

FEARNA STORAGE

Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 7.3 – LVIA Assessment of LCTs

February 2025



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Prepared by

ASH

Checked by

Chris Pasteur

Approved by

Fraser Allison

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Fraser Allison

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Appendix 7.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Ten Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are located within the study area, see **Figure 7.3**.

1.1.2 The following four LCTs within study area are included in this assessment and are assessed in accordance with criteria outlined Section 7.5 of **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual** (see **Table 1** to **Table 4**):

- LCT 235: Broad Forested Strath;
- LCT 237: Rocky Moorland – Lochaber;
- LCT 238: Rugged Massif – Lochaber; and
- LCT 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber.

1.1.3 The Proposed Development is situated within LCT 239. The Southern Access Route (SAR) passes through LCTs 237 and 235. For the purposes of this assessment, LCT 239 has been subdivided into two areas to account for more fine-grained differences within the landscape character of this LCT. These are referred to within this assessment as:

- LCT 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber – Sub-type A
- LCT 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber – Sub-type B

1.1.4 Following a baseline review, the following five LCTS have been scoped out of the assessment due to the limited extent of potential visibility:

- LCT 220: Rugged Massif – Inverness;
- LCT 230: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Inverness ;
- LCT 236: Smooth Moorland Ridges;
- LCT 360: Stepped Moorland;
- LCT 365: Rugged Massif - Skye & Lochalsh; and
- LCT 369: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks - Skye & Lochalsh.

1.1.5 Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes are detailed in **Appendices 7.4 and 7.5**.

1.2 Landscape Character Types

Table 1: LCT 235: Broad Forested Strath

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT occurs in a few locations across the Highlands, including Glen Garry within the study area, with its gently undulating landform and landcover which consists of a mix of coniferous and deciduous woodland and moorland, with areas of grazing on the valley floor. Commercial forestry occurs extensively on the southern side of the glen, with areas of clear-felling creating open patches. Settlement consists of crofts and small farms, mainly situated along the minor road on the northern side of the strath, with a few scattered properties on the southern side. There is a larger settlement cluster at the eastern edge of the study area around the western outskirts of Invergarry. The LCT is traversed by linear features such as roads and transmission lines, particularly on the northern side of the glen. Water is a dominant feature, with Loch Garry and Loch Poulary situated on the valley floor, connected by the River Garry, which is part of the Glen Garry Hydro Scheme, with a power station situated at Kingie.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Broad Forested Strath LCT are noted by NatureScot as follows: • <i>“Broad, low-lying straths with rolling relief and sculptural glacial landforms.</i> • <i>Simple, large scale mosaic of forested ridges, rolling pastures and heather moorland, but dominated by swathes of forestry.</i> • <i>A comparatively densely settled landscape with villages, houses and sporadic commercial development.</i> • <i>Quarries hidden amongst the woodland cover.</i> • <i>Strong communication and service corridors.</i> • <i>Long distance views from surrounding hills over the glens, which are framed by steep glen sides.</i> • <i>Lochs, rivers or canals on glen floor have often been engineered or substantially altered by man.”</i>
Landscape Value	While it does not sit within any designated landscapes, this LCT is valued locally for some of its quiet rural qualities, and views along the glen. Landscape value is considered to be Medium.
Landscape Assessment	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Development comprise: • Simple, large scale mosaic of forested ridges, rolling pastures and heather moorland, dominated by swathes of forestry. • Long distance views from surrounding hills over the glens, which are framed by steep glen sides.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a moderately valued landscape. Although some of the quiet and rural qualities of this landscape make it susceptible to development of the type proposed, its sensitivity is reduced by the high degree of forest cover and relatively developed nature, including the presence of other energy infrastructure. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is considered to be Medium.

