

Technical Appendix 5.2

Viewpoint Analysis

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The viewpoint analysis is used to assist the design and further define the scope of the assessment process. In particular, the outer distance from the proposed development, within which significant effects may be likely has been identified. This has been used to focus the baseline information and detailed reporting of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) in **Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual**.

1.2 Viewpoint and Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis

- 1.2.1 The viewpoint analysis has been conducted from 20 viewpoint locations with a detailed analysis for viewpoints 1, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 20 (through consultation with THC) reported in **Table 5.2** and illustrated in **Figures 5.17 to 5.25** while the remaining viewpoints are illustrated in **Technical Appendix 5.3**. The figures accord with Scottish Natural Heritage, *Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Good Practice Guidance, Version 2.2*, February 2017 and The Highland Council, *Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments*, July 2016.
- 1.2.2 Cumulative wind farm development, included within the 35km study area, that would be theoretically visible from each viewpoint has been illustrated in the wirelines.
- 1.2.3 Photography was undertaken whilst the existing Creag Riabhach Wind Farm (CRWF) was under construction. As a result, not all of the existing turbines are visible in the baseline photographs. However, all of the existing CRWF turbines have been re-rendered in the baseline photographs.

Geographical Extent of Likely Significant Visual Effects

- 1.2.4 The outer distance from the proposed development, within which significant effects may be likely has been identified by the viewpoint analysis of the proposed development. Further, cumulative viewpoint analysis has identified a likely threshold for significant cumulative visual effects that would result from the proposed development, in addition to, or in combination with other existing and consented wind energy developments and applications.

Potential for Significant Effects: proposed development

- 1.2.5 The viewpoint analysis indicates that significant visual effects are likely to affect limited locations within approximately 5.6km distance from the proposed development, mainly to the east / northeast and immediate south, as follows:
- Viewpoint 6: Ben Klibreck;
 - Viewpoint 8: A836 Northbound / NCN 1, near the Crask; and
 - Viewpoint 20: A836 at track to Vagastie Cottage.
- 1.2.6 It is to be noted that where visible, the proposed development would always be viewed adjacent to the existing CRWF in all views for the operational period of the proposed

development and would be integrated with the existing CRWF broadly in relation to its vertical alignment and layout design.

- 1.2.7 The effects on all three viewpoints would also be cumulative and further cumulative analysis is provided below. There would be no significant visual effects from the north, west, northwest and southwest of the proposed development.

Potential for Significant Cumulative Effects

- 1.2.8 The proposed development would contribute to a significant, cumulative visual effect at three of the assessment viewpoints (Viewpoints 6, 8 and 20), all of which are within 5.6km distance from the proposed development. This is primarily with the existing CRWF and consented Sallachy Wind Farm (except Viewpoint 20 where Sallachy is not visible). Other more distant wind farms are also frequently visible from some of the assessment viewpoints, although they would not be significant. The viewpoint assessment also identifies five other viewpoints (Viewpoints 7, 12, 13, 17 and 18) that are significantly affected as a result of other existing, consented or other application wind farms within the Study Area and not the proposed development.
- 1.2.9 Importantly these levels of effect are indicative of a visual effect on a particular viewpoint location, and they should not be assumed to translate into visual effects on the overall visual experience, as each of the viewpoints have been specifically located where the sensitivity of the receptor and / or the views of the proposed development would be greatest. In this sense they are not always typical or representative.
- 1.2.10 As a precaution, the visual assessment has considered all of those receptors within 6km of the proposed development and national level receptors within 35km.

Interpretation of Viewpoint Analysis Summary Tables

- 1.2.11 The information set out in **Table 5.1** provides a summary of the viewpoint analysis of the effects of the proposed development to the baseline which includes the existing CRWF. This is because the operational periods for the proposed development and the existing CRWF would remain at the same at 40 years, and the existing CRWF would not be decommissioned prior to the proposed development.

- 1.2.12 **Table 5.1** also provides a summary of viewpoint analysis of the cumulative the effects of the proposed development. The cumulative analysis sets out the effects of proposed development '*in addition*' to and '*in combination*' with other existing and consented wind energy developments and applications, assessing two scenarios in accordance with the methodology in **Technical Appendix 5.1** as follows:

- **Proposed Development:**

This part of the assessment takes 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 only considers the additional effects with the existing CRWF and no other wind farms as noted above.

