

APPENDIX V2-3.4: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES SENSITIVITY APPRAISAL

1.	LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES SENSITIVITY APPRAISAL	3
1.1	Introduction	3
1.2	Landscape Character Types	4

1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES SENSITIVITY APPRAISAL

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 To assist in the assessment of effects to landscape character an appraisal of landscape sensitivity has been undertaken. The appraisal has considered Landscape Character Types (LCTs), identified in the SNH National Landscape Character Assessment (2019)¹ and is used to feed into the landscape assessment of Landscape Character Zones (LCZs) which have been identified to address the more localised characteristics of the study area.

1.1.2 The following LCTs which fall within the study area for the Proposed Development have been included in the sensitivity appraisal:

- 220: Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- 225: Broad Steep-Sided Glen;
- 235: Broad Forested Strath;
- 237: Rocky Moorland – Lochaber;
- 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber;
- 357: Farmed and Settled Lowlands - Skye & Lochalsh;
- 358: Low Smooth Moorland;
- 359: Upland Sloping Moorland;
- 360: Stepped Moorland;
- 363: Rugged Coastal Hills - Skye & Lochalsh;
- 364: Rocky Moorland - Skye & Lochalsh;
- 365: Rugged Massif - Skye & Lochalsh;
- 367: Smooth Mountain Range;
- 368: Angular Mountain Range - Skye & Lochalsh; and
- 369: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Skye & Lochalsh.

1.1.3 The appraisal of landscape sensitivity is based on guidance from the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3²) and involves consideration of two aspects:

- **Landscape Value:** This includes consideration of any landscape designations or other important landscape areas, perceptual aspects such as wildness, scenic quality, recreational or other land use interests, conservation interests and relative rarity in the local or regional context.
- **Susceptibility to change:** This involves the ability of the landscape to accommodate development of the type proposed without changing its intrinsic qualities. This takes account of issues such as the scale and composition of the landscape, the potential for key defining characteristics to be lost or changed as a result of the development and the degree to which this type of development is already present in the landscape.

1.1.4 A sensitivity rating has been applied to each identified LCT within the study area, taking into account the above issues and using professional judgement. The ratings are based on the following criteria:

- **High** – A highly valued landscape of particularly distinctive character susceptible to relatively small changes of the type proposed;

¹ NatureScot (2019) Scottish Landscape Character Types – Map and Descriptions [online]. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions>

² Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition.

- **Medium** – A reasonably valued landscape with a composition and characteristics tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed; and
- **Low** – A relatively unimportant landscape which is potentially tolerant of a large degree of change of the type proposed.

1.1.5 It should be recognised that most landscape areas are diverse and not all parts of one LCT necessarily fall within the same sensitivity rating. This has been recognised within the sensitivity appraisal where relevant.

1.1.6 For the purposes of this study, change of the type proposed is taken to be construction of a steel lattice tower OHL, although it is recognised that susceptibility may be lower for wood pole or underground cable sections of the Proposed Development.

1.2 Landscape Character Types

Table 1: LCT 220: Rugged Massif - Inverness

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises a range of mountains of a massive scale, with broad, rounded summits, located west of the Great Glen. The terrain is rugged and irregular, and characterised by crags and rocky outcrops. Vegetation cover consists mainly of heather and grassland, with fragments of birch woodland. Settlement is limited to lower elevations, while the interior is difficult to access, and there is a strong sense of remoteness. However the presence of wind farm development in a part of this landscape signals the human activity in the area.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 5-2 - Poulary to Munerigie Wood;
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry; and • LCZ 6-2: Inchncardoch Forest and Fort Augustus.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parallel ranges of massive mountains of irregular landform divided by deep glaciated valleys. • Mainly broad, sometimes rounded rugged summits connected by long ridges and relatively few individual mountain peaks, particularly in the east. • Steep terrain with many mountain-side burns and occasional lochans in corries and depressions. • Landcover of rock outcrops, glacial debris, deer-grazed heather and rough grassland create a smooth surface with mottled texture, with alpine habitats on high land to the west. • Almost uniform texture and cover from lower to upper levels in the east makes the size of the hills difficult to perceive. • Tracts of Caledonian pinewoods and occasional small patches of open birch woodland add colour, texture and seasonal diversity. • Largely uninhabited, few signs of human activity or human artefacts in the interior, and sparse archaeological evidence. • Hill ranges combine to create a fairly even undulating skyline and a sense of enclosure when viewed from straths. • Views from the hill tops at the edges of the massif offer expansive views of the adjacent straths and surrounding landscape character types. • A sense of remoteness and wildness which is particularly strong within the interior.
Sensitivity	This LCT is valued for its wild upland character and scenic qualities, as indicated by parts of it being included in the Central Highlands WLA, Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA and Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA and Glen Affric NSA. Due to its perceived remoteness and wildness it is susceptible to development of the type proposed, although these qualities are locally reduced where existing infrastructure such as wind turbines and OHLs are present.

