

**Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275kV Connection
Environmental Impact Assessment
Volume 4 | Appendix 6.2**

**Landscape Designations and
Classifications: Descriptions and
Sensitivity**

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List of Abbreviations

APQ	Area of Panoramic Quality
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
km	kilometre
NS	NatureScot
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 There are no nationally designated landscapes within the Study Area. There are three landscape classifications within the Study Area that are assessed in **Table 1.1**. Ardinglas and Strone Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL) has been scoped out of the assessment as the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) indicates there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development (as agreed in consultation with NatureScot). This appendix should be read in conjunction with **Figure 6.4a** and **Figure 6.4b, EIAR Volume 3a**.

Table 1.1: Landscape Designations and Classifications: Description and Sensitivity

Landscape Designations	Distance and Direction from Proposed Development ¹	Relevant Special Qualities	Sensitivity to the type of development proposed
Area of Panoramic Quality			
North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ)	The Proposed Development is located within this designated area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich, scenic landscape composition of the dramatic mountainous landform contrasted against the small-scale pattern of settled narrow lochs, sea lochs and loch fringes. Settled loch and seashores including Loch Awe and its islands, set against a scenic backdrop of mountains seen across water. Contrasts in scale, relief and landform create diversity and add to scenic quality of the landscape. Intricate pattern of land use including policy woodlands, farmland, coastal settlements and a rich built heritage. 	<p>High sensitivity.</p> <p>This designated area has high scenic value resulting from the juxtaposition between lochs and mountainous landscapes as part of its key characteristics. It covers an area that is popular with tourists and recreational users who visit for its scenic qualities and numerous summits affording panoramic views of the wider landscape.</p> <p>Its susceptibility to the type of development proposed would be medium. Existing transmission and grid infrastructure within the APQ indicates it is judged to have capacity to accommodate this type of development, however additional OHLs would raise issues of cumulative sensitivities.</p>
Garden and Designed Landscapes			
Ardanaiseig House GDL	4.9 km north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An 18th century designed landscape of woodlands, gardens, parkland and architectural features creating the setting for the category B listed Ardanaiseig House. The house faces east overlooking Loch Awe and is set on three large grass terraces. This is a small-scale and intimate landscape with views to the wider landscape forming considered focal points. The policy woodlands are laid out along the lower-lying land of the headland providing shelter from the wind. Pasture is enclosed by the remnants of woodland strips which were mainly oak, sycamore and some beech. The woodlands are mainly hardwoods planted about 180 years ago interspersed with conifer blocks planted at the end of the 19th century and during the 1950s adding texture, year-round colour and filtering views to the wider landscape. The grounds are accessible to the public, however in reality only hotel guests are likely to visit due to its secluded location. 	<p>High sensitivity.</p> <p>It has a high value as indicated by its formal classification its high scenic quality and loch-side location that emphasises views across Loch Awe.</p> <p>This landscape has a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed due to its small-scale and high scenic quality.</p>
Inveraray Castle GDL	70 m east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A culturally significant designed estate landscapes with castle, surrounding grounds and planned town with a 300-year history. Located at the mouth of the River Aray on the north western shores of Loch Fyne the castle is set within mature parks and 4000-acre woodlands which cover the rugged topography beyond the castle. Dun Na Cuaiche (the hill of the cup) and the watchtower on its summit sit on a dominant part of the natural topography making a significant contribution to the setting of the castle and the overall experience of the designed landscape. Mature mixed woodland, particularly on the lower lying slopes of Dun Na Cuaiche and around Strone Point, provide colour and texture, acting as a framing device for Inveraray Castle. The distant mountains and high moorland of Argyll provide a wider setting for both the castle and the planned town providing a distinctive and recognisable location and scenic backdrop. The wider grounds of the castle are public accessible and popular with local residents for walks. 	<p>High sensitivity.</p> <p>It has a high value based on its classification, historic importance and scenic quality.</p> <p>This GDL has a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed due to its small scale and the interconnected views between key architectural and landscape features within the GDL.</p>

¹ Based on nearest part of the designated area to the Proposed Development