- **Scenario 1:** Existing + Consented + the proposed development

The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including the existing and consented wind energy developments with the proposed development are reported.

- **Scenario 2:** Existing + Consented + Applications + the proposed development

The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including existing and consented wind energy developments and applications with the proposed development are reported.

1.2.13 The summary tables list the names of the viewpoints and include the following information:

- Viewpoint Analysis:
 - ▶ Distance: Distance of the viewpoint location from the nearest turbine within the proposed development;
 - ▶ Sensitivity: The sensitivity of the viewer at the viewpoint location is recorded (ranging from High, Medium, Low, and Very Low) in accordance with the methodology in **Technical Appendix 5.1**;
 - ▶ Magnitude: The magnitude of change, taking account of the proposed development only is recorded (ranging from High, High – Medium, Medium, Medium – Low, Low, Low – Very Low, Very Low, and Zero) in accordance with the methodology;
 - ▶ Level of Effect: The level of visual effect for the proposed development only is recorded and takes account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology.
- Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis:
 - ▶ Magnitude (Existing and Consented wind farms): The magnitude of change, taking account of other existing and consented / under construction wind farms that may be visible is recorded (ranging from High, High – Medium, Medium, Medium – Low, Low, Low – Very Low, Very Low, and Zero) in accordance with the methodology;
 - ▶ Additional Level of Effect: The additional effect of adding the proposed development to the existing and consented baseline in Cumulative Scenario 1 is provided;
 - ▶ Cumulative Scenario 1: The level of visual effect, taking account of the existing, consented / under construction wind farms and the proposed development, is recorded (taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology). Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and the developments contributing most to the cumulative effects are recorded in brackets;
 - ▶ Magnitude (Other Wind Farm Applications): The magnitude of change, taking account of other wind farm applications that may be visible on the wireline is recorded (ranging from High, High – Medium, Medium, Medium – Low, Low, Low – Very Low, Very Low, and Zero) in accordance with the methodology;
 - ▶ Additional Level of Effect: The additional effect of adding the proposed development to the existing and consented baseline and other wind farm applications (and one pre-planning application) in Cumulative Scenario 2 is provided; and
 - ▶ Cumulative Scenario 2: The level of visual effect, taking account of the existing, consented / under construction, application wind farms and the proposed development, is recorded (taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology). Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and the developments contributing most to the cumulative effects are recorded in brackets.

1.3 Sunlight and Weather Conditions

- 1.3.1 Changing weather patterns and local climatic conditions would influence the visibility of the proposed development which would vary from periods of low visibility (fog, low cloud, and bright sunny conditions that are accompanied by haze generated by temperature inversions) as well as periods of high visibility in clear weather. In some instances, the proposed development may appear 'back-lit' (e.g. appearing darker in colour during sunset/sunrise and periods of pale or white blanket cloud) and in other circumstances may appear to be 'up-lit' (e.g. during stormy periods that combine dark clouds and bright sunshine).
- 1.3.2 All of the viewpoint analysis and assessment has assumed conditions of good weather and clear visibility.

Table 5.1 Summary of Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint No. and Title	FoV	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
1. A836 Southbound / NCN 1, South of Altnaharra	3°	7,352	High	Low - Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate (CRWF)	Zero	No cumulative effect	
2. Minor Road/car park, south of Loch Meadie	N/A	11,105	Medium	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
3. B873, north of Altnaharra	<2°	8,737	Medium	Very Low	Negligible	Low - Very Low	Negligible	Minor to Negligible	Zero	No cumulative effect	
4. A836 Southbound / NCN 1, South of Loch Staing	2°	12,710	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (CRWF)	Zero	No cumulative effect	
5. Minor Road near Mudale	N/A	8,159	Medium	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
6. Ben Klibreck	12°	5,663	High	Low	Moderate	High	Moderate	Substantial (CRWF, PD)	Low	Moderate	Substantial (CRWF, PD)
7. Ben Hee	<6°	11,871	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium-Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF, Sallachy)	Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF, Sallachy)
8. A836 Northbound / NCN 1, near the Crask	23°	893	High	High	Substantial	High	Substantial	Substantial (CRWF, Sallachy (if forestry is felled) and PD)	Zero	No cumulative effect	

