



Beaufort Wind Limited

Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 4)

Appendix 5.8 – Assessment of Effects on Theoretical Future Baseline

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RSK

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Technical Appendix considers two different scenarios:
- 1 Effects of the Proposed Development (“BG2”) in relation to the current baseline including the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm (“BG1”), as per the main LVIA chapter and **Appendix 5.5**; and
 - 2 Effects in relation to a theoretical zero baseline in which the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm has been decommissioned and not part of a baseline.
- 1.1.2 With reference to **Figure 5.4** this Appendix provides a comparison between the predicted landscape and visual impacts within the detailed 20 km LVIA study between the two scenarios.

2 COMPARISON OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

- 2.1.1 **Table 5.8.1** below compares operational effects on all LCTs that have been considered in detail in the main LVIA chapter.
- 2.1.2 The proposed turbines are all located within the northern part of LCT 7 Craggy Upland. This LCT was assessed in the main LVIA chapter as having **Medium** susceptibility to the type of development proposed, due to the existing influence of the operational Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal wind farms in the locality. When a theoretical zero baseline is considered (in which the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm has been decommissioned), the susceptibility of the part of the LCT in which the Proposed Development is located is considered to increase slightly. However, when considering the spread of theoretical visibility of the Carraig Gheal wind farm, which can be seen at **Figure 5.30**, any increase in susceptibility will occur only in those locations close to the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm in the north of the LCT. Overall, the LCT will remain one where there is some influence from existing wind development (Carraig Gheal) and whereby the susceptibility is considered to remain **Medium** when set against a baseline without the existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm. When combined with the **Medium** value of the LCT (see main LVIA chapter), the overall sensitivity of the zero baseline LCT is assessed as **Medium**.

Table 5.8.1 – Comparison of operational effects on LCTs within the 20 km Detailed LVIA Study Area

Landscape Character Type	Scenario 1: Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline				Scenario 2: Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline			
	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
LCT 7 Craggy Upland (up to 1 km)	Medium	High	Moderate	Yes	Medium	High	Moderate Major	Yes
LCT 7 Craggy Upland (1-2 km)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Medium High	Moderate Major	Yes
LCT 7 Craggy Upland (2-4 km)	Medium	Low Medium	Minor Moderate	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Yes
LCT 7 Craggy Upland (4-10 km)	Medium	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium	Low	Minor Moderate	No
LCT 7 Craggy Upland (over 10 km)	Medium	Low to Very Low	Minor	No	Medium	Low to Very Low	Minor	No
LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (up to 4 km)	Medium High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium High	Medium	Moderate	Yes

Landscape Character Type	Scenario 1: Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline				Scenario 2: Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline			
	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (over 4 km)	Medium high	Low to Very Low	Minor	No	Medium high	Low to Very Low	Minor	No
LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic (up to 10 km)	Medium high	Medium Low	Moderate	No	Medium high	Medium Low	Moderate	Yes
LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic (over 10 km)	Medium high	Low to Very Low	Minor	No	Medium high	Low to Very Low	Minor	No
LCT 2 High Tops (up to 10 km)	High	Medium	Moderate	No	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
LCT 2 High Tops (10km – 15 km)	High	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No	High	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No
LCT 2 High Tops (over 15 km)	High	Very Low	Minor	No	High	Very Low	Minor	No
LCT 4 Mountain Glens (up to 7.5 km)	High	Medium	Moderate	No	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes

Landscape Character Type	Scenario 1: Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline				Scenario 2: Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline			
	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
LCT 4 Mountain Glens (over 7.5 km)	High	No change	No effect	No	High	No change	No effect	No
LCT 7c North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands (up to 10 km)	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	No
LCT 7c North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands (over 10 km)	Medium high	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium high	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No
LCT 18 Lowland Ridges and Moss	Medium high	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium high	Medium Low	Minor Moderate	No

The shaded rows indicate the Proposed Development is located within the character type

Bold text indicates a significant effect

3 COMPARISON OF VISUAL EFFECTS

- 3.1.1 **Table 5.8.2** below compares operational effects on all viewpoints that have been considered in detail in the main LVIA chapter.
- 3.1.2 **Table 5.8.3** below compares the visual effects on residential properties and settlements during the operational phase.
- 3.1.3 **Table 5.8.4** below compares the visual effects on recreational routes during the operational phase.
- 3.1.4 **Table 5.8.5** below compares the visual effects on roads during the operational phase.
- 3.1.5 **Table 5.8.6** below compares the visual effects on designations during the operational phase.

Table 5.8.2 – Comparison of operational effects on Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Approx. distance to the nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
			Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
1 - Minor road, Lonan	2.9 km northeast	High	No change	No effect	No	No change	No effect	No
2 - Clach Bhadan, Core Path	1.5 km south	Medium high	Medium high	Moderate Major	Yes	High	Moderate major	Yes
3 - Taynuilt Church	5.3 km northwest	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
4 - Creag Ghlasrach	5.6 km southwest	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
5 - Minor road near Barran an Fhraoich, east of Oban	8.8 km northwest	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
6 - Achnacairn	9.8 km northwest	High	Negligible	No effect	No	Negligible	No effect	No
7 - Ardchattan Priory	8.3 km north	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes	Medium	Moderate	Yes
8 - B845	10.2 km north	Medium	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
9 - Ben Cruachan	9.6 km northeast	High	Medium low	Moderate	No	Medium low	Moderate	No
10 - Portsonachan	8.0 km southeast	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
11 - B840 layby nr Cladich	12.3 km west	Medium	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
12 - A816 layby / parking near Knipoch	12.5 km east	Medium high	Negligible	No effect	No	Negligible	No effect	No

