including the movement of plant and watercraft on Loch Fyne would be in contrast to the adjacent parkland setting, scenic quality and parkland pattern of this GDL. Associated lighting would extend the influence of light spill and impression of character within the context of Inveraray. Overall, there would be a partial alteration to the landscape receptor however there would be limited change to the most valued aspects of the landscape components, scenic quality and artistic interest of Inveraray Castle GDL.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **very high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

North Argyll LLA

Construction would result in direct effects to the landscape fabric in a very small part of LLA comprising the northern Access Track to the Headpond and the junction of the A83 to the inland track north-east of the Marine Facility. Construction would result in signage erected on the local paths affected by construction access. The movement of plant and materials would increase the sense of activity but would not be dissimilar to existing forestry management in the local landscape and in small parts of the LLA. Construction activity associated with the Headpond and within Loch Awe would result in a noticeable and incongruent change to the western setting, scenic quality, sense of remoteness and isolation within northern and upland parts of the LLA where there is intervisibility. The impression of change would be limited to upland summits where the construction footprint occupies a small part of the wider landscape setting or dramatic, panoramic views associated with this LLA. Overall, the scale, location and intensity of construction activity would be a marked contrast with the existing setting.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **very high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA

Construction within this LLA is limited to construction, operation, and demobilisation of the Marine Facility west of Inveraray and nearby Access Tracks. There would be direct changes to the landscape fabric of this LLA. The operation of the Marine Facility throughout most of the construction phase would introduce new and uncharacteristic activity and plant into a localised part of the landscape. Effects to the scenic quality in particular the effect of lighting associated with the jetty would be pronounced along the loch shore and in contrast to the dawn and dusk setting. The widening and operation of existing tracks to transport plant and materials and the construction of small section of new track across part of the pastoral field would increase intensity of activity but would not be dissimilar to other transport and forestry operations within the LLA and within the context of the A83 and A819. Overall, the construction would affect a very small geographic area but one that is important to the special qualities and setting of this LLA.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

Significant landscape effects are predicted for three of the six LCTs assessed. These are the Rugged Mountains, Craggy Upland – Argyll, and Rocky Coastland - Argyll. The other three LCTs would not result in significant landscape effects during construction.

LCT 35 Rugged Mountains

At construction, activity would be located in other LCTs in the Study Area, as such effects would be limited to the setting and perceptual qualities of this LCT. The intervisibility and impression of construction activity associated with the Headpond and associated compounds and Access Tracks would be concentrated in an upland and steeply rising landscape north of the A85.

The scale and geographical extent of construction activity would result in a noticeable change during peak periods of construction. The intensity of construction would contrast with the strong sense of wildness and tranquillity experienced within elevated areas at the periphery of this LCT. The activity has the potential to partially alter the high levels of tranquillity and wildness within the LCT. However, construction would also be evident within the context of forestry operations including felling and wind farms.

Most of the key characteristics of the LCT would remain intact, but the impression of construction activity on the southern setting within a relatively inaccessible part of the landscape would be in marked contrast to the scenic qualities and more distant landscape setting to the south.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **very high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll

At construction, the Headpond site construction would be located within this LCT and result in direct effects to the landscape fabric of the upland moor. Despite only directly affecting a small geographic area of the overall LCT, which occupies most of the Study Area, it would become a dominate feature.

Upland moorland, Lochan Airigh and peat bog would also be replaced with the Headpond infrastructure as part of the construction of the Headpond, which are characteristic, yet common, features of the LCT. The irregular landform of the upland moorland would be affected which would be at odds with the natural landscape. The landform and plantation associated with Plateau Moor and Forest Argyll LCT to the south-east of the Headpond, would assist in restricting and softening the intervisibility with the construction activity from the Study Area and limit the extent of change to the setting and perceptual qualities.

Construction activity associated with the northern Access Track to the Headpond would result in the loss of moorland and peat bog and plantation. However, the majority of construction activity associated with other Access Tracks within this LCT would be contained within existing forestry tracks and plantation. Construction activity associated with Access Track between the Headpond and Tailpond would include direct effects on the LCT and would result in signage erected on the local paths affected by construction access.

There would also be a scale of movement in an otherwise natural landscape. Operations at the Tailpond would also affect the setting to the west of this LCT.

The overall scale of construction operations would substantially affect the tranquillity of the more wild and natural aspects of the upland moorland. However, there would be no direct change to the highest quality landscape elements including the oak-birch woodland on lower slopes, stone walls, isolated farmsteads and small villages and the integrated landscape pattern of the glens.

Due to the openness of the moorland, despite only directly affecting a small geographic area of the overall LCT, there would be a wider influence, however, noting some restriction of this due to surrounding plantation forests.

The high magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **major adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll

At construction, there would be direct effects on the LCT localised to the Tailpond site and the Marine Facility. Such changes associated with the Tailpond would be located within the small-scale landscape at the loch edge and would involve the removal of mature loch-side vegetation which is a contributing factor to the character of the landscape in the LCT. The upgrade of Access Tracks between the Tailpond and Headpond would also partially be located within this LCT.

Changes to the setting and perceptual associations would affect the same part of the LCT and the opposite bank of Loch Awe by construction activity leading from the Tailpond towards the Headpond on rising landform. Construction activity associated with the underground elements of the Development and the activity around the Headpond borrow pit would affect the impression tranquillity and natural aspects of the LCT for a short duration.