Viewpoint No. and Title	FoV	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
9. Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, Lairg	N/A	21,404	High	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
10. Ben Hope, Southeast of summit at Sail Romascaig	1°	20,338	High	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor (CRWF)	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor (CRWF)
11. Altnaharra, bridge	N/A	7,820	High	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
12. Ben More Assynt	<3°	22,231	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium - Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Sallachy)	Low - Very low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Sallachy)
13. Beinn Sgeireach	<2°	17,072	High	Low - Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Medium - Low	Moderate to Minor	Major to Moderate (Achany, Rosehall, Sallachy)	High	Moderate to Minor	Substantial (Achany, Rosehall, Achany Extension, Sallachy)
14. B873 Westbound / Grummore Caravan site	N/A	11,621	High	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
15. Beinn Leoid	<1°	32,017	High	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Low - Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor (CRWF)	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor (CRWF)
16. Ben Loyal, South of summit at An Creagan	<1°	19,136	High	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Low - Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Moderate to Minor (Strathy South)	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Moderate to Minor (Strathy South)
17. A836, South of Crask Inn	4°	2,869	High	Low - Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Medium	Moderate to Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF)	Low - Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF)

Viewpoint No. and Title	FoV	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: proposed development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
18. The track to Loch Choire	<2°	2,609	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium	Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF)	Very Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (CRWF)
19. Achnairn Campsite	N/A	14,391	High	Zero	No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
20. A836 at track to former Vagastie Cottage	80°	418	High	High	Substantial	High	Substantial	Substantial (CRWF, PD)	Zero	No cumulative effect	

Note: Significant effects resulting from the proposed development are indicated in bold text and shaded dark grey.

Table 5.2 Viewpoint Analysis

Figure 5.17a-e / f-k	<p>Viewpoint 1: A836 Southbound / NCN 1, South of Altnaharra (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated). <i>The viewpoint location differs from the existing CRWF LVIA (~ 500m to the northeast) due to partial screening from roadside tree growth.</i></p>	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located on the A836 to the south of Altnaharra. The road rises at this point and affords an elevated view southeast along Strath Vagastie. Landcover consists of rough grassland, mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, coniferous forestry and moorland on the strath sides and higher slopes. The A836 is a focal point in the view and leads the eye along the strath. A number of the existing CRWF turbines are visible on the horizon in the centre of the view. Other human development in the view includes the A836, telegraph poles, post and wire fencing, road signage and timber fencing.</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>The viewpoint is not located within any nationally or locally designated landscapes but is located on the Sustrans Cycle Route 1 and on the western boundary of the Ben Klibreck - Armine Forest Wild Land Area (WLA). The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view would be experienced by road users with a Medium susceptibility to change (given the view would be transitory and the attention is likely to be on the road ahead) and cyclists accessing the cycle route whose focus is likely to be on landscape features resulting in a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as <i>High</i> for road users and cyclists.</p>	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation: Two turbines would be theoretically visible, at 7,352m distance and affecting approximately 3° of the horizontal field of view (FoV). The turbines would be largely screened by landform such that one hub and one blade would be visible. The proposed turbines would add to the density of the existing CRWF in the view and would extend the horizontal spread by <1°. None of the other components of the proposed development including the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) would be visible. Due to the appearance of the turbines beyond the confines of the strath, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view as part of the existing CRWF. The magnitude of change would be <i>Low - Very Low</i>.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning: Cranage would be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from <i>Zero to Low - Very Low</i>.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low - Very Low
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and negative.
<p>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).</p>		
Cumulative Magnitude	<p>Other Existing Wind Farms: <i>Low</i> The existing CRWF would be visible adjacent to the proposed development at ~6km distance (Low magnitude).</p> <p>Consented Wind Farms: <i>Zero</i> There would be no consented wind farms visible.</p> <p>Other Wind Farm Applications: <i>Zero</i> There would be no other application wind farms visible.</p> <p>The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be <i>Low</i>.</p>	
<p>Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing + consented windfarms)</p>		
Combined effect	Moderate and Not Significant (due to CRWF)	
Additional effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant	

	Additional Magnitude: Low – Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Low
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)		
Combined effect	N/A	
Additional effect	N/A	
	Additional Magnitude: Zero	Combined Magnitude: Zero
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.	

