



Nadara

The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm

Volume 2a: Additional Information

Updated Landscape and Visual Assessment

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PREFACE

This is an Additional Information (AI) Report to the EIA Report for the proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm.

The application made by Renantis UK Limited (the Applicant), for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate the proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm (the Proposed Development), is now being pursued through the Public Inquiry process by the Applicant under the trading name of Nadara. This follows an internal restructure and rebrand of the Applicant, which has resulted in the new trading name of Nadara. The Proposed Development is located on the Isle of Skye, east of Dunvegan at central grid reference: NG318475.

The Applicant is seeking consent to repower the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm and to add an extension. The Proposed Development would comprise nine new wind turbines in total, of a maximum height of 200 m to blade tip. The individual turbine generating capacity is anticipated to be up to 6.6 Megawatts (MW), with the total installed capacity for the development in excess of 50 MW.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) accompanied the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, as submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in June 2023.

This volume of the AI Report provides additional information regarding the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development, including information to enable the effects of reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m to be understood, and an update to the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA) submitted in respect of the proposed development.

EIA Quality Mark

This Environmental Statement, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out to identify the significant environmental effects of the proposed development, was undertaken in line with the EIA Quality Mark Commitments.

The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by IEMA, through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- *EIA Management*
- *EIA Team Capabilities*
- *EIA Regulatory Compliance*
- *EIA Context & Influence*
- *EIA Content*
- *EIA Presentation*
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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL RECEPTORS AND VIEWPOINTS.....	3
3	RESTORED SITE ASSESSMENT	9
4	REDUCED HEIGHT OPTION	19
5	UPDATED CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT	23

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

VOLUME 2 B - FIGURES

Figure 1 (New) Comparative ZTV 180m vs 200m option (A1-45km)
Figure 2 (Updated EIAR Figure 6-2) _ Cumulative Location Plan (A3 – 45km)
Figure 3 (New) Cumulative Location Plan (A3 – 15km)
Figure 4 (Updated EIAR Figure 6-3) Landscape Character (A3 – 15km)
Figure 5 (New) Landscape Designations (A3 – 15km)
Figure 6 (Updated EIAR Figure 6-4) Topography (A3 – 5km)
Figure 7 (New) Recreational Routes - Bare Earth ZTV (A1)
Figure 8 (New) CZTV Ben Sca Redesign proposal (A1)
Figure 9 (Updated EIAR Figure 6-14) CZTV Balmeanach proposal (A1)
Figure 10 (New) CZTV Glen Ullinish 2 Proposal (A1)
Figure 11 (Updated EIAR Figure 6-13) CZTV Mheadhonach proposal (A1)
Figure 12 (New) CZTV Edinbane Repowering Scoping (A1)

VOLUME 2 C - NATURESCOT VISUALISATIONS

Viewpoints 1-19 Updated with cumulative
New VP 20 at Idrigill
New VP 21 at Oronsay
180m option for Viewpoints 1-21
180m option Construction Comparative Wirelines for VP 1-21

VOLUME 2 D - THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL VISUALISATIONS

Viewpoints VPs 1-17, 20 and 21 – including 200m montages (no change) - Single Frame 75mm monochrome images with cumulative updated
180m option photomontage of VPs 1-17, 20 and 21

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This report contains Additional Information (AI) to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) for the proposed Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Windfarm (hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development”), located at the operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm Site. The Proposed Development Site is situated in the vicinity of the Ben Aketil summit, the A850 and the operational Edinbane Wind Farm, which is due east of the Site. The Applicant is seeking consent to repower the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm and to add an extension. The Proposed Development would comprise nine turbines in total, of a maximum height of 200 m to blade tip. The individual turbine generating capacity is anticipated to be between to up to 6.6 Megawatts (MW), with the total installed capacity for the development in excess of 50 MW.
- 1.1.2 The EIA Report (dated May 2023), accompanied the application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, was submitted to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit in June 2023.
- 1.1.3 The AI is composed of the following parts.
- **Volume 1:** Additional Information Summary; and
 - **Volume 2:** (this document) Updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

1.2 Structure of AI Volume 2 (this report)

- 1.2.1 **Volume 2 A** of the AI Report provides additional landscape and visual assessment responding to the objection by The Highland Council and consultation response by NatureScot to the Proposed Development application. It also includes information to enable the effects of reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m to be understood, and an update to the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (CLVIA) submitted in respect of the proposed development.
- 1.2.2 **Appendix 1** updates the EIA Report Appendix 6.3 and includes additional assessment of the sensitivity of landscape character receptor of the Stepped Moorland (LCT 360), which was requested by The Highland Council Landscape Officer in their consultation response dated 04 June 2024. Other landscape character types (LCT) within 5km (LCT 357 – Farmed and Settled Lowlands - Skye & Lochalsh and LCT 358 – Low Smooth Moorland) have also been included.
- 1.2.3 This volume is presented in the following sections:
- **Section 2:** Additional Recreational Receptors and Viewpoints
 - **Section 3:** Restored Site Assessment
 - **Section 4:** Reduced Height Option
 - **Section 5:** Updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment (CLVIA)
- **Appendix 1:** Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.4 **Volume 2 Parts B - D** include updated Figures and Visualisations and presented in the following documents:

- **Part B:** Figures
- **Part C:** Naturescot Visualisations
- **Part D:** The Highland Council Visualisations

1.3 Errata

1.3.1 Two errors have been found within Chapter 6 LVIA of the EIA Report, in the Summary Table 6.11. The first is the Moderate effect at the Roag visual receptor group was noted as 'Not Significant' in the table and it should have read 'Significant', as stated in paragraph 6.7.78. The second is that the sensitivity for The Storr specific viewpoint should read 'High/Medium'.

2 ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL RECEPTORS AND VIEWPOINTS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 NatureScot's consultation response dated 1 December 2023 mentioned that there was the potential for Significant effects from promoted footpaths to Oronsay and Idrigill Point, which were not assessed in Chapter 6 LVIA of the EIA Report. The Highland Council (the Council) mentioned in the Report of Handling¹ that this information was absent from the LVIA. Therefore, these two additional viewpoints (20 and 21) and visual receptors have been included in this AI.
- 2.1.2 **Viewpoint 20** is located on the core path to Idrigill Point. There would be no view of the proposed development from Idrigill Point itself, so the location of the viewpoint has been chosen to represent the views from the core path to the point and located near where there are panoramic views across Loch Bracadale. **Viewpoint 21** is located on one of the high points on Oronsay. Below is an analysis of the viewpoints and an assessment the recreational receptors. The location of these new viewpoints are shown on the updated ZTVs and figures in **Volume 2 B: Figures** and presented in **Volume 2 C and D: Visualisations**.

2.2 Viewpoint Analysis

- 2.2.1 The following contains a viewpoint analysis for the two new viewpoints.

Viewpoint 20 - Core path to Idrigill Point

- 2.2.2 **Viewpoint 20** is located 10.9km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development and represents open views from the core path to Idrigill Point. The precise location of this viewpoint is just off the path itself onto a small knoll which as chosen in order to obtain the most open view across Loch Bracadale and the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.3 The main views from this location on the core path are across Loch Bracadale towards the islands (Harlosh, Tarner and Wiay) and west coast of Skye with the Red and Black Cullins forming key focal points on the horizon. The Trotternish ridge is also visible in the distance with the more distinctive peak of the Storr visible above Harlosh. There are existing views to Ben Aketil and Edinbane wind farms on the skyline within the Upland Sloping Moorland and Stepped Moorland in the centre of Skye. The different design solutions of the two operational arrays are visible from this location, with Ben Aketil visible as an evenly spaced linear array following the ridge line of sloping moorland. Whereas Edinbane is visible on lower ground, amongst the moorland.
- 2.2.4 The Proposed Development would appear as a very widely spaced double line, with turbines evenly spaced, in the same location the existing Ben Aketil array but wider at both ends. The turbines would be more noticeable than the existing turbines due to their increased size and spread. The Proposed Development would remain visually separate from other key features such as the Cuillin Hills or the Trotterish Ridge/The Storr. Given

¹ Paragraph 1.104 THC Report of Handling 07 August 2024

the separation distance, any tracks or other ground level infrastructure would be difficult to perceive. All four of the aviation lights would be visible from this position at night and in clear conditions the lights would be reduced in brightness to 200cd. Assuming the operational Ben Aketil turbines are present, the scale of change for visual receptors would be Medium/Small. Assuming the operational Ben Aketil site is restored (and not present in the baseline), the scale of change for visual receptors would remain at Medium/Small.

- 2.2.5 This viewpoint is located within the Stepped Hills (LCT 361) at the southern end of the Duirinish peninsula. The key characteristics of *'open with extensive views to surrounding mountains, bays and islands'* and *'remote, exposed areas with geological coastal features, on the edge of the island, giving a sense of wild character'*² are well expressed at the viewpoint. However, it should be noted that the location of this viewpoint is not within the Duirinish Wild Land Area. The Proposed Development would appear on the skyline within the Upland Sloping Moorland of central Skye, well separated from the Duirinish peninsula. Whilst the turbines would be clearly noticeable, there would only be a limited diminishment of the wildness due to the separation distance and intervening character. The scale of change on landscape character at the viewpoint would be Small, either with the existing Ben Aketil or restored Ben Aketil baselines.
- 2.2.6 This viewpoint is located within the North West Skye Special Landscape Area (SLA). In terms of the North West Skye SLA, Idrigill Point itself is noted for an appreciation of the special quality of the Dynamic Coastline, for an appreciation of the *'dominant and defining influence is the relationship between land and sea'* and *'the dynamic composition between land, sea and sky creates an everchanging sequence of dramatic coastal panoramas.'*³ Idrigill Point is located at the southern end of this peninsula where there are views along the southern Duirinish coastline as well as into Loch Bracadale. There would be no visibility from the point itself. So the location of the viewpoint has been chosen to represent the views from the core path to the point.
- 2.2.7 From this viewpoint, the eastern coastline of the Duirinish peninsula is visible. There are panoramic views out across Loch Bracadale within the SLA and the crofting settlements at Vatten and Harlosh are visible just above the coastline, backgrounded by the moorland above it. The Proposed Development would appear in the large scale moorland background and would contrast with the smaller scale elements of the crofting settlement and with the horizontal emphasis of the moorland backdrop. However, they would occur where turbines are already present within the moorland backdrop. The Proposed Development would not appear in front of or closely associated with the views of the Cuillins to the southeast or the Trotternish ridge to the northeast. However, it would be seen in views along the dramatic coastline when looking back to the mainland. Whilst the Proposed Development would be clearly visible, *'the dominant and defining influence'* would remain *'the relationship between land and sea'* and it would not significantly distract from the key features within this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 21 – Oronsay

- 2.2.8 **Viewpoint 21** is located 10.5km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development and represents open views from the island. This viewpoint located on one of the high

² National Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 361 Stepped Hills, NatureScot, 2019

³ Page 59, North West Skye SLA, Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas, The Highland Council/Horner + MacLennan, June 2011

points on the island of Oronsay, accessible from the mainland during low tide via a core path from Ullinish.

- 2.2.9 There are panoramic views from the high points on the island within Loch Bracadale. Key focal points in the panoramic views include the Red and Black Cullins to the southeast, as well as the Macleod's Tables to the northwest, together with the dramatic coastlines of the north west Skye (east and west) and the other islands within Loch Bracadale. There are distant views to South Uist to the west in exceptional visibility. There are existing views to Ben Aketil and Edinbane wind farms on the skyline within the Upland Sloping Moorland and Stepped Moorland in the centre of Skye. The different design solutions of the two operational arrays are visible from this location, with Ben Aketil visible as an evenly spaced linear array following the ridge line of sloping moorland. Whereas Edinbane is visible amongst the moorland on lower ground with a more irregular shape.
- 2.2.10 The Proposed Development would appear as a linear array, with turbines relatively evenly spaced, noting some pairing of turbines 2 and 8. The Proposed Development would appear in the same location as the existing Ben Aketil array but wider at both ends. The turbines would be more noticeable than the existing turbines due to their increased size and spread. The Proposed Development would remain visually separate from other key features such as the Cuillin Hills, the Macleod's Tables or dramatic coastline. Given the separation distance, any tracks or other ground level infrastructure would be difficult to perceive. All four of the aviation lights would be visible from this position at night and in clear conditions the lights would be reduced in brightness to 200cd. Assuming the operational Ben Aketil turbines are present, the scale of change for visual receptors would be Medium/Small. Assuming the operational Ben Aketil site is restored (and not present in the baseline), the scale of change for visual receptors would remain at Medium/Small.
- 2.2.11 This viewpoint is located within the Stepped Moorland (LCT 360) on the island of Oronsay. The key characteristics of *'vertical steps may appear as low outcrops or walls of rock, and form steep cliffs along coastlines'*, *'exposed and open, extensive visibility'* and *'at the coast, high inter-visibility between promontories and rare views of inaccessible coastlines and mountains'*⁴ are well expressed at the viewpoint. The Proposed Development would appear on the skyline within the Upland Sloping Moorland of central Skye, well separated from the islands within Loch Bracadale. Whilst the turbines would be clearly noticeable, there would be limited impact on the key characteristics of the local landscape in this location. The scale of change on landscape character at the viewpoint would be Small, either with the existing Ben Aketil or restored Ben Aketil baselines.
- 2.2.12 This viewpoint is located within the North West Skye Special Landscape Area (SLA). This location is noted in the special quality of the Dynamic Coastline, for an appreciation of the *'dominant and defining influence is the relationship between land and sea'* and *'the dynamic composition between land, sea and sky creates an everchanging sequence of dramatic coastal panoramas.'*⁵ In views out across Loch Bracadale, the crofting settlements at Ullinish and Eabost are visible set back from the coastline, backgrounded by moorland above it. The Proposed Development would appear in the large scale moorland background and would contrast with the smaller scale elements of the crofting settlement and with the horizontal emphasis of the moorland backdrop. However, they

⁴ National Landscape Character Assessment, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland, NatureScot, 2019

⁵ Page 59, North West Skye SLA, Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas, The Highland Council/Horner + MacLennan, June 2011

would occur where turbines are already present within the moorland backdrop. The Proposed Development would not appear within the dramatic coastal scenery available at this viewpoint. Whilst the Proposed Development would be clearly visible, it would not rival the views to the Cuillin Hills, the Macleod's Tables or dramatic coastline. Whilst the Proposed Development would be clearly visible, *'the dominant and defining influence'* would remain *'the relationship between land and sea'* and it would not significantly distract from the key features within this viewpoint.

