A. Landscape and Visual

A.1 Introduction

A.1.1 This assessment presents an update to the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for Clune Wind Farm (the 'Proposed Development'), which forms part of the submitted EIA Report (EIAR) accompanying the s36 application (ECU00005038). It should be read in conjunction with EIAR Chapter 5 (Landscape and Visual), which provides relevant landscape and visual baseline information and analysis, and also with EIAR Chapter 3 Proposed Development Description. The chapter has been prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects at SLR, authors of EIAR Chapter 5.

A.1.2 The chapter comprises two parts: an update to the cumulative landscape and visual assessment, and an addendum to the assessment of landscape and visual effects on the Cairngorms National Park (CNP).

A.1.3 The update to the cumulative landscape and visual assessment is provided by the Applicant following the recent submission of several applications for wind farm proposals nearby, notably Kyllachy, Highland, Balnespick, and Lynemore. This part of the appendix therefore assesses whether significant cumulative effects would arise as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in conjunction with each of these cumulative wind farms.

A.1.4 The cumulative update reviews the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape resource - both direct effects and effects on how the landscape is perceived - and the effect on visual amenity (views) within the LVIA's 20km Detailed Study Area. It also considers any changes upon the assessment of visual effects arising on residential property, through a review of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) findings.

A.1.5 The scope of the cumulative update is informed by the preliminary assessments for landscape and visual receptors included in Section 5.5 of Chapter 5 of the EIAR, which identified the relevant landscape and visual receptors that are likely to be subject to significant effects. As a consequence, a detailed assessment of effects is not necessarily provided for each landscape and visual receptor (e.g. Viewpoints 13 and 21), although they are included in the updated visualisations that have been produced.

A.1.6 The addendum to the assessment of landscape and visual effects on the CNP is provided in response to comments contained in NatureScot's consultation response dated 27 June 2025 and the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) consultation response dated 1 September 2025. The addendum provides additional assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on Special Landscape Qualities 6, 10, 28, 30, and 32 of the CNP.

A.1.7 This chapter is supported by the following GIS figures:

- **Figure 5.12** Cumulative Wind Farms
- **Figure 5.13k** Cumulative ZTV with Consented Ourack
- **Figure 5.13l** Cumulative ZTV with Kyllachy Application
- **Figure 5.13m** Cumulative ZTV with Highland Application
- **Figure 5.13n** Cumulative ZTV with Balnespick Application
- **Figure 5.13o** Cumulative ZTV with Lynemore Application

A.1.8 It is also supported by a set of updated NatureScot format visualisations (**Figures 5.17-5.41c**), which reflects the recent updates to the cumulative projects baseline, together with updated baseline photography for a number of viewpoints.

A.2 Consultation

A.2.1 Consultation for this EIA Report topic was undertaken with the organisations shown in **Table 5.1**.

Table 1: Consultation Responses

Consultee / Type and Date	Summary of Consultation Response	Response to Consultee
NatureScot Consultation Response 27 June 2025	**Cairngorms National Park**	
	"The location of the proposed wind farm within the northeast Monadhliath would introduce visibility of turbines to lower lying areas of the Park for the first time. The proposal individually, and cumulatively with the proposed Balnespick Wind Farm, would significantly adversely affect five of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the CNP during the day and associated lighting would extend these effects after dark. These impacts would be to a degree that would result in evident and noticeable material changes to the SLQs of the CNP such that the objectives of the designation and overall integrity would be compromised."	Further assessment relating to the effects of the Proposed Development during day and night times upon SLQs 6, 10, 28, 30, and 32 is provided in **Section 5.6** of this Report.
	"While we agree with some of the conclusions relating to significant adverse effects on SLQ 32 and SLQ 30, we consider that the applicants assessment underplays the significance and extent of day and night-time effects on a number of SLQs of the CNP."	
	"We consider the limiting factors identified in the assessment, namely distance and influence of	

operational wind energy in the baseline, to be over-estimated in the applicant's assessment"	
"In terms of effects resulting from visible aviation lighting we note that the LVIA focuses solely on the effects of aviation lighting on visual amenity. We consider that aviation lighting affects both landscape and visual receptors. It would have been helpful for the LVIA to identify which of the SLQs that would be notably affected during the day, would progress into night-time effects or otherwise. We consider this a notable omission from the assessment."	
NatureScot considers that the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant effects on the following additional SLQs, ordered in terms of relevance: – SLQ 6 Landscapes both cultural and natural – SLQ 10 The surrounding hills – SLQ 28 Wildness	
NatureScot suggests that the Proposed Development would not give rise to significant adverse effects on SLQ 29 (Layers of receding ridgelines).	No further assessment is provided in relation to SLQ29.
Visualisations	
"We also note that a number of the photomontages do not meet the standards set out in our guidance as the baseline photography has been undertaken in conditions of poor visibility. These include VPs 8, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 23."	Given the far-reaching panoramic views that can be experienced from VPs 15 (Carn na h-Easgainn Summit) and 23 (Braeriach Summit), the photography has been retaken to provide more detailed visualisations, which are contained in Appendix A. Assessment of the views from VPs 8 (Carn Sleamhuinn), 10 (Track near Geal Charn Mor), and 19 (Carn na Saobhaide Summit) does not demand the same depth and detail as these other two viewpoints due primarily to the closer distance and/ or simpler character of the landscape, and as a result we consider the visualisations in the EIAR provide a reasonable impression of the likely effects that would be experienced from these locations and are appropriate for assessment purposes. Similarly, we consider that the visualisations for VP 18 (Achnahannet) provide an accurate representation of the likely effects of the Proposed Development, and as such the photography for the visualisations for VPs 8, 10, 18, and 19 has not been retaken.
Wild Land Area 20	
NatureScot *"…consider that there is merit in carrying out a wild land assessment for developments outwith wild land, not only to identify effects on the Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) but also as an aid to inform the design and to minimise adverse effects on the qualities through mitigation where possible. Although this was highlighted to the applicant a wild land assessment with accompanying VPs have not been included in the application."*	NatureScot confirmed in an e-mail (dated 29 July 2024) during pre-application consultation that Wild Land Area 20 could be scoped out of the LVIA: *"…Given the proposal lies outwith the WLA, we accept the principle for the area to be scoped out of assessment. However, we would encourage you to consider the attributes and responses expressed across the WLA 20 bordering the development within the LVIA, due to the strong contribution it makes to the wider surrounding landscape and its perceptual character."* As a result, while the wildness characteristics of the landscape character of the Monadhliath Mountains was considered in the assessment of landscape effects in the LVIA, a Wild Land Assessment was not produced by the Applicant.
"The proposal would introduce very obvious forms of human influence across a number of summits within WLA 20, detracting from the current awe-inspiring simplicity of the rounded hills. In addition, the turbines would introduce a new landmark feature at close proximity, providing orientation to views within the interior of the WLA, both along the glen floor and higher up the side slopes, substantially reducing the sense of risk. These effects would extend into the night as a result of the turbine lighting and would result in a significant effect on Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) 1 and 2."	As above, following consultation with NatureScot, consideration of the wildness characteristics of the many landscape types across the Study Area is incorporated into the assessment of landscape effects in the LVIA. A Wild Land Assessment of the Proposed Development's effects upon specific Wild Land Qualities is not included in the LVIA or AI. Based on the advice provided by NatureScot, alongside Policy advice in NPF4, the Applicant considers this to be a proportionate approach.

A.3 Methodology

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

A.3.1 NatureScot's guidance 'Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' (2021) suggests that *"the focus of the cumulative assessment will be on the additional effect of the project in conjunction with other developments of the same type…"* ['the baseline'].