There would also be direct effects within another compartment of this LCT associated with the Marine Facility. Construction activity associated with a temporary construction Access Track through agricultural land to the west of the jetty to connect into the Upper Avenue existing track would result in the removal of a small part of forestry plantation, which is typical in the surrounding area. Construction plant and activity would displace pastoral fields, which are characteristic of the farmed shores of the loch.

The activity and plant would also affect the aesthetic aspect of the LCT as the construction activity would affect the highly scenic views across Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. This would avoid construction traffic travelling through minor settlements and the local road network near to the Tailpond. During construction, there will likely be localised disruption to public access along the B840 as a result of the increased vehicle movements. A diversion of the B840 will be necessary during construction works. The combination of temporary buildings, laydown areas and the intensity of activity would highly contrast with the existing landscape features.

Overall, the changes during construction are likely to affect some of the key characteristics of the LCT which are integral to the distinctive character of the LCT, including ancient woodland on the loch shore, scenic views across the loch, the small-scale landscape and displacement of the pastoral landscape and uneven landform. However, direct and indirect changes would be localised and limited to two parts of the local landscape.

The high magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **high** sensitivity would result in a **major adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

Visual Effects during Construction

11 of the 17 representative viewpoints would experience significant adverse effects during construction. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*. A summary of the visual effects based on receptor groups is provided below.

Residential

Views experienced from significantly affected residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity.

Dalavich: Views from Dalavich would be significantly affected by construction activity due to activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the Headpond Embankment 1 and Access Track upgrades would be apparent across a small part of the horizontal and vertical extent of the view in the long distance and set against the rising craggy upland. Construction activity associated with the Access Tracks between the Headpond and Tailpond would be visible and extend the influence of activity small part of the horizontal extent of the view. Construction activity in views would include removal of vegetation, upgrade of an existing track north of the Allt Beochlich glen, transportation of materials to and from the Headpond and tunnel portals. The loss of vegetation within open craggy moorland would be particularly obtrusive.

Inverinan: Views from Inverinan would be significantly affected by construction activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the Tailpond would result apparent across the view in the middle distance from upper storeys. The removal of loch side vegetation, large-scale excavation and earthworks to enable the construction of the inlet/outlet structure would be highly incongruent and dominate the focus of views. However, foreground vegetation would screen views from lower levels. Other construction activities include new and upgraded Access Tracks, temporary Construction Compounds, laydown areas and associated lighting.

Individual properties and farmsteads: Views from individual residential properties alongside the A815 on the southern side of Loch Fyne would be significantly affected by construction activity. The construction, operation, and demobilisation of the Marine Facility would be apparent across a small part of the background on the opposite loch shore. The jetty would facilitate the movement of vehicles and watercraft on the loch would appear the wooded backdrop of plateau moor and forest. However, the scale and movement of watercraft and associated lighting along

the jetty would become an additional focus of views. Activities during demobilisation would be like those at construction and the jetty piles would be left in situ just above the high tide water level. Construction activity associated with a temporary Construction Compounds and Access Track through agricultural land to the west of the jetty would be visible.

Residential receptors represented by **Viewpoint 2** (Minor road near A815) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 4** (Dalavich Jetty) with a **high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 18** (A815 – St Catherines) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **moderate adverse** effect and residential receptors represented by **Viewpoint 6** (Inverinan) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **major adverse** effect which are considered to be **significant**.

Recreational

Views experienced by recreational receptors range from high to very high sensitivity.

Core Paths: Views from those using short sections of core paths within the Study Area would be significantly affected by construction activity typically at higher elevation in locations which are not enclosed by vegetation and low-lying locations where gaps exist in mature loch side vegetation. This includes from Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray, which is an elevated view which is not enclosed by vegetation. During the construction phase of the Development, the construction, operation and demobilisation of the Marine Facility would be an apparent addition within the focus of views along Loch Fyne and the contrast in scale and appearance highly incongruent. Recreational receptors along core paths near to Dalavich Jetty would be significantly affected at construction due to activity and plant introduced into the view associated with the Headpond Embankment 1 and Access Track upgrades would be apparent across a small part of the horizontal and vertical extent of the view in the long distance and set against the rising craggy upland. There would also be significant effects at construction from sections of core paths in very close proximity to construction activity associated with the Marine Facility and with clear views towards the Tailpond infrastructure which has the potential to become the main focus of views in places at construction.

Local walking paths and informal tracks: Views from those using sections of local walking paths within the Study Area would be significantly affected by construction activity, including those that are in close proximity to the Development such as to the north-east of the Headpond, near to the Marine Facility and in close proximity and on the opposite side of Loch Awe to the Tailpond inlet / outlet structure and tunnel portals. Significantly affected receptors would also include those along the loch shore off the coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich in which the scale and intensity of construction activity associated with the Tailpond and Access Tracks would occupy a considerable part of the horizontal extent and substantial change to the visual composition. Significantly affected receptors would also include those routes in the rugged mountains near Ben Cruachan and Stob Garb, where introduction of activity and plant into a highly scenic view with very minimal detracting features would be incongruous and a pronounced change to the composition of the view. Significantly affected receptors would include those on the network on the western edge of Inveraray in close proximity to the construction, operation and demobilisation of the Marine Facility. Significantly affected receptors would also include local walking tracks in close proximity to the construction of the Development, including from the Eilean na Maodail peninsula in which the construction activity and plant associated with the Tailpond and Access Tracks would dominate the central part of the view and in marked contrast with the composition and balance of features in the view.

Recreational watercraft: Views from those using recreational watercraft would be significantly affected by construction activity dependent on the location of the receptor on the loch, proximity to the parts of the Development and the focus of the view. This would include along Loch Awe near to the Tailpond part of the Development. In this location, the scale and intensity of construction activity associated with the Tailpond and tracks would occupy a considerable part of the horizontal extent and substantial change to the visual composition.