Sensitivity Rating	Medium-High
---------------------------	--------------------

Table 2: LCT 225: Broad Steep-Sided Glen

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT encompasses the Great Glen and Loch Ness. The steep sides of the glen descend into the loch, and the side slopes are covered by a mix of forestry and heather moorland, with semi-native woodland found along the loch edges. Settlement is concentrated around side glens and on gentler slopes. The A82 trunk road follows the western edge of the loch, and there are several tourist facilities on the western side. This landscape is characterised by a strong linear composition and a sense of enclosure created by the steep slopes.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry; and • LCZ 6-2: Inchncardoch Forest and Fort Augustus.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clearly defined, broad, linear, steep sided, v-shaped glen and deep loch cutting through mountains and hills, with limited areas of flatter ground. Large-scale conifer forests with small areas of open moorland covering most of the glen sides, particularly the lower slopes. • Small patches of broadleaved woodlands, mostly in side glens and close to the shore. • Agricultural land on less steep slopes, glen intersections and alluvial plains. • A few settlements, with a well-defined core, located at glen intersections and on gentler slopes, separated by long stretches of relatively uninhabited land. • Contrast between the busy trunk road and larger settlements on the west side and the quiet • Minor road on east side which has fewer settlements separated by large undeveloped areas. • Strong evidence of past settlement in the number and diversity of archaeological and historic sites from prehistoric times to the 20th Century. • Contrast between the visual and seasonal diversity of broadleaf woodland and bright, open pockets of farmland and the forested and moorland surroundings. • Contrast between the smaller scale landscapes of settled, lower slopes and the large scale moorland and forested backdrop. • A simple linear and enclosed visual composition of bands of land, water and sky, with long skylines of even height, and the glen and loch as unifying features. • Visual focus directed along the linear route of the glen or across the water to the opposite shore and up to the skyline.
Sensitivity	This landscape is valued for its scenic qualities, cultural heritage associations and its popularity for tourism and recreation. It forms a key part of the Loch Ness and Duntelchaig SLA, and its southern tip falls within the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA. This makes these areas outside the study area more susceptible to the type of development proposed. However, areas of commercial forestry provide some opportunity to accommodate development of this type and sensitivity is reduced by the presence of existing infrastructure such as overhead lines, roads and a substation. Sensitivity therefore varies through this LCT, and is lower within some forested areas, compared to more open areas within / near SLAs.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium

Table 3: LCT 235: Broad Forested Strath

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT is characterised by a slightly undulating, largely forested landscape. Vegetation cover consists of a mixture of conifer plantations, deciduous woodland and areas of open pasture. Settlement, which consists of scattered crofts and small settlements, follows a linear pattern and is mainly concentrated along roads. Infrastructural features such as roads, a railway and transmission lines are present in the landscape.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 5-1 - Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary; • LCZ 5-2 - Poulary to Munerigie Wood; • LCZ 5-3 - Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie; and
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, low-lying straths with rolling relief and sculptural glacial landforms. • Simple, large-scale mosaic of forested ridges, rolling pastures and heather moorland, but dominated by swathes of forestry. • A comparatively densely settled landscape with villages, houses and sporadic commercial development. • Quarries hidden amongst the woodland cover. • Strong communication and service corridors. • Long distance views from surrounding hills over the glens, which are framed by steep glen sides. • Lochs, rivers or canals on glen floor have often been engineered or substantially altered by man.
Sensitivity	This landscape is somewhat valued for its scenic views and recreational opportunities. A part of it falls within the Loch Lochy and Loch Oich SLA, although it does not form a key component of this designation. The high degree of woodland cover and presence of existing infrastructure gives it some potential to accommodate development of the type proposed.
Sensitivity Rating	Low - Medium

