

Clashindarroch II Wind Farm

Supplementary Information

Volume 2: Written Statement

October 2021

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1 Chapter 1: Introduction

- 1.1.1 On 23rd December 2019, Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd (the Applicant) submitted an application (the Application) to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 (the 1989 Act), to install and operate a wind farm comprising up to 14 wind turbines and associated infrastructure, with a generation capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), on land adjacent to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, in Aberdeenshire. A request was also made by the Applicant that planning permission be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.
- 1.1.2 The Site is located within Clashindarroch Forest, approximately 6km to the southwest of the settlement of Huntly, Aberdeenshire and 55km northwest of Aberdeen. Nearby settlements include Rhynie, Haugh of Glass and Cabrach. The Site is located within the Aberdeenshire Council administrative boundary and is owned by Forestry and Land Scotland.
- 1.1.3 The Application for consent (ECU00002002) was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) which was prepared in accordance with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).
- 1.1.4 Aberdeenshire Council have lodged an objection to the Application for the proposed development and this objection has not been withdrawn, therefore under paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 8 of the 1989 Act a Public Inquiry is to be held.

1.2 Purpose of Supplementary Information

- 1.2.1 Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations allows for the preparation of Supplementary Information (SI).
- 1.2.2 The Reporter, who has been appointed by Scottish Ministers to hold a Public Inquiry into the Application, has requested SI from the Applicant under Regulations 19 and 20 of the EIA Regulations. Where SI has been requested for the purposes of a Public Inquiry under Regulation 20(6), as is the case here, there is no requirement to publish a notice to advertise the submission of SI.
- 1.2.3 The SI includes the following:
- An updated cumulative assessment for each EIA Report Chapter where relevant, and where not this is stated in the SI Chapter.
 - Supplementary Information on borrow pits detailed in SI Chapter 7.
 - An updated assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy including updated night-time visualisations.
 - Plans showing the amended Red Line Application boundary as approved by the ECU.
 - A summary of the consultation responses received on the Application.
- 1.2.4 This SI has been provided for the purposes of the forthcoming Public Inquiry.

1.3 Responsibility for the Supplementary Information

1.3.1 This SI has been prepared by Stephenson Halliday and the associated specialists detailed as follows:

- Stephenson Halliday: Chapter 1 Introduction, Chapter 2 Site Description and Design Evolution, Chapter 3 Description of Development, Chapter 4 Renewable Energy and Planning Policy, Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment, Chapter 6 Scoping and Consultation, Chapter 12 Carbon, Chapter 13 Highways, Traffic and Transport, Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Chapter 17 Other Issues, Chapter 18 Schedule of Mitigation.
- Wood: Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual.
- Dr Stuart Lumsden: SI 2021 Technical Appendix 7.3: Night-time Assessment.
- MBEC Environmental Consulting: Chapter 8 Ornithology and Chapter 9 Ecology.
- Headland Archaeology: Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage.
- SLR Consulting Ltd: Chapter 11 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology.
- Hayes McKenzie Partnership Ltd: Chapter 14 Noise.
- Osprey Consulting Services: Chapter 15 Aviation.

Statement of Expertise

1.3.2 As required by the EIA Regulations, Table 1.1 includes the qualifications and expertise of the specialists involved in the preparation of the SI.

1.3.3 The SI has been overseen by Alison Sidgwick BSoc SC, MURP, MRTPI. Alison is a Technical Director of Planning and Environmental at Stephenson Halliday and has an MSc in Urban and Rural Planning and over 20 years of professional EIA experience. Alison is a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Table 1.1: SI Team

SI Chapters	Specialists	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Chapter 1 Introduction Chapter 2 Site Description and Design Evolution Chapter 3 Description of Development Chapter 4 Renewable Energy and Planning Policy Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Chapter 6 Scoping and Consultation Chapter 12 Carbon Chapter 13 Highways, Traffic and Transport Chapter 16 Socio-Economics	Alison Sidgwick Technical Director Stephenson Halliday Sarah Sinclair Associate Director Stephenson Halliday	BSoc Sc (Hons), MURP, MRTPI MA (Hons), MRTPI	22 17

SI Chapters	Specialists	Qualifications	Years of Experience
Chapter 17 Other Issues Chapter 18 Schedule of Mitigation			
Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual SI 2021 Technical Appendix 7.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology and Glossary SI 2021 Technical Appendix 7.2: Updated Viewpoint Analysis SI 2021 Technical Appendix 7.3: Night-time Assessment	Rebecca Rylott Technical Director Wood plc	CMLI BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture Dip. Urban Design	26
SI 2021 Technical Appendix 7.3: Night-time Assessment	Dr Stuart Lumsden	BSc, PhD	10
Chapter 8 Ornithology Chapter 9 Ecology	Paul Bradshaw Partner MBEC Environmental Consulting	BSc (Hons), MSc, MRes	20
Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage	Stephen Carter Senior Heritage Consultant Headland Archaeology	MCIfA FSA Scot BSc (Joint Hons) PhD	32
Chapter 11 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology	Gordon Robb Technical Director SLR Consulting Limited	BSc (Hons) MSc MBA C.WEM FCIWEM	29
Chapter 14 Noise SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.1 SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.2 SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.3 Noise Prediction Methodology and Assumptions	Dr Andy McKenzie Director Hayes McKenzie	PhD, BSc FIOA	40
Chapter 15 Aviation	Stuart Heald Senior Consultant Osprey Consulting Services	MCMI, MRAeS	10

1.4 Structure and Presentation of the Supplementary Information

1.4.1 Following the introductory chapters, this SI is divided into a series of topic chapters. These chapters have been reviewed in relation to the updated cumulative position and whether this

changes the assessment in the EIA Report. In addition to the updated cumulative position, Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual provides an updated assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy as requested by the Reporter appointed to hold the Public Inquiry.

Reading Guide

1.4.2 This SI is to be read alongside the EIA Report and the SI is not replacing it. The only exception to this is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which is a replacement, with any changes to the EIA Report as a result of the SI clearly set out.

1.4.3 Where a chapter or assessment does not need to be updated, no changes have been made as it is not the purpose of this SI to repeat information contained within the EIA Report which remains valid. Where changes to the EIA Report have been made these are set out in the SI Chapter. Therefore, the chapter numbering of the SI reflects that of the EIA Report however the format and content of the topic area chapters do vary.

1.4.4 A summary is detailed below:

- Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution: The red line boundary of the Site has been updated and this is shown in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 2.1 and the changes outlined below:

Amended	Replaces
Application Boundary Overview Figure 1 (amended),	Application Boundary Overview Figure 1
Application Boundary Part A Figure 2.1 (amended)	Application Boundary Part A Figure 2.1
Application Boundary Part B Figure 2.2 (amended),	Application Boundary Part B Figure 2.2,
Figure 1.2 Application Boundary (amended),	Figure 1.2 Application Boundary
Figure 3.2.6 Wind Farm Fell Plan (amended),	Figure 3.2.6 Wind Farm Fell Plan
Figure 3.2.7 Wind Farm Restock Plan (amended)	Figure 3.2.7 Wind Farm Restock Plan

- Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution: Table 2.1 of the SI is to be read in addition to the EIA Report Table 7-10.
- Chapter 3: Description of Development: an agreed Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy replaces the aviation lighting proposed in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation: provides a summary of the consultation responses received post submission of the Application.
- Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual: This assessment should be read as additional or supplementary to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) contained in the EIA Report, noting that it revises the previous cumulative LVIA. New figures have been given the prefix SI 2021.
- Chapter 8: Ornithology: to be read as supplementary to Chapter 8 of the EIA Report.
- Chapter 9: Ecology: to be read as supplementary to Chapter 9 of the EIA Report.

- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage: SI Chapter 10 provides an updated assessment of predicted cumulative effects on heritage assets. It therefore replaces the assessment previously reported in paragraphs 10.123 and 10.124 of the EIA Report.
- Chapter 11: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology: to be read as supplementary to Chapter 11 of the EIA Report.
- Chapter 13: Highways, Traffic and Transport: to be read as supplementary to Chapter 13 of the EIA Report.
- Chapter 14: Noise: replaces the methodology in Chapter 14 of the EIA Report, such that the predicted noise from the proposed development, cumulatively with that from the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, is assessed against the limits applied to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, with the intention that this would form the basis of limits to be applied by condition to both sites acting together.
- Chapter 15: Aviation: the agreed Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy replaces the aviation lighting proposed in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation: updates Chapter 18 of the EIA Report to include the agreed Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy, the mitigation agreed with Ministry of Defence and the mitigation agreed with NATS.

1.4.5 Unless otherwise stated in this SI, figures and appendices included in the EIA Report remain valid. Where Technical Appendices and Figures have been prepared as part of the SI, they have the prefix 'SI 2021' (this is with the exception of the updated figures in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 2.1 which were submitted to the ECU in May 2021).

Presentation

1.4.6 The SI comprises of three volumes: Volume 1 containing the Non-Technical Summary (NTS), Volume 2 containing the SI Written Statement and Volume 3A containing SI Technical Appendices and Volume 3B containing SI Figures and Visualisations.

1.4.7 The content of the SI Chapters is set out below, adopting the EIA Report Chapter numbering.

- Chapter 1: Introduction: provides a brief introduction to the purpose of the SI and the reasons for submitting SI in relation to the proposed development.
- Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution: provides a brief overview of the minor changes to the red line boundary and sets out the cumulative projects which are considered in the cumulative update to SI Chapters, where relevant.
- Chapter 3: Description of Development: outlines the agreed Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy which has been agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) post submission of the Application.
- Chapter 4: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy: No update provided at this stage, however an update to the Renewable Energy and Planning Policy will be included within any hearing statement and/or the Statement of Agreed matters. This is to ensure, as far as possible, developments in national policy expected towards the end of 2021 can be incorporated in evidence.

- Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment: there has been no change in the EIA legislation since the submission of the EIA Report, therefore no update is required to Chapter 5.
- Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation: summarises the consultation responses received on the Application.
- Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual: includes an updated cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment taking into account any changes in the wind farm developments consented or proposed within the study area, updated assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy. SI Chapter 7 is supported by visualisations and figures which are part of Volume 3B of the SI. SI Chapter 7 also includes supplementary information on borrow pits.
- Chapter 8: Ornithology: considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 9: Ecology: considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage: considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report and takes account of the comments from Historic Environment Scotland in response to the Application.
- Chapter 11: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology: considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 12: Carbon: the updated cumulative position has no impact on the conclusions of Chapter 12 in the EIA Report, therefore there is no update to Chapter 12 of the SI.
- Chapter 13: Highways, Traffic and Transport: considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 14: Noise: provides an update on noise in response to the consultation responses from Aberdeenshire Council and considers the updated cumulative position and whether this changes the original assessment in the EIA Report.
- Chapter 15: Aviation: provides an update on the agreed Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy with the CAA.
- Chapter 16: Socio-Economics: the updated cumulative position has no impact on the conclusions of Chapter 16 in the EIA Report, therefore there is no update to Chapter 16 of the SI.
- Chapter 17: Other Issues: the updated cumulative position has no impact on the conclusions of Chapter 17 in the EIA Report, therefore there is no update to Chapter 17 of the SI.
- Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation: outlines the mitigation agreed post submission of the Application.

1.4.8 The original Design and Access Statement (DAS), Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and Planning Statement remain unchanged. However, an update to the renewable energy and planning policy will be provided in the relevant hearing statement and Statement of Agreed Matters to ensure, as far as possible, developments in national policy expected towards the end of 2021 can be incorporated.

1.5 Approach to the Supplementary Information

- 1.5.1 The approach to the EIA set out in Chapter 5 of the EIA Report describes the methodology used to conduct the EIA in accordance with legislation, policy and accepted good practice. There have been no changes to the EIA legislation and policy, therefore Chapter 5 remains unchanged.
- 1.5.2 The main purpose of the SI is to provide an updated assessment based on the updated cumulative position.
- 1.5.3 In addition, the SI outlines the minor changes which were made to the red line boundary to ensure that all of the forestry coupes which were affected by the proposed development were contained within the red line in their entirety. Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy has been agreed with the CAA which has reduced the visible aviation lighting proposed and therefore SI Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual provides an assessment of this as well as the updated cumulative position. SI Chapter 7 also includes supplementary information on borrow pits.
- 1.5.4 Where figures have been prepared, they include the prefix 'SI 2021' (this is with the exception of the updated figures in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 2.1 which were submitted to the ECU in May 2021) and unless otherwise stated in this SI, all other figures included in the EIA Report remain valid.
- 1.5.5 Unless otherwise stated in the SI Chapters, the overall scope of the EIA remains as stated in the EIA Report.

1.6 Consultation on the Application

- 1.6.1 A summary of the consultation responses received on the Application is provided in Chapter 6 of this SI. The main purpose of this SI is to review each topic chapter in relation to the updated cumulative position, however it is considered useful to provide a summary of the consultation responses received.

1.7 Circulation of the Supplementary Information

- 1.7.1 The SI has been requested by the Reporter for the purposes of a Public Inquiry, therefore there is no requirement to publish a notice under regulation 20 paragraph 1 of the EIA Regulations. In accordance with regulation 20 paragraph 4 of the EIA regulations a copy of the SI will be served on the planning authority and the stakeholders who received a copy of the EIA Report.
- 1.7.2 In addition, a copy of the SI has been sent to the Inquiry Parties and the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA).
- 1.7.3 The submission of the SI will trigger a minimum 30-day consultation period during which consultees will have the opportunity to make representations to the DPEA on its content.
- 1.7.4 A copy of the SI will be made available on the project website at www.vattenfall.co.uk/clashindarrochII/
- 1.7.5 Paper copies of the SI may be purchased by arrangement for £380.00 per copy or £15 per USB memory stick copy. The price of the paper copy reflects the cost of producing all of the

Landscape and Visual graphics, therefore a USB memory stick version is recommended. Copies of the NTS are available free of charge.

1.7.6 To request a copy of the SI please contact:

Sarah Sinclair
Stephenson Halliday
23 Melville Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7PE

Email: sarah.sinclair@stephenson-halliday.com

1.8 References

Electricity Act 1989

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

2 Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The EIA Report, Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual, set out the approach to the identification of the cumulative sites considered at that time. The original list included all wind energy developments including wind farms above 50m blade tip height (for which data was publicly available) within approximately 40km of the proposed development. This identified in excess of 100 sites. This list was refined and a final list of 39 sites which were considered in the Landscape and Visual Assessment contained in the EIA Report.

2.1.2 In the preparation of this SI the list of cumulative sites contained in the EIA Report was updated. Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council were consulted on this list by email in June 2021. Aberdeenshire Council confirmed that the list was correct in July 2021. No response has been received to date from Moray Council. The revisions to Table 7-10 of the EIA Report are set out in Table 2.1: Updated Cumulative Position. Projects where the position is unchanged from the EIA Report, Table 7-10, are not included in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Updated Cumulative Position

Site Name	EIA Report Status	30 June 2021 status	Local Authority	Distance (km)
Hill of Burns	Consented	Operational	Aberdeenshire	29.6
Meikle of Ardonald	Application	Consented	Aberdeenshire	9.6
Pauls Hill II	Application	Consented	Moray	30.6
Craig Watch Wind farm	NA	Scoping	Moray/ Aberdeenshire	4.3
Garbet Windfarm	NA	Application	Moray	6
Glenfiddich Wind Farm	NA	Scoping	Moray	8.1
Edintore II (Cairds Wood)	NA	Scoping	Moray	13.4
Berry Burn Extension	NA	Application	Moray	34.5

Site Name	EIA Report Status	30 June 2021 status	Local Authority	Distance (km)
Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	NA	Scoping	Moray	1.1

2.1.3 Table 2.1 has been used by the technical disciplines in order to update the SI Chapters with the exception of landscape and visual who have used a list which contains many of the smaller schemes and schemes which are further away from the Site. Chapter 7 of the SI outlines that all of the wind energy development listed in Table 7.2 has been included in the assessment and the supporting figures and cumulative wirelines where visible. However, drawing from the previous assessment, those schemes most likely to contribute towards significant cumulative effects are all within this 20km of the proposed development. These developments are shaded green in Table 7.2 of SI Chapter 7.

2.2 Red Line Update

2.2.1 Since the submission of the Application there has been an update to the red line boundary of the Site. The red line was updated to ensure that all of the forestry coupes which were affected by the proposed development were contained within the red line in their entirety. This does not change the assessment in the EIA as these areas were already assessed in the EIA Report. It was simply a drafting error in the figures. This has resulted in an additional 0.17 hectares being included in the Site boundary.

2.2.2 Correspondence was submitted to the ECU, by the Applicant on 4 May 2021. This correspondence is contained in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 2.1 in Volume 3A of the SI. This correspondence included the amended figures for the following:

- Application Boundary Overview Figure 1;
- Application Boundary Part A Figure 2.1;
- Application Boundary Part B Figure 2.2;
- Figure 1.2 Application Boundary (EIA Report Volume 3a – Figures);
- Figure 3.2.6 Wind Farm Fell Plan (EIA Report Volume 4a - Technical Appendix 3.2); and
- Figure 3.2.7 Wind Farm Restock Plan (EIA Report Volume 4a -Technical Appendix 3.2).

2.2.3 On 5th May 2021 the ECU confirmed that the proposed amendments were acceptable, and the revised figures were uploaded onto the project ECU page by the Applicant. A copy of the email confirming the acceptance of the revised redline is contained in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 2.2 in Volume 3A of the SI.

3 Chapter 3: Description of the Development

3.1 Visible Lighting Update

- 3.1.1 The need for visible aviation lighting is set out in the EIA Report at Chapter 3 in the context of the operational phase of the proposed development. This advised that all of the proposed turbines would be lit.
- 3.1.2 In October 2020 Osprey submitted the Proposal for a Variation from Obstruction Lighting Requirements of the Air Navigation Order to the CAA. This document is SI 2021 Technical Appendix 3.1 in Volume 3A to this SI. This requested that the CAA granted permission for visible aviation lighting to be fitted to the 4 perimeter turbines of the proposed development rather than all of the turbines. The lit turbines would be Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12. Infra-red lighting would be included on a further 4 turbines to satisfy the Ministry of Defence. It was further requested that there be no intermediate lights fitted to the wind turbine towers.
- 3.1.3 In December 2020 the CAA confirmed that they agreed to the variation as follows:
- medium intensity steady red (2000 candela) lights on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12;
 - a second 2000 candela light on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12, to act as alternates in the event of failure of the main light;
 - the lights on Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12 will be capable of being dimmed to 10% of peak intensity when the visibility as measured at the wind farm exceeds 5km; and
 - The CAA also confirmed that infra-red lights to Ministry of Defence specification should be installed on the nacelles of the following perimeter Turbines 8, 9 and 14.
- 3.1.4 The CAA also confirmed that intermediate level 32 candela lights are not required.
- 3.1.5 The correspondence from the CAA is contained in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 3.2 of Volume 3A of this SI.

4 Chapter 4: Renewable Energy and Planning Policy

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 At the Pre-Examination Meeting the Reporter requested that any updates to the renewable energy and planning policy are contained in the relevant Hearing Statements. No update on planning and renewable energy policy since the submission of the Application is contained in this SI.

5 Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 Chapter 5 of the EIA Report outlines the need for EIA and sets out the approach to assessment taken in respect of the proposed development.
- 5.1.2 The methodologies used for the assessments carried out as part of this SI remain consistent with the EIA Report unless specified within the SI Chapters.

6 Chapter 6: Scoping and Consultation

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Following the submission of the Application consultation responses were received from a number of consultees. There were also a number of meetings with Aberdeenshire Council. These are described in the following text.

6.2 Post Submission Consultation with Consultees

6.2.1 The Applicant sought to keep Aberdeenshire Council and the ECU up to date in respect of ongoing discussions in respect of the Application. This was generally done via email. However, there was a meeting on 2nd July 2020 which was held on Teams. At this meeting an update on aviation was provided and the consultation response from NatureScot (NS) was noted. A copy of the note of this meeting is attached in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 6.1.

6.2.2 On 11th November 2020 a meeting was held with Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot (NS). This meeting provided Aberdeenshire Council and NS with an update on aviation lighting and a set of wirelines and ZTV was tabled which demonstrated the differences between maximum turbine heights of 149.9m to tip and 180m to tip. An update on the ongoing work on wildcat was discussed. A copy of the email setting out what was discussed and the wirelines and ZTV are included in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 6.2.

6.3 Third Party Representations

6.3.1 There were 107 third party responses to the Application, 8 of these were supportive of the Application.

6.4 Application Consultation Responses

6.4.1 The responses to the Application are summarised in Table 6.1: Summary of responses to the application. The only outstanding objection from a statutory consultee is from Aberdeenshire Council. A number of consultees have not objected subject to the inclusion of conditions should consent be granted.

Table 6.1: Summary of responses to the application.