A.3.2 The 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (2013) advises in relation to the baseline, that *"taking 'the Project' to mean the main proposal that is being assessed, it is considered that existing schemes and those which are under construction should be included in the baseline for both landscape and visual effects assessments (the LVIA baseline). The baseline for assessing cumulative landscape and visual effects should then include those schemes considered in the LVIA and in addition potential schemes that are not yet present in the landscape but are at various stages in the development and consenting process"* (para 7.13).

A.3.3 Cumulative effects are therefore assessed in this report as the additional changes caused by the Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar developments arising in a specific cumulative development scenario (and not the combined totality of the cumulative effect of all past, present and future proposals together with the Proposed Development).

A.3.4 The LVIA considers four different cumulative development scenarios (the operational and under-construction, consented, application-stage, and scoping scenarios), but given the recent submission of applications for the Kyllachy, Highland, Balnespick, and Lynemore Wind Farms, previously at the scoping stage, this assessment focusses on changes to the LVIA assessment within the application-stage cumulative scenario.

A.3.5 The updated cumulative assessment applies the Methodology set out in Technical Appendix 5.1 of the EIAR. This Methodology has been prepared by SLR and accords with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition ('GLVIA3').

A.3.6 Significant cumulative landscape and visual effects arise where the addition of the proposed wind turbines leads to wind farms becoming one of the prevailing landscape and visual characteristics of a receptor that is sensitive to such change. It should be noted that if the Proposed Development on its own is assessed to have a significant effect, it does not necessarily follow that the cumulative effect would also be significant. For example, the additional cumulative effect may be different when the Proposed Development would be seen behind another cumulative development. In this situation, the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development may be less than the effect of the Proposed Development alone.

A.3.7 In terms of assessing the combined cumulative effects of Clune and other wind farms on the closest residential properties relative to the RVAA threshold, the Landscape Institute's RVAA guidance (Technical Guidance Note 2/19) states under the heading 'Cumulative Considerations' that:

"Cumulative impacts on the landscape and visual resource are matters to be addressed in the LVIA of a proposed development in accordance with recommendations in GLVIA3 (refer Chapter 7). As a rule, future cumulative visual effects are not assessed in RVAA, the focus of which concerns effects on existing visual amenity. Existing cumulative development will form part of the baseline visual amenity considered in Step 2 of RVAA; future cumulative development is generally not a RVAA consideration. However, in certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to consider a particular cumulative proposal which is effectively already part of the existing landscape baseline…"

A.3.8 Nevertheless, some analysis is provided in the assessment provided in Table 6 in relation to the likely cumulative effects associated with the Proposed Development and other wind farms, which is supported by the updated RVAA visualisations in Appendix A.

Assessment of Special Landscape Qualities

A.3.9 An assessment of the Proposed Development's effects upon the CNP's SLQs, based on NatureScot's earlier draft technical guidance (2018)[1] was contained in the EIAR. Following the publication of NatureScot's finalised 'Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects' (2025), where relevant, the addendum to the assessment of landscape and visual effects on the CNP in this report follows this updated approach.

A.3.10 In relation to development management, the 2025 Guidance sets out an approach to gather evidence to inform an assessment against national policy. The assessment should focus on likely significant effects on relevant SLQs, be proportionate to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development, and provide a clear explanation of the reasoning underpinning judgements so they can be understood.

A.3.11 The guidance sets out a four-step approach under the following four headings:

- *"Step 1 – Review and describe the proposal*
- *Step 2 – Identify the SLQs that may be affected by the proposal*
- *Step 3 – Assessment of effects on SLQs and design objectives*
- *Step 4 – Summary of significant effects on SLQs"*

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage (2018). Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities

A.3.12 Where we consider that the application of the 2025 Guidance results in different conclusions to the assessment contained in the EIAR, these changes are noted in **Section 5.6** of this report.

A.4 Cumulative Projects Update

A.4.1 Since the cumulative assessment within Chapter 5 of the EIAR was prepared, the cumulative wind farm situation in the LVIA Study Area has changed. Specifically, the s.36 applications for the Kyllachy, Highland, Balnespick, and Lynemore proposals have been submitted, the Ourack application has been consented, and the Lethen application has been refused. An updated cumulative baseline, based on a cut-off date of 16 October 2026, is therefore provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Cumulative wind farm development within a 35km radius

Name / Status	Distance to Nearest Proposed Turbine	Number of turbines	Blade tip height
Operational/ Under Construction			
Glen Kyllachy	4.7	20	110
Farr	6.4	40	102
Aberarder	11.0	12	130
Dunmaglass Estate	11.4	33	120
Tom nan Clach	13.4	13	125
Moy	13.7	20	126.5
Corriegarth	19.7	23	120
Stronelairg	26.8	66	135
Berry Burn	33.9	29	100
Hill of Glaschyle	34.3	12	99.91
Consented			
Tom na Clach Extension	13.2	7	149.9
Corriegarth 2	19.2	16	149.9
Cairn Duhie Redesign	26.2	16	149.9
Cloiche	26.4	36	149.9
Ourack	29.3	18	180
Dell	29.8	14	130.5
Belladrum	30.6	1	60.7
Berry Burn II	36.2	9	149.9
Application			
Kyllachy	4.0	13	180
Highland	4.2	24	200-230
Balnespick	9.5	9	200
Lynemore	9.6	12	200
Easter Aberchalder	20.3	1	68
Dell Redesign	29.9	9	200

A.4.2 In the EIAR, four hypothetical cumulative scenarios were assessed in the LVIA (the operational and under-construction, consented, application-stage, and scoping scenarios), which are described in **Section 8.5** of **Technical Appendix 5.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**.

A.4.3 The consented Ourack Wind Farm was previously considered in the 'application cumulative scenario', where the application-stage sites, in addition to consented wind farms, were considered to exist in the baseline. The inclusion of Ourack Wind Farm in the 'consented cumulative scenario' would intensify the number of wind farm developments across the north-east of the Study Area. However, it is unlikely to change the broader pattern of wind farm development, and given its separation from the Proposed Development (29km), it would have a very limited cumulative interaction with the Proposed Development. It is therefore considered that there would be a negligible change to the cumulative magnitude of change predicted to receptors in the consented cumulative scenario as a result of the inclusion of this wind farm.

A.4.4 The updated cumulative assessment therefore focusses on the hypothetical application-stage scenario, where cumulative interactions between the Proposed Development and other application-stage sites are considered to exist in the baseline.

A.4.5 Following the progression of the previously included scoping stage schemes in the scoping cumulative scenario of the LVIA to the application-stage, the scoping cumulative scenario has been removed from the detailed assessment in this AI.

A.5 Updated Cumulative Assessment

A.5.1 **Tables 3** to **6** present an updated assessment of potential changes to the landscape and visual effects assessed for the Proposed Development in the EIAR, as a consequence of the updated cumulative baseline. The updated assessment of effects should be read alongside the EIAR assessment, which continues to provide detailed baseline information and evaluation.

A.5.2 The EIAR findings are presented in each table, with the updated changes and findings reported in the highlighted column in the right-hand side of each table. Any change to the reported significance of effect in the EIAR is identified.

- Table 3 presents updated cumulative effects on landscape character;
- Table 4 presents updated cumulative effects on landscape designations;
- Table 5 presents updated cumulative effects on representative viewpoints; and
- Table 6 presents updated cumulative effects on visual amenity of closest residential properties.

