



Beaufort Wind Limited

Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 4)

Appendix 5.3 – Preliminary Assessment of Landscape
Character Types and Designations

663547



JULY 2025

RSK

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 663547
Title: Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 4)
Client: Beaufort Wind Limited
Date: July 2025
Office: Glasgow
Status: Final

Author Pegasus Group

Date: July 2025

RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) has prepared this report for the sole use of the client, showing reasonable skill and care, for the intended purposes as stated in the agreement under which this work was completed. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express agreement of the client and RSK. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report.

Where any data supplied by the client or from other sources have been used, it has been assumed that the information is correct. No responsibility can be accepted by RSK for inaccuracies in the data supplied by any other party. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the assumption that all relevant information has been supplied by those bodies from whom it was requested.

No part of this report may be copied or duplicated without the express permission of RSK and the party for whom it was prepared.

Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK Environment Ltd.

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF LCTS.....	2
3	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF DESIGNATIONS.....	5

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides a preliminary assessment of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed 20 km LVIA Study Area.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is predominantly located within LCT 7 Craggy Upland, and a portion of the associated infrastructure extends through LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens as defined in the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study¹ (ABLWECS).
- 1.1.3 Other LCTs within 35 km of the Proposed Development have been illustrated at **Figure 5.12**, and those located within the 20 km detailed study area are illustrated at **Figure 5.13**. The LCTs within 20 km have also been overlaid with the blade tip ZTV at **Figure 5.14**.

¹ Argyll and Bute (2017). Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study. Available at: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/landscape-wind-energy-capacity-study>

2 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF LCTS

- 2.1.1 An initial review has been undertaken to determine which other LCTs would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in this LVIA. The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each character type is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which character types have the potential to experience significant effects and hence to scope out various character types from further consideration.
- 2.1.2 With reference to **Figure 5.12**, illustrating the character types within 35 km there are certain character types from which there would be no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, with increased distance from the Proposed Development, the potential for indirect and significant effects to occur is reduced. On that basis, all LCTs which are located between 20 km and 35 km have been scoped out of any further assessment, as it is considered that there would be no potential for significant effects to arise at these distances.
- 2.1.3 Therefore, **Table 5.3.1** below lists all LCTs within the 20 km detailed LVIA study area and considers whether the potential effects upon the landscape character type should be assessed in more detail within the LVIA.

Table 5.3.1 – Preliminary Assessment of LCTs within the 20 km Detailed LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Type	Location relative to the Proposed Development ²	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Scottish Borders Landscape Character Types & Areas			
LCT 1 Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	Situated 18.9 km northeast of the Proposed Development.	Some limited theoretical visibility from elevated western parts of the LCT. Actual visibility from these areas would be distant and as such notable indirect effects are considered unlikely.	No
LCT 2 High Tops	Situated 6.0 km northeast of the Proposed Development.	Theoretical visibility is indicated across the southern part of the LCT including from southern areas of Gleann Salach and southern slopes and summits of Na Maoilean 350 m AOD and Beinn Mheadhonach 715 m AOD, 10.2 km north and 11.2 km north, respectively.	Yes
LCT 4 Mountain Glens	Situated 5.1 km northeast of the Proposed Development.	Extensive theoretical visibility across this LCT including from Taynuilt and Airds Bay.	Yes
LCT 6a Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic	Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic 12.9 km Proposed Development.	Very limited theoretical visibility from elevated north western parts of the western side of the LCT. Actual visibility from these areas would be distant and as such notable indirect effects are considered unlikely.	No
LCT 7 Craggy Upland	Proposed turbines and the southern section of the proposed access route are located within the northern part of this LCT.	Host LCT, theoretical visibility largely focused within 5km of the Proposed Development.	Yes
LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens	Proposed northern section of the proposed access route is located within this LCT.	Host LCT, theoretical visibility largely focused within 5km of the Proposed Development.	Yes