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
Met Office (17 Jan 20)		<p>No Objection.</p> <p>It is not in any of the Met Office consultation zones</p>
NATS Safeguarding (21 Jan 20)		<p>Objection. Reasons for NATS’s objection are outlined in the attached report SG21494 TOPA Issue 3.</p> <p>Section 4.1.1 Using the theory as described in Appendix A and development specific propagation profile it has been determined that the terrain screening available will not adequately attenuate the signal, and therefore this development is likely to cause false primary plots to be generated. A reduction in the RADAR’s probability of detection, for real aircraft, is also anticipated.</p> <p>RADAR impact is detected as unacceptable by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prestwick Centre ATC • RDP Asset management <p>No impact is anticipated on NATS’ navigation aids.</p> <p>No impact is anticipated on NATS’ radio communications infrastructure.</p> <p>Conclusion: En-route Consultation - The proposed development has been examined by technical and operational safeguarding teams. A technical impact is anticipated, this has been deemed to be unacceptable.</p>
NATS Safeguarding (12 Oct 20)		<p>No objection subject to imposition of agreed conditions.</p> <p>An agreement has been entered into between NERL and Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd dated 14/09/2020 for the agreement of suitable planning conditions and the implementation of an identified and defined mitigation solution in relation to the development that will be implemented under agreement. In summary, such mitigation solution will require works to be carried out to NERL’s infrastructure and comprises blanking of the radar coverage from the affected Radar and infill coverage from an existing Infill Radar along with associated adaptation changes (including those that may be required for MultiRadar Tracking).</p> <p>NERL is therefore prepared to withdraw its objection to the application subject to the imposition of the agreed conditions set out below that have been agreed with the developer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No part of any turbine shall be erected above ground until a Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme agreed with the Operator has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority in order to avoid the impact of the development on the Primary Radar of the Operator located at Allanshill and associated air traffic management operations. 2. No part of any turbine shall be erected above ground until the approved Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme has been implemented and the development shall thereafter be operated

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		fully in accordance with such approved Scheme.
BT (27 Jan 20)		No objection. No interference caused.
RSPB (29 Jan 20)		No comment
Scottish Water (28 Jan 20)		<p>No objection.</p> <p>Advice provided regarding:</p> <p><u>Water</u> – SW are unable to confirm capacity and advises the Applicant completes a PreDevelopment Enquiry (PDE) Form and submits it directly to Scottish Water</p> <p>Foul - sufficient capacity in the HUNTLY Waste Water Treatment Works, however further investigations may be required to be carried out once a formal application has been submitted.</p> <p>Drinking Water Protected Areas</p> <p>Part of the proposal could have an impact on water quality for Craighead WTW. The access track, site compound and the borrow pit in the north of the site close to Kyle Hill has the potential to have a high risk to water quality. The rest of the windfarm development is located beside tributaries of the River Bogie, which has a confluence with the River Deveron downstream of Huntly. We would request avoidance of any construction or related activity in the Collonach Burn catchment (which also seems to be named as Croftmillan Burn) as there is an intake and numerous springs and raw water chambers located within this catchment. This would mean ensuring the site compound and borrow pit are out with the Collonach Burn catchment.</p> <p>The access track goes through the catchment and also causes a potentially significant risk to the Collonach sources and would request, if it's feasible to consider an alternative route.</p> <p>If it is not possible to accommodate these requests then we would require further consultation and meetings to further discuss the risks to water quality and ensure any mitigations to alleviate these risks are fully accepted by all parties.</p> <p>The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.</p> <p>We would request further involvement at the more detailed design stages, to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity. We would also like to take the opportunity, to request that 3 months in advance of any works commencing on site, Scottish Water is notified at protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk.</p> <p>Surface Water</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
Marine Scotland (14 Feb 20)		<p>For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.</p> <p>No objection</p> <p>Advice provided in respect of: monitoring programme and inclusion of two control sites; T13 close proximity to the hydrological buffer zone; measures to avoid the spread of invasive non-native species; and integrated hydrochemical, macroinvertebrate and fish population monitoring programme follows MSS guidelines.</p> <p>MSS recommends that this monitoring programme follows MSS guidelines (https://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-TroutCoarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren) such that macroinvertebrate sampling takes place during spring and autumn and, in addition to the hydrochemical parameters listed in Table 11.10 in Chapter 11 of the EIAR, that dissolved organic acid, acid neutralising capacity aluminium, nitrates and phosphates are also included.</p> <p>MSS welcomes the inclusion of two control sites in the proposed monitoring programme and we recommend that these control sites are located in an area where impacts are unlikely from the present proposal or adjacent developments (operational and consented).</p> <p>MSS notes that the proposed route of the access track to turbine 13 is in close proximity to the hydrological buffer zone. It is important that there is careful adherence to all proposed mitigation measures when construction is carried out in this area.</p> <p>We recommend that the developer takes measures to avoid the spread of invasive non-native species, including the North American Signal Crayfish, which can have a detrimental impact on salmonid populations, and to consult SEPA for further information.</p> <p>MSS recommends that the integrated hydrochemical, macroinvertebrate and fish population monitoring programme follows MSS guidelines to assist in the avoidance and/or minimal impact on the water quality and fish populations within and downstream of the proposed development area.</p>
Ministry of Defence - Defence Infrastructure Organisation (14 Feb 20)		<p>Objection</p> <p>Military Low Flying Training</p> <p>It will be necessary for the turbine structures to be fitted with appropriate aviation lighting to maintain the safety of military aircraft.</p> <p>The turbines will have to be fitted with aviation lighting in accordance with the requirements of the Air Navigation Order (2016) as directed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>It is noted that the Applicant has identified their intention to review the possible use of radar controlled visible lighting (currently not approved in the UK) which would activate the lighting when an aircraft is detected in the vicinity. It is not known whether this would be suitable for maintaining the safety of military aircraft engaged in low flying training. In the event that radar controlled lighting was to be used, it may be necessary for MOD accredited 25 candela omni-directional red lighting with an optimised flash pattern of 60 flashes per minute of 200ms to 500ms duration or equivalent infrared lighting to be fitted as well.</p> <p><u>Air Defence (AD) radar</u> - The turbines will be 67.5 km from, detectable by, and will cause unacceptable interference to the AD radar at Remote Radar Head (RRH) Buchan. Close examination of the proposed development has identified that the turbines will have a significant and detrimental effect on AD operations.</p> <p>Previously the Applicant had put forward a different version of this development scheme featuring 16 wind turbines 149.9 metres in height (to blade tip). The Applicant submitted a technical mitigation that was prepared specifically for that development proposal which was accepted by the MOD. However, at this stage, a technical mitigation for the wind farm for which consent is now sought has not been provided. Therefore, I can confirm that the MOD maintains an objection to this application.</p>
Ministry of Defence - Defence Infrastructure Organisation (2 Dec 20)		<p>No objection</p> <p>The MOD and the Applicant have been in dialogue about possible means of addressing the AD radar safeguarding objection that was raised by the MOD. The Applicant submitted a technical mitigation proposal to address the impacts the proposed wind farm will have upon the operation of the AD radar at RRH Buchan. Following an assessment of the proposal, the MOD has accepted it. It is imperative that the technical mitigation is fully implemented before the rotor blades on any of the wind turbines are permitted to rotate about their horizontal axis. This is because the rotating rotors will have a significant and detrimental effect on operations and the provision of air traffic services at RRH Buchan. Therefore, I can confirm that the MOD is content to withdraw its safeguarding objection to this application subject to the inclusion of appropriate conditions, in any consent that may be granted, for the provision of a radar technical mitigation and aviation warning lighting for military aviation.</p> <p>.... draft conditions which have been agreed between the Applicant and the MOD for the provision of a radar technical mitigation and aviation warning lighting. The MOD considers these draft conditions to be suitable to maintain national defence safeguarding requirements.</p>
Aberdeen International Airport		<p>No objections.</p> <p>The proposed development has been examined from an aerodrome safeguarding perspective</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
(12 Feb 20)		and does not conflict with safeguarding criteria.
Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (12 Feb 20)		<p>No objections.</p> <p>- are content with the mitigation strategy outlined in paragraphs 10.78-10.80 (EIA Chapter 10) (mitigation in the form of protective fencing around known assets during development works, and a programme of archaeological watching briefs to be agreed over groundbreaking works</p>
Ironsides Farrar Ltd (Peat Assessment) (07 Feb 20)		<p>No objections.</p> <p>The scope and approach of the work undertaken is deemed both appropriate and robust enough to underpin this conclusion. It is therefore the opinion of Ironsides Farrar that Peat Landslide Risk Assessment can be scoped out.</p>
SEPA (17 Feb 20)		<p>No objections subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>4.1 buffer strips, 4.2 micro siting, 5 CEMP (refer also section 1.2 peat, Section 2 PWS, Section 3.3 GWDTE, Section 6.3 forestry removal and forestry waste, Section 11.3 abstractions - for cross related issues that should be covered in the CEMP), 5.6 ECoW, 7.3 environmental enhancements, 8.5 no elevation of tracks in flood plain, 9.2 borrow pits, 10 Decommissioning and Restoration Plan</p>
Transport Scotland (13 Feb 20)		<p>No objections. requesting conditions be added to any grant of permission</p> <p>Road Safety</p> <p>Transport Scotland would request that an appropriate Traffic Management Plan be submitted for discussion and agreement with the Area Manager which highlights measures to ensure that road safety is maintained on the delivery routes to the site.</p> <p>Abnormal Load Access Route</p> <p>Transport Scotland would state that any proposed changes to the trunk road network must be discussed and approved (via a technical approval process) by the appropriate Area Managers prior to the movement of any abnormal loads.</p> <p>Condition 1: Prior to commencement of deliveries to site, the proposed route for any abnormal loads on the trunk road network must be approved by the trunk roads authority prior to the movement of any abnormal load. Any accommodation measures required including the removal of street furniture, junction widening, traffic management must</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>similarly be approved.</p> <p>Condition 2: During the delivery period of the wind turbine construction materials any additional signing or temporary traffic control measures deemed necessary due to the size or length of any loads being delivered or removed must be undertaken by a recognised QA traffic management consultant, to be approved by Transport Scotland before delivery commences.</p> <p>Condition 3: Prior to commencement of deliveries to site, a Construction Traffic Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by Transport Scotland to ensure that general construction traffic and abnormal loads can be transported along the trunk road network safely and efficiently</p>
Strathbogie Community Council (25 Feb 20)		<p>No objections</p> <p>“We wish to highlight that local residents have contacted us regarding concerns they have about the above application. Although not expressing a view, we ask that Planning Authority to take on board the concerns expressed by the local residents.”</p>
Scottish Forestry (9 Mar 20)		<p>No objections</p> <p>Outline Habitat Management Plan:10.5 ha of existing open ground habitat is also being lost from the forest this could be compensated for by creating rough semi-natural habitat to facilitate landscape connectivity....</p> <p>This proposal is to create small woodland blocks of up to 1 ha. the long term security of these blocks must be conditioned to ensure and habitat gains are not lost in the mid to long term future.</p> <p>Planning conditions and planning agreements</p> <p>Woodland removal should only be approved on the condition that a clear, concise and time-limited felling and replanting plan is in place. Where off-site CP form part of the proposal, a suitable CP plan must be approved by Scottish Forestry.</p> <p>Should the application be consented then the felling of trees, both on-site (replanting) and off-site CP must be secured by a condition as part of the planning consent.</p> <p>CP plan</p> <p>The CP Plan must be approved by Scottish Forestry before the Applicant can proceed with the development and the felling of trees.</p> <p>Monitoring of CP conditions or arrangements .</p> <p>An independent, qualified and technically competent professional(s) (e.g. chartered forester) with the required experience should inspect the CP scheme at regular intervals (year 1, 5 and 10) to ensure that the trees are planted correctly, maintained to the required standard and ultimately established into woodland. This monitoring programme should be conditioned in</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>the consent. The woodland will have to be maintained thereafter. This professional individual should report to the planning authority, to allow the CP condition to be managed and ultimately discharged.</p>
<p>The Coal Authority (16 Jan 20)</p>		<p>No objections The Coal Authority has no specific comments or observations to make on this project, as areas of development outside the coalfield our outside of our statutory remit.</p>
<p>Historic Environment Scotland (13 Mar 20)</p>		<p>No objections. advice as provided: A new Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS, 2019) was adopted on the 1st May 2019. It is a strategic policy document for the whole of the historic environment and is underpinned by detailed policy and guidance.</p> <p>Our position We have reviewed the proposals and consider that there will be adverse impacts on the setting of nearby heritage assets. These include Tap O’ Noth, fort (Scheduled Monument, Index No. 63), Wormy Hillock, henge 690m WNW of Finglenny (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 3278) and Cnoc Cailliche, fort 360m WSW of Upper Wheedlemont (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 11681). We do not, however, consider that these impacts raise issues of national interest such that we would object and are unable to suggest any practical mitigation in this instance.</p> <p><i>Tap O’ Noth, fort (Scheduled Monument, Index No. 63)</i> - “Further to this, we disagree with the conclusion at Section 10.124 of the EIA Report that there would be no cumulative impacts, including on the setting of Tap o’Noth fort. It is unclear how this conclusion has been reached given that an impact has been identified in Sections 10.94 and 10.95, and in light of the photomontage (Figure 7.25F) showing all of the turbines fully visible to the north west of the monument in relation to the Clashindarroch I development. We do therefore consider that there would be a cumulative impact on the setting of the monument. It is our view, therefore, that the proposed Clashindarroch II turbines would give rise to significant adverse effects on the setting of Tap o’Noth fort. We do not, however, consider that these impacts would affect the integrity of the monument’s setting and therefore do not consider that the proposals raise issues on national interest sufficient to warrant an objection.”</p> <p><i>Wormy Hillock, henge 690m WNW of Finglenny (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 3278)</i> - “we consider that the proposed turbines would have give rise to adverse impacts on the setting of the monument. We do not, however, consider that these impacts would affect the integrity of the monument’s setting and therefore do not consider that the proposals raise issues on national interest sufficient to warrant an objection.”</p> <p><i>Cnoc Cailliche, fort 360m WSW of Upper Wheedlemont (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 11681)</i> “Section 10.102 of the EIA Report concludes that there would be a ‘neutral’ impact’</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>on the setting of the monument. We disagree with this conclusion. In our view, because the turbines would be visible in long distance views from the monument which allow an appreciation of its wider setting, there would be an impact. We do not, however, consider that this impact would affect the integrity of the monument’s setting and therefore do not consider that the proposals raise issues on national interest sufficient to warrant an objection.”</p>
SNH (now NatureScot) (30 Apr 20)		<p>No objection, advice as provided:</p> <p>We advise that there are important wildlife interests on site but these will not be adversely affected following the implementation of mitigation and a Habitat Management Plan proposed by the Applicant. Significant landscape and visual effects of the proposed turbines are limited in extent due to screening by surrounding topography and forestry and by the existing effect of the Clashindarroch turbines, with which the proposed scheme would usually be seen. Significant adverse landscape and visual effects remain particularly to the southeast including both the setting and appreciation of Tap o’ Noth as a landmark in the wider landscape and in views from its summit. There are potential significant adverse effects on dark rural skies due to the proposed aviation lighting. Our recommendation is that improvements to the design could help to reduce these effects.</p> <p>Protected areas Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Protection Area (SPA)</p> <p>Protected species</p> <p>Wildcat - The presence of wildcat within the Clashindarroch Forest does not preclude ongoing forestry operations and other developments but does require stringent measures to ensure that any proposal does not adversely affect individual animals, their places of shelter and breeding and does not prevent the species and population within the forest from recovering favourable conservation status in the future.</p> <p>The combination of the species protection plan and the outline habitat management plan will afford the species protection and ensure practical positive conservation measures can be delivered within the forest to help support wildcat during a critical period in the species existence. The potential impacts of the wind farm proposal are mitigated and compensated for by the Applicant’s proposed wildcat conservation measures. Based on the current information if the species protection plan is implemented the proposal is unlikely to require a species licence under protected species legislation. If the development is not carried out in accordance with the species protection plan, the Applicant may risk committing an offence.</p> <p>Bats - If the mitigation proposed by the Applicant is implemented the proposal will not adversely affect the local bat populations.</p> <p>Effects on Landscape and Visual Receptors</p> <p>Significant landscape and visual effects of the proposed turbines would be limited in extent due to screening by surrounding topography and forestry and by the existing effect of the</p>

Consultee Name	Response to EIA Report– Summary
	<p>Clashindarroch turbines.</p> <p>All of the potentially significant landscape effects would be located within a few kilometres of the proposed turbines,... . The effects would not be significant for Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) or LCTs as a whole.</p> <p>The extent of visual effects would be limited due to screening by topography and forestry surrounding the site and by topography and belts of trees across the wider area. However there are some significant visual effects on elevated locations and to the east and north with clear views towards the site.</p> <p>Cumulative effects</p> <p>The main additional cumulative effects of Clashindarroch II, when considered in addition to the existing baseline, would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly extend the cumulative effects of wind energy on the area of Grampian Outliers LCA within which the existing Clashindarroch scheme lies. The cumulative effect would not be significant in the neighbouring Open Uplands LCA to the west, as this is already affected by the existing wind farm which lies closer to the area. • Significantly affect views from higher areas in the east, and southeast in particular. The proposed wind farm would, due to its closer proximity, appear as a prominent extension to existing wind energy schemes in upland areas further west; with much larger turbines and close proximity to the distinctive landmark and viewpoint of Tap o’ Noth. • The disparity between turbine sizes would be less apparent from viewpoints to the south and west due to a different visual relationship between the turbines seen from this direction. <p>Aviation Lighting</p> <p>...potential mitigation measures are described including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable lights which reduce intensity to 200 cd in good visibility conditions, detected by visibility sensors on the turbines Page 5 of 12 A3178325 • Use of radar-activated aircraft proximity detectors such that the proposed turbines would only be lit when aircraft approach them. We note that it is also possible to design lights with shielding to limit the vertical spread of the lighting above or below the horizontal, which would again limit the intensity of lighting when seen from lower areas. <p>The assessment of aviation lighting effects concludes that, in what is a generally dark rural environment, there would be significant visual effects at closer viewpoints that normally experience dark skies.</p> <p>...some significant adverse effects remain, particularly in relation to landscape and visual</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>receptors to the southeast including both the setting and appreciation of the landmark feature of Tap o’ Noth, and in views from its summit. The potential effects of aviation warning lighting on dark rural skies is also a consideration.</p> <p>Involving all or a combination of the following options these effects could be reduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the size of some or all turbines to below 150 m to reduce effects on Tap o’ Noth and remove the need for aviation warning lights. This in turn would reduce the pronounced scale disparity between the existing and proposed developments at Clashindarroch and improve the overall wind farm design, reducing effects on receptors to the east and northeast; • Relocating or removing turbines at the southern end of the scheme to achieve a closer visual integration with the existing turbines when seen from the southeast and east; • Where smaller turbines below the 150 m threshold are not proposed, all available aviation lighting mitigation measures, including proximity detection and shielding, should be implemented to minimise effects on dark skies.
<p>Aberdeenshire Council (29 July 2020)</p>		<p>Objection</p> <p><u>Concluding remarks</u> - Insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that the proposed development is capable of operating within appropriately derived noise limits, when considered alongside existing wind turbine development in the area, and as such Environmental Health would wish to lodge an Objection to the proposed development. If the Applicant and the planning authority are minded to explore avenues to overcome the cumulative issues identified in more detail, including further examination of issues identified with the background noise survey, Environmental Health would be happy to consider any new information submitted in due course</p> <p>...it is accepted that the noise impact assessment has been carried out in general agreement with accepted good practice. However, some concern remains regarding the influence of noise from the existing wind farm affecting the background noise levels measured as part of this application.</p> <p>...we must consider the impacts cumulatively, alongside that of existing (or consented) wind turbine development in the area; in particular, the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. Having accurate representation of background noise levels, without influence from any nearby wind turbine noise sources, is critical in the determination of ETSU-R-97 noise limits).</p> <p>On pages 26-27 of the IoA GPG, some possible solutions to resolving cumulative noise issues are explored.</p> <p>... looking closely at the “controlling property” for the Clashindarroch Wind Farm, may be</p>

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>significant to show that cumulative issues can be overcome.</p> <p>If the Applicant wishes to pursue this approach, it could be explored further with submission of more detailed data, a more detailed explanation and a detailed drawing of the layout of the existing development and the layout of the proposed development which also shows the controlling properties and those significant properties where there are predicted exceedances of the noise limits on that same drawing.</p> <p>Another option of overcoming the cumulative noise issues, suggested in the IoA GPG that would appear to be available to the Applicant would be to negotiate with the existing operator of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm to release some of their consented “headroom”, or to bring the existing and proposed developments under one planning consent. ... the Applicant has stated in their 26 June response document that this option is not available to them.</p> <p>...the Applicant may wish to consider adjustments to the layout and/or number of turbines proposed or capacity of turbines proposed such that the proposals are demonstrably capable of operating within cumulative noise limits.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Council (13 Nov 20)</p>		<p>No Objection subject to Conditions, and guidance notes also provided.</p> <p>Environmental Health has no objection to the proposed development subject to the strict application of the following condition, including guidance notes;</p> <p>1. The rating level of noise immissions from the wind turbine forming the development shall not exceed the values for the relevant integer wind speed set out in, or derived from, the tables attached to this condition at any dwelling which is lawfully existing or has planning permission at the date of this permission.</p> <p>The turbine shall be designed to permit individually controlled operation or shut down at specified wind speeds and directions in order to facilitate compliance with noise criteria and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a list of independent consultants who may undertake compliance measurements in accordance with this condition b) details regarding the tonality assessment, and a copy of the standard detailing the assessment method have been submitted c) desktop noise impact assessment for the turbine model to be installed has been submitted. ...include a mitigation strategy where it is necessary to ensure that the rating level of noise immissions from the development (inclusive of any relevant penalty) is capable of operation within the established noise criteria referred to in this condition

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>d) operator shall continuously log power production, wind speed and wind direction all in accordance with Guidance Note 1.</p> <p>e) employ an independent consultant to measure the rating level of noise emissions from the wind turbine within the first year of the operation of the turbines and every two years thereafter.biennial noise emissions monitoring shall continue for the working life of the turbine unless the planning authority determines in writing that the period between noise monitoring surveys can be extended or that continued routine monitoring is no longer required.</p> <p>The development shall not be commissioned unless the procedure for measuring the noise emissions for the first year of operation has been approved in writing by the planning authority.</p> <p>The wind farm operator shall provide a report detailing the results of the monitoring survey to the planning authority within 3 months of completion of the monitoring survey.</p> <p>f) Within 21 days from receipt of a written request from the planning authority following a complaint to it from an occupant of a dwelling alleging noise disturbance at that dwelling, the wind turbine operator shall, at their expense, employ an independent consultant approved by the planning authority to investigate the complaint.</p> <p>g) The assessment of the rating level of noise immissions under paragraph (e) shall be undertaken in accordance with an assessment protocol that shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the planning authority.</p> <p>h) Within 3 months of the date of the written request the developer shall provide to the planning authority the independent consultant’s assessment of the rating level of noise immissions.</p>
<p>Aberdeenshire Council - Planning Service (28 Jan 21)</p>		<p>Object.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed development is contrary to Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Policy C2 (Renewable energy) and the associated Spatial Framework Mapping and Planning Advice ‘Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire’ 2014. 2. The proposed development is contrary to Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Policy E2 (Landscape) as there is insufficient information to determine that the development, specifically borrow pits, would not cause unacceptable effects on the landscape of the site or surrounding area. 3. The proposed development is contrary to Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Policy E2 (Landscape) as the scale and location of the proposed wind turbines cause a sprawl of similar wind energy developments across the landscape 4. The proposed development is contrary to Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Consultee Name		Response to EIA Report– Summary
		<p>Policy P4 (Hazardous and potentially polluting developments and contaminated land) as there is the potential for the development to cause noise pollution and nuisance when considered cumulatively with the adjacent Clashindarroch Wind Farm. No details of proposed mitigation to reduce the residual impact is provided.</p> <p>Internal consultations:</p> <p>4.1 Infrastructure Services (Environment – Built Heritage) advised that there were no objections to the proposed development. No significant adverse impact is anticipated upon the small number of Listed Buildings or any features of historical interest around the site.</p> <p>4.2 Infrastructure Services (Environment – Natural Heritage) advised there were no objections to the proposed development. Comments were made regarding public access; compensatory woodland planting; wildcat; habitat management plan; and Craigs of Succoth Local Nature Conservation Site. Each of these will be discussed in Section 6 below.</p> <p>4.3 Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health) initially objected to the proposed development in relation to insufficient information regarding cumulative noise impacts. The objection was later removed following the submission of additional information.</p> <p>4.4 Infrastructure Services (Flood risk and coast protection) advised there were no objections to the proposed development. Conditions relating to the watercourse crossing design and roadside drainage ditch discharge are requested should permission be granted.</p> <p>4.5 Infrastructure Services (Roads Development) advised there were no objections to the proposed development.</p> <p>4.6 Infrastructure Services (Structures) advised there were no objections to the proposed vehicle route.</p> <p>On 1st February 2021 Aberdeenshire Council confirmed by email to the ECU that one reason for objection relating to aviation lighting was removed at the meeting. The email from Aberdeenshire Council notes <i>“the decision to remove this reason for objection was made on the basis of the applicant proposing a reduced lighting arrangement which was subsequently agreed by the CAA.”</i></p>
Civil Aviation Authority (23 Dec 20)		<p>No objection, subject to following the advice as provided:</p> <p>7. We accept that the majority of night low level operations in the area of the development by night vision device equipped aircraft and we agree with your proposal to fit and operate visible lights on the cardinal points of the development plus infra-red lighting, as set out in your report. However, we continue to require medium intensity lighting for the visible lighting, which should be dimmed as per our policy statement.</p>

Consultee Name	Response to EIA Report– Summary
	<p>8. Therefore, in accordance with the Air Navigation Order (ANO) Article 222 section 6, we agree a variation to the lighting requirements specified in the ANO Article for the Clashindarroch II wind farm as per the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium intensity steady red (2000 candela) lights on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12; • a second 2000 candela light on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12, to act as alternates in the event of failure of the main light; • the lights on Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12 will be capable of being dimmed to 10% of peak intensity when the visibility as measured at the wind farm exceeds 5km; • infra-red lights to MoD specification installed on the nacelles of perimeter turbines in each of the three arrays, which consists of: o Turbines 8; 9 and 14. Note: As a result of this arrangement, intermediate level 32 candela lights will not be fitted on the turbine towers.