Table 3: Updated Summary of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) in Application-stage Cumulative Scenario

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT	medium-high	no change to medium	at worst major-moderate and significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario including Highland, Kyllachy, Lynemore, and Balnespick Wind Farms would further intensify the influence of wind farm development upon scattered northern and central areas of this LCT unit. The greatest potential for cumulative effects in this scenario would result from interactions between the Proposed Development and the Highland and Kyllachy proposals due to the shorter distances between them, while the cumulative relationship between the Proposed Development and the Balnespick and Lynemore proposals is likely to be moderated by the greater distance and intervening landform. Cumulative effects arising between the Proposed Development and the Kyllachy proposal are likely to be concentrated across the north-east of the LCT unit (see **Figure 5.13l**), including large areas of Strathdearn and its surrounding hills, with more distant scattered areas of cumulative visibility predicted across elevated parts of the south and north of the LCT unit. While much of this cumulative visibility predicted across Strathdearn and its surroundings would be interrupted to varying degrees by the woodland and forestry situated across the strath slopes (see Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, and 7), where cumulative visibility of the Kyllachy and Clune proposals arises on more open, elevated slopes (see Viewpoint 6), the cumulative effects upon the character of the landscape would be relatively pronounced due to their proximity and the relatively weak influence of existing wind farm development upon the hills immediately to the south of Strathdearn. Across many of the affected areas across Strathdearn and its surrounding hills, the Balnespick proposal will provide an additional, more distant and weaker influence upon the character of the landscape (see **Figure 5.13n**), while the Highland proposal would tend to be largely screened by landform and only apparent from the hills above Strathdearn (see **Figure 5.13m**). The cumulative magnitude of change across affected areas of Strathdearn and its surrounding hills is likely to range between **negligible** and **medium-high**, with greater effects predicted where a larger number of the Clune turbines and other proposals are visible within approximately 5km of the Proposed Development (e.g. around Viewpoint 6), and weaker effects predicted across areas where visibility of Clune and the other proposals is reduced and intervening woodland provides a degree of enclosure. Cumulative effects arising between the Proposed Development and the Highland proposal are likely to be concentrated around the eastern boundary in central and northern areas of the LCT, in particular across the hills to the south-east of Dalmigavie, situated between the two proposals (see **Figure 5.13m**). While these hills currently exhibit relatively strong wildness attributes, the presence of the Highland proposal would introduce wind farm development into the wider area, and this would slightly reduce its susceptibility to additional wind farm development. Nevertheless, a **high** cumulative magnitude of change would arise across those parts of the LCT within 4-5km to the south of the Proposed Development. This is due to the short distance between the Proposed Development and Highland Wind Farm from these parts of the LCT, the increase in the influence of wind farm development from the north-east associated with Clune, and the existing influence of other more distant application and operational wind farm developments upon this part of the LCT. The contribution of the Kyllachy and Balnespick proposals would be more limited due to their position in a similar part of the landscape to the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, while the contribution of the Balnespick proposal would also be more limited due to its position beyond Clune when visible from many of these hills. More broadly where cumulative visibility is predicted from more distant, elevated parts of the LCT, in this cumulative scenario, the introduction of the Clune proposal would appear to increase the influence of wind farm development across the southern band of hills to the south of Strathdearn. However, it would adopt a similar spacing to existing wind farm development across the LCT, which would ensure that the LCT would retain its character of a 'landscape with wind farms', rather than becoming a 'wind farm landscape'. Across the majority of these more distant affected parts of the LCT, a **low** cumulative magnitude of change to the LCT's landscape character is predicted to occur. In summary, up to **major-moderate** and **significant** cumulative effects are predicted to arise across the Strathdearn area of the LCT and some of its surrounding hills at distances of up to approximately 5km from the Proposed Development where cumulative visibility with the Kyllachy and Highland proposals is predicted. Effects across more distant affected parts of the LCT would reduce to **moderate-minor** and **not significant**. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Rolling Uplands – Cairngorms LCT	high	no change to medium	at worst major-moderate and significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario including Highland, Kyllachy, Balnespick and Lynemore Wind Farms would further intensify the influence of wind farm development close to the western boundary in northern areas of the LCT. The Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development at similar distances to Balnespick in different parts of the LCT's setting, but more closely associated with the more distant Highland proposal situated beyond it. The Clune and Highland wind farms would appear within a similar context, possessing similar design characteristics, but from some locations to the east of the Proposed Development, such as parts of Carn Sleamhuinn and Beinn

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
				Ghuilbin, they would be slightly separated, and while the increased height of the Highland turbines would help to provide a more consistent visual relationship between the two wind farms, it is likely that the cumulative magnitude of change would be slightly higher from these parts of the LCT. Overall, in the worst case, a medium cumulative magnitude of change is predicted to arise across northern parts of the LCT where cumulative visibility is predicted. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in the application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be at worst **major-moderate** and **significant** across some northern areas of the LCT, and there would be no change to the cumulative scenario across the vast majority of the LCT, where, for the avoidance of doubt, cumulative effects would be **not significant**. The major-moderate effect is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the at worst medium cumulative magnitude of change and the high sensitivity of the LCT. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Forested Upland Fringe LCT	medium	no change to low	at worst moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario would intensify the influence of wind farm development across the majority of the Slochd unit, with the exception of parts of the lower valley floor. Cumulative effects would arise due to intervisibility of Clune with the Balnespick and Highland proposals that are also predicted to be visible across the majority of the LCT units. The Balnespick proposal to the north would be situated closest to the LCT unit, while the Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development at a closer distance than would be the case for Highland to the west of the LCT unit, and this would therefore increase the influence of wind farm development in this part of the LCT unit's setting. However, the Highland and Clune proposals would appear within a similar context, possessing similar design characteristics, due to the taller height of the more distant Highland turbines. The cumulative magnitude of change would be **medium** across the potentially affected parts of the Slochd unit of the LCT, where forestry and woodland cover is absent. In relation to the Abernethy Forest unit of the LCT, from the limited areas unaffected by forestry enclosure, such as the summits of Craiggowrie and Meall a' Bhuachaille, cumulative effects would arise due to intervisibility of Clune with the Balnespick and Highland proposals that are also apparent upon the Monadhliath Mountains to the north-west of the LCT unit. The Highland and Balnespick applications would be located closer to the LCT unit than other operational and consented wind farms, in sectors of the view containing distant operational wind farm development. Clune would be located at a similar distance in a similar part of the LCT's setting as these two wind farms (appearing to be of a similar vertical scale), but also the slightly more distant Kyllachy and Lynemore applications. The Proposed Development would reduce the spacing between the cluster of wind farms containing Highland and the cluster of development associated with the operational Farr and Glen Kyllachy Wind Farms, and this slightly increases the cumulative magnitude of change. A **low** cumulative magnitude of change is predicted to arise across more open parts of the Abernethy Forest LCT unit where enclosure isn't provided by the extensive conifer forestry. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in the application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **not significant** across potentially affected parts of the Slochd unit and moderate-minor and **not significant** across potentially affected parts of the Abernethy Forest unit, and there would be no change to the cumulative scenario across large parts of the LCT, where cumulative effects would be **not significant**. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Upland Strath LCT	medium to high	no change to low	at worst moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario would intensify the influence of wind farm development across northeastern parts of the LCT along the River Dulnain strath, the hill slopes north-west of Dulnain Bridge, and areas between Nethy Bridge and Speybridge, due to intervisibility with the Balnespick and Highland proposals. The Balnespick proposal to the north of the LCT unit would be situated closest to this LCT unit with its turbines often apparent on the containing ridgeline, but its modest extent would limit its influence to a degree. The Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development to the west of the LCT unit at a closer distance than would be the case for Highland, and this would therefore increase the cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario. The two wind farms would be situated within a similar upland context, possessing similar design characteristics, due to the taller height of the more distant Highland turbines, and it is therefore likely that the cumulative magnitude of change would be **medium-low** across affected parts of the LCT. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in an application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **not significant** across potentially affected parts of the LCT along the River Dulnain strath, the hill slopes north-west of Dulnain Bridge, and areas between Nethy Bridge and Speybridge, and there would be no change to the cumulative scenario across the majority of the LCT unit, where cumulative effects would be **not significant**. The moderate effect is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the at worst medium-low cumulative magnitude of change and the medium to high sensitivity of the LCT. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Upland Glen – Cairngorms LCT	medium to high	no change to low	at worst moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario would intensify the influence of wind farm development upon north-western parts of the setting of the LCT. From upland areas unaffected by forestry enclosure, such as the western slopes of Craiggowrie and Meall a' Bhuachaille, cumulative effects would arise

