

APPENDIX 6.5: Less Than Moderate Effects

1. As noted in **Section 6.7**, predicted effects which are assessed as less than Moderate are compiled here to aid the reader.

Landscape Effects

Low Smooth Moorland LCT

2. As shown on Figure 6.3, this LCT occurs in low lying, poorly drained areas on the coast and in broad depressions between hills and moorlands and merges with Upland Sloping Moorland. Intervisibility of the proposed turbines with this LCT would be limited to the occurrence south of Dunvegan and to a more limited extent in the occurrence south of Greshornish.
3. The sensitivity of the Low Smooth Moorland is considered to be Medium/low. The value of this landscape is judged to be Community, as only very limited parts of this LCT are included within a THC Special Landscape Area; some limited presence of cultural heritage but more ecological value associated with the poorly drained peat; lack of notable distinctiveness, scenic quality or wildness. The susceptibility is judged to be Medium/low, on account of the simple composition with no distinctive landform in proximity to settlement but expansive and open views.
4. Figure 6.5 illustrates the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and Figure 6.6 includes the screening effect of forestry which would reduce this extent even further. Viewpoints 3 and 12 are located within or on the edge of this LCT. The nature of the change at these viewpoints is described in detail within Technical Appendix 6.4.
5. Given the nature of the key characteristics and nature of change on this LCT, the only key characteristic likely to be affected is the '*Expansive and open, with views of mountains, islands and sea, channelled by adjacent hill slopes*'. The others would remain unaffected.
6. Whilst there would be views of the Proposed Development from the occurrence of this LCT south of Dunvegan, the key views to the Macleod's Tables and the Cuillins would not be affected. The occurrence of this LCT south of Greshornish would still maintain views to the Macleod's Tables and Trotternish ridge unaffected, thereby having little impact on this key characteristic.
7. Whilst there is already existing wind energy influence as a result of the existing Ben Aketil, Edinbane and Ben Sca, the increase in scale of the Proposed Development would lead to a notable strengthening of influence on landscape character locally.
8. As illustrated in ZTVs, there would only be influence on the occurrence south of Dunvegan and to a more limited extent in the occurrence south of Greshornish. This change would occur where the adjacent moorland is already influenced by existing or consented wind energy development, as well as large scale forestry. Overall the key characteristics would not be significantly affected and the influence would be very localised.
9. For the Low Smooth Moorland there would be a Medium scale of change to a Localised extent of the LCT due to the introduction of the Proposed Development. These changes are considered to be Long Term which would lead to a Moderate/Slight magnitude of change. For this landscape of Medium/low sensitivity, this would lead to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Visual Effects

Receptor Groups

Edinbane (3.9 km NE)

10. Receptors in this group are residents at Coishletter, Edinbane, Blackhill and Upper Edinbane at the mouth of Loch Greshornish and core path along the pavement of A850 between the settlements. The settlement pattern tend to vary most dwellings facing into the valley, with increasingly intimate visual environments present in the centre of Edinbane due to screening elements. Properties with views in Coishletter are directed north along the coastline and northeast into stepped moorland to the existing Edinbane turbines. Views from Upper Edinbane are generally directed southwest over the settlement to moorland where existing Ben Aketil turbines are visible as blade tips. The existing turbines of Edinbane wind farm have a strong influence on some parts of this group (particularly those with more open views) and Ben Sca will appear in front of the existing Ben Aketil turbines behind the forestry.
11. As illustrated in the ZTV which includes screening, there would be no views from Coishletter or the centre of Edinbane. There would be only limited views of the proposed turbines appearing above forestry to the southwest from a few of the properties at Blackhill, but views are or will be influenced by the existing turbines at Edinbane or Ben Sca. There would be more widespread visibility of the proposed turbines from Upper Edinbane, with the 5 eastern most turbines appearing behind consented Ben Sca turbines. The other 4 turbines would be limited to tips only. The Proposed Development would increase the density of turbines but would not create a new occurrence in views.
12. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change, within a Localised extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Flashader (6.1 km NE)