7 Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) presented in the EIA Report has been updated to include the following:

- Updated cumulative baseline and cumulative assessment with a new cut-off date of the 1st October 2021 with supporting visualisations for Viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 6, and 12;
- Supplementary information on borrow pits in the form of a review of the EIA Report and visualisation from Viewpoint 1; and
- Revised night-time assessment, ZTV and night-time visualisations of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy.

7.1.2 This Chapter should be read in addition to Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution and Chapter 3: Description of the Development and the updated LVIA should be read as additional or supplementary to the LVIA contained in the EIA Report, noting that it revises the previous cumulative LVIA.

7.1.3 This LVIA has been produced by chartered landscape architects at Wood who have also reviewed the proposed development and the previous LVIA. The objective of this assessment has been to update the LVIA against the updated cumulative baseline assessing the cumulative landscape and visual effects of the proposed development on the existing landscape resource and visual amenity. In doing so this assessment also takes account of changes to the landscape baseline and provides clarification in respect of LVIA methodology. The following landscape and visual receptors have been re-assessed.

- Landscape character, key characteristics, and elements, revised to take account of NatureScot's (NatureScot) Landscape Assessment 2019 (updated May 2021);
- Designated landscapes, revised to take account of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) in Moray; and
- Views and visual amenity experienced by residents, tourists, visitors, recreational and road users.

7.1.4 The assessment process has encompassed time limited periods for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed development which entails a reversal of many of the landscape and visual effects. Although the operation period for the proposed development is for the duration of 30 years (described in the assessment as 'long-term' and reversible) it has been assessed in the same manner as permanent development and relates to the advice set out in Scottish Planning Policy paragraph 170:

"Areas identified for wind farms should be suitable for use in perpetuity. Consents may be time-limited but wind farms should nevertheless be sited and designed to ensure impacts are minimised and to protect an acceptable level of amenity for adjacent communities."

7.1.5 This Chapter is structured as follows:

- Updated Position:

- Updated LVIA Methodology;
- Updated Cumulative Baseline;
- Updated Landscape Baseline and Scope of Assessment;
- Updated Visual Baseline and Scope of Assessment;
- Review of Design and Embedded Mitigation; and
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Viewpoint Analysis.
- Updated Landscape Assessment (including cumulative effects):
 - Outlying Hills and Ridges: Clashindarroch Forest;
 - Open Upland;
 - Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn; and
 - Local Landscape Designations.
- Updated Visual Assessment (including cumulative effects):
 - Settlement and Associated Local Roads;
 - Recreational Routes; and
 - Summary of Residual Night-time Assessment.
- Changes to Significant Effects:
 - Summary of Residual Landscape and Cumulative Effects; and
 - Summary of Residual Visual and Cumulative Effects.
- References; and
- Technical Appendices (contained within SI Volume 3A):
 - SI 2021 Appendix 7.1: Methodology and Glossary;
 - SI 2021 Appendix 7.2: Viewpoint Assessment; and
 - SI 2021 Appendix 7.3: Night-time Assessment

7.1.6 Figures illustrating this Chapter are contained within SI Volume 3B and include plans and visualisations of the proposed development. The figure list is provided in the SI contents page.

7.2 Updated Position

Updated LVIA Methodology

7.2.1 Updated LVIA Methodology (including cumulative assessment) is set out in SI 2021 Appendix 7.1 and provides a fuller description of the LVIA process in response to queries made by NatureScot. Overall however, Aberdeenshire Council¹ advised that *“The structure and*

¹ Aberdeenshire Council Report to Infrastructure Services Committee dated 21 January 2021, paragraph 6.1.2.

methodology of the submission is acceptable.” and NatureScot² noted that “The assessment broadly conforms to current best practice and guidance given in GLVIA3.”

7.2.2 This assessment provides further clarity between the solus or primary assessment of the proposed development and cumulative effects, which also distinguish between the *additional effects* of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline and *combined effects* of the proposed development with the cumulative baseline. As with the previous LVIA, two scenarios are set out as follows:

- **Proposed Development:** Assessed on an individual basis (the LVIA). This part of the assessment may take account of other existing forms of wind farm development that may be present in the landscape, whilst recognising that their influence on landscape character is likely to be time limited. It does not consider the additional or combined cumulative effects and only reports of the effect of the proposed development alone;
- **Scenario 1: Existing + Consented + the Proposed Development:** The additional and combined cumulative effects of the proposed development and the existing and consented wind energy developments are assessed; and
- **Scenario 2: Existing + Consented + Applications + the Proposed Development:** The additional and combined cumulative effects of the proposed development and the existing and consented wind energy developments and applications, are assessed.

7.2.3 Significant effects are highlighted in bold in the text and relate to all those effects that result in a ‘Major’ or a ‘Major / Moderate’ effect as indicated in Table 7.1. In some circumstances, ‘Moderate’ levels of effect also have the potential, where the assessor so judges, to be considered as significant and these judgements are also highlighted in bold and explained as part of the assessment, where they occur. This latter consideration represents a departure from the previous EIA Report assessment and has been included as an additional precaution. In those instances where there would be no effect, the magnitude has been recorded as ‘Zero’ and the level of effect as ‘None’ or ‘No View’.

Table 7.1: Evaluation of Significant Landscape and Visual Effects

		Landscape and Visual Sensitivity			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of Change	Substantial	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Not used
	Moderate	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	
	Slight	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor	
	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor / None	
	Zero	None / No View	None / No View	None / No View	

Updated Cumulative Baseline

7.2.4 The updated cumulative LVIA assesses a cumulative baseline of other existing and consented wind energy development and registered applications for wind energy development as of 1st

² NatureScot consultation response to application, 30 April 2020.

October 2021 (the 'cut-off date') which was stated in the draft Statement of Agreed Matters between the Applicant and Aberdeenshire Council, dated October 2021. This incorporates changes to the cumulative baseline agreed with Aberdeenshire Council in July 2021 and set out in Chapter 2.

7.2.5 The revised cumulative baseline is listed in Table 7.2 and illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.1a and includes a larger 45km scoping area.

7.2.6 Since the application was made on 23 December 2019, there have been two further wind farm applications (A01 and A04 in Table 7.2), the most relevant of which is at Garbet Hill, dated November 2020, and located approximately 6km to the northwest of the proposed development. A further application, the Berry Burn Extension is located beyond 30km to the northwest of the proposed development.

7.2.7 Each of these two schemes came after the proposed development in the application process and in accordance with NatureScot guidance³, other projects at pre-planning or 'scoping' stage are not usually included in the assessment. However, it is noted that there are three further pre-planning wind farm proposals within 10km of the proposed development at Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) (S01), Craig Watch (S02) and Glenfiddich (S03) and these have also been included in the assessment and supporting figures and visualisations. A fourth pre-planning wind farm proposal (Edintore II or Cairds Wood S04) is located at further distance from the proposed development and in line with the NatureScot guidance has not been included in the assessment.

7.2.8 Other changes to the cumulative baseline include:

- Existing Wind Energy Development:
 - Two additional existing, single wind turbines at Riverstone (E14) and Ardoch Farm (E15) have been identified at approximately 17km distance to the northeast and northwest respectfully.
 - A further 35 existing wind energy developments (mostly single turbines and small clusters⁴) have been identified, all beyond 20km distance from the proposed development.
 - Hill of Burns (E35) was previously assessed as consented and is now existing.
- Consented Wind Energy Development:
 - Pauls Hill II Wind Farm Extension (C10) was previously assessed as an application and is now consented. It is located beyond 30km distance from the proposed development to the northwest.
 - A single turbine at Meikleton of Ardonald (C01) was previously assessed as an application and is now consented. It is located approximately 9.5km to the north of the proposed development.

³ Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, NatureScot, 2012, paragraphs 26, 33 and 37.

⁴ Reference numbers E17-19, E21, E23, E25,-26, E28-33, E35, E38,-42, E44, E46-51, E53-63, and E65.

- A further 7 consented wind energy developments (mostly single turbines and small clusters) have been identified, all beyond 20km distance from the proposed development.

Wind Energy Development Included in the Cumulative Assessment

7.2.9 All of the wind energy development listed in Table 7.2 has been included in the assessment and the supporting figures and cumulative wirelines where visible. However, drawing from the previous assessment, those schemes most likely to contribute towards significant cumulative effects are all within this 20km of the proposed development. These developments are shaded green in Table 7.2 and comprise:

- Fourteen existing wind energy developments - twelve of which were included in the previous assessment. The additional two are single turbines at Riverstone (E14) and Ardoch Farm (E15) which are unlikely to contribute towards significant effects due to their smaller scale and distance from the proposed development.
- Two consented wind energy developments – both of which were included in the previous assessment although one of these, a single turbine at Meikleton of Ardonald (C01) was previously assessed as an application and has since been consented.
- Two wind energy applications – Rothes III (A03) was included in the previous assessment and a new application at Garbet (A01) has since been registered and three pre-planning wind farm proposals at Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) (S01), Craig Watch (S02) and Glenfiddich (S03) are all now included.

7.2.10 Of the wind energy development not included in the previous assessment, the most likely of these to contribute towards significant effects is the Garbet Wind Farm application (A01) and the three pre-planning wind farm proposals at Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) (S01), Craig Watch (S02) and Glenfiddich (S03). The assessment of the pre-planning wind farm proposals has been based on the limited information available and as such only an outline assessment has been undertaken, shown in *italics* in order to separate this clearly from the wider assessment.

7.2.11 Micro-turbines (>50m to blade tip) have been excluded from the assessment as they are unlikely to contribute to significant cumulative effects.

Table 7.2: Updated Cumulative Wind Energy Development

Number ⁵	Name	Planning Status	Distance (km) ⁶	Number of turbines	Blade tip Height (m)
E01	Clashindarroch 1	Existing	0.5	18	110
E02	Bailiesward Farm	Existing	4.8	1	79.6
E03	Upper Wheedlemont Farm	Existing	6.6	2	81
E04	Cairnborrow	Existing	8.7	5	100
E05	Midtown of Glass	Existing	9.1	1	79
E06	Dorenell	Existing	9.2	59	126
E07	Cairnmore	Existing	9.3	3	81
E08	Kildrummy	Existing	10.7	8	93
E09	Dummuies	Existing	11.6	7	75
E10	Greenmyres	Existing	12.1	1	84
E11	Edintore	Existing	13.0	6	125
E12	Hill of Towie	Existing	14.4	21	100
E13	Glens of Foudland	Existing	16.6	20	78
E14	Riverstone	Existing	16.8	1	54
E15	Ardoch Farm	Existing	17.6	1	66.62
E16	Hill of Tillymorgan	Existing	20.1	3	79
E17	Followsters Farm	Existing	21.5	1	107
E18	Garralhill Farm	Existing	22.0	1	74
E19	Balnmoon Farm	Existing	22.3	1	70
E20	Myreton	Existing	23.9	3	77/79/89
E21	Nether-ton of Windyhills	Existing	24.0	2	99
E22	Hunthill	Existing	24.0	4	67
E23	Cornabo	Existing	24.4	3	74
E24	Newton of Edingight Grange	Existing	24.6	1	77
E25	Newton of Fortrie	Existing	25.5	3	98.14
E26	Mains of Hatton	Existing	26.1	3	76
E27	Westerton of Folla	Existing	26.4	1	79
E28	Muirake	Existing	26.7	2	99.5
E29	Mains of Auchinderran	Existing	27.1	3	79.6
E30	Gordonstown Hill	Existing	27.2	5	100
E31	Rothienorman	Existing	28.0	3	79
E32	Braeside	Existing	28.8	1	79
E33	Deuchries	Existing	28.9	3	100
E34	Mains of Baquhain	Existing	29.6	1	78
E35	Hill of Burns	Existing	29.6	1	79.6

⁵ The reference number in the table relates to that used in the figures.

⁶ Measured from the nearest turbine of each wind energy development.

Number ⁵	Name	Planning Status	Distance (km) ⁶	Number of turbines	Blade tip Height (m)
E36	Cowhill	Existing	29.8	1	80
E37	Roths I	Existing	29.8	22	100
E38	Roths II	Existing	30.2	18	125/110
E39	Meikle Camaloun	Existing	30.7	2	74
E40	Easter Tolmauds	Existing	30.8	2	79.6
E41	Hill of Easterton	Existing	31.1	4	72
E42	Gawns Moss Cluster	Existing	31.3	3	80
E43	Paul's Hill I	Existing	31.4	28	100
E44	Ley Farm	Existing	31.6	1	75
E45	Kellas	Existing	31.7	4	110
E46	Hill of Culbirnie	Existing	32.6	1	80
E47	Cromlet	Existing	32.8	1	66.6
E48	Backhill (Culbirnie)	Existing	33.1	1	80
E49	Strath of Brydock	Existing	33.5	3	100/99.5
E50	Little Blairshinnoch	Existing	33.8	1	80
E51	Hillhead	Existing	34.0	1	61
E52	Berry Burn	Existing	34.6	32	104
E53	Cairnton Road (Hamlyns)	Existing	34.6	1	99
E54	Boyndie Airfield	Existing	34.9	8	100.5
E55	St Johns Wells Extension	Existing	35.1	3	79
E56	St Johns Wells	Existing	35.4	3	79.6
E57	Haddo	Existing	37.1	2	76
E58	Castle of Auchry Farm	Existing	37.5	3	80
E59	Backhill of Yonderton	Existing	38.0	2	99.5
E60	Cairnhill	Existing	38.2	4	76/79.6
E61	Milton of Fisherie	Existing	40.0	2	99.5
E62	Bognie Farm	Existing	40.3	1	60.98
E63	Cluny Farm	Existing	40.7	1	60.98
E64	Hill of Glaschyle	Existing	42.0	12	99.91
E65	Bonnykelly	Existing	44.2	2	98.14
C01	Meikleton of Ardonald	Consented	9.6	1	134.5
C02	Hill of Towie II	Consented	13.8	16	125
C03	Netheron (Fisherford)	Consented	22.9	1	77
C04	Drodland	Consented	23.5	1	79
C05	Aultmore	Consented	24.9	13	108.5
C06	Lurg Hill	Consented	25.3	5	130
C07	Hill of Carlinraig	Consented	26.2	2	99.95
C08	Hill of Petty	Consented	29.5	4	67
C09	North Haddo	Consented	35.3	2	74
C10	Pauls Hill II	Consented	30.6	7	134 / 149.9
C11	Meikle Hill	Consented	32.7	6	126.5

Number ⁵	Name	Planning Status	Distance (km) ⁶	Number of turbines	Blade tip Height (m)
C12	Mains of Cairnbrogie	Consented	40.0	4	76.45 / 76.5
A01	Garbet	Application	6.0	7	190
A03	Rothies III	Application	25.3	29	149.9/200/225
A05	Clash Gour	Application	32.9	48	Multiple: 130-176
A04	Berry Burn Extension	Application	34.5	9	149.9
S01	Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	Pre-planning	1.1	28	Up to 200m
S02	Craig Watch	Pre-planning	4.3	18	Up to 200m
S03	Glenfiddich	Pre-planning	8.1	11	Up to 200m
S04	Edintore II (Cairds Wood)	Pre-planning	13.4	7	149.9

Updated Landscape Baseline and Scope of Assessment

7.2.12 NatureScot have produced an updated national Landscape Character Assessment⁷ which has been referred to in this updated assessment which also draws on the previous NatureScot landscape character assessments for Moray and Nairn and South and Central Aberdeenshire which are dated 1998⁸. The EIA Report notes from the NatureScot website that “*where current proposals or projects have analysis based on the 1990’s LCT database, that should still be used.*” That advice has changed however, with NatureScot now advising:

“The 2019 Landscape Character Type map and associated Landscape Character Type Descriptions now supersede the 1990’s landscape character descriptions and mapping. Where there are topic-specific landscape capacity or sensitivity studies, they would take precedence for informing that development type, e.g. wind farms. Many of the 1990s LCAs contained “Landscape Sensitivities” and “Forces for Change” sections. Many of these have become dated, for example planning policy references and turbine heights. The 2019 NatureScot LCA has not updated these. Some of the details, such as settlement pattern analysis in some reports, may still be useful.”⁹

7.2.13 As a result, this assessment takes account of the NatureScot 2019 assessment (updated May 2021) as well as the previous 1990’s landscape character assessments and the Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire¹⁰ (SLCA), noting that there are some differences in the landscape character nomenclature, descriptions and boundaries which are set out in Table 7.3 and SI 2021 Figure 7.5a-b.

⁷ Landscape Character Assessment, NatureScot, updated May 2021.

⁸ Report No.No.101 Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment Scottish Natural Heritage/Turnbull Jeffery Partnership (1998) and Report No.102 South and Central Aberdeenshire: Landscape Scottish Natural Heritage/ERM (1998).

⁹<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/landscape-character-assessment-scotland>

¹⁰ Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire, dated March 2014.

- 7.2.14 The EIA Report identified that significant effects would affect the host landscape character of the *Grampian Outliers* Landscape Character Area (LCA), *Moorland Plateaux* Landscape Character Type (LCT) (renamed *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT)¹¹. The geographical extent of the effects was assessed in the EIA Report as “*locally within the vicinity of the Site, although it would not be a fundamental change due to the presence of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm.*” The adjacent Open Uplands LCT was assessed as Moderate and not significantly affected and as a precaution it has been re-assessed in the LVIA along with a new LCT (*Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn* LCT) which was created by the most recent NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment (formerly assessed as part of the Open Uplands LCT).
- 7.2.15 The three landscape character units included in the updated assessment are listed as follows with the former, superseded descriptors provided in brackets:
- *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (*Moorland Plateaux* LCT and *Grampian Outliers* LCA);
 - *Open Upland* LCT (*Uplands* LCT and *Open Uplands* LCA); and
 - *Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn* LCT (*Uplands* LCT and *Open Uplands* LCA).
- 7.2.16 No other landscape units were assessed as being significantly affected by the proposed development. This includes the *Farmed and Wooded Valleys* LCT (formerly known as *Straths and Valleys* LCT and *Deveron and Bogie Straths* LCA) which is overlapped by the existing Site entrance and a small part of existing access track.
- 7.2.17 Significant night-time effects on landscape character were predicted to also affect localised areas of the *Grampian Outliers* LCA: *Moorland Plateaux* LCT (renamed *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT) and the *Northern Rolling Lowlands* LCA: *Agriculture Heartlands* LCT (renamed *Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills* LCT). A revised night-time assessment of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy for the aviation warning lights is provided in SI 2021 Appendix 7.3 and summarised in Section 7.5.

¹¹ NatureScot Landscape Character Assessment 2019, updated May 2021.

Table 7.3: Landscape Character Classification

NatureScot Landscape Assessment 2019 (updated May 2021)	1998 Landscape Character Assessments (Moray and Nairn, and South and Central Aberdeenshire) and Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire	
	LCT	LCA
South and Central Aberdeenshire		
28 ¹² . Outlying Hills and Ridges 28a Clashindarroch Forest 28b Gartly Moor 28c Coreen Hills 28d The Buck	Moorland Plateaux	Grampian Outliers
19. Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills	Agriculture Heartlands	Northern Rolling Lowlands
23. Farmed Basin	Agriculture Heartlands	Insch Basin LCA
27. Farmed Moorland Edge	Farmed Moorland Edge	Lumsden Valley
27. Farmed Moorland Edge	Farmed Moorland Edge	Daugh of Cairnborrow
32. Farmed and Wooded River Valleys	Straths and Valleys	Deveron and Bogie Straths
Moray and Nairn		
292. Open Upland	Uplands	Open Uplands
(New) 294. Upland Valleys – Moray and Nairn	Previously included in the Open Uplands LCT / LCA.	
289. Upland Farmed Valleys	Uplands	Upland Farmland
126. Upland Glens - Cairngorms	Uplands and Glens	The North-Eastern Hills

Updated Landscape Designations

7.2.18 Moray Council have undertaken a review of the Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLVs) within Moray¹³ and as a result, the Moray AGLVs have been replaced by SLAs (SI 2021 Figure 7.4a-b). In particular the following changes will be included in this assessment:

- The Ben Rinnes SLA replaces the Moray AGLV, removing the AGLV designation from the Glenfiddich and Cabrach areas south of the A920, between the Clashindarroch and Dorenell wind farms and north of the Cairngorms National Park.
- A new Deveron Valley SLA is created in Moray to the north of the Deveron Valley SLA in Aberdeenshire.