Figure 5.18a-e / f-k Viewpoint 4: A836 Southbound / NCN 1, South of Loch Staing
 (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description This viewpoint is located at a passing place on the A836 to the south of Loch Staing. The road rises slightly at this location affording views across an expansive moorland plain towards Ben Klibreck to the south and an undulating ridgeline which form the skyline of the view to the southwest. Landcover is simple and includes rough grassland and moorland with some coniferous forestry also visible in the distance. A number of the existing CRWF turbines are visible on the horizon in the centre of the view. Other human development includes the A836, road signage and coniferous forestry.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is not located within any nationally or locally designated landscapes but is located on the Sustrans Cycle Route 1. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view would be experienced by road users with a Medium susceptibility to change (due to the transitory nature of the view, the attention is on the road ahead) and cyclists accessing the cycle route whose focus is likely to be on landscape features resulting in a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as *High* for road users and cyclists.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 All three turbines would be theoretically visible at 12,710m distance and affecting approximately 2° of the horizontal field of view (FoV). Intervening landform would screen the turbines such that they would be partially visible as a hub and two blade tips. The proposed turbines would be visible immediately adjacent to the existing CRWF and would form a well-spaced, cohesive extension. None of the other components of the proposed development including the BESS would be visible. The magnitude of change would be *Very Low*.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 Cranage would be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to Very Low*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Very Low
	Level of Effect	Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and neutral.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Other Existing Wind Farms: Low**
 The existing CRWF would be visible adjacent to the proposed development at ~11km distance (Low magnitude).

Consented Wind Farms: Zero
 Blade tips from Sallachy would be theoretically visible in the same view as the proposed development at ~25km distance. However, these would barely be perceptible due to distance and intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change would be Zero.

Other Wind Farm Applications: Zero
 Blade tips from Achany Extension and Meall Buidhe would be theoretically visible in the same view as the proposed development at distances of between ~32km and 45km distance. However, these would barely be perceptible due to distance and intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change would be Zero.

The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *Low*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing + consented windfarms)			
Combined effect	Moderate and Not Significant (due to CRWF)		
Additional effect	Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Low
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)			

Combined effect	N/A
Additional effect	N/A
	Additional Magnitude: Zero Combined Magnitude: Zero
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

Figure 5.19a-f / g-l Viewpoint 6: Ben Klibreck
 (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description This viewpoint is from the summit of Ben Klibreck and affords 360° panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The view is orientated west-southwest and extends across Strath Vagastie towards Loch Fiag and the layers of hills beyond. To the centre of the view, the mountains of Ben More Assynt and Conival form the skyline with Ben Hee forming a focal point towards the right of the view. Landcover predominantly consists of rough grassland and moorland, with areas of coniferous forestry also visible. Loch Shin is visible in the distance towards the left of the view with numerous lochans scattered throughout the centre and left of the view. The existing CRWF is prominent on the western banks of Strath Vagastie. Other human development in the view includes the A836, and geometric blocks of coniferous forest.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is located within the locally designated Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA and the Ben Klibreck - Armine Forest Wild Land Area. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view from the road would be experienced by hill walkers whose attention is likely to be on the surrounding landscape features. Therefore, susceptibility to change, and consequently the sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 All of the proposed turbines would be visible affecting approximately 12° of the horizontal FoV at 5,663m distance. The proposed turbines would appear as a simple and cohesive group, well integrated into the existing CRWF array and extending the overall expanse of the wind farm by ~3° of the horizontal FoV. Two of the proposed turbines would be located to the fore of the existing turbines, backclothed by the moorland landscape, and the third turbine would be visible to the left of the existing array. Due to the relatively wide views, large scale of the receiving landscape and presence of the existing CRWF, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view. The proposed BESS would also be visible behind the proposed turbines, although partially screened by intervening mitigation bunding. The magnitude of change would be *Low resulting in a Moderate* level of effect that would be Significant due to the location of the turbines to the fore of the existing CRWF and the slight increase in the horizontal spread.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 Ground-based construction activities and crange would be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to Low*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low
	Level of Effect	Moderate and Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Other Existing Wind Farms: High**
 The existing CRWF would be visible adjacent and behind the proposed development at ~5km distance (High magnitude). Achany and Rosehill wind would be visible in clear conditions to the south-southwest at ~23km distance and Kilbraur and its Extension to the southeast at ~30km (all Very Low magnitude). Other more distant existing wind farms would be theoretically visible in very clear conditions (all Very Low magnitude).

Consented Wind Farms: Low – Very Low
 Sallachy would be visible beyond the proposed turbines at ~18km distance (Low - Very Low magnitude). Strath Tirry (Low – Very Low magnitude) and Braemore (Very Low magnitude) would be visible to the southeast.

