PREPARED FOR

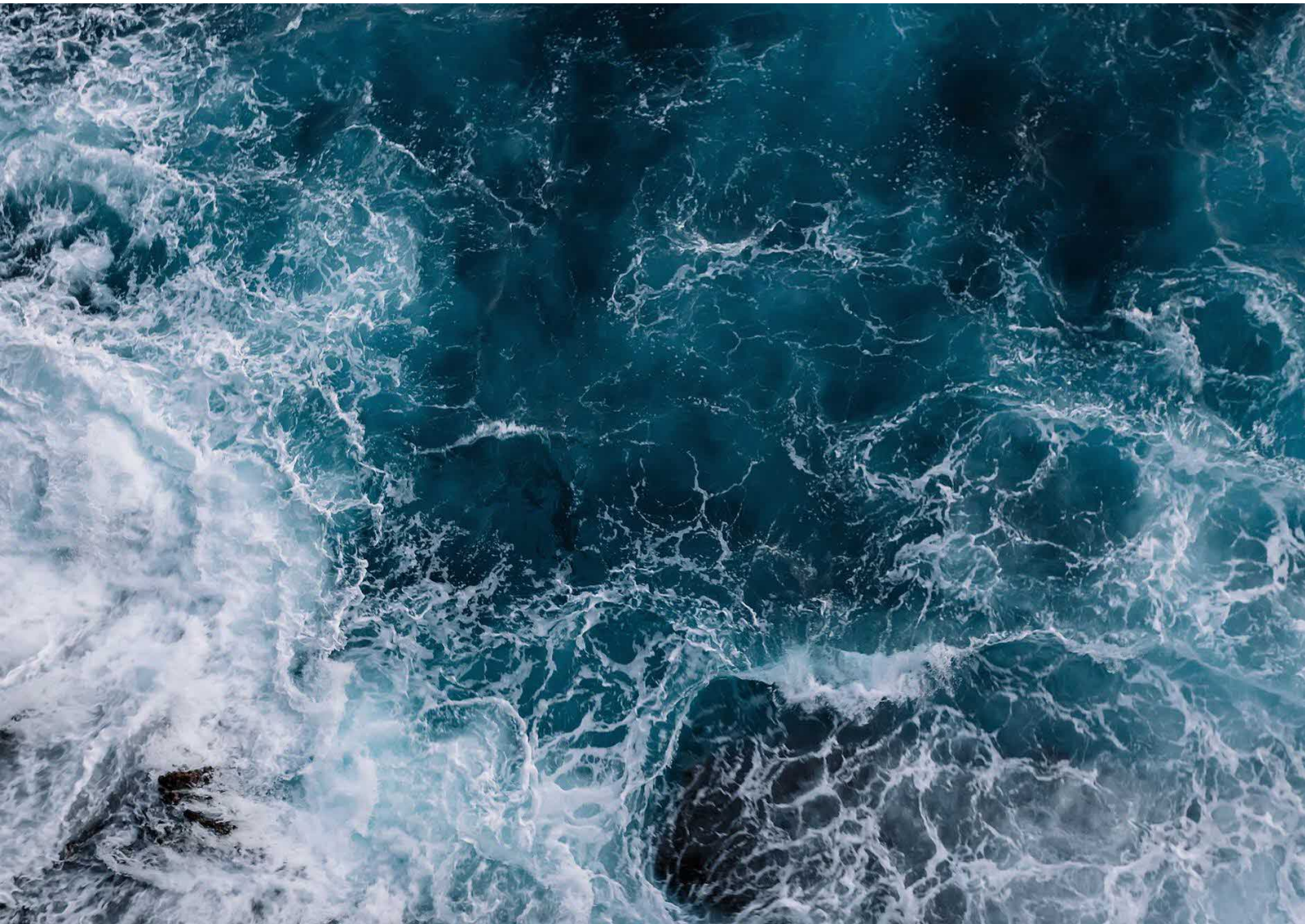
Bakkafrost (Scotland) Ltd

North Gravir Fish Farm

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Assessment

DATE
30th August 2024

REFERENCE
0686710



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North Gravir Fish Farm

Seascape, Landscape & Visual Assessment

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) undertaken to support the submission of a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) for a new Atlantic salmon marine fish farm, North Gravir Fish Farm (the 'Proposed Development'). The planning application is being made by Bakkafrost Scotland (BFS) ('the Applicant') (refer to Figure 1 Appendix B).

The SLVIA has been undertaken in accordance with best practice and is informed by local landscape and seascape character assessments, and other guidance as referred to in relevant sections of this report. The assessment has been prepared by a Chartered Landscape Architect at ERM.