Potential Effects	Potential direct and indirect effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • Direct effects of construction traffic and upgrading works along the Southern Access Route within the existing forest mosaic; and • Appearance of construction works and traffic on the southern access route in long views; • Appearance of the Fearna Dam during construction and operation in long views along the valley.
Nature and Magnitude of Change	Part of the Southern Access Route would pass through and directly affect this LCT, running on the southern side of Glen Garry. Traffic and upgrading works associated with this track would be experienced within this LCT during construction. The main construction compound would also be located within the edge of this LCT, to the south of Garrygualach and during construction, lighting may be visible, particularly in winter time. However, mitigation landform around this area would help to reduce this. There would be some theoretical visibility of the Fearna dam within this LCT but this would be limited by forestry, and likely to generally affect only open, elevated areas and hill tops such as Meall Coire Each on the southern side of the glen, and parts of the western glen near Kingie and Loch Poullary. Cranes and other plant may potentially make this more noticeable during construction. The powerhouse would be theoretically visible from a small area within the eastern part of this LCT, but due to distance (15 km) and intervening vegetation it is unlikely to be perceptible. Magnitude of change therefore is considered to be Low during construction and Negligible during operation.
Significance of Effects	During construction the upgrading works and construction traffic associated with the SAR would lead to an increase in movement and activity within the southern part of this LCT. However, due to the forested character of this LCT, this would be experienced within a relatively localised area and would not appear dissimilar to existing forestry activities. The construction compound would also increase the sense of activity and development on the less settled southern side of Glen Garry with lighting continuing this effect during hours of darkness, although this would be of a temporary nature and upon completion of construction the compound area would be reinstated. When considering the existing context of forest management, none of the activities proposed within the LCT are likely to appear noticeably out of place. Indirect effects associated with construction activities at the Fearna dam and the permanent dam structure may create a localised focus in some views along the valley. However, this would be small and distant, and the indirect nature of the effect is unlikely to lead to any perceptible change on the key characteristics of this LCT in the longer term. The effect would be Minor Adverse (not significant) during construction and Negligible during operation.

Table 2: LCT 237: Rocky Moorland - Lochaber

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT covers upland areas to the west of the Great Glen. Within the study area it encompasses some of the hills around Glen Kingie as well as East Glenquoich Forest and the southern shores of Loch Loyne. It comprises shallow slopes and undulating moorland plateaux, with a generally rocky landform, although it lacks obvious peaks or summits. Landcover consists predominantly of heather and grass, with occasional rocky outcrops. Small lochans can be found, particularly on higher ground. Coniferous forestry occurs within some parts of this LCT, contrasting with the predominantly open landscape character, where vertical features tend to appear noticeable. Settlement is largely absent in this LCT within the study area, but some forestry tracks and overhead lines are present. The landscape has a relatively remote and rugged character.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Rocky Moorland - Lochaber LCT are noted by NatureScot as follows: • <i>“Rugged, undulating plateaux of heather moorland with a textured and crinkled skyline and no distinct summits or peaks.</i> • <i>Large patches of coniferous forestry.</i> • <i>Uniform expanses of marshy grassland, sedges and rushes, rocky outcrops and stunted trees.</i> • <i>Isolated, upland lochans.</i> • <i>Infrastructure and engineered structures associated with hydro-electricity schemes such as pylons, dams and sub-stations.</i> • <i>Closely related to Smooth Moorland Ridges with long views, but lacking the latter's distinctive smooth relief.”</i> Additional characteristics noted within the study area include: • Rugged and remote character in some areas, away from existing infrastructure.
Landscape Value	Parts of this LCT falls within WLA 18: Kinlochhourn - Knoydart – Morar and the western boundary of this LCT sits within the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA. It is somewhat valued for its relatively remote, upland qualities. Landscape value is Medium-High.
Landscape Assessment	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Development comprise: • Rugged, undulating plateaux of heather moorland with a textured and crinkled skyline and no distinct summits or peaks • Long views • Existing patterns of infrastructure; • Rugged and remote character.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a moderately valued landscape. The open character of the landscape makes it somewhat susceptible to development of the type proposed. Coniferous forestry which is present within Glen Kingie and within the north-eastern part of this LCT, and the presence of existing hydro development including the Quoich dam, as well as other electricity infrastructure reduces sensitivity in some areas. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is considered to be Medium.