13. This group includes the crofting settlements at Flashader and Kildonan. There would be no visibility at Breabost / Fanks. Flashader is set along the A850, whilst Kildonan is set along the coastline of Loch Greshornish to the north. Most properties in Flashader face the road, whilst dispersed properties at Kildonan face seaward to the northwest taking advantage of key views from across the loch. Existing turbines at both Edinbane and Ben Aketil are visible from properties at Flashader. Ben Sca will be visible in the same part of the view, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 6**.
14. From Flashader, there would be a few properties with main views to the Proposed Development, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 6**. Where these views exist, the Proposed Development would be visible behind consented turbines at Ben Sca where the two groups would be similar in scale and read as a single cluster. As illustrated in the ZTVs, there would only be a few properties in Kildonan with potential views, and views southwest towards the site would be secondary.
15. Given the consented baseline there would be a Medium/Small scale of change, within a Localised extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Moderate/Slight magnitude of change. For receptors of High/medium sensitivity, this would lead to a Moderate/minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Greshornish (4.9 km N)

16. This receptor group includes a very small number of properties on the eastern edge of the Greshornish peninsula and local road as well as a core path through the peninsula. The core path extends from the A850 through forestry to Loch Greshornish. The primary outlook from roads and properties in this area is along the coast to the northeast and across Loch Greshornish to the southeast toward

Kildonan, with the Trotternish ridge on the horizon. Open views are illustrated by **Viewpoint 7** which include existing turbines at Edinbane and Ben Aketil on the horizon above Edinbane.

17. The properties at Upper and Lower Glen would have some reduced visibility of the Proposed Development due to intervening forestry and would appear behind the consented Ben Sca turbines which would appear partially in front of the proposed turbines, which is similar to **Viewpoint 7**. The properties at Greshornish House would be predominantly screened by landform and dense local deciduous vegetation. There would be open views from the minor road which accesses the peninsula, as illustrated in Viewpoint 7. Intermittent views to the proposed turbines would be available from sections of the core path where forestry is young or vegetation opens views to the south, but most of the southern part of the route is through commercial forestry. The Proposed Development would not have influence over key views to the north and east.
18. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change, within a Limited extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Moderate/Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Waternish (over 9 km N)

19. This group consists of dispersed crofting settlement, local roads, core path and recreational viewpoints on the western side of Waternish peninsula including Hallin / Halistra and Trumpan and illustrated with **Viewpoint 13**. There would be no views of the Proposed Development from the eastern side of the Waternish peninsula and no views from Lusta. Views from the western side of Waternish are mainly focused north or west but there are views south down Loch Bay towards central Skye.
20. The Proposed Development would not be visible from most of Trumpan, the Trumpan car park and viewing point and only limited visibility from a short section of the walking trail to Waternish Point. There would be oblique views from a few properties at Halistra / Hallin, where local topography, adjacent settlement and garden vegetation allows views south (as main views are west). When visible the Proposed Development would be seen similar to **Viewpoint 13**, visible as blade tips and a few hubs in the distance.
21. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Small/negligible scale of change, within a Localised extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight/negligible magnitude of change, leading to a Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Borve (11.5 km E)

22. This receptor group consists of settlement and core paths along the A850 north of Portree at the base of the Trotternish ridge. Settlement is predominantly aligned to the landform and A87 or minor roads to access settlement. There are mixed outlook from this group but often these include views to the west, where some of the existing Edinbane turbines can be seen on the horizon.
23. Views to the Proposed Development to the west are predominantly screened with mainly blade tips and one hubs visible on the horizon amongst the Edinbane and Ben Sca turbines, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 12**. The Proposed Development would be seen to add marginal density to visible Edinbane/Ben Sca cluster and would not extend the spread of turbine development in the area.
24. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change, with an Intermediate extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Uig (c.14 - 18 km NW)

25. This receptor group includes the town of Uig on the western coast of the Trotternish peninsula, including Idgrill and settlement south of Uig Bay including Earlish, local roads and core paths. There would be no visibility in Glen Uig or for visitors to the Fairy Glen and no visibility along the A87 at Uig including the Ferry terminal at Uig Pier. Settlement patterns tend to follow roads which follow the landform. In Uig, this forms terraces which ascend from the coast and includes Idrigill. **Viewpoint 14** is representative of elevated views over Uig Bay back towards Skye and is much more visible than from any of the receptors in this group other than tourists at this location above the town.
26. The Proposed Development would be visible to the south across Uig Bay from higher ground on the northern part of Uig/Idgrill and from parts of Earlish. Although notably larger in scale they would occupy a similar horizontal extent and appear behind the consented Ben Sca turbines and in the same area of moorland as Edinbane. Visibility from areas to the south, in the centre and extending into Glen Uig would be well screened by landform, with some visibility occurring around the western extents of the town at the port.
27. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change, with an Localised extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant. It should be noted that views from areas to the north of Uig would be much more distant and screened leading to Minor impacts at most.