Other Wind Farm Applications: Low
 Achany Extension, Strath Oykel and Meall Buidhe would be theoretically visible in the same view as the proposed development at distances of between ~22km and 33km distance (Very Low magnitude). Chleansaid would be visible to the southeast (Low magnitude) at @~10km distance.

Other more distant application wind farms would be theoretically visible in very clear conditions (all Very Low magnitude).

The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *High*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing + consented windfarms)	
Combined effect	Substantial and Significant (due to CRWF and the proposed development)
Additional effect	Moderate and Significant
	Additional Magnitude: Low Combined Magnitude: High
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)	
Combined effect	Substantial and Significant (due to CRWF and the proposed development)
Additional effect	Moderate and Significant
	Additional Magnitude: Low Combined Magnitude: High
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

Figure 5.20a-g / h-m Viewpoint 8: A836 Northbound / NCN 1, near the Crask
 (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description This viewpoint is located at an informal layby and car park on the A836 north of The Crask and directly to the south of the proposed development. The view is orientated north and has mostly short to middle distance views towards Creag Riabhach and associated ridgeline to the centre-left and Ben Klibreck which forms a conical focal point to the right of the view. However, there are distant hills visible in the centre of the view. The A836 follows the low-lying ground along Strath Vagastie between the two rising landforms. Landcover is predominantly moorland with some rough grassland along roadside verges and some areas of coniferous forestry. The existing CRWF occupies a large part of the view. Other human development in the view includes the A836, road signage, telegraph poles, and forestry.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is not located within any nationally or locally designated landscapes but is located on the Sustrans Cycle Route 1. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view would be experienced by road users with a Medium susceptibility to change (due to the transitory nature of the view, the attention is on the road ahead) and cyclists accessing the national cycle route whose focus is likely to be on landscape features resulting in a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 All of the proposed turbine hubs would be visible against the sky, affecting approximately 23° of the horizontal FoV at 893m distance. The turbines would appear as a simple and cohesive group with no overlapping on the lower slopes of Creag Riabhach. They would be integrated with the existing CRWF in relation to vertical alignment and layout design, following the existing pattern on the lower hill slopes and extending the horizontal span of the existing wind farm by ~20° (from ~51° to ~71°). The proposed BESS would also be theoretically visible within the existing wind farm as a lower-lying unit but would be mostly screened by mitigation bunding to integrate it into the surrounding landscape. Due to the integration of the proposed development into the landscape with the existing CRWF and the relatively wide views, it would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view and the magnitude of change would be *High*.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 All ground-based construction activities would be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to High*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	High
	Level of Effect	Substantial and Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Existing Wind Farms: High**
 The existing CRWF would appear prominent in the view at 641m distance occupying 51° of the horizontal FoV (High magnitude).

Consented Wind Farms: Zero / Medium-Low
 Sallachy would be theoretically visible to the southwest at ~12km but would be screened by coniferous forestry (Zero magnitude increasing to Medium-Low magnitude if the forestry is felled). A blade tip of Strathy South Wind Farm would be theoretically visible at over 32km distance but would not be discernible due to distance and intervening vegetation (Zero magnitude).

Other Wind Farm Applications: Zero
 There would be no other application wind farms visible.

The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *High*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing + consented windfarms)

Combined effect	Substantial and Significant (due to CRWF and Sallachy (if forestry is felled) and the proposed development))		
Additional effect	Substantial and Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	High	Combined Magnitude: High
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)			
Combined effect	N/A		
Additional effect	N/A		
	Additional Magnitude:	Zero	Combined Magnitude: Zero
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.		

