

APPENDIX 7.3 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

EFFECTS ON VIEWPOINTS

- A7.3.1 For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the development which would be visible from that viewpoint. This includes a description of how many turbine hubs and blades would be visible. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the actual visibility of the turbines. A comment on the significance of visual impacts is also given for each viewpoint.
- A7.3.2 A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in Table 7.13 of the main report. Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating carried forward to Table 7.13 is the rating that represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint. Each assessment viewpoint is illustrated with a baseline photograph, wireframe, and photomontage illustrating the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe wind turbines. Due to the nature of the study area, cumulative wireframes have not been produced for all the representative viewpoints due to limited cumulative effects being identified at an early stage of the project. Where panoramic views are available from high peaks, cumulative wireframes covering 360 degrees have been produced to illustrate the effect of the Talladh-a-Bheithe wind farm in conjunction with other visible wind farms in the study area. These are illustrated at Figures 7.55-7.58.

Viewpoint 1: Kinloch Rannoch (Car park adjacent to Loch Rannoch)
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.25 Direction of view: North west Distance to nearest turbine: 11,870m (T25) Landscape character context: Mid Highland Glens with Lochs Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>Representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, it also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT Mid Highland Glens with Lochs – sub-type Loch Rannoch. The nearest turbine (T25) would be located approximately 11.87km north west of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Viewpoint 1 illustrated by Figure 7.25 was taken from the visitor car park located at the eastern shore of Loch Rannoch. Views to the north west of the viewpoint towards the site look over Loch Rannoch to the wooded southern slopes ridgeline of the Leathad nan Craobh Fearnna with Tay Forest Park seen against the southern shore. Existing views stretch along the loch towards Stob na Cruaiche which is also illustrated in the baseline photograph at Figure 7.25. There are also clear views over open water to the Macdonald Loch Rannoch Hotel and nearby Water Sports Centre as well as a line of high voltage electricity pylons visible against the woodland on the north (right hand) bank of the loch.</p> <p>The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people stopping to experience the view at this recognised vantage point which provides long distance westward views across the loch, many of whom would be tourists</p>

visiting the NSA. This viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint, based on an assessment of topography only, the ZTVs and wireframes suggest that the blade tips of 9 turbines could potentially be visible. The photomontage indicates that of these, all but 5 turbines would be screened by the woodland on the hill at Leathad and Craobh Fearnna and would be seen at a distance of approximately 11.87km.

As there are no other moving structures or vehicles visible distracting attention away from the turbines, any view of blades tips would be identifiable as wind turbines in this view. However, there is a line of high voltage electricity pylons visible against the woodland on the north (right hand side) bank of the loch beneath the turbines which would compete in scale as they are nearer to the observer from this viewpoint.

Long distance views to the west, looking along Loch Rannoch towards the range of peaks around Stob na Cruaiche will not be directly affected by the proposals but it is acknowledged that some turbine blades will be visible to the right of this view. However, due to the declining effect of distance and the large scale nature of the landscape, the visual experience from this location will remain largely unchanged as the proposed turbines will form a small proportion of the view. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its qualities which make it a pleasant environment in which to enjoy recreational activities such as walking, fishing or simply viewing the loch side scenery.

It has therefore been assessed that there would be a very low magnitude of change as a result of the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe wind turbines from this viewpoint.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a moderate to slight level of effect experienced by people using this section of the public highway, water body and public open space which is not deemed to be significant in EIA terms.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
Magnitude of change: Very Low
Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate to Slight
Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 2: Bridge of Gaur
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.26 Direction of view: North northeast Distance to nearest turbine: 5,945m (T6) Landscape character context: Mid Highland Glens with Lochs Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and a minor road/public highway within the study area that has a direct view towards the site, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT Mid Highland Glens with Lochs – sub-type Loch Rannoch. The nearest turbine (T6) would be approximately 5.95km to the north northeast.</p> <p>Viewpoint 2 illustrated at Figure 7.26 was taken to the south east of the hamlet of Bridge of Guar located on the south bank of the western end of the River Guar that links Loch Eigheach Reservoir to Loch Rannoch. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site include and are contained by coniferous woodland mixed with some broadleaf trees on hillocks at Tom na Sgreadaile and An Cladhan, in front of which is sited buildings of Granusricht Farm and out buildings of Rannoch Lodge. This woodland partially obscures the views to the western side (left hand side) of the panorama but otherwise there are clear views over open meadows either side of the river and a gap view over the loch to the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. This view also includes Rannoch power station upper valve chamber and pipework located on the south-facing flanks of Tom an Stoil and Strom Bheag, and more substantial moorland hills that shield the hinterland of the estate from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people using a public highway driving through a highland glen landscape with loch, many of whom would be tourists visiting the NSA. Although there would also be a number of farm and forestry vehicles on business using the route as it is the only access to plantations and farms on the south shore of Loch Rannoch, this viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity to change.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>The photomontage in Figure 7.26 indicates that from this viewpoint all but one of the turbines would be obscured in the view to varying degrees. The viewpoint is within an NSA. It is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location, but the development itself lies outside of the NSA to the north east. Located beyond a prominent ridgeline, the visible turbine would be significantly screened by the intervening hillside of Tom an Stoil while it would also be viewed beyond a complexity of river side meadows, dwellings and other structures, the loch, a prominent power station structure, distant loch side coniferous woodland and moorland above this. The remaining turbines that are theoretically visible are screened from the view by the existing coniferous plantation.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would therefore be unseen from this viewpoint with the exception of the partial view of one of the turbines blade tips as they turn, seen against the skyline above Tom an Stoil. Due to this limited</p>

availability of views of the turbines, the proposed scheme would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the underlying and surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational activities such as camping, walking, cycling or fishing.

From Bridge of Gaur there would therefore be a very low to negligible magnitude of change in the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Without the presence of the existing forestry, the turbines would appear more prominent against the skyline and have an increased level of effect on the view. However, the mixed woodland and hilly middle ground to the north of Bridge of Erich offer permanent screening of the proposed turbines.

It is therefore considered that the proposed development would result in a slight level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people using the section of the public highway within the NSA when viewing the landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Very Low / Negligible magnitude of change
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Slight to negligible
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 3: Rannoch Railway Station

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.27
 Direction of view: North east
 Distance to nearest turbine: 10,298m (T1)
 Landscape character context: Plateau Moor: Rannoch Moor
 Landscape designation: None (near to eastern edge of Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA)

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

Representative of views from an acknowledged viewpoint and public footpath, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 4 Plateau Moor; Rannoch Moor. The nearest turbine (T1) would be approximately 10.3km to the north east. The viewpoint is elevated above surrounding landscape and the nearby Rannoch Station by more than 5m, providing a suitable 'vantage point' for the purposes of this assessment, however it should be noted that there will be no view of the turbines from Rannoch Station itself.