North Minginish (over 11.5 km S)

28. This group includes settlement such as Carbost, Ardtreck, Portnalog, Fiskavaig, B8009, local roads at the northern end of Minginish and a core path which are located on a complex headland with intricate topography and changing aspects. There would be no views from Gleann Oraid at Talisker. Settlement on the northern end of Minginish tends to loosely follow a coastal outlook with variable outlook. However, there is mature vegetation and localised landform which can screen wider views. **Viewpoint 11** is representative of views from elevated areas with clear views within this group. There will be views to the consented turbines of Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach.
29. Where there are clear views north, the Proposed Development would be visible in the gently sloping moorland interior, replacing the existing Ben Aketil turbines, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 11**. Views to the proposed turbines would be intermittent throughout this group due to screening from landform, trees and settlement and would be more common in elevated areas overlooking the coast. Theoretically there would be two tips visible from Carbost but the Proposed Development would not be visible. There would be some visibility when travelling north on the core path descending into Fiskavaig.
30. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change, with an Localised extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Moineach, Glen Brittle Forest (21 km SSW)

31. This small receptor group is made up of mainly recreational users at Glen Brittle Forest and those heading to the base of the Cuillins and the Fairy Pools. Views are represented by **Viewpoint 16**, located on the minor road, north of car parks to the Fairy Pools and Glen Brittle. There would be no views of the Proposed Development from the Fairy Pools or the car park. Outlook and views from this group are focused to the nearby Cuillin Hills, which loom large in views south. Outlook in other directions is largely contained by landform to the west and east, with open views into the island's moorland interior available to the north from elevated locations and those outside of forestry within Glen Brittle Forest, but visual focus remains the Cuillins.

32. In views north, the Proposed Development would be partially visible as a distant array, replacing the existing Ben Aketil, beside operational turbines at Edinbane and consented turbines at Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish in views to the north. They would be seen in a part of the landscape which is/will be already characterised by wind energy development.
33. For receptors in this group of High/medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change, with a Limited extent of the group. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Key Transport Routes

A87 from Portree to Uig (11.8 km – 17.6 km E & NE)

34. This 15-mile section of the A87 route follows a north-south orientation from Portree to Uig. This receptor is considered to be of Medium/low sensitivity as a result of a Medium/low susceptibility to the change and a Community value of the view. As illustrated on the ZTVs and Viewpoint 12, views of the Proposed Development between Portree and Borve would be predominantly screened by intervening landform and limited to a few blade tips and tops of hubs. Visibility beyond Borve would decrease and drop off completely before passing through settled areas at Rhenetra and Kensaleyre, returning as blade tips cross the mouth of Loch Eyre and Snizort Beag. Occasional settlement and vegetation would provide local screening to the road through this area ofcrofting settlement with intermittent visibility to blade tips until the road is contained by landform and occasional trees and shrub after Romesdale up to the Hinnisdal Bridge, ending any potential northbound views.
35. Southbound from Uig there would be some long distance views into the moorland of central Skye from the high point at Earlish, descending to Hinnisdal Bridge, for approximately 4-5 km in length of route. The Proposed Development would be visible 15-12km away, behind the consented Ben Sca and adjacent to Edinbane within the central moorland. After Hinnisdal Bridge, views would drop away southbound.
36. For this road receptor, which is considered to be of Medium/low sensitivity, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change across Localised extent of the route. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

A850 from Borve to Dunvegan (c.11 km - 1.7 km)