Potential Effects	Potential direct and indirect effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • Construction plant or operational dams may be visible in the adjacent landscape and alter the textured and crinkled skyline; • Vertical features such as cranes and other construction equipment, or permanent features such as dams may appear distracting in long views across the relatively open landscape; and • The addition of the Proposed Development in the landscape context may increase the existing presence of infrastructure and draw this influence into new areas, affecting the remote characteristics.
Nature and Magnitude of Change	Direct change to this LCT would include a new section of track forming part of the SAR and some widening and upgrading works to a section of existing public road near Quoich Dam as well as the use of these routes by construction traffic. The main construction compound / camp would also be located in a forested area close to the edge of this LCT. Within areas to the south of Loch Quoich there would also be some indirect influence from the lower works within the adjacent LCT, including construction works associated with the powerhouse, switchyard and lower inlet/outlet structures. The ZTV indicates that higher elevation areas to the south and west of the Proposed Development would also be intervisible with the upper works area, including the reservoir and dams and the upper access track. In the long term, the upper reservoir, dams and powerhouse would become permanent features within the wider landscape context, experienced from different parts of this landscape to varying extents. The powerhouse area would be experienced in relatively close proximity from across the loch and from the hillside above, while the dams would be experienced from more open, elevated areas to the south and east. The Fearna dam would be experienced more widely and would mostly conceal the Coire Dhubh dam within this LCT, appearing on the skyline from more easterly parts of the LCT. Taking into account the limited direct change to this LCT, magnitude of change is considered to be Medium during construction and Low-Medium during operation.
Significance of Effects	During construction, there would be a localised area of direct effect associated with construction of the SAR and traffic along this route, and the main construction compound. The construction compound and existing sections of SAR would be in forested areas and although creating greater areas of activity, would not be out of place within this setting. The new section of SAR and road upgrades would be outwith the forest but focussed in an area where existing infrastructure around the Quoich Dam, including the public road and OHL monopoles are already influential. However, it would add to these features, creating a busier and more construction focussed setting within the open valley during this temporary phase. Elsewhere, construction activities associated with the lower and upper works within the adjacent LCT would contribute to a greater sense of development within the wider landscape context. This would also, generally be experienced within the context of existing development, including the Quoich Dam, associated drawdown on Loch Quoich, and OHL transmission towers. However, the upper access track and dam works would draw development to higher elevations and lead to infrastructure being experienced more widely. Construction works would appear noticeable in long views across this relatively open landscape, and would introduce a new focus of activity, particularly at the upper reservoir area, which would reduce the sense of remoteness, even though these works would be located outwith this LCT. In the long term, the Fearna dam would become a permanent feature within the wider landscape setting to the north and north-west. It would be experienced on the skyline from some areas, and the linear form may contrast with the surrounding landform. However, its curved shape would help it fit with the existing profile of the skyline to some extent. The powerhouse and switchyard would also form new features within the context of existing infrastructure seen on the north side of Loch Quoich, affecting relatively localised areas to the south of the loch. This would lead to a noticeable increase in infrastructure within this localised area, but over time, proposed mitigation planting would soften its appearance (see VL2, Figures V3a-2a-f and Figures V3b-2a-k). Overall, the Proposed Development is not predicted to lead to a noticeable change to the intrinsic qualities of this LCT.

	The effect is predicted to be Moderate Adverse (significant) overall during construction and Minor-Moderate Adverse (not significant) during operation.
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Table 3: LCT 238: Rugged Massif - Lochaber

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT is found relatively extensively across Lochaber, including two locations within the south-eastern part of the study area, and forms a transition between the surrounding <i>Smooth Moorland Ridges</i> and <i>Interlocking Sweeping Peaks</i> – Lochaber LCTs. Its complex topography comprises rounded masses of rock with an uneven, rugged landform and deep narrow gullies. The thin soils support a landcover of heather and grassland, with occasional rocks protruding. Within more sheltered locations, on lower slopes or in gullies, patches of birch woodland occur, with occasional stands of oak and remnants of ancient Caledonian forest. Settlement within the is generally sparse within this LCT with none occurring within the study area, and there are few other built features, giving this landscape a rugged and remote character.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Rugged Massif - Lochaber LCT are noted by NatureScot as follows: • <i>“Rugged character, a crinkled skyline and a landform accentuated by rocky outcrops and glacial debris.”</i> • <i>Large rocky masses drawing the eye upwards to ice-scoured rounded summits.</i> • <i>Often a transitional landscape with indistinct boundaries with other Landscape Character Types.</i> • <i>Often in remote, unsettled and inaccessible locations which, combined with the rugged relief, accentuates the wild character of these areas.</i> • <i>Thin soils supporting sparse cover of grasses and heather on higher, drier slopes.</i> • <i>Birch scrub and some oak woodland on lower slopes and within burn gullies and hanging valleys.</i> • <i>Extensive sheep and deer grazing with stalking and hill walking as popular activities.</i> • <i>Forestry occurring over small areas on flatter, lower slopes.”</i>
Landscape Value	This LCT is within WLA 18: Kinlochhourn – Knoydart – Morar, and is valued for some of its remote, rugged character. Landscape the value is considered to be Medium – High.
Landscape Value	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Development comprise: • Remote, wild character, accentuated by the rugged relief.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a moderately valued landscape, with remote, upland qualities which make it somewhat susceptible to development of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is considered to be Medium – High.
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The introduction of the dams within the wider landscape context may reduce the sense of remoteness and wild character
Magnitude of Change	The upper works, including both dams and the associated access tracks, would be theoretically visible from facing slopes within this LCT, including the slopes of Meall Blàir, Meall Lochan nan Dubh Lochan and Sgùrr Chòinnich, seen in the relatively distant north or north-westerly context. This would be likely to be more noticeable during construction. During operation the Fearna dam would appear relatively noticeable from the slopes of Meall Blàir, but from further east would be less prominent, more set-in behind the landform. However, it is likely that the Coire Dubh dam would mostly be concealed by either landform, or the Fearna dam. Although the powerhouse would be theoretically visible from some of the upper slopes and hill tops, it would be mostly concealed by local landform, with only the top