Viewpoint 3 illustrated by Figure 7.27 was taken from grassland on a highpoint east of the Moor of Rannoch bed and breakfast at Rannoch Station. Views towards the site are open and unhindered by vegetation. There are blocks of commercial coniferous woodland, bordering Loch Eigeach Reservoir in the middle distance to the south (right hand) side of the panorama. The tarmac B846 and high voltage power lines and pylons are visible in the view in front of the loch. Pole-mounted power lines traverse the view in the foreground and middle

distance. There are views towards the site over open semi-improved pasture either side of the B846 public road which occupies the central foreground, which leads the eye to the distant highland ridges of Atholl and distinctive triangular peak of Schiehallion. Low moorland ridges (Sron Smeur, 511m AOD) in the intervening landscape shield the hinterland of the site from this viewpoint.

As the viewpoint represents the views experienced by people who may have arrived by rail at Rannoch Station or by road to experience the blanket bog landscape of a location that is inaccessible beyond this point by motorised transport for many miles north, south or west. The sensitivity of Rannoch Station itself would be considered to be high; however it is not possible to obtain a clear view towards the proposed site from this location. The micro-sited location of this viewpoint has been identified as a point where the turbines may be seen and is deemed to be of medium sensitivity to change as it is not directly associated to the station and is not a recognised vantage point.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would theoretically be blade tips of two turbines visible. As there are no trees in the intervening landscape this represents the same 'bare earth' view indicated by both the wire frame and ZTV (i.e., it is the worst case). As the viewpoint is elevated above the public areas around the station, it is unlikely that there would be visibility of any turbines from the lower areas in the vicinity of the station.

The turbines would therefore be inconspicuous from this viewpoint when seen above the intervening landform of Sron Smeur and Meall na Mucarach as the land descends towards Loch Eigeach. The proposed turbines would be significantly screened by this landform and the partial view of two turbines blades would form a very small portion of the entire view of the landscape that is available from this point. The underlying and surrounding landscape currently includes the access road, rail and electrical distribution infrastructure and therefore any visibility of the proposed turbines would be seen within the context of the existing man-made features.

From this viewpoint there would therefore be a very low to negligible magnitude of change in the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a slight to negligible and insignificant effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting Rannoch Station and the immediate local landscape.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium
Magnitude of change: Very Low / No magnitude of change
Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
Level (Significance) of effect: Slight to negligible
Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 4: Leagag
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.28 Direction of view: North Distance to nearest turbine: 8,383m (T22) Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>Representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and a public footpath/open moorland, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch.</p> <p>Viewpoint 4 illustrated by Figure 7.28 was taken from a hill located to the south of Bridge of Gaur, 3.1km from Loch Rannoch and accessed by foot. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over open moorland with power transmission lines on poles in the foreground, mixed broadleaf and coniferous woodland in the middle distance, and dense commercial coniferous plantation on the ridge on far side of the loch. Prominently visible on the north flank of Meall Gorm (centre of the panorama) is the valve house and pipework of Rannoch power station, together with scarring from apparently recent earthworks carried out in its vicinity. Pylons and power lines are visible on the north shore of the loch against the darker mass of forestry. Ben Alder is visible in the distance as a horizontally rounded mass, while the somewhat nearer hills to the north of Talladh-a-Bheithe appear equal or larger in mass, acting as a back cloth to the site.</p> <p>The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people walking in the NSA through a Highland Plateaux and Summits landscape as defined by the SNH LCA 3, in close proximity to LCA 2 Highland Glens with Lochs. Large scale commercial forestry also dominates the view, in balance with the loch and distant mountains. The ridgeline created by the hills of Meall Gorm and Meall Ban act to screen views of the main part of the site. The components of Rannoch power station are absorbed by the scale of the scenery.</p> <p>This viewpoint is considered to be of medium sensitivity to change as it presents an elevated location within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area, however it is noted that while core paths loop around this summit, they do not lead people to the top and it is assessed that the frequency of visitors to this location is relatively low in comparison to more notable high points in the NSA.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint there would be 23 turbine hubs and 24 blade tips visible at an approximate distance of 8.4km. The viewpoint is located within an NSA and it is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location; however the development itself lies outside of the NSA to the north of the viewpoint. It has also been considered that the turbines would be visible above Rannoch power station upper valve chamber and pipework located on the south-facing flanks of Tom an Stoil and Strom Bheag, back clothed by the distant mountainous landscape. 360 degree views are available from this location, including clear views of Scheihallion and the dramatic</p>

landforms associated with Loch Rannoch National Scenic Area including the range associated with Ben Lawers to the south east. While appearing prominent, the proposed turbines would form a relatively small proportion of the view which already includes the built infrastructure of Rannoch power station upper valve chamber and pipework located on the south-facing flanks of Tom an Stoil and Strom Bheag. The proposed turbines would not prevent an appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking.

The prominent presence of other power generation and transmission infrastructure, actively managed commercial forestry, and diminishing effect of the large scale landscape and distance have been considered and it is assessed that the proposed development would result in a medium to high magnitude of change which will be experienced by people walking in the NSA and viewing the landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a substantial and significant level of effect on the view to the north from this viewpoint, however it is also noted that the frequency of visitors to this location is considered to be relatively low and when standing in this location the view to the north is not the primary focus.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Medium / High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 5: Meall Buidhe (Peak at the southern extent of Meall Buidhe ridge)

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.29
 Direction of view: North northeast
 Distance to nearest turbine: 13,583m (T6)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: None

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is located approximately 13.6km to the south southwest of the proposed site and is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, and open highland moorland and mountains, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch.

Viewpoint 5 illustrated at Figure 7.29 was taken from the peak at the southern extent of the Meall Buidhe ridge south of Loch Rannoch and accessed by foot. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over other slightly lower hill tops or ridgelines, with either bare rock or montane vegetation cover. Loch Rannoch is partially

visible as a thin band of blue; more visible as a mass of dark green is forestry plantation north of the loch, part of which fall within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. Beyond the woodland is the open estate land of the site itself, which is back-clothed by a the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaich, and on the far horizon the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges.