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
				due to intervisibility of Clune with the Balnespick and Highland proposals that are also apparent upon the Monadhliath Mountains to the north-west of the LCT unit. The Highland and Balnespick applications would be located closer to the LCT unit than other operational and consented wind farms, in sectors of the view containing distant operational wind farm development. Clune would be located at a similar distance in a similar part of the LCT's setting as these two wind farms (appearing to be of a similar vertical scale), but also the slightly more distant Kyllachy and Lynemore applications. The Proposed Development would reduce the spacing between the cluster of wind farms containing Highland and the cluster of development associated with the operational Farr and Glen Kyllachy Wind Farms, and this slightly increases the cumulative magnitude of change. A **low** cumulative magnitude of change is predicted to arise across more open parts of the Abernethy Forest LCT unit where enclosure isn't provided by the extensive conifer forestry. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in an application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **not significant** across potentially affected parts of the LCT, and there would be no change to the cumulative scenario across the majority of the LCT unit, where cumulative effects would be not significant. The moderate effect is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the at worst low cumulative magnitude of change and the medium to high sensitivity of the LCT. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Mountain Massif – Cairngorms LCT	high	no change to medium-low	at worst moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario would intensify the influence of slightly closer and larger scale wind farm development across the north-west and north facing slopes on the fringes of the LCT unit and more elevated summits further into the interior of the Massif, including the notable summits of Cairn Gorm (see Viewpoint 22), Braeriach (see Viewpoint 23), and Ben Macdui. The Highland, Kyllachy, Balnespick and Lynemore Wind Farms would all be visible at varying distances in combination with operational and consented wind farms, most notably Dunmaglass, Glen Kyllachy, Farr, Moy, and Tom nan Clach, which appear to be situated across the Monadhliath Mountains in broad clusters. Their position within these clusters tends to change depending on the location within the LCT, but given their larger scale and often shorter distance from the LCT, they would tend to be more discernible than operational wind farms. Clune would intensify this influence further, occupying a position closely associated with the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, which would also include the Kyllachy and Lynemore proposals, but also often extending its lateral extent slightly. The introduction of Clune alongside the Highland and Balnespick proposals in particular would therefore result in an intensification of wind farm development, with separation between the clusters reducing slightly. The contribution of Clune to these effects would be moderated due to its compact design but increased by its closer location relative to some other wind farms. A **low** cumulative magnitude of change is predicted to arise across the affected north-western slopes of the LCT, with no change occurring across the vast majority of the LCT where cumulative visibility is not predicted. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in the application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **not significant** across potentially affected parts of the LCT, and there would be **no change** to the cumulative scenario across the majority of the LCT unit, where cumulative effects would be **not significant**. The moderate effect is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the at worst low cumulative magnitude of change and the high sensitivity of the LCT. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.

Table 4: Updated Summary of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations in Application-stage Cumulative Scenario

Landscape Designation	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Cairngorms National Park	high	no change to medium-low	at worst moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The addition of the Proposed Development to the application-stage cumulative scenario would intensify the influence of slightly closer and larger scale wind farm development across the north-west and north facing slopes on the fringes of the CNP and more elevated summits further into the interior of the CNP, including the notable summits of Cairn Gorm (see Viewpoint 22), Braeriach (see Viewpoint 23), and Ben Macdui. The Highland, Kyllachy, Balnespick and Lynemore Wind Farms would all be visible at varying distances in combination with operational and consented wind farms, most notably Dunmaglass, Glen Kyllachy, Farr, Moy, and Tom nan Clach, which appear to be situated across the Monadhliath Mountains in broad clusters. Their position within these clusters tends to change depending on the location within the CNP, but given their larger scale and often shorter distance from the LCT, they would tend to be more discernible than operational wind farms. Clune would intensify this influence further, occupying a position closely associated

Landscape Designation	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
				with the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, which would also include the Kyllachy and Lynemore proposals, but also often extending its lateral extent slightly. The introduction of Clune alongside the Highland and Balnespick proposals in particular would therefore result in an intensification of wind farm development, with separation between the clusters reducing slightly. The contribution of Clune to these effects would be moderated due to its compact design but increased by its closer locations relative to some other wind farms. A **low** cumulative magnitude of change is predicted to arise across the affected north and north-western slopes around the Park's fringes and some of its higher mountain summits, with no change occurring across the vast majority of the CNP where cumulative visibility is not predicted. The cumulative effect of the Proposed Development in the application-stage cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **significant** across potentially affected parts of the CNP, and there would be **no change** to the cumulative scenario across the majority of the CNP, where cumulative effects would be **not significant**. The moderate effect is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the at worst low cumulative magnitude of change and the high sensitivity of the CNP. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Drynachan, Lochindorb and Dava Moors SLA	medium-high	no change to low	at worst moderate-minor and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** Given the limited influence of the Proposed Development upon the relevant SLQs of the SLA, its contribution to the application-stage cumulative scenario is limited. As such, it is considered that there would be only a **negligible or at worst low** cumulative magnitude of change upon the relevant SLQs of the SLA as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development. These affected areas of cumulative visibility would occur around the western, southern, and eastern fringes of the SLA, and there would be extremely limited cumulative visibility across the interior of the SLA. As a result, cumulative effects in the application-stage cumulative scenario on the SLQs of the SLA would be **not significant**. While the nature of the cumulative effects has changed very slightly, there is therefore no difference in the overall assessment rating relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.

Table 5: Updated Summary of Cumulative Effects on Representative Viewpoints in Application-stage Cumulative Scenario

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Viewpoint 1: C1121 Road (near Glenkyllachy Lodge)	medium-high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** While there is some predicted theoretical visibility of the Kyllachy (~2km) and Balnespick (~12km) proposals, visibility of these wind farms would be screened by intervening forestry and woodland. As a result, in reality cumulative effects will not arise in the application cumulative scenario. There is no difference in the findings relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Viewpoint 2: U1116 Road (near Garbole)	medium	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** While there is some predicted theoretical visibility of the Kyllachy proposal (~1km), visibility of the wind turbines from this location would be screened by intervening forestry in reality. As a result, in reality cumulative effects will not arise in the application cumulative scenario. There is no difference in the findings relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Viewpoint 3: Core Path LBS114 (by Insharn)	high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** There is no visibility of operational, consented or application-stage cumulative wind farms in this view, and cumulative effects will therefore not arise. There is no difference in the findings relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Viewpoint 4: C1121 Road (near Kyllachy House)	medium	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** While there is some predicted theoretical visibility of the Kyllachy (~1km) and Balnespick (~9km) turbines at this viewpoint, they would not be visible in reality due to extensive woodland screening. There is no difference in the findings relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Viewpoint 5: A9 (Slochd)	medium-high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** There would be theoretical visibility of three blade tips associated with the Highland application (~10km) on the horizon of the hills above Slochd in amongst the Clune wind turbines. In reality, extensive native woodland and conifer plantation forestry between the viewpoint and the wind turbines would screen visibility of these blades (and much of the neighbouring Clune turbines), and as a result the cumulative magnitude of change from this viewpoint would be **no change**. There is no difference in the findings relative to the level reported in EIAR Chapter 5.
Viewpoint 6: U1116 Road (near Carn Eitidh)	medium	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-high** cumulative magnitude of change. The introduction of the Kyllachy (~2km), Balnespick (~13km) and Lynemore (~6km) applications would reinforce the developed character of the landscape in northern views from this viewpoint, extending wind farm development, including lighting associated with the Kyllachy proposal, further south towards Strathdearn. There would continue to be a degree of