	of the building likely to be seen. Overall, the Proposed Development would be experienced as a part of a wide landscape context from these elevated locations, featuring surrounding glens and mountains and would only affect relatively small parts of this LCT. Magnitude of change is considered to be Low – Medium during construction and Low – Medium during the operational phase.
Significance of Effects	Construction activities associated with the upper works would affect a relatively small part of the northerly / north-westerly context of the LCT introducing movement and activity. These activities would form a noticeable but localised feature within the wider context, which would somewhat increase the sense human intervention in the landscape and slightly reduce some of the remote qualities of this LCT. In the long term, the dams would introduce new man-made structures into this landscape context. Their horizontal form and large scale would be noticeable against the surrounding rugged landform and the jagged skyline above but would not encroach on the skyline, and would affect only a small part of a very expansive landscape context experienced from elevated areas. The effect is predicted to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during both construction and operation.

Table 4: LCT 239: Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber (Sub-types A and B)

Landscape Baseline	
Description – Sub-type A	This LCT occurs to the west of the Great Glen fault and covers much of the western part of the study area. It has a complex, large scale geology and is characterised by deep glens with steep, sweeping slopes, separated by pyramidal peaks which appear to overlap. Watercourses and lochs are present within some of these glens. Landcover is sparse, consisting of heather and grasses, with higher elevations often having little vegetation. Settlement is limited to a small number of croft houses and bothies within glens, and there is generally an inaccessible and remote character, although there are some paths and tracks within the study area as well as the minor road to Kinloch Hourn which runs along the northern shore of Loch Quoich.
Description – Sub-type B	This sub-type occurs to the north-west of Loch Quoich. It is characterised by a more complex and small-scale landform, with a narrow winding valley surrounded by steep, rugged hills and many, complex rocky knolls. Landcover consists of grasses and heather, with rocky outcrops and scattered boulders. Small lochans are strung along the valley floor, connected and fed by watercourses which vary between meandering channels and rushing streams, and small clusters of birch woodland occur in sheltered gulleys. The minor road to Kinloch Hourn passes through this LCT following a very winding course, and an existing steel lattice OHL runs to the north of it. There is no settlement, and apart from the minor road, access is limited, contributing to a sense of remoteness, although archaeological features such as the ruins of a dwelling at Coireshubh provide evidence of past settlement. The hill tops provide extensive views across surrounding mountains which form a jagged skyline and views along the valley floor are often framed by the enclosing landform.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Interlocking Sweeping Peaks – Lochaber LCT are noted by NatureScot as follows: • <i>“Pyramidal mountain summits with a jagged profile, often appearing as overlapping, peaks along glen views.</i> • <i>Sweeping slopes with screes plunging directly into deep glens or lochs with little or no flat shoreline fringe.</i> • <i>Sparsely vegetated with few trees.</i> • <i>Numerous rocky outcrops punctuate the steep, rugged terrain.</i> • <i>Inaccessible and remote with wild character.</i> • <i>Long panoramic views.”</i>