The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people walking in the NSA through a Highland Plateaux and Summits landscape as defined by the SNH LCA 3. While the LCA 3 landscape is strongly discernible in the fore and middle-ground, large scale commercial forestry also dominates the distant view, in balance with the distant mountains on the horizon. It should be noted that the original viewpoint location was situated at the summit of Meall Buidhe but the intervening landform of Garbh Mheall screened the lower parts of the proposed scheme. The sensitivity of the summit itself would be deemed to be of a medium to high sensitivity, while the route taken to reach this location is of medium sensitivity to change due to its transient nature.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint, all 24 turbine hubs will be visible, with some of the towers partially obscured by the intervening landform located beyond a prominent ridgeline. It is acknowledged that this is a location of medium sensitivity to change as a location within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area, but the development itself lies outside of the NSA. While the effect of distance and the back clothing by moorland reduces the outline of the individual turbines, the framing effect of the intervening landform draws the eye towards the proposed scheme. Similarly, from the summit of Meall Buidhe, some of the turbines are visible, either side of Garbh Mheall which again draws the eye towards the scheme. The distance of approximately 13.6km to the proposed site reduces the prominence of the turbines which form a relatively small proportion of the view when considering the panoramic views available in all directions from this route to Meall Buidhe. It has been assessed that there would be a medium to high magnitude of change to the view in the direction of the proposed turbines but that a considerable degree of views in alternative directions will remain unaffected.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

While there is a slight diminishing effect of distance and the effect that the back clothing by moorland would have in reducing the outline of the individual turbines, the perception of the proposed development is considered and the proposed turbines would result in a substantial and significant level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people walking in this location within the NSA.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium (however the peak of Meall Buidhe is considered to be Medium / High)
 Magnitude of change: Medium / High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 6: Meall a Mhuic
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.30 Direction of view: North northwest Distance to nearest turbine: 11,566m (T22) Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and open highland moorland and mountains, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch.</p> <p>Viewpoint 6 illustrated by Figure 7.30 was taken from a hill summit south southeast of Loch Rannoch, accessed by foot. Views to the north northwest of the viewpoint towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and moorland. Loch Rannoch is visible as a thin band of blue while a mass of dark green forestry plantation north of the loch is seen, part of which is within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. Beyond the woodland is the open estate land of the site itself, which is back-clothed by a the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaich, and on the far horizon the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges.</p> <p>It has therefore been considered that this viewpoint is of high sensitivity to change due its elevated location, providing long distant panoramic views of the surrounding landscape from within the NSA.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint there would be 24 turbine hubs visible, with some of the towers partially obscured by the intervening landform located beyond a prominent ridgeline. The viewpoint is located within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA. It is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location, but the development itself lies outside of the NSA. While the effect of distance, and the back clothing effect of moorland would have in reducing the outline of the individual turbines, the proposed turbines would be visible in the view in which a limited amount of development can be seen with the exception of Rannoch power station upper valve chamber and pipework located on the south-facing flanks of Tom an Stoil and Strom Bheag. In clear conditions, the proposed turbines would form prominent features in the view to the north northwest but would not completely prevent an understanding and appreciation of the underlying and surrounding landscape when considering the availability of views in other directions from this elevated location. However due to the baseline view currently experienced from the NSA being relatively free of existing development it has been assessed that there would be a medium to high magnitude of change to the view.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>It is considered that the turbines would result in a substantial and significant level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people walking in the NSA and viewing landscape that is</p>

beyond the NSA boundary, however it should be noted that this is a location offering long distance panoramic views in every direction and that the proposed turbine take up a relatively small proportion of this visual experience.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Medium / High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 7: Meall Garbh

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.31
 Direction of view: North west
 Distance to nearest turbine: 14,580m (T25)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and open highland moorland and mountains, it is also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch.

Viewpoint 7 illustrated at Figure 7.31 was taken from a hill summit of Meall Garbh, south of Loch Rannoch and accessed by foot. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and moorland. Loch Rannoch is partially visible as a thin band of blue while forestry plantation is visible to the north of the loch, part of which is within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. Beyond the woodland is the open estate land of the site itself, which is back-clothed by the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaich, and on the far horizon the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges on the right hand side of the view.

It has been assessed that due to the nature of this viewpoint being a summit within the NSA that it has a high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 24 turbine hubs visible at a distance of approximately 14,580m. The viewpoint is located within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA. It is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location, although the development itself lies outside of the NSA. This viewpoint location offers long distance panoramic views, included dramatic views of Schiehallion to the north east and the Ben Lawers range

to the south above the Lyon valley. While the turbines would be visible as a relatively small cluster, back clothed by the highland landscape north of Loch Rannoch in views to the north west, it is noted that this only forms a relatively small proportion of the 360 degree panoramic views that are available from this location. An appreciation of the surrounding landscape will not be affected by the introduction of new features in this direction. Due to the distance of approximately 14,580m it has been assessed that there will be a medium magnitude of change as a result of the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe turbines.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Where there is a degree of diminishing effect due to distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development, it is considered that the turbines would result in a moderate to substantial and significant level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting this location within the NSA and viewing the landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary. However it is important to consider that the primary focal points from this location will not be affected by the proposed development.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Medium
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 8: Schiehallion

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.32
 Direction of view: North west
 Distance to nearest turbine: 18,100 (T25)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from Schiehallion, a munro with an elevation of 1,083 AOD within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and a well-known and prominent landmark Monroe mountain summit on open access land, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch

Viewpoint 8 illustrated at Figure 7.32 was taken from the summit of Schiehallion to the south east of Loch Rannoch, accessed by foot. Views to the north west of the viewpoint towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and moorland. Loch Rannoch is visible as a diagonal band of blue while dark green forestry plantation is visible in the middle distance to the right of the panorama and also along the northern bank of the loch into the distance, part of which is within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. Beyond the woodland is the open estate land of the site itself, which is back-clothed by a the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverkie and Creag Meagaich, and on the far horizon the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges on the right hand side of the view. It is important to highlight the availability of long distance views in all directions from this location, including views towards the Cairngorms National Park, Loch Tummel NSA as

well as wide expansive views of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA.