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
				separation between this cluster of wind farms and Clune, and the more limited influence of the largely screened Highland application (~8km). The introduction of Clune would result in an increased sector of the views being affected by wind farm development in addition to these other proposals, relative to the operational and consented scenarios, and this would increase the cumulative magnitude of change. The relatively short distance between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development (and other wind farms), as well as the relatively undeveloped nature of this sector of the view, would also contribute towards these effects. Nevertheless, the perception of the landscape in the view would remain as one of a 'landscape with wind farms', rather than a 'wind farm landscape'. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **major-moderate** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-high cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 7: Tomatin	high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. There is only some very limited theoretical visibility of the Kyllachy (~2km), Balnespick(~6km), Lynemore (~5km) and Highland (~11km) proposals predicted from this viewpoint, with visibility of Balnespick, Lynemore and Highland limited to a small number of blade tips, which due to a combination of forestry screening and distance would have no or very limited influence upon the view. While there is slightly increased levels of theoretical visibility of a small number of the Kyllachy turbines, it is also likely that visibility would be very low in reality, due to screening from intervening forestry. However, given the short distance of Kyllachy from the viewpoint, where visibility of blade tips arises, they may be discernible due to their movement above the nearby skylines. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **moderate-minor** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 8: Carn Sleamhuinn	medium-high	medium-low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. A number of the application proposals would be visible from this viewpoint. The Highland proposal would introduce wind farm development in views to the west, closer to the viewpoint than other operational and consented wind farms, with distances from the turbines of over 8km. The Kyllachy (~13km) and Lynemore (~18km) proposals would extend the operational Glen Kyllachy/ Farr wind farm cluster to the north-west of the viewpoint, while the Balnespick proposal in views to the north would be located to the fore of the Tom nan Clach cluster at distances of 12km. The Proposed Development (~5km) would be located closer to the viewpoint than Highland within a different sector of the view, associated with and extending the operational Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, and as a result it would extend the visibility of closer range wind farms within views from Carn Sleamhuinn. The closer locations of the Clune and Highland proposals would increase the cumulative magnitude of change, while their associations with operational wind farm clusters would moderate effects to a degree, ensuring that views towards the CNP remain unaffected by wind farm development. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase slightly relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 9: A9 (River Findhorn Crossing)	medium-high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium** cumulative magnitude of change. While the introduction of the Balnespick (~5km), Highland (~12km) and Lynemore (~5km) proposals would be relatively indiscernible due to screening from landform, forestry and the Findhorn rail bridge, some of the Kyllachy wind turbines (~3km) would be apparent on the elevated ridges of the hills to the south-west of the viewpoint, in front of a small number of the operational Glen Kyllachy wind turbines. The Proposed Development (~6km) would extend the arc of discernible wind farm development further south beyond Strathdearn, which would increase the cumulative magnitude of change. The intervening railway bridge and the greater distance of the Clune turbines relative to the Kyllachy proposal would moderate their contribution to these cumulative effects slightly though. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **moderate-major** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Viewpoint 10: Track near Geal Charn Mor	medium-high	medium-low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. The Highland proposal would notably introduce wind farm development within the Monadhliath Mountains closer to the viewpoint than other operational and consented wind farms, with distances from the turbines of over 6km. While the wider pattern of development would generally remain consistent with the introduction Kyllachy (~15km), Lynemore (~21km) and Balnespick (~16km) intensifying existing clusters of wind farm development. The Proposed Development would be located a similar distance (~7km) from the viewpoint to Highland within a different sector of the view more closely associated with the operational Glen Kyllachy/ Farr wind farm cluster, and as a result it would extend the visibility of closer range wind farms within wider views. The closer distance of the Proposed Development relative to many of the other wind farms would increase the cumulative magnitude of change, while its position within a sector of the view that is already subject to a relatively strong influence from wind farm development would moderate these effects, and ensure that views towards the CNP remain unaffected by wind farm development. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 11: Carn a' Choire Mhoir Summit	medium-high	medium-low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. The Balnespick application would introduce wind farm development at closer range than operational and consented developments at distances of just over 2km to the east of the viewpoint, while the Highland proposal would introduce wind farm development within the same sector of the view as the Proposed Development at a distance of over 14km. The Kyllachy (~6km) and Lynemore (~8km) applications would also introduce further development into a similar sector of the view as the operational Farr (~9km) and Glen Kyllachy (~8km) Wind Farms at similar distances. In this context, the Proposed Development (~9km) would be added to the fore of the Highland proposal (~14km), increasing the prominence and extent of this cluster of turbines. However, the clustering of these two wind farms would help to moderate the cumulative magnitude of change, with views towards the CNP remaining unaffected by wind farm development. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect would be significant due primarily to its interaction with the proposed Kyllachy, Lynemore, and Highland wind farms, which are all situated to the west or south-west of the viewpoint, with the Proposed Development notably increasing the prominence of this arc of wind farm development from this location. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase slightly relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 12: A9 (near Carrbridge)	high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. There would be theoretical visibility of the Highland wind turbines at distances of over 14km to the west of the Proposed Development. The Highland turbines would appear to be situated on the southern edge of the Monadhliath Mountains, similar to Clune, but in reality, a large number of the Highland turbines would be screened by intervening woodland, such that only 10 would be visible. The Proposed Development (~8km) would be situated further east than the Highland proposal and as such there would be a degree of separation between the two wind farms, which would increase the cumulative magnitude of change, and it would also spread wind farm development across a further part of the open hill skyline that is the focal, backdrop of the view in this direction. The cumulative magnitude of change would be moderated considerably though due to the screening to part of the Highland proposal. In wider views to the north of the viewpoint, there is theoretical visibility of the Balnespick proposal at distances of over 6km, but in reality, visibility of these turbines would be screened by forestry, and as such it would not contribute to any cumulative effects. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 14: Carrbridge	high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** There would be theoretical visibility of the Highland and Balnespick wind turbines at distances of over 15km and 6km respectively from the viewpoint. The Highland turbines would appear to be situated on the southern edge of the Monadhliath Mountains, similar to Clune, but in reality all of the Highland turbines would be screened by intervening woodland. The Balnespick turbines are also likely to be screened by intervening forestry in views to the east. There would therefore continue to be **no change** to the cumulative magnitude of change under the application cumulative scenario. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Viewpoint 15: Carn na h-Easgainn Summit	medium	low	moderate-minor and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The introduction of the Lynemore wind turbines at distances of under 1km would be particularly prominent from this viewpoint, with the Kyllachy turbines extending the operational Farr/ Glen Kyllachy cluster at distances of over 3km from the viewpoint. The Proposed Development (~10km), similar to the Highland application (~15km), would be situated beyond this cluster of turbines, slightly intensifying wind farm development within this sector of the view. While the intensification of turbines in this sector of the view would result in some additional complexity in the view, it is considered that it would not alter the cumulative magnitude beyond a low level. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate-minor** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 16: Carn an Fhreiceadain Summit	medium-high	low	moderate-minor and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The Highland application would introduce wind farm development within the Monadhliath Mountains closer to the viewpoint than other operational and consented wind farms, with distances from the turbines of over 6km, and as such it would have the strongest influence upon north-eastern views. The Lynemore, Kyllachy and Balnespick applications would appear to be more distant adjoining existing wind farm clusters in the same sector of the view at distances greater than 19km from the viewpoint. The Proposed Development would be similarly located beyond the Highland application within a similar sector of the view, with a few of the turbines slightly increasing the horizontal extent of the cluster of wind farms, which also includes Tom nan Clach. Views towards the CNP would remain unaffected by wind farm development in this scenario. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate-minor** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 17a and b: Meall a Bhuachaille/ Craiggowrie	high	low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario**: The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The Highland and Balnespick applications would be located in the Monadhliath Mountains closer to the viewpoint than other operational and consented wind farms, with distances to the turbines of over 20km, in sectors of the view containing operational wind farm development. The Proposed Development would be located at a similar distance to the viewpoint in a similar sector of the view as these two wind farms (appearing to be of a similar vertical scale), but also the slightly more distant Kyllachy and Lynemore applications. The Proposed Development would reduce the spacing between the cluster of wind farms containing Highland and the cluster of development associated with the operational Farr and Glen Kyllachy Wind Farms, and this slightly increases the cumulative magnitude of change. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in a scoping cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 18: Achnahannet	medium-high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** There would be theoretical visibility of the Highland and Balnespick wind turbines at distances of over 22km and 10km respectively. The Highland turbines would appear to be situated on the southern edge of the Monadhliath Mountains, in a similar location to the Proposed Development, albeit slightly further from the viewpoint, while Balnespick would also be apparent on the edge of the Monadhliath further to the east. The Proposed Development would be situated to the east of the Highland proposal at a distance of 17km, and as such the two wind farms while situated within the same sector of the view, would not overlap. The Proposed Development would therefore increase the extent of wind farm development on the hills, albeit occupying a similar extent of the view to Highland, and reduce the spacing between the Highland and Balnespick turbines. The cohesiveness of the turbine layouts associated with the Clune and Highland Wind Farms would moderate the cumulative magnitude of change, giving the impression that they are a single wind farm. Overall, the Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **moderate** and not **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Viewpoint 19: Carn na Saobhaidhe Summit	medium	low	moderate-minor and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. While the Lynemore proposal (~22km) would form part of the cluster of wind turbines associated with Dunmaglass and Aberarder, the Highland(~14km) and Balnespick (~22km) proposals would extend further into the unaffected south-eastern sector of the view spreading the influence of wind farms further south. The Proposed Development would be situated between Highland and Balnespick, also across part of the currently undeveloped skyline, and while slightly separated, the wind farms would be seen in combination together at varying distances within a simple moorland landscape. The introduction of a further wind farm upon the broad skyline would increase the cumulative magnitude of change, while the intervening distance and the proportion of the wind farm that would be screened would moderate these effects to a degree. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate-minor** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 20: Braes of Balnagowan, Nethy Bridge	high	no change	no change	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **medium-low** cumulative magnitude of change. There is predicted theoretical visibility of the Balnespick and Highland proposals from this viewpoint, situated upon the containing ridgelines of the CNP at distances of approximately 15km and 22km respectively. Given that theoretical visibility of the Highland proposal is largely limited to blade tips and a couple of hubs, the contribution of this wind farm to cumulative effects would be relatively limited due to the intervening distance. The Balnespick proposal would be more discernible with a greater proportion of a small number of turbines towers visible on the closer skyline to the north-west of the viewpoint. Similarly, a large proportion of the towers of up to 16 turbines of the Clune proposal are likely to be visible on the skyline in a more western sector of the view. The Proposed Development is therefore likely to increase the characteristic influence of wind farm development upon distant parts of the view. These effects are likely to be amplified by the simplicity of the moorland ridgeline but also moderated by the degree of separation between the wind farms and their intervening distance. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application scenario would therefore be **moderate** and not **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the medium-high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative magnitude of change in this scenario would therefore increase relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 22: Cairn Gorm Mountain Railway Cafe	high	low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The introduction of the Highland (~25km), Kyllachy (~32km), Lynemore (~36km) and Balnespick (~27km) proposals would intensify the distant influence of wind farm development in north-western views, while also very slightly increasing its discernibility due to the larger scale of the turbines, and in the case of Highland and Balnespick their closer locations. While Kyllachy and Lynemore would be closely associated with the operational Glen Kyllachy (~33km) and Farr cluster (~35km) and Highland would be situated to the fore of Dunmaglass (~37km), Balnespick would be situated in between the operational Moy and Tom nan Clach Wind Farms. The Proposed Development would be situated within the broader context of the operational Glen Kyllachy and Farr cluster, situated at a similar distance (~24km) to the Highland and Balnespick proposals. The cumulative magnitude of change would be increased due to the lateral extent of the Proposed Development reducing the spacing between the Glen Kyllachy and Farr Cluster and the Highland proposal, but also moderated by the distance of the various developments from the viewpoint. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 23: Braeriach Summit	high	low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The introduction of the Highland (~23km), Kyllachy (~32km), Lynemore (~37km) and Balnespick (~29km) proposals would intensify the distant influence of wind farm development in north-western views, while also very slightly increasing its discernibility due to the larger scale of the turbines, and in the case of Highland and Balnespick their closer locations. While Kyllachy and Lynemore would be closely associated with the operational Glen Kyllachy (~33km) and Farr cluster (~35km) and Balnespick would be situated close to the Tom nan Clach cluster (~35km), Highland would be situated in between the operational Moy and Tom nan Clach Wind Farms. The Proposed Development would be situated to the fore of the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, situated at a similar distance (~24km) to the Highland and Balnespick proposals. The cumulative magnitude of change would be increased due to the increased scale of the Clune turbines relative to the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, but also moderated by the distance of the various developments from the viewpoint.