Recreational receptors represented by **Viewpoint 4** (Dalavich Jetty) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, and **Viewpoint 8** (Ben Cruachan) with a **very high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect and recreational receptors represented by **Viewpoint 1** (Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray) with a **very high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 5** (Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 6** (Inverinan) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 7** (Eilean na Maodail peninsula) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 12** (Stob Garb) with a **very high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 17** (Loch Awe watercraft) with a **high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 19** (A83 lay-by) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **major adverse** effect, which are considered to be **significant**.

Visitors to places of interest

Views experienced from significantly affected viewpoints by visitors to places of interest are considered to be very high sensitivity.

Elevated local landmarks and viewpoints: Views from visitors to elevated local landmarks and viewpoints which would be significantly affected by construction activity is likely to be limited to those visiting Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray. The location of construction activity and plant associated with the Marine Facility would occupy a small but key part of the view focused along Loch Fyne and the contrast in scale and appearance highly incongruent.

Mountain summits: Views from mountain summits which would be significantly affected by construction activity is likely to be limited to those visiting the summits of Ben Cruachan and Stob Garb, where the construction activity and plant associated with the Headpond, and tracks would occupy a small part of the horizontal extent of the otherwise panoramic view. The introduction of activity and plant into a highly scenic view with very minimal detracting features would be incongruous and a pronounced change to the composition of the view.

Visitors to places of interest represented by **Viewpoint 8** (Ben Cruachan) with a **very high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect would result in a **moderate adverse** effect and **Viewpoint 1** (Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray) with a **very high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 12** (Stob Garb) with a **very high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **major adverse** effect which are considered to be **significant**.

5.7.1.2 Summary of Effects at Operation Year 1

Effects on Landscape Designations during Operation Year 1

No significant effects on landscape designations are anticipated during operation year 1.

Landscape Effects at Operation Year 1

At opening, the Development would result in significant effects for two of the six LCTs assessed. These are the Craggy Upland - Argyll and Rocky Coastland – Argyll. The other four LCTs assessed would not result in significant landscape effects during year 1 of operation.

LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll

At operation year 1, the open moorland, peat bog and Lochan Airigh would be replaced with the Headpond infrastructure. These landscape elements are characteristic of the LCT but are common features. The new additions to the landscape would be located within a small part of the LCT but due to the open moorland, would have perceptual affects in a wider area, however, this is limited in places due to pockets of forestry plantation in the LCT. The permanent compounds would be small-scale and detracting from the open and naturalistic nature of the upland moor in this part of the LCT.

The Headpond reservoir would appear similar within the context for larger waterbodies in the local landscape such as Loch Nant. The new Headpond infrastructure, including the presence of Embankments, would highly contrast with the landscape perception of wildness of the LCT and would be incongruent in the landscape. Maintenance associated with the Headpond would include a very occasional vehicle movement, which in a landscape with some local farm traffic and access to nearby wind farms, would be a very slight alteration to the landscape receptor.

At operation, the northern Access Track to the Headpond and permanent compounds would introduce new infrastructure within open moorland. Operational tracks within plantation would be similar to existing forestry activity within the local landscape. The widened and new tracks between the Tailpond and Headpond would appear scarring, with occasional maintenance traffic. This would be partially contained by existing vegetation along glens rising on the craggy upland and would introduce some uncharacteristic features in an otherwise natural landscape. The Tailpond would be located in the neighbouring LCT to the west on the loch shore and has some localised influence on the setting.

Embedded mitigation measures are detailed within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan*; and include peat bog / upland rehabilitation, heathland sowing and broadleaf woodland planting.

The addition of new infrastructure associated with the Headpond would be uncharacteristic in the open moorland landscape. On balance, the scale and extent of change to the impression of character within a small part of this large-scale LCT at year 1 of operation would have a partial alteration to the landscape receptor.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll

At operation year 1, direct effects on the landscape fabric of this LCT would result from the operational Tailpond infrastructure and the occasional movement of vehicles on Access Tracks. The Marine Facility would be demobilised, temporary compounds restored to the existing condition, and associated tracks enclosed by woodland. There would be very limited intervisibility with the Headpond within this LCT and effects on the setting would be barely perceptible.

At the Tailpond, the inlet/outlet structure would occupy a small area on the loch shore and into the loch between pockets of mature woodland. Upgraded tracks would appear as scarring on the landscape and contrast with the existing tone. Together with occasional maintenance traffic they would increase the presence of characteristic manmade features within the landscape. The network of operational tracks that extend beyond this LCT to the east would affect the perceptual associations and setting within both located area of both compartments of this LCT that line Loch Awe.

Embedded mitigation measures are detailed within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan* and include large-scale native woodland planting and translocation of ground flora to mitigate partially against the loss of ancient woodland.

Although the geographical extent of direct and indirect change within this LCT is limited relative to its scale, the contrast in land use between the natural character and breaks in the woodland vegetation with the new infrastructure would be pronounced and uncharacteristic in the pastoral and moorland landscape.

The magnitude of effect, assessed alongside the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

Visual Effects at Operation Year 1

Eight of the 17 representative viewpoints would experience significant adverse effects during year 1 of operation. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*. A summary of the visual effects based on receptor groups is provided below.

Residential

Views experienced from the significantly affected residential receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity.