¹² The reference numbers are noted on the figures and originate from the NatureScot Landscape Assessment 2019 (updated May 2021). The suffixes 'a-d' have been provided by the author of this Chapter.

¹³ Moray Local Landscape Designation Review, Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, July 2018.

7.2.19 There has been no change to the SLAs within Aberdeenshire.

Updated Visual Baseline and Scope of Assessment

7.2.20 The EIA Report identified that significant effects would affect the views from scattered residential properties and local roads at Tillathrowie and to the southeast of Rhynie, and views from local hills (the Tap O' Noth, The Buck, Clashmach Hill and the Coreen Hills layby viewpoint).

7.2.21 There has been no change to the baseline visual receptors and viewpoint locations and the revised cumulative assessment will focus on a reassessment of those receptors previously assessed as Moderate or above as a precaution:

- Viewpoints:
 - Viewpoint 1: Minor Road near Tillathrowie;
 - Viewpoint 4: Tap O' Noth and associated core path;
 - Viewpoint 5: The Buck;
 - Viewpoint 6: Clashmach Hill; and Viewpoint 12: Coreen Hills, Old Military Road.
- Scattered settlement and local roads at Tillathrowie;
- Scattered settlement and local roads southeast and southwest of Rhynie;
- Scattered residential properties at The Broback, between Glens of Foudland and the A97 and at Milltown of Rothiemay;
- Paths within and adjacent to the Site as well as The Gordon Way and five other Core Paths / local paths.

7.2.22 Significant night-time effects were predicted to also affect viewpoints 1 and 9 and potentially residential receptors in the vicinity of Viewpoint 8 (Minor Road, near Corse, southeast of A97). A revised night-time assessment of the Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy for the aviation warning lights is provided in SI 2021 Appendix 7.3 and summarised in Section 7.5.

Review of Design and Embedded Mitigation

7.2.23 A review of the design of the proposed development and the embedded mitigation was undertaken as part of this assessment. Four areas were examined in particular:

- A Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy was proposed by the applicant and re-assessed in SI 2021 Appendix 7.3. This has result in the mitigation of significant night-time effects identified in the previous EIA Report.
- NatureScot¹⁴ recommended two further potential mitigation measures (in addition to mitigation of the proposed aviation warning lights):
 - Reducing the size of the proposed turbines to better match existing and proposed developments at Clashindarroch viewed from the east and northeast.

¹⁴ NatureScot consultation response to application, 30 April 2020.

Whilst the existing Clashindarroch turbines appear smaller (110m to blade tip) than the proposed turbines when viewed from Viewpoint 6: Clashmach Hill in the northeast for example, there is a good degree of turbine overlap (Viewpoint 6, 8, 9, 14 and 16). In views from the east (Viewpoint 4: Tap O' Noth), southeast (Viewpoint 12: Coreen Hills) and south (Viewpoint 5: The Buck) the difference in turbine height and scale is not unreasonable noting that the existing Clashindarroch turbines are generally located at a higher elevation and the proposed turbines are closer to the viewer. This observation continues in views from the south (Viewpoint 5: The Buck) whilst views of the turbines from the southwest, west and north tend to be largely screened by intervening landform. Other proposed development at Clashindarroch proposes larger turbines (up to 200m to blade tip) whilst any reduction in turbine height would reduce the turbine yield, yet still maintain visibility of turbines from visual receptors. The reasoning for the turbine selection (turbines with a maximum height, up to 180m to blade tip) is set out in Chapter 2 of the EIA Report, paragraphs 2.84-52.

- Relocation or removing turbines from the southern part of the wind farm to achieve a *“closer visual integration with the existing turbines seen from the southeast and east”*.

Examination of the layout and the design evolution revealed that a number of options had been previously examined. As illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.2, the existing Clashindarroch turbines are located on higher ground in comparison to the proposed development which is separated from it by a steep glen (Ealaiche Burn) and a 'closer integration' with the existing turbines is not possible. Viewing from the east (Viewpoint 6: Clashmach Hill) and southeast (Viewpoint 4: Tap O' Noth) there already appears to be a reasonably 'close' visual integration with the existing turbines. Viewing from the southeast at greater distance, the visual integration and composition of the existing and proposed turbines would, in any event, be partly screened by intervening landform at Cloichedubh Hill (Viewpoint 12: Coreen Hills) and the Tap O' Noth (Viewpoint 17: Oxen Craig).

Alternatively removing or relocating turbines in either the southern part of the wind farm, or those that appear closest to the Tap O' Noth in Viewpoint 12, would create a 'gap' in the layout from other viewpoints (notably Viewpoint 4: Tap O' Noth) and adversely affect the turbine cohesion and visual integration.

- The borrow pit proposals set out in Chapters 2 and 3, and Appendix 11.2 of the EIA Report, were also examined and a further visualisation, showing the appearance of the proposed borrow pit from Viewpoint 1, taking account of forestry management has been provided (SI 2021 Figures 7.7a-d). This review assumes that the borrow pit would be reinstated as detailed in paragraph 52 of Appendix 11.2 of the EIA Report and that up to two alternative borrow pit search areas would not be required.

7.2.24 In respect of landscape and visual issues, it is concluded that the current design and mitigation measures have a positive benefit to the proposed development and no further mitigation would be possible without also significantly reducing the wind farm yield and / or otherwise adversely altering the visual composition in respect of other viewpoints. The visual composition of the proposed development is therefore considered as optimum when viewed from the assessment viewpoints and assessed in respect of the landscape and visual receptors.

7.2.25 The design review and re-assessment has concluded that the proposed mitigation measures (Reduced Visible Aviation Lighting Strategy) would be beneficial in reducing the night-time effects and no significant effects have been identified in the revised assessment. Similarly, the proposed mitigation measures for the proposed borrow pit would be beneficial in reducing the likely landscape or visual effects and no significant visual effects have been identified post restoration, in the revised assessment.

7.3 ZTV and Viewpoint Analysis

7.3.1 In addition to the cumulative ZTVs presented in the EIA Report a further cumulative ZTV (SI 2021 Figure 7.1b) illustrates the cumulative, blade tip ZTV for the Garbet application and the proposed development. SI 2021 Figure 7.1b illustrates the cumulative, hub height ZTV for the Garbet, Rothes III and the Clash Gour applications and the proposed development.

7.3.2 Considering the cumulative hub height ZTV, there is a clear distinction between the ZTV for Garbet (and the Rothes III and the Clash Gour applications) shown in pink and overlapping with areas largely to the west within Moray, beyond the Red Hill / Grumack Hill / Daugh of Corinacy and the Black Hill ridgeline (the 'Red Hill – Black Hill' ridgeline); and the ZTV for the proposed development shown in blue, overlapping areas largely to the east of the ridgeline in Aberdeenshire. This indicates limited opportunity for Garbet and the proposed development to be viewed cumulatively (simultaneously or successively from one location). Further there is little opportunity for sequential cumulative visibility from main roads or long-distance recreational routes. A similar pattern of cumulative theoretical visibility is presented by the cumulative blade tip ZTV in Aberdeenshire within 10km.

7.3.3 The ZTVs indicate that despite the proximity of the Garbet application there would be limited opportunities for cumulative effects. The area most likely to be significantly affected is the Red Hill – Black Hill ridgeline between the two schemes.

Viewpoint Analysis

7.3.4 Taking account of the updated cumulative baseline a detailed updated analysis has been carried out for five viewpoints (Viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 6 and 12) in SI 2021 Appendix 7.2. A summary of the viewpoint analysis (viewpoints 1-20), comparing the EIA Report and the SI 2021 assessments is presented in Table 7.2.6 of that appendix.

7.3.5 The assessment judgements for sensitivity, magnitude, level of effect and significance have been subject to peer review by three chartered landscape architects, experienced in wind farm assessment. Although there was agreement on sensitivity and the significant effects for five of the viewpoints, there was a consensus that the magnitude had been slightly over assessed in some cases.

7.3.6 Drawing from the viewpoint analysis both the EIA Report and SI indicate that significant visual effects would be limited to approximately 8.7km with Viewpoint 12: Coreen Hills also assessed as significant, as an exception at 13.2km distance.

7.4 Updated Landscape Assessment

7.4.1 The updated landscape assessment of residual effects takes account of the updated baseline of cumulative wind energy development and re-assessed those landscape receptors previously

assessed as moderately affected or above. A list of those receptors included in the updated landscape assessment is provided as follows and includes the new LCT, created as a result of the NatureScot Landscape Assessment 2019 (updated May 2021):

- *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (*Moorland Plateaux* LCT and *Grampian Outliers* LCA);
- *Open Upland* LCT (*Uplands* LCT and *Open Uplands* LCA);
- *Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn* LCT (*Uplands* LCT and *Open Uplands* LCA);
- The Ben Rinnes SLA (which replaced part of the Moray AGLV); and
- The new Deveron Valley SLA.

7.4.2 The landscape character of the area within 10km is illustrated in SI 2021 Figures 7.5a-b and the Site location and topography is illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.3.

7.4.3 In summary, there would be no change to the assessment presented in the EIA Report with significant landscape effects limited to the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (*Moorland Plateaux* LCT and *Grampian Outliers* LCA) within which the proposed turbines are located.

Outlying Hills and Ridges

7.4.4 The *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (formerly *Grampian Outliers* LCA, *Moorland Plateaux* LCT) character description, including the key characteristics have been updated and particular note is made of wind farms in this area which are now included as a key characteristic (text underlined):

- *“Long and often narrow undulating ridges, punctuated with occasional pronounced hills, which stand proud of surrounding low-lying farmland.*
- *Distinctive and recognisable profiles of occasional dramatic outcrops of rock, creating local landmarks which are visible and ever-present across wide expanses of Aberdeenshire.*
- *Extensive tracts of coniferous woodland cover slopes, these interspersed with varying degrees with heather moorland.*
- *Green fields of pasture cover often gently folded lower slopes and this merges gradually with more intensively managed lowland farmland.*
- *Communication masts and wind farms are dominant features on parts of these outlying ridges.*
- *• Important prehistoric and cultural heritage.*
- *Spectacular views across the surrounding lowlands of Aberdeenshire from these promontories of higher ground.*
- *Strong visual relationship with wider Cairngorm massif.*
- *Relatively remote and wild landscape character.”*

7.4.5 Within 20km of the proposed development there are two wind farms within the *Grampian Outliers* LCA: Clashindarroch (E01) and Kildrummy (E08), as well as a single turbine at Bailiesward Farm (E02). The previous key characteristics, noted in the EIA Report and sourced from the earlier 1998 landscape assessments are noted as follows:

- *“Smooth, undulating landform which forms dark ridges across skyline when viewed from lowlands;*
- *Outcrops stand proud of surrounding low farmland;*
- *Extensive tracts of conifer plantation covering much of slopes, mixed to varying degrees with patches of heather moorland;*
- *Forms distinct edge with green fields of pasture on lower slopes;*
- *Occasional dramatic rocky outcrops, e.g. at Bennachie and Tap O’ Noth;*
- *Promontories present spectacular views over surrounding lowland;*
- *Communication masts are dominant feature within skyline views;*
- *Settlement restricted to edges with occasional isolated houses and derelict buildings; and colours and tones vary with the weather and seasons.”*

7.4.6 The SLCA recognises this landscape as containing a number of characteristics that reduce the susceptibility and contribute to an ability to more easily accommodate large scale wind energy development in comparison to other landscapes within Aberdeenshire. Notably these characteristics include large scale, simple landcover (blanket forestry), and uninhabited or sparsely populated key characteristics. Factors that indicate higher sensitivity include areas that are designated SLA due to their scenic quality and distinctive landform as well as the Tap O’ Noth. The SLCA classified this LCA, in overall terms as of High sensitivity with no capacity for large scale wind energy development.

7.4.7 It should be noted however, that the SLCA provides strategic level guidance based on a broad assessment of the sensitivity of whole LCTs to wind farm development within Aberdeenshire. Consequently, the judgements on sensitivity and capacity represent an average across whole LCTs, within which considerable variation can occur. Notably the SLCA advises on page 2:

“It is emphasised that this is a strategic level landscape and visual study, providing a context for consideration of capacity for, and the cumulative effects of, existing and potential future wind turbine developments in Aberdeenshire. No site specific conclusions should be drawn from it in relation to current proposed or future wind turbines and windfarms.

As a strategic landscape and visual study this does not address specific localised impacts such as effects on individual residential receptors or other sensitive receptors. All wind energy proposals should be considered on their own unique locational and design characteristics as well as their strategic context. All proposals should be subject to landscape, visual and cumulative impact assessment including (if required) a full environmental assessment.”

7.4.8 Considering the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT in more detail, the LCT consists of a series of series of moorland spurs or outliers which were sub-divided in the previous 1998 NatureScot landscape assessment as *Grampian Outliers* LCA. Although not individually named, there are four separate sub-areas or LCAs within 10-15km of the proposed development. Some of which like Gartly Moor to the east of Strath Bogie are surrounding by lowland farmland and the Coreen Hills outlier contains both distinctive landform (Bennachie) and is designated SLA. The four sub-areas of *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT are illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.5a-b and listed as follows:

- 28a Clashindarroch Forest (area north of the A941);
- 28b Gartly Moor;
- 28c Coreen Hills; and
- 28d The Buck (area south of the A941).

Outlying Hills and Ridges LCT: Clashindarroch Forest

7.4.9 The proposed development would be located within the Clashindarroch Forest subarea, which is one of the larger areas of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (or former *Grampian Outliers* LCA), extending north, from the A941 to the Deveron Valley (A920) and east from the Moray authority boundary and part of the Deveron Valley in the west, to the lowlands at Tillathrowie (*Northern Rolling Lowlands* LCA) and Strath Bogie (*Deveron and Bogie Straths* LCA) in the east. The *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT also extends to the south of the A941 (28d The Buck) but is regarded as a separate unit largely due to a change in land cover from forestry to heather moorland. Clashindarroch Forest is one of the principal characteristics of this landscape. The landform within the forestry area includes a number of ridges and incised valleys which connect into the River Deveron to the east and a main, north-south ridgeline comprising Red Hill (526m AOD), Grumack Hill (517m AOD), Daugh of Corinacy (478m AOD) and Black Hill (505m AOD) (the ‘Red Hill – Black Hill’ ridgeline) which is also complimented by Mount Haddock (521m AOD) to the south and Clashmach Hill (375m AOD) and Craigs of Succoth / Brown Hill (485m AOD) to the north. The Tap O’ Noth is a distinctive landform on the south-eastern edge of this unit and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm provides a further key characteristic, located close to the western boundary with the *Open Upland* LCT of Moray.

Sensitivity

7.4.10 At a detailed site level, a range of landscape criteria or indicators of sensitivity / susceptibility to wind energy development have been considered as set out in Table 7.4. They indicate that the Site area generally has a Medium - low susceptibility with some indicators of higher susceptibility related to the site context and the Tap O’ Noth in terms of its skyline or ‘landmark’ qualities. The area is undesignated indicating Medium landscape value and an overall sensitivity of **Medium** is concluded.

7.4.11 The EIA Report also notes that other subareas of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT, such as the Coreen Hills are locally designated and in respect of this development a sensitivity of High-Medium is noted.

Table 7.4: Landscape Susceptibility: Grampian Outliers LCA

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
Physical Characteristics:					
Scale	Larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale wind turbines		Smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or overwhelmed by wind turbines		
Landform and	Simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes as the turbines may be less easily		Complex landforms with well-defined changes in level including ridges, steep sloping hillsides		

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
Topography	scaled against the landform		and narrow valleys.		
Land Cover	Large scale simple and homogenous land cover including moorland, grasslands, and large forestry plantations, where the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines		Complex and diverse land cover including a diversity of arable fields, grassland, trees / hedges / woodland, open water of a small scale that turbines may dominate.		
Pattern	Unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines.		Irregular small scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern.		
Settlement pattern	Sparse or no settlement with relatively few visual receptors and scale indicators.		Populated areas and lowlands with larger numbers of visual receptors and small scale indicators.		
Other Development	Large scale development including landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines		Rural / traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value.		
Change and Movement	Busy major roads and other areas of significant mechanised movement where the movement of turbine blades may be in character		No roads or only quiet country lanes where turbine blade movement could be eye catching		
Perceptual Characteristics:					
Wildness and Naturalness	Area not valued for wildness as a key characteristic or special quality.		Area valued for wildness as a key characteristic or special quality.		
Remoteness	Area that feels closer to people and human activities. Conversely, a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquillity would have a lower number of visual receptors.		Area that feels remote from people and human activities. Conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors.		
Rational / Windswept	Open and exposed landscapes where turbines, though more visible, may be logically located on windswept locations.		Enclosed or sheltered landform likely to be of a smaller scale and limited rational for turbine locations.		
Visual Characteristics:					
Openness and Enclosure	Enclosed landscape with limited opportunities for long range views.		Open landscapes with opportunities for long range views.		
Skyline	Broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography.		Skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography or features such as church spires.		

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
Surrounding Context	Self-contained landscape with limited relationship with adjacent areas.		Landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop.		
Overall Susceptibility		Medium - low			

Magnitude of Change

7.4.12 The proposed development would be located within the western central area of this part of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT within the Clashindarroch Forest and would utilise the existing Site access to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm which is located to the southwest of the proposed turbines, separated by the Ealaiche Burn and the associated steep sided gully. The proposed turbines would occupy a partial landform 'bowl' that is surrounded to the north, west and south by higher ground, afforded by the hills and ridges of the Red Hill - Black Hill ridgeline in the north and west, and Cloichedubh Hill (486m AOD) in the south. These hills together with the forested landscape help to contain and limit the theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. Further hills are located to the east at Quarry Hill (441m AOD) with lower forested hills partially screening the lower parts of the turbines (Viewpoint 1) at Craigend Hill (400m AOD), Hill of Drumfergus (331m AOD) and Slouch Hill (381m AOD). The Tap O' Noth is located at 4.9km distance to the southeast. This visual containment is illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.5b with the blade tip ZTV for the proposed turbines sharply limited to within 1-2km of the proposed turbines by these hills in particular. Beyond 2km the ZTV is limited to elevated areas and upland locations, avoiding the lowland valleys and straths. Within this part of the LCA (1-2km from the proposed turbines) the landscape character would be altered through the addition of the proposed development and the associated Wind Farm Felling Plan, changing the Site area from a commercial forest to a commercial wind farm and forest. The forestry management (felling and restocking) would be altered within discrete forestry compartments in order to accommodate the proposed development (EIA Report Figures 3.2.6-7). There are no residential properties within 1.5km of the proposed turbines and although Clashindarroch Forest is open to the public the promoted paths and trails are located beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, 2km to the south (SI 2021 Figures 7.4c-d).

7.4.13 The construction activity and operation of the proposed development would not be uncharacteristic to the area given the existing and on-going forestry operations and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The remaining forestry cover is such that visibility across the area, in order to perceive landscape character change, would be limited. Nonetheless it is assessed that the change in landscape character during the construction and operation periods would increase from Zero to Substantial, affecting the immediate Site area. The level of effect would be **Major / Moderate** and Significant within 1-2km of the proposed turbines, subject to the screening effects of retained / felled or restocked forestry. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

- 7.4.14 Beyond 1-2km distance from the proposed turbines, theoretical visibility within this LCA is fragmented and mainly limited to forested and / or elevated land in the east and northeast. In the south (Mount of Haddoch area) perceived change to the landscape character would be restricted by intervening forestry, landform and the influence of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm which would appear larger due to the effects of perspective (Slight to Negligible magnitude). In the east and southeast the effects of intervening landform and forestry screening would continue to limit theoretical visibility of change to the underlying landscape character. Views from the Tap O' Noth (Viewpoint 4) are an exception and provide an elevated view, where the change to the landscape character, at the Site and within 1-2km of the proposed turbines can be seen from the hillside and summit. The change to landscape character, however, would be restricted to the Site area and would not affect the key characteristics of the Tap O' Noth in this part of the LCA, appearing as a visual effect on the north-eastern views from the Tap O' Noth (Slight to Negligible magnitude). Similar effects would be perceptible from lower hills and slopes (subject to intervening forestry) to the east, all at a much lower elevation than the Tap O' Noth with the forestry and wind farm remaining as key characteristics. Viewing from the north, theoretical visibility from the Craigs of Succoth, either of the two Brown Hills (485m and 312m AOD) and Evron Hill (390m AOD) would be partly screened by landform (limiting turbine visibility to blades and or upper parts of the turbines) that would be subject to the presence or absence of intervening forestry. This limited theoretical visibility, viewing in one direction would not significantly alter the underlying landscape character and the magnitude of change would be Negligible.
- 7.4.15 The effect on this wider sub-area of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT would be **Moderate-Minor to Minor** and not significant with the landscape character retaining its key characteristics that include forestry and wind farm development.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing and Proposed Development

- 7.4.16 Apart from the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, there are no other existing or consented wind farms within the forest or the wider area that could otherwise affect the landscape character of this part of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT. Dorenell is located beyond 9km to the southeast and smaller groups of between 1-3 turbines are located beyond 5km to the south (Upper Wheedlemont Farm and Cairnmore) and north (Bailliesward Farm).
- 7.4.17 Cumulatively, the area of land affected by wind farm development would almost double (the addition of the proposed development to the area of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm), but the wind farm development would remain limited to 'one area' or one 'combined' wind farm at Clashindarroch, each limiting the geographical extent of the effects of the other. The additional as well as the combined level of effect resulting from the addition of the proposed development to this baseline would remain **Major / Moderate** and Significant within 1-2km of the existing and proposed turbines. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing and Proposed Development and Applications

- 7.4.18 There are no wind farm applications within this area. The nearest, at Garbet is approximately 6km to the northwest, beyond the Red Hill - Black Hill ridgeline, the River Deveron valley and the Craig Watch ridgeline, further to the northwest. The influence of this application on the landscape character of the Clashindarroch Forest unit of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT would be limited (Slight magnitude). However, the additional as well as the combined level of effect

resulting from the proposed development would remain **Major / Moderate** and Significant within 1-2km of the existing and proposed turbines. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

7.4.19 *The Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) is located immediately to the west of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, beyond the forestry and within the adjacent Open Upland LCT. Theoretical visibility would often be limited to blade tips by the intervening topography, forestry and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm (Slight to Negligible magnitude). From limited locations at Mount Haddoch and the Red Hill - Black Hill ridgeline, the magnitude of change would be Substantial, and the wind farm / forestry character of this part of the Outlying Hills and Ridges LCT would be reinforced when viewed from the Tap O' Noth. The Glenfiddich and Craig Watch pre-planning proposals are located further to the west at 4.2km and 8km distance respectfully and would have a lesser cumulative effect. Overall, the additional as well as the combined level of effect resulting from the proposed development would remain **Major / Moderate** and Significant within 1-2km of the existing and proposed turbines. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.*

7.4.20 Other areas of *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT including Gartly Moor, The Buck and the Coreen Hills (noting Medium to High sensitivity on account of the SLA) would not be significantly affected either in terms of the primary or 'solus' landscape character assessment or cumulatively as previously assessed in the EIA Report.