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
				The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.
Viewpoint 24: Creagan a Chaise	high	low	moderate and not significant	**Application-stage cumulative scenario:** The Proposed Development would result in a **low** cumulative magnitude of change. The introduction of the Highland (~33km), Kyllachy (~33km), Lynemore (~35km) and Balnespick (~23km) proposals would intensify the distant influence of wind farm development in western views, while also very slightly increasing its discernibility due to the larger scale of the turbines, and in the case of Balnespick its closer location. As a consequence, wind farm development would be apparent intermittently across the distant Monadhliath and Moray hills. The Proposed Development would reinforce this pattern of development across these distant hills, situated to the fore of Dunmaglass but also in between Highland and the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster. The cumulative magnitude of change would be increased due to the increased scale of the Clune turbines relative to the Glen Kyllachy/ Farr cluster, but also moderated by the distance of the various developments from the viewpoint. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore remain **moderate** and **not significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor. The cumulative effect in this scenario would therefore remain the same relative to the level reported in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

Table 6: Updated Summary of Cumulative Effects on Residential Properties in Application-stage Cumulative Scenario

Residential Property	Sensitivity	EIAR Cumulative Magnitude of Change	EIAR Cumulative Significance of Effect	Updated Cumulative Assessment
Banchoruan	high	-	-	There is no visibility of the Proposed Development from this residential property and consequently there would be **no cumulative effects** associated with the Proposed Development.
Strathnoon Cottage	high	-	-	The cumulative visual effects of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would be **medium-low**. The Kyllachy proposal (~2km) would increase the influence of wind farm development upon the skyline to the north-west of the residential property, which forms part of the principal views from its front windows and façade, where the smaller scale turbines associated with Glen Kyllachy (~3km) and Farr (~5km) are currently visible. While the Tom nan Clach Wind Farms (~12km) are also apparent at greater distance in views to the north-east at the end of Strathdearn. The Proposed Development (~1km) would therefore extend visibility of wind turbines, albeit only a small part of four turbines, into the undeveloped skyline that is visible from the rear of the property. Overall, in the broader context of these other operational wind farms, the contribution of Clune to the cumulative effects experienced at Strathnoon Cottage would be relatively modest due to its scale and separation from other wind farms, and as such the predicted cumulative magnitude of change in the application scenario would be medium-low. The cumulative visual effect of the Proposed Development in the application cumulative scenario would therefore be **moderate** and **significant**. This is due to a combination of the factors that lead to the medium-low cumulative magnitude of change on the view and the high sensitivity of the receptor.