Figure 5.21a-e / Viewpoint 12: Ben More Assynt
f-k (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description This viewpoint is located at the summit of Ben More Assynt and affords 360° panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The view is orientated northeast and views across gently undulating moorland towards distant ridgelines which form the skyline of the view. Notable features in the view include Loch Shin which forms a linear feature in the middle distance and Ben Klibreck which forms a distant conical peak on the skyline. Closer range peaks and rugged mountain features are visible in views to the north, west and south from the summit with Ben Hope and Ben Loyal appearing distinct in the north. Landcover is predominantly moorland, with areas of coniferous forestry. Several distant wind farms are visible in clear conditions, the closest being CRWF to the northeast at ~21km and Achany and Rosehall at 23km distance to the southeast. Other human development in the view includes the A838, scattered farms and residential properties, coniferous forest, telegraph poles, tracks, and the settlement of Lairg in the wider view to the southeast.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is located within the nationally designated Assynt – Coigach NSA which is designated for its scenic qualities and views, as well as the Reay – Cassley WLA and. The value of the view is therefore High. The view would be experienced by hillwalkers accessing the Munro summit and is of High visual susceptibility to change. Therefore, the overall sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change (Proposed Development only) **Whilst in Operation:** All of the proposed turbines would be visible, although the lower turbine towers would be screened by landform, affecting <3° of the horizontal FoV at 22,231m distance. The turbines would largely appear behind the existing CRWF turbines, slightly increasing the density of turbines in this area and extending the horizontal of the existing wind farm spread by <1°. Limited ground-based infrastructure associated with the proposed development would be visible. Due to the relatively wide views, large scale of the receiving landscape and presence of other wind farms, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view. The magnitude of change would be *Very Low*.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning: Limited ground-based construction activities would be theoretically visible where landform does not restrict views. Cranage would, however, be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to Very Low*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Very Low
	Level of Effect	Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and neutral.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Existing Wind Farms: *Low - Very Low***
 CRWF would be visible to the fore of the proposed development at ~21km distance (Low – Very Low magnitude). Achany and Rosehall are partly visible to the southeast at ~23km distance, appearing on the horizon (both Very Low magnitude). Other wind farms would be theoretically visible in the far distance, most well beyond 30km including Gordonbush / Extension, Kilbraur / Extension and Lairg (all Very Low magnitude).
Consented Wind Farms: *Medium - Low*
 Sallachy would be visible in the midground at ~8km distance (Medium - Low magnitude) with Strath Tirry visible further beyond at ~26km distance (Very Low magnitude). Braemore and Lairg II would also be visible at over 27km distance to the southeast, and Strathy South would be visible to the northeast (all Very Low magnitude).
Other Wind Farm Applications: *Low- Very Low*

Chleainsaid would be visible to the east at over 28km distance (Low – Very Low magnitude).
 Other application wind farm development would be visible to the east and southeast at over 25km including Meall Buidhe, Garvary and Lairg II and South Kilbraur (all Very Low magnitude).
 The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *Medium-Low*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + other existing + consented windfarms)			
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to Sallachy)		
Additional effect	Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Medium - Low
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)			
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to Sallachy)		
Additional effect	Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Medium-Low
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.		

Figure 5.22a-e / Viewpoint 13: Beinn Sgeireach
f-k (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description	The viewpoint is located at the summit of Beinn Sgeireach and affords 360° panoramic views of the surrounding landscape features. The view is orientated northeast and views across Loch Shin and the gently undulating moorland towards Ben Klibreck which forms a conical focal point to the centre-right of the view and surrounding lower-lying hills and ridgelines which together form the skyline. Landcover is predominantly moorland, with areas of coniferous forestry. The existing CRWF is visible in the centre of the view at ~16km distance. Other human development in the view includes the A838, scattered residential properties, coniferous forest, and pylons.
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape area but is located within the Reay – Cassley WLA. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High-Medium. The view would be experienced by walkers and the susceptibility to change and the overall sensitivity is assessed as <i>High</i> .
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All of the proposed turbines would be visible, although the lower turbine towers of some turbines would be screened by landform, affecting <2° of the horizontal FoV at 17,072m distance. The turbines would appear behind and to the right of the existing CRWF turbines, slightly increasing the density of turbines in this area and extending the horizontal spread of the existing wind farm by <1° and would appear integrated in respect of height and layout design. The proposed BESS would be barely discernible from this location due to distance and landform. Due to the relatively wide views, the large scale of the receiving landscape and presence of the existing CRWF, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view. The magnitude of change would be <i>Very Low</i>.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Cranage may be visible during the construction and decommissioning periods. The magnitude of change would range from <i>Zero to Very Low</i>.</p>

