

**Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Connection
Environmental Impact Assessment
Volume 4 | Appendix 6.4**

**Residual Effects on Landscape
Designations and Classifications**

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List of Abbreviations

APQ	Area of Panoramic Quality
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
km	kilometre
kV	kiloVolt
m	metre
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 There is an Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) and three Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) within the Study Area. One of these GDLs, Ardkinglas and Strone GDL has been scoped out of the assessment as the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) shows there is no visibility of the Proposed Development. This appendix should be read in conjunction with **Technical Appendix 6.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes (EIAR Volume 4)**, and **Figure 6.4a** and **Figure 6.4b (EIAR Volume 3a)**.
- 1.0.2 **Table 1.1** sets out the assessment of effects on the designations and classifications listed, and **Table 1.2** provides details of likely cumulative effects in respect of the cumulative scenarios outlined in **Chapter 6: LVIA, EIAR Volume 2**.

Table 1.1: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

Landscape Designation	Distance and Direction from the Proposed Development	Sensitivity	Predicted Visibility of Proposed Development	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effects on Special Qualities
Area of Panoramic Quality					
North Argyll APQ	The Proposed Development is partially located within this designated area	High	<p>The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would extend across the entire APQ in a sporadic, scattered pattern within the Study Area. Views channelled through Glen Aray north to northern shores of Loch Awe and south to Loch Fyne have the largest areas of theoretical visibility. Away from these shorelines theoretical visibility corresponds to high elevations.</p> <p>Some patches of theoretical visibility correspond with coniferous forestry where mature trees would limit views of the Proposed Development except where forestry tracks are oriented towards the Proposed Development and/or from open elevated vantage points within it.</p> <p>The seven northernmost towers that are found within this APQ are within a medium-scale landscape that provides a transition to the craggy plateau moorland beyond. When in close proximity, these towers would be seen at full height, partially backclothed against the hillside depending on distance to the towers and orientation. Within the rest of the APQ visible towers would be seen backclothed and low-lying within the landscape. Wayleave felling would emphasise the location of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 are found within this APQ.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Within the area surrounding the northernmost towers of the Proposed Development, construction activities including plant movements, stockpiles and felling would result in a considerable alteration to a number of key special qualities and characteristics of the APQ including the scale and intricate form of the landscape. However, such impacts would be localised, temporary and short-term. On this basis there would be localised substantial impacts reducing to Negligible once construction works have ceased.</p> <p>Outwith such localised areas of substantial impact construction activities would represent a Negligible impact on the special qualities of this landscape.</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>The Proposed Development would form a notable change to views through the introduction of large-scale transmission infrastructure. Such impacts would be localised to substantial, resulting in considerable change to the characteristic pattern of vegetation and intricate scale of elements.</p> <p>In the context of the wider designated area as a whole, operation of the Proposed Development would extend the influence of large-scale transmission infrastructure to loch shores accounting for a small part of views within the wider area. The overall magnitude of impact, therefore, on this designated area would be Slight.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Construction of the Proposed Development would impact on the small-scale pattern of loch fringes, the scenic quality of landscape and detract from the contrasts in scale associated with this APQ. The localised residual effect would change over time, ranging from Major (significant) to Moderate/Minor (not significant) upon cessation of construction works.</p> <p>Within the broader APQ, construction of the Proposed Development would be Moderate/Minor (not significant).</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Locally, the Proposed Development would represent a notable change to the intricate, small-scale pattern of land use along loch fringes through the introduction of large-scale transmission infrastructure particularly within the localised area around Creag Dhubh. Wayleave felling to accommodate the Proposed OHL would emphasise the difference in scale within this localised area and represent a partial loss to the baseline condition. The localised residual effect would be Major (significant).</p> <p>Within the wider APQ the small-scale of settled loch shores would be noticeably altered through the introduction of large-scale transmission infrastructure. The contrast between these small-scale landscapes and the massive scale of mountains would be discernibly changed. The overall the operational effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate (not significant).</p>
Garden and Designed Landscapes					
Ardenaisaig House	4.9 km north	High	<p>The ZTV indicates the majority of the GDL would have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. However, the southern half of the GDL is dominated by policy woodlands that would restrict actual views of the Proposed Development. There would be theoretical visibility from areas of parkland on slopes facing towards the Proposed Development, from the gardens to the east of the house, and locations along the shoreline. Where visible, a limited number of the northernmost towers would be visible partially skylined and on hill above Cladich.</p> <p>Viewpoint 11 is located within this GDL and is located at the southern extents of the GDL and is adjoined by extensive forest cover and would not, therefore, afford views of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Given the limited proportion of the GDL subject to views of the Proposed Development, and given the short term and temporary nature of construction operations, the impact on the GDL would be Negligible.</p> <p>Operation</p> <p>Similarly, once operational the Proposed Development would be screened from the majority of the GDL and would therefore represent Negligible impacts on the scale and scenic quality of the landscape in this GDL and the setting of the House.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Moderate/ Minor (not significant).</p> <p>Operation</p> <p>Moderate/ Minor (not significant).</p>