Open Upland

7.4.21 The NatureScot character description and key characteristics of the *Open Upland* LCT (formerly *Uplands* LCT and *Open Uplands* LCA) have also been updated as follows:

- *“Open, expansive landscape of smooth and steep-sided hills and exposed, rounded fractured rock summits which coalesce across elevated moorland valleys to form an arc of high ground.*
- *Simple, large scale vegetation patterns and managed moorland of hill tops and sides, with occasional large conifer plantations.*
- *Contrasting small scale pattern of land use at lower levels and close to minor roads, consisting of farmsteads, peat cuts, and rough pastures, sometimes integrated with small forest plantations.*
- *North-east to south-west orientated burns and rivers with natural, meandering courses, and associated with ribbons of native woodland on the sheltered, steeper valley sides.*
- *Broad, farmed and sparsely settled central basin, almost encircled by the arc of hills.*
- *Few roads and structures, other than occasional farms, cottages and abandoned stone buildings in lower areas.*
- *Sense of remoteness, isolation and openness, resulting from the wide, sweeping scale of the internal landscape and limited settlement and roads, and presence of ruins and relicts.”*

7.4.22 Although wind farm development not listed, the Dorenell Wind Farm is key characteristic, and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm is noted in the LCT description although it is just outside

this LCT boundary. Wind Farm development and in particular Dorenell is noted as a characteristic influence in the Moray Local Landscape Designation Review.¹⁵ Kildrummy is also just beyond the LCT boundary in Aberdeenshire. The previous key characteristics, noted in the EIA Report and sourced from the earlier 1998's landscape assessments are noted as follows:

- *“Open character consisting of a series of rounded hills with summits of generally similar height, broad smooth ridges and expansive gently undulating plateaux*
- *Openness of the hills contrasting with densely wooded lower rolling hills and valleys*
- *Distant views across the moray basin and to the coast*
- *Rocky outcrops occasionally break up the smooth terrain*
- *Small burns flow across the moorland in craggy incised valleys*
- *Lochindorb is a unique feature in the landscape*
- *Heather moor and blanket bog accentuate the smooth roundness of the landform*
- *Patches of stunted native pine and tracts of muir burning create distinctive pattern of colour and texture on some open slopes*
- *Sparse settlement, with many derelict farmsteads”*

7.4.23 The *Open Upland* LCT is located to the west of the proposed development and west of the Aberdeen / Moray authority boundary. Stretching north from the Cairngorms National Park towards Dufftown and just beyond the A920. Although it shares a number of characteristics with the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT it has a slightly larger scale and more open character (generally un-forested) and can feel more remote.

Sensitivity

7.4.24 The EIA Report assessed the susceptibility of the *Open Upland* LCT to wind farm development as Medium-Low due to the large-scale and open character characteristics of the landscape and the presence of existing wind farms, perceptual qualities of remoteness and presence of distinctive landmark hills such as Ben Rinnes and The Buck were also taken into account, although both of these are remote from the proposed development. In contrast to the previous assessment the area within 10km and overlapped by the blade tip ZTV is now undesignated indicating a Medium value rather than a High to Medium value as previously noted. The overall sensitivity of **Medium** should therefore be regarded as conservative.

Magnitude of Change

7.4.25 The proposed development would be located beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the Red Hill - Black Hill ridgeline (up to 526m AOD) previously noted in respect of the adjacent *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT. The effect of this ridgeline and the existing wind farm development is such that there is limited ZTV coverage within 5km. Areas of ZTV along the ridgeline and at Daugh of Corinacy (454m AOD) and Mount Haddoch (521m AOD) would be primarily influenced by the existing Clashindarroch turbines whilst the proposed turbines (located at a lower elevation) would be largely screened by landform, subject to intervening forestry and appearing beyond the existing turbines. The magnitude of change to the existing

¹⁵ Carol Anderson Landscape Associates for Moray Council, Moray Local Landscape Designation Review, July 2018.

landscape character of this area, within 5km would be Negligible, leading to a **Minor** and not significant level of effect. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

7.4.26 Although the ZTV coverage increases between 5-10km distance from the proposed turbines due to the elevated ground, the area of the Cabrach to the south and east is more notably influenced by the existing Dorenell and Clashindarroch wind farms and the additional influence of the proposed turbines on the landscape character would be limited with the landscape character retaining its key characteristics and still appearing as an open moorland landscape with some wind farm development. The magnitude of change would be Slight to Negligible. Areas to the northeast beyond the River Deveron would tend to be influenced more by the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm as the visibility of the proposed turbines would tend to be limited to lower numbers of turbines and blade tips. The magnitude of change would be Negligible. Taken together the level of effect across these areas would range from **Moderate / Minor to Minor** and not significant. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing and Proposed Development

7.4.27 The existing Clashindarroch and Dorenell windfarms already exert a significant influence on the *Open Upland* LCT that in respect of Dorenell is Substantial. As noted previously however, the proposed turbines would not add significantly to this and the additional effect of the proposed development would range from **Moderate / Minor to Minor** and not significant. The combined cumulative effect would however be **Major / Moderate** and Significant on account of the existing wind farms. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing and Proposed Development and Applications

7.4.28 The Garbet application is located within the *Open Upland* LCT at approximately 6km distance from the proposed development. As noted previously, the proposed turbines would not add significantly to this and the additional effect of the proposed development would range from **Moderate / Minor to Minor** and not significant. The combined cumulative effect would however be **Major / Moderate** and Significant on account of the Garbet application, which would affect a limited area of the *Open Uplands* LCA / LCT. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

7.4.29 *The Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development), Glenfiddich, and Craig Watch pre-planning proposals are all located within the Open Upland LCT, collectively forming a loose group and 'partnering' with the existing Clashindarroch, Dorenell and proposed Garbet wind farms respectfully. Each of these projects would further reinforce the pattern and influence of wind farm development on the landscape character of this LCT. The additional effect of the proposed development would be reduced, often appearing beyond the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) and / or Craig Watch (Slight magnitude) and the additional level of effect would be Moderate / Minor and not significant. The combined cumulative level of effect would however be Major / Moderate and Significant on account of the Garbet application and the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development), Glenfiddich, and Craig Watch pre-planning proposals, but not the proposed development. The nature of these effects would be*

direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn

- 7.4.30 The *Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn* LCT has been created by the NatureScot landscape assessment 2019 (updated May 2021) and was previously included within the *Open Uplands* LCA classified within the 1998 landscape assessments. The valley landscape is undesignated, indicating Medium landscape value, although the smaller scale of this landscapes indicates a higher susceptibility to wind farm development. As a result, the sensitivity of the landscape is assessed as High - Medium.
- 7.4.31 The upland valley landform of this LCT physically separates it from the *Open Upland* LCT and the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT and there would be limited visibility of the proposed turbines from within this LCT as indicated in SI 2021 Figure 7.5b and the hub height ZTV in SI 2021 Figure 7.4b. The proposed development would therefore have a *Negligible* effect on the special qualities and integrity of the *Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn* LCT, resulting in a **Moderate / Minor to Minor** effect. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative to neutral. Consequently, the proposed development would be unlikely to contribute significantly towards cumulative effects *in addition to, or in combination* with other existing and consented wind farm developments or wind farm applications.

Local Landscape Designations

The Ben Rinnes SLA

- 7.4.32 The Ben Rinnes SLA (which replaced part of the Moray AGLV) is more tightly focused on Ben Rinnes and the Glen Rinnes valley. It is located at between approximately 9-30km distance from the proposed development. The local level SLA designation indicates High - Medium landscape value and the special qualities of this landscape indicate a High - Medium susceptibility to wind farm development. As a result, the sensitivity of the landscape is assessed as High - Medium.
- 7.4.33 The proposed turbines are relatively remote from the SLA and theoretical visibility is mainly restricted to turbine blades, viewed beyond or adjacent to the existing Dorenell and Clashindarroch wind farms (SI 2021 Figures 7.4a-b). There would be limited or no visibility within 15km. Viewpoint 13 on the summit of Ben Rinnes at 17.8km distance provides the best vantage point and indicates that the visual effects from this location would not be significant. The proposed development would therefore have a *Negligible* effect on the special qualities which are focused on Ben Rinnes and the Glen Rinnes valley, and the integrity of the Ben Rinnes SLA, resulting in a **Minor** effect. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative to neutral.
- 7.4.34 The proposed development would be unlikely to contribute significantly towards cumulative effects *in addition to, or in combination* with other existing and consented wind farm developments or wind farm applications.

Deveron Valley SLA (Moray)

- 7.4.35 The new Deveron Valley SLA is located between approximately 16-23km distance from the proposed development. The valley landscape is designated at a local level SLA, indicating High -

Medium landscape value and the special qualities of this landscape also indicate a High - Medium susceptibility to wind farm development. As a result, the sensitivity of the landscape is assessed as High - Medium.

7.4.36 The special qualities of the SLA are focused on the river Deveron valley and not the distant *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT, although the Tap O' Noth is visible from Viewpoint 9 in the far distance, set apart from the proposed turbines which would not be significantly visible. The proposed development would therefore have a *Negligible to Zero* effect on the special qualities and integrity of the Deveron Valley SLA, resulting in a **Minor** effect. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative to neutral.

7.4.37 The proposed development would be unlikely to contribute significantly towards cumulative effects *in addition to, or in combination with* other existing and consented wind farm developments or wind farm applications.

7.5 Updated Visual Assessment

7.5.1 The updated visual assessment of residual effects takes account of the updated baseline of cumulative wind energy development and re-assessed those visual receptors previously assessed as moderately affected or above. A list of those receptors included in the updated visual assessment is provided as follows:

- Visual Receptors assessed as Significant in the EIA Report:
 - Scattered settlement and local roads at Tillathrowie and southeast of Rhynie.
 - Forest roads and paths within and adjacent to the Site;
 - Hill Summits and associated paths: the Tap O' Noth; The Buck; Clashmach Hill; and the Coreen Hills viewpoint.
- Visual Receptors assessed as Moderate in the EIA Report:
 - Scattered settlement and local roads southwest of Rhynie; The Broback; between Glens of Foudland and the A97; and Milltown of Rothiemay.
 - The Gordon Way; five Core Paths (east of Gartly and Rhynie, southwest of the Cabrach and west of the A941 near Bridgend) and local paths between Haugh of Glass and Dufftown.

7.5.2 The Core Paths and recreational routes within 10km are illustrated in SI 2021 Figures 7.4c-d and further maps and aerial photography of residential properties in the area is illustrated in SI 2021 Figure 7.6a-d.

7.5.3 In summary, there would be no change to the assessment presented in the EIA Report with significant visual effects limited to viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 6, and 12 and affecting residential receptors at Tillathrowie and southeast of Rhynie, local paths within and adjacent to the Site and hill summits at the Tap O' Noth, The Buck, Clashmach Hill and the Coreen Hills viewpoint.

Settlement and Associated Local Roads

Residential Visual Amenity: Tillathrowie

- 7.5.4 The sensitivity of the views from residential properties experienced by people is assessed as high. A total of approximately 31 residential properties (15 individual properties and 8 groups of properties) were included in the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), set out in Appendix 7.3 of the EIA Report. The views from approximately eleven of these were assessed as potentially significantly affected, although none were visited within the curtilage of the property. The assessment was conducted from publicly accessible locations on site and as such it represents a best estimate, erring on the side of caution. SI 2021 Figures 7.6b-d provide a more detailed aerial photograph of those properties that would be most affected to accompany the corresponding wirelines in the RVAA.
- 7.5.5 The experience of a significant view is not the same as an unacceptable effect or indicative of a failure in terms of maintaining residential amenity. The EIA Report concluded that the proposed development would not have an overbearing effect or otherwise affect the living standards of individual properties such that any of these would become an unattractive place to live (as opposed to less attractive) when judged objectively, and in the public interest. This was due largely to the intervening distance, topographical screening and use / orientation of the property, such that the living standards would not be affected, and the property would not be adversely affected by 'visual dominance' that it would become an unattractive place to live when judged objectively and in the public interest, on a 'solus' or primary basis, or cumulatively, taking account of the updated cumulative baseline.

Tillathrowie: Minor Roads

- 7.5.6 The views from two minor roads within the Tillathrowie area would be significantly affected by the proposed development. The sensitivity of these receptors is assessed as Medium.
- 7.5.7 The first of these, between Tillathrowie and Bridgend would experience variable views as part of a 5.5km journey or sequential experience when travelling west. For the majority of the route there would be no view or the effect would not be significant. The greatest visual effects are represented by Viewpoint 1 and would be experienced over a distance of up to approximately 1.5km between Whitestones and Tillathrowie, viewing westwards, where the magnitude would be Substantial - Moderate (**Moderate / Major** effect) and between Tillathrowie and Wester Tillathrowie at the end of the road, where the magnitude would be Moderate (**Moderate** effect) subject to the screening effects of some limited roadside vegetation. The existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm would be partially visible to the west (Negligible magnitude) and further to the east of Viewpoint 1 the Dummie Wind Farm would be visible at approximately 8km distance viewing in the opposite direction to the east (Slight magnitude).
- 7.5.8 Taking account of the updated cumulative baseline, including pre-planning proposals, the cumulative visual effects of the proposed development *in addition* to or *in combination* with other wind energy development would remain unchanged due to the limited visibility of other wind energy development. The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.
- 7.5.9 The second minor road is routed over 5.4km between the A97, near Bridgend to Drumfergus, via Coynachie. This road is more sheltered, and variable views of the proposed turbines would occur from between the bend in the road near Hill of Collithe, viewing westwards to just past

Coynachie, and affecting up to 3km of the route including the Coynachie Forest car park. The magnitude of change would range between Moderate and Negligible, subject to the variable screening effects of localised landform and roadside vegetation. The level of effect would range between **Moderate** and significant to **Minor** and not significant with the proposed development appearing directly ahead when travelling west at between approximately 3-6km distance from the nearest proposed turbine. As noted in respect of the local road between Tillathrowie and Bridgend, there would be limited visibility of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm (Negligible magnitude) and the Dummuie Wind Farm (Slight magnitude) would be visible in the opposite direction from limited locations along this road. The cumulative visual effects of the proposed development *in addition to or in combination* with other wind energy development would remain unchanged and the nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Residential Visual Amenity: southeast of Rhynie

7.5.10 Scattered residential properties to the southeast of Rhynie were identified in the EIA Report as likely to be significantly affected by views of the proposed turbines at 7-12km distance. The views from Viewpoint 12: Coreen Hills, Old Military Road are not representative of these views which are at a much lower elevation. SI 2021 Figure 7.6a illustrates the properties in this area of which there are approximately 20. Of these approximately five would potentially view the proposed development although most are mitigated by their orientation away from the Tap O' Noth, or screened by localised landform, farm buildings, mature woodland and / or garden vegetation such that the views would not be significantly affected. None of these residential properties would be affected in terms of their residential visual amenity and the proposed development would not have an overbearing effect or otherwise affect the living standards of individual properties such that any of these would become an unattractive place to live (as opposed to less attractive) when judged objectively, and in the public interest. This was due largely to the intervening distance, topographical screening and use / orientation of the property, such that the living standards would not be affected, and the property would not be adversely affected by 'visual dominance' that it would become an unattractive place to live when judged objectively and in the public interest, on a 'solus' or primary basis, or cumulatively.

Minor Roads southeast of Rhynie

7.5.11 The views from minor roads in this area are experienced sequentially and are similarly mitigated by the orientation of the views from the road, or screened by localised landform, farm buildings, mature woodland and / or garden vegetation. Other features in the view such as the Upper Wheedlemont Farm and Cairnmore turbines, may compete for attention and due to the lower elevation, the proposed turbines appear lower in the landscape in comparison to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, the Tap O' North and other existing wind turbines. The magnitude would be Moderate – Slight (reducing in the summer months due to increased foliage) and the level of effect **Moderate to Moderate / Minor** and not significant. There would be no change to that assessment as a result of the updated cumulative baseline *although the pre-planning proposal for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would reinforcing the appearance of wind farm development, where visible, appearing beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development.*

Residential Visual Amenity: southwest of Rhynie

7.5.12 There are approximately seven residential properties to the southwest of Rhynie and most are either on the edge of the ZTV (limited theoretical visibility), or potential views of the proposed

development would be mitigated by combinations of orientation of the views and screening from localised landform, farm buildings, mature woodland and / or garden vegetation such that the views (Slight to Negligible magnitude) would not be significantly affected. None of these residential properties would be affected in terms of their residential visual amenity on a 'solus' or primary basis, or cumulatively.

Minor Roads southwest of Rhynie

- 7.5.13 The view from the bend on the minor road between Rhynie and the B9002 at Wheedlemont has been reassessed as **Moderate** and not significant due to the Medium receptor sensitivity and the Moderate magnitude of change which is due to the partial landform screening of the proposed turbines and their lower elevation in the landscape, relative to surrounding hills including the Tap O' Noth. The cumulative visual effects of the proposed development *in addition to or in combination* with other wind energy development included in the updated cumulative baseline, would remain unchanged *although the pre-planning proposal for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would reinforcing the appearance of wind farm development, appearing beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and connecting to the proposed development.* The nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Views from The Broback, Glens of Foudland and Milltown of Rothiemay

- 7.5.14 Views from residential properties in The Broback area, between Glens of Foudland and the A97 and Milltown of Rothiemay were assessed as Moderately affected in the EIA Report. The Broback is a sparsely populated area south of Huntly, between Glens of Foudland and the A97 at approximately 9-10km distance from the proposed turbines. Approximately 3-4 properties would view the proposed turbines, although theoretical visibility would be limited by the orientation, and screening from localised landform, farm buildings, mature woodland and / or garden vegetation. Further settlement to the northeast between Glens of Foudland and the A97 (east of Huntly) is also sparsely populated and located between 16-20km northeast of the proposed turbines within an undulating area where the ZTV is fragmented. Viewpoints 8 and 16 are representative of the range of views likely to be experienced from this area.
- 7.5.15 The small settlement of Milltown of Rothiemay is located approximately 18km distance from the proposed turbines and is located on the edge of the ZTV, such that the main part of the settlement, including the church is outwith the hub height ZTV.
- 7.5.16 In all three cases the Viewpoint analysis indicates that the visual effects would not be significant at these distances, and it is likely that there would be further mitigation, limiting the theoretical visibility including the orientation of the view, and screening from localised landform, buildings, and vegetation. None of the residential properties in these three areas would be affected in terms of their residential visual amenity on a primary basis, or cumulatively.

Recreational Routes

Forest Roads and Paths within and adjacent to the Site

- 7.5.17 The EIA Report identified the views from forest roads and paths within and adjacent to the Site as likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development. The sensitivity of the views from recreational routes experienced by people is assessed as high.

- 7.5.18 The promoted paths within Clashindarroch Forest are indicated on SI 2021 Figures 7.4c-d and are all located to the south of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. There would be limited theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines due to the screening effects of intervening landform, and where visible the views would tend to be screened by forestry. Viewing from Mount of Haddoch the turbines would be viewed beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, such that the visual effect on views experienced by people on these paths would range from Negligible to Zero and at most Slight from Mount of Haddoch. The level of effect would range between **Moderate to Moderate / Minor** and not significant and the nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative to neutral.
- 7.5.19 In terms of cumulative effects, the visibility of other windfarms is also likely to be limited by the forestry cover, which despite forestry management and periodic felling, the area maintains tree cover sufficient to screen views from the majority of the area. Where visible the most notably existing and consented wind energy developments include Clashindarroch Wind Farm (Substantial magnitude) and Dorenell (Moderate to Slight magnitude) The cumulative visual effects of the proposed development *in addition* to these would not be significant (**Moderate to Moderate / Minor**) although the *in combination* cumulative effects would be **Major** and significant as a result of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. This assessment would remain unchanged in relation to other proposed wind farm applications (Scenario 2) including the application for Garbet (Slight magnitude when viewed from Mount of Haddoch only) and the *pre-planning proposals for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development), Glenfiddich, and Craig Watch, with the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) reinforcing the in combination cumulative effects (Major and significant as a result of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development))*.
- 7.5.20 Other promoted paths are routed through forestry and woodland from the Coynachie forest car park towards Drumfergus and similarly the views from these paths would characteristically be screened by intervening forestry with limited open views towards the proposed turbines. The overall visual experience of views from these paths is likely to be contained by woodland and not significant.
- 7.5.21 Other forestry tracks and roads are routed close to and through the proposed development Site and the views from these, particularly within 1-2km of the turbines where not screened by forestry are likely to range between Substantial and Moderate and the level of visual effect would be **Major to Major / Moderate** and significant. The cumulative visual effects of the proposed development *in addition* to or *in combination* with other wind energy development would remain unchanged and the nature of these effects would be direct, short-term (during construction) and long-term (during operation) reversible, cumulative and negative.

Hill Walking Routes and Hill Summits

- 7.5.22 The views from local hill summits are represented by the viewpoints 4: Tap O' North, 5: The Buck and 6: Clashmach Hill and assessed as part of the viewpoint and cumulative analysis in SI 2021 Appendix 7.2. Views from the summits of all three are assessed as significantly affected. A further viewpoint in the Coreen Hills is illustrated in Viewpoint 12 and is also significantly affected.
- 7.5.23 Views from the Tap O' Noth (assessed as **Major to Major / Moderate**) would be experienced as part of wider 360° views from the summit, with the proposed development located within the western sector of the view where largescale wind farm development and forestry is a key

characteristic. Despite this, the views of features such as Ben Rinnes remain clear and prominent on the skyline beyond. The northern half of the walk (Core Path to Tap O' Noth) would experience similar, significantly affected views at lower elevation although the main southernly views would be unaffected. The car park and the alternative eastern route to the summit would be outwith the ZTV with **No view** of the proposed development.