A.6 Addendum to Assessment of Special Landscape Qualities for Cairngorms National Park

Introduction

A.6.1 This section of the chapter provides an addendum to the Assessment of SLQs (ASLQ) for the CNP in response to certain issues raised in NatureScot's consultation response. Specifically, it includes some further analysis relating to daytime and night-time effects upon SLQs 6, 10, 28, 30, and 32, and whether the magnitude of effects upon the SLQs would be such that the objectives of the CNP designation and the Park's overall integrity would be compromised.

SLQ 6: Landscapes both cultural and natural and SLQ 10: The surrounding hills

A.6.2 NatureScot suggest in their consultation response that SLQ 6 and 10 can be assessed together due to both "*relating to upland moorland hills and their perceived wildness*".

A.6.3 The assessment of these two SLQs in the LVIA is undertaken separately because while SLQ 6 is considered in the citation[2] a 'general quality' that can be appreciated across the CNP, SLQ 10 is specifically relevant to 'The Mountains and Plateaux' of the CNP. It is therefore not relevant to undertake an assessment of effects upon SLQ 10 in relation to lowland areas, such as Strathspey.

A.6.4 In relation to SLQ 6, the assessment of effects contained on page 48 of the LVIA in the EIAR concludes that the Proposed Development would broadly introduce a medium-low magnitude of change upon this SLQ across potentially affected parts of the CNP. While effects upon SLQ 10 are predicted to vary between a low and medium-low level across some parts of the Strathdearn Hills LCA (82) and North Monadhliath LCA (81) respectively.

A.6.5 For the reasons given above, the LVIA did not consider how effects upon SLQ 10 would be experienced from lowland LCAs, such as the Strathspey: Dulnain Strath LCA (23). Whereas NatureScot suggest that both of "*The SLQs are well expressed across the Dulnain Strath east of the A9…*" and also across areas to the "*west of the A9 into the foothills of the Monadhliath around Kinveachy Forest and from Carn Lethendry*". The Applicant therefore disagrees with the approach taken here by NatureScot in relation to SLQ 10, and we consider that it has inflated the extent of the Proposed Development's effects upon this SLQ in its assessment.

A.6.6 In summary, we consider that SLQs 6 and 10 should be assessed separately, or a distinction should be made between the nature of certain effects upon certain areas that may only apply to one of the two SLQs.

A.6.7 Furthermore, when considering the effects of the Proposed Development upon the lowland straths in relation to SLQ 6, the enclosure provided by widespread forestry and woodland across areas such as the Dulnain Strath greatly reduces one's ability to appreciate the distinction between the settled strath and moorland landscapes. We consider this to be a key moderating factor in the assessment of this SLQ, which would limit visibility of the Proposed Development from lower lying areas of the CNP in reality (see sections 5.8.81-5.8.85 of the LVIA).

A.6.8 In relation to night-time effects, the Applicant agrees with NatureScot that *"As daylight fades the key characteristics which underpin these SLQs tend to be less well expressed"*, and as a result the appearance of any aviation lighting associated with the Proposed Development would have only limited adverse effects on SLQs 6 and 10. In summary, we consider night-time effects upon these two SLQs to be not significant.

SLQ 28: Wildness

A.6.9 The wildness qualities of the CNP are broadly highlighted by the inclusion of the Cairngorms WLA, Lochnagar-Mount Keen WLA, and the south-western part of the Monadhliath WLA within the Park, and while wildness characteristics are expressed outwith these WLAs, they are likely to be best expressed across these designated areas.

A.6.10 NatureScot's consultation response primarily refers to potential effects on SLQ 28 that would be perceived from along the fringes of the CNP, such as areas of The North Monadhliath and the Strathdearn Hills LCAs, for example from the east of Carn nam Bain-tighearna and Carn Glas Choire, and no reference is made in their response to potential effects upon this SLQ across the Cairngorms WLA and the Lochnagar - Mount Keen WLA. The two latter WLAs encompassing a large proportion of the interior of the CNP.

A.6.11 The Applicant is in broad agreement that the greatest potential for effects upon this SLQ arises across the closest parts of the Monadhliath around the localised north western fringes of the CNP. However, the proximity of these areas to settled Strathspey to the south and potential visibility of operational wind farm development to the north, north-west, and west moderates the susceptibility of The

[2] Scottish Natural Heritage and Cairngorms National Park Authority (2010). The special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report, No.375

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North Monadhliath and Strathdearn Hills LCAs. The LVIA therefore considered effects upon this SLQ during the daytime to be not significant.

A.6.12 More distant effects upon this SLQ that might be perceived from the Cairngorms Massif LCA would have a very limited effect on the *"dominance of nature"* due to the Proposed Development's distance from the LCA, its very limited visibility from and influence on the LCA, and its appearance in conjunction with baseline wind energy development.

A.6.13 In relation to night-time effects, the Applicant agrees with NatureScot that the characteristics of the landscape change as light fades, but we disagree that certain aspects of the SLQ would strengthen during the hours of darkness. While features such as hill tracks and bothies are likely to become less visible, we consider that often wind farm development currently remains visible on the skyline (see Viewpoint 17b: Craiggowrie). As a result, the susceptibility of this SLQ to further wind farm development outwith the CNP is moderated slightly. The introduction of aviation lighting would however increase the magnitude of change upon this SLQ relative to existing wind farm development situated outwith the Park. As a result, we consider that there would be some localised borderline significant effects upon this SLQ experienced at night-time across some of the closest elevated open areas of the Cairngorms Massif LCA, for example around the Meall a Bhuachaille/ Craiggowrie ridgeline, where a low magnitude of change would occur.

SLQ 30: Grand panoramas and framed views

A.6.14 The NatureScot response emphasises how the 'grand panoramas and framed views' that are experienced from within the CNP in views to the north-west extend beyond the boundary of the Park, while also highlighting the presence of some discernible distant wind farm development. We agree that the rolling hills of the Monadhliath and the jagged distant peaks of the wider Highlands, such as those of the western Highlands and Caithness, contribute to the scenic quality of these views.

A.6.15 We consider that the quality and/ or settled character of the landscape beyond Strathspey weakens, or softens, the perception of the Park extending further north than its mapped boundary, and we disagree with NatureScot on its assessment here. In the absence of any clear evidence of settlement in the Monadhliath from the Cairngorms Massif, the presence of operational wind farm development across these distant hills clearly denotes a transition in the wider landscape beyond Strathspey (see Viewpoint 22: Cairn Gorm Mountain Railway Café), given the prohibition on wind farm development in National Parks.

A.6.16 An assessment of effects upon the expansive panoramas experienced from the Cairngorms Massif LCA is provided for Viewpoint 23 (Cairn Gorm Mountain Railway Café) and 24 (Braeriach Summit) in the LVIA, and also from Viewpoint 17a: Meall a' Bhuachaille in the Glenmore LCA.

A.6.17 NatureScot's consultation response also refers to views that can be experienced from the Cairngorm Mountain Coire Cas Car Park, which also provides framed views to the north, as well as those that can be experienced from the Lairig Ghru.

A.6.18 In relation to views experienced from the Cairngorm Mountain Coire Cas Car Park, the Proposed Development would be apparent above the distant ridgeline of the Monadhliath at over 22km distant, in combination with the operational Farr and Glen Kyllachy developments. The Proposed Development would extend the horizontal field of view (HFOV) affected by wind turbines on the ridgeline, occupying 5 degrees of the available panorama. The majority of the turbine towers would be screened by landform though with the exception of certain eastern turbines that would be visible to a slightly larger degree. The screening from landform would be typical of the effects experienced from less elevated locations upon the Cairngorm Massif, and this would tend to moderate the effects of the Proposed Development. Overall, it is considered that a low magnitude of change would be experienced to the view at this location, which would result in a **moderate** and **not significant** visual effect.