The SLVIA report is supported by the following figures:

- Figure 1.1 SLVIA Study Area;
- Figure 1.2 Local Context;
- Figure 1.3 Aerial Mapping;
- Figure 1.4 Topography;
- Figure 1.5a and 1.5b Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV);
- Figure 1.6 Landscape Planning Designations
- Figure 1.7 Seascape & Landscape Character Types;
- Figure 1.8 Recreational & Transport Routes;
- Figure 1.9 Residential Properties, Settlements & Core Paths;
- Figure 1.10 Cumulative Baseline;
- Figure 1.11 Cumulative ZTV; and
- Figures 1.12 – 1.17 Baseline Photos, Wirelines and Photomontages from Viewpoints 1 to 6.

The SLVIA report is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix A – SLVIA Methodology; and
- Appendix B – SLVIA Supporting figures and visualisations.

2. SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

2.1 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Proposed Development is located off the Pairc Peninsula, on the east coast of Lewis. The development would be situated between Camas Chalaboist to the north and the mouth of Loch Odhairn to the south. The development lies on a stretch of coastal waters adjacent to The Minch and sheltered to the south by the A'Chabag headland.

The nearest settlement is Calbost which is approximately 2 km northwest of the site.

The Proposed Development would comprise of:

Pens: Five pens, each with a circumference of 200 m, held in a single row, with a total surface area of 1.68 ha;

Feed barge: The feed barge would be approximately 82.3 x 11.3 m, located on the south side of the pens;

Moorings: The pens will be secured with a rope and chain matrix. The proposed pens will be held within a 120 x 120 m mooring grid layout;

Pen lighting: Low energy, long life 5 x 240 W LED lights will be used per pen. All pens stocked with Atlantic salmon will be fitted with lights, suspended at a depth of 6 m;

Bird nets: The Development will have pole mounted bird top netting (8 m high) on each pen. The netting will be highly tensioned in order to prevent predation from diving bird species; and

Navigational markings and lighting requirements for the pens will be agreed with the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB).

2.2 SLVIA METHODOLOGY & RELEVANT GUIDELINES

The methodology to the SLVIA is included in Appendix A and is based on current good practice guidance, namely:

Landscape Institute/ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', 3rd Edition ('GLVIA3')[1];

Landscape Institute (2013), GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13[2];

Landscape Institute (2019), 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Technical Guidance Note[3];

Landscape Institute (2019), Residential Visual Amenity Assessment TGN 2/19[4];

[1] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.
[2] The Landscape Institute (2015) GLVIA3 – Statements of Clarification. Available online at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/glvia3-clarifications/
[3] The Landscape Institute, Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17th September 2019
[4] Landscape Institute, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) Technical Guidance Note 02/19 15th March 2019. Available online at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/03/tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf

NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) and The Countryside Agency (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for Scotland and England;

NatureScot (2017) Guidance Note – Coastal Character Assessment[5];

NatureScot (2018) Visualisations for Aquaculture[6];

NatureScot (2011) The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations[7]; and

NatureScot (2008) Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture[8].

The two components of SLVIA referred to throughout this report are based on the following definitions:

'Assessment of seascape / landscape effects: assessing effects on the seascape / landscape as a resource in its own right'[9]; and

'Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.[10]'

Development may have a direct (physical) effect on the landscape / seascape in which it is located as well as an indirect or perceived effect from landscape / seascape character areas surrounding it. The potential landscape effects, occurring during the installation and operation of the Proposed Development may therefore include, but are not restricted to, the following:

Changes to landscape and seascape elements: the addition / revision of new elements and other characteristic elements of the landscape character type;

Changes to landscape and seascape qualities: degradation, erosion, or reinforcement of landscape elements and patterns, and perceptual characteristics, particularly those that form key characteristic elements of landscape character types;

Changes to landscape and seascape character: landscape and seascape character may be affected through the effect on characteristic elements (including perceptual characteristics), landscape patterns and attributes and the cumulative addition of new features, the magnitude and presence of which is sufficient to alter a notable part of the overall landscape character type of a particular area; and

Cumulative landscape effects: where more than one development may lead to a potential landscape effect.

[5] NatureScot (August 2017) Guidance Note – Coastal Character Assessment. Available online at: Guidance Note - Coastal Character Assessment.pdf (nature.scot)
[6] Nature Scot (February 2018) Visualisations for Aquaculture - Guidance Note. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-02/Visualisations%20for%20Aquaculture%20-%20Guidance%20%20Note.pdf
[7] NatureScot (November 2011) The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations. Prepared by Alison Grant, Landscape Architect. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202011%20-%20The%20siting%20and%20design%20of%20aquaculture%20in%20the%20landscape%20-%20visual%20and%20landscape%20considerations.pdf
[8] NatureScot (2008) Guidance on Landscape / Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture. Available on line at: SNH1683 (nature.scot)
[9] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London. Paragraph. 2.21, page 21.
[10] Ibid 8, page 21.

Visual effects are concerned wholly with the effect of development on visual receptors and general visual amenity. Visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who would experience the view such as at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. Visual effects may include the following:

Visual effect: change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This may include changes to the quality of the view, ability of the visual receptor to appreciate the view, or changes to the characteristic elements within the view. These changes can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction); and

Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect[11].