Due to the local and historical significance of this munro, combined with the greater frequency of visitors in comparison to other high peaks in the area, it has been assessed that this viewpoint is of very high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 24 turbine hubs visible at a distance of approximately 18.1km, with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform located beyond a prominent ridgeline. The viewpoint is within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and it is acknowledged that this is a notable and frequently visited viewing location, but the development itself lies outside of the NSA. The proposed scheme would be seen as a fairly compact cluster of turbines above Loch Rannoch and the coniferous forestry located on the northern bank and would appear small in scale due to the surrounding large scale landscape and diminishing effect of distance. Due to the effect of distance, and the effect of that back clothing by moorland would have in reducing the outline of the individual turbines, the effect of the proposed turbines is therefore reduced. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking. It should be noted that the ascent to the summit is generally made using a path located to the east, meaning that views of the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe turbines will not be available until visitors reach the top. Due to the distance of approximately 18.1km and lack of additional development in the direction of the site, it has been assessed that there will be a medium magnitude of effect on the view from this location.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered that the turbines would result in a moderate to substantial level of effect which is deemed to be significant when considering the visual amenity experienced by people visiting the summit of Schiehallion. However, it is important to emphasise the availability of views in all directions from this highpoint with the proposed scheme at Talladh-a-Bheithe forming a relatively small proportion of the entire visual experience.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Very High
 Magnitude of change: Medium
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 9: Beinn Mholach
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.33 Direction of view: West southwest Distance to nearest turbine: 4,233m (T25) Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux Landscape designation: None</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>Viewpoint 9 is representative of views from open access highland moorland and hills, it is also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Talla Bheith and Craiganour Forest.</p> <p>Viewpoint 9 illustrated at Figure 7.33 was taken from the summit of a hill within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate to the east northeast of the site, accessed by foot. Views to the west of the viewpoint towards the site are over moorland. A small water body, Dubh Lochan na Beinne Boidhich is visible in the middle foreground; Loch Rannoch is visible as a dash of blue to the left of the panorama in the distance beyond this. The southern tip of Loch Ericht is just visible to the right of centre of the view, and in the distance behind are glimpses of the lochs of Rannoch Moor. Forestry plantation is visible in the central distance to the left of the Loch Ericht, part of which is within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. In the foreground and middle distance is the open moorland surrounding the estate and of the land of the site itself. The site is back-clothed by further plateau moorland of the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate and SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux. On the far horizon the Tayside LCA 4 Plateau Moor: Rannoch Moor with Lochaber LCA LCT 1 Blanket Bog and 2 Mountain Massif of Glen Coe visible on the far horizon.</p> <p>This viewpoint location is not situated within any landscape designations and is not located along any recognised footpaths. However, it is an elevated location at approximately 837m AOD offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and it has therefore been assessed to be of medium sensitivity to change.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint there would be 17 hubs and the blade tips of 20 turbines visible at the approximate distance of 4.2km with some of those turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. The turbines would form new prominent features in the view but would be back clothed by the surrounding moorland landscape. The sense of openness and scale in the distance experienced at the viewpoint would remain due to the visual permeability of the proposed development. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the underlying and surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking. Due to the distance of approximately 4,233m to the nearest turbine, it has been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view. However, it should be noted that the viewpoint is not located along any recognised routes and the frequency of visitors to this location will be lower than that of the more accessible summits in the surrounding area.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p>

Due to the diminishing effect of the large scale landscape at this distance on perception of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in a moderate to substantial level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people walking in the Talladh-a-Bheithe Forest moorland. This effect is deemed to be significant however, it is noted that this is not a notable location and that the frequency of visitors to this summit is considered to be relatively low.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium
 Magnitude of change: High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 10: Loch Ericht, shoreline

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.34
 Direction of view: East southeast
 Distance to nearest turbine: 3,497m (T1)
 Landscape character context: Upper Highland Glens with Lochs
 Landscape designation: None

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from SNH Tayside LCT 2a Upper Highland Glens with Lochs, sub-type Loch Ericht.

Viewpoint 10 illustrated at Figure 7.34 was taken from the western shore of Loch Ericht, accessed by foot. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over bog side grassland and pine trees and impounded waters of the southern extremity of Loch Ericht. In the middle distance beyond the loch is a coniferous plantation within the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate. To the left rises is the open moorland and hills of the Coire Bhachdaidh SSSI. In the central distance can be seen the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest. To the right of the panorama Ericht Dam superstructure is visible.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 12 hubs and the blade tips of 13 turbines visible, most of which are viewed against the sky. The remainder would be obscured by the intervening landform located beyond a prominent ridgeline on the left side of the view behind Sron a Chlaonaidh. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the underlying and surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which would be in the context of hydroelectric generation infrastructure and reservoir in which it is

possible to walk, albeit across difficult and boggy terrain. Due to the proximity to the site being approximately 3.5km to the nearest turbine, it has been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Although there would be a diminishing effect created by the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development, due to the relatively close proximity of the viewpoint to the turbines it is considered the proposed wind farm would result in a substantial and significant level of effect on the visual amenity experienced by people walking by Loch Ericht.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium / High
 Magnitude of change: High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 11: Ben Alder summit

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.35
 Direction of view: South east
 Distance to nearest turbine: 8,031m (T5)
 Landscape character context: Isolated Mountain Plateau
 Landscape designation: None

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

Viewpoint 11 illustrated at Figure 7.35 was taken from the summit of Ben Alder to the north west of the site, accessed on foot. Views to the south east of the viewpoint towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and a precipitous slope. The Talladh-a-Bheithe estate (and the site) is visible in the central middle distance of the panorama, back-clothed by moorland and a ridgeline demarcating the edge of the highland plateau. Situated on the horizon are the distinctive conical peak of Schiehallion and the Ben Lawers ridgeline. Also visible is the arching shoulder of Ben Alder, identified as Sron Bealach Beithe (Ben Alder Massif) which is discussed later in this appendix when discussing viewpoint 23.

This viewpoint is assessed as having a very high sensitivity to change due to its elevation of 1,145m AOD, providing panoramic views of the surrounding highland landscape. It is noted that this is a relatively remote location and while accessible, the frequency of visitors is low, however at the same time it must be acknowledged that as it is a munro, this increases the frequency of visitors when comparing the summit to lower peaks in the area.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 7 hubs and the blade tips of 12 turbines visible, with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform of Sron Bealach Beithe. It is acknowledged that this is a notable munro within the study area which increases the frequency of visitors to its location; however this is a challenging destination to reach which has an impact on the number of people that visit this location. The proposed turbines that are visible above Sron Bealach Beithe will introduce new elements to the view but they will form a small proportion of this experience when considering the availability of panoramic views in all directions from this elevated location. For instance, views east towards the Cairngorms National Park and south east towards the Loch Tummel NSA will be unaffected by the proposals. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking. It has therefore been assessed that there would be a low to medium magnitude of change to the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Due to the level of screening provided by the intervening landform, coupled with the back clothing effect by the surrounding moorland and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development, it is considered that the proposed turbines would result in a moderate and significant level of effect on the view from this viewpoint. It should be noted that the proposed scheme will take up a relatively small proportion of the view when considering the availability of 360 degree panoramic views from this location.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Very High
Magnitude of change: Low / Medium
Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate
Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 12: A82 Rannoch Moor
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.36 Direction of view: North east Distance to nearest turbine: 24,460 (T1) Landscape character context: Blanket Bog Landscape designation: Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>This location is representative of views from within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA and of a well-used trunk road and tourist route; it is also typical of Lochaber Character type 1 Blanket Bog, Rannoch Moor.</p> <p>Viewpoint 12 illustrated at Figure 7.36 was taken from the A82, accessed by car. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over the extensive boulder-strewn bog, grassland and isolated willow or birch trees and lochans of Rannoch Moor. In the distance to the left of the panorama is the Black Corries ridgeline, and beyond that to the extreme left is the Ben Alder group. To the right, a series of horizontal ridges lead to the Ben Lawers ridgeline on the distant horizon. In the central distance, the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest can be seen.</p> <p>It has been considered that due to the viewpoint being located within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area that it maintains a high sensitivity to change.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>Theoretically from this distance there would be 16 hubs and the blade tips of all 24 turbines visible from the viewpoint although it is not possible to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view at approximately 24.4km between the site and the viewpoint. While the turbines are theoretically visible from this location, the effect of distance will result in the turbines appearing small in scale when viewing in the context of this vast large scale landscape. It is assessed that the perception of the intervening landscape would remain largely unchanged and the sense of openness and scale in the distance experienced at the viewpoint would remain. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which would be in the context of a major transport route used by both people on business or travelling to work and tourists. It has therefore been assessed that there would be a very low to low magnitude of change to the view.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in a moderate to slight level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people stopping along the this road in the NSA and viewing landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary. It should be noted that the orientation of the road is such that the</p>