2.3 Additional recreational Receptors

2.3.1 The following contains an of assessment of the visual receptors requested by the Council and NatureScot.

Core Path to Macleod's Maidens / Idrigill Point

2.3.2 This core path extends from Orbst to Macleod's Maidens / Idrigill Point, a 17.5km route to the end and back. Recreational receptors on this core path would be of High susceptibility and of Regional value within the SLA leading to a High/Medium sensitivity.

2.3.3 As illustrated in **Figure 7**, there would be little theoretical visibility between Orbst and the shore of Loch Bharcasaig along 1.2km of the initial part of the route. The first section of this route with noticeable visibility would occur on the southern shore of Loch Bharcasaig and ascent/descent into the forestry (500m length of the route), where the turbines would appear in views across this loch. This would be a notable view of the proposed turbines about 7km away, where there are already views of the existing Ben Aketil wind farm, but no other turbines. From the 2.3km section of the route through the forestry on Beinn na Moine, there would be no views of the Proposed Development whilst the forestry is present. However when some parts of the forestry are felled, then there would be views across the loch.

2.3.4 There would be no theoretical visibility across approximately 1km of the route across Brandarsaig Bay due to screening by landform, as illustrated on the ZTVs. If woodland is present within 'Rebels Wood' on the slope between the bay and Idrigill, then views along approximately 500m of the route would be screened, but at present these deciduous trees have not yet established as a woodland and views would be available. From the high point in Rebels Wood to Idrigill (approximately 500m of the route), the bare earth ZTV illustrates that visibility of the proposed development on this section would be limited due to screening by local landform.

2.3.5 From Idrigill towards the point, there would be intermittent and framed views to the Proposed Development from approximately 1km of the path, as illustrated in the bare earth ZTV in **Figure 7**. The most open of these views is illustrated in **Viewpoint 20**, where the full extent of Loch Bracadale would be visible. However, from the path itself there would be few positions with such open views, due to the variable landform together with occasional tree cover / forestry.

2.3.6 Assuming the operational Ben Aketil site is present in the baseline, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change across an Intermediate extent of the route. This Permanent change would result in a Moderate/Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate effect which would be considered Not Significant.

Core Path to Oronsay

- 2.3.7 This core path extends from Ullinish to Ullinish Point and if the tide is low you can traverse the beach and gain access to the island of Oronsay. Recreational receptors on this core path would be of High susceptibility and of Regional value within the SLA leading to a High/Medium sensitivity.
- 2.3.8 From Ullinish to Ullinish Point where there would be intermittent visibility of the Proposed Development over 9km away, from this approximately 1.1km section of the route, as illustrated in the bare earth ZTV in **Figure 7**. There would be no visibility from the beach crossing to Oronsay (300m length). On Oronsay, there is a path to the high points on the northern side of the island and then a circular route along the southern side of the island. There would be no visibility from the southern part of the island, but open clear visibility from the path between the beach and the high points on the northern side (approximately 800m of route), as illustrated in **Viewpoint 21**. Overall, there would be visibility to the Proposed Development from just over half of the route. From the high points on the northern side of the island, you gain excellent panoramic views to Loch Bracadale, the north west coast of Skye and to the Cullins. The Proposed Development would appear within the moorland backdrop, above the crofting settlement scattered along the coastline to the north. It would remain visually separate from other key features such as the Cuillin Hills, the Macleod's Tables or dramatic coastline including other islands within Loch Bracadale. Whilst the Proposed Development would be clearly visible from parts of this route, it would not rival the views to the Cuillin Hills, the Macleod's Tables or dramatic coastal scenery.
- 2.3.9 Assuming the operational Ben Aketil site is present in the baseline, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change across an Intermediate extent of the route. This Permanent change would result in a Moderate/Slight magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate effect which would be considered Not Significant.

Walk to Macleod's Tables

- 2.3.10 Whilst not a core path, there is an 11km circular walk up to both of the Macleod's Tables, as noted on 'Walk Highlands' from the minor road to Orbost and shown on **Figure 7**. Recreational receptors on this route would be of High susceptibility and of Regional value within the SLA leading to a High/Medium sensitivity.
- 2.3.11 There would be visibility of the Proposed Development from much of the circular route, especially on high ground as shown on the bare earth ZTVs. There would be little or no visibility across an 800m section of boggy moorland of Glen Osdale to Beinn Bhuidhe. The Proposed Development would not be in the direction of travel when climbing up to the summit of the first table (whichever way the recreational receptor went around) but would be notably visible when on higher ground, including the summits, along the traverse between the two tables, and along the descent where the Proposed Development would be in the direction of travel. **Viewpoint 9** illustrates the view from MacLeod's Table North, the nearest of the two summits and the view described in the LVIA **Appendix 6.4: Viewpoint Analysis**.
- 2.3.12 Assuming the operational Ben Aketil site is present in the baseline, there would be a Medium/Small scale of change across a Wide extent of the route. This Permanent change would result in a Moderate magnitude of change, leading to a Moderate effect which would be considered Significant.

3 RESTORED SITE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Both the NatureScot consultation response and THC mentioned that the LVIA was undertaken on the basis of the operational Ben Aketil forming the baseline of the assessment and the effects reported were ‘over and above’ those already incurred by the existing Ben Aketil. This is correct. A dual baseline assessment was not requested at Scoping either by NatureScot nor THC, nor was it part of the NatureScot ‘Pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms’ (August 2022) at the time when the EIA Report was submitted.
- 3.1.2 However, since the EIA Report was submitted NatureScot have updated their pre-application guidance with regard to repowering proposals. Whereby they suggest that for the ‘Repowering and LVIA methodology’ *‘We acknowledge that repowering assessment is still evolving. However, the ‘Windy Standard I Repower’ application referred to above (ref. ECU00003324) adopted a very helpful approach to LVIA (as described at para 6.4.8 of the EIA report’s landscape chapter). This took account of the mutual exclusivity of the existing wind farm and the proposed development by assessing the proposal with two different baseline scenarios: a ‘comparative’ baseline; and a ‘restored’ baseline. The LVIA considered both of these scenarios throughout the detailed assessment of effects on landscape receptors, viewpoints and visual receptors.’*⁶
- 3.1.3 In that context, the LVIA in the EIA Report prepared an assessment of the ‘comparative’ baseline. To provide further information, an assessment has been prepared based on a ‘restored’ baseline for comparison.
- 3.1.4 NatureScot’s latest pre-application guidance also provides suggestions with regard to the visualisation material for repowering developments and these have been included in the updated set of visualisations.
- 3.1.5 The original LVIA (dated May 2023) was also undertaken on the basis of the fully consented baseline with a cumulative cut-off of 5 December 2022. However, since December 2022, new planning applications have been submitted for all the consented developments, meaning that this development scenario is unlikely to come forward in its consented form. Therefore the following re-appraisal removes the consented developments from the assessment and assumes just the operational developments in the baseline. An assessment with the consented developments will be included in the updated CLVIA in **Section 5** of this Additional Information.

⁶ NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms, Version November 2024

3.2 Operational Effects

- 3.2.1 Below is an assessment of the Proposed Development assuming an operational baseline with a dual baseline of the existing turbines as existing and also as a restored site. There may be variation from the assessment presented in the LVIA, due to the change in the baseline scenarios. This will be noted in the text where this occurs.
- 3.2.2 This assessment does not wholly replace the analysis and assessment provided in the LVIA. However, it does replace the final judgements with regard to the level of effect in the LVIA.

Table 3.1: Scenario 1: Operational phase (dual baseline)

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Landscape Receptors			
Upland Sloping Moorland LCT 359	Medium/Low	Moderate effect, Not Significant, occurring mainly within a 5km radius The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca, but this would not change the level of effect or significance given the presence of both Ben Aketil and Edinbane.	Moderate effect, Significant, occurring mainly within a 5km radius The magnitude of change would remain at Moderate as the existing forestry to the north of the Proposed Development would limit impacts across part of this LCT and Edinbane would still be operational at the eastern edge of the LCT. However, this impact would now be considered to be Significant without the presence of Ben Aketil.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Stepped Moorland LCT 360	Medium	<p>Moderate effect, Significant within approximately 5km. Moderate/Minor, Not Significant beyond 5km.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would increase to Moderate within approximately 5km radius without the baseline of both Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach. The level of effect would remain at Moderate but in this scenario would be considered to be Significant. Beyond 5km, there would be greater landscape separation by intervening valleys and hills and in some locations invisibility would notably drop away reducing the magnitude of change to Slight.</p>	<p>Moderate effect, Significant within approximately 5km. Moderate/Minor, Not Significant beyond 5km.</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>
Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye and Lochash LCT 357	High/Medium	<p>Moderate effect, Significant within a 5km radius</p> <p>The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish on the multiple occurrences of this LCT, which would lead to the effect being considered Significant, rather than Not Significant.</p>	<p>Major/Moderate effect, Significant within a 5km radius.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would increase to Moderate within approximately 5km radius notably in the occurrence to the southwest at Roag / Feorlig, with the removal of Ben Aketil from the baseline.</p> <p>Beyond 5km, there is a reduced relationship with the Upland Sloping Moorland or there would be a lesser contrast in scale with local landscape components and effects would drop to Moderate or less and Not Significant.</p>
Low Smooth Moorland LCT 358	Medium/Low	<p>Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca near the Lon Beatha occurrence of this LCT, but Edinbane and the forestry would remain present in the baseline and no change is predicted to the level of effect or significance is predicted.</p>	<p>Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Visual Receptors			
Upper Feorlig (2.3 km S) (VP2)	High/Medium	Major effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate to Substantial/Moderate when the consented Ben Sca behind Ben Aketil and the consented Glen Ullinish turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.	Major effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase to Substantial if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline.
Feorlig (3.2 km S) (VP2)	High/Medium	Major/Moderate effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate to Substantial/Moderate when the consented Ben Sca behind Ben Aketil and the consented Glen Ullinish turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.	Major effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase to Substantial if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.
Caroy (3 km S)	High/Medium	Major/Moderate effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate to Substantial/Moderate when the consented Ben Sca behind Ben Aketil and the consented Glen Ullinish turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.	Major effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase to Substantial if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.
Harlosh (5.2 km SW)	High/Medium	Moderate effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate/Slight to Moderate when the consented Ben Sca behind Ben Aketil and the consented Glen Ullinish turbines are not present in the baseline. The level of effect would remain at Moderate but the effect would be considered Significant.	Major/Moderate effect, Significant The magnitude of change would remain at Substantial/Moderate if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline, due to the extent of screening at the settlement.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Roag (4.3 km SW) (VP5)	High/Medium	Major/Moderate effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate to Substantial/Moderate when the consented Ben Sca behind Ben Aketil and the consented Glen Ullinish turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.	Major effect, Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Substantial/Moderate to Substantial if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline, elevating the level of effect.
Dunvegan (4.1 km W) (VPs 3 and 4)	High/Medium	Moderate- Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate- Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
Edinbane (3.9 km NE)	High/Medium	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant Due to the operational Edinbane, there would be no change without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
Flashader (6.1 km NE) (VP6)	High/Medium	Moderate effect, Not Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate/Slight to Moderate when the consented Ben Sca turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect. But given the presence of the operational Edinbane, this is considered Not Significant.	Moderate effect, Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil but with the presence of operational Edinbane.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Greshornish (4.9 km N) (VP7)	High/Medium	<p>Moderate effect, Not Significant</p> <p>The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate/Slight to Moderate when the consented Ben Sca turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect. But given the presence of the operational Edinbane, this is considered Not Significant.</p> <p>The exception to this would be the single property at Upper Glen which does not experience views of Edinbane and the effect would be Significant, especially when the intervening forestry is not present.</p>	<p>Moderate effect, Not Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil but with the presence of operational Edinbane.</p>
Colbost, Duirinish (over 8.7 km W) (VP10)	High/Medium	<p>Moderate effect, Significant</p> <p>The moderate magnitude of change would remain the same without the consented developments, but this would represent a Significant effect.</p>	<p>Moderate effect, Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>
Waternish (over 9 km N) (VP13)	High/Medium	<p>Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.</p>	<p>Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>
Borve (11.5 km E) (VP12)	High/Medium	<p>Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.</p>	<p>Minor effect, Not Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>
North Minginish (over 11.5 km S) (VP11)	High/Medium	<p>Moderate effect, Not Significant</p> <p>The magnitude of change would increase from Slight to Moderate/Slight when the consented Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach turbines are not present in the baseline, elevating the level of effect, but still considered Not Significant.</p>	<p>Moderate effect, Not Significant</p> <p>No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.</p>

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Uig (c.14 - 18 km NW) (VP14)	High/Medium	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
Moineach, Glen Brittle Forest (21 km SSW) (VP16)	High/Medium	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
A87 from Portree to Uig (VP12)	Medium/low	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca in southbound views, but there would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
A850 from Borve to Dunvegan (VP1, 4, 6 and 12)	Medium/low	Moderate/Minor – Not Significant The removal of the consented Ben Sca in views would be a notable change to the baseline, but the magnitude of change would remain at Moderate and the level of effect would remain the same due to the extent of screening by forestry when standing and limited duration of views from the route.	Moderate – Not Significant The level of effect would increase to Moderate if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline, but given the limited duration of views from this route this is considered to be Not Significant.
A863 Sligachan to Dunvegan (VP2, 3 & 8)	Medium	Major/Moderate - Significant The magnitude of change would increase from Moderate to Substantial/Moderate if the consented Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonnach turbines were not present in the baseline. This would result in an increased level of effect from Moderate to Major/Moderate effect which would be Significant within a 7km radius.	Major/Moderate - Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Ferry Route Uig to Lochmaddy, North Uist (VP19)	High/Medium	Minor- Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Minor- Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
Skye Trail (VP15 & 17)	High/Medium	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
The Storr (VP15)	High	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant There would be no change in the level of effect without the presence of the consented developments.	Moderate/Minor- Not Significant No change in the level of effect without the presence of Ben Aketil.
Informal routes across site	High/Medium	Major/moderate – Significant The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca, but the magnitude of change would remain at Substantial and the level of effect remain at Major/Moderate and Significant.	Major – Significant The level of effect would increase to Major if the operational Ben Aketil was not in the baseline.
Core path to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens (VP20)	High/Medium	Moderate – Not Significant	Moderate - Significant
Core path to Oronsay Island (VP21)	High/Medium	Moderate – Not Significant	Moderate - Significant
Macleod's Tables (VP9)	High/Medium	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Operational and 'Comparative' baseline (Ben Aketil present + other operational sites)	Operational baseline and 'Restored' baseline (Ben Aketil absent + other operational sites)
Designated Landscapes			
North West Skye SLA	High/Medium	Not Significant The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach from the baseline of the surrounding moorland. However, there would be no Significant effects on any of the special qualities as a result of the Proposed Development, without the presence of the consented developments.	Not Significant With Ben Aketil restored and not part of the baseline, there would be no Significant effects on any of the special qualities of this SLA and they would all remain well expressed.
Greshornish SLA	High/Medium	Not Significant The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca, but Edinbane and Ben Aketil would remain as existing features in the baseline. As a result there would be no Significant effects on the special qualities and they would all remain well expressed.	Not Significant With Ben Aketil restored and not part of the baseline, there would be no Significant effects on any of the special qualities of this SLA and they would all remain well expressed.
Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA	High/Medium	Not Significant The notable change to the baseline would be the removal of the consented Ben Sca, but Edinbane and Ben Aketil would remain as existing features in the baseline. As a result there would be no Significant effects on the special qualities and they would all remain well expressed.	Not Significant With Ben Aketil restored and not part of the baseline, there would be no Significant effects on any of the special qualities of this SLA and they would all remain well expressed.
The Cullins NSA	High	Not Significant	Not Significant
Trotternish NSA	High	Not Significant	Not Significant