Dalavich: Views from Dalavich would be significantly affected by operational activity at year 1. There would be views of the Headpond Embankment 1 across a small part of the horizontal and vertical extent of the view in the distant background. This would be partially set against the rising craggy upland, but part of the Embankment edge would appear as a straight line across an undulating skyline, which would be a small but unnatural addition as well as bare ground. The other permanent infrastructure in view would include small-scale permanent structures, the appearance of upgraded and new Access Tracks leading to the Headpond with occasional maintenance traffic. These additions would be less perceptible in the long distance and screened in places from receptors by intervening landform. New planting and habitat restoration would be discernible on the rising hillside leading to the Headpond.

Inverinan: Views from Inverinan would be significantly affected due to filtered views from lower levels of new infrastructure associated with the Tailpond at the loch shore in the middle distance. Views from upper stories would be uninterrupted and the inlet/outlet structure would be a noticeable addition in middle distance views. Views from upper stories would be uninterrupted and the inlet/outlet structure would be a noticeable addition in middle distance views. Where visible, the scarring associated with the ground plane of new tracks and track upgrades would remain and would contrast in colour to the surrounding moorland and loch side vegetation. Embedded mitigation measures in particular native woodland planting would result in the introduction of whips and fencing into views.

Residential receptors represented by residential receptors represented by **Viewpoint 4** (Dalavich Jetty) with a **high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 6** (Inverinan) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **moderate adverse** effect which are considered to be **significant**.

Recreational

Views experienced by the significantly affected recreational receptors range from high to very high sensitivity.

Core Paths: Views from those using short sections of core paths within the Study Area would be significantly affected by operation at year 1 which would be typically at higher elevation in locations which are not enclosed by vegetation and low-lying locations where gaps exist in mature loch side vegetation. Recreational receptors along core paths near to Dalavich Jetty would be significantly affected at operation due to scale and nature of the Headpond Embankment 1 and the upgraded track would appear incongruous within a high-quality part of a wider

angled view. New planting and habitat restoration would be discernible on the rising hillside leading to the Headpond.

Local walking paths and informal tracks: Views from those using sections of local walking paths within the Study Area would be significantly affected at operation year 1, including those that are in close proximity to the Development such as to the north-east of the Headpond, and in close proximity on the opposite side of Loch Awe to the Tailpond and tunnel portals. Significantly affected receptors would also include those along the loch shore off the coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich in which views of the new infrastructure and scarring of tracks would be a pronounced change to the composition of the view in the middle distance. The operational effects would be located across the focus of the view as the craggy upland rises from the loch edge. Significantly affected receptors would also include those routes in the rugged mountains near Ben Cruachan and Stob Garb, in which the introduction of the Headpond and the associated scarring as a result of exposed rock within the Headpond, Embankments and tracks would result in a small but noticeable change in a small part of the composition of the panoramic view in the long distance. Significantly affected receptors would include those on the network on the western edge of Inveraray due to the scarring associated with the Marine Facility from the construction phase, which would be noticeable in the composition of the view due to proximity and little other detracting features in this part of the view, other than the alignment of the road. Significantly affected receptors would also include local walking tracks in close proximity to the construction of the Development, including from the Eilean na Maodail peninsula in which the construction activity and plant associated with the Tailpond and Access Tracks would dominate the central part of the view and in marked contrast with the composition and balance of features in the view.

Recreational watercraft: Views from those using recreational watercraft would be significantly affected at operation year 1 dependent on the location of the receptor on the loch, proximity to the parts of the Development and the focus of the view. This would include along Loch Awe near to the Tailpond part of the Development. In this location, the new infrastructure and scarring of tracks would be a pronounced change to the composition of the view in the middle distance. The operational effects would be located across the focus of the view as the craggy upland rises from the loch edge. Embedded mitigation measures, in particular native woodland, would introduce new features, including whip tubes and associated fencing, which would also be visible within the context of the Tailpond on the rising hillside.

Recreational receptors represented by **Viewpoint 4** (Dalavich Jetty) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 6** (Inverinan) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 8** (Ben Cruachan) with a **very high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 12** (Stob Garb) with a **very high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 19** (A83 lay-by) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **moderate adverse** effect and recreational receptors represented by **Viewpoint 5** (Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich) with a **high** sensitivity, **Viewpoint 7** (Eilean na Maodail peninsula) with a **high** sensitivity, and **Viewpoint 17** (Loch Awe watercraft) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **major adverse** effect, which are considered to be **significant**.

Visitors to places of interest

Views experienced by the significantly affected visitors to places of interest are considered to be of very high sensitivity.

Mountain summits: Views from mountain summits which would be significantly affected at operation year 1 are likely to be limited to those visiting the summits of Ben Cruachan and Stob Garb, where the introduction of the Headpond and the associated scarring as a result of exposed rock within the Headpond, Embankments and tracks would result in a small but noticeable change in a small part of the composition of panoramic views in the long distance.

Visitors to places of interest represented by **Viewpoint 8** (Ben Cruachan) with a **very high** sensitivity and **Viewpoint 12** (Stob Garb) with a **very high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which are considered to be **significant**.

5.7.1.3 Summary of Effects at Operation Year 15

Effects on Landscape Designations during Operation Year 15

At year 15 of operation once reinstatement planting has established, no significant effects on landscape designations are predicted. Full details can be found within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*.

Landscape Effects at Operation Year 15

At year 15 of operation once reinstatement planting has established, no significant landscape effects are predicted. Full details can be found within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*. New infrastructure would be more assimilated into the landscape due to new planting, natural regeneration and bog rehabilitation. The colour of new, and widening of existing, Access Tracks would be less contrasting to the wider landscape. Deciduous tree planting would have also established associated with the track upgrades, which would replace former plantation vegetation.