proposed turbines will not be located in the direct field of vision of motorists.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Very Low / Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Slight
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 13: West Highland Way

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.37
 Direction of view: North east
 Distance to nearest turbine: 26,243m (T1)
 Landscape character context: Mountain Massif
 Landscape designation: Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA and one of Scotland's network of National Long Distance Routes (others being the Great Glen Way, the Southern Upland Way, and the Speyside Way), it is also typical of SNH Lochaber LCT 1 Blanket Bog and LCT 2, Mountain Massif.

Viewpoint 13 illustrated by Figure 7.37 was taken from the West Highland Way, a long distance recreational route. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over moorland in the immediate foreground, but more extensively, over the bog and isolated lochans of Rannoch Moor. In the distance to the left of the panorama is the Black Corries ridgeline, and beyond that to the extreme left is the Ben Alder group. To the right, a series of horizontal ridges lead to the Ben Lawers ridgeline on the distant horizon. In the central distance, the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest can be seen.

The sensitivity of this viewpoint has been assessed as being high to very high. This is due to the viewpoint representing a long distance recreational route within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

Theoretically from this distance there would be 12 hubs and the blade tips of 16 turbines visible from the viewpoint although at the distance of approximately 26.2km it is difficult to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view. In clear climatic conditions, the proposed scheme appears as a small cluster of turbines in the far distance and contributes only a small proportion to the possible

views available from this section of the West Highland Way. The turbines do not break the skyline which reduces further the impact on the view. The intervening landscape would remain unchanged and the sense of openness and scale experienced at the viewpoint would not be affected. The turbines would not prevent an understanding or appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational hill walking. Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in a very low magnitude of change on the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is therefore considered that there would be a slight level of effect from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people using this road in the NSA and viewing landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High / Very High
 Magnitude of change: Very Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Slight
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 14: Ben Lawers

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.38
 Direction of view: North northwest
 Distance to nearest turbine: 22,887m (T25)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This location is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and another well-known and prominent landmark munro mountain summit on open access land, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Ben Lawers and Beinn Heasgarnich range south of Glen Lyon.

Viewpoint 14 illustrated at Figure 7.38 was taken from Ben Lawers summit located approximately 22.88km to the south southeast of the proposed site, and accessed by foot. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over the intervening Carn Gorm/Schiehallion mountain range between Glen Lyon and Loch Rannoch, most of which comprises either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and moorland. Within the central distance is the encompassed Talladh-a-Bheithe estate, back-clothed by a the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverkie and Creag Meagaich and the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges.

As a prominent munro summit within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area, it has been

assessed that this location is of high to very high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

Theoretically from this approximate distance of 22.88km, there would be 24 turbines visible from the viewpoint although it is not possible to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view. The wind farm will form a small cluster of turbines in views to the north, however it is important to note that the availability of 360 degree views from this location means that the Talladh-a-Bheithe scheme forms a small proportion of the view. The viewpoint is located within an NSA and it is acknowledged that this is a notable munro and a destination for hill-walkers, but the development itself lies outside of the NSA beyond its northern boundary. Due to the effect of distance, and the effect of that back clothing by moorland would have in reducing the outline of the individual turbines, the sense of openness and scale in the distance experienced at the viewpoint would remain and the turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics, which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking. It is therefore considered that there would be a low magnitude of change to the view from the summit of Ben Lawers.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

While a diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on the perception of the proposed development is experienced, it is considered that the turbines would result in a moderate to slight level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting this summit in the NSA and viewing landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary. It should also be noted that this summit offers long distance panoramic views in all directions and that the proposed scheme forms a small proportion of the available visual experience.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High / Very High
 Magnitude of change: Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Slight
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 15: Meall Reamhar
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.39 Direction of view: West southwest Distance to nearest turbine: 31,854m (T25) Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux Landscape designation: Cairngorms National Park</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>This viewpoint represents views from moorland within the Cairngorms National Park, it is also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, in the area of the Forest of Atholl.</p> <p>Viewpoint 15 illustrated by Figure 7.39 was taken from the Meall Reamhar summit, accessed by foot. Views to the west of the viewpoint towards the site are over the intervening Highland Summits and Plateaux, Highland and Mid Highland Glens (Glen Errochty) which include vegetation cover of which comprises a mix of plantation woodland and moorland. In the longer distance views the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate is located alongside the rounded mountain ridgeline of the SNH LCA of Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaich and the Cairngorms LCA including the Southern Hill Ranges.</p> <p>As a location within the Cairngorms National Park, it has been assessed that the viewpoint is of a high sensitivity to change.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>Theoretically from this distance of 31.85km there would be part of 1 turbine blade tip visible from the viewpoint although it is not possible to discern this in the view. The viewpoint is within the Cairngorms National Park and it is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location, but the development itself lies outside of the National Park. Visibility of the turbines is extensively limited and at the distance of over 30km the partial theoretical visibility of the blades of one turbine will not be visible by the vast majority, if not all people visiting this location, unless specifically looking for it. In addition, the proposed scheme would not prevent an appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in hill walking. Due to the limited availability to view the wind farm from this distance, it has been assessed that there will be no magnitude of change on the view.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>Due to the distance and inconspicuous visibility of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in no level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people using the National Park, viewing the landscape that is beyond the National Park boundary.</p>

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: No magnitude of change
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: None
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 16: Southern shore of Loch Rannoch nr Croiscrag

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.40
 Direction of view: North
 Distance to nearest turbine: 9,606m (T25)
 Landscape character context: Mid Highland Glens and Lochs
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, it also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT Mid Highland Glens with Lochs – sub-type Loch Rannoch. The nearest turbine (T25) would be located approximately 9.6km north of the viewpoint.