- 7.5.24 Views from The Buck (assessed as **Major / Moderate**) would be experienced as part of wider 360° views from the summit, with the proposed development located adjacent to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm to the north. There are two alternative routes to the summit, the one from the north (off the B9002) would be wholly within the ZTV and the views from this would increase in magnitude closer to the summit. The western route from the Cabrach is entirely outwith the ZTV and would have **No view** of the proposed development until reaching the summit.
- 7.5.25 Similarly, views from Clashmach Hill (assessed as **Major / Moderate**) would be experienced as part of wider 360° views from the summit, with the proposed development located in front of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm to the southwest. The main route is from the Huntly side (northeast) and is wholly outwith the ZTV with **No view** of the proposed development until reaching the summit.
- 7.5.26 The promoted viewpoint on the Old Military Road or Suie Road on the edge of the Coreen Hills is accessed via the road and there are three laybys and two benches to accommodate visitors at this location. The effects of the proposed development on the views experienced from this location are assessed as **Major / Moderate** for visitors and **Moderate** in respect of road users.

The Gordon Way

- 7.5.27 The Gordon Way was assessed as **Moderate** and not significantly affected in the EIA Report, when viewing the proposed development from where it would be most visible, along the western part of the route. This part of the route benefits from greater landform screening and intervening distance in comparison to Viewpoint 12. Overall, the effects would not be significant and they would reduce further if allowing the forestry cover. There would be no change to that assessment as a result of the updated cumulative baseline, although the *pre-planning proposals for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development), Glenfiddich, and Craig Watch would reinforce the appearance of wind energy development in that sector of the view, appearing in the far distance beyond the Clashindarroch Wind Farm.*

Other Core Paths

- 7.5.28 The Core Path east of Gartly (part of which is a proposed Core Path) was assessed as **Moderate** and not significantly affected in the EIA Report and much of the route, within the ZTV is between 8-10km distance and routed through forestry on Hill of Corskie. Even allowing for open views without forestry, the viewpoint analysis indicates that views from this location would not be significantly affected. There would be no change to that assessment as a result of the updated cumulative baseline *although the pre-planning proposal for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would reinforcing the appearance of wind farm development, where visible, appearing beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development.*
- 7.5.29 The Core Path southeast of Rhynie was assessed as Moderate and not significantly affected in the EIA Report and much of the route overlaps with the edge of the ZTV at between 7-9km

distance from the proposed turbines. ZTV and wireframe analysis indicates limited visibility from much of the route and whilst there are fine views of the Tap O' Noth the lower elevation means that the proposed turbines would be largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation along the route (Negligible magnitude) and the level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** and not significant. The Cairnmore turbines would be more visible to the south (Moderate magnitude) and the cumulative effect would be significant as a result of that development. *The pre-planning proposal for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would reinforcing the appearance of wind farm development, where visible, appearing beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm.*

7.5.30 The Core Path southwest of the Cabrach (SP30) was assessed as Moderate and not significantly affected in the EIA Report. The route is located between 6-10km distance (continuing beyond this through the Dorenell Wind Farm) with the proposed development viewed beyond the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, such that the additional visual effects (confirmed by wirelines) would not be significant (Slight to Negligible magnitude) and the level of effect would be **Moderate/Minor** and not significant. Dorenell would be more visible (Substantial magnitude) and the cumulative effect would be significant as a result of that development. The updated cumulative baseline would see the *pre-planning proposal for the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) appearing as a further significant development in front of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, further masking the effects of the proposed development when viewed from this route.*

7.5.31 The Core Path west of A941 near Bridgend (SP29) was assessed as Moderate and not significantly affected in the EIA Report. It is however, entirely outwith the ZTV and there would be **No View** of the proposed development from this route. Rather the EIA Report has assessed the views from local hill tracks / paths (which are not Core Paths) to the minor summits of Scat Hill (607m AOD), Meikle Firbriggs (539m AOD) and Carn Chrom (503m AOD) where the visual effects would be similar to those assessed for the Core Path southwest of the Cabrach (SP30) and would not be significant.

7.5.32 Paths between Haugh of Glass and Dufftown include the local hill tracks / paths to the minor hill summits of Hill of Mackalea (467m AOD) and The Scalp (487m AOD), none of which are Core Paths. They were assessed as Moderate and not significantly affected in the EIA Report. These hill and tracks are located between 8-8.5km distance viewing blades and blade tips of the proposed development beyond the Red Hill – Black Hill ridgeline (Slight to Negligible magnitude) and the visual effects would be **Moderate/Minor** and not significant. The updated cumulative baseline would see the Garbet application and the *pre-planning proposal for Craig Watch* appearing as significant development in the fore-ground and mid-ground respectively, further masking the effects of the proposed development when viewed from this route.

Summary of Residual Night-time Assessment

7.5.33 No significant landscape, visual or cumulative effects are predicted as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.

7.5.34 This includes the landscape character areas of *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (formerly the *Moorland Plateaux* LCT and *Grampian Outliers* LCA), *Open Upland* LCT, or the *Upland Valleys* LCT and the *Farmed and Wooded River Valleys* of the Deveron Valley, the *Farmed and Rolling Ridges and Hills* LCT around Tillathrowie or the *Farmed Moorland Edge* LCT and *Farmed Basin*

LCT of Aberdeenshire; designated landscapes and the Cairngorms Dark Sky Park and associated Dark Sky Discovery Sites.

- 7.5.35 Visual receptors included scattered settlement and local roads at Tillathrowie, Haugh of Glass and the A941, the latter two of which are not overlapped by the ZTV and would have no view of the proposed aviation warning lights.
- 7.5.36 Viewpoint N1: Minor road near Tillathrowie (SI 2021 Figure 7.13a-d) is representative of the views from receptors in the Tillathrowie area. The maximum light intensity at Viewpoint N1 would be $\leq 265-200\text{cd}$, occurring during periods of poor visibility ($< 5\text{km}$ which is likely to occur approximately 15% of the time). More typically the light intensity would be reduced to $\leq 27-20\text{cd}$ coinciding with periods when the visibility is $> 5\text{km}$ in all directions (likely to be approximately 85% of the time). The magnitude of change for this viewpoint would be Slight to Negligible and the effect of the aviation warning lights would be **Moderate to Moderate / Minor** at 2000cd reducing to **Moderate / Minor to Minor** at 200cd and not significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and negative to neutral.
- 7.5.37 Most people including hill walkers in the area, during the summer months, are unlikely to experience the aviation warning lights. For example, during the summer solstice the aviation warning lights would switch on at 22.45 and switch off at 04.00 in the morning. Local residents and local road users are more likely to experience the aviation warning lights during the winter months. For example, during the winter solstice the lights would come on at 16.17 and switch off at 08.17 in the morning. It is reasonable to expect that most people would be commuting or indoors during these periods of colder weather, during the twilight and night, and would experience the aviation warning lights incidentally to their main activity.
- 7.5.38 Operation of the aviation warning lights would have no adverse effect on periods of sunrise (when the sun disk passes above the horizon and the period just after this) and sunset (the period just before the sun disk passes below the horizon) as the operation is programmed to switch off 30 mins before sunrise and switch on 30 mins after sunset, respectively.

7.6 Changes to Significant Effects

- 7.6.1 A summary of the viewpoint analysis (SI 2021 Appendix 7.2) is set out in Table 7.5. It confirms the findings of the previous EIA Report that the views from five viewpoints (Viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 6, and 12) would be significantly affected.
- 7.6.2 A summary of the updated landscape and visual and cumulative assessment is provided in Tables 7.6 and 7.7.

Summary of Residual Landscape and Cumulative Effects

- 7.6.3 There would be no change to the overall landscape and cumulative landscape assessment in respect of significant effects, due to the updated cumulative baseline. The Clashindarroch subarea of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges* LCT (formerly the *Grampians Outliers* LCA, *Moorland Plateau* LCT) would be significantly affected by the proposed development during the construction and operational period.

Summary of Residual Visual and Cumulative Effects

7.6.4 There would be no change to the overall visual and cumulative visual assessment in respect of significant effects, due to the updated cumulative baseline. The following visual receptors would be significantly affected by the proposed development during the construction and operational periods:

- Views from up to eleven residential properties in the Tillathrowie area and part of two minor roads accessing this area (Viewpoint 1);
- Views from up to five residential properties southeast of Rhynie;
- Views from forestry roads / paths within and adjacent to the Site; and
- Views from hill summits (Viewpoints 4, 5, 6, and 12) including the Tap O' Noth and associated Core Path, and the summits of The Buck, Clashmach Hill and the Coreen Hills viewpoint.

7.6.5 The localised view from the bend on the minor road between Rhynie and the B9002 at Wheedlemont has been reassessed as **Moderate** and not significant.

Table 7.5: Updated Summary of Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint and distance to nearest turbine (km)	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)			CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect		Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 1: Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 2: Combined Effect:
1: Minor road nr Tillathrowie	3.7	High	Substantial – Moderate	Major to Major / Moderate	Negligible (Slight for borrow pit)	Major to Major / Moderate (PD)		No other wind farm applications visible.		
		Medium		Major / Moderate to Moderate		Major / Moderate to Moderate (PD)		No other wind farm applications visible.		
2: Minor road nr Backside	3.9	High	Zero	No View	N/A					
3: Haugh of Glass	6.2	High	Zero	No View	N/A					
4: Tap O' Noth	4.8	High	Substantial – Moderate	Major to Major / Moderate	Moderate	Major to Major / Moderate	Major (PD + Clashindarroch and Dorenell)	Slight – Negligible	Major to Major / Moderate	Major (PD + Clashindarroch + Ext and Dorenell)
5: The Buck	8.7	High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	Substantial – Moderate	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch, Kildrummy and Dorenell)	Slight	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch + Ext, Kildrummy and Dorenell)
6: Clashmach Hill	7.2	High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch)	Negligible	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch + Ext)
7: A920 between Huntly and Dufftown	7.6	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Slight	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Medium	Slight	Moderate (Garbet)
8: Minor road nr Course, southeast of A97	17.2	High	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)	Negligible	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)
9: Minor road off B9117 nr Milltown of Rothiemay	19.7	High	Slight – Negligible	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Slight	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Negligible	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor
10: A96 between Huntly and Keith	12.5	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Substantial	Minor	Major / Moderate (Edintore)	Negligible	Minor	Major / Moderate (Edintore)

Viewpoint and distance to nearest turbine (km)	Sensitivity		LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
11: Battle Hill, Huntly	11.0	High	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Zero	N/A	N/A
12: Coreen Hills, Old Military Road	13.5	High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch)	Negligible	Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Clashindarroch + Ext)
		Medium		Moderate		Moderate	Moderate		Moderate	
13: Ben Rinnes	17.8	High	Slight	Moderate	Medium	Slight	Major / Moderate (Dorenell)	Moderate – Slight	Slight	Major / Moderate (Dorenell + Rothes II + Clash Gour)
14: Knock Hill	23.6	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Lurg + Aultmore)	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Lurg + Aultmore)
15: Ben Aigan	19.6	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Hill of Towie I + II)	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Hill of Towie I + II + Rothes II + Clash Gour)
16: A96. Leys of Dummuies	11.8	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Zero	N/A	N/A
17: Oxen Craig	23.8	High	Slight - Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate
18: Burnside, north of Newmill	19.7	High	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Edintore)	Slight	Minor	Major / Moderate (Edintore)
19: Ladder Hills, Little Geal Charn	18.1	High	Slight - Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell)	Negligible	Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell)
20: Meikle Balloch	16.2	High	Slight - Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate

Table 7.6: Updated Summary of Residual Landscape and Cumulative Landscape Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 1: Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 2: Combined Effect:
Direct Landscape Effects on the 'Host': <i>Outlying Hills and Ridges</i> LCT (Formerly: <i>Grampian Outliers</i> LCA, <i>Moorland Plateaux</i> LCT)									
Construction Effects:	Medium	Zero to Substantial	None to Major / Moderate	Cumulative effects would increase from None at the start of construction to the operational levels of Major / Moderate (due to the proposed development and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm).					
Operational Effects:		Substantial (<1-2km)	Major / Moderate (<1-2km)	Substantial (Clashindarroch)	Major / Moderate	Major / Moderate (<1-2km – PD + Clashindarroch)	Negligible	Major / Moderate	Major / Moderate (<1-2km – PD + Clashindarroch + Ext)
Decommissioning Effects:		Substantial to Negligible	Major / Moderate to Minor	The residual cumulative effects post decommissioning would be Moderate / Minor to Minor.					
Indirect Landscape Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character within 10km									
Aberdeenshire LCTs									
Outlying Hills and Ridges (Grampian Outliers LCA)	Medium	Slight	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Substantial (Clashindarroch)	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch)	Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch + Ext)
	High to Medium within SLAs	Slight		Slight		Moderate to Moderate / Minor			Moderate to Moderate / Minor
Open Upland (Open Uplands LCA)	Medium	Slight to Negligible	Moderate / Minor to Minor	Substantial (Clashindarroch + Dorenell)	Moderate / Minor to Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch + Dorenell)	Substantial (Garbet)	Moderate / Minor to Minor	Major / Moderate (Garbet + Dorenell + Clashindarroch + pre-planning schemes)

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills (Northern Rolling Lowlands LCA)	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (Deveron and Bogie Straths LCA)	High-Medium	Slight	Moderate to Minor	Medium	Moderate to Minor	Major / Moderate (Cairnborrow)	Slight	Moderate to Minor	Major / Moderate (Cairnborrow + Meikleton of Ardonald)
Farmed Moorland Edge (Lumsden Valley LCA)	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Upper Wheedlemont Farm + Cairnmore)	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Upper Wheedlemont Farm + Cairnmore)	Zero	No effect	
Farmed Moorland Edge (Daugh of Cairnborrow LCA)	High-Medium to Medium	Slight	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor
Farmed Basin (Insch Basin LCA)	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Upland Farmed Valleys (Upland Farmland LCA)	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Substantial (Hill of Towie I + II + Edintore)	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Hill of Towie I + II + Edintore)	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Hill of Towie I + II + Edintore)
Upland Glens – Cairngorms (The North-Eastern Hills LCA)	High to High-Medium	Slight	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Dorenell)	Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Dorenell)
New: Upland Valleys Moray and Nairn LCT (Uplands LCT and Open Uplands LCA)	New LCT not assessed.			Slight	Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor
	High-Medium	Negligible	Moderate / Minor to Minor						

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
Indirect Effects on Landscape Planning Designations									
Cairngorms National Park	High	Negligible	Moderate – Minor	Moderate	Moderate – Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell + Kildrummy)	Slight	Moderate – Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell + Kildrummy)
Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High to Medium	Slight – Negligible	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Moderate	Moderate – Minor	Major/ Moderate (Cairnborrow + PD)	Moderate	Moderate – Minor	Major/ Moderate (Garbet + Craig Watch + Cairnborrow + PD)
Bennachie SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High to Medium	Slight	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Slight	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Negligible	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor
Upper Don Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High to Medium	Slight	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Slight	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor	Negligible	Moderate – Minor	Moderate to Moderate – Minor
New: Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)	High to Medium	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell)	Slight	Minor	Major / Moderate (Dorenell)
New: Deveron Valley SLA (Moray)	High to Medium	Negligible to Zero	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Minor

Table 7.7: Updated Summary of Residual Visual and Cumulative Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
Settlement and Scattered Residential Properties:									
Tillathrowie: Three properties: (Glenburn Easter Tillathrowie and Whitestones of Tillathrowie).	High	Substantial (Moderate overall)	Major (Major / Moderate overall)	Negligible	Major (Major / Moderate overall)	Major (Major / Moderate overall)	Zero	N/A	
Eight properties: Wester Tillathrowie and Forest Holdings, Bogairdy and the Schoolhouse.	High	Moderate	Major / Moderate	Slight	Major / Moderate	Major / Moderate	Zero	N/A	
Hugh of Glass	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Daugh of Invermarkie	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Bridgend	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Residential properties at The Brobback	High	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Zero	N/A	
Residential properties southeast of Rhynie	High	Moderate - Slight	Major / Moderate to Moderate	Moderate	Major / Moderate to Moderate	Major / Moderate (PD + Cairnmore + Upper Wheedlemont)	Zero	N/A	
Residential	High	Slight to	Moderate to	Negligible	Moderate to	Moderate to	Zero	N/A	

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
properties southwest of Rhynie		Negligible	Moderate / Minor		Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor			
Residential properties between the Glens of Foudland and the A97	High	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)	Negligible	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)
Milltown of Rothiemay	High	Slight – Negligible	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor
Transport Routes									
A96	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Substantial	Minor	Major (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)	Negligible	Minor	Major (Glens of Foudland + Dummuies)
A97	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate to Moderate / Minor
A920	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Substantial to Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Cairnborrow)	Substantial to Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Cairnborrow + Garbet + Craig Watch)
A941	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Substantial to Moderate	Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch + Dorenell)	Substantial	Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch + Ext + Dorenell)
B9002	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Substantial	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Clashindarroch + Ext)

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 1: Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	Scenario 2: Combined Effect:
B9016	Medium	Negligible	Minor	Slight	Minor	Moderate	Zero	N/A	
B9022	Medium	Slight	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate
Minor road to Tillathrowie	Medium	Substantial – Moderate to Moderate	Major / Moderate to Moderate	Slight	Major / Moderate to Moderate	Major / Moderate to Moderate	Zero	N/A	
Minor road to Coynachie	Medium	Moderate to Negligible	Moderate to Minor	Slight	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor	Zero	N/A	
Minor roads southwest of Rhynie	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial to Moderate	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Upper Wheedlemont Farm)	Negligible	Moderate	Major / Moderate (Upper Wheedlemont Farm)
Minor road southeast of Rhynie (bend between Rhynie and the B9002).	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Zero	N/A	
Recreational Routes									
The Gordon Way	High	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Negligible	Moderate	Moderate
Core Path: Tap O’ Noth	High	Substantial- Moderate	Major to Major/Moderate	Moderate	Major to Major/Moderate	Major (PD + Clashindarroch and Dorenell)	Slight— Negligible	Major to Major/Moderate	Major (PD + Clashindarroch + Ext and Dorenell)
Core Path: East of Gartly	High	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	Negligible	Moderate	Moderate
Core Path: East of Rhynie	High	Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Major / Moderate (Cairnmore)	Slight – Negligible	Moderate / Minor	Major/Moderate (Cairnmore)
Core Path: Southwest of	High	Slight -	Moderate / Minor	Substantial	Moderate / Minor	Major (Dorenell)	Substantial	Moderate / Minor	Major (Clashindarroch +

Receptor	Sensitivity	LVIA: Primary Assessment: (Proposed Development only)		CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
		Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Effect:	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Effect of PD	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Effect:
Cabrach		Negligible							Ext + Dorenell)
Core Path: West of A941 near Bridgend	High	Zero	No View	N/A					
Paths between Haugh of Glass and Dufftown	High	Slight-Negligible	Moderate/Minor	Slight	Moderate/Minor	Moderate	Substantial	Moderate/Minor	Major (Garbet + Craig Watch)
Forest roads / paths within and adjacent to the Site	High	Substantial	Major	Substantial	Major	Major (PD + Clashindarroch)	Negligible	Major	Major (PD + Clashindarroch)

Hill Walking: See Viewpoint Analysis in Table 7.5

8 Chapter 8: Ornithology

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This Chapter provides a brief review of the conclusions of the EIA Report of the proposed development with respect to potential cumulative effects on key ornithological receptors (see Chapter 8 of the EIA Report).

8.1.2 The EIA Report assessment has been reviewed in relation to new information on wind farm proposals that has been made public since the EIA Report assessment was completed. This review focuses on those proposals that have the potential to act cumulatively with the proposed development, resulting in potentially significant additive effects on the relevant ornithological receptors, arising from impacts such as wind turbine collision mortality, disturbance, displacement and habitat loss.

8.1.3 The EIA Report assessment considered the following ornithological receptors in relation to potentially significant cumulative effects:

- Breeding goshawk (focusing on wind farms, operational or proposed, within c. 10km of the proposed development); and
- Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA (focusing on wind farms, operational or proposed, within 25km of the SPA).

8.1.4 Based on the information available at that time (i.e., December 2019), the EIA Report assessment concluded the following:

- Para 8.297 - *The potential for cumulative impacts on certain key receptors (e.g. goshawk) to occur as a result of interactions with proposed and existing wind farms in the wider area has been considered based on the available information obtained from the published impact assessments of these proposals. No significant cumulative impacts on any receptor were identified in the assessment.*
- Para 8.298 - *...the Clashindarroch II Wind Farm proposal, in combination with other plans or projects considered in the cumulative assessment, would not result in any material adverse effect on any bird populations associated with SPAs in the region or adversely affect, directly or indirectly, any other statutory or non-statutory site designated for its ornithological importance.*

8.2 Updated Information

8.2.1 Since the EIA Report cumulative impact assessment was completed several new wind farm proposals have entered the planning process. Table 8.1 provides a summary of the wind farm proposals that were not considered at the time of the original cumulative assessment as there was either no information in the public domain or no detailed assessment information available to quantify potential cumulative effects.

Table 8.1: Wind Farm Proposals Entering the Planning Process since the EIA Report

Project Name	Location relative to the Proposed Development	No. Turbines	Status	Information Available
Craig Watch Wind Farm	c. 4km northwest	18	Scoping	Pre-EIA, no assessment information available
Garbet Wind Farm	c. 6km northwest	7	Application	Detailed impact assessment information available.
Glenfiddich Wind Farm	c. 8km west	11	Scoping	Pre-EIA, no assessment information available
Edintore II (Cairds Wood)	c. 13km north	7	Scoping	Pre-EIA, no assessment information available
Berry Burn Extension	c. 34km northwest	9	Application	Detailed impact assessment information available.
Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	c. 1km west	28	Scoping	Pre-EIA, no assessment information available

8.2.2 Table 8.2 provides a summary of the conclusions drawn from the available published assessments, relevant to the focal species considered in the original cumulative assessment for the proposed development. For proposals at pre-EIA stage a note is made of the potential for cumulative effects to occur, based the limited information currently available (e.g., scoping layout plan only).