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low - Very Low
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and neutral.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude	<p>Existing Wind Farms: <i>Medium - Low</i></p> <p>There are several existing wind farms in the view to the south and southeast including Achany and Rosehall at ~7-9km to the south (Medium - Low magnitude), Gordonbush / Extension, Kilbraur / Extension to the southeast at over 33km (both Very Low magnitude) and Lairg to the southeast at ~18km (Low - Very Low magnitude).</p> <p>Consented Wind Farms: <i>Medium - Low</i></p> <p>Sallachy would be visible to the north at approximately ~7km distance (Medium – Low magnitude) with Strath Tirry to the east at ~13km distance (Low magnitude). Lairg II would also be visible at over ~18km distance to the southeast (Low magnitude). Tips and blades of Braemore would be theoretically visible behind Achany at ~13km (Very Low magnitude).</p> <p>Other Wind Farm Applications: <i>High</i></p> <p>There would be many application wind farms visible from the summit. The closest would be Achany Extension at 750m distance (High magnitude). Others would include Chleansaid to the northeast at ~16km distance and Garvary to the southeast at ~18.5km (both Low magnitude). Other application wind farm development would be visible at greater distances including South Kilbraur (Very Low magnitude).</p> <p>The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be <i>High</i>.</p>
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Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + other existing + consented windfarms)	
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to Achany, Rosehall and Sallachy).

Additional effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude: Low - Very Low	Combined Magnitude:	Medium - Low
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)			
Combined effect	Substantial and Significant (due to Achany, Rosehall, Sallachy and Achany Extension).		
Additional effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude: Low - Very Low	Combined Magnitude:	High
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.		

Figure 5.23a-e / Viewpoint 17: A836, South of Crask Inn
f-k (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description This viewpoint is located on the A836 to the south of the Crask Inn as the landform rises beyond the River Tirry bridge. The view is orientated north across Strath a’Chraigs with the ridgeline between the Crask and Cnoc Sgriodain / Creag an Lochain forming the majority of the horizon. Ben Klibreck is visible just beyond Cnoc Sgriodain. Landcover consists of rough grassland, semi-improved grassland, moorland and small areas of coniferous forestry. The A836 is a prominent feature in the view and is lined by post and wire fencing, the Crask Inn and road signage. Parts of the existing CRWF is visible on the skyline above forestry. Other human development in the view includes the bridge structure and coniferous forest.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is not located within any nationally or locally designated landscapes but is located on the Sustrans Cycle Route 1. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view would be experienced by road users with a Medium susceptibility to change (due to the transitory nature of the view, the attention is on the road ahead) and cyclists accessing the national cycle route whose focus is likely to be on landscape features resulting in a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 All three turbines would be visible as blades affecting approximately 4° of the horizontal FoV at 2,869m distance, with the hubs and turbine towers screened by intervening landform. The rotating blades would be seen to the fore and right of the existing CRWF turbines on the skyline and would increase the horizontal spread of the wind farm by <3°. None of the other infrastructure components or the BESS would be visible. Due to the partial landform screening and existing CRWF turbines, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view and the magnitude of change would be *Low - Very Low*.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 Some crange would be visible during the construction and decommissioning periods. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to Very Low*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low - Very Low
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Existing Wind Farms:** *Medium*
 Parts of the existing CRWF is visible at ~2.7km distance (Medium magnitude).
Consented Wind Farms: *Low – Very Low*
 Blades and hubs of Sallachy would be theoretically visible to the southwest at ~10.5km distance (Low - Very Low magnitude).
Other Wind Farm Applications: *Low-Very Low*
 Blade tips of Achany Extension would be theoretically visible to the southwest but would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and distance (Very Low magnitude).
 The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *Medium*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + other existing + consented windfarms)				
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to CRWF)			
Additional effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant			
	Additional Magnitude:	Low - Very Low	Combined Magnitude:	Medium
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)				
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to CRWF)			
Additional effect	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant			

	Additional Magnitude: Low - Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Medium
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.	

Figure 5.24a-e / Viewpoint 18: The track to Loch Choire
f-k (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description The viewpoint is located on the track to Loch Choire which follows the River Tirry along Strath a’Chraigs from the A836, south of Crask Inn. The view is orientated north across the rising landform north of the strath. Cnoc Sgriodain is visible to the right of the view and the distant landform of Ben Hee is visible to the left of the view. Landcover is simple and comprises rough moorland grass species with some distant coniferous woodland visible to the left of the view. The existing CRWF turbines are visible on the skyline. The Crask Inn is visible in the wider view along with passing traffic on the A836.