A.6.19 In relation to the effects of the Proposed Development upon the channelled views experienced from the Lairig Ghru, these would vary along the various sections of the mountain pass. From the most elevated point of the pass ((835m AOD), a single Clune wind turbine (up to hub height) at a distance of over 24km would be theoretically visible clustered together with a small number of the operational Farr wind turbines in the context of the narrow, channelled view northwards, while the blade tips of a few of the operational Moy turbines would be theoretically visible above the central part of the distant Monadhliath ridgeline in central parts of the view. A **negligible to low** magnitude of change is likely to arise along these sections of the mountain pass, which would result in **moderate** and **not significant** visual effects. Further north, the view northwards becomes less narrow, with a larger section of the Monadhliath ridgeline visible beyond Strathspey, and as a result a larger proportion of the proposed wind turbines (between 1-23 turbine blade tips) would be apparent, occupying a HFOV of 6 degrees, with turbine towers screened by landform. Theoretical visibility of a small number of blade tips associated with the operational Moy and Tom nan Clach Wind Farms is also predicted along this northern section of the Lairig Ghru, but they are unlikely to be discernible in reality. A **low** magnitude of change is therefore likely to arise along these northern sections of the

mountain pass at distances of over 22km, which would result in **moderate** and **significant** visual effects occurring, due to the contrasting character of the development and its movement. Given the considerable screening from landform to the majority of the turbine towers, we do not consider that the Proposed Development would necessarily foreshorten the perceived scale of the underlying Monadhliath Mountains.

A.6.20 In summary, we consider that there would be up to a medium magnitude of change upon SLQ 30, which would result in up to **moderate-major** and **significant** effects across some affected parts of the Park. Further details are provided in Section 5.8 of the LVIA.

A.6.21 In relation to night-time effects, the LVIA includes an assessment of effects upon Viewpoint 17b Craiggowrie, which is representative of the nature of the effects that are likely to be experienced across north-western parts of the Cairngorm Massif LCA, including the Cairngorm Mountain Coire Cas Car Park and certain sections of the Lairig Ghru, where theoretical visibility of turbine hubs are apparent. Across these affected areas, we consider that there would be some localised borderline significant effects upon certain views experienced at night-time. However, this SLQ is generally appreciated during daytime and as such we do not consider that the Proposed Development would have a significant effect upon the 'grand panoramas and framed views' at night-time.

SLQ 32: Dark Skies

A.6.22 The assessment of effects upon the 'dark skies' of the CNP draws largely upon the broader night-time assessment undertaken in the LVIA, and we continue to rely upon this supporting assessment. In summary, the LVIA assesses that **significant** effects, albeit sometimes borderline due to the intervening distance, would be experienced on this SLQ during night-time across some north-western areas of the Park.

A.6.23 While the dark skies in the CNP can be appreciated across extensive parts of the Park, the LVIA provided limited information in relation to the Cairngorms Dark Sky Park, which is situated over 27km to the east of the Proposed Development. It is therefore noteworthy that there is only very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development predicted from some very small areas of the Dark Sky Park, and given the intervening distance, effects across these areas are likely to be at worst **negligible** and **not significant**.

Conclusion

A.6.24 In summary, we consider that significant effects would arise upon the following SLQs:

- SLQ 29: Layers of receding ridge lines;
- SLQ 30: Grand panoramas and framed views; and
- SLQ 32: Dark skies.

A.6.25 It is necessary to establish whether the proposed development would harm the objectives of the CNP, to the extent that the overall integrity of the area is compromised, whereby the purpose of the designation is undermined. In the conclusions of their consultation response, NatureScot states that they believe that the significant adverse effects predicted on the special qualities of the CNP would be such that the objectives of the designation and overall integrity of the area would be compromised.

A.6.26 It is the Applicant's understanding that integrity is an expression of the intactness of the CNP's landscape, in physical, scenic, cultural heritage and biodiversity terms, as expressed through its varied special qualities. If the special qualities are unacceptably harmed, or removed, then the integrity of the CNP is affected, which in turn undermines the objectives and the purpose of the designation. It is therefore important to appreciate this wider context when evaluating how, and to what degree, the proposed development may affect the integrity of the designation. This is a key consideration for the decision maker as the effects of the Proposed Development on the special qualities of the CNP needs to be measured in these terms and with regard to the test in NPF4 Policy 4c.

A.6.27 In the Applicant's assessment, the significant adverse effects of the Proposed Development on three of the SLQs identified in the preceding sections would not, in perceptual terms, generate sufficient magnitude of change, and/ or have sufficient geographical influence in their own right to have an undermining effect on the special qualities affected, and the degree to which they are expressed across the CNP. The special qualities would be adversely affected up to a medium order of magnitude but in many instances a much lower level, due primarily due to the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the affected areas of the CNP. While across great swathes of the CNP, there are no effects predicted at all to arise upon these SLQs and these highly valued characteristics would remain in their current state. In summary, we do not consider that the Proposed Development would significantly affect, or undermine, the integrity or the objectives of the designation.

A.6.28 Furthermore, there would be no significant adverse effects upon the other 39 SLQs that can be experienced from across large parts of the CNP.

A.7 Overall Conclusions

Updated Cumulative Assessment

A.7.1 This update to the cumulative landscape and visual assessment has evaluated the likely changes to the findings of Chapter 6 of the EIAR as a consequence of an update to the cumulative assessment to account for changes to the cumulative baseline situation. The update is supported by additional cumulative ZTVs and visualisations.

A.7.2 The cumulative update confirms that there would be material changes to the findings of the cumulative assessment in EIAR Chapter 6 for a number of receptors in the application-stage scenario, due to the relatively strong association between the sites of the Proposed Development and the Kyllachy, Highland, Balnespick, and Lynemore application proposals, where previously there was very limited interaction between the Proposed Development and other application-stage wind farms. It should be noted that the likelihood of these significant cumulative effects occurring, in part or in whole, is wholly dependent on all or some of these application stage projects being consented and built.

A.7.3 The following receptors are predicted to experience significant cumulative effects in an application-stage cumulative scenario:

- Landscape Character Types:
  - Rolling Uplands – Inverness LCT; and
  - Rolling Uplands – Cairngorms LCT.
- Landscape Designations:
  - CNP.
- Viewpoints:
  - Viewpoint 6: U1116 Road (near Carn Eitidh);
  - Viewpoint 8: Carn Sleamhuinn;
  - Viewpoint 9: A9 (River Findhorn Crossing);
  - Viewpoint 10: Track near Geal Charn Mor;
  - Viewpoint 11: Carn a' Choire Mhoir Summit; and
  - Viewpoint 12: A9 (near Carrbridge).
- Residential Properties:
  - Strathnoon Cottage.

A.7.4 The significant cumulative effects summarised above relate to the additional landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development in the context of a hypothetical application cumulative scenario that makes assumptions about existing and proposed wind farms.

Addendum to Assessment of Special Landscape Qualities for Cairngorms National Park

A.7.5 The Addendum to the ASLQ for the CNP provides further information in response to certain issues raised in NatureScot's consultation response dated 27 June 2025 and the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) consultation response dated 1 September 2025. Specifically, it addresses some methodological differences between the LVIA and the NatureScot assessment, which we consider to be responsible for some of the different conclusions drawn in the LVIA and by NatureScot, specifically in relation to SLQ 10.

A.7.6 Additional assessment has been included in relation to SLQs 6, 10, 28, 30, and 32. This additional information has added further detail to the ASLQ in relation to effects on the CNP during both daytime and night-time, but it has not altered the overall conclusions of the LVIA. In summary, the assessment has identified that significant perceptual effects would continue to arise upon SLQs 29, 30 and 32, but these effects would be of an insufficient magnitude and geographical extent in their own right to have an undermining effect on the special qualities affected, and the degree to which they are expressed across the CNP, to significantly impact upon the integrity or the objectives of the designation.