Visual Effects at Operation Year 15

One of the 17 representative viewpoints would experience significant adverse effects during year 15 of operation. Full details of the visual assessment are contained within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*. A summary of the visual effects based on receptor groups is provided below.

Residential and Recreational

Views experienced from the significantly affected residential and recreational receptor is considered to be of high sensitivity.

Dalavich: Views from Dalavich would be significantly affected at operation year 15. Views of the Headpond Embankment 1 and part of the waterbody infrastructure and surrounding permanent infrastructure would remain. Over time the material appearance of the Embankment would recede and appear less contrasting than at year 1. The occasional movement of plant would appear like that of other farming and forestry operations. Embedded mitigation measures, including the establishment of native woodland on rising slopes and glens and bog restoration would help to assimilate the appearance of tracks and slightly reduce the scale of the contrast of the Headpond into the view. However, the appearance of the Headpond would remain noticeable and in contrast to the composition and balance of features in views.

Residential and recreational receptors represented by **Viewpoint 4** (Dalavich Jetty) with a **high** sensitivity, assessed alongside the magnitude of effect, would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is considered to be **significant**.

5.8 Cumulative Effects

The following section provides an assessment of potential cumulative landscape and visual effects. The approach and methodology for the cumulative landscape and visual assessment is detailed in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment and Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*.

5.8.1 Inter-Cumulative Effects

The assessment of likely cumulative effects is based on the cumulative schemes identified in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 4: Approach to EIA*. Best practice guidance states that a landscape and visual cumulative assessment should focus on the most significant cumulative effects and conclude with a clear assessment of those which are likely to influence decision making. Therefore, only the relevant cumulative schemes have been considered within this assessment.

The following cumulative schemes set out in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 4: Approach to EIA* have been excluded from the landscape and visual cumulative assessment. The schemes have been excluded due to reasons including a combination of the type of development proposed, distance, lack of intervisibility and a lack of shared landscape receptors. Therefore, it is unlikely that there would be significant landscape or visual cumulative effects.

- Inverawe Hydro Scheme;
- Lochan Shira Reservoir;
- Clachan Flats Wind Farm;
- Coille Bhraghad Mineral Exploitation Drilling;
- Corr Chnoc Wind Farm;
- Cruach Mhor Wind Farm;
- Crarae Substation; and
- Crarae Substation OHL Connection.

Two cumulative scenarios have been defined based on their status and these are set out below and shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.8 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 1) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* and *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.9 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 2) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility*.

- **Cumulative Scenario 1:** The cumulative baseline for this scenario includes schemes which have been consented and/or are under construction in addition to existing operational schemes, and
- **Cumulative Scenario 2:** The cumulative baseline for this scenario includes schemes at application stage in addition to existing operational schemes and those which have been consented and/or are under construction.

The assessment of cumulative magnitude of change and significance of effects involves consideration of the additional change resulting from the Development to each cumulative baseline scenario. Once the Development is in operation, the principal parts of the Development that influence the landscape are limited to the Headpond and Tailpond, therefore the assessment of cumulative effects focuses on these parts of the Development.

For the purposes of this assessment the following assumptions have been made:

- Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm: Scenario 1 is comprised of 14 existing turbines up to 54.1 m tip height. In Scenario 2, 18 new turbines at 180 m tip height would entirely replace the existing turbines and is referred to as Beinn Ghlas Wind farm Repowering.
- Blarghour Wind Farm - Consented: Scenario 1 is comprised of 17 turbines at 136.5 m tip height. In Scenario 2, 17 new turbines at 180 m tip height would entirely replace the existing turbines and is referred to as Blarghour Wind Farm – Variation.
- The Development will have a grid connection to Creag Dhubh substation. Although overhead lines are not part of these proposals a worst-case straight-line connection has been assumed at this stage and is included as Balliemanoach PSH Grid connection.

Table 5.7 *Landscape and Visual Cumulative Schemes* below sets out the cumulative schemes considered for each of the scenarios.

Table 5.7 Landscape and Visual Cumulative Schemes

Cumulative Scheme	Status (as of 12/09/2023)	Approx. distance to Tailpond and tunnel portals (km)	Approx. distance to Headpond (km)	Cumulative to Scenario 1	Cumulative Scenario 2
Beochlich Hydro Scheme	Operational	1.43	1.35	✓	✓
Cruachan Hydro Scheme	Operational	10.69	11.02	✓	✓
Cruachan Expansion	Consented	10.67	11.00	✓	✓
Nant Hydro Scheme	Operational	8.44	8.81	✓	✓
Blarghour Wind Farm - Consented	Consented	1.10	0.17	✓	✗*
Blarghour Wind Farm - Scoping Variation	Scoping	1.78	0.17	✗	✓
Blarghour Wind Farm OHL Connection	Screening	3.08	2.01	✗	✓
Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm	Operational	9.08	9.94	✓	✗*
Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering	Scoping	8.92	9.90	✗	✓
An Suidhe Wind Farm	Operational	6.35	7.06	✓	✓
Carraig Gheal Wind Farm	Operational	4.59	6.22	✓	✓
Ladyfield Wind Farm	Scoping	4.83	4.12	✗	✓
Creag Dhubh Substation OHL Connection	Consented	3.71	3.67	✓	✓
An Suidhe Substation OHL Connection	Consented	10.54	9.76	✓	✓