Viewpoint 16 illustrated at Figure 7.40 was taken from the southern shore of Loch Rannoch. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over Loch Rannoch towards the wooded southern slopes and treeless ridgeline of the Leathad nan Craobh Fearna and Tay Forest Park. There are clear views over open water to Rannoch power station (both the turbine house and upper valve chamber and pipework) located on Tom an Stoil and Strom Bheag.

The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people using a public footpath, arrived at by either walking or driving through a highland glen landscape with loch, many of whom would be tourists visiting the NSA. While this viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity, it should be noted that the number of opportunities to see views across the loch along this section of the southern shore are limited and that this viewpoint represents a worst-case scenario as the majority of views are significantly screened by immediate roadside vegetation located between the road the loch shore.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

There would theoretically be part of the blade tips of one turbine visible from the viewpoint. As there are existing trees located on the intervening ridgeline, this reduces the visibility of the turbine further than the view indicated by both the wire frame and ZTV. The photomontage illustrates the limited effect of the proposed scheme while any view of the turbine blade tips would be associated with other renewable energy infrastructure (hydroelectric generation and pylons on the north shore of the loch). The turbines would be mostly unseen from this viewpoint

and the underlying landscape would remain largely unchanged and the sense of complexity in the foreground and openness and scale in the distance experienced at the viewpoint would not be affected to any significant degree. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational activities such as walking, cycling or fishing.

It has therefore been assessed that at this viewpoint there would be a very low magnitude of change in the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a negligible to no magnitude of change on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting this location within the NSA when viewing the landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Very Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Negligible to none
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 17: Southern shore of Loch Rannoch at Tay Forest Park Car Park

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.41
 Direction of view: North west
 Distance to nearest turbine: 9,606m (T25)
 Landscape character context: Mid Highland Glens and Lochs
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

Viewpoint 17 is representative of views from within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA, and publicly accessible loch side Forestry Commission for Scotland car park and picnic area, it also is typical of the SNH Tayside LCT Mid Highland Glens with Lochs – sub-type Loch Rannoch. The nearest turbine (T25) would be located approximately 9.6km north west of the viewpoint.

This viewpoint is illustrated at Figure 7.41 and was taken from the southern shore of Loch Rannoch. Views to the north west of the viewpoint towards the site are over the open water of Loch Rannoch to the wooded southern slopes and ridgeline of the Leathad nan Craobh Fearna.

The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people using a publicly accessible car park and picnic area, arrived at by either walking or driving through a highland glen landscape with loch, many of whom would be tourists visiting the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area. This viewpoint is considered to be of

high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

The blade tips of 5 turbines would be visible from this viewpoint. Coniferous trees on the intervening ridgeline would further screen the remaining turbines from view. Long distance views to the west, looking along Loch Rannoch towards the range of peaks around Stob na Cruaiche will not be directly affected by the proposals but it is acknowledged that some turbine blades will be visible to the right of this view. However, due to the declining effect of distance and the large scale nature of the landscape, the visual experience from this location will remain largely unchanged as the proposed turbines will form a small proportion of the view. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which make it a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational activities such as camping, walking, cycling or fishing. From this viewpoint there would therefore be a low magnitude of change in the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is therefore considered that the proposed development would result in a slight to moderate level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting the NSA.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Slight / Moderate
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 18: Stob Dearg

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.42
 Direction of view: East northeast
 Distance to nearest turbine: 30,449 (T1)
 Landscape character context: Mountain Massif
 Landscape designation: Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA, it is also typical of SNH Lochaber LCT 1 Blanket Bog and LCT 2, Mountain Massif.

Viewpoint 18 illustrated at Figure 7.42 was taken from the summit of Stob Dearg, accessed by foot. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over bare rock of the mountainside, moorland in the mid foreground, but more extensively, over the bog and isolated lochans of Rannoch Moor. In the distance to the left of the panorama is the Black Corries ridgeline and Blackwaer Reservoir, and beyond that to the extreme left is the Ben

Alder group. To the right the Ben Lawers ridgeline is visible on the distant horizon. In the central distance the triangular summit of Schiehallion can be seen as well as the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest.

Due to the elevated nature of this location offering panoramic views from within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA, it has been assessed that this viewpoint has a high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

Theoretically from this distance of approximately 30.5km there would be the hubs and blades of all 24 turbines visible from the viewpoint although it is very difficult to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view with the turbines back clothed by the Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest hills. The turbines will form a very small cluster within the view and will only contribute to a very small proportion of the view when considering the wide, extensive panoramic nature of the visual experience from this location. It has been assessed that there will be a low magnitude of change to the view as the turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which would be in the context a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational walking.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered that the turbines would result in a slight to moderate level of effect on the view from Stob Dearg.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High

Magnitude of change: Low

Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)

Reversibility of effect: Non permanent

Level (Significance) of effect: Slight / Moderate

Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 19: Rannoch Moor – within the moor
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.43 Direction of view: North east Distance to nearest turbine: 18,374m (T1) Landscape character context: Blanket Bog Landscape designation: Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>This location is representative of views from within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA and it is also typical of Lochaber Character type 1 Blanket Bog and Tayside LCT 4 Plateau Moor, Rannoch Moor.</p> <p>Viewpoint 19 illustrated at Figure 7.43 was taken from Rannoch Moor, accessed by foot. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over the boulder-strewn bog, grassland and large lochans of Rannoch Moor. In the middle distance to the left of the panorama is Black Corries ridgeline. To the right, a horizontal ridge screens view of the Carn Gorm and Schiehallion range ridgeline on the distant horizon. In the central distance the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest can be seen.</p> <p>It has been considered that this location is representative of views within Rannoch Moor and is deemed to be of very high sensitivity to change.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>Theoretically from this distance of approximately 18.37km there would be 15 hubs and the blade of 22 turbines visible from the viewpoint; however it is difficult to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view. The scheme is seen as a small cluster of wind turbines in the distance, while the prominence is reduced as the turbines are back clothed by the landform of Beinn Mholach. While it is acknowledged that the eye is drawn towards the proposed scheme due to the visible landforms of Beinn Mholach and Beinn a Chuallaich in the longer distance, it is also noted that the proposed development will form a small proportion of the views available from this open location within Rannoch Moor. It has therefore been assessed that there would be a low magnitude of change on the view.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in a moderate and significant level of effect on the view from Rannoch Moor and the visual amenity experienced by people visiting this area of the NSA and viewing landscape that is beyond the NSA boundary. It is important to note that this is not a readily accessible location and the frequency of visitors to this location is expected to be lower than other locations within Rannoch Moor.</p>

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Very High
 Magnitude of change: Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 20: Glencoe Ski Centre – top of first lift

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.44
 Direction of view: North east
 Distance to nearest turbine: 27,847m (T1)
 Landscape character context: Mountain Massif
 Landscape designation: Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from the Glencoe Ski Centre within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA and a well- used tourist facility, it is also typical of Lochaber LCT 1 Blanket Bog, Rannoch Moor and LCT 2, Mountain Massif.