Summary of Operational Effects

- 3.2.3 Following the re-assessment with the operational only baseline, the comparative impacts with operational Ben Aketil resulted in Significant adverse effects on landscape character of the adjacent Stepped Moorland LCT 360 and Farmed and Settled Lowlands LCT 357 within approximately 5km radius, but not the host landscape as that already contains the operational sites of Ben Aketil and Edinbane. With a restored baseline (Ben Aketil not present), there would be some increased level of adverse landscape effects and a Significant effect is predicted on the host Upland Sloping Moorland LCT 359 within approximately 5km.
- 3.2.4 With regard to the visual effects, the comparative impacts with operational Ben Aketil resulted in Significant adverse effects on visual receptors at Upper Feorlig, Feorlig, Caroy, Harlosh, Roag and Colbost, those using the A863 and recreational users across the site and at the Macleod's Tables, all contained within approximately 10km to the south and west. With a restored baseline (Ben Aketil not present), there would be some increases in the level of adverse visual effects across a range of visual receptors which were already considered Significant and the impact on recreational users on the core path to Idrigill Point/Macleod's Maidens and Oronsay would be considered Significant.
- 3.2.5 Following the re-assessment, there would still be no Significant adverse effects on any nationally or regionally designated landscapes.

4 REDUCED HEIGHT OPTION

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Applicant has offered the option of reducing the tip height of the Proposed Development from 200m to 180m. The rotor diameter of the turbine would remain the same, but the tower would be reduced in height. Information is provided to enable the effects of reducing the maximum turbine tip height from 200m to 180m to be understood.

4.1.2 A comparative ZTV of the 180m vs 200m options is illustrated in **Figure 1**. This illustrates that there would be some minor reduction in the extent of the ZTV along the edges, but would result in a minor reduction in extent of theoretical visibility. Visualisations illustrating the reduced 180m option are included for all viewpoints within both **Volume 2 C** for NatureScot format visualisations and **Volume 2 D** for The Highland Council format visualisations.

Viewpoint Analysis

Table 4.1: Viewpoint analysis

VP no.	Viewpoint	Distance from nearest turbines	Changes resulting from 180m tip height reduction
1	A850 north of site	1.6 km N	The reduction in height would be clearly noticeable from this viewpoint but the scale of change would remain the same.
2	A863 at Feorlig	3.3 km, S	The reduction in height would be clearly noticeable from this viewpoint but the scale of change would remain the same.
3	A863 south of Dunvegan	3.5 km SW	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint and there would be the reduction in one hub. The turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.
4	A850 east of Dunvegan	3.7 km, W	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint but not particularly noticeable. The scale of change would remain the same.
5	Roag	4.3 km, SW	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint and there would be the reduction in one hub. The turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.
6	A850 Flashader	5.7 km NE	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint. The turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.

VP no.	Viewpoint	Distance from nearest turbines	Changes resulting from 180m tip height reduction
7	Minor Road to Greshornish	5.9 km, N	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint and there would be the reduction in one hub theoretically visible. The turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.
8	A863 near Gearymore	6.6 km, S	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint. The turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.
9	Macleod's Table North / Healabhal Mhor	8.6 km, SW	The reduction in height/scale would be noticeable from this viewpoint. The turbines would appear lower/smaller within the receiving moorland landscape, but the scale of change would remain the same.
10	B884 Colbost, Duirinish	9.7 km, W	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint and the turbines would appear marginally lower on the horizon but the scale of change would remain the same.
11	Ardtreck, Minginish	11.4 km, S	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint and the turbines would appear marginally lower on the horizon but the scale of change would remain the same.
12	A87 at Borve	11.6 km, E	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint with the single hub dropping below the horizon from this viewpoint. The scale of change would remain the same.
13	Ardmore, Waternish	14 km, NW	The reduction in height would noticeably reduce the number of hub and tips theoretically visible to blade tips only. But the scale of change would remain the same.
14	Minor road above Uig	17.7 km, N	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint but would only make a marginal difference at this viewpoint. The scale of change would remain the same.
15	The Storr	18 km E	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint and the turbines would appear noticeably lower within the moorland landscape but the scale of change would remain the same.
16	Moineach Mararaulin	21.1 km, SE	The reduction in height would noticeably reduce the number of hubs theoretically visible but the scale of change would remain the same.
17	Beinn Edra	20 km, NE	The reduction in height would be visible from this viewpoint and whilst distant the turbines would appear noticeably lower within the moorland landscape. The scale of change would remain the same.

VP no.	Viewpoint	Distance from nearest turbines	Changes resulting from 180m tip height reduction
18	Bruach na Frithe, Cuillin Hills	25.5 km SE	The reduction in height would be less noticeable from this distance and elevation and the scale of change would remain the same.
19	Uig to Lochmaddy Ferry	24.7 km	The reduction in height would reduce the number of tips and hubs visible from this position. The scale of change would remain the same.
20	Idrigill core path	10.9 km	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint and the turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.
21	Oronsay	10.5 km	The reduction in height would be noticeable from this viewpoint and the turbines would appear lower on the horizon, but the scale of change would remain the same.

- 4.1.3 In summary, there would be noticeable reduction in height from the viewpoints and there would be a few locations where there was a reduction in the number of tips/hubs visible. However, the main noticeable change would occur as a result of the turbines appearing lower on the horizon or within the moorland landscape compared to the 200m high turbines. Whilst this would be noticeable from many of the viewpoints, there would be no reduction in the level of the scale of change at any of the viewpoints.

Effect on Landscape and Visual Receptors

- 4.1.4 Given the limited scale of change at the viewpoints, the level of effect would not change for any of the landscape or visual receptors. However, the reduction in height would be clearly noticeable from some of the nearest receptors, especially those which are predicted to experience Significant effects. These receptors would include the host and adjacent landscapes of Upland Sloping Moorland LCT 359, Stepped Moorland LCT 360 and Farmed and Settled Lowlands LCT 357. This would also include visual receptors at Upper Feorlig, Feorlig, Caroy, Harlosh, Roag and Colbost, those using the A863, and recreational users across the site, visiting the Macleod's Tables, and core paths to Idrigill Point/Macleod's Maidens and Oronsay.
- 4.1.5 Whilst distant and not necessarily experiencing Significant effects there would also be a noticeable reduction from those recreational users on the Trotternish ridge of the Skye Trail, when looking back into the central moorland of Skye.

Landscape Designations

- 4.1.6 There would be no notable changes on the special qualities of the NSAs as a result of the reduced height option, all of which were already predicted to be Not Significant with the full height option.
- 4.1.7 The only notable change on the special qualities of the Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA, would be for those walking the Skye Trail on the Trotternish ridge, which forms one of the

special qualities. There were no Significant impacts predicted on this SLA as a result of the full height option.

- 4.1.8 There would be no change to the impact on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA.
- 4.1.9 With regard to the North West Skye SLA, one of the reasons adverse impacts are predicted on the 'Dynamic Coastline' special quality is due to the contrast of scale between the large scale turbines and the smaller scale crofting elements along the coastline. The reduced height option would reduce this contrast.
- 4.1.10 As noted in the viewpoint analysis for Viewpoints 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20 and 21, the reduced height option would often appear lower on the horizon. This in turn would reduce its prominence within the moorland backdrop and reduce adverse effects of experiencing this special quality within the SLA.
- 4.1.11 Whilst there would be a noticeable reduction in the adverse effects on the Dynamic Coastline' special quality of this SLA, it would not reduce the level of impact which was already predicted to be Not Significant.

5 UPDATED CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This part of the Additional Information to the EIA Report presents an updated Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) to replace the CLVIA provided within the EIA Report (May 2023). The cumulative cut-off date in the EIA Report was 5 December 2022. Likely cumulative effects reported in the LVIA of the EIA Report were those additional/incremental effects resulting from the Proposed Development if other wind farm developments are, or assumed to be, present in the study area. These included wind farms which were at Application stage or at Pre-planning stage with a submitted Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) and sufficient information to include in the CLVIA.
- 5.1.2 As noted previously in paragraph 3.1.5 of this document, both the operational and consented developments were considered as part of the baseline for the original LVIA within the EIA Report. There are no sites under construction in the study area. The re-appraisal of landscape and visual effects considering only the operational baseline (Scenario 1) is presented in **Section 3**. This updated CLVIA provides an assessment of the following baseline scenarios:
- Scenario 2 – Consented baseline: all operational and consented proposals;
 - Scenario 3 – Planning: all operational, consented and proposed developments with a submitted planning application; and
 - Scenario 4 – Pre-planning: all operational, consented and selected scoping proposals with the potential for significant cumulative effects.
- 5.1.3 **Table 5.1** and **Figure 2** presents the renewable energy developments within the 45km cumulative search area⁷. **Figure 3** presents the cumulative sites within a 12km radius which have been included in this updated CLVIA and presented in the ZTVs and visualisations. These are the sites where there could be the potential for significant cumulative effects to occur with the Proposed Development.
- 5.1.4 This Report is based on the cumulative status of each project as of 16 January 2025 (date of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting), as set out in **Table 5.1** below. The operational and consented cumulative baseline has not notably changed since the Application was submitted in May 2023. However, four applications have now been submitted and a further site submitted in Scoping within 5km. Balmeanach, Beinn Mheadhonach (replacement) and Glen Ullinish 2 (replacement) have all been submitted into planning and Ben Sca has submitted an application for a redesign with tip height increase. Since the EIA Report, Edinbane has also submitted a Scoping Opinion request for Repowering and Extension. At Breakish, a Scoping Opinion has been provided but a planning application has not been submitted. The request for a Scoping Opinion at Waternish has been withdrawn.

⁷ This cumulative search area was agreed at Scoping and provided in the EIA Report.

5.1.5 Due to the proximity of the potential Edinbane Repowering and Extension that is a scoping proposal, it has been included in the updated CLVIA in Scenario 4. However, the scoping site at Breakish has not been considered within the detailed assessment, in line with NatureScot's cumulative guidance⁸, as it is located 45km from the proposed development and there is no potential for any significant cumulative landscape and visual impacts (including sequential impacts on the A87).

Table 5.1 Cumulative development within 45km search area - 16 January 2025

Development	Status	Distance/ Direction	Number of Turbines	Tip Height
OPERATIONAL				
Ben Aketil	Operational	0 km	12	100m
Edinbane	Operational	2.3 km E	18	100m
CONSENTED				
Ben Sca	Consented	1.2 km NE	7	135m
Ben Sca Extension	Consented	1.2 km NE	2	149.9m
Glen Ullinish (S42 tip height extension)	Consented	4.1 km SE	11	149.9m
Beinn Mheadhonach (S42 tip height extension)	Consented	11.1 km SE	4	120m
PLANNING				
Balmeanach	Planning 23/04194/FUL	c. 1 km	10	149.9m
Ben Sca (replacement of consented developments)	Planning 24/01404/FUL	1.2km	9	149.9m
Glen Ullinish 2 (replacement of consented development)	Planning ECU00004829	2.4 km E	47	200m
Beinn Mheadhonach (replacement of consented development)	Planning 23/05638/FUL	10 km SE	5	149.9m
SCOPING				
Edinbane Repowering and Extension	Scoping ECU00004668	c.2km	19	200m
Breakish	Scoping ECU00004641	42 km E	20	200m

⁸ 'Guidance - Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' by NatureScot, published in March 2021

Development	Status	Distance/ Direction	Number of Turbines	Tip Height
Waternish	Scoping Withdrawn ECU00004662	2.6km N	15	200m

5.2 Approach to the assessment

- 5.2.1 In line with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) (paragraph 7.5) and NatureScot's guidance on Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, the assessment of cumulative effects should focus on whether there are any likely significant cumulative impacts which are reasonably foreseeable and which are likely to influence the decision making of the proposed development, rather than an assessment of every potential cumulative effect.
- 5.2.2 As recommended by the NatureScot cumulative guidance, this assessment focusses on the *'additional cumulative change which would be brought about by the proposed development'*⁹. In some cases, consideration has also been given to the total *'combined'* effects of the unbuilt developments, together with the proposed development to the existing / restored baseline where relevant. However, it is noted that *'a 'combined' cumulative assessment is only relevant where a decision-maker is likely to need to consider proposed developments together – for instance a conjoined appeal, or applications likely to be decided at the same planning committee session. In other situations, the 'additional' cumulative effects assessment will provide the information needed to understand the effects if another application has been recently consented.'*¹⁰
- 5.2.3 In this section, the Proposed Development is referred to as 'Ben Aketil Repowering' in order to differentiate it from other 'proposed developments' that are being considered and it is shorter than the full title of 'The Repowered and Extended Ben Aketil Wind Farm'.
- 5.2.4 Cumulative effects are assessed on the same groups of landscape and visual receptors as the assessment for the LVIA reported in the EIA Report. Landscape and visual receptors that are considered to receive effects of Minor or lesser effect from Ben Aketil Repowering are not included in this assessment, as an effect of such low magnitude manifestly adds nothing or very little regardless of the effects of other developments. If significant cumulative effects arise in relation to those receptors, they would be as a result of other developments being consented and built and as such are not relevant for consideration as part of the Application.

Assessment scenarios

- 5.2.5 It is important to differentiate between the assessment of cumulative effects arising from Ben Aketil Repowering, with projects that are operational and those which are consented

⁹ 'Guidance - Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' by NatureScot, published in March 2021

¹⁰ Page 19, para 7(3) 'Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3)' Landscape Institute TGN-2024-01 published in August 2024

and can be considered as part of a scenario with some certainty; and those that are proposed and about which there can be little certainty.