Table 1.1: Residual Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

Inveraray Castle	70 m east	High	<p>The ZTV indicates that there would be theoretical v visibility within approximately half of the GDL, with visibility concentrated on elevated positions, many of which are forested in actuality, the key exception being that of the watch tower at Dun na Cuiache which has historically functioned as a lookout above Inveraray Castle and which was intended to provide prospect over the waters of Loch Fyne.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the GDL theoretical visibility extends into Inveraray and parts of the castle grounds, however field Reconnaissance suggests that parkland trees and the forested intervening hills would substantially obscure the Proposed Development from these lower lying and more populous parts of the GDL with visibility of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Viewpoint 3, the Tower at Dun na Cuiache, is located within this GDL.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Viewed from the Tower at Dun na Cuiache construction plant, access tracks, stockpiles and forestry work would be seen distantly to the north west, away from the interior of the GDL and Loch Fyne, would be backclothed and would be temporary and short term in duration. Consequently, the magnitude of impact arising from construction activities would be Negligible.</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>As with construction operations, the operation of the Proposed Development would be visible from a limited proportion of the GDL, principally the Tower at Dun na Cuiache, from where it would be seen distantly to the north west, away from the GDL interior and the critical view along Loch Fyne, would be seen in the context of existing Inveraray - Crossaig 275 kV Circuit, would be backclothed and would occupy a small proportion of the view. In this context, the Proposed Development would constitute impacts ranging from None to Moderate impact, the greatest impacts occurring at the tower at Dun na Cuiache.</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>Moderate/Minor (not significant).</p> <p>Operational</p> <p>Ranging from None to localised Major/Moderate (significant) effects at the tower at Dun na Cuiache.</p>
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Table 1.2: Residual Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