Viewpoint	Approx. distance to the nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
			Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
13 - A828, grass verge	11.5 km northwest	Medium	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
14 - Beinn Bhreac	13.6 km north	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
15 – Core Path C517(b) – Inverawe to Glenkinglass, Loch Etive	11.7 km northeast	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	No
16 – Cachnacroish Lismore	18.8 km northwest	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
17 – Ben Starav	22.0 km northeast	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
18 – Bonawe Jetty, Taynuilt	7.0 km northeast	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
19 – Glen Lonan Road	3.1 km northeast	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No

Bold text indicates a significant effect

Table 5.8.3 – Comparison of operational effects on Residential Properties and Settlements

Receptor	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
		Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
Bunanta	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Sithean Self-catering	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Bar-Ghlas	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Am-Barr	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Josephine's Wing	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Barguilean Farm	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Cluster of properties around Corachie Farm	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
Cluster of properties around Balindore	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes	Medium	Moderate	Yes
Taynuilt	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
Connel	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
North Connel	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No

Bold text indicates a significant effect

Table 5.8.4 – Comparison of operational effects on Recreational Routes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 in comparison with BG1			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
		Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
C171 - Kilmore - Loch Nant	Medium high	Medium high	Moderate Major	Yes	Medium high	Moderate Major	Yes
C160 - Taynuilt to Oban	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
C523 - Loch Nant, Loch Aweside	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
C300 - Kilchrenan to Taynuilt	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
C157 - Taynuilt - Airds	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
C158 - Achlonan to Taynuilt Jetty	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
C159 - Shore Cottage, Brochroy to Inverawe	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
C526 - Inverawe to Dun Mor	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
C517 - Inverawe to Glenkinglass	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
C156 - Bonawe to Glen Etive	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
National Cycle Network Route 78	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No

Bold text indicates a significant effect

*A significant effect would only be experienced when travelling in a southerly direction from Taynuilt Jetty for approx. 350 m.

Table 5.8.5 – Comparison of operational effects on Roads

Receptor	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
		Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
A Roads							
A85	Medium	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
A819	Medium	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	No
B Roads							
B845	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
B840	Medium	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
Scenic Routes							
Argyll Coastal Route	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No
Minor Roads							
Minor road between A828 and B845	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Yes	Medium	Moderate	Yes

Bold text indicates a significant effect

Table 5.8.6 – Comparison of Operational Effects on Designated Landscapes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Effect of BG2 with BG1 in the baseline			Effect of BG2 in relation to zero baseline		
		Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
Local Landscape Areas							
North Argyll LLA	High	Medium	Moderate	No	Medium	Moderate	Yes
Gardens and Designed Landscapes							
Ardchattan Priory GDL	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No	Low	Minor Moderate	No

Bold text indicates a significant effect

4 SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 This Technical Appendix found that in general, where receptors are closer to the Proposed Development, and the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines exert the greatest influence, there is a difference in the level of effect experienced between the two scenarios. Where receptors are further away, the existing Beinn Ghlas wind turbines are less visible, so the effects of the Proposed Development are more similar to those for the theoretical zero baseline.

Landscape Character Effects

- 4.1.2 In the existing baseline scenario discussed in the main LVIA chapter, significant direct landscape character effects were found to extend to approximately 1 km from the Proposed Development within LCT 7 Craggy Upland. When assessed against the zero-baseline scenario, direct significant effects were found to extend further, to approximately 4 km from the nearest proposed turbine and within LCT 7.
- 4.1.3 No indirect significant effects were found within other LCTs when assessed against the current baseline. However, when assessed against a theoretical zero baseline, significant effects would also extend to approximately 4 km within LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens, up to 7.5 km within LCT 4 Mountain Glens, and up to 10 km within LCT 2 High Tops and LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic.

Visual Effects

- 4.1.4 The main LVIA chapter found that when the Proposed Development was assessed against the current baseline (including the existing Beinn Ghlas wind farm), significant visual effects occurred at two of the 19 viewpoints. These are viewpoints 2 (Clach Bhadan) and 7 (Ardchattan Priory). When assessed against a baseline without the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines, four additional significant effects are assessed for viewpoints 3 (Taynuilt Church), 4 (Creag Ghlasrach), 8 (B845) and 18 (Bonawe Jetty).
- 4.1.5 When views from residential receptors were assessed against the current baseline, significant visual effects were found to occur only from properties around Balindore (approx. 3.8 km away). When assessed against a theoretical zero-baseline scenario significant effects were also found where open views were available in the direction of the site from properties at Taynuilt.
- 4.1.6 When views from recreational routes were compared with the current baseline, as discussed in the main LVIA chapter, significant effects were identified from two core paths, C171 - Kilmore - Loch Nant (approximately 1.5 km to the south of the Proposed Development). When assessed against the zero-baseline scenario, significant effects were found to extend to two additional core paths, C517 - Inverawe to Glenkinglass (approx. 6.8 km to the northeast of the Proposed Development) and Core Path C158 - Achlonan to Taynuilt Jetty (approx. 5.6 km to the northeast).
- 4.1.7 When views from roads were compared with the current baseline, as discussed in the main LVIA chapter, significant effects were found on one road, on the minor road to the east of the B845 (represented by Viewpoint 7). In the zero-baseline scenario an additional significant effect was identified on the section of the B845 on the northern bank of Loch Etive (represented by Viewpoint 8, approx. 10.2 km to the north of the Proposed Development).

- 4.1.8 When views from designated landscape were compared with the two baseline scenarios, there was found to be a significant effect from North Argyll LLA in the theoretical zero baseline, which was not identified in the main LVIA chapter.