- **Scenario 1:** Operational developments – this has been included in the re-assessment in **Section 3** of this AI;
- **Scenario 2:** Operational and consented developments – this was originally included in the LVIA assessment in the EIA Report, but has been separated out for this updated CLVIA;
- **Scenario 3:** Operational, consented and other proposals with submitted planning applications – this is included in the updated CLVIA assessment.
- **Scenario 4:** Operational, consented and other proposals at Scoping stage – as noted above, selected sites have been included in the updated CLVIA assessment.

5.2.6 This updated cumulative assessment considers the effects arising from Scenarios 2, 3 and 4. **Table 3.1** identifies the landscape and visual effects of Ben Aketil Repowering with the operational baseline, rather than the effects with both the operational and consented baseline as presented within the EIA Report. Consentled proposals are now considered in this updated CLVIA under Scenario 2.

5.2.7 As noted in **Table 5.1**, Scenario 2 consists of the consented developments at Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach, and these are illustrated in the consented baseline visualisations. Scenario 3 consists of the proposals of Balmeanach, Ben Sca (replacement of consented developments), Glen Ullinish 2 (replacement of consented development) and Beinn Mheadhonach (replacement of consented development) all of which are validated but undetermined applications. Scenario 4 consists of the Repowered and Extended Edinbane, which is currently at Scoping stage.

Structure of the CLVIA

5.2.8 The updated CLVIA in this section adopts the following structure:

- Introduction;
- Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis;
- Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects – with other proposed developments considered individually including night-time impacts where appropriate; and
- Summary.

Visual Material

5.2.9 Two new cumulative location plans have been included in **Figures 2** and **Figure 3**, as well as a landscape character plan, landscape designations, topography and recreational routes with updated cumulative in **Figures 4 - 7**. The ZTVs with consented Edinbane, Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish were presented in **Figures 6.9 – 6.11** within the EIA Report and are still valid. Within this CLVIA, updated Cumulative ZTV (CZTV) pairs (bare earth) with the other proposals have been presented in **Figures 8 - 12**.

5.2.10 The full set of visualisations (Viewpoints 1-19 plus new Viewpoints 20 and 21) have also been updated in full, so as to fully replace the set from the EIA Report and make

referencing easier. These have been presented as separate consented baseline wirelines and proposed baseline wirelines in the visualisations.

5.3 Cumulative Visual Analysis

- 5.3.1 The viewpoint analysis in the EIA Report Appendix 6.4 (May 2023) contained an analysis of cumulative visibility for each viewpoint. The following text replaces that part of the appendix with the changes to the cumulative sites noted in **Table 5.1** and illustrated in **Figures 1-11** and **Viewpoints 1 – 21**.
- 5.3.2 As with the EIA Report, this visual analysis considers the nature and the scale of additional / incremental changes, but in some cases the total ‘combined’ changes has also been considered. Each viewpoint is considered as a ‘sample’ of the potential landscape or visual effects. The sensitivity of receptors and wider extent of the effect (beyond the individual viewpoint location) and its duration are considered in the assessment text to follow this analysis, as part of the consideration of the magnitude and significance of effects.
- 5.3.3 As confirmed in **Section 3**, the assessment in the EIA Report was undertaken on the basis of the operational Ben Aketil forming the baseline of the assessment and the effects reported were ‘over and above’ those already incurred by the operational Ben Aketil. **Section 3** provides a re-assessment of the landscape and visual effects of Ben Aketil Repowering with the operational baseline, considering both the ‘comparative’ baseline (i.e. assuming the presence of the operational Ben Aketil in the baseline) and ‘restored baseline’ (i.e. assuming that the operational Ben Aketil has been decommissioned and restored and not present in the baseline). Following the same approach, this updated CLVIA considers both the comparative and restored baselines.

Viewpoint 1: A850 north of site - sheets 1a -1f

- 5.3.4 **Scenario 2:** A few of the operational turbines at Edinbane are visible in the background of views at 4.7km east-southeast, with the consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines forming a single line of turbines aligned down the ridge of Mullach Ben Sca, over 1.9km away. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would extend prominent views of turbine development across the southern outlook, which from this precise location would appear somewhat closer and also larger turbines. The design of the Ben Aketil Repowering turbines, whilst not following the exact same design as Ben Sca, would be visually complementary in both scale and design. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors.
- 5.3.5 **Scenario 3:** Proposed turbines of the Ben Sca Redesign would be visible closer to the viewpoint at 1.4km southeast but still following a similar design as the consented development. Proposed turbines at Balmeanach would appear behind the horizon of Ben Sca/Ben Aketil 4.3km southeast. Only a few turbines of Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible at a distance of 6.1km southeast behind the summit of Ben Sca and would appear similar in scale and location to Balmeanach, all of which would have a design solution more similar to Edinbane than Ben Sca. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative)

would result in a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors (same as scenario 2). It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

- 5.3.6 **Scenario 4:** The Edinbane Repowering scoping development would appear 4.7km to the southeast behind the summit of Ben Sca and turbines, and in combination with the other proposals at Ben Sca, Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2, would form a dense cluster in the southeast, reducing the legibility of the Ben Sca design. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors (same as scenario 3). The total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 2: A863 at Feorlig - sheets 2a-2f

- 5.3.7 **Scenario 2:** The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible behind the horizon in a single line over 5.2km northeast, with turbines at either end appearing as blade tips only due to screening by landform. Consented turbines at Glen Ullinish will be visible to the east as close as 4.3km, with the southern end of the array. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines are sited in a dense cluster behind Glen Ullinish at 11.3km southeast. Adding the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would bring turbine development toward Feorlig, and would be the nearest visible development, replacing the operational Ben Aketil and standing in front of Ben Sca turbines. The Ben Aketil Repowering would remain separate from the consented Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Medium for visual receptors for the comparative baseline. For the restored baseline the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors.
- 5.3.8 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear at 5.1km northwest in a similar location to the consented Ben Sca. Proposed turbines at Balmeanach would appear on moorland behind intervening landform at 3.9km to the northeast. The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 development would appear as a cluster to the east, in a similar location as the consented site, over 5.6km away but with a reduce spread on the horizon due to screening by landform. Proposed Beinn Mheadhonach would appear as a separate cluster to the southeast over 10.8km away. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Medium for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.9 **Scenario 4:** The Edinbane Scoping turbines would appear mainly as blade tips mixed in with Balmeanach, behind the horizon at 4.9km northeast, and would be seen between Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish should they all be present in the landscape. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of

Medium on landscape character and Medium for visual receptors (the same as Scenario 3).

Viewpoint 3: A863 south of Dunvegan - sheets 3a-3f

- 5.3.10 **Scenario 2:** The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible behind the horizon at 6.1km east-northeast, with turbines at the northern end appearing as blade tips only. A few tips of the consented turbines at Glen Ullinish will appear at 6.1km southeast and Beinn Mheadhonach will be visible in the distance at over at 15.2km southeast. Adding the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would bring turbine development in front of Ben Sca, but still behind the skyline and would likely be read as a single development with the Ben Sca turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors for both the comparative and restored baselines (the same as Scenario 1).
- 5.3.11 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear only marginally different in layout from the consented Ben Sca turbines at 6.0km northeast with Balmeanach appearing to join the eastern end of it, albeit appearing a little more distant at 6.3km east. Most of the proposed Glen Ullinish 2 turbines would be screened by landform, with blade tips and a few hubs becoming visible in the southeast at a distance of 9.4km. Proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear as a separate cluster to the southeast at 15.1km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would add further density and turbines in front of Ben Sca/Balmeanach which would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors.
- 5.3.12 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible behind Balmeanach at 7.7km east, and would further add to the density of the cluster of proposed turbines at Ben Sca and Balmeanach. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping schemes, (both the restored and comparative) would add further density and turbines in front of Ben Sca/Balmeanach/Edinbane group which would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 4: A850 east of Dunvegan - sheets 4a – 4e

- 5.3.13 **Scenario 2:** Consented turbines at Glen Ullinish will be visible at a distance of 9.5km southeast, with Beinn Mheadhonach visible beyond that at 16.4km to the southeast in front of the base of the Cuillins. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear to the east, albeit appearing as mainly blade tips and one hub behind the moorland horizon. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium/small on landscape character and Medium/small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.14 **Scenario 3:** Ben Sca Redesign would not be discernible. Balmeanach would be largely screened by landform with tips and a few hubs visible at 7.0km east. Proposed turbines at Glen Ullinish 2 would appear in the distance behind a flatter section of the horizon to the southeast with Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign appearing as a distant separate cluster

at 16.1 km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would occur in front of Balmeanach and would lead to a scale of change of Medium/small on landscape character and Medium/small for visual receptors

- 5.3.15 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible behind Balmeanach at 8.4km east, appearing mainly as blade tips. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would appear in front of Balmeanach/Edinbane Repowering and would lead to a scale of change of Medium/small on landscape character and Medium/small for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 5: Roag - sheets 5a - 5f

- 5.3.16 **Scenario 2:** Blade tips of the operational Edinbane wind farm are barely discernible behind the horizon at 7.2km east. The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible behind the horizon in a single line at 6.9km northeast, with turbines at the eastern end appearing as blade tips. Consented turbines at Glen Ullinish would appear at a distance of 7.1km spread out across low moorland from east to southeast in front of the more distant skyline. Beinn Mheadhonach would appear as a separate distant cluster at 13.9km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a higher concentration of turbines located in the moorland hills above foreground the crofting settlement, in front of Ben Sca. It is likely that Ben Aketil and Ben Sca would be read as a single group. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors for the comparative baseline. For the restored baseline the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors.
- 5.3.17 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be visible in a single line at 6.9km to the northeast. Balmeanach would appear adjacent to Ben Sca at 6.3km east and would overlap in front of a few of the proposed Glen Ullinish 2 turbines, which would extend to the east over 9.0km, with much of the array screened by landform. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear as a separate cluster to the southeast. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear in front of Ben Sca Redesign and would still be the nearest turbines in the view. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Large/Medium for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.18 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible at 7.5km behind and to the east of Balmeanach and in front of Glen Ullinish 2. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Medium on landscape character and Medium for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 6: A850 Flashader - sheets 6a - 6e

- 5.3.19 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is visible partially above the horizon at 4.2km south. The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible across the horizon in a single, evenly spaced line at 4.5km south-southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in larger cluster of turbines set across the forested horizon. The Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the spread of turbines to the west, stopping before the Macleod's Tables. They would read as a single development, with some overlapping of turbines, leading to a reduced legibility of the Ben Sca design. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.20 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear as a single line of turbines along the ridge of Mullach Ben Sca at 4.3km south-southwest. Balmeanach would appear a little more distant at 5.5km to the south, partially screened by foreground landform. A few turbines of the proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would appear more distant again at 5.7km to the south-southeast, with most of the array dropping behind the horizon. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear behind the Ben Sca Redesign and at the other end of the array from Balmeanach Glen Ullinish 2. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.21 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible at 4.2km behind and to the east of Balmeanach and in front of Glen Ullinish 2, joining the developments into a large, dense cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 7: Minor Road to Greshornish - sheets 7a - 7f

- 5.3.22 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is clearly visible 5.0km to the south. The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible across the horizon in a single, evenly spaced line at 4.6km south. The Ben Aketil Repowering turbines would appear behind Ben Sca appearing on the forested horizon, increasing the width of turbines and marginally the density. They would be read as a single development with the Ben Sca turbines at a similar rhythm, but reducing the legibility of the Ben Sca design. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.23 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear at 4.3km to the south in a single line aligned to the landform, very similar to the consented development. Balmeanach would appear a little more distant at 6.0km to the south, between the operational Edinbane and Ben Sca Redesign and partially screened by foreground landform. Proposed Glen Ullinish 2 turbines would appear more distant again at 6.5km

to the south-southeast in a very dense array dropping behind the horizon behind operational Edinbane turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

- 5.3.24 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible at 5.1km south between Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2, joining the developments into a large, dense cluster, with Edinbane Repowering turbines appearing larger in scale than the other two developments. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would appear to extend the array to the west (right) with a lower density of turbines at that end, compared to Edinbane. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 8: A863 near Gearymore - sheets 8a- 8d

- 5.3.25 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is visible at 5.6km to the northeast. The consented Glen Ullinish turbines will appear at 1.9km to the northwest and will be the nearest visible development from this viewpoint. Consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be partially visible behind the Ben Sca summit to the north at 7.6km. Beinn Mheadhonach will appear as barely discernible blade tips in the distance above the course of the road at 7.3km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would extend the spread of turbines toward the northwest, with the Ben Aketil array appearing evenly spaced but at differing elevations, similar to Edinbane or Balmeanach. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.26 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be largely screened by landform, with turbines at the eastern end rising above the plateau horizon at 7.9km north with Balmeanach joining to the east, split into three tight groups with hubs rising above the horizon at 6.1km from the viewpoint. The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 turbines would spread from northeast to east, where they are closest to the viewpoint at 3.7km. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear as blade tips above the road at 6.8km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the spread of turbines from northeast to north. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative), would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.27 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible at 5.3km northeast between Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2, joining the developments into a larger, more dense array on the horizon. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the spread of turbines from northeast to north but read as a less dense development. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping

developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 9: Macleod's Table North / Healabhal Mhor - sheets 9a – 9e

- 5.3.28 **Scenario 2:** Operational Edinbane turbines are visible low in the landscape between rolling moorland hill in a sparse array to the east at 12.2km. Consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible in front of Edinbane, 11.2km east, but behind the operational Ben Aketil turbines, appearing larger in scale than the operational turbines. The difference in design between Edinbane and Ben Sca/Ben Aketil is/will be noticeable from this viewpoint. Consented turbines at Glen Ullinish will be at 11.8km from the viewpoint as a separate cluster, with consented Bein Mheadhonach turbines appearing in the distance to the southeast at 18.4km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would bring larger turbines in front of Ben Sca and Edinbane, replacing the existing Ben Aketil turbines within the moorland interior. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear as the most visible cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.29 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be visible to the east aligned to the moorland slope at 11.1km. Balmeanach would appear slightly lower down, set amongst moorland at 11.2km. The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be seen behind these, extending across the eastern outlook at 13.9km from the viewpoint, where the full extent of the array would be visible within the central moorland. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear as a separate cluster in the distance to the southeast at 17.9km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would not increase the spread of visible turbines within the central moorland, but would appear in front of the large cluster. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.30 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering would be visible at 12.5km east and would be seen to add density to the cluster of proposed turbines at Ben Sca, Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 10: B884 Colbost, Duirinish - sheets 10a - 10c

- 5.3.31 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane turbines are not discernible but the operational Ben Aketil turbines are visible. Consented turbines at Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension will be partially visible at 11.6km to the east on the horizon. The consented Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach turbines sited in the distance to the southeast at over 15km on low ground with the Cuillins rising behind to the south. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the density of turbines visible to the east on the horizon, in front of Ben Sca, although both would be partially or predominantly

screened. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/small for visual receptors.