Viewpoint 20 illustrated at Figure 7.18 V20 was taken from above the Glen Coe Ski Centre accessed by foot. Views to the east of the viewpoint towards the site are over moorland on the steep hillside above the ski centre in the mid foreground, but more extensively, over the A82, which is set within bogland landscape and lochans of Rannoch Moor. In the distance to the left of the panorama is the Black Corries ridgeline and beyond that to the extreme left is the Ben Alder group. To the right is the Carn Gorm/Schiehallion range with the Ben Lawers ridgeline also visible on the distant horizon. To the right of the central horizon the triangular summit of Schiehallion can be seen. A glimpse of Loch Rannoch and the moorland of SNH LCA 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub class area Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest can also be seen. As a high point within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area, this viewpoint is of high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

Theoretically from the approximate distance of 27.85km there would be 16 hubs and the blades of 18 turbines visible from the viewpoint although it is difficult to discern the difference between hubs and blade tips due to the turbines diminutive size in the view. The turbines would also be back-clothed by the Talladh-a-Bheithe and Craiganour Forest hills. The turbines would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the intervening and surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which would be in the context of a leisure destination within the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA. It is therefore considered that there would be a low to very low magnitude of change to the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

Due to the diminishing effect of distance and the large scale landscape on perception of the proposed development it is considered the turbines would result in a slight level of effect on the view from Glen Coe Ski Centre. In addition it is important to emphasise that the frequency of visitors to this location will be higher in the winter months when the snow covered landscape will significantly restrict the opportunities to view the turbines from this location.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Low / Very Low
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Slight
 Is the effect significant? No

Viewpoint 21: Meall Gorm

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.45
 Direction of view: North
 Distance to nearest turbine: 1,871m (T22)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from the northern boundary of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and an area of open moorland, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Talla Bheith and Craiganour Forest, and is located within the application boundary of the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm.

Viewpoint 21 illustrated at Figure 7.45 was taken from the summit of Meall Gorm, approximately 1.87km to the south of the nearest proposed turbine (T22) and to the north of Loch Rannoch. Views to the north of the viewpoint towards the site are over open moorland and at the time of the site visit, the snow capped Ben Alder range. Ben Alder is clearly visible in the distance as a horizontally rounded mass, while the somewhat nearer hills to the north of Talladh-a-Bheithe appear relatively equal in mass, acting as a back-cloth to the site.

The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people walking in the open moorland of the NSA through a Highland Plateaux and Summits landscape as defined by the SNH LCA 3, in close proximity to LCA 2 Highland Glens with Lochs. Loch Ericht is visible to the north west while Loch Mheugaldh and an area of commercial forestry can also be seen in the view to the north.

This viewpoint is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to change as it presents an elevated location at the boundary of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area.

<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint there would be 20 turbine hubs and 24 blade tips visible with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. At the distance of 1,871m to the proposed scheme, the turbines will present prominent new features to the view as visitors look north, away from the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA which is located to the south. It is noted that this is not an obvious destination for people visiting the NSA and the frequency of people standing in this location is considered to be very low in comparison to other accessible summits. However, when standing in this location and experiencing the surrounding landscape, the views to the south offer the primary focus and include the NSA itself with the turbines situated behind the person.</p> <p>It has been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view. However, it should be noted that the viewpoint is not located along any recognised routes and the frequency of visitors to this location will be lower than that of the more accessible and notable summits within the study area.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>It is considered that the turbines would result in a substantial level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people walking to the summit of Meall Gorm. This effect is deemed to be significant.</p>
<p>Overall Assessment</p> <p>Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium / High Magnitude of change: High Duration of effect: Long term (25 years) Reversibility of effect: Non permanent Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial Is the effect significant? Yes</p>

<p>Viewpoint 22: Sgor Gaibhre</p>
<p>Viewpoint Information</p> <p>Figure number: Figure 7.46 Direction of view: South east Distance to nearest turbine: 8,501 (T1) Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux Landscape designation: None</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>Viewpoint 22 illustrated at Figure 7.46 is representative of views from the summit of Sgor Gaibhre to the north west of the proposed development site and is accessed on foot. Views to the south east of the viewpoint</p>

towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and a precipitous slope down to Loch Ericht. The Talladh-a-Bheithe estate (and the site) is visible in the central middle distance of the panorama, back-clothed by moorland and a ridgeline demarcating the edge of the highland plateau. Situated on the horizon is the distinctive conical peak of Schiehallion.

This viewpoint is assessed as having a high sensitivity to change due to its elevation of 946m AOD, providing panoramic views of the surrounding highland landscape. It is noted that this is a relatively remote location and while accessible, the frequency of visitors is relatively low, however at the same time it must be acknowledged that as it is a munro, this increases the frequency of visitors when comparing the summit to lower peaks in the area. It is therefore assessed that this viewpoint has a medium to high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint, all 24 turbines will be visible, with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. It is acknowledged that this is a sensitive viewing location due to the altitude of the viewpoint. At the approximate distance of 8.5km to the proposed turbines, coupled with the elevated location and limited amount of intervening screening, it is assessed that the turbines will present prominent features into the view, however the effect is reduced slightly due to the back clothing of the moorland beyond the turbines. While the turbines do not break the skyline, they are seen below the recognisable summit of Schiehallion. It has been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view; however, it is important to note that the turbines form a small proportion of the view when considering the availability of panoramic views from this location.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