Table 4: LCT 237: Rocky Moorland - Lochaber

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT is comprises an area of undulating moorland plateaux in the vicinity of Loch Garry. Rocky outcrops stand out against the smooth cover of heather and grasses, resulting in a rugged topography, scattered occasionally with small lochans. Settlement is sparse, however the A82 passes through the area north to south, and infrastructural features associated with hydro-electricity schemes appear prominent in this relatively open landscape.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 5-1 - Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary; • LCZ 5-2 - Poulary to Munerigie Wood; • LCZ 5-3 - Around Invergarry and Loch Lundie; and
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 6-1: Loch Lundie and Invergarry.

Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged, undulating plateaux of heather moorland with a textured and crinkled skyline and no distinct summits or peaks. • Large patches of coniferous forestry. • Uniform expanses of marshy grassland, sedges and rushes, rocky outcrops and stunted trees. • Isolated, upland lochans. • Infrastructure and engineered structures associated with hydro-electricity schemes such as pylons, dams and sub-stations. • Closely related to Smooth Moorland Ridges with long views, but lacking the latter's distinctive smooth relief.
Sensitivity	This LCT is somewhat valued for its upland character and a part of it falls within the Kinlochhourn, Knoydart, Morar WLA. The open character of the landscape makes it susceptible to the type of development proposed, although the presence of conifer plantations and existing infrastructure such as substations, pylons and the Beaully Denny overhead line reduces its sensitivity, and there is some potential to accommodate development of this type if well sited, e.g., avoiding open slopes.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium

Table 5: LCT 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Lochaber

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT is found in several locations across Lochaber and covers the area around Loch Cuaich close to the Proposed Development. It consists of a series of overlapping peaks with steep slopes which dip down into deep glens and lochs. Vegetation is sparse, consisting of heather and grass with little tree cover. Due to the rugged and inaccessible nature of the landscape settlement is limited to scattered crofts and bothies found in larger glens although some man-made features are present within the study area, such as the Quoich Dam and existing 132kv steel lattice OHL running close to the northern shore of Loch Cuaich. The sense of remoteness contributes to its wild land character.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 4-2 - Druim losal to Kinloch Hourn; • LCZ 4-3 - Kinloch Hourn to Loch Cuaich; • LCZ 4-4 - Alongside Loch Cuaich; and
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 5-1 - Eastern Loch Cuaich to Poulary
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramidal mountain summits with a jagged profile, often appearing as overlapping, peaks along glen views. • Sweeping slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs with little or no flat shoreline fringe. • Sparsely vegetated with few trees. • Numerous rocky outcrops punctuate the steep, rugged terrain. • Inaccessible and remote with wild character. • Long panoramic views.
Sensitivity	This LCT is valued for its scenic quality, montane character and sense of wildness, as indicated by its inclusion in the Knoydart NSA, the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA, the Loch Lochy SLA and the Kinlochhourn, Knoydart, Morar WLA. The presence of an existing overhead line and roads locally reduce perceptions of wildness, but its overall sense of remoteness and wild characteristics make it highly susceptible to change of the type proposed.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium - High