37. This c.17 mile route connects the A87 at Borve to the A863 at Dunvegan via Flashader and Edinbane is of an east-west orientation. This receptor is considered to be of Medium/low sensitivity as a result of a Medium/low susceptibility to the change and a Community value of the view.
38. Travelling eastbound from A87 at Borve, there would be one glimpse of mainly blade tips and a few hubs, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 12**, before dropping down to Skeabost where there would be no views of the Proposed Development until heading west into Flashader.
39. Views open to the west as the route approaches Flashader. There would be a few intermittent views of Edinbane wind farm to the south, and Ben Aketil and Ben Sca to the west through Flashader. After the cutting and on the descent into Edinbane, there would direct clear views to Ben Sca and the proposed Ben Aketil turbines behind, above forestry on the horizon, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 6**. These direct open views would continue for 1.5 km on the descent into Edinbane, then views would be screened by landform to some extent and forestry would further screen views when standing. The next view currently available of the Proposed Development would occur at **Viewpoint 1** through a gap in the forestry. Whilst forestry is not a permanent feature of the landscape and goes through its natural cycle of growth, felling and replanting, it is likely that part of this route would be screened by forestry at any one time. Beyond the junction of B885 (to Waternish) there would be no views westbound.

40. Travelling eastbound from Dunvegan, there would be no views whilst within the settlement, but just as you leave the village views open out as illustrated in **Viewpoint 4**, where partially screened views of the Proposed Development would be available for a short section of the route before turning a corner and being screened by Ben Horneval. There would be both eastbound and westbound views of the Proposed Development as described passing along side existing forestry (Viewpoint 1) until Edinbane when eastbound views would cease.
41. For road users on this route, which is considered to be of Medium/low sensitivity, there would be a Medium scale of change across Localised extent of the route. These Permanent changes would result in a Moderate magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Ferry Route Uig to Lochmaddy, North Uist (17 km – 42 km away)

42. This route crosses the Little Minch between Uig and Lochmaddy and is one of two ferry routes between Skye and the Hebrides. Recreational users are the main receptors on this route where open views to the western and northern regions of Skye, Uist, Harris and Lewis are available. Receptors using this route of Regional value would have High susceptibility to the proposed Development and would be High/Medium sensitivity.
43. There would be visibility to up to 9 hubs of the Proposed Development from the mouth of Uig Bay when looking south for around 3 km, after which visibility would decrease towards Waternish, which would screen visibility entirely for around 6 km. Visibility to the proposed turbines would return to the south-eastern outlook where it would be seen as a distant object in the low centre of the island, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 19**. The Proposed Development would again be screened by landform to the west of **Viewpoint 19**, with distant visibility returning and dropping off again before the ferry enters Lochmaddy.
44. For the receptors on this ferry route, which is considered to be of High/Medium sensitivity, there would be a Small/Negligible scale of change across Localised extent of the route. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight/negligible magnitude of change, leading to a Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Recreational Routes

Skye Trail (c.15 km east)

45. This long distance (c.130km) walking trail extending between Broadford and the north Trotternish coast, which is a popular but unofficial (not waymarked) route. Receptors using this route of Regional value would have High susceptibility to the proposed Development and would be High/Medium sensitivity.
46. As illustrated on the ZTV, there would be no visibility on the southern half of the route, south of Portree. As indicated on **Figure 6.7**, there would be large lengths of elevated visibility on the trail as it extends along the Trotternish ridge The Storr and Bìoda Buidhe. These views are illustrated in **Viewpoints 15** and **17**. There would be no visibility from The Old Man of Storr or nearby by car park or coastal area near Portree. Nor would there be any visibility from the Quiraing and the Needle, or low land area at the northern end of the Trotternish ridge. Views from the Trotternish ridge include Harris/Lewis to the north; the Cuillin Hills across Skye to the south; Rona/Raasay and to Wester Ross to the southeast; and views west across Skye's mosaic interior of stepped landforms, rounded and sloping moorland hills and patchwork forestry and sea lochs with the Macleod's Tables. From the ridge, the Proposed Development would be visible to the west, behind consented Ben Sca turbines, forming a cluster in low moorland below the Macleod's Tables.

47. For people walking this route, which are considered to be of High/Medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change across an Intermediate extent of the route. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Minor/Moderate effect which would be Not Significant.

