

## Appendix 9.B: Preliminary assessment of Effects on Landscape Character

### INTRODUCTION

This Appendix relates generally to Chapter 9 LVIA of the EIA and specifically to Section 9.8: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types and Section 9.9: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Designations.

Effects on landscape character are the changes to areas of distinctive landscape character that result from the introduction of the Revised Consented Development. The assessment of effects on landscape character is carried out in three parts:

- The assessment of effects on landscape character types;
- The assessment of effects on designated areas;
- The assessment of effects on Wild Land Areas.

The first step in this assessment is a preliminary assessment to ascertain which of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs), designated areas and Wild Land Areas (WLAs) have potential to be significantly affected by visibility of the Revised Consented Development, which comprises up to 21 turbines each with a maximum tip height of 149.9 m. **Figures 9.11, 9.12 and 9.13** illustrate the LCTs, landscape designations and WLAs in conjunction with the ZTV for the Revised Consented Development.

A series of tables that show this process, including a brief description of the assessment for each landscape character type and designated area, are presented below. The landscape character types, designated areas and Wild Land Areas that are considered to have potential to undergo a significant effect as a result of the Revised Consented Development are shown shaded in the tables and are assessed in full in Chapter 9 LVIA of the EIA - Section 9.8: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types and Section 9.9: Assessment of Effects on Landscape Designations.

### ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

Appendix 9.B Table 1 Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types

Landscape character type	Comments	Further assessment required?
Coniferous woodland plantation (Limekiln)	This unit is the area of coniferous woodland plantation that covers part of the Revised Consented Development site.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on parts of this receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of the Revised Consented Development within this unit;</li> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development;</li> <li>• Proximity to the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Coniferous woodland plantation (elsewhere)	The ZTVs indicate that there will be limited patchy visibility from some of these areas.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Dense woodland within the LCT restricting views out;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Flat Peatland (All areas: Smigal; Bad nam Bo)	The ZTVs indicate that there will be limited patchy visibility from a minimum of 6 km away.	No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays (Red Point)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 4.5 km away. The	No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:

Landscape character type	Comments	Further assessment required?
	landform relates to the North Atlantic Coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The stronger relationship between the LCT and the North Atlantic Coast</li> <li>• The weaker relationship between the LCT and the inland landscapes.</li> </ul>
High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays (Other areas: Rub na Cloiche; Spear Head)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 12 km away.	<p>No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Long Beaches Dunes and Links (Melvich)	The ZTVs indicate that there will be no visibility of the Revised Consented Development from this location.	No; there is no visibility of the Revised Consented Development.
Long Beaches Dunes and Links (Sandside)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 3 km away. This is a small LCT which is directly associated with Sandside Bay.	<p>No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The orientation of the landform towards Sandside Bay;</li> <li>• The limited association with the LCT in which the Revised Consented Development is situated.</li> </ul>
Mixed agriculture and settlement (North-east)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of 1 km away.	<p>Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on the close-range part of the receptor, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Mixed agriculture and settlement (East of site)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 10 km away.	<p>No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The more distant range of the Revised Consented Development which makes the turbines appear as minor components</li> <li>• The existing influence of closer range Baillie Hill Wind Farm</li> </ul>
Moorland Slopes and Hills (Ben Dorrery)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of 6 km.	<p>No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Moorland Slopes and Hills (Beinn nam Bad Mor)	The ZTV shows areas of visibility of the Revised Consented Development on north facing slopes. The closest point is around 3.8 km from the Revised Consented Development.	<p>Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Moorland Slopes and Hills (Beinn Ratha)	The ZTVs indicate visibility on East facing slopes from a minimum of just over 1 km away.	<p>Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Open Intensive Farmland (Brims)	The ZTVs indicate patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 9 km away.	<p>No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>

<b>Landscape character type</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Further assessment required?</b>
Open Intensive Farmland (Lower Dounreay)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 3 km away. This narrow LCT sits along the north coastal edge.	No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to: The stronger association with the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing influence of Forss Wind Farm in this LCT and Baillie Hill Wind Farm in the adjacent LCT.</li> <li>The stronger association with the coast than the inland landscapes</li> </ul>
Open Intensive Farmland (Sandside)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 3 km away. This small LCT sits along the north coastal edge.	No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stronger association with the coast than the inland landscapes</li> </ul>
Small farms and crofts (Broubster)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 4 km away.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Small farms and crofts (Loch Calder)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 6 km away concentrated only in the northern part and with no direct association between the landscapes.	No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>Lack of association between the landscapes</li> </ul>
Small farms and crofts (Melvich)	The ZTVs indicate that there will be limited patchy visibility from a minimum of 9 km away.	No; there may be some limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Small farms and crofts (Shurrery)	The ZTVs indicate visibility from a minimum of just over 7.5 km away.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Strath: Strath Halladale	The ZTVs indicate a small area of visibility from a minimum of 10 km away.	No; there may be some limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited visibility on ZTV</li> <li>Enclosure of the landform</li> <li>Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Sweeping Moorland (West)	The ZTV indicates almost continuous visibility across the eastern half of the LCT.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>Close proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Sweeping Moorland (Broubster)	The ZTV indicates patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 3.5 km away.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Sweeping Moorland (Loch Scye)	The ZTV indicates patchy visibility from a minimum of just over 5 km away.	Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the receptor, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>