- 5.3.32 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be partially screened by landform to the east at 11.2km with Balmeanach adjoining at the southern end at 13.1km from the viewpoint. The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 development would appear in two separate clusters as close as 15.5km, one joining behind Balmeanach and the other towards the southwest. Proposed Beinn Mheadhonach turbines would appear as a separate more distant cluster at over 21km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would increase the scale and density of visible turbines in the east in front of Ben Sca Redesign and Balmeanach. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.33 **Scenario 4:** A small number of turbines from the Edinbane Repowering development would be visible at 14.4km, mixed in with Ben Sca Redesign, Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2 in the east-southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 11: Ardtreck, Minginish - sheets 11a - 11d

- 5.3.34 **Scenario 2:** Operational Edinbane turbines are barely visible at 9.5km north. Consented turbines at Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension and Glen Ullinish will be visible as blade tips and hubs on the horizon abovecrofting settlement to the north between 5.9km and 15.1km away. Consented turbines at Beinn Mheadhonach will be visible on the ridge above stepped moorland landform at 5.6km to the east-northeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the spread of turbines adjacent to Ben Sca extending west within the central moorland. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.35 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 array would be visible at 6.5km to the northeast, with the Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign proposal visible in a clear even line of turbines to the east-northeast at 5.1km. Balmeanach and the Ben Sca Redesign proposed turbines would appear as a cluster behind the horizon, over 14km to the north as blade tips and some hubs. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would increase the spread of visible turbines from Ben Sca Redesign/ Balmeanach towards the west. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.36 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear at the northern end of the proposed Glen Ullinish 2 array at 9.2km north and would be read as a continuous cluster of turbines from northeast to west. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would

increase the spread of visible turbines from the Ben Sca Redesign and Balmeanach towards the west. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would be a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2 and Edinbane Repowering. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 12: A87 at Borve- sheets 12a – 12f

- 5.3.37 **Scenario 2:** A few tips of the Operational Edinbane wind farm are visible, though only one is discernible above forestry at 7.9km to the west. Consented Ben Sca turbines will appear as tips and a few hubs above the horizon at 10.5km to the west. Consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines will be visible in isolation to the south-southwest at 11.9km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would marginally increase the number of blade tips and hubs visible on the horizon to the west, amongst Ben Sca. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) scenario would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.38 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible at 5.9km from southwest to west, appearing in a band of turbines spread across the horizon. Proposed Ben Sca Redesign and Balmeanach turbines would be visible behind Glen Ullinish 2 on the horizon to the west at 9km. The Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear in isolation to the south-southwest at 11.8km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would be barely noticeable due to the prominence of Glen Ullinish 2 as well as Balmeanach and Ben Sca Redesign. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.39 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear in the west at 7.8km, and would appear in front of Balmeanach and Ben Sca Redesign. Edinbane Repowering would mix with Glen Ullinish 2, extending turbine development to the west. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2 and Edinbane Repowering. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 13: Ardmore, Waternish- sheets 13a – 13c

- 5.3.40 There are no cumulative site visible from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 14: Minor road above Uig- sheets 14a & 14b

- 5.3.41 **Scenario 2:** Edinbane wind farm is visible at 15.7km to the south-southwest on the moorland hills, with some turbines breaking the skyline. Consented turbines at Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension will be visible above the horizon to the southwest, appearing evenly spaced along the ridge at a distance of 16.5km. Consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines would appear as a distant group on the horizon at 26.9km to the south. Consented turbines at Glen Ullinish will not be discernible. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the number and spread of turbines visible to the south-southwest and would appear partially behind the Ben Sca turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.42 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish would be visible at 17.8km to the south with Beinn Mheadhonach proposed turbines appearing behind as a distant group at 26.4km. Proposed turbines at Balmeanach and Ben Sca Redesign would be visible to the south-southwest, appearing in front of and on the horizon at 16.2km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would marginally increase the spread of development. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/Negligible for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.
- 5.3.43 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear in the west at 15.7km and would appear in front of Glen Ullinish 2. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/Negligible for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 15: The Storr- sheets 15a & 15b

- 5.3.44 **Scenario 2:** Operational turbines at Edinbane are visible at 14.8km west-southwest below the Macleod's Tables, appearing low in the view within the central moorland hills, with much of the array partially screened by landform. Consented turbines at Ben Sca (and extension) will appear on the ridge behind Edinbane at 17.1km and larger in scale. Consented turbines will also be visible at Glen Ullinish at 17.4km to the southwest and Beinn Mheadhonach at 19.6km south-southwest, with turbine development becoming spread across the low, moorland interior in isolated clusters. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the density of turbines visible, appearing directly behind the Ben Sca turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/negligible for visual receptors.
- 5.3.45 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 array would be visible in its entirety spread across the central moorland and forestry, in front of the coastline at Loch Bracadale, over

14km from the viewpoint. The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear to the west-southwest at 17.2km, spread across a gently sloping low ridge below Macleod's Tables. The proposed Balmeanach array would appear to the south of Ben Sca turbines and would extend behind Glen Ullinish 2, joining the developments to form a large continuous cluster of turbine development. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach would appear to the south-southwest as a distant, separate array at 19.3km from the viewpoint. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would increase the density turbines behind Ben Sca Redesign. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

- 5.3.46 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear at 14.9km west southwest, behind and extending Glen Ullinish 2 to Ben Sca Redesign/Balmeanach. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors, given the influence of Glen Ullinish 2 and Edinbane Repowering. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 16: Moineach Mararaulin- sheets 16a – 16e

- 5.3.47 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is barely discernible at 18.2km north-northwest. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach will be visible to the north, with all tips and hubs above the horizon at 9.2km. The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible on the horizon to the north-northwest at 21.1km. The Glen Ullinish consented development will be largely screened by landform, and appear low in the horizon, similar to Edinbane at 15.6km. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the spread of turbines across sloping moorland on the horizon in the distance to the north-northwest. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear adjacent to consented Ben Sca turbines, and would be partially screened by landform with some turbines breaking the skyline. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small/negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.48 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be visible at 9.4km to the north, appearing evenly spaced with some partial screening from landform to the northern end of the array. Proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible further in the distance, to the north-northwest at 14.11km from the viewpoint. Proposed turbines at Ben Sca and Balmeanach would increase the density of turbines behind Glen Ullinish 2 at 19.6km north-northwest, creating a denser distant cluster of turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the array of turbines development to the west, adjacent to the dense cluster and would not appear any closer than Glen Ullinish 2 or Beinn Mheadhonach. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational,

consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative), there be a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.

- 5.3.49 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear at 17.9km west north-northwest, behind Glen Ullinish 2 increasing the density of turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 17: Beinn Edra- sheets 17a - 17e

- 5.3.50 **Scenario 2:** Operational turbines at Edinbane are visible at 16.7km southwest, appearing low in the central moorland hills with some partial screening from landform and forestry. Consented turbines at Ben Sca (and extension) will appear on the ridge to the west of Edinbane at 18.9km and these turbines would be larger in scale with the southern end of the array backclothed by sea. Consented turbines will also be visible at Glen Ullinish at 21.5km to the southwest, appearing low in the moorland. Beinn Mheadhonach would be visible at 26km south-southwest. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the number of turbines visible to the west-southwest behind Ben Sca, appearing marginally larger in scale and extending the array further west. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small/negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors.
- 5.3.51 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 array would be visible in its entirety spread low across the central moorland and forestry over 17.7km from the viewpoint. The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would appear to the west-southwest at 18.7km, spread across a gently sloping low ridge. The proposed Balmeanach array would appear between Ben Sca Redesign and Glen Ullinish 2 at 18.9km. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach would appear to the south-southwest as a distant array at 25.9km from the viewpoint. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would increase the density of turbines behind Ben Sca and extend the spread of development marginally. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors.
- 5.3.52 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would appear at 16.4km southwest behind Glen Ullinish 2 but in front of Balmeanach, forming a denser cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would result in a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Negligible for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 18: Bruach na Frithe, Cullin Hills- sheets 18a - 18c

- 5.3.53 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is barely discernible as a very distant array between moorland ridged in front of Greshornish and Loch Snizort at 22.4km north-northwest. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach will be visible to the north-northwest below the viewpoint at 13.2km from the viewpoint. The Glen Ullinish consented development will be partially screened by landform, appearing in front of Edinbane turbines at 20.2km north-northwest. Consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines

will be visible to the north-northwest behind Edinbane as a tight, distant cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the number of turbines sited in the central moorland interior. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear as a separate cluster behind many of the consented developments. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small/negligible on landscape character and Small for visual receptors

- 5.3.54 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be visible at 13.3km to the north-northwest, appearing evenly spaced within low central moorland. Proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible in its entirety behind, spread in front of Greshornish and Loch Snizort with some turbines backclothed by sea at 18km from the viewpoint. Proposed turbines at Ben Sca Redesign and Balmeanach would appear behind Glen Ullinish 2, at over 23.6km northwest. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the footprint of turbines to the west slightly, behind the larger group. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/Negligible for visual receptors.
- 5.3.55 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would be visible at 22km northwest behind Glen Ullinish 2, increasing the density of the group. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/Negligible for visual receptors.

Viewpoint 19: Uig to Lochmaddy Ferry- sheets 19a - 19b

- 5.3.56 **Scenario 2:** Consentd turbines at Beinn Mheadhonach would not be discernible at 39km southeast. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would be seen as over 24km away on its own, so there would be no cumulative effect with Scenario 2.
- 5.3.57 **Scenario 3:** Proposed turbines at Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2 would be barely discernible as distant blade tips to the southeast at over 28.4km from the viewpoint. A few tips of the proposed Ben Sca Redesign array would appear as glimpses to the east of Glen Ullinish 2 and Balmeanach. Proposed turbines at the Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be theoretically visible though would not be discernible due to intervening distance. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Negligible on landscape character and Small/Negligible for visual receptors for the restored and comparative baseline.
- 5.3.58 **Scenario 4:** There would be no Scenario 4 visible from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 20: Idrigill Core Path- sheets 20a – 20f

- 5.3.59 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is visible, sitting within undulating moorland above the coastline to the northeast at 11.9km, with the northern half of the array partially screened by landform. The Glen Ullinish consented development will be visible to the east-northeast with tips extending above the horizon at 9.1km, with the consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines appearing as a distant, separate development at 14.1km east. The consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible

at 12.8km to the northeast in a single, evenly spaced line on the sloping moorland horizon. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the number and spread of turbines sited to the northeast in the central moorland interior. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear in front of Ben Sca and would appear large in scale, but would also be evenly spaced across open moorland. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.

5.3.60 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be visible at 12.9km to the northeast. The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible in its entirety, spread across the moorland, above islands and coastline of Loch Bracadale 11km to the northeast. Proposed turbines at Balmeanach would appear adjacent (north) of Glen Ullinish 2, at 11.3km, with developments in this direction forming a larger cluster. The proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would appear as a distant, separate development at 13.5km east. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the footprint of turbines to the north slightly. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

5.3.61 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would be visible at 11.8km northeast overlapping in front of the northern end of Glen Ullinish 2 and behind Balmeanach, increasing the density of the group. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Viewpoint 21: Oronsay- sheets 21a – 21d

5.3.62 **Scenario 2:** The operational Edinbane wind farm is visible in undulating moorland above the coastline to the north-northeast at 9.5km. The Glen Ullinish consented development will be visible in front of Edinbane turbines at 5.7km north-northwest. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach will be visible to the east standing in a single line on the horizon at 8.1km. Consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension turbines will be visible at 11.5km to the north behind the horizon, with partial screening to hubs in the centre and west of the array. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would extend the spread of turbines in the central moorland interior. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear a similar size to the consented Glen Ullinish turbines as they are much closer. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational and consented baseline (both restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors.

5.3.63 **Scenario 3:** The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible to the northeast in a large, dense cluster with most turbines breaking the skyline at 7.1km. Proposed turbines at Ben Sca Redesign would be visible to the north at 11.8km partially screened by landform. Balmeanach would be seen adjacent to Ben Sca at 10.9km within the moorland. The

proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be visible at 7.5km to the east, appearing evenly spaced within low central moorland as a separate cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would extend the footprint of turbines to the west, extending the combined spread of turbines. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and all of the other proposals (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

- 5.3.64 **Scenario 4:** Edinbane Repowering turbines would be visible at 9.2km northeast between Balmeanach and Glen Ullinish 2, joining the developments into a large continuous cluster. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented, proposed and scoping developments, (both the restored and comparative) would lead to a scale of change of Small on landscape character and Medium/Small for visual receptors. It is noted that the total combined impact of all developments together would result in an elevated scale of change compared to Scenario 2.

Conclusions of cumulative visual analysis

- 5.3.65 Based on the cumulative viewpoint analysis, it is clear that the Ben Aketil Repowering would have the most notable cumulative interactions with the cluster of cumulative developments within approximately 10km of Ben Aketil. These include Ben Sca, Balmeanach, Glen Ullinish 2 and Edinbane, which are all located within the central moorland and link up to each other. Beinn Mheadhonach sits apart from this group and the cumulative interactions would be less.
- 5.3.66 This cluster of consented, proposed and scoping developments, sits within a landscape which already contains some wind energy development, although not to the size or extent as within the consented or proposed baseline. However, it is still an existing feature of the central moorland.

5.4 CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

Potential cumulative landscape impacts

- 5.4.1 The location of the cumulative developments in relation to LCTs within a 20km radius is illustrated within **Figure 4**. The Ben Aketil Repowering would be located within LCT 359: Upland Sloping Moorland, which forms the much of the central moorland on Skye. Ben Sca and Balmeanach are also within this LCT. Much of Edinbane and part of Glen Ullinish are also located within this type and within the adjoining LCT 360: Stepped Moorland, which forms the other moorland type in central Skye. Beinn Mheadhonach is also located within LCT 360 Stepped Moorland.
- 5.4.2 Given the nature and relationship of these landscapes to each other, these are landscapes where there would be the greatest potential for significant cumulative effects to occur. However, there are other neighbouring LCTs which are more sensitive to large scale wind energy development, such as LCT 357: Farmed and Settled Lowlands, which could experience significant cumulative effects.

- 5.4.3 There is the potential for significant cumulative impacts on the SLAs at North West Skye and Greshornish within approximately 10km of Ben Aketil Repowering and therefore will be considered in this updated CLVIA.