² Approximate distance between the proposed turbine and closest part of the LCT

Landscape Character Type	Location relative to the Proposed Development ²	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
	Situated 0.8 km from the nearest proposed turbine.		
LCT 7b Craggy Coast and Islands	Situated 7.3 km to the west of the Proposed Development.	Generally limited theoretical visibility from some elevated and coastal areas. Actual visibility from these areas would be largely limited to blade tips. As such notable indirect effects are considered unlikely.	No
LCT 7c North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands	Situated approximately 4.5 km to the east of the Proposed Development.	Extensive theoretical visibility from generally elevated areas of the LCT east of the B845.	Yes
LCT 7d Lorn Craggy Uplands	Situated 17.8 km north of the Proposed Development.	Theoretical visibility is largely limited to some elevated positions within the LCT including the summit and southern sides of Beinn Donn 473 m, 21.2 km north. Given the limited areas of theoretical visibility predicted and the intervening distance notable indirect effects on this LCT are considered unlikely.	No
LCT 10 Upland Parallel Ridges	Situated 18.1 km southwest of the Proposed Development.	Very limited theoretical visibility from some elevated northern parts of the LCT. Actual visibility from these areas would be largely limited to blade tips. As such notable indirect effects are considered unlikely.	No
LCT 18 Lowland Ridges and Moss	Situated 9.4 km north of the Proposed Development.	Extensive theoretical visibility across this LCT including from North Connel.	Yes
LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic	The connection of the proposed access route with the A85 is located within this LCT. Situated 5.2 km north of the nearest proposed turbine.	Some theoretical visibility from eastern parts of the LCT including from sections of the A85 and the West Highland Railway Line. From other western parts of the LCT there is less theoretical visibility shown.	Yes
Lynn of Lorn NSA	Situated 13.9 km northwest of the Proposed Development.	Some theoretical visibility from this LCT, especially southeast facing coastal areas including on Lismore.	Yes
Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA	Situated 15.3 km northeast of the Proposed Development.	Limited theoretical visibility from some elevated parts of the LCT near Loch Etive.	Yes

3 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF DESIGNATIONS

- 3.1.1 An initial review has been undertaken to determine which designated landscapes would have the potential for significant effects to arise and would therefore require detailed consideration in this LVIA. The intention has been to ensure that the level of attention given to each is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The discussion below summarises the process followed in deciding which designated landscapes have the potential to experience significant effects and hence to scope out several from further consideration.
- 3.1.2 With reference to **Figure 5.11**, illustrating the landscape designations within 20 km there are certain designations from which there would be no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, with increased distance from the Proposed Development, the potential for indirect and significant effects to occur is reduced. On that basis, all designations which are located between 20 km and 35 km have been scoped out of any further assessment, as it is considered that there would be no potential for significant effects to arise at these distances.
- 3.1.3 Therefore, **Table 5.3.2** below lists all designated landscapes within the 20 km detailed LVIA study area and considers whether the potential effects should be assessed in more detail within the LVIA.

Table 5.3.2 - Preliminary assessment of designated landscapes within the 20 km Detailed LVIA Study Area

Receptor	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
National Parks			
None within 20 km study area			
National Scenic Areas			
Lynn of Lorn NSA	13.9 km northwest	Theoretical visibility is indicated across western areas if the NSA including from the eastern side of Lismore and the open waters of the Lynn of Lorn	Yes
Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA	15.3 km northeast	Theoretical visibility is indicated from south western areas of the NSA including from high point Ben Starav 1078m AOD, 21.1 km to the northeast.	Yes
Local Landscape Areas			
North Argyll LLA	3.8 k m east	Theoretical visibility is indicated across western areas if the APQ including from Ben Cruachan 9.6 km northeast.	Yes
North West Argyll (Coast) LLA	7.9 km west	Theoretical visibility is largely limited to elevated areas of Loch Feochan 9.8 km west. Accounting for the limited theoretical visibility, notable effects on this APQ are considered unlikely.	No
Knapdale / Melfort LLA	12.0 km southwest	Theoretical visibility is generally limited to some northern coastal areas and some elevated parts of Glen Gallan. Accounting for the intervening distance and limited theoretical visibility notable effects on this APQ are considered unlikely.	No
West Loch Fyne LLA	18.2 km southeast	No theoretical visibility is indicated.	No

Receptor	Location in relation to the site	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
Wild Land Areas			
06. Ben Lui WLA	15.0 km east	Theoretical visibility is largely limited to western areas of the WLA including from high point Beinn Bhoidheach 590m AOD. However, given the limited predicted visibility and intervening distance notable effects on the key attributes and qualities of WLA 06 are considered unlikely.	No
09. Loch Etive mountains WLA	7.5 km northeast	Theoretical visibility is indicated across southern areas of the WLA including from Ben Cruachan 10.9 km northeast.	Yes
Gardens and Designed Landscapes			
Achnacloich GDL	7.3 km north	Very limited theoretical visibility indicated, actual visibility is likely to be filtered and screened by mature vegetation within the GDL. Notable effects are considered unlikely.	No
Ardchattan Priory GDL	8.2 km north	Theoretical visibility is indicated across this GDL	Yes
Ardanaiseig House GDL	9.4 km east	No theoretical visibility.	No
Inverary Castle GDL	16.8 km southeast	No theoretical visibility.	No