Landscape Value	This LCT is valued for its scenic quality, montane character and sense of wildness, as indicated by its inclusion in the Knoydart NSA (Sub-type B), and the Moidart, Morar and Glen Shiel SLA (Sub-type A). Both areas also fall within WLA 18: Kinlochhourn - Knoydart – Morar. The LCT is also valued for its outdoor recreational opportunities, such as camping and hill walking. Landscape Value is High.
Landscape Assessment – Sub-type A	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Development comprise: • Pyramidal mountain summits with a jagged profile, often appearing as overlapping, peaks along glen views; • Inaccessible, remote and wild character; and • Long panoramic views.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a valued landscape, with montane and wild characteristics which are sensitive to development of the type proposed. However, the presence of existing hydro development, including Quoich Dam and visible drawdown areas around Loch Quoich, various small scale hydro developments and tracks, and other electricity transmission infrastructure, slightly reduces susceptibility to further development of this type. Landscape sensitivity to change of the type proposed is considered to be Medium – High.
Potential Effects	Potential direct and indirect effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The introduction of the upper reservoir, dams, tracks and powerhouse within this LCT may reduce the remote and wild character; • The occasional appearance of the dams on the skyline may disrupt the jagged profile of the pyramidal mountain summits; and • The introduction of the upper reservoir, dams, access tracks and powerhouse may distract in long panoramic views.
Magnitude of Change	The majority of the Proposed Development, including the upper reservoir, dams, access tracks (including widening of a section of the C1144 minor road), and powerhouse and switchyard would be located within and directly change this LCT, with the upper reservoir set within an elevated corrie area enclosed by the horseshoe ridge of the mountains of Gleourach and Spidean Mialach, and the powerhouse area on the shoreline below. An access track would connect the two areas during construction and operation The appearance of the upper reservoir area, including one or more dams would be relatively widespread around the slopes and summits which surround Loch Quoich, particularly along the southern shore and up to the summit Gairich. There would be occasional intervisibility from more isolated summit areas further west including Sgurr Mòr and Sgurr an Fhuarain and south around Sgurr Mhurlagain. Intervisibility to the north of Loch Quoich would be more limited by the ridgeline of Spidean Mialach and Gleouraich, with other areas along the northern shoreline and slopes to the west generally only being affected by the appearance of the Fearna dam in the easterly context, sometimes on the skyline of the ridge. The powerhouse area would also be theoretically visible from some areas around Loch Quoich, including from surrounding hillslopes to the north and south of the loch, slopes up to the summit and ridge of Gairich, and more distantly around the western end of Loch Quoich where it would be seen in views along the loch and glen. Construction activities would be very noticeable within a concentrated part of this LCT with activities occurring both within the upper corrie and around the powerhouse area on the shoreline, and movement of vehicles between these two areas. Permanent features, particularly the dams and reservoir, would continue to be very noticeable in the local context, although the powerhouse would be seen in in the context of existing hydro infrastructure around the shoreline of Loch Quoich dam. Magnitude of change during construction would be High within a localised area to the north of Loch Quoich, contained by the horseshoe ridge of Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach, and to the south of the loch, up to the summit and ridgeline of Gairich, but generally Medium across remaining parts of the LCT within around 3 km of the Loch Quoich shoreline. During

	operation the magnitude of change is predicted to be Medium , within the localised area contained by Gleouraich, Spidean Mialach and Gairich with a High magnitude of change limited to the area immediately enclosing the upper reservoir, within around 0.5 – 1 km.
Significance of Effects	Due to the large area covered by this LCT, the level of effect would vary greatly, with direct effects in some areas, indirect or more distant effects in other areas, or no effect. The Proposed Development would be located at the eastern end of Loch Quoich, in a part of this LCT which is generally more developed and accessible due to features such as the minor road, Quoich Dam, drawdown around Loch Quoich, overhead transmission infrastructure and small hydro development. However, this area acts as a gateway to other more remote parts of the LCT. During construction, there would be a direct effect on this LCT within the immediate context of the Proposed Development. At the upper reservoir, the character would be changed from one generally defined by undeveloped, mountainous terrain to a busy area of activity and excavation. Construction works would be less out of place at the powerhouse area in the context of the more managed and developed loch shore and would be situated partially on an existing brownfield site used during the construction of the Quoich dam. However, due to their scale, these works would be prominent and distracting within the landscape. During operation, the dams and upper reservoir, including periodic but potentially expansive areas of drawdown, would become a noticeable feature within parts of this LCT, particularly when experienced from elevated locations around the surrounding corrie and ridge of Gleouraich (see VL3, Figures V3a-3a-f and Figures V3b-3a-i) and Spidean Mialach (see VL4, Figures V3a-4a-f and Figures V3b-4a-i), and areas on the opposite shore, up to the summit of Gairich (see VL5, Figures V3a-5a-f and Figures V3b-5a-k). This would give an impression of a much more managed landscape in the local context, affecting the sense of remoteness and wildness (see Appendix 7.5: WLA Assessment). The dams and powerhouse area would also be seen more distantly in some panoramic views from summits to the south (see VL8, Figures V3a-7a-e and Figures V3b-7a-k) and along Loch Quoich from the west (see VL10, Figures V3a-10a-f and Figures V3b-10a-k). The scale of the dams in these views and their linear shape would contrast with the surrounding rugged landform of jagged peaks. However, this is a large scale landscape with some ability to accommodate this type of change and the prominence of these features would reduce when moving further away, where the characteristics of the landscape would start to be more associated with the wider context of surrounding peaks. In some areas to the north-west of Loch Quoich, the Fearna dam would occasionally modify the skyline, although the slightly curved shape of the dam seen at this angle would generally tie smoothly into the existing terrain and help to minimise its prominence (see VL9, Figures V3a-9a-f and Figures V3b-9a-k). The powerhouse and switching station would largely be experienced from lower level areas around the shore of Loch Quoich (see VL1, Figures V3a-1a-f and Figures V3b-1a-k), and facing slopes and summit areas of Gairich and would often be seen in the context of Quoich dam. Mitigation including planting and earthworks surrounding the powerhouse and switching station, and considered design of the building including a green roof (see Appendix 2.1: Sustainable Design Statement) would help these features sit better within the surrounding landscape context and minimise their wider effects. During construction, a <i>localised Major Adverse</i> (significant) effect is predicted within the immediate context of the Proposed Development site, with a wider Moderate Adverse (significant) effect occurring across this LCT in general. This would reduce to a <i>localised Moderate Adverse</i> (significant) effect within the area around the Proposed Development, including the containing corrie area up to the summit and ridge of Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach, and within around 4 km from the upper reservoir and dams, towards the summit area of Gairich. The level of effect is predicted to graduate to a non-significant level beyond this distance where the Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to a noticeable degree of change to the intrinsic qualities of the landscape. The wider effect on the LCT as a whole is predicted to be Minor – Moderate Adverse (not significant).