Potential cumulative visual impacts

- 5.4.4 This assessment considers two types of cumulative visual impacts:
- Combined views which *'occur where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint'*.¹¹; and
 - Sequential views which *'occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments'*.¹²
- 5.4.5 In terms of the additional visual impact of the Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational baseline, this concluded significant effects would occur for the nearest visual receptor groups of Upper Feorlig, Feorlig, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten, Roag, Colbost, Recreational routes across the site, path to Idrigill Point, Oronsay Island and the Macleod's Tables. These receptors would experience Major, Major/Moderate or Moderate and Significant adverse effects either with the comparative baseline or the restored baseline as a result of visibility of the Ben Aketil Repowering. They would be contained within approximately 10km to the south and west from both low lying and elevated locations.
- 5.4.6 Other nearby receptor groups, including Dunvegan, Edinbane, Flashader, Greshornish, and North Minginish would have more restricted views of the Ben Aketil Repowering, or effects would be reduced due to increased distance and the large scale, open nature of views. In these areas, effects would be Moderate (or less) adverse and Not Significant. In more distant visual receptor groups, effects would be no greater than Moderate/Minor (Not Significant) and adverse.
- 5.4.7 Users on the A863 would experience some views of the proposed turbines at relatively close proximity as they travel along the west coast of Skye between Gearymore and Dunvegan. With the restored baseline, these views would result in a Moderate and adverse Significant effect. Users of the A850, which passes to the north of the site between Dunvegan and Borve (A87), would experience intermittent views which would be experienced as a Moderate (Not Significant) effect with the restored baseline. Effects on other key transportation, ferry or long distance recreational routes would be Moderate/Minor (not significant) or less, and are not considered any further.
- 5.4.8 Given the conclusions of the cumulative viewpoint analysis, review of the CZTVs, and the receptors where significant and notable effects were predicted in **Section 3** with the operational baseline, the receptors assessed are those where an additional significant cumulative effect would be most likely. The following assessment focuses on these potentially significant cumulative interactions on landscape character, designated landscapes and key visual receptors.

¹¹ 'Guidance - Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' by NatureScot, published in March 2021

¹² 'Guidance - Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments' by NatureScot, published in March 2021

Cumulative night-time

- 5.4.9 There is one 25cd light on one of the operational turbines at Ben Aketil. There are no consented turbines in the 20km study area above 150m which would require visible aviation lights fitted. The Ben Aketil Repowering has a reduced lighting scheme agreed with the CAA and therefore visible nacelle lights are required on only four of the turbines (T1, T5, T6 and T9) and there is no requirement for visible lights on the towers. Further mitigation is included of automatic dimming of the lights to a nominal intensity of 200cd during periods of good visibility (visibility greater than 5km), switching on and off of the lights by timer, and vertical directional intensity reduction of the light design.
- 5.4.10 The proposed Glen Ullinish 2 comprises turbines of over 150m and would require visible lighting. In order to inform this assessment, the EIA Report submitted with the application for this development, has been consulted with regard to the specific lighting proposal for this project. In this case the reduced lighting scheme had not been agreed with the CAA and therefore both the reduced lighting scheme and no reduced lighting scheme was considered within the EIA Report. This assessment has considered the worst case scenario of the full lighting scheme.
- 5.4.11 Given that the Edinbane Repowering and Extension is still at Scoping stage with no detailed proposals, a meaningful consideration of the night-time effects would not be possible and is therefore not included.

Cumulative impact with consented developments (Scenario 2)

- 5.4.12 As listed in **Table 5.1**, the consented developments in Scenario 2 include Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension (9 @ 135m or 149.9m), Glen Ullinish (11 @ 149.9) and Beinn Mheadhonach (4 @ 120m). These are shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the consented baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTVs illustrated in **Figures 6.9 - 6.12** of the EIA Report are still relevant to the assessment as these developments have not changed.
- 5.4.13 Ben Sca and Extension would consist of a single line of turbines extending down a ridge to the northwest from the summit of Ben Sca. This line of turbines would be roughly parallel to the operational Ben Aketil with the same underlying design, offset by over 1km. Glen Ullinish comprises an informal group of turbines on the north facing side slope of Glen Ose/Glen Colbost. This wind cluster would have a design more similar to that of the operational Edinbane. Beinn Mheadhonach would be a compact line of 4 turbines below the summit of Beinn Mheadhonach.
- 5.4.14 **Landscape character:** The consented developments would occur within both the LCT 359: Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360: Stepped Moorland within central Skye. Combined with the operational developments, there would be a notable area of landscape character which would be influenced by wind energy development within these two LCTs. This would extend between the A850 to Ben na Cloiche and result in a localised Significant effect on these two LCTs within a 5km-6km radius. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would replace one line of turbines with two lines of turbines, parallel to Ben Sca, modestly increasing the footprint of turbine development. However, it would not extend the geography of the significant effects on landscape character but would reinforce it due to the larger turbines and increased footprint.

- 5.4.15 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some localised increased impacts. However, these would not be enough to elevate the level of effect already reported as a result of adding the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored operational baseline on the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland, of Moderate and Significant between the A850 and Ben na Cloiche.
- 5.4.16 The consented development of Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension would add to the influence of Edinbane on some of the occurrences of the LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands to the north. Glen Ullinish would influence nearby occurrences of the LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands on the west coast. Beinn Mheadhonach would also have some influence on occurrences of the LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands on the west coast. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some localised decreased additional impacts on the nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands. This would be due to the influence of the consented developments across some of the occurrences of LCT 357, particularly Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish, which would result in a Moderate, but still Significant effect on this LCT.
- 5.4.17 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would not lead to a change in the level of effect already reported as a result of adding the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored operational baseline on the LCT 358 Low Smooth Moorland of Moderate/Minor and Not Significant.
- 5.4.18 The total combined impact of all the consented and the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored baseline on the landscape would result in significant impacts on parts of the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands.
- 5.4.19 **Visual:** As illustrated in **Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 and 8**, at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from the A863, the consented Glen Ullinish, Ben Sca and Beinn Mheadhonach would be visible within the moorland backdrop to the east, extending the influence of wind energy from Edinbane. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to decreased impacts when compared to just the operational baseline due the pre-existing influence of the consented developments. This would result in a decrease in the level of effect at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Caroy and Roag from Major to Major/Moderate but still Significant. For those at Harlosh/Vatten and on the A863, this would reduce the effect from Major/Moderate to Moderate but still Significant.
- 5.4.20 There would be no change in the level of effect at Dunvegan, Edinbane, or users of the A850 which would range from Moderate to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant.
- 5.4.21 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 6 and 7**, the Ben Aketil Repowering would be present behind Ben Sca. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline, there would also be a drop in levels at Flashader and Greshornish due to the presence of Ben Sca, from Moderate and Not Significant to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant, due to the pre-existing influence of Ben Sca.

- 5.4.22 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 10** from Colbost, both Glen Ullinish and Ben Sca would both be visible within the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a slight decrease to impacts, dropping the Moderate effect from Significant to Not Significant, but remaining at Moderate.
- 5.4.23 With regard to the informal recreation across the Ben Aketil site, Ben Sca would be visible across most of the route, but the Major and Significant level of effect arises mainly from the Ben Aketil Repowering.
- 5.4.24 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 8, 20 and 21**, from recreational users to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach would be visible within the moorland backdrop in addition to Edinbane. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Significant effect (same as for restored Scenario 1).
- 5.4.25 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 11**, from northern Minginish, some turbines of Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish would be visible within the central moorland backdrop across Loch Bracadale. Beinn Mheadhonach would be much closer, located in the moorland to the east, across Loch Harport. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate but Not Significant effect.
- 5.4.26 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 14**, from Uig, Ben Sca would be visible on the horizon and the Ben Aketil Repowering would be present behind these turbines. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate/Minor and Not Significant effect.
- 5.4.27 The total combined impact of all the consented and the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored baseline on the visual receptors, would lead to an increased level of effects and extent of significant impacts.
- 5.4.28 **Designated Landscapes:** None of the consented developments would be located within the North West Skye or Greshornish SLA. Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach would be visible within the moorland backdrop, alongside Edinbane from much of the North West Skye SLA where the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible; most notably from Loch Bracadale and the western side of Loch Dunvegan. However, Ben Sca would be more set back from this SLA than Glen Ullinish, which would appear closer to Loch Bracadale. Beinn Mheadhonach would be more noticeable from the northern Minginish peninsula across Loch Harport. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA.
- 5.4.29 Ben Sca would be noticeable from parts of the Greshornish SLA with the Ben Aketil Repowering visible behind it. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA.

- 5.4.30 The total combined impact of all the consented and the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored baseline on these two designated landscape, would lead to increased effects on these SLAs but it would not increase the level to Significant.

Cumulative impact with other proposed developments (Scenario 3)

- 5.4.31 The other proposed developments are considered individually within Scenario 3 (operational, consented and other proposals) given that there is no certainty any or all of these developments will be consented and built. They are considered roughly in distance order from the proposed development.

Operational and Consented baseline with Ben Sca Redesign

- 5.4.32 Ben Sca Redesign would be located 1.2km northwest of the Ben Aketil Repowering and consist of 9 turbines up to 149.9m high. The Ben Sca redesign would be located in a very similar location as the consented Ben Sca but with wider spacing and moved a little northwest down the ridgeline. The design would remain the same. This proposed design would replace the original consent. The location is shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the proposed baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTV is illustrated in **Figure 8** in this AI.
- 5.4.33 **Landscape character:** The change between the consented Ben Sca and Ben Aca Extension the proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be very limited on landscape character. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Ben Sca Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect for landscape character receptors as in Scenario 2.
- 5.4.34 **Visual:** The change between the consented Ben Sca and Ben Sca Extension and the proposed Ben Sca Redesign would be very limited on visual receptors and would mainly be appreciated for those located to the north including those at Flashader, Edinbane, Greshornish and the A850, as illustrated in **Viewpoints 1, 6, and 7**. From these locations the larger turbines further north and lower down the slope would be noticeable, but would not change the level of effect compared to the consented baseline. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Ben Sca Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect for visual receptors as in Scenario 2.
- 5.4.35 **Designated Landscapes:** Ben Sca Redesign would not be located within the North West Skye or Greshornish SLA. It would be visible alongside Edinbane from much of the North West Skye SLA where the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible, most notably Loch Bracadale and western side of Loch Dunvegan. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Ben Sca Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA.
- 5.4.36 Ben Sca Redesign would be marginally more noticeable from parts of the Greshornish SLA than the consented Ben Sca, with the Ben Aketil Repowering visible behind it. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Ben Sca Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this

baseline would lead to No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA

Operational and Consented baseline with Balmeanach

- 5.4.37 Balmeanach would be located 1km southwest of the Ben Aketil Repowering and consist of 10 turbines up to 149.9m high. Balmeanach would be located adjacent (west) of Edinbane. The location is shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the proposed baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTV is illustrated in **Figure 9** in this AI.
- 5.4.38 The layout of Balmeanach appears as a clustered arrangement of 10 turbines (149.9m to tip). Whilst it does not take the linear form of the Ben Aketil or Ben Sca, (or linear cluster form of either Edinbane or Glen Ullinish), it does have some aspects which relate to landform in a similar way to Edinbane or Glen Ullinish. Therefore, it does not contrast strongly with the existing/consented pattern of cumulative development.
- 5.4.39 Due to the location of Balmeanach, Ben Sca, Ben Aketil (existing or Repowering) and Edinbane, this cluster would likely be perceived to join these separate clusters together. There would be a mix of different turbine sizes, which would be noticeable.
- 5.4.40 **Landscape character:** Balmeanach would be located within LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland. Combined with the operational and consented developments, there would be a notable area of moorland type landscape character which would be influenced by wind energy development. This would extend between the A850 to Ben na Cloiche. The addition of Balmeanach would not extend the geography of the area influenced by wind energy development but would reinforce it due to the increased number of turbines. The Ben Aketil Repowering would also be located within LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and within that same area of wind energy influence and reinforce it further with an increased footprint and size of turbines.
- 5.4.41 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some localised increased impacts due to strengthening the pre-existing wind energy influence but would remain Moderate and Significant effects on the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland between the A850 and Ben na Cloiche within 5km-6km.
- 5.4.42 Balmeanach would be visible from some of the occurrences of nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, to the north and west. It would often appear between Ben Sca and Edinbane, adding more turbines on the skyline within the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational consented developments and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Moderate and Significant effect on the nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands (same as Scenario 2).
- 5.4.43 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Moderate/Minor and Not Significant effect on the LCT 358 Low Smooth Moorland (same as Scenario 2).

- 5.4.44 The total combined impact of all the consented, Balmeanach and the Ben Aketil Repowering to the restored baseline on the landscape character would result in significant impacts on parts of the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands.
- 5.4.45 **Visual:** As illustrated in **Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 and 8**, for those at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from the A863, Balmeanach would be well separated from most of the visual receptors along the coast and transport routes, where it would appear within the moorland backdrop, behind or adjacent to other operational or consented turbines, increasing the density and in some cases the spread of turbines. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead Major/Moderate or Moderate and Significant effects (same as Scenario 2).
- 5.4.46 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 1, 4, 6 and 7**, at Dunvegan, Edinbane, Flashader and Greshornish or users of the A850, Balmeanach would be well separated from most of the visual receptors to the north, where it would appear within the moorland backdrop, behind or adjacent to other operational or consented turbines, increasing the density and in some cases the spread of turbines. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Moderate or Moderate/Minor and Not Significant effects (same as Scenario 2).
- 5.4.47 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 10**, from Colbost on the Duirinish peninsula, Balmeanach would be visible on the skyline within the moorland backdrop. The Ben Aketil Repowering would sit in front of this array, on the skyline in the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Not Significant effect (same as Scenario 2).
- 5.4.48 With regard to the informal recreation across the Ben Aketil site, Balmeanach would be visible across most of the route, but the level of effect arises mainly from the Ben Aketil Repowering, so there would be no change (Major and Significant).
- 5.4.49 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 9, 20 and 21**, recreational users to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, would experience views of Balmeanach within the moorland backdrop in addition to the operational and consented developments. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a slight decrease to impacts but the level of effect (Moderate and Significant) would remain the same.
- 5.4.50 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 11** from northern Minginish, there be would be views of some turbines of Balmeanach within the central moorland backdrop across Loch Bracadale in addition to the operational and consented developments. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Not Significant effect (as Scenario 2).