Specific Viewpoints

The Storr (18 km E)

48. This popular viewpoint at the summit of The Storr is well visited by walkers and tourists alike. It is accessible via a link trail from the Skye Trail before it ascends the Trotternish ridge from the A855. Receptors accessing this viewpoint would be of Regional value within the Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA would have High susceptibility to the proposed Development and would be High/Medium sensitivity.
49. Expansive, panoramic views are available from the peak. Extending along the length of the Trotternish ridge to The Hebrides in the northwest, the Cuillin Hills to the south and over Rona and Raasay to Wester Ross in the east. Views are also open toward the southwest and west to the islands interior and complex southern coast and to the Macleod's Tables, though these are not key views from this location. Existing turbines at Edinbane and Ben Aketil are visible in low moorland to the west, along with consented turbines at Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish which will be seen in views to the west.
50. As illustrated in **Viewpoint 15**, the Proposed Development would be visible to in the view replacing the existing Ben Aketil turbines below the Macleod's Tables to the west. The proposed turbines would be associated with an area of low, internal moorland alongside existing turbines at Edinbane and consented turbines at Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish. The Proposed Development would be well separated from key visual elements in the group, which are focused to the south, east and north.
51. For this viewpoint of High/Medium sensitivity, there would be a Small scale of change, over a Localised extent of the view. These Permanent changes would result in a Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate/Minor effect which would be Not Significant.

Designated landscapes

The Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area

52. The Cuillin Hills NSA encompasses the part of southern Skye extending from Broadford west to Rubh an Sunain and the isle of Soay. The northern most point at Sligachan is 23.5 km from the Proposed Development. The extent of the NSA is shown on **Figure 6.1** and the extent of theoretical visibility is shown on **Figure 6.5**. Viewpoint 18 is located on one of the northernmost peaks in the Black Cuillins, illustrating views from the ridge. The central upland area of the NSA coincides with the Cuillin Wild Land Area.
53. The Proposed Development is not within the designation itself, so the physical integrity of the NSA would remain intact. The only potential for effects would occur as a result of visibility to or from the NSA of the Proposed Development. This designated landscape is considered to be of High sensitivity overall as a National designation for landscape quality, although the susceptibility of each Special Quality may vary.
54. The Cuillin Hills is a popular area for recreational visitors, particularly those who want a challenging mountain climb. More accessible are the 'Fairy Steps' at the base of the Cuillin Ridge. As illustrated in the ZTV, there would be some distant visibility, as illustrated in Viewpoint 18 from a few of the summits of the ridge, but no visibility from the Fairy Steps. The popular routes from Sligachan would be predominantly screened from view until reaching the top of the ridge. There would also be no

visibility from the section of Skye Trail which traverses through the centre of the Cuillins. Overall the extent of theoretical visibility by recreational receptors within the NSA would be limited.

55. The Special Qualities of this NSA have been set out in The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas (NatureScot Report 374). The special qualities identified within that document and the potential effect as a result of the Proposed Development are set out in the **Table 6.13**.
56. In reviewing the Special Qualities and underpinning landscape characteristics, we consider that some of these could be appreciated at night. Therefore, the impacts at night have been included in the assessment below where it was considered this was possible. It should be noted that the Cuillins Wild Land Assessment is included in **Technical Appendix 6.6** and has included an impact of the aviation lighting at night, as requested by NatureScot.

Table 6.13: Impact on Special Qualities of The Cuillin Hills NSA

Special Quality of the NSA	Underpinning landscape characteristics	Potential Impact
Magnificent mountain scenery	<i>'This area presents magnificent, imposing, upland scenery of serrated ridges, deep rocky corries and scree- clad slopes. The mountains rise up dramatically from the sea creating formidable, enclosed sea lochs, with the absence of foothills enhancing their vast scale. Many iconic views of Scotland are centred here, whether Sgurr nan Gillean soaring above Sligachan, Loch Scavaig and the Cuillin ridge from Elgol, or Bla Bheinn above Torrin. Roads and paths are hard against the towering mountains, and the lack of human settlement or activity gives a sense of entering one of the wildest quarters of Europe. The Black Cuillin in particular have been described as 'the most spectacular mountain scenery in the British Isles' (McNeish, 1999). Loch na Cuilce and Loch Coruisk penetrate this landscape of rock, allowing low-level access into the heart of the inhospitable, remote and wild mountain core.'</i>	<p>Whilst there are scenic panoramic views from the Cuillin Hills, the description is about seeing these mountains rather than views from the mountains.</p> <p>As noted in the viewpoint descriptions in Technical Appendix 6.4, there few viewpoints where the Proposed Development would appear in front of The Cuillins.</p> <p>This SQ would not be appreciated at night.</p> <p>As a result, a significant effect on this SQ would not occur.</p>
The contrast and complement of the Black and Red Cuillin	<i>'The two main mountain areas within this compact area, the Black Cuillin and the Red Cuillin, both contrast and complement each other.'</i>	<p>This SQ would not be appreciated at night.</p> <p>There would be no impact on the appreciation of this SQ.</p>