Cumulative Scheme	Status (as of 12/09/2023)	Approx. distance to Tailpond and tunnel portals (km)	Approx. distance to Headpond (km)	Cumulative to Scenario 1	Cumulative Scenario 2
Creag Dhubh to Dalmally OHL	Consented	4.25	4.20	✓	✓
Creag Dhubh to Inveraray OHL	Consented	4.07	2.47	✓	✓
An Carr Dubh Wind Farm	Application submitted	2.33	2.70	✗	✓
Dalmally OHL	Consented	0.03	1.92	✓	✓
Barachander Wind Farm	Scoping	7.49	7.90	✗	✓
Creag Dhubh Substation	Consented	4.08	4.04	✓	✓
Eredine Wind Farm	Scoping	9.29	10.04	✗	✓
Inveraray to Crossaig OHL	Consented	7.07	5.00	✓	✓
An Suidhe Substation	Consented	10.61	9.93	✓	✓
Balliemeanoch PSH Grid connection	**	0.33	0.33	✗	✓

* *Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm: Scenario 1 is comprised of 14 existing turbines up to 54.1 m tip height. In Scenario 2, 18 new turbines at 180 m tip height would entirely replace the existing turbines and is referred to as Beinn Ghlas Wind farm Repowering. Blarghour Wind Farm - Consented: Scenario 1 is comprised of 17 turbines at 136.5 m tip height. In Scenario 2, 17 new turbines at 180 m tip height would entirely replace the existing turbines and is referred to as Blarghour Wind Farm – Variation.*

** *Balliemeanoch PSH Grid connection has been included in Scenario 2 as the Development will require connection to the grid, although the Applicant expects this to be an underground connection. However, the worst-case scenario of an OHL has been assumed from the Development to the Creag Dhubh substation (consented scheme) solely for the purposes of this assessment. Any overhead line would be subject to its own separate consenting process under the Electricity Act and this does not form part of the current proposals.*

The approximate development extent of each of the cumulative schemes outlined above are shown on *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.8 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 1) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* and *Volume 3 Figures, Figure 5.9 Cumulative Schemes (Scenario 2) and Operational Zone of Theoretical Visibility* in different formats dependent on the development type. This is generally set out as follows:

- Wind farms – development extent shown as the main cluster of turbines as a polygon;
- Overhead line connections – development extent shown as lines; and
- Other types of development e.g. substations – development extent shown as points centred in the main part of the development.

The approximate development extent of each of the relevant cumulative schemes outlined above are also shown within *Volume 4: Visualisations* for each of the representative viewpoints. The approximate development extents are depicted by a line for wind farms and overhead line connections and arrows for other types of development.

5.8.1.1 Cumulative Landscape Effects

Potential significant cumulative effects would occur where the addition of the Development to the cumulative baseline would increase the prominence of energy infrastructure to the extent that they would potentially become either an influential characteristic or character-defining feature of a landscape.

As a result of the restricted nature of potential visibility and the limited nature of change resulting from the Development identified in the LVIA, it is considered that there is very limited potential for significant cumulative landscape effects on the landscape receptors found within the Study Area. The cumulative landscape assessment therefore takes a targeted approach, focusing on those landscape designations and LCTs where the potential for significant cumulative landscape effects is greatest:

- North Argyll LLA;

- LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains;
- LCT 35 Rugged Mountains;
- LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll; and
- LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll.

The full cumulative landscape assessment is set out in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*. In addition, the appraisal of potential cumulative landscape effects on the WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains is also set out within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.2 Landscape Assessment*. The following sections provide a summary of the assessment of cumulative effects on landscape designations and landscape character for the focused receptors as set out above.

5.8.1.2 Summary of the Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations

It is considered that there would be no significant cumulative effects on landscape designations as a result of the addition of the Development into the cumulative baseline scenario.

North Argyll LLA

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into the cumulative scenario would affect the perceptual associations across the southern setting of this LLA. The addition of the Development would increase the influence of energy generation infrastructure on the southern setting of the LLA, but that would be isolated to the most upland areas of the landscape and most key characteristics would remain unchanged.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **very low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

5.8.1.3 Summary of the Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

It is considered that there would be no significant cumulative effects on landscape character as a result of the addition of the Development into the cumulative baseline scenario.

LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into the cumulative scenario would affect the perceptual associations across the western setting the LCT. The concentration of energy infrastructure within a large-scale landscape to the west would slightly reduce the scenic quality experienced from a very small, elevated part of this LCT. However, most of the key characteristics would remain unchanged.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **very low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

LCT 35 Rugged Mountains

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would affect the perceptual associations across the southern setting of the LCT. Development into this cumulative scenario would affect the perceptual associations and scenic quality experienced from a small, elevated part of the southern area of the LCT. Most of the key characteristics of the LCT would remain unchanged.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **very low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

LCT 40 Craggy Upland – Argyll

For Scenario 1, the Headpond is located within this LCT which has the potential for direct cumulative change. The addition of the Development would increase the influence of energy generation infrastructure within a small geographic area of the LCT consistent with the existing pattern of energy infrastructure. The perceptual effects from the addition of the Development would be experienced over a larger area of the LCT, however, the scenic quality of the LCT is not considered to be an integral characteristic of the LCT.