Table 6: LCT 357: Farmed and Settled Lowlands - Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT encompasses a variety of settlements across Skye and Lochalsh, located in low-lying areas, often along the coast or in accessible straths and glens and usually close to road networks or harbours. The small-scale land use pattern of these landscapes contrasts with surrounding mountains and moorland. Vegetation cover consists mainly of improved grassland, with mature woodland present particularly in the vicinity of rural estates. Although characterised by human activity, the remote setting of these settlements can lead to a sense of isolation and exposure.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 0-1 – Waternish Peninsula; • LCZ 0-3 – Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens;
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 1-1 – Glen Colbost; • LCZ 1-3 – Achaleathan and Glenmore; • LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach;
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-1 – Loch Sligachan; • LCZ 2-5 – Broadford Forest Plantations;
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-1 – Broadford Outskirts; • LCZ 3-2 – Kyleakin Forest Plantations & Kyle Akin; • LCZ 3-3 – Loch Alsh and Kyle Rhea Coast;
Section 3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-1 – Broadford Outskirts; • LCZ 3B-2 – Glen Arroch; • LCZ 3B-4 – Kyle Rhea Coast; and
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 4-1 – Glen Elg to Gleann Beag.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp contrast between human activity and small-scale land use patterns, and the surrounding large scale, mainly uninhabited, landscapes. • Always found on low lying terrain - coastal shelves, narrow coastal strips, wide, level strath and glen floors and better drained estuarine flats. • In rocky moorland and mountainous areas, found on narrow shelves and slopes at the base of rocky or rugged coastal strips with an abrupt, steep and sometimes complex coastal edge. • On basalt bedrock on Skye, relief is level, inclined or terraced, incorporating vertical rock faces, tending to become broader and flatter at lower levels. • Dominance of improved grass land and relatively intense grazing. • Margins of broadleaf woodlands in good soils and sheltered areas mainly relating to estates or sheltered parts of coastal rocky moorland. • Mature parkland trees and small plantations provide shelter and enclosure and are associated with rural estates and better soils. • Settlements coalesce with each other and surrounding inbye to form ribbons or swathes of green pastures. • Green pasture contrasts with surrounding muted colours of rough grass land. • Land use is farming, crofting, tourism accommodation and activities, ferry terminals, and small plantations. • Larger settlements are active, bustling places, providing facilities for local services and tourism. • Variable pattern of settlement, governed largely by historical changes in tenure – the change from run-rig to crofting - landform and soils, and influenced by coastlines, water courses, roads, ferries and bridges.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft patterns are linear or scattered. • Crofts are usually coastal and exposed. • Modern settlement boundaries are well defined by fence and dyke lines which mark abrupt changes in grazing intensity. • Most settlements retain their historic patterns of development. • Clear evidence of historical human land-use in the abandoned field systems and archaeological sites. Many settlements on single track roads with a strong sense of isolation due to their distance from main settlements
Sensitivity	This LCT encompasses a wide variety of landscapes, some of which are valued for their scenic qualities. Some of the settlements in the north-west are part of the North West Skye SLA, while Greshornish falls within the Greshornish SLA and Badicaul and Plock of Kyle fall within the Kyle-Plockton SLA. Some of the settlements along the shore of Loch Duich form part of the Kintail NSA. Although the small scale character of this landscape type makes it susceptible to the type of development proposed, the presence of existing overhead lines and roads reduces sensitivity to this type of development.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium - High

Table 7: LCT 358: Low Smooth Moorland

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT consists of large swathes of low-lying moorland, found within straths, glens and estuaries. The poorly drained peaty soils support a cover of moorland with occasional patches of semi-improved grassland. This landscape is largely uninhabited and few roads pass through the area. It has a simple, horizontal composition. Where vertical elements such as power lines are present they appear prominent against the vast expanse of moorland, and act as scale indicators.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 0-3 - Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens;
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 1-2 - Loch Connan Rocky Knolls; • LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach;
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-5 - Broadford Forest Plantations;
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-1 - Broadford Outskirts; • LCZ 3-2 - Kyleakin Forest Plantations & Kyle Akin;
Section 3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-1 - Broadford Outskirts; and • LCZ 3B-2 – Glen Arroch.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately sized bands of peaty lowland of low relief, mainly below 50 metres elevation. • Simple composition with horizontal or gently sloping skyline. • Formed in depressions linked to the coast, in straths and glens between hills, and at the foot of landslide edges. • Mainly smooth terrain, rough grazing, usually in close proximity to settlement, with evidence of former or current drainage. • Sinuous burns, rivers, drainage channels, eroded peat banks and peat beds provide occasional detailed texture. • Evidence of intermittent prehistoric and historic settlement, with few modern built features. • Expansive and open, with views of mountains, islands and sea, channelled by adjacent hill slopes.