Landscape Designation	Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative Visibility	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact	Residual Cumulative Effect
North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality	High	<p>Cumulative visibility would be sporadic and concentrated on higher elevations in the APQ, particularly in views to the south and west. Areas with the most extensive theoretical cumulative visibility would be confined to locations such as Ben Cruachan and Beinn Bhuidhe (north of the Proposed Development), the foothills to the north east by Lochan Shira, Binnein and Fhìdhleir to the south east and Beinn and Lochain to the south east. Low-lying areas along the eastern coast of Loch Fyne, Ardanaiseig peninsula and the Strath of Orchy have concentrated areas with extensive views of some cumulative developments.</p> <p>Except for the Proposed Development, operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm, operational Inveraray - Crossaig 275 kV Circuit and in planning Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL and Creag Dhubh Substation, all cumulative developments are located outside the APQ boundary. These developments are located within uplands on upper slopes with developments backclothed against distant mountains from within the majority of the AQP – the boundary closest to Glen Aray would be in close proximity to the potential cluster of wind farm development where turbines would be skylined. Wind farm developments would be viewed as distinct clusters along the horizon and transmission infrastructure appearing as a continuous line of towers traversing through valleys from the south west through to the north east.</p> <p>In reality the visibility of cumulative development would be less than that shown on the ZTV due to screening provided by forestry, woodland and local undulations in topography not captured by the 50 m DTM ZTV modelling.</p> <p>Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 are found within this APQ.</p>	<p>In-addition <i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>The magnitude of in-addition cumulative operational impacts would be Slight. Existing and consented wind farms would be seen as distinct clusters along the horizon, backclothed against distant mountains to the west. Where visible, the Inveraray - Crossaig 275 kV Circuit would form a discernible element in distant views, largely low-lying within the landscape and backclothed. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a discernible addition to the influence of energy infrastructure within the composition of views.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Seen in conjunction with the proposed Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL, there would be potential for the Proposed Development to result in substantial in-addition cumulative impacts in the northern end of Glen Aray. However, as illustrated at Viewpoint 2, cumulative visibility in this part of the APQ would be substantially constrained by intervening coniferous forestry. Elsewhere, the Proposed Development would represent impacts ranging from None to Slight.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>With the inclusion of the proposed Ladyfield turbines, there would be potential for substantial in-addition cumulative impacts at the northern end of Glen Aray. However, as illustrated at Viewpoint 2, cumulative visibility in this part of the APQ would be substantially constrained by intervening coniferous forestry. Elsewhere, the Proposed Development would represent impacts ranging from None to Slight as it would appear to be recessive relative to the Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh Aray, and would be seen as low lying and backclothed.</p> <p>In-combination <i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>In-combination impacts associated with the Proposed Development and operational and consented developments would range from None at the northern end of Glen Aray to Slight at Hazelbank, Cruachan Reservoir, Lochan Shira Reservoir and Stac a Chuirn, and Moderate at Monadh Driseig and Substantial at Inveraray Castle Tower.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>With the inclusion of in planning developments in-combination impacts would range from None at the northern end of Glen Aray to Slight at Hazelbank, Cruachan Reservoir, Lochan Shira Reservoir, and Moderate at Monadh Driseig, Cruachan Reservoir and Stac a Chuirn.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>With the inclusion of the in scoping developments of Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh in-combination would range from None at the northern end</p>	<p>Given the geographical extent of this designation and its highly variable nature, residual cumulative effects would differ according to a range of factors such as visibility, distance, elevation and consequent intervisibility with cumulative schemes.</p> <p>In-addition <i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Moderate (not significant). <i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Moderate (not significant) <i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Moderate (not significant)</p> <p>In-combination <i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Ranging from No Effect at the northern end of Glen Aray to Moderate at Hazelbank, Cruachan Reservoir, Lochan Shira Reservoir and Stac a Chuirn, and Major/Moderate at Monadh Driseig and Major at Inveraray Castle Tower.</p> <p>Consequently, significant in-combination effects would occur at Monadh Driseig and Inveraray Castle's watch Tower.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>In-combination would range from None at the northern end of Glen Aray to Moderate at Hazelbank, Cruachan Reservoir, Lochan Shira Reservoir, and Major/Moderate (significant) at Monadh Driseig, Cruachan Reservoir and Stac a Chuirn.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>In-combination would range from None at the northern end of Glen Aray to Major/Moderate (significant) at Hazelbank, Cruachan reservoir and Lochan Shira Reservoir, and Major (significant) at Monadh Driseig and the watch tower at Inveraray Castle GDL and Stac a Chuirn.</p>

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			of Glen Aray to Moderate at Hazelbank, Cruachan reservoir and Lochan Shira Reservoir, and Substantial at Monadh Driseig and the watch tower at Inveraray Castle GDL and Stac a Chuirn.	
Ardenaisaig House	High	There is limited cumulative visibility within the GDL. There is visibility of the operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm, the in planning Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL, and in scoping Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms along with the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility is concentrated to the southern half of the GDL, where there is extensive woodland and coniferous forestry that screens the majority of views to the wider landscape.	<p>In-addition</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>The in-addition magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. Theoretical visibility of operational schemes is limited to Carraig Gheal Wind Farm, visible on a distant horizon from an open area on the peninsula. The Proposed Development would be visible as the tops of a small number of towers on the skyline on the opposite shore of Loch Awe and seen within a wide panoramic context. The addition of the Proposed Development would therefore contribute a barely discernible addition to the composition of views and is therefore considered to represent a limited impact on the scale and scenic quality of the GDL and the setting of the house.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>The in planning Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL would be one of the most visible and prominent developments, being visible crossing the hillside on the opposite shore of Loch Awe from locations but would none-the-less be screened from much of this GDL by intervening topography and vegetation. Moreover this development would be positioned distantly from the GDL and would be mostly backclothed until they rise above the crest of the hill to join the out-of-view Creag Dhubh Substation adjacent to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would add minor vertical elements (the top of one or two towers) within this context that would be barely discernible. Taking into account the inclusion of the in planning Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL. the magnitude of in-addition impacts attributable to the Proposed Development would therefore be Negligible.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development to operational, consented, in planning and in scoping schemes would be barely discernible. Ladyfield Wind Farm would be visible through the GDL, seen skylined above the horizon on the opposite shore of Loch Awe. The Proposed Development would be visible as tops of one or two towers occupying a tiny proportion of panoramic views; the in-addition magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible.</p> <p>In-combination</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Cumulative visibility within this GDL would be highly constrained and positioned at distance from this landscape. Consequently, in – combination effects would be Negligible.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>In-combination impacts associated with existing, consented and the Proposed Development would be Slight, due to the restricted extent of</p>	<p>In-addition</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Moderate/Minor (not significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Moderate/Minor (not significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Moderate/Minor (not significant)</p> <p>In-combination</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Moderate/Minor (not significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Moderate (not significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Moderate (not significant)</p>