For Scenario 2, the likely intervisibility between the Development and cumulative schemes would slightly increase the impression of energy infrastructure compared to Scenario 1 as there would be a greater number of energy infrastructure schemes within the LCT due to additional wind farms. The addition of the Development would

increase the area of the pocket, but it would retain separation from other concentrated pockets of energy infrastructure in this LCT due to intervening forestry plantation and landform.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **medium** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

LCT 53 Rocky Coastland – Argyll

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into the cumulative scenario would introduce additional energy infrastructure into the LCT, locally increasing energy infrastructure into a small geographic area of the LCT. The proposed Tailpond would be located in part of the LCT with existing influence from a small section of OHL and the B840. The proximity of the Tailpond to existing energy infrastructure would be consistent with the existing pattern of energy infrastructure in the wider setting of the LCT concentrated in pockets. The addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would affect the perceptual associations across the LCT and the setting of the LCT, including the addition of both the Headpond and Tailpond. This would affect scenic quality focused along the loch and its background.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

5.8.1.4 Cumulative Visual Effects

Potential significant cumulative effects would occur where the addition of the Development to the cumulative baseline would increase the prominence of energy infrastructure to the extent that they would potentially become either an influential characteristic or character-defining feature in views across the landscape.

As a result of the restricted nature of potential visibility and the limited nature of change resulting from the Development identified in the LVIA, it is considered that there is very limited potential for significant cumulative visual effects on the visual receptors found within the Study Area. The cumulative visual assessment therefore takes a targeted approach, focusing on those representative viewpoints where the potential for significant cumulative visual effects is greatest:

- Viewpoint 4;
- Viewpoint 5;
- Viewpoint 6;
- Viewpoint 7;
- Viewpoint 8; and
- Viewpoint 17.

The full cumulative visual assessment is set out in *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.3 Visual Assessment*. The following sections provide a summary of the assessment of cumulative effects on representative viewpoints for the focused receptors as set out above.

5.8.1.5 Summary of the Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

It is considered that there would be no significant cumulative effects on visual amenity as a result of the addition of the Development into the cumulative baseline scenario.

Viewpoint 4

For Scenario 1, the addition of the Development into the cumulative scenario would introduce the influence of energy infrastructure into part of the view that would include the Blarghour Wind Farm – Consented scheme. The Blarghour Wind Farm – Consented scheme would be located within plantation and immediately south of the Development and would filter views of the Headpond.

For Scenario 2, the addition of the Development would add to the presence of energy infrastructure in a small part of the horizontal field of view.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **very high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Viewpoint 5

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would extend the influence of energy infrastructure across the horizontal extent of the view. However, the appearance inlet/outlet structure is unlikely to be associated with scale and mass of the cumulative schemes.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Viewpoint 6

For Scenario 1, the addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would concentrate energy infrastructure across the central part of the view between the two wind farms. The addition of the Development would intensify the influence of energy infrastructure in a small part of the horizontal field of view in a panorama that has some screening from existing foreground vegetation.

For Scenario 2, the addition of the Development would intensify the influence of energy infrastructure in a small part of the horizontal field of view in a panorama that has some screening from existing foreground vegetation. The other cumulative schemes in the view would be separated from the Development as they would generally be located in the distance within the craggy upland.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Viewpoint 7

For Scenario 1, the addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would slightly extend the influence of energy infrastructure in the horizontal extent of view. The Development would be in a small part of the view, where visible through foreground vegetation which would create separation from the other cumulative schemes. The remainder of the rising rocky coastland and craggy upland in the view would remain unaffected.

For Scenario 2, the addition of the Development would intensify the influence of energy infrastructure in a small part of the horizontal field of view in a panorama. This would be within the horizontal extent of view already influenced by wind farms, albeit separated somewhat as these would be located in the craggy upland.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **High** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Viewpoint 8

For Scenario 1, addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would slightly increase the influence of energy infrastructure into part of the horizontal extent of the view that would include the Blarghour Wind Farm – Consented scheme in the craggy upland and an OHL. However, the Development would be concentrated within part of the view affected by energy infrastructure and is less likely to be associated with the scale and mass of windfarms.

For Scenario 2, there would be additional wind farms and OHLs in the view, however the Development other than OHLs would remain to be concentrated in pockets from the elevated view. The addition of the Development is unlikely to alter the overall balance of features in this part of the views.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **very high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

Viewpoint 17

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the addition of the Development into this cumulative scenario would extend the influence of energy infrastructure across the horizontal extent of the view. The Development would be in a small part of the view and would be located at the loch shore, which would create separation from the other cumulative schemes. Overall, the addition of the Development would intensify the influence of energy infrastructure in a small part of the horizontal field of view and the remainder of the rising rocky coastland and craggy upland in the view would remain unaffected.

For both Scenario 1 and 2, the magnitude of cumulative change resulting would be **low**. Taking account of the **high** sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effect is judged to be **minor adverse (not significant)**.

5.8.2 Intra-Cumulative Effects

The Chapters where there is the potential for intra-relationship effects include the following:

- **Volume 2, Chapter 6: Terrestrial Ecology** – There would be combined effects on landscape habitats, including the craggy upland and plateau moor and forest landscapes, at construction and operation.
- **Volume 2, Chapter 13: Cultural Heritage** – There would be combined effects on the visual amenity experienced within the Inveraray Castle GDL, Ardkinglas and Strone GDL and Ardanaiseig House GDL and on the setting of the designations.
- **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Access, Traffic and Transport** – Combined effects would be experienced by users of the road network during the construction phase where the sense of activity would increase.
- **Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration** - Combined effects would be experienced by landscape and visual receptors in close proximity to construction activity through the construction phase where the sense of activity would increase.
- **Volume 2, Chapter 16: Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism** – Combined effects would be experienced by recreational users of the designated routes and core paths within the Study Area, where there would be intervisibility of the Development and where there are also diversions proposed.