Table 8.2: Summary of Assessment Conclusions with respect to Potential Cumulative Ornithological Effects from Wind Farm Proposals Entering the Planning Process since the EIA Report

Project Name	Breeding Goshawk	Common Gull (SPA population)
Craig Watch Wind Farm	Potentially suitable breeding habitat present within the site. Potential for cumulative effects in relation to habitat loss and collision mortality.	Potential for collision mortality and displacement effects to occur.
Garbet Wind Farm	Recorded during surveys but not breeding within the site, no impacts reported.	Collision risk modelling estimated between one bird strike every 5.7 to 37.99 years. No effect on the integrity of the SPA alone or in combination with any other plans or projects (NB the proposed development was not considered in the cumulative assessment).

Project Name	Breeding Goshawk	Common Gull (SPA population)
Glenfiddich Wind Farm	Potentially suitable breeding habitat present within the site. Potential for cumulative effects in relation to habitat loss and collision mortality.	Potential for collision mortality and displacement effects to occur.
Edintore II (Cairds Wood)	Outside of cumulative assessment study area	Potential for collision mortality and displacement effects to occur.
Berry Burn Extension	Site located outside of the cumulative assessment study area	Site located outside of cumulative assessment study area
Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	No suitable breeding habitat within the Site, however there is the potential for cumulative collision mortality.	Potential for collision mortality and displacement effects to occur.

8.3 Updated Assessment

Goshawk

- 8.3.1 In the EIA Report it was concluded that significant cumulative collision mortality effects were unlikely to occur for the goshawk population within the study area based on the published collision risk modelling results. Habitat disturbance, loss/change were considered to be the more important potential effects on the population, resulting from tree felling, particularly for those wind farm proposals where large-scale tree clearance was proposed. The potential for this species to successfully adapt in response to changes in forest structure, resulting from typical commercial forest management, has been demonstrated at Clashindarroch Forest and is also evident in many other conifer plantations across Scotland where goshawk have established breeding populations which are stable or gradually expanding.
- 8.3.2 The wind farm proposals within the study area that have entered the consenting process since the EIA Report assessment, and for which there are detailed assessments available (i.e., only Garbet wind farm in this case), have not reported any adverse effects on goshawk. On this basis no change to the conclusions of the EIA Report cumulative assessment for the proposed development is considered necessary at this time.
- 8.3.3 There is the potential for cumulative adverse effects (collision mortality, disturbance and habitat loss/displacement) from several other new proposed wind farms for which there is no detailed assessment information currently available (e.g., Craig Watch, Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)). It is unknown if there are breeding goshawk present within these sites that could be affected by the proposals. In the absence of more detailed information to draw meaningful conclusions this has not been considered further. It is assumed that any potentially significant cumulative effects, whilst considered unlikely to occur, will be assessed as part of the EIA process for those projects and that the effects of the proposed development would be taken into account in the assessment. It is considered unlikely that applications for any of these proposals would be determined before a decision is made on the proposed development.

Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA

- 8.3.4 The EIA Report assessment of the proposed development focused on potential collision mortality and barrier effects on breeding common gulls ranging from and returning to the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA colony sites. Both potential effects were assessed to be negligible for the proposed development. Following a detailed review of information available on other wind farm proposals within 25km of the SPA, it was also concluded that the proposed development, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, would not result in an effect on the integrity of the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA. NatureScot confirmed, in their response to the EIA Report, that they agree with this conclusion.
- 8.3.5 Since the EIA Report assessment several new wind farm proposals have emerged within the study area, some of which have the potential to adversely affect common gulls that are part of the SPA population. There is detailed impact assessment information available for only one of those proposals (Garbet Wind Farm). The published cumulative assessment of Garbet Wind Farm only considered those wind farms that were operational or had planning approval at that time (i.e., January 2021). Consequently, the proposed development was not considered in the cumulative assessment for that proposal. However, from the information provided in the EIA Report, should both proposed wind farms be consented and built, the combined potential collision mortality would remain at a negligible level relative to the SPA population.
- 8.3.6 The potential for appreciable ‘barrier to movement’ cumulative effects was determined to be negligible in the EIA Report assessment of the proposed development. The locations of the two proposals, in relation to their physical separation and positions relative to the common gull breeding colony sites and favoured foraging areas, means that cumulative ‘barrier to movement’ effects are also considered to remain unchanged from the EIA Report assessment.

8.4 Changes to Significant Effects

- 8.4.1 A review of new wind farm proposals that have entered the planning process since the EIA Report assessment of the proposed development has been completed. It has been determined, based on the currently available proposal and assessment information, that no change to the EIA Report assessment of potential cumulative impacts, for any sensitive ornithological receptor, is warranted at this time.

9 Chapter 9: Ecology

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This Chapter provides a brief review of the conclusions of the EIA Report of the proposed development with respect to potentially significant cumulative effects on key ecological receptors (see Chapter 9 of the EIA Report).

9.1.2 The EIA Report assessment has been reviewed in relation wind farm proposals that have been made public since the original assessment was completed. This review focuses on those proposals that have the potential to act cumulatively with the proposed development, resulting in potentially significant effects on the relevant ecological receptors, arising from impacts such as wind turbine mortality (bats), habitat loss, habitat degradation, disturbance.

9.1.3 The EIA Report assessment considered the following ecological receptors in relation to potentially significant cumulative effects:

- Fish populations (focusing on plantation felling within the same sub-catchments that the proposed development is located within); and
- Protected species (focusing on bats and wildcat, in the context of the wider Clashindarroch Forest).

9.1.4 The assessments concluded the following, based on the information that was available at that time (i.e. December 2019):

- Para 9.325 - *Felling required for the wind farm would not be completed at the same time as other significant harvesting operations elsewhere within the forest. This would also help to ensure that potentially significant cumulative effects on fish populations from tree harvesting within the wider catchments of the Kirkney Water and the Lag Burn can be avoided.*
- Para 9.331 - *...significant cumulative effects (on bats and wildcat) are not anticipated, particularly when the proposed suite of mitigation measures to avoid, minimise and offset effects, are taken into consideration.*

9.1.5 The study area for the assessment of potential cumulative effects on fish populations and protected mammal species was based on Clashindarroch Forest. Focusing on the potential for cumulative adverse effects to arise from the operation of the existing Clashindarroch wind farm and from forest felling, thinning and other management measures under the Clashindarroch Forest Landscape Management Plan.

9.2 Updated Information

9.2.1 Since the EIA Report cumulative impact assessment was completed several new wind farm proposals have entered the consenting process. Table 9.1 provides a summary of the wind farm proposals that were not considered at the time of the EIA Report cumulative assessment as there was either no information in the public domain or no information available to base a reliable assessment of potential cumulative effects.

9.2.2 Table 9.1 provides a summary of the conclusions drawn from the available published assessments, for the relevant ecological receptors considered in the EIA Report assessment of the proposed development. For proposals at pre-EIA stage a note is made of the potential for cumulative effects to occur based the limited information currently available (e.g. scoping layout plan only).

Table 9.1: Summary of Assessment Conclusions with respect to Potential Cumulative Ecological Effects from Wind Farm Proposals Entering the Consenting Process since the EIA Report

Project Name	Fish Populations	Protected Species
Craig Watch Wind Farm	Located within a different sub-catchment to the proposed development.	Due to site location/distance from the proposed development, unlikely to result in any potentially significant cumulative effects on the same populations affected by the proposed development.
Garbet Wind Farm	Located within a different sub-catchment to the proposed development.	Due to site location/distance from the proposed development, unlikely to result in any potentially significant cumulative effects on the same populations affected by the proposed development.
Glenfiddich Wind Farm	Located within a different sub-catchment to the proposed development.	Due to site location/distance from the proposed development, unlikely to result in any potentially significant cumulative effects on the same populations affected by the proposed development.
Edintore II (Cairds Wood)	Well outside of the cumulative assessment study area.	Due to site location/distance from the proposed development, unlikely to result in any potentially significant cumulative effects on the same populations affected by the proposed development.
Berry Burn Extension	Site located well outside of the cumulative assessment study area.	Site located well outside of cumulative assessment study area.
Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	Located within a different sub-catchment to the proposed development.	Potential for cumulative adverse effects on bats and wildcat.

9.3 Updated Assessment

Fish Populations

9.3.1 None of the proposed developments, that have emerged since the EIA Report assessment of the proposed development, have the potential to adversely affect the same sub-catchments and associated fish populations as the proposed development.

Bats

- 9.3.2 Of the new proposals, only Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) has the potential to result in cumulative operational mortality effects on the same bat populations that would be affected by the proposed development. However, in the absence of detailed baseline survey results and assessment findings it is not possible, at this time, to accurately quantify the potential scale of cumulative effect.
- 9.3.3 Given the elevated, open moorland habitats of the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) site, it is likely that bat activity would be comparatively low, relative to the afforested proposed development area. It is reasonable to assume that, if the baseline survey results and assessment of that proposed wind farm concludes potentially significant 'within project' and/or cumulative mortality effects, then appropriate mitigation measures would be proposed (such as turbine curtailment during higher risk bat activity periods). This should mean that potentially significant cumulative mortality on the bat populations affected would be avoided.

Wildcat

- 9.3.4 The proposed Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) is considered to have the potential to result in cumulative construction and operational effects on the same wildcat territories that would be affected by the proposed development. However, in the absence of detailed baseline survey results and assessment findings from the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) site it is not possible, at this time, to accurately quantify the potential scale of cumulative effect.
- 9.3.5 Habitat suitability for wildcat within the elevated open moorland of the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) site may be relatively low in comparison to woodland / woodland and farmland edge habitats at lower elevations. However, such managed moorland habitats can provide a source of prey for wildcat. The surveys and desk study work completed for the proposed development did not reveal any records of wildcat (hybrid or suspected / confirmed wildcats) within or close to the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) site. However, it is unclear how much survey effort has been expended in that area, given the focus of wildcat monitoring within Clashindarroch Forest. As was the case for the proposed development, it is reasonable to assume that if the baseline survey results and assessment of Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) concludes that potentially significant 'within project' and cumulative adverse effects are possible, then appropriate mitigation measures would be proposed (e.g., pre-construction surveys, avoidance of disturbance to den sites, habitat management measures to offset potential operational disturbance/displacement effects). This should mean that significant cumulative effects would be avoided.

9.4 Changes to Significant Effects

- 9.4.1 A review of new wind farm proposals that have entered the planning process since the assessment of the proposed development has been completed. It has been determined, based on the proposal and assessment information currently available, that no change to the EIA Report assessment of potential cumulative impacts, for any sensitive ecological receptor, is necessary at this time.

10 Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 This Chapter provides an updated assessment of predicted cumulative effects on heritage assets. It therefore replaces the assessment previously reported in paragraphs 10.123 and 10.124 of the EIA Report.
- 10.1.2 This updated assessment takes account of changes in the wind farm developments that potentially contribute to cumulative effects (described Chapter 2 of the SI) and a decision by the Applicant to consider the proposed Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development). This scheme is currently only at scoping stage and would not otherwise have been considered as part of the cultural heritage cumulative impact assessment.
- 10.1.3 The updated assessment also takes account of comments received from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in its response to the EIA Report regarding the relevance of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm to the cumulative impact assessment (letter from HES to ECU dated 13 March 2020 which is summarised in Table 6.1 of this SI). This has led to a change in assessment methods.

10.2 Updated Position

Assessment methods

- 10.2.1 The approach to assessment remains that adopted in the EIA Report (paragraph 10.39) with the exception of the treatment of operational wind farms. Cumulative effects are assessed for those assets that have been assessed as receiving an above negligible impact from the proposed development. The cumulative contributor developments are other wind farm developments within 10km of the affected heritage asset that are operational, or have been given consent, or have an active application or are undergoing a planning appeal.
- 10.2.2 In the EIA Report, operational wind farms were excluded from the cumulative assessment but they are now included. This change addresses comments received from HES regarding the relevance of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm to the assessment of cumulative effects (letter from HES to ECU dated 13 March 2020).
- 10.2.3 In addition to the wind farm schemes that fall within the scope of the cumulative assessment as defined in paragraph 10.2.1 of the SI, the Applicant has decided to also consider the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development). This is despite the fact that no application has yet been lodged for this scheme which is currently at scoping stage. The rationale for including this scheme is its likely size and proximity to the proposed development.
- 10.2.4 This updated cumulative assessment has therefore considered the following four scenarios:
- Scenario 1: the additional impact of the proposed development against a cumulative baseline of all operational, consented and current wind farm applications within 10km;
 - Scenario 2: the combined impact of the proposed development and all operational, consented and current wind farm applications within 10km; and

- Scenario 3: the additional impact of Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) against a cumulative baseline of all operational, consented and current wind farm applications (including the proposed development) within 10km;
- Scenario 4: the combined impact of the proposed development, Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) and all operational, consented and current wind farm applications within 10km.

Updated cumulative position

10.2.5 The cultural heritage cumulative assessment only takes account of wind farms that are within 10km of the proposed development. It therefore only deals with a sub-set of the schemes listed in Table 2.1 in Chapter 2 of the SI. Wind farms considered in the cultural heritage cumulative assessment are listed in Table 10.1 and their locations are shown in SI 2021 Figure 7.1a.

Table 10.1: Wind Farms Considered in the Cumulative Assessment

Development	Status	Number of turbines	Distance (km) from the Proposed Development
Upper Wheadlemont Farm	Operational	2	6.6
Clashindarroch	Operational	18	0.5
Cairnmore	Operational	3	9.3
Dorenell	Operational	59	9.2
Midtown of Glass	Operational	1	9.1
Cairnborrow	Operational	5	8.7
Bailiesward Farm	Operational	1	4.8
Garbet Hill	Application	7	6
Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development)	Scoping	28	1.1

Heritage assets considered in assessment

- 10.2.6 In the context of onshore wind farm development, the potential for cumulative effects on the significance of heritage assets arises when two or more operational schemes are present in the setting of a heritage asset. This potential for cumulative effects is only relevant to the current assessment when a heritage asset is predicted to experience adverse impacts of more than negligible magnitude from the proposed development in isolation. The only asset where this applies is the Tap O' Noth fort (SM63); the scope of the cumulative assessment is therefore limited to this Scheduled Monument, as it was in the EIA Report.

10.3 Updated Assessment

Setting of the Tap O' Noth fort

- 10.3.1 Tap O' Noth fort is considered in the EIA Report at paragraphs 10.88 to 10.95. The contribution that setting makes to the significance of this asset has already been described in the EIA Report (paragraphs 10.90 and 10.91):

“Tap O' Noth hill forms a dominant presence in the immediate area and can be seen over considerable distances. The views from the hill fort, especially the inner ramparts, extend to great distances, especially towards the south east and east, where the North Sea is visible in clear conditions. To the south views from the inner ramparts do not extend as far, but do have commanding views of the ridge of hills in that direction. To the west the views are more constrained by the series of ridges and hills that lie in that direction. These long distance views and the visual dominance of Tap O' Noth hill are the principal element of the setting of the fort, reflecting both the strategic value of such a location in controlling the surrounding area, and the visual display of status made by those who controlled Tap O' Noth. Clear visibility in the surrounding region is also implied in the Act of Parliament concerning lighting of the beacons.”

“A related element of the setting of Tap O' Noth is its visual relationship with other heritage assets that were also centres of power, in particular other hill forts. It has been posited that smaller hill fort sites within the surrounding area would have formed subordinate centres of power to Tap O' Noth. This has been particularly raised with respect to Cnoc Cailliche fort. The direct visual relationship between the sites, including the size differences and the height differences between the forts, implies a regional power hierarchy with Tap O' Noth fort being the paramount of the hierarchy.”

- 10.3.2 The contribution that setting makes to the significance of the Tap O' Noth therefore relates to our ability to appreciate it as a physically and socially dominant central place in the Iron Age. This is experienced in commanding open elevated views out from the fort over the landscape that it formerly controlled and in views up to the hillfort from the surrounding landscape (including from subsidiary Iron Age settlement sites). Examples of these views are illustrated by photographs in the EIA Report (Plates 10.1, 2, 3 and 7).

Visual relationship of Tap O' Noth fort with wind farms

- 10.3.3 The wind farms to be considered as part of this cumulative assessment can be described in three groups that reflect their location, size and numbers of turbines.

- 10.3.4 Looking south from the Tap O' Noth there are two small clusters of wind turbines at Upper Wheadlemont Farm and Cairnmore, 3-5km from the fort. Looking north, there are single turbines at Bailliesward Farm and Midtown of Glass with a cluster of five at Cairnborrow, 8-15km from the fort. All of these operational schemes involve small numbers of turbines no more than 81m in height blade-tip.
- 10.3.5 Looking west from the Tap O'Noth, there are currently two operational schemes visible in the setting of the fort: the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm (18 turbines at least 4.5km away) and, behind it, Dorenell (59 turbines at least 14.5km away). The proposed development (14 turbines at range of at least 4.8km), would be seen immediately to the north of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm with the seven turbines of the Garbet application behind the proposed development at a range of at least 12km and largely screened by the landform. Finally, the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) as currently proposed at scoping, would appear behind and to the south of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm with 28 turbines at a range of at least 7km.
- 10.3.6 Comparing the various wind farms that are currently visible or might be present in future in the setting of Tap O' Noth fort, it is considered that only the cluster of three 'Clashindarroch' wind farms to the west are of sufficient scale and visual prominence to make a material contribution to cumulative impacts. The assessments that follow therefore focus on these three wind farms.
- 10.3.7 The appearance of these three Clashindarroch wind farms in the view looking west from the Tap O' Noth is illustrated by cumulative wireframe views from Viewpoint 4 (SI 2021 Figure 7.8). A view looking northwest towards the Tap O' Noth with the Clashindarroch wind farms appearing beside it is provided by Viewpoint 12, Correen Hills (SI 2021 Figure 7.11).

Impact Assessment

10.3.8 Four different cumulative scenarios have been assessed:

- Scenario 1: The additional impact of the proposed development against a baseline containing the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm;
- Scenario 2: The combined impact of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development;
- Scenario 3: The additional impact of the proposed development against a baseline containing the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development); and
- Scenario 4: The combined impact of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, the proposed development and Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development).

10.3.9 As noted above, no other wind farms considered as part of this assessment (listed in Table 10.1 of the SI) are judged to have potential to make a material contribution to cumulative impacts on Tap O' Noth fort due to their small scale or considerable distance from this heritage asset.

Scenario 1

10.3.10 Scenario 1 assesses the additional impact of the proposed development against a baseline containing the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. Because no other wind farms are drawn into the assessment, this is an identical assessment to that presented in the EIA Report for the Tap

O' Noth at paragraphs 10.88 to 10.95. The findings of that assessment are considered to be correct by the current assessor and are repeated here.

- 10.3.11 The additional impact of the proposed development on the significance of the Tap O'Noth, against a baseline containing the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, is considered to be an adverse impact of **very low magnitude**. This would result in a **slight effect** on the significance of Tap O' Noth, that would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

Scenario 2

- 10.3.12 Scenario 2 assesses the combined impact of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development. Looking out west from the Tap O' Noth, the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development would be experienced as a single group of turbines sited on lower forested hills and separated from the Tap O' Noth by low ground (see SI 2021 Figure 7.8). The presence of the turbines to the west would not obstruct the open panoramic views from the fort in any direction. The greater height of the Tap O' Noth would preserve the sense of physical and social dominance, relevant to our appreciation of the importance of the fort in the Iron Age, with the wind turbines remaining subordinate to the fort.
- 10.3.13 In views of the Tap O' Noth from the southeast (see SI 2021 Figure 7.11) the turbines would again be experienced as a single group. However, the turbines of the proposed development would be seen immediately adjacent, below the hill, with the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm turbines more distant and partially screened by the landform. The fort would not be experienced in combination with the wind farms in informative views from other directions, notably from lower ground to the southwest and south along the A941 and in the vicinity of Rhynie. Similarly, no views from other related Iron Age settlement sites would be affected.
- 10.3.14 Combining the analysis of views towards and from the fort, it is concluded that the contribution made by setting to the significance of this asset would be largely unaffected by the combined presence of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development. This is judged to be an adverse impact of **very low magnitude**. This would result in a **slight effect** on the significance of Tap O' Noth, that would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

Scenario 3

- 10.3.15 Scenario 3 assesses the additional impact of the proposed development against a baseline containing the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development). The likely appearance of Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) is based on a scoping layout that may be subject to change if and when an application is lodged. Using the current scoping layout, Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would form part of an enlarged single group of wind turbines with the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, extending the group further to the south and west, away from the Tap O' Noth.
- 10.3.16 Looking out west from the Tap O' Noth, the proposed development would be experienced (as in Scenario 1) as a northern extension to an existing group of turbines, sited on lower forested hills and separated from the Tap O' Noth by low ground (see SI 2021 Figure 7.8). The presence of the proposed development turbines to the west would not obstruct the open panoramic views from the fort in any direction. The greater height of the Tap O' Noth would preserve the sense of physical and social dominance, relevant to our appreciation of the importance of the fort in the Iron Age, with the wind turbines of the proposed development remaining subordinate to the fort.

- 10.3.17 In views of the Tap O' Noth from the southeast (see SI 2021 Figure 7.11) the proposed development's turbines would be experienced as the northern end of a larger group of turbines, extending that group closer to the fort. However, as illustrated by SI 2021 figure 7.11, their relative height means that they would remain subordinate to the Tap O' Noth. As in Scenario 1, the fort would not be experienced in combination with the wind farms in informative views from other directions and no views from other related Iron Age settlement sites would be affected.
- 10.3.18 Combining the analysis of views towards and from the fort, it is concluded that the addition of the proposed development would be an adverse impact of **very low magnitude** on the significance of the Tap O' Noth fort. This would result in a **slight effect** on the significance of the fort that would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

Scenario 4

- 10.3.19 Scenario 4 assesses the combined impact of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, the proposed development and Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development).
- 10.3.20 Looking out west from the Tap O' Noth, the three wind farms would be experienced (as in Scenario 2) as a single group of turbines sited on lower forested hills and separated from the Tap O' Noth by low ground (see SI 2021 Figure 7.8). The addition of the Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) could extend the spread of turbines to the south (away from the Tap O' Noth). The presence of the turbines to the west would not obstruct the open panoramic views from the fort in any direction. The greater height of the Tap O' Noth would preserve the sense of physical and social dominance, relevant to our appreciation of the importance of the fort in the Iron Age, with the wind turbines remaining subordinate to the fort.
- 10.3.21 In views of the Tap O' Noth from the southeast (see SI 2021 Figure 7.11) the turbines would again still be experienced as a single group with the proposed development's turbines closest to the fort. However, the turbines of Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development) would create a more-prominent southward extension to the group, appearing on the skyline above the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm turbines. As in Scenario 2, the fort would not be experienced in combination with the wind farms in informative views from other directions and no views from other related Iron Age settlement sites would be affected.
- 10.3.22 Combining the analysis of views towards and from the fort, it is concluded that the greater combined visibility of these three wind farms in the setting does not substantively increase any adverse impact on the contribution made by setting to the significance of this asset. The contribution would still be largely unaffected by the combined presence of the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, the proposed development and Clashindarroch Extension (Infinergy Development). This is judged to be an adverse impact of **very low magnitude**. This would result in a **slight effect** on the significance of the fort that would be **Not Significant** in EIA terms.