Sensitivity The viewpoint is not in a designated landscape area and the value of the view is considered to be Medium. The view would be experienced by walkers who are likely to be focused on landscape features and who therefore have a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 One hub and two blades would be visible affecting <5° of the horizontal FoV at 2,609m distance, with remainder of the turbines screened by landform. The turbines would be seen amongst the existing CRWF blades and hubs. None of the other infrastructure components of the proposed development would be visible. Due to the relatively wide views, large scale of the receiving landscape and presence of the existing CRWF, the proposed development would appear reasonably well accommodated in the view. The magnitude of change would be *Very Low*.
Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 Cranage would be visible during construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to Very Low*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Very Low
	Level of Effect	Minor and Not Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and neutral.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Existing Wind Farms:** *Medium*
 CRWF would be visible at ~2.6km distance (Medium magnitude).
Consented Wind Farms: *Low*
 Hubs of Sallachy would be visible to the southwest at ~12km distance (Low magnitude).
Other Wind Farm Applications: *Very Low*
 Blade tips of Achany Extension would be theoretically visible to the southwest but would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and distance (Very Low magnitude).
 The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *Medium*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + other existing + consented windfarms)			
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to CRWF)		
Additional effect	Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Medium
Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)			
Combined effect	Major to Moderate and Significant (due to CRWF)		
Additional effect	Minor and Not Significant		
	Additional Magnitude:	Very Low	Combined Magnitude: Medium
Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.		

Figure 5.25a-h / i-n Viewpoint 20: A836 at track to former Vagastie Cottage
 (The assessment takes account of a 90° FoV from this location as illustrated).

Description The viewpoint is located on the A836 adjacent to the access track to the former Vagastie Cottage and a local bus stop. At this location the route passes close to the proposed development and the view is orientated west-southwest along the A836 and across the rising landform west of the road. The view in this direction comprises short to middle distance features with the longest views along Strath Vagastie to the southwest. More distant views are available to the northeast where Ben Klibreck flanks the strath and forms the main focal feature from this location. Landcover is simple and comprises rough moorland grass and heather species with areas of young mixed woodland visible on the rising landform and horizon. The existing CRWF turbines are visible on the skyline. Other human development in the view includes the A836, young mixed woodland, post and wire fencing, telegraph poles and road signage.

Sensitivity Although on the western edge of the Ben Klibreck - Armine Forest WLA, the viewpoint is orientated away from the WLA and is not located within any nationally or locally designated landscapes. The viewpoint is, however, located on the Sustrans Cycle Route 1. The value of the viewpoint is therefore assessed as High. The view would be experienced by road users with a Medium susceptibility to change (due to the transitory nature of the view and primary focus on the road ahead) and cyclists accessing the national cycle route whose focus is likely to be on landscape features resulting in a High susceptibility to change. Consequently, the sensitivity is assessed as *High*.

Magnitude of Change **Whilst in Operation:**
 All of the proposed turbines would be visible at 418m distance. The proposed turbines would affect approximately 80° of the horizontal FoV. The turbines would appear as a simple and cohesive group following the upper strath side and appearing set back from the road such that the bases would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The proposed turbines would be to the fore of the existing CRWF turbines and would appear well integrated into the existing design layout, extending the horizontal spread by an additional 20° of the horizontal FoV. None of the other infrastructure components of the proposed development or the BESS would be visible. The magnitude of change would be *High*.

Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:
 Ground based construction activities and cramage would be visible during periods of construction and decommissioning. The magnitude of change would range from *Zero to High*.

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	High
	Level of Effect	Substantial and Significant
	Type of Effect	Long-term (reversible), direct and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented + Application wind farms and the proposed development
 (The assessment takes account of a 360° FoV from this location).

Cumulative Magnitude **Existing Wind Farms:** *High*
 CRWF would be visible behind the proposed development at 459m distance (High magnitude).
Consented Wind Farms: *Zero*
 There would be no consented wind farms visible.
Other Wind Farm Applications: *Zero*
 There would be no application wind farms visible.
 The overall cumulative magnitude of change for other wind farms would be *High*.

Scenario 1: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + other existing + consented windfarms)				
Combined effect	Substantial and Significant (due to CRWF and the proposed development)			
Additional effect	Substantial and Significant			
	Additional Magnitude:	High	Combined Magnitude:	High

Scenario 2: (Cumulative effect of proposed development + existing and consented windfarms + applications)

Combined effect N/A

Additional effect N/A

Additional Magnitude: Zero

Combined Magnitude: Zero

Type of Effect Long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.