5.9 Mitigation and Monitoring

5.9.1 Embedded Mitigation

Embedded mitigation measures, which have been incorporated within the design of the Development or which are standard practice measures that have been committed to, are summarised in *Volume 2 Main Report, Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives*. All mitigation measures for the landscape and visual impact assessment are embedded and are detailed in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) (refer to *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan*).

The habitat restoration principles are as follows and are further expanded upon within *Volume 5 Appendices, Appendix 5.4 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan*:

- Blanket bog / upland rehabilitation;
- Native woodland planting;
- Wet woodland planting;
- Heathland seeding (Embankments);
- Meadow Grassland and Loch Fyne Coastal Grassland Seeding;
- Ancient woodland management;
- Woodland management;
- Notable habitat management;
- Protected species mitigation; and
- Invasive Non-native Species Management (INNS).

Whilst residual significant effects remain for some of the landscape and visual receptors, no additional mitigation is available that would be effective in further reducing effects.

5.10 Residual Effects

As all mitigation is embedded in the Development and there is no additional mitigation, all effects described in the section above are residual. The following tables therefore present a summary of the landscape and visual impact assessment.

The construction phase of works falls into two phases, pre-construction and construction. For the purposes of the LVIA, impacts associated with the two phases are considered as a single construction phase of works with sequenced activities extending over the seven-year construction period.

The following tables demonstrate that there are no expected residual significant effects at operation on local landscape designations as noted in Policy 4 of NPF4 (Ref 2).

Table 5.8 Summary of Effects: Construction

Receptor	Description of Effect	of Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance
Inveraray Castle GDL	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Ardanaiseig House GDL	Effect on landscape character	Neutral	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Neutral	Not significant
North Argyll LLA	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
LCT 37 Upland Glens - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 39 Plateau Moor & Forest - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 40 Craggy Upland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
LCT 53 Rocky Coastland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 1 - Dun Cuaiche, Inveraray	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 2 - Minor road near A815	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 3 - Kilmaha	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 4 - Dalavich Jetty	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 5 - Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 6 - Inverinan	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 7 - Eilean Moadail peninsula	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 8 - Ben Cruachan	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant

Receptor	Description of Effect	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance
Viewpoint 9 Dorlin Point	- Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 10 Ardanaisig GDL	- Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 11 A85	- Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 12 Stob Garbh	- Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 13 Ben Eunaich	- Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 14 Beinn a' Chleibh	- Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 15 Ben Lui	- Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 16 Duncan Bann Macintyre Monument	- Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 17 Loch Awe watercraft	- Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 18 A815 – St Catherine's	- Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 19 A83 lay-by	- Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant

Table 5.9 Summary of Effects: Operation Year 1

Receptor	Description of Effect	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance
Inveraray Castle GDL	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	Effect on landscape character	Neutral	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Neutral	Not significant
Ardanaisig House GDL	Effect on landscape character	Neutral	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Neutral	Not significant
North Argyll LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
LCT 37 Upland Glens - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
LCT 39 Plateau Moor & Forest - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant

Receptor	Description of Effect	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance
LCT 40 Craggy Upland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
LCT 53 Rocky Coastland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 1 - Dun Cuaiche, Inveraray	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 2 - Minor road near A815	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 3 - Kilmaha	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 4 - Dalavich Jetty	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 5 - Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 6 - Inverinan	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 7 - Eilean na Moadail peninsula	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 8 - Ben Cruachan	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 9 - Dorlin Point	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 10 - Ardanaiseig GDL	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 11 - A85	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 12 - Stob Garbh	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 13 - Ben Eunaich	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 14 - Beinn a' Chleibh	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 15 - Ben Lui	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 16 - Duncan Bann Macintyre Monument	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 17 - Loch Awe watercraft	Effect on visual amenity	Major adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Major adverse	Significant
Viewpoint 18 - A815 - St Catherines	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant
Viewpoint 19 - A83 lay-by	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant

Table 5.10 Summary of Effects: Operation Year 15

Receptor	Description of Effect	Effect	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance	
Inveraray GDL	Castle character	Effect on landscape	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	Effect on landscape character	Neutral	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Neutral	Not significant	
Ardanaiseig House GDL	Effect on landscape character	Neutral	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Neutral	Not significant	
North Argyll LLA	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
LCT 34 Steep Ridges and Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
LCT 35 Rugged Mountains	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
LCT 37 Upland Glens - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
LCT 39 Plateau Moor & Forest - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
LCT 40 Craggy Upland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
LCT 53 Rocky Coastland - Argyll	Effect on landscape character	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 1 - Dun Cuaiche, Inveraray	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 2 - Minor road - near A815	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 3 - Kilmaha	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 4 - Dalavich Jetty	Effect on visual amenity	Moderate adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Moderate adverse	Significant	
Viewpoint 5 - Loch shore off coastal road between Inverinan and Dalavich	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 6 - Inverinan	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 7 - Eilean Moadail peninsula	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 8 - Ben Cruachan	Effect on visual amenity	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Viewpoint 9 - Dorlin Point	Effect on visual amenity	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Description of Effect	Effect	of	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects	Significance
Viewpoint 10 Ardanaiseig GDL	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 11 A85	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 12 Stob Garbh	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 13 Ben Eunaich	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 14 Beinn a' Chleibh	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 15 Ben Lui	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 16 Duncan Bann Macintyre Monument	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 17 Loch Awe watercraft	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Minor adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Minor adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 18 A815 - St Catherine's	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant
Viewpoint 19 A83 lay-by	- Effect on amenity	on	visual	Negligible adverse	N/A (All mitigation is embedded)	Negligible adverse Not significant

5.11 References

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