10.4 Changes to Significant Effects

- 10.4.1 The updated cultural heritage cumulative impact assessment has addressed the potential for cumulative impacts on the significance of Tap O' Noth fort, a Scheduled Monument. For all four assessment scenarios, the assessment has found adverse impacts of very low magnitude and slight significance. These are not significant effects in EIA terms.

- 10.4.2 These findings reflect the fact that the presence of greater or lesser numbers of wind turbines in a group more than 5km to the west of the Tap O' Noth fort has very little impact on the contribution that setting makes to the significance of this Scheduled Monument and our ability to appreciate or understand the fort as an important place in the Iron Age. The different assessment scenarios therefore lead to essentially the same conclusions.
- 10.4.3 The EIA Report concluded that there would be no cumulative impacts and therefore no significant effects. The difference in assessment findings here reflects the inclusion of operational wind farms in the updated cumulative assessment; this has drawn the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm into the assessment.

11 Chapter 11: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology

11.1 Introduction

- 11.1.1 SEPA responded to the Application on the 17th February 2020 and made no objection with regards to Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology.
- 11.1.2 In addition, NatureScot, Aberdeenshire Council, ECU (with regards peat review via Ironside Farrar), Marine Scotland and Scottish Water also responded to the Application and had no objection to make with regards to Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology. The consultation responses are detailed in Table 6.1: Summary of responses to the application of this SI.

11.2 Updated Position

- 11.2.1 Regarding Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology there has been no significant change to best practice guidance, legislation or planning policy since the EIA Report was prepared or assessed by consultees.
- 11.2.2 A number of wind farm developments have been identified as being entered into the planning system since the Application was submitted to the ECU, as detailed in SI Chapter 2. The following sections consider if any of these change the assessment contained in the EIA report in respect of hydrology, hydrogeology and geology.

11.3 Updated Assessment

- 11.3.1 The cumulative impact assessment presented in the EIA Report considered potential impacts from wind farms within 5km and within the same hydrological catchment as the proposed development. This assessment has been reviewed. Five potential additional wind farms have been identified within this buffer from the proposed development: Craig Watch, Garbet, Glenfiddich, Cairds Wood and Berry Burn. Of these, only Garbet and Craig Watch and Glenfiddich are within, or partly within, the same hydrological catchment as the proposed development.
- 11.3.2 Best practice measures to control and mitigate potential impacts on Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology were presented in the EIA Report and with these it was shown that no significant effects on hydrology, hydrogeology or geology are anticipated within the Site, or beyond the Site boundary. Other wind farm developments would incorporate similar best practice during construction and operation and thus are also unlikely to result in any significant effects on Hydrology, Hydrogeology or Geology.

11.4 Changes to Significant Effects

- 11.4.1 Based on the above assessment, no new or additional cumulative, or in-combination, significant adverse effects to Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology (inc. peat) are expected.

12 Chapter 12: Carbon

12.1 Introduction

12.1.1 Chapter 12 of the EIA Report provides an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on carbon.

12.2 Updated Position

12.2.1 The revised cumulative update does not alter the carbon assessment contained in the EIA Report at Chapter 12.

13 Chapter 13: Highways, Traffic and Transport

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 Chapter 13 of the EIA Report provides an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on traffic and transport.

13.2 Updated Position

13.2.1 Since the submission of the Application for the proposed development an application has been submitted for Garbet Wind Farm. The proposed Garbet Wind Farm would be accessed via the A96 and A920 and the by the minor unclassified public road (U94bH / Burnside of Markie Road) which is approximately 7km to the west of the Site access from the A920 for the proposed development.

13.2.2 In the event that both Garbet Wind Farm and the proposed development were to be consented they would be subject to Construction Traffic Management Plans which would ensure that traffic using the A920 from both developments would be managed appropriately. This is therefore not considered further. This is consistent with the EIA Report for Garbet Wind Farm which states:

“Clashindarroch II and Meikleton of Ardonald are located within 10km of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that the A96 will be used as an HGV haul route for these two schemes. As evidenced in this Chapter, few or no relevant receptors are identified on this road. Any overlapping activities resulting in additional HGVs would therefore be unlikely to result in significant effects.

Furthermore, the development of a CTMP for each scheme is anticipated to reduce any cumulative effects experienced on the road network. Notwithstanding, with on-site borrow pits utilised as a source of aggregate at these application sites (including the Proposed Development), this would minimise cumulative effects further.

On this basis, it is considered that significant cumulative effects are unlikely”

13.2.3 There are a number of scoping sites identified in the cumulative update which are within 5km of the Site but as these are still at the scoping stage they are not considered further.

14 Chapter 14: Noise

14.1 Introduction

- 14.1.1 Reason 4 of Aberdeenshire Council's objections to the proposed development is that *'there is the potential for the development to cause noise pollution and nuisance when considered cumulatively with the adjacent Clashindarroch wind farm'* and that *'no details of proposed mitigation to reduce residual impact is provided'*. This is stated to be contrary to Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Policy P4 Hazardous and Potentially Polluting Developments and Contaminated Land.
- 14.1.2 Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health), however, state in their consultation response of 13th November 2020 that they have no objection subject to condition. This is summarised in Table 6.1: Summary of responses to the application in Chapter 6 of the SI. The reasoning behind this objection has, therefore, been discussed with Aberdeenshire Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer who has, in turn, discussed this with the Planning department who, in their response, made reference to paragraph 6.10.8 of the 21st January 2021 Report to the Infrastructure Services Committee. This is discussed below along with a proposal for addressing their concerns.

14.2 Current Position

- 14.2.1 Paragraph 6.10.8 of the 21st January 2021 Report to the Infrastructure Services Committee states that *'although noise impacts from the development when considered in isolation are not significant and would not cause pollution or nuisance, there is a recognition by both Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health) and the developer that the development has potential to cause nuisance to the NNRs when considered alongside the operational Clashindarroch Wind Farm by exceeding noise limits derived from ETSU-R-97 good practice guidance'*.
- 14.2.2 It goes on to state that *'although Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health) acknowledges and accepts that mitigation in line with the ETSU-R-97 guidance is likely achievable and would reduce the residual impact from the cumulative noise, Policy P4 states that steps must be taken to mitigate any residual negative development impacts'*.
- 14.2.3 The noise assessment carried out as part of the EIA Report takes the position that the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm should be assumed to be operating at its planning limits. This has the inevitable consequence that any further development will produce noise levels which are above these limits at relevant properties. Although it can be contended that this assumption is unrealistic and can never occur at all properties for all wind speeds and wind directions, that position is not taken here. Instead, the Applicant has proposed an alternative position whereby noise from the combined operation of the proposed development operating and the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, is shown not to exceed the limits applied to the existing wind farm. It is proposed that a planning condition should require this. This is explained in detail below.

14.2.4 This proposal was put to the Senior Environmental Health Officer, by way of Hayes McKenzie Note 3519_N02 dated 12th August¹⁶, who re-iterated that she was '*content that matters are capable of being resolved capable of being resolved through the selection of an appropriate wind turbine model and design of a mitigation scheme (if necessary, once the final turbine model is known)*'¹⁷. However, no specific comments were made on the proposal set out in paragraph 14.2.3. Therefore, this is explained in the updated assessment below.

14.3 Updated Position

14.3.1 As a result of concerns over cumulative noise, the Applicant considers that the proposed development should be considered alongside the existing Clashindarroch Wind farm for the purposes of assessment and conditions on any deemed planning permission for the proposed development. Both sites will be operated by the Applicant who will, therefore, be responsible for compliance with any limits on the two sites acting together. In these circumstances the imposition of a cumulative noise condition on any permission for the proposed development would be appropriate.

14.3.2 This means that the limits currently applied to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm would also apply to the combination of the two sites acting together, with the common operator of the two developments, if the proposed development is consented, taking responsibility for this. This arrangement is standard practice for extension wind farms with the same operator, to resolve the situation where only a limited 'noise budget' is available for new development if it is considered completely separately to an existing one. In practice this means that the actual levels of noise from the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm are considered, rather than the highly theoretical assumption that it is operating at its limits (see paragraph 14.2.3 (above)).

14.3.3 The conditions proposed in the Environmental Health consultation response of 13th November 2020 apply to the following properties:

- Boganclogh Lodge (H3)
- Boganclogh (H4)
- Finglenny (H6)
- Corrylair (H7)

14.3.4 The limits applicable to cumulative noise at properties H3 and H4 have been derived from the original background noise measurements, carried out by Hayes McKenzie prior to the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm being built, and used in the EIA Report as the basis for cumulative noise limits. These are provided at EIA Report at Tables 14-18 and 14-19, where they are referred to as the 'Consented Noise Limit'.

14.3.5 The limits applicable to noise at property H7 are also provided at EIA Report Tables 14-18 and 14-19, where they are referred to as 'Derived Noise Limit', corresponding to those at EIA Report Table 14-8, and should be used as the basis for cumulative noise limits at this property. In response to the Environmental Health consultation response of 13th November 2020 on the

¹⁶ See SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.1 Hayes McKenzie Note 3159_N02 dated 12th August

¹⁷ See SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.2 Email correspondence with Aberdeenshire Council

possible influence of nearby wind turbine noise sources on background noise measurements, it may be noted that the nearest turbine on the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm is over 4km distant from this location.

14.3.6 The limits at property H6, provided at EIA Report Tables 14-18 and 14-19 (referred to as 'Consented Noise Limit' in these Tables), are identical to those applied at H3 and H4 rather than being those derived at EIA Report Table 14-7, due to concerns about the impact of C1 on the baseline measurements representative of this property. It may be noted that the nearest turbine on the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm is some 2.5km distance from this location and it is considered that the limits derived at EIA Report Table 14-7 should be used in preference. This is discussed further in Section 14.4 (below).

14.4 Updated Assessment

14.4.1 Noise predictions have been carried out based on the existing Senvion MM82 turbines at Clashindarroch Wind Farm and candidate Nordex N133 turbines at the Site for the 4 locations covered by the Environmental Health response of November 2020. Noise data for these turbines is provided in SI 2021 Technical Appendix 14.3 Noise Prediction Methodology and Assumptions together with the noise prediction methodology which includes details of the way the noise predictions are adjusted to take account of irregularities in the landscape which can reduce (shielding) and increase (concave ground) that which would occur over flat ground. It should be noted that the noise data for the candidate N133 turbine is that assumed in the EIA Report which is at a higher level than the current specification for this turbine, particularly if the turbine is fitted with serrated trailing edges.

14.4.2 The predicted noise levels for the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm, the proposed development, and the cumulative effect of them both operating together, based on this, is provided at Tables 14.1, 14.2 and 14.3 respectively.

Table 14.1: Clashindarroch Wind Farm Predicted Noise Level

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclough	22.5	27.7	33.3	37.2	37.6	37.6	37.6	37.6	37.6	37.6
Boganclough Lodge	22.2	27.4	33.0	36.9	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3	37.3
Finglenny	15.9	21.1	26.7	30.6	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
Corrylair	9.9	15.1	20.7	24.6	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0

14.4.3 It is of note that the predicted noise levels from Clashindarroch Wind Farm are significantly less (around 10dB or more) than the measured background noise levels reported at Table 14-7 of the EIA Report and would have had minimal effect on the background noise measurements.

Table 14.2: Proposed Development Predicted Noise Level

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	21.2	22.7	27.7	31.9	33.2	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4
Boganclogh Lodge	20.8	22.3	27.3	31.5	32.8	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Finglenny	22.8	24.3	29.3	33.5	34.8	34.1	34.1	34.1	34.1	34.1
Corrylair	22.8	24.3	29.3	33.5	34.8	34.1	34.1	34.1	34.1	34.1

Table 14.3: Cumulative Predicted Noise Level

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	24.9	28.9	34.4	38.3	38.9	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.7	38.7
Boganclogh Lodge	24.6	28.6	34.0	38.0	38.6	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4	38.4
Finglenny	23.6	26.0	31.2	35.3	36.3	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8	35.8
Corrylair	23.0	24.8	29.9	34.0	35.2	34.6	34.6	34.6	34.6	34.6

14.4.4 The cumulative noise limits, derived as described in Section 14.3 (above) are set out below in Tables 14.4 and 14.5. It should be noted that these are based on a limit of 5dB above the night-time¹⁸ and quiet day-time hours¹⁹ prevailing background noise levels with a lower limiting value of 38dB LA90 applied at night (5 dB lower than specified in ETSU-R-97) and 35 dB LA90 applied during the day (the lowest value within the range specified in ETSU-R-97).

Table 14.4: Night-time Hours Cumulative Noise Limits

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	38.4	38.4	38.5	38.9	39.5	40.4	41.7	43.2	45	47
Boganclogh Lodge	38.4	38.4	38.5	38.9	39.5	40.4	41.7	43.2	45	47
Finglenny	41.5	42.0	42.9	44.2	45.8	47.6	49.6	51.6	53.6	55.6
Corrylair	38.0	38.0	38.3	40.6	42.8	45.1	47.2	49.1	50.7	52.0

¹⁸ 2300-0700 as specified in ETSU-R-97

¹⁹ 1800-2300 every day plus 0700-1300 on Saturday and 0700-1800 on Sunday as specified in ETSU-R-97

Table 14.5: Day-time Hours Cumulative Noise Limits

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	39.6	39.6	39.8	40.1	40.6	41.3	43.3	43.5	45.0	46.6
Boganclogh Lodge	39.6	39.6	39.8	40.1	40.6	41.3	43.3	43.5	45.0	46.6
Finglenny	41.6	42.4	43.7	45.2	47.1	49.0	51.1	53.2	55.1	56.9
Corrylair	35.9	36.7	38.1	40.0	42.2	44.5	46.9	49.3	51.4	53.2

14.4.5 The margin of compliance between the predicted cumulative noise level and the noise limits for night-time and day-periods is provided at Tables 14.6 and 14.7 respectively.

Table 14.6: Night-time Hours Margin of Compliance

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	13.5	9.5	4.1	0.6	0.5	1.6	2.9	4.4	6.2	8.2
Boganclogh Lodge	13.8	9.8	4.5	0.9	0.9	1.9	3.2	4.7	6.5	8.5
Finglenny	17.9	16.0	11.7	8.9	9.5	11.8	13.8	15.8	17.8	19.8
Corrylair	15.0	13.2	8.4	6.6	7.6	10.5	12.6	14.5	16.1	17.4

Table 14.7: Day-time Hours Margin of Compliance

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	14.7	10.7	5.4	1.8	1.6	2.5	4.5	4.7	6.2	7.8
Boganclogh Lodge	15.0	11.0	5.8	2.1	2.0	2.8	4.8	5.0	6.5	8.1
Finglenny	18.0	16.4	12.5	9.9	10.8	13.2	15.3	17.4	19.3	21.1
Corrylair	12.9	11.9	8.2	6.0	7.0	9.9	12.3	14.7	16.8	18.6

14.4.6 It can be seen that cumulative noise from the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the proposed development, which have been modelled here for worst case downwind propagation from all turbines, meet the noise limits derived in line with the limits in the conditions on the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm by a minimum margin of 0.5dB.

14.4.7 No other developments have been included in the cumulative assessment as the noise budget implicit in the limits, applied by condition, is only available to the operator of the existing windfarm, or any other wind farm under their control. This extends to the proposed development only and is not available to any other site.

14.4.8 The increase in noise level caused by the proposed development is shown in Table 14.8.

Table 14.8: Increase in Noise caused by Proposed Development

Location	Standardised 10 metre-height Wind Speed (m/s)									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Boganclogh	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Boganclogh Lodge	2.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Finglenny	7.7	4.9	4.5	4.7	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Corrylair	13.1	9.7	9.2	9.4	10.2	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6

14.4.9 It can be seen that the increase in noise at Boganclogh and Boganclogh Lodge is below 3dB which is the level at which an increase in noise can be clearly detected. Although it is greater at Finglenny and Corrylair, the cumulative noise level is well within the relevant noise limits with a minimum margin of 6dB.

14.5 Changes to Significant Effects

14.5.1 Although the overall conclusion in the EIA Report was that there would be no significant noise effects, the assessment showed exceedances of the consented limit on the existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The change in assessment methodology to regulate the operation of the existing site and the proposed development acting together by way of a planning condition means that no mitigation will be required to meet the limits specified in relevant planning guidance as imposed on the existing site.

15 Chapter 15: Aviation

15.1 Introduction

- 15.1.1 On behalf of the Applicant, Osprey Consulting Services Ltd (Osprey) completed an aeronautical study of the proposed development in which the details of consultation with those aviation stakeholders (detailed within the Proposal for a Variation from Obstruction Lighting Requirements of the Air Navigation Order SI 2021 Appendix 3.1) who may be affected by the proposed windfarm development was included. The purpose of consultation was to provide aviation stakeholders with information regarding the proposed development position and parameters. To ensure that the proposed Turbines remain conspicuous to aviators operating in the region of the development, the Applicant sought the opinion of stakeholders regarding two suggested lighting schemes to facilitate situational awareness in relation to aviation stakeholder operations in the vicinity of the proposed development.
- 15.1.2 In order to minimise landscape and visual amenity effects, the Applicant sought a variation that does not necessitate the full lighting requirements contained in aviation guidance and regulatory documents. The aeronautical study was presented to the CAA on the 7th October 2020, in order for the CAA to consider granting permission to provide aviation lighting other than stipulated in Civil Aviation Publication (CAP) Air Navigation Order (ANO) and Regulations 2016 article 222, to be applied to the proposed development.

15.2 Updated Position

- 15.2.1 The CAA responded to the Application on the lighting variation on the 23rd December 2020 (SI 2021 Technical Appendix 3.2). It recognised the concerns expressed by local communities about lighting all the Turbines. The CAA also recognised the importance of the additional consultation that the Applicant had undertaken with aviation stakeholders.
- 15.2.2 In summary, the CAA granted a variation to the lighting requirements specified in the ANO Article 222 for the proposed development as follows:
- medium intensity steady red (2000 candela) lights on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12;
 - a second 2000 candela light on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12, to act as alternates in the event of failure of the main light;
 - the lights on Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12 will be capable of being automatically dimmed to 10% of peak intensity when the atmospheric visibility as measured at the windfarm exceeds 5km; and
 - The CAA also confirmed that infra-red lights to Ministry of Defence (MOD) specification should be installed on the nacelles of the following perimeter Turbines 8, 9 and 14.
- 15.2.3 The CAA also confirmed that intermediate level 32 candela lights are not required.

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- 15.2.4 An agreement has been entered into between NERL and Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd dated 14/09/2020 for the agreement of suitable planning conditions and the implementation of an

identified and defined mitigation solution in relation to the development that will be implemented under agreement. In summary, such mitigation solution will require works to be carried out to NERL's infrastructure and comprises blanking of the radar coverage from the affected Radar and infill coverage from an existing Infill Radar along with associated adaptation changes (including those that may be required for MultiRadar Tracking).

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15.2.5 Technical mitigation proposed by the Applicant has been accepted by the MOD.

15.2.6 The agreed technical mitigation is to be implemented through the inclusion of appropriate conditions, in any consent that may be granted.

15.3 Updated Assessment

15.3.1 Not required

15.4 Changes to Significant Effects

15.4.1 The CAA have approved a variation to the requirements of the ANO for the fitment of aviation lighting which will lead to a reduction in landscape and visual effects.

16 Chapter 16: Socio-economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use

16.1 Introduction

16.1.1 Chapter 16: Socio-economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use of the EIA Report provides an assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on socio economics, tourism land use and recreation.

16.2 Updated Position

16.2.1 The revised cumulative update does not alter the assessment contained in the EIA Report at Chapter 16.

17 Chapter 17: Other Issues

17.1 Introduction

17.1.1 Chapter 17: Other Issues of the EIA Report considered predicted effects in terms of shadow flicker, telecommunication links and other infrastructure and television

17.2 Updated Position

17.2.1 The revised cumulative update does not alter in the findings in Chapter 17 of the EIA Report.

18 Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation

18.1 Introduction

18.1.1 Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation of the EIA Report presents a summary of the mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures committed to throughout the EIA Report. All of the information contained in EIA Report Chapter 18 remains valid unless otherwise stated in this SI Chapter.

18.1.2 Table 18.1: Schedule of Mitigation provides a summary of additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures committed to throughout the SI document.

Table 18.1: Schedule of Mitigation

Chapter	Type of Mitigation, Compensation or Enhancement	Mitigation, Compensation or Enhancement Measures
Chapter 15: Aviation	Operation	<p>Aviation Lighting</p> <p>Following the submission of the Application, the Applicant submitted a Proposal for a Variation from Obstructing Lighting Requirements of the Air Navigation Order in order to minimise potential landscape and visual amenity effects.</p> <p>The CAA granted the variation which is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium intensity steady red (2000 candela) lights on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12; • a second 2000 candela light on the nacelles of Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12, to act as alternates in the event of failure of the main light; • the lights on Turbines 1, 5, 6 and 12 will be capable of being dimmed to 10% of peak intensity when the visibility as measured at the wind farm exceeds 5km. • The CAA also confirmed that infra-red lights to Ministry of Defence specification should be installed on the nacelles of the following perimeter Turbines 8,9 and 14. <p>The CAA also confirmed that intermediate level 32 candela</p>

Chapter	Type of Mitigation, Compensation or Enhancement	Mitigation, Compensation or Enhancement Measures
		<p>lights are not required.</p> <p>NATS Allanshill PSR</p> <p>An agreement has been entered into between NERL and Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd dated 14/09/2020 for the agreement of suitable planning conditions and the implementation of an identified and defined mitigation solution in relation to the development that will be implemented under agreement. In summary, such mitigation solution will require works to be carried out to NERL's infrastructure and comprises blanking of the radar coverage from the affected Radar and infill coverage from an existing Infill Radar along with associated adaptation changes (including those that may be required for MultiRadar Tracking).</p> <p>MOD Buchan ADR</p> <p>Technical mitigation proposed by the Applicant has been accepted by the MOD.</p> <p>The agreed technical mitigation to be implemented through the inclusion of appropriate conditions, in any consent that may be granted.</p>