Special Quality of the NSA	Underpinning landscape characteristics	Potential Impact
<p>The surrounding wild landscape, a fitting foil for the mountains</p>	<p><i>‘A fitting contrast to the dramatic steep- sided mountains is provided by the undulating moorland and grassland that surrounds them, and by the flat-bottomed, once glaciated glens. Signs of human activity are minimal and the whole area comes across as wild and untamed.</i></p> <p><i>To the south, the eye is led on to the islands of Canna, Rum and Eigg, each with its distinctive profile, and these distant islands emphasise the remoteness of the coast.’</i></p>	<p>Given the separation distance, the Proposed Development would have no impact on the surrounding wild landscape, which surrounds these hills.</p> <p>As a result, there would be no effect on this SQ would not occur.</p> <p>There would be some intervisibility of the 4 aviation lights but at distances of c.25km away these lights would not hamper the wild experience of this landscape.</p>
<p>Iconic images of crofting townships with dramatic backdrops</p>	<p><i>‘The contrasting crofting settlements of Torrin and Elgol, although themselves mostly outside the NSA, present a foreground to some the most recognisable images of Bla Bheinn and the Black Cuillin – iconic images of the Isle of the Skye or even Scotland itself.</i></p> <p><i>Torrin with its mixture of small crofts and enclosed sheltered fields feels human and domestic. In contrast, Elgol has a feeling of a frontier open to the sea and the departure point both for the wildland to the north and the distant islands to the south.’</i></p>	<p>Given the separation distance, the Proposed Development would have no impact on the surrounding crofting townships, which around these hills.</p> <p>This SQ would not be appreciated at night.</p> <p>As a result, there would be no effect on this SQ would not occur.</p>
<p>The Cuillin Ridge as a landmark throughout the northwest</p>	<p><i>‘Rising as a jagged ridge, the Black Cuillin presents a rocky crown to the Isle of Skye, providing both a focus for the island and also a landmark throughout much of northwest Scotland.’</i></p>	<p>As noted in the viewpoint descriptions in Technical Appendix 6.4, there few viewpoints where the Proposed Development would appear in front of the Cuillin Ridge.</p> <p>As a result, a significant effect on this SQ would not occur.</p>

Special Quality of the NSA	Underpinning landscape characteristics	Potential Impact
The ever-changing weather	<i>'Sometimes the Cuillins are lost in the cloud and rain, to suddenly appear through a rent in the mist. At other times they are shimmering in all their glory above a mirror-calm sea. The colour and light on the mountains is rarely the same from day-to-day or even hour to hour.'</i>	There would be no impact on this SQ and this SQ would not be appreciated at night.
A place of inspiration	<i>'The Cuillin landscape has long been an inspiration for folklore, story tellers, writers, poets, artists and musicians.'</i>	There would be no impact on this SQ and this SQ would not be appreciated at night.
The most challenging mountains in Scotland	<i>'The narrow and precipitous Cuillin ridge presents the ultimate challenge amongst hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers in the British Isles.'</i>	There would be no impact on this SQ, even at night.

57. Six of the eight identified Special Qualities would not be affected by the Proposed Development, with two Special Qualities not being significantly affected. Of the two Special Qualities where views towards the Cuillins Hills are noted, there would be few viewpoints or locations where the Proposed Development would appear in front of the Cuillin Ridge. As a result, there would not be a significant effect on either of these special qualities.
58. In summary, no significant effects have been identified on any of the Special Qualities and they would all remain well expressed.

Trotternish National Scenic Area

59. The Trotternish NSA encompasses part of north western Skye around Staffin Bay which consists of an unusual landscape which combines the spectacular scenery of landslip topography with the fascination of columnar basaltic rock structures. The closest point to the Proposed Development is Ben Edra which is 20 km away. The extent of the NSA is shown on **Figure 6.1** and the extent of theoretical visibility is shown on **Figure 6.5**. Viewpoint 17 is located on Ben Edra illustrating views from the ridge which forms the western edge of the NSA.
60. The Proposed Development is not within the designation itself, so the physical integrity of the NSA would remain intact. The only potential for effects would occur as a result of visibility to or from the NSA of the Proposed Development. This designated landscape is considered to be of High sensitivity overall as a National designation for landscape value, although the susceptibility of each Special Quality may vary.
61. Most recreational visitors experience the Trotternish NSA either along the coast road or along the Skye Trail on the ridge. As illustrated in the ZTV, there would be no views from the NSA with the exception of the Trotternish ridge, as illustrated in Viewpoint 17. Overall, the extent of theoretical visibility by recreational receptors within the NSA would be limited.
62. The Special Qualities of this NSA have been set out in The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas (NatureScot Report 374). The special qualities identified within that document and the potential effect as a result of the Proposed Development are set out in the **Table 6.14**.