- 5.4.51 The total combined impact of all consented, Balmeanach and the Ben Aketil Repowering on the restored baseline on visual receptors, then there would be an increased level of effects and Significant impacts.
- 5.4.52 **Designated Landscapes:** Balmeanach would not be located within the North West Skye or Greshornish SLAs. Balmeanach would be visible within the moorland backdrop, alongside Edinbane and the consented developments from much of the North West Skye SLA where the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible, most notably from Loch Bracadale and western side of Loch Dunvegan. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Balmeanach, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA.
- 5.4.53 Balmeanach would be noticeable from parts of the Greshornish SLA between Edinbane and Ben Sca. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA.
- 5.4.54 The total combined impact of all operational, consented and the Ben Aketil Repowering on these designated landscapes, then there would be increased effects on these SLAs but it would not increase the level to Significant.

Operational and Consented baseline with Glen Ullinish 2

- 5.4.55 Glen Ullinish 2 would be located 2.4km southwest of the Ben Aketil Repowering and consist of 47 turbines up to 200m high. Glen Ullinish 2 would be located within two groups in open moorland at Beinn na Cloiche and within forestry to the north around Sron na Aigne. The EIA Report indicates that this would replace the consented Glen Ullinish development. The impacts of Glen Ullinish 2 would be very different from those of the consented Glen Ullinish. The location is shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the proposed baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTV is illustrated in **Figure 10** in this AI.
- 5.4.56 The layout of Glen Ullinish 2 appears to be two clustered arrangements either side of the upper reaches of Glen Vic Askill. It does not share the design of any other operational or consented developments, given the number of turbines in the proposal. As a result, it contrasts with the existing/consented pattern of cumulative development. In addition to the consented baseline, for the most part Glen Ullinish 2 would be read as a separate array, in close association with the other clusters.
- 5.4.57 **Landscape character:** Glen Ullinish 2 would be located within both LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland. Combined with the operational and consented developments, there would be a notable area of moorland type landscape character which would be influenced by wind energy development. This would extend between the A850 to B885. The addition of Glen Ullinish 2 would reinforce and extend the geographic extent of moorland influenced by wind energy development to the south and east.
- 5.4.58 The Ben Aketil Repowering would also be located within LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and within that same area of wind energy influence. It would further reinforce this influence with an increased footprint and size of turbines, but not extend it further.

Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some localised increased impacts due to strengthening of the pre-existing wind energy influence but it would remain Moderate and Significant effects on the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland.

- 5.4.59 Compared to the consented Glen Ullinish, Glen Ullinish 2 would be located further east into the central moorland of Skye, reducing impacts on some occurrences of this more sensitive LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, where the Ben Aketil Repowering would have some significant impacts. There would also be some increased impacts on other occurrences of this LCT as a result of Glen Ullinish 2, which would not be significantly affected by the Ben Aketil Repowering and therefore these impacts would not be attributed to the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to a Moderate and Significant effect on the nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands (same as Scenario 2).
- 5.4.60 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect on the LCT 358 Low Smooth Moorland as in Scenario 2 (Moderate/Minor and Not Significant).
- 5.4.61 The total combined impact of all operational, consented, Glen Ullinish 2 and the Ben Aketil Repowering on the landscape would result in increased levels and extent of significant impacts on part of the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands.
- 5.4.62 **Visual:** As illustrated in **Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 and 8**, for those at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from the A863, Glen Ullinish 2 would be further separated (compared to the consented Glen Ullinish) from these visual receptors to the west along the coast. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Major/Moderate or Moderate and Significant effects (similar to Scenario 2).
- 5.4.63 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 1, 4, 6 and 7**, at Dunvegan, Edinbane, Flashader and Greshornish or users of the A850, Glen Ullinish 2 would be present in views (whereas the consented Glen Ullinish would not). This would be where it would appear within the moorland backdrop, behind or adjacent to Edinbane, increasing the density and in some cases the spread of turbines. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Moderate or Moderate/Minor and Not Significant effects (similar to Scenario 2).
- 5.4.64 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 10**, from Colbost on the Duirinish peninsula, Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible on the skyline within the moorland backdrop. The Ben Aketil Repowering would sit in front of this array, on the skyline in the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in Moderate and Not Significant effect.

- 5.4.65 With regard to the informal recreation across the Ben Aketil site, Glen Ullinish 2 would not be visible across some of the route due to screening by landform. The level of effect arises mainly from the Ben Aketil Repowering, so there would be no change (Major and Significant).
- 5.4.66 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 9, 20 and 21**, recreational users to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, would experience views of Glen Ullinish 2 within the moorland backdrop in addition to the operational and consented developments. The Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible within the same part of the view. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Significant effect. The total combined effect of this scenario would result in a Major/Moderate and Significant effect for these recreational receptors, due to the width of turbine presence within the moorland backdrop of central Skye.
- 5.4.67 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 11**, from northern Minginish, some turbines of would experience views of Glen Ullinish 2 within the central moorland backdrop across Loch Bracadale in addition to the operational and consented developments. The Ben Aketil Repowering would be present in the landscape within the same part of the view. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Not Significant effect. The total combined effect of this scenario would result in a Major/Moderate and Significant effect for these residential or recreational receptors, due to the width of turbine presence within the moorland backdrop of central Skye.
- 5.4.68 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 12**, the impacts at Borge and the A87 would be mainly attributed to Glen Ullinish 2, rather than from the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering. Similarly with Viewpoints 15 and 17 from the Skye Trail and The Storr, most of the impacts would occur as a result of Glen Ullinish 2, rather than from the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering.
- 5.4.69 The total combined impact of all operational, consented, Glen Ullinish 2 and the Ben Aketil Repowering on the visual receptors, then there would be a notable number of increased levels of visual effects and a wider extent of Significant impacts than the additional visual effects reported with just the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering.
- 5.4.70 **Designated Landscapes:** Glen Ullinish 2 would not be located within the North West Skye or Greshornish SLA. Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible within the moorland backdrop, notably increasing the extent of the turbines visible (compared to the consented Glen Ullinish) from much of the Loch Bracadale area of the North West Skye SLA but less so from the western side of Loch Dunvegan. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA. The total combined effect of the consented and Glen Ullinish 2 to the restored baseline, it would result in a Major/Moderate and Significant effect on the SLA, due to the width of turbine presence within the moorland backdrop of central Skye.

- 5.4.71 Glen Ullinish 2 would be noticeable from parts of the Greshornish SLA behind Edinbane but would not have a strong visual influence on this SLA. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA.
- 5.4.72 **Night-time:** In Appendix 6.4 and 14.2 of the EIA Report for the proposed Glen Ullinish 2, it confirms that there is a proposal for a reduced lighting scheme, but that had not been approved by the CAA at the time of the EIA Report and therefore the worst case scenario was assessed. No further correspondence with the ECU has been sent to confirm if the CAA has confirmed the reduced lighting scheme, therefore this assessment will also assess the worst case scenario of all nacelle lights on all turbines at 2000cd with automatic dimming to 200cd and a 32cd light half way up the towers. This is illustrated in the dawn/dusk visualisations for **Viewpoints 2, 6, and 11**.
- 5.4.73 In consideration of the Glen Ullinish 2 Hub Height ZTVs in their EIA Report, the Aviation Lighting ZTV **Figure 6.8** in the EIA Report for the Ben Aketil Repowering and the **Visualisations** in this AI, it is clear that there would be visual receptors which would experience combined views of both Glen Ullinish 2 and the Ben Aketil Repowering aviation lights at night.
- 5.4.74 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 2, 3, 5 and 8**, for those at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from the A863, the nacelle lights and tower lights of Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible in views to the east or northeast. As demonstrated by the Glen Ullinish 2 hub height ZTV, the number of lights visible would vary considerably along the coast with the highest number (over 40 nacelle lights + some tower lights without a reduced lighting scheme) when looking northwest up Glen Ullinish whereas only 2 lights of the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible to the north. In other locations such as the night-time visualisation for **Viewpoint 2**, illustrates an open view of all 4 nacelle lights on the Ben Aketil Repowering to the north and views to just over a dozen nacelle lights on Glen Ullinish 2 to the east. The Ben Aketil Repowering lights would not appear as dense as the Glen Ullinish lights, but they would extend the geographic extent of the lights visible in views over the moorland. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to increased adverse effects on visual receptors given that the lights would be visible in different parts of the view. The level of effect would increase to Moderate and Significant for these receptors. The total combined effect of this scenario would result in an increased level of effect ranging from Major/Moderate to Major and Significant effect on these receptors.
- 5.4.75 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 1, 4, 6 and 7**, at Dunvegan, Edinbane, Flashader and Greshornish or users of the A850, the lights at Glen Ullinish 2 would be present in views to a variable degree, which is also illustrated in the Glen Ullinish 2 hub height ZTV. From Viewpoints 1 and 4 at the western end of the A850, there would be much less visibility than from the central or eastern end of the A850 at Viewpoints 6 and 7. The night-time photomontage at Viewpoint 6 at Flashader illustrates only a small number of lights (c. 2) of Glen Ullinish 2 would be visible at this position, alongside the 4 lights at the Ben Aketil Repowering. Whilst the combined visibility would be relatively limited, the lights of these two proposals would be visible sequentially along the route with a much greater influence as a result of Glen Ullinish 2. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the

operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some increased adverse effects on visual receptors but the level of effect would remain at Moderate/Minor and Not Significant for most.

- 5.4.76 For recreational users either wild camping on the Duirinish peninsula (Macleod's tables or on the coast to Idrigill Point) or on the islands around Loch Bracadale illustrated in **Viewpoints 9, 20 and 21**, there would be extensive views of the Glen Ullinish lights, at a greater distance from the Duirinish peninsula than from Loch Bracadale. The four lights of the Ben Aketil Repowering would also be visible nearer the Duirinish peninsula than from Loch Bracadale. **Viewpoint 11** is located on the northern part of the Minginish peninsula on the southern edge of Loch Bracadale and represents residents as well as recreational users at the southern edge of Loch Bracadale. There is a dawn/dusk photomontage which illustrates that whilst the Ben Aketil Repowering lights would not appear as dense as the Glen Ullinish lights, they would extend the geographic extent of the lights visible. This would also be the case for views from the Duirinish and Loch Bracadale areas in views to the east, northeast or north. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Glen Ullinish 2, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to an increased adverse effects to Moderate but Not Significant, given the number of lights would be low and distance would be over 10km. The total combined effect of this scenario would result in a range of an increased levels of effect from Moderate to Major/Moderate but would be considered Significant on these receptors.

Operational and Consented baseline with Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign

- 5.4.77 Beinn Mheadhonach would be located 10km southeast of the Ben Aketil Repowering and consist of 5 turbines up to 149.9m high. The Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be located in a very similar location as the consented Beinn Mheadhonach but with wider spacing and a change to the angle of the linear array, but the design would remain the similar. This proposed design would replace the original consent. The location is shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the proposed baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTV is illustrated in **Figure 11** in this AI.
- 5.4.78 **Landscape character:** The change between the consented Beinn Mheadhonach and the proposed Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would be relatively limited on landscape character. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect for landscape character receptors as in Scenario 2.
- 5.4.79 **Visual:** The change between the consented Beinn Mheadhonach and the proposed Beinn Mheadhonach would be very limited on the visual receptors where significant effects would occur with the Ben Aketil Repowering. They would mainly be appreciated for those located on the A863 and northern parts of the Minginish peninsula and southern part of Loch Bracadale, as illustrated in **Viewpoints 11 and 21**. From these locations the change to larger more widely spaced turbines would be noticeable. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Ben Sca Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect for visual receptors as in Scenario 2.

5.4.80 **Designated Landscapes:** Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign would not be located within the North West Skye SLA, but it would be visible from some of the North West Skye SLA where the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible, most notably Loch Bracadale and northern part of Minginish. Beinn Mheadhonach would represent a separate cluster located within the central moorland of Skye, which forms the backdrop to the SLA. It would not be associated with the cluster of other operational and consented wind energy developments further north within the moorland. However, the increased size and spread of Beinn Mheadhonach would be noticeable from the SLA. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA.

Cumulative impact with proposals at Scoping (Scenario 4)

5.4.81 There is one further proposal at Scoping stage, which is considered in Scenario 4 (operational, consented and Pre-planning proposals). Given that the design for this proposal has not yet been finalised, the assessment is undertaken at high level. It is important to differentiate between the assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Ben Aketil Repowering with projects with some certainty, compared to those about which there can be little certainty.

Operational, consented baseline and Scoping stage with Edinbane Repowering and Extension

5.4.82 Edinbane Repowering and Extension (referred to a Edinbane Repowering for brevity) would be located approximately 2km east of the Ben Aketil Repowering and potentially consist of 19 turbines of 200m in height. It would repower those operational Edinbane turbines and extend the site further east onto the Stepped Moorland of Cruachan-Glen Vic Askill. The location is shown on **Figures 2-7** and on the proposed baseline wirelines for each viewpoint in the **Visualisations** in this AI. The CZTV is illustrated in **Figure 12** in this AI.

5.4.83 The layout of Edinbane Repowering appears to be a linear cluster which extends both within the Low Smooth Moorland but also onto the top of the Stepped Moorland. Given the variety in height of landform where the turbines are positioned in scoping layout, it does not share a similarity to the operational or consented pattern of development. Due to the location of Edinbane Repowering compared to Ben Sca and the Ben Aketil Repowering, it is likely that this array would remain as a separate cluster, but with a close association. The size of turbine would be more similar in scale to the consented Ben Sca and the proposed Ben Aketil Repowering removing a potential contrast in turbines scales in the moorland of central Skye.

5.4.84 **Landscape character:** Edinbane Repowering would be located across LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland. It would occur within a moorland landscape which would already be influenced by operational and consented between the A850 to Ben na Cloiche. The addition of Edinbane Repowering would reinforce and extend the geographic extent of influence by wind energy development to the east given their prominence on the Stepped Moorland. The Ben Aketil Repowering would be located within LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and within that same area of wind energy influence. The addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering would further reinforce the influence

of wind energy with an increased footprint and size of turbines, but would not extend the geographic extent of influence. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to some localised increased impacts due to strengthening of that pre-existing wind energy influence but would remain Moderate and Significant effects on the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland between A850 and Ben na Cloiche.