Landscape Assessment – Sub-type B	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Development comprise: - Pyramidal mountain summits with a jagged profile, often appearing as overlapping, peaks along glen views; - Inaccessible, remote and wild character; and - Long panoramic views.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a valued landscape, forming part of the Knoydart NSA and WLA 18. It's remote qualities, high scenic value and smaller intricate scale lead to a notable sensitivity to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be High.
Potential Effects	Potential direct and indirect effects which may result to this landscape comprise: - The appearance of the Proposed Development in the wider context may reduce the remote and wild character - The appearance of the dams on the skyline may disrupt the jagged profile of the pyramidal mountain summits - The appearance of the Proposed Development in the wider context may distract in long panoramic views
Magnitude of Change	Effects within this sub-area would all be indirect where the proposed dams and upper reservoir area would appear within the relatively distant context to the east. Theoretical visibility of the dams and powerhouse is mostly shown along the southern edge of this area, on the north / north-east facing slopes south of the minor road to Kinloch Hourn. The dams would be appear within the context of Spidean Mialach to the east, limited to partial views of the Fearna dam only from more northerly areas, but generally seen to interrupt the skyline. The powerhouse, although theoretically visible from some upper slopes, would likely be barely perceptible on the loch shore due to the distance (7.5 km at the closest point) and screening by intervening landform. During construction the Proposed Development is likely to form a slightly greater focus, due to the presence of taller plant (such as cranes) but would still be distant and small within the wide context. Magnitude of change is therefore considered to be Low during both construction and operation, after 15 years.
Significance of Effects	Construction activities, where visible, would introduce movement and activity into a relatively focused part of the wider landscape. This would draw some attention to the area of the Proposed Development within long easterly views which are framed along the valley from some points, resulting in an increased sense of development and activity and slightly reduced remoteness within this wider context. However, this would be relatively small and distant within the backdrop to the LCT sub-area with the local landform and features contributing a greater influence to the character of the area. The effect on remoteness would be limited due to the existing influence of the public road and electricity transmission pylons in this area. In the longer term, the dams would become a new permanent feature within the wider landscape context and may form an eye-catching focus due to their horizontal structure which would contrast with the rugged surrounding landform. The Fearna dam would break the skyline when seen from some areas, although its curved profile would help tie it into the adjacent terrain (see VL7, Figure V3a-7a-e and Figure V3b-7a-h), particularly at the distance involved. The dam faces would weather over time and at this distance, would reflect the tones and colours of other rock and scree areas of the mountain backdrop. Overall, the Proposed Development is likely to appear distant, within a different landscape area and likely to have little effect on the characteristics in the local context. The effect would therefore be Minor Adverse (not significant) during both construction and operation, after 15 years.