While it is noted that this is a location which is not frequently visited, it is a munro which will attract walkers to it. It has been assessed that there will be a substantial and significant level of effect on the view from Sgor Gaibhre.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium / High
 Magnitude of change: High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 23: Sron Bealach (Ben Alder massif)
<p>Viewpoint Information Figure number: Figure 7.47 Direction of view: South east Distance to nearest turbine: 6,918m (T5) Landscape character context: Isolated Mountain Plateaux Landscape designation: None</p>
<p>Existing View</p> <p><i>Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View</i></p> <p>Viewpoint 23 illustrated at Figure 7.47 was taken from Sron Bealach (Ben Alder Massif) to the north west of the site, accessed on foot. Views to the south east of the viewpoint towards the site are over either bare rock or montane vegetation cover and a precipitous slope. The Talladh-a-Bheithe estate (and the site) is visible in the central middle distance of the panorama, back clothed by moorland and a ridgeline demarcating the edge of the highland plateau. Situated on the horizon to the left and centre of the panorama are the distinctive conical peak of Schiehallion and the Ben Lawers ridgeline respectively. Loch Ericht is also visible as it wraps around Sron a Chlaonaidh towards the southern shore. Large blocks of commercial forestry are also seen on the ascending land south of the viewpoint towards Meall Liath na Doire Bhig.</p> <p>This viewpoint is assessed as having a high sensitivity to change due to its elevation of 1,099m AOD, providing panoramic views of the surrounding highland landscape. It is noted that this is a relatively remote location and while accessible, the frequency of visitors is low, however at the same time it must be acknowledged that as it is a munro and associated with the peak of Ben Alder, that this increases the frequency of visitors when comparing the summit to lower peaks in the area.</p>
<p>Predicted View</p> <p><i>Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint, 23 hubs and the blade tips of all the turbines will be visible, with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. It is acknowledged that this is a location along the route to the notable highpoint of Ben Alder and a position when visitors may stop to experience views of the surrounding landscape. At the approximate distance of 6.9km to the proposed turbines, coupled with the elevated location and limited amount of intervening screening, it is assessed that the turbines will present new and prominent features into the view. While the turbines do not break the skyline, they are seen below the recognisable ridgeline of Ben Lawers with Schiehallion also visible to the far left of the proposed scheme. It has therefore been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view.</p> <p><i>Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance</i></p> <p>While it is noted that this is a location which is not as frequently visited as Ben Alder itself, it has been assessed that there will be a substantial and significant level of effect on the view from Sron Bealach (Ben Alder massif).</p>

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 24: Beinn Udlamain

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.48
 Direction of view: South west
 Distance to nearest turbine: 10,131m (T10)
 Landscape character context: Loch and Glen: Loch Eric
 Landscape designation: Cairngorms National Park

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint represents views from the summit of Beinn Udlamain located on the south western boundary of the Cairngorms National Park, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, in the area of the Talla Bheith and Craiganour Forest, but also the Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh, Loch and Glen – sub type Loch Eric.

Viewpoint 24 illustrated at Figure 7.48 was taken from the Beinn Udlamain summit, accessed by foot. Views to the south southwest of the viewpoint towards the site are over the intervening highland summits, across the plateau moor of Rannoch Moor and beyond towards the high peaks around the Beinn a' Chreachain summit. Land cover includes vegetation comprising of a mix of plantation woodland and open moorland. In the middle distance views the Talladh-a-Bheithe estate is visible.

As a location on the Cairngorms National Park boundary, it has been assessed that the viewpoint is of a high sensitivity to change.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 14 turbine hubs and 18 blade tips visible with some of those turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. At the distance of approximately 10.1km to the proposed scheme, the impact of the proposed turbines is reduced and the scale of the project appears diminished slightly in the context of the large scale upland landscape. When standing in this location and experiencing the surrounding landscape, the eye is drawn towards and along Loch Eric as well as to the north east towards the mountain ranges within the Cairngorms National Park including the summits of A'Bhuidheanach Bheag and Glas Mheall Mor above the Dalnacardoch Forest.

It should be noted that the viewpoint is not located along any recognised routes and the frequency of visitors to this location will be lower than that of the more accessible summits within the National Park. The proposed turbines do not break the skyline and do not prevent an appreciation and understanding of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which would be in the context a pleasant environment in which to partake in recreational walking. It has therefore been assessed that there would be a medium magnitude of change to the view.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It has been assessed that there will be a moderate to substantial level of effect on the view from Beinn Uldamain, at the south western boundary of the Cairngorms National Park. This effect is deemed to be significant, however as previously stated, the viewpoint is not located along any recognised routes and the frequency of visitors to this location will be lower than that of the more accessible summits within the National Park.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: High
 Magnitude of change: Medium
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes

Viewpoint 25: Carn Dearg

Viewpoint Information

Figure number: Figure 7.49
 Direction of view: South
 Distance to nearest turbine: 2,559 (T5)
 Landscape character context: Highland Summits and Plateaux
 Landscape designation: None

Existing View

Nature and Sensitivity of Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views from the northern boundary of the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon NSA and an area of open moorland, it is also typical of the SNH Tayside LCT 3 Highland Summits and Plateaux, sub-type Talla Bheith and Craiganour Forest, and is located within the application boundary of the proposed Talladh-a-Bheithe Wind Farm.

Viewpoint 25 illustrated at Figure 7.49 was taken from the summit of Carn Dearg, approximately 2.5km to the north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5), on the high ground to the south east of Loch Eric. Views to the south of the viewpoint towards the site are over open moorland and at the time of the site visit, the snow capped Ben Lawers range. The southern part of Loch Eric can be seen to the right of the panorama. The view also includes a view towards the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic area and the Carn Gorm/Schiehallion Highland Summits and Plateaux landscape type.

The viewpoint represents the views experienced by people walking in the open moorland through a Highland Plateaux and Summits landscape as defined by the SNH LCA 3, in close proximity to LCA 2 Highland Glens with Lochs.

This viewpoint is considered to be of medium sensitivity to change as it presents an elevated location with long distance panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Predicted View

Nature and Magnitude of Operational Impacts

From this viewpoint there would be 23 turbine hubs and 24 blade tips visible with some turbine towers partially obscured by the intervening landform. At the distance of 2.5km to the proposed scheme, the turbines will present prominent new features to the view as visitors look south towards the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area. It is noted that this is not an obvious destination for people to visit and the frequency of people standing in this location is considered to be very low in comparison to other accessible summits within the study area. However, when standing in this location and experiencing the surrounding landscape, the views to the south offer the primary focus and include the dramatic highland landforms of the NSA with the turbines situated in the centre of the view within rolling moorland of the site and the immediate surrounding landscape acting as a back-cloth to the site.

It has been assessed that there would be a high magnitude of change to the view. However, it should be noted that the viewpoint is not located along any recognised routes and the frequency of visitors to this location will be lower than that of the more accessible summits in the study area. The proposed turbines do not break the skyline and do not prevent an appreciation and understanding of the surrounding landscape or prevent an enjoyment of its characteristics which would be in the context a rugged environment in which to partake in recreational walking.

Level of Effect on View and Statement of Significance

It is considered that the turbines would result in a moderate to substantial level of effect on the view from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people walking to the summit of Carn Dearg. This effect is deemed to be significant however, as previously mentioned, the frequency of visitors to this location is considered to be low as it is not a notable summit or located along a recognisable path within a large area of open, upland moorland.

Overall Assessment

Sensitivity of viewpoint: Medium
 Magnitude of change: High
 Duration of effect: Long term (25 years)
 Reversibility of effect: Non permanent
 Level (Significance) of effect: Moderate / Substantial
 Is the effect significant? Yes