63. In reviewing the Special Qualities and underpinning landscape characteristics, it is not considered that any of these would be appreciated at night. Therefore, the impacts at night have not been assessed.

Table 6.14: Impact on Special Qualities of Trotternish NSA

Special Quality of the NSA	Underpinning landscape characteristics	Potential Impact
The unique Trotternish landslip topography	<i>'The Trotternish ridge forms the western boundary to the NSA. The whole eastern slope of these hills has, over the millennia, slipped downwards, creating a strange and unusual landscape in which the spectacular Quiraing provides the focus. It is the largest landslip of its kind in Europe, containing small hills broken away from the fissured cliffs above, small lochs in the hollows below, black pinnacles, and slopes both smooth and disordered.'</i>	Whilst there would be views from the ridge, they would be in the opposite direction from the landslip of the NSA. There would be no impact on this SQ.
Contrast between the platform of moorland and the ridge above	<i>'The mountain ridge, with its undulating horizon and its landslip below, provides an ever-present backdrop, hanging over the moorland and crofts beneath. It provides the whole landscape with a feeling of security and enclosure.'</i>	There would be no views of the Proposed Development within the core of this NSA where this SQ is appreciated. Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.
The human dimension of crofting settlement	<i>'The well-maintained crofts, with their white-washed cottages and actively-managed inbye land, provide contrast and human scale to the wilder backdrop of landslip and moorland.'</i>	There would be no views of the Proposed Development within the core of this NSA where this SQ is appreciated. Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.
Variations from dark to light across the landscape	<i>'The dark, distinctive rock formations of the cliffs of the Trotternish ridge contrast with the green flushes of rich vegetation on the slopes below. These contrast again with the darker browns of the sweeping expanse of moorland, which in turn contrast with the greens of the crofting pastures.'</i>	There would be no views of the Proposed Development within the core of this NSA where this SQ is appreciated. Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.
Dramatic sea-cliffs of basaltic columns	<i>'The interplay of igneous and sedimentary rock has created an unusual, interesting coastline with sheer cliffs and fascinating columns of basalt.'</i>	There would be no views of the Proposed Development along the coast where this SQ is appreciated. Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.

Special Quality of the NSA	Underpinning landscape characteristics	Potential Impact
Distant views over the sea	<p><i>'The Trotternish ridge tends to draw eye to the west, whereas to the east the vistas are wider, across the Minch with its shifting patterns of waves, sky and cloud. The distant mountains of Wester Ross can be spectacular on a clear day, above islands which appear to be floating in the sea. However, from much of the platform of moorland, croftland and settlement the sea itself is invisible, but always there as presence below and beyond.'</i></p>	<p>There would be no views of the Proposed Development within the core of this NSA where this SQ is appreciated and the Proposed Development is located in the opposite direction. Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.</p>
Mysterious presence of the Quiraing	<p>'The distinctive shapes of the Prison, The Table, The Needle and the surrounding slopes that comprise the Quiraing have fascinated visitors to Skye since Victorian times, if not beyond.</p> <p>...</p> <p>In the heart of this amphitheatre of sloping and vertical ground, the smooth, level, green table comes as a complete surprise.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The winding, single track road from Brogbaig, with its hairpin bends, adds to the drama, giving one of the finest views of the Quiraing.'</p>	<p>As illustrated on the ZTV, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from this amphitheatre around Quiraing. Nor would there be visibility from the Skye Trail as it extends through this area.</p> <p>There would be no visibility from the single track road from Brogbaig.</p> <p>Therefore, there would be no impact on this SQ.</p>

64. Of the seven identified Special Qualities none would be affected by the Proposed Development. As a result, there would not be a significant effects on these special qualities and they would all remain well expressed.