Sensitivity	This landscape is valued for its open and exposed character, and parts of it are included in the Cuillin WLA, The Cuillin Hills NSA and North West Skye SLA. The openness and vast scale of this landscape makes it susceptible to the type of development proposed, although the presence of existing overhead lines reduces its sensitivity to this type of development.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium

Table 8: LCT 359: Upland Sloping Moorland

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT consists of expansive areas of moorland, located in gently sloping upland areas at moderate elevations. The cover of boggy grassland and heather contribute to the smooth and simple composition of the landscape, which contrasts with adjacent rugged hills. The sense of openness and exposure is interrupted in some parts by conifer plantations, roads and powerlines, as well as groups of wind turbines, which act as indicators of scale in the landscape.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 0-1 – Waternish Peninsula; • LCZ 0-2 – Loch Bay to Dunvegan; • LCZ 0-3 – Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens; • LCZ 0-4 – Glen Colbost;
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 1-1 – Glen Colbost; • LCZ 1-2 – Loch Connan Rocky Knolls; • LCZ 1-3 – Achaleathan and Glenmore; • LCZ 1-4 – An Leitir and Glen Varraggill; • LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach;
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-1 – Loch Sligachan; • LCZ 2-2 – Gleann Torra-mhichaig; • LCZ 2-3 – Loch Ainort; • LCZ 2-4 – Strollamus Coastal Hills; • LCZ 2-5 – Broadford Forest Plantations;
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-1 – Broadford Outskirts; • LCZ 3-2 – Kyleakin Forest Plantations & Kyle Akin;
Section 3 Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-1 – Broadford Outskirts; and • LCZ 3B-2 – Glen Arroch.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive moorland with gentle slopes and broad undulations above 50 metres and sweeping, rounded summits up to 260 metres. • Mainly smooth, with small radiating burns cutting into lower slopes and weakly defined steps where peat is thinner overlying the stepped bedrock. • Occasional finer grain, ridge-like or hummocky undulations in surface deposits, found in places at the base of slopes. • Mainly used for grazing on rough grass land, and for forestry, which together form a large scale patchwork of contrasting colours and textures. • Little settlement – occasional isolated modern farms. • Distance and scale are difficult to judge, except where roads, power lines or occasional wind turbines introduce scale.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple overall composition. • Exposed and open, with extensive views to surrounding mountains, islands, coastlines and the sea.
Sensitivity	This landscape is valued for its open and exposed character and extensive views. As such it is somewhat susceptible to the type of development proposed. However the presence of extensive forestry plantation areas, existing overhead lines, wind turbines and roads reduce its sensitivity to this type of development.
Sensitivity Rating	Low - Medium

Table 9: LCT 360: Stepped Moorland

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises broad-based hills with a low to moderate elevation, characterised by a stepped topography. They are covered by heather and grassland, which is often extensively grazed. Conifer plantations are occasionally present on higher ground. There is limited settlement within this landscape type, and the interior has little human presence, contributing to the sense of remoteness and exposure, although in some parts wind turbines can be seen and appear prominent in the landscape.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 0-1 - Waternish Peninsula; • LCZ 0-2 - Loch Bay to Dunvegan; • LCZ 0-3 - Loch Bracadale Coastal Hills and Glens; • LCZ 0-4 - Glen Colbost;
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 1-1 - Glen Colbost; • LCZ 1-2 - Loch Connan Rocky Knolls; • LCZ 1-4 - An Leitir and Glen Varragill; • LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach; and
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-1 - Loch Sligachan.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive stepped landform rising from the coast up to moderate elevation uplands. • Clearly defined, often sloping, terraces and steps which are sometimes inclined. • Hills tend to be asymmetrical with a horizontal emphasis and broad base. • Low stepped inclined shelves or low cliffs at the coast, often forming promontories and seen as repeated, low, horizontal headlands extending into the sea, and receding into the distance. • Stepped character varies depending on depth of deposits over terraces and height of vertical faces. • Repetitive pattern of vertical faces and gently sloping or slanting terraces. • Exposed basalt rock faces separating level or sloping terraces of grass or heather moorland. • Vertical steps may appear as low outcrops or walls of rock, and form steep cliffs along coastlines. • Isolated large to moderate scale forest blocks, usually found in more elevated areas masking and competing with the stepped profile form,. • Trees and plantations largely absent on coastal lowlands. • Extensive grazed rough grassland, bog and heather, with more intensively grazed grassland at the coast, which is smoother and greener. • Mainly un-settled, with a few solitary farms, the type is interspersed with Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye & Lochalsh at the coast.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main roads and single-track roads traverse lower slopes and passes; occasional forest, farm and windfarm tracks extend up mid-slopes. • Mainly single-track roads pass through coastal areas, connecting adjacent settlements. • Abandoned shielings and field patterns • Exposed and open, extensive visibility. • At the coast, high inter-visibility between promontories and rare views of inaccessible coastlines and mountains.
Sensitivity	This LCT is valued for its scenic qualities and wild land character, as indicated by parts if it being included in the North West Skye SLA, the Trotternish and Tianvaig SLA, the Greshornish SLA and the Cuillin WLA. It's open and exposed character and perceived remoteness makes it susceptible to the type of development proposed, although existing overhead lines and wind turbines locally reduce its sensitivity. It has some potential to accommodate this type of development if well sited.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium

Table 10: LCT 363: Rugged Coastal Hills - Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises a series of low rocky hills, cut into by a number of valleys and fjords running east to west. Vegetation consists of a complex mosaic of heath, native woodland and conifer plantations. Although settlement is sparse, the area is frequented by tourists, and it is served by a number of coastal roads as well as a rail line.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 4-1 – Glen Elg to Gleann Beag
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-3 – Loch Alsh and Kyle Rhea Coast
Section 3 Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-4 – Kyle Rhea Coast.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low, coastal hills of 200-300 metres formed on variable underlying rocks • Divided by east-west glaciated valleys and fjords. • Coastal location, but sheltered by islands and, mainland peninsulas to the north. • Generally well covered with a mosaic of forest plantations, woodlands, heath and grasslands. • Northern areas are rockier and more exposed, with a treeless central undulating plateau and small lochans. • Forestry and tourism are the dominant land-uses. • Settlement is largely absent, and roads usually coastal and single track. • Sense of isolation on long, cul-de-sac routes in the south. • Coastal location affords views to islands, fjords and surrounding mountain ranges.
Sensitivity	This LCT is valued for its coastal character, recreational opportunities and scenic qualities, and this area is popular for tourism. Its southern edge is included in the Knoydart NSA. Although this makes it somewhat susceptible to development of the type proposed, the presence of existing overhead lines, roads and mature woodland reduce its sensitivity to this type of development, and there is some scope to accommodate development of this type if well sited.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium

Table 11: LCT 364: Rocky Moorland – Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT, found on Sleat, Scalpay and Raasay as well as on the mainland, comprises undulating moorland dominated by exposed rock. Vegetation cover consists of acid grassland, heather and bog. Settlement is sparse, although occasional roads, powerlines and conifer plantations signal the human presence in the area. The undulating topography limits visibility and contributes to a sense of enclosure in some parts.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-4 – Strollamus Coastal Hills;
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-1 – Broadford Outskirts.
Section 3 Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-1 – Broadford Outskirts.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate elevation, transitional moorland which descends to the coastal edge and adjoins Rugged Massif – Skye & Lochalsh. • High proportion of exposed rock arising from rock outcrops and deposited material. • Raw and rugged, showing minimal signs of post-glacial erosion. • Occurs on a wide range of bedrocks, which gives rise to variable texture and form. • Exposed bedrock form is generally rounded, with a few areas of terraced and sloping landform. • Mainly occurs in large tracts. • Larger areas contain exposed, central undulating plateaux with lochans. • Deeply undulating land form often due to glacial erosion, in larger areas. • No overall hierarchy of peaks, except on outcrops and terraced variants. • Random pattern ground cover textures. • Little obvious land management. • Sparse habitation. • Roads mainly peripheral, some power lines and roads cross the larger scale types and introduce human scale. • Overall, scale and distance difficult to perceive, in larger areas. • General lack of landmarks. • Quiet atmosphere in central areas, with little evidence of peripheral settlement and roads in larger areas. • Rarely visited, giving a sense of isolation and remoteness in larger areas.
Sensitivity	This landscape is valued for its sense of remoteness and rugged character. It's exposed character and perceived remoteness makes it susceptible to development of the type proposed, although in some parts existing overhead lines locally reduce sensitivity and there may be localised scope to accommodate development of this type if well sited.
Sensitivity Rating	Medium - High