- 5.4.85 Edinbane Repowering is likely to have increased impacts on the nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands and these would likely occur to the north and west. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to a Moderate and Significant effect on the nearby LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands.
- 5.4.86 Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to the same level of effect on the LCT 358 Low Smooth Moorland as in Scenario 2 (Moderate/Minor and Not Significant).
- 5.4.87 The total combined impact of all operational, consented, Edinbane Repowering and the Ben Aketil Repowering on the landscape would result in increased levels and geographic extent of significant impacts on part of the LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands.
- 5.4.88 **Visual:** As illustrated in **Viewpoints 2, 3, and 5**, for those at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from parts of the A863, Edinbane Repowering would be well separated from most of these visual receptors along the west coast, where it would appear within the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to Major/Moderate or Moderate effects which would be Significant.
- 5.4.89 For users of the A863, there is the potential for more open sequential views of Edinbane Repowering, as illustrated in **Viewpoint 8**. Due to the increased size and location of the turbines on the Stepped Moorland, it would have a greater impact than the operational Edinbane. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Significant effect.
- 5.4.90 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 1, 4, 6 and 7**, at Dunvegan, Edinbane, Flashader and Greshornish or users of the A850, Edinbane Repowering would be clearly noticeable from the glen leading to Loch Greshornish including parts of the A850, Edinbane, Flashader and parts of Greshornish. It would appear within the forestry and moorland backdrop, across the full extent of the view where the operational Edinbane is visible. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to a Moderate or Moderate/Minor and Not Significant effect.
- 5.4.91 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 10**, from Colbost on the Duirinish peninsula, Edinbane Repowering would be visible on the skyline behind Ben Sca, within the moorland

backdrop. The Ben Aketil Repowering would sit in front of this array, on the skyline in the moorland backdrop. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Not Significant effects given the presence of both Ben Sca and Edinbane Repowering.

- 5.4.92 With regard to the informal recreation across the Ben Aketil site, Edinbane Repowering would be visible across some of the route, but the level of effect arises mainly from the Ben Aketil Repowering, so there would be no change (Major and Significant).
- 5.4.93 As illustrated in **Viewpoints 9, 20 and 21**, recreational users to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, would experience views of Edinbane Repowering within the moorland backdrop, often appearing between Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish consented developments. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in a Moderate and Significant effect.
- 5.4.94 As illustrated in **Viewpoint 11**, from northern Minginish, most of the Edinbane Repowering turbines would be visible as a dense cluster within the central moorland backdrop across Loch Bracadale in addition to the operational and consented developments. It would appear more prominently than either Ben Sca or Glen Ullinish. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would increase the width of the array of turbines to the northwest with similar sized turbines as Edinbane Repowering. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would lead to a Moderate and Not Significant effect.
- 5.4.95 With regard to the total combined impact of all operational, consented, Edinbane Repowering and the Ben Aketil Repowering on these visual receptors, then there would be an increased level of visual effects and extent of significant impacts.
- 5.4.96 **Designated Landscapes:** Edinbane Repowering would not be located within the North West Skye or Greshornish SLAs. Edinbane Repowering would be visible within the moorland backdrop, often seen in between Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish consented developments from much of the North West Skye SLA where the Ben Aketil Repowering would be visible, most notably from Loch Bracadale and the western side of Loch Dunvegan. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational, consented developments and Edinbane Repowering, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the North West Skye SLA.
- 5.4.97 Edinbane Repowering would be clearly noticeable from parts of the Greshornish SLA, occupying a similar extent as the operational Edinbane turbines, but noticeably larger in scale. The Ben Aketil Repowering would appear behind Ben Sca. Assuming a restored baseline and prior presence of the operational and consented developments, the addition of the Ben Aketil Repowering to this baseline would result in No Significant impacts on the special qualities of the Greshornish SLA.
- 5.4.98 With regards to the total 'combined' impact of all consented, Edinbane Repowering and the Ben Aketil Repowering on these designated landscapes, then there could be increased adverse effects on the Greshornish SLA which could possibly be Significant.

5.4.99 Below is a summary of the additional (incremental) cumulative impacts resulting from the addition of Ben Aketil Repowering and Extension to the different cumulative assessment scenarios.

Table 2: CLVIA Summary

Receptor	Scenario 1: Operational comparative	Scenario 1: Operational restored	Scenario 2: Operational & Consented*	Scenario 3: Ben Sca Redesign*	Scenario 3: Balmeanach*	Scenario 3: Glen Ullinish 2*	Scenario 3: Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign*	Scenario 4: Edinbane Repowering and Extension*
Upland Sloping Moorland LCT 359	Moderate effect, Not Significant, occurring mainly within a 5km radius	Moderate effect, Significant, occurring mainly within a 5km radius	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant
Stepped Moorland LCT 360	Moderate effect, Significant within approx. 5km. Moderate/Minor , Not Significant beyond 5km	Moderate effect, Significant within approx. 5km.	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant
Farmed and Settled Lowlands – Skye and Lochash LCT 357	Moderate effect, Significant within a 5km radius	Major/ Moderate effect, Significant within a 5km radius	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant
Low Smooth Moorland LCT 358	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant

Receptor	Scenario 1: Operational comparative	Scenario 1: Operational restored	Scenario 2: Operational & Consented*	Scenario 3: Ben Sca Redesign*	Scenario 3: Balmeanach*	Scenario 3: Glen Ullinish 2*	Scenario 3: Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign*	Scenario 4: Edinbane Repowering and Extension*
Upper Feorlig (2.3 km S) (VP2)	Major effect, Significant	Major effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant
Feorlig (3.2 km S) (VP2)	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant
Caroy (3 km S)	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant
Harlosh/Vatten (5.2 km SW)	Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant
Roag (4.3 km SW) (VP5)	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant	Major/Moderate effect, Significant
Dunvegan (4.1 km W) (VPs 3 and 4)	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate- Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant
Edinbane (3.9 km NE)	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant
Flashader (6.1 km NE) (VP6)	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant

Receptor	Scenario 1: Operational comparative	Scenario 1: Operational restored	Scenario 2: Operational & Consented*	Scenario 3: Ben Sca Redesign*	Scenario 3: Balmeanach*	Scenario 3: Glen Ullinish 2*	Scenario 3: Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign*	Scenario 4: Edinbane Repowering and Extension*
Greshornish (4.9 km N) (VP7)	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant
Colbost, Duirinish (over 8.7 km W) (VP10)	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant
Borve (11.5 km E) (VP12)	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant
North Minginish (over 11.5 km S) (VP11)	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant	Moderate effect, Not Significant
Uig (c.14 - 18 km NW) (VP14)	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant
Moineach, Glen Brittle Forest (21 km SSW) (VP16)	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant
A87 from Portree to Uig (VP12)	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant
A850 from Borve to Dunvegan (VP1, 4, 6 and 12)	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant	Moderate/Minor effect, Not Significant

Receptor	Scenario 1: Operational comparative	Scenario 1: Operational restored	Scenario 2: Operational & Consented*	Scenario 3: Ben Sca Redesign*	Scenario 3: Balmeanach*	Scenario 3: Glen Ullinish 2*	Scenario 3: Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign*	Scenario 4: Edinbane Repowering and Extension*
A863 Sligachan to Dunvegan (VP2, 3 & 8)	Major/ Moderate - Significant	Major/ Moderate - Significant	Moderate – Significant	Moderate – Significant	Moderate – Significant	Moderate – Significant	Moderate – Significant	Moderate – Significant
Skye Trail (VP15 & 17)	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant
The Storr (VP15)	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant	Moderate/Minor - Not Significant
Informal routes across Ben Aketil site	Major/ moderate – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant	Major – Significant
Core path to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens (VP20)	Moderate – Not Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant
Core path to Oronsay Island (VP21)	Moderate – Not Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant
Macleod Tables (VP9)	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant	Moderate - Significant
North West Skye SLA	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant
Greshornish SLA	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant	Not Significant

Receptor	Scenario 1: Operational comparative	Scenario 1: Operational restored	Scenario 2: Operational & Consented*	Scenario 3: Ben Sca Redesign*	Scenario 3: Balmeanach*	Scenario 3: Glen Ullinish 2*	Scenario 3: Beinn Mheadhonach Redesign*	Scenario 4: Edinbane Repowering and Extension*
Night-time			n/a	n/a	n/a	Increased to Moderate and Significant for some but not all receptors	n/a	Not enough detail to assess.

* Assumes the restored Ben Aketil baseline.

5.5 Summary of the Cumulative Assessment

- 5.5.1 This updated cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment replaces the cumulative assessment presented within the EIA Report (May 2023), to reflect the updated cumulative situation as of 16 January 2025. There have been no changes to the operational and consented baseline since the EIA Report, but four applications for development consent have since been submitted and a further development submitted in Scoping within 12km. Scenario 1 is considered to be the effect of the proposed development with the operational baseline (both existing and restored) and this is presented in **Section 3** of this AI. This updated CLVIA focussed on the impacts with the operational and consented baseline (Scenario 2), other proposals at planning (Scenario 3) and with one development at pre-planning (Scenario 4) where there is the potential for significant cumulative effects with the proposed Ben Aketil Repowering and Extension turbines. The night-time cumulative assessment has been included where relevant.
- 5.5.2 The assessment has focused on the additional/incremental effects of Ben Aketil Repowering, rather than on the 'combined' impacts. It is important to differentiate between the assessment of cumulative effects arising from Ben Aketil Repowering with projects that are considered as part of a scenario with some certainty; and those that are at various stages of proposal and about which there can be little certainty.
- 5.5.3 Scenario 2 consists of the consented developments at Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering and Extension would reinforce existing significant effects on LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland and LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and there would be a reduction in effect on the adjacent LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, due to the influence of the consented developments, but the effect would still be Significant. With regard to the visual effects, there would be some reduction in the level of additional effects arising from some of the nearest communities at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Caroy and Roag and at Harlosh/Vatten, and on the A863, but they would still be considered Significant. This would result from the pre-existing influence of the consented and operational baseline, compared to just the operational baseline. The impacts at Colbost on the Duirinish peninsula would reduce in consideration of the fully consented baseline from Moderate and Significant to Moderate and Not Significant, given the influence of Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish on the skyline. There would also be some significant impacts on recreational receptors across the site, to Idrigill Point /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, which is a similar impact with the restored baseline of Scenario 1.
- 5.5.4 With regard to Scenario 3, other proposals in planning, there is a proposal for the consented Ben Sca and Extension to be redesigned (rather than a tip height increase). The proposal would consist of 9 turbines up to 149.9m high, instead of 9 turbines between 135m – 149.9m with a wider spacing, compared to the consented development. Given the rather limited change between this proposal and consented baseline, there would be no change to the level of effect on landscape character, visual receptors and on the special qualities of the SLAs.
- 5.5.5 With regard to Scenario 3 with the proposal of Balmeanach (10 turbines up to 149.9m high), this would be located between Ben Aketil and Edinbane. It would consist of a clustered arrangement which would not contrast with the existing/consented pattern of cumulative development. However, due to the location of Balmeanach, Ben Sca, Ben

Aketil Repowering and Edinbane, this cluster would likely be perceived to join these separate clusters together. There would be a mix of different turbine sizes, which would be noticeable. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering would reinforce existing significant effects as a result of the consented and Balmeanach on LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, but the additional effect of Ben Aketil Repowering would still be Significant. With regard to the visual effects, there would be some Significant effects arising within some of the nearest communities at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Caroy and Roag and at Harlosh/Vatten and on the A863, similar to Scenario 2. There would also be some significant impacts on recreational receptors across the site, to Idrigill Point /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, which is a similar impact with the restored baseline of Scenario 2.

- 5.5.6 With regard to Scenario 3, the proposal of Glen Ullinish 2 (47 turbines up to 200m in height) would be very different in nature to the consented Glen Ullinish, which would be replaced by this proposal. The layout of Glen Ullinish 2 appears to be two clustered arrangements either side of the upper reaches of Glen Vic Askill. It does not share the design of any other operational or consented developments. Glen Ullinish 2 would extend the significant effects on the moorland LCTs to the south and east. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering would reinforce pre-existing significant effects as a result of the consented and Glen Ullinish 2 on LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, and the additional effect of Ben Aketil Repowering would still be Significant. With regard to the visual effects, there would be some Significant effects arising from some of the nearest communities at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Caroy and Roag and at Harlosh/Vatten and on the A863, similar to Scenario 2. There would also be some significant impacts on recreational receptors across the site, to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables, which is a similar impact with the restored baseline of Scenario 2. There would be No Significant effects predicted on the SLAs from the addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and Glen Ullinish 2 baseline. However, the total 'combined' effect of the consented and Glen Ullinish 2 and Ben Aketil Repowering would result in a Major/Moderate and Significant effect on the North West Skye SLA. With regard to cumulative night-time effects, the worst case scenario would be that all 47 of the Glen Ullinish turbines would be lit with both nacelle and tower lights. There would only be 4 nacelle lights on the Ben Aketil Repowering turbines and they would not appear as dense as the Glen Ullinish lights, but they would extend the geographic extent of the lights visible in views from some of the nearer communities to the west including Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Roag, Caroy, Harlosh/Vatten and from the A863, which would increase the Moderate level of effect from Not Significant to Significant. This would not occur at further distances.
- 5.5.7 With regard to Scenario 3, there is a proposal for the consented Beinn Mheadhonach to be redesigned (rather than a tip height increase). The proposal would consist of 5 turbines up to 149.9m high, instead of 4 turbines up to 120m high, with a wider spacing compared to the consented development. Given the rather limited change between this proposal and consented baseline, there would be no change to the level of effect on landscape character, visual receptors and on the special qualities of the SLAs.
- 5.5.8 With regard to Scenario 4, other proposals in pre-planning, there is a proposal for Edinbane Repowering submitted for Scoping which consists of 19 turbines up to 200m in height. It would repower those operational Edinbane turbines and extend the site further

east onto the Stepped Moorland of Cruachan-Glen Vic Askill. The addition of Ben Aketil Repowering would reinforce and extend a pre-existing significant effect as a result of the consented and Edinbane Repowering on LCT 359 Upland Sloping Moorland, LCT 360 Stepped Moorland and LCT 357 Farmed and Settled Lowlands, and the additional effect of Ben Aketil Repowering would still be Significant. With regard to the visual effects, there would be some Significant effects arising from some of the nearest communities at Feorlig, Upper Feorlig, Caroy, Roag, Harlosh/Vatten and on the A863. There would also be some significant impacts on recreational receptors across the Ben Aketil site, to Idrigill Pt /Macleod's Maidens, Oronsay Island and Macleod's Tables. There would be No Significant effects predicted on the SLAs from the addition of Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and Edinbane Repowering baseline. However, with regard to the total 'combined' effects, there may be the potential for some Significant effects on the North West Skye SLA.

- 5.5.9 Overall, there would be few elevated additional / incremental levels of impact as a result of adding Ben Aketil Repowering to the operational, consented and individual proposals. With regard to the total 'combined' impact of the consented and these individual proposals, then there would be a greater level of effect and extent of significant impacts for most of the visual receptors in the assessment and in some cases on the North West Skye and Greshornish SLAs.