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			<p>cumulative visibility and consequently limited impact on the scale or scenic quality of this landscape.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>The in-combination impact of the Proposed Development and operational consented, in planning and in scoping developments would be Slight. The pattern of development is generally set away from exposed upland edges and from the main orientation of the GDL (essentially to the north, north east across Loch Awe towards the uplands). Consequently development would not form an especially prominent aspect of the landscape and would only have limited influence in the scale, scenic quality of the GDL and is unlikely to detract from the setting of the House.</p>	
Inveraray Castle	High	<p>Cumulative visibility would occur throughout Inveraray Castle GDL, with the exception of locations adjoining the river, loch Fyne and the low lying floodplain within Glen Shira where no visibility is anticipated</p> <p>Where visible, cumulative developments would be arranged in an arc from the west through the north to east around the GDL. Wind energy development is concentrated to higher elevations with transmission and associated infrastructure concentrated within glens and lower-lying topography. The GDL covers the lower-lying areas surrounding the River Aray and the mouth of Glen Shira. This results in the high points around Dun na Cuaiche (where viewpoint 3 is located), the hills north west of Inveraray and the eastern side of Glen Shira having the highest concentrations of extensive cumulative visibility. The pattern of visibility is described in more detail for each of the scenarios opposite.</p> <p>It is important to note that in reality the extensive mature woodland, which is a special quality of the GDL, screens the majority of views. Views within this designed landscape are channelled towards focal points and Loch Fyne vistas with climbs to high points, particularly Dun na Cuaiche, providing extensive panoramic views.</p>	<p>In-addition</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>The in-addition magnitude of cumulative impact would range from None to Moderate, the greatest impacts occurring at the watch tower. The operational An Suidhe and Clachan Flats Wind Farms lie on opposite sides of the GDL, the latter to west and the former to the east. The consented Blarghour Wind Farm is found to the north west. The consequent pattern of theoretical visibility means that hilltops and north-facing upper slopes provide views of all three. The operational Inveraray - Crossaig 275 kV Circuit crosses through the GDL with extensive theoretical visibility throughout.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of energy development, extending visibility of transmission infrastructure into Glen Aray.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>The in-addition magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be small patches of theoretical visibility of the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV OHL, seen in the distance and backclothed. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of in planning development to other operational and consented schemes.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>The in-addition magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate. The in scoping schemes would broaden the distribution of wind development with turbines visible skylined in the mid-distance throughout large areas of the GDL. The addition of the Proposed Development would have a similar impact to the above assessments and there would be considerable increase in the influence of energy development within the GDL.</p> <p>In-combination</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>In-combination with other consented and operational schemes the Proposed Development would contribute to a notable increase in the influence of energy development on the character of landscape and</p>	<p>In-addition</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Ranging from No Effect to localised Major/ Moderate (significant) effects at the Tower at Dun na Cuaiche</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Ranging from No Effect to localised Major/ Moderate (significant) effects at the Tower at Dun na Cuaiche</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Ranging from No Effect to localised Major/ Moderate (significant) effects at the Tower at Dun na Cuaiche</p> <p>In-combination</p> <p><i>Operational and Consented</i></p> <p>Major/ Moderate (significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>Major/ Moderate (significant)</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Ranging from No Effect to localised Major (significant) effects at the Tower at Dun na Cuaiche</p>

Table 1.2: Residual Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations and Classifications

			<p>composition of views. The in-combination magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would extend the influence of transmission infrastructure further into Glen Aray, accounting for a larger proportion of views particularly from high points.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented and in Planning</i></p> <p>In-combination with consented, operational and in planning development the Proposed Development would contribute a notable increase to energy development within views from the GDL. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of in planning development to other operational and consented schemes.</p> <p><i>Operational, Consented, in Planning and in Scoping</i></p> <p>Following the inclusion of in scoping schemes, energy development would substantially influence the character of the GDL. Energy development would be visible from a large proportion of the GDL. The in-combination magnitude of cumulative impact would be Substantial.</p>	
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