Table 12: LCT 365: Rugged Massif - Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT which occurs in the south-east of Skye and on the mainland, is characterised by large broad-based hill ranges separated by u-shaped valleys. Vegetation consists of grass and heather moorland with fragments of broadleaf woodland, and exposed rock on higher elevations. Settlement is sparse and mostly contained near the edges, while the remote interior is visited mainly by hill walkers and deer stalkers. The area has a wild character, and the topography and lack of human artefacts make scale difficult to perceive.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-3 – Loch Alsh and Kyle Rhea Coast;
Section 3 Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-2 – Glen Arroch; • LCZ 3B-3 – Bealach Udal and Kylerhea Glen; and • LCZ 3B-4 – Kyle Rhea Coast.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive form of hills and mountains, usually forming ranges. • Broad rugged summit areas, occasionally with clearly defined peaks. • Broad bases and gentle, convex foot slopes. • Extensive ranges divided by u-shaped valleys with moraines, screes and exposed rock. • Slopes with shoulders divided by corries and u-shaped valleys with burns and waterfalls. • Occasional features of undulating rocky plateaux, and areas of smooth moorland and peat hags. • Margins include large scale plantations. • Limited evidence of human activity in the interior, typically tracks for deer stalking, and reservoirs. • Extensive high level views of the vast mountainous interior. • Wild character due to sparse habitation, natural landform and water courses, and sense of remoteness.
Sensitivity	This LCT is highly valued for its montane character and wild land and scenic qualities, as indicated by its inclusion in the Kinlochhourn, Knoydart, Morar WLA, the Central Highlands WLA, the Knoydart NSA, Kintail NSA and Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA. Its exposed character and perceived remoteness make it sensitive to development of the type proposed.
Sensitivity Rating	High

Table 13: LCT 367: Smooth Mountain Range

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises the rounded, smooth summits of the Red Cuillins on central Skye. These mountains appear dominant against surrounding low-lying moorland, and are divided by deep, u-shaped valleys. Vegetation cover consists of heather and rough grassland, with the pink granite exposed in some parts. This landscape is largely uninhabited and there is a sense of remoteness, although near the edges there is an increase in human activity, due to the presence of a roads and tracks, power lines, quarries and conifer plantations.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 1-5 – Caiplach;

Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-2 – Gleann Torra-mhichaig; and • LCZ 2-3 – Loch Ainort.
Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3-1 – Broadford Outskirts.
Section 3 Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 3B-1 – Broadford Outskirts.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly conical mountains of convex to concave slopes and smooth rounded tops separated by wide glaciated straths and glens. • Contrasting form to the jagged Black Cuillin. • Peripheral, smooth rounded foothills. • Hills are of a similar profile, often viewed collectively with each other and their smooth foothills. • Smooth texture and mottled pattern, the surface is broken by deep crevices formed by drainage channels which create a radial arrangement of lines. • Upper areas are dominated by pink, exposed granite rock. • Lower slopes of heather, grassland and peaty bogs, with rivers and lochans in straths and glens. • Simple, repetitive, smooth profile of the main hills imparts a sense of predictability. • Roads, conifer forests, quarries and power lines are located mainly within the edges of the foothills. • Uninhabited landscape, with the interior accessed by paths and tracks through intervening straths and glens. • Wild character derived from the remoteness, natural landform and lack of human activity, except around the margins of the area.
Sensitivity	This LCT is valued for its montane character and scenic qualities, and the wild land character of the interior, as indicated by it's inclusion in the Cuillin Hills NSA and Cuillin WLA. As such it is susceptible to the type of development proposed, although some of these qualities are locally reduced by the presence of existing overhead lines and roads particularly along the northern edge.
Sensitivity Rating	High