<b>Landscape character type</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Further assessment required?</b>
Sweeping moorland: other areas (Aird nam Bruach Dubha; Olgrinmore; Brawlbin)	The remaining areas of sweeping moorland gain no visibility or limited and/or distant visibility of the Revised Consented Development and will undergo limited influence.	No; there may be some very limited effect on some areas, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>

## ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON DESIGNATED AREAS

The preliminary assessment of effects on designated areas is presented in the tables below. There are three tables, one each for National Scenic Areas, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Special Landscape Areas.

**Appendix 9.B - Table 2: Assessment of Effects on National Scenic Areas**

<b>National Scenic Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Further assessment required?</b>
Kyle of Tongue NSA	ZTV shows limited patchy visibility from high points and ridges in the NSA, from a minimum of 28 km away. From this distance the turbines will appear as very minor elements and the Revised Consented Development will cover a very small proportion of the outlook.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 9.B - Table 3: Assessment of Effects on Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

<b>Garden and Designed Landscape</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Further assessment required?</b>
Castle of Mey (Barrogill Castle)	ZTV shows limited patchy visibility from localised points in the designed landscape, from a minimum of 33 km away. From this distance the turbines will appear as very minor elements and the Revised Consented Development will cover a very small proportion of the outlook.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Enclosure of much of the designed landscape which will further reduce actual visibility</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Dunbeath Castle	The ZTV indicates that there is no visibility of the Revised Consented Development from this GDL at 35 km.	No, due to lack of visibility.
Tongue House	The ZTV indicates that there is no visibility of the Revised Consented Development from this GDL at 38 km.	No, due to lack of visibility.
Melsetter House	The ZTV indicates that there would be limited visibility of the Revised Consented Development from this GDL at 40 km.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Enclosure of much of the designed landscape which will further reduce actual visibility</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 9.B - Table 4: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Areas**

<b>Special Landscape Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Further assessment required?</b>
Ben Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA	The ZTV indicates very limited patchy visibility of the Revised Consented Development from a minimum of 23 km away.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>

Special Landscape Area	Comments	Further assessment required?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Revised Consented Development with north coast where development is already evident</li> <li>• Containment of the Revised Consented Development within one direction from the SLA.</li> </ul>
Dunnet Head SLA	The ZTV indicates patchy visibility of the Revised Consented Development from a minimum of 22 km away.	<p>No; there may be some effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> <li>• Close association of the SLA with north coast and weak association with distant hinterland to south-west where Revised Consented Development would be located.</li> <li>• Containment of the Revised Consented Development within one direction from the SLA.</li> </ul>
Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA	The ZTV indicates limited patchy visibility of the Revised Consented Development from a minimum of 9 km away.	<p>Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the SLA, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• The background feature the hinterland makes to the coastal landscape.</li> </ul>
The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA	The ZTV indicates limited patchy visibility of the Revised Consented Development from a minimum of 15 km away.	<p>No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• Association of Revised Consented Development with north coast where development is already evident.</li> </ul>

## ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON WILD LAND AREAS

The preliminary assessment of effects on Wild Land Areas is presented in the table below.

Appendix 9.B - Table 5: Assessment of Effects on Wild Land Areas

Wild Land Area	Comments	Further assessment required?
East Halladale Flows WLA	ZTV shows patch of high visibility over northern part and then patches of lower visibility in central and southern parts. The Revised Consented Development lies in close proximity to the WLA boundary.	<p>Yes; there is potential for a significant effect to occur on a part of the WLA, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visibility of the Revised Consented Development</li> <li>• Proximity to the Revised Consented Development</li> </ul>
Causeymire – Knockfin Flows	ZTV shows patches of visibility across the northern part of the WLA from distances beyond 16 km. The Revised Consented Development will be seen to the north and in a context in which the cluster around Causeymire to the northeast and Strathy North to the northwest, present closer range influences.	<p>No; there may be some limited effect, but this will not be significant due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development;</li> <li>• Greater influence from closer range windfarms.</li> </ul>

Wild Land Area	Comments	Further assessment required?
Ben Hope – Ben Loyal	ZTV shows very small patches of visibility from distances beyond 38 km.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>
Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	ZTV shows very small patches of visibility from distances beyond 37 km.	No; there may be some very limited effect, but this will not be significant due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visibility on ZTV;</li> <li>• Distance from the Revised Consented Development.</li> </ul>