Table 14: LCT 368: Angular Mountain Range - Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises the Black Cuillins which are a range of mountains of high elevation characterised by their angular shape and sharp jagged summits. They appear dominant against surrounding moorland and contrast with the more rounded smooth outline of the adjacent Red Cuillins. Vegetation cover consists mainly of acid grassland and heather, with exposed rock at higher elevations. This is a largely uninhabited landscape due to its rugged and difficult terrain, but is frequented by hillwalkers and mountain climbers and the margins there are a number of facilities that serve these users. Nevertheless the remoteness and exposure contribute to its wild character.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 2-3 - Loch Ainort
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountains of high elevation and massive scale. • Sharp, angular profile, steep mountain slopes and huge rocky cliffs, set in rugged and smooth foothills. • Arc of jagged gabbro peaks derived from volcanic origin, with no dominant focal point. • Extensive areas of exposed, coarse, hard, dark rock. • U-shaped glaciated valleys and corries forming vast open areas, with rivers and lochans.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrast with form of adjacent smooth red hills. • Contrasting lower slopes and foothills with glacial and peat deposits, heather and rough grassland. • Service facilities and accommodation concentrated at entrance points and service centres around the edge of the Landscape Character Type. • Historic land use evidence on the fringes with occasional relics, shielings, field systems, old droving routes and enclosures. • Largely uninhabited. • Prominent landmark set within relatively low seascapes and landscapes and visible from great distances. • Complex visual composition in close proximity, with immense vertical scale viewed from valleys and peaks. • Interior views change according to orientation of slopes and the influence of weather. • Wild character imparted due to lack of man-made structures, remoteness, mountainous scale, raw geology and exposure.
Sensitivity	This LCT is highly valued for its scenic qualities, recreational opportunities and wild land character, as indicated by its inclusion in the Cuillin Hills NSA and the Cuillin WLA. Because of its perceived remoteness and lack of man-made structures it is susceptible to development of the type proposed.
Sensitivity Rating	High

Table 15: LCT 369: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Skye & Lochalsh

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT consists of a series of mountains with distinctive peaks and steep slopes, found near Glen Shiel and Loch Hourn, which appear to overlap, and a number of u-shaped valleys and lochs running east to west. Vegetation on lower slopes consists of heath and grassland, with exposed rock near the peaks. This is a largely uninhabited landscape, although the presence of the A87 and occasional conifer plantations signal the human presence in the area. Nevertheless the remoteness of the interior, the sense of exposure and challenging terrain contribute to a strong wild land character.
Section	Included Landscape Character Zones
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCZ 4-2 - Druim Iosal to Kinloch Hourn; and • LCZ 4-3 – Kinloch Hourn to Loch Cuaich.
Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaciated mountainous landscapes with pyramidal rock peaks. • Sweeping, concave slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs. • Mountain peaks and slopes often seen as repetitive elements within a group, appearing to interlock and overlap when viewed along glens and fjords. • No overall hierarchy of peaks, which tend to be connected by high level ridges aligned either side of central, u-shaped valleys. • Elegant profile due to the greater vertical to horizontal emphasis. • Sparse vegetation and few native trees. • Fragments of broadleaf woodland along water courses and the coast, naturally relating to landscape form. • Banded landcover of rocky summits and lower slopes of grassland and heather. • Infrequent but prominent coniferous woodland plantations on accessible foot-slopes. • Largely uninhabited and few roads or structures. • Extensive high level views of peaks and ridgelines, and over to opposing sides of glens.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansive views of the vast mountainous interior, and the large scale pattern of glens and summits. • Low level views are enclosed, directed upwards or along glens and fjords. • Upward views dominated by the steep slopes and towering summits which reveal the vertical scale of mountains. • Wild character in the interior due to remoteness from roads and settlements, lack of evidence of modern human use, dominance of natural landforms, and vast scale of the mountain landscape.
Sensitivity	This landscape is highly valued for its upland character, recreational opportunities and wild land and scenic qualities, as indicated by its inclusion in the Kinlochhourn, Knoydart, Morar WLA, Kintail NSA, Knoydart NSA and Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA. The presence of roads and conifer plantations reduces its wild land character locally, but it's open and exposed nature makes it susceptible to development of the type proposed.
Sensitivity Rating	High