Particular attention is dedicated to the Proposed Development's impact on local residents as they would experience the Proposed Development from different locations, at different times of the day, usually for longer periods of time, and in different seasons.

A detailed description of the methodology used has been provided in Appendix A.

2.3 LEVEL OF EFFECT & CRITERIA

Essentially, the level of seascape, landscape and visual effect (and whether this is significant) is determined through consideration of the 'sensitivity' and 'susceptibility' of:

The seascape, landscape element, assemblage of elements, key characteristics or character type or area under consideration bearing in mind quality and value; or

The visual receptor; and

the 'magnitude of change' posed by the development, in this case the construction of a fish farm.

The process involves design and re-assessment of any remaining, residual significant adverse effects that could not otherwise be mitigated or 'designed out'. Landscape or visual sensitivity is ranked from high, medium, low to negligible and the magnitude of change is similarly ranked from large, medium, small to negligible as indicated in Table 2-1. The type of effect is also considered and may be direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, cumulative, and positive, neutral or negative. The seascape, landscape and visual assessment involves a combination of both quantitative and subjective assessment and wherever possible has sought to gain a consensus of professional opinion through consultation, peer review and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

In accordance with EIA Regulations, it is essential to determine whether the predicted effects are likely to be 'significant'. Significant seascape, landscape and visual effects, in the assessor's opinion, resulting from the Proposed Development would be all those effects that normally result in a 'substantial', a 'moderate / substantial', or 'moderate' effect with any exceptions being clearly explained. The seascape, landscape and visual assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and qualitative

[11] Ibid 8, para 7.3, page 120.

assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Effects predicted to be of major or moderate significance are considered to be 'significant' in the context of the EIA Regulations and are shaded in light green.

A full description of the methodology used in this assessment is set out in Error! Reference source not found..

TABLE 2-1: EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

		SENSITIVITY (VALUE / IMPORTANCE)			
		HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LARGE	Major	Moderate – Major	Minor – Moderate	Negligible
	MEDIUM	Moderate – Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	SMALL	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible – Minor	Negligible
	NEGLIGIBLE	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

2.4 DURATION & REVERSIBILITY

These are separate but linked considerations. The definitions for the duration of effects are set out in the EIAR SLVIA Methodology (Appendix A).

2.4.1 DURATION

The duration of the Proposed Development is considered to be a permanent development.

2.4.2 REVERSIBILITY

Reversibility is a judgement about whether or not a development can be removed, and once removed can the landscape / seascape be fully restored. The following are examples of the type of land use and the respective assessment of reversibility defined in the Guidelines for Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)[12]:

> Permanent, is irreversible change to the landscape / seascape, for example housing development, as it is not possible to remove the development and restore the land to the original state;

[12] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London, Paragraph 6.32 (GLVIA3)

Partially Reversible, change to the landscape / seascape, where the landscape / seascape can be restored to something similar to the landscape / seascape that was removed. For example, mineral development, as it is possible to restore the land to something similar to the original state, but not the same state; and

Reversible, change to the landscape / seascape where the landscape / seascape can be fully restored.

To confirm, the SLVIA has assessed and determined the Proposed Development to be reversible, as the seascape character could be fully restored.

2.5 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

In addition to assessing the Proposed Development as a standalone scheme, the SLVIA also considers the additional effects on seascape character, landscape character and visual amenity of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other fish farms in the vicinity. This is discussed further in Section 9 of this SLVIA.

An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with existing fish farms has been undertaken in line with NatureScot guidance and GLVIA3, and according to the following definitions:

Cumulative effects are defined as the additional changes caused by the Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together (NatureScot, 2012:4);

Cumulative seascape effects are defined as effects that 'can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the seascape and landscape or any special values attached to it' (NatureScot, 2012:10); and

Cumulative visual effects are defined as effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which 'occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint' and/or sequential effects which 'occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments' (NatureScot, 2012:11).

The cumulative assessment considered other developments within 10 km of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 10).

There are four licensed and active finfish operations within 10 km radius of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 10);

North Shore Fish Farm – operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd and comprises of 17 pens and a feed barge;

Tabhaigh Fish Farm – operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd and comprises of 8 pens;

Gravir Fish Farm – operated by BFS, and comprises of 12 pens and a feed barge; and

Caolas A Deas Fish Farm – operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd and comprises of 8 pens and a feed barge[13].

[13] Cumulative baseline information dated 05/09/2023 sourced from Scotland's Aquaculture, available on line at: Scotland's Aquaculture | Home

2.6 LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT & ASSUMPTIONS

In accordance with the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note - Residential Visual Amenity Assessment TGN 2/19[14], the appraisal of residential properties, or groups of properties, is limited to those within 2 km of the Proposed Development. This is due to the lightly settled landscape, the nearest residential properties are situated near Calbost 2 – 2.5 km northwest of the Proposed Development.

Some of these properties are accessed from private farm / access tracks and, due to the limitations of access, they have been appraised from the track and footpath, and also with the aid of aerial photographs. In these cases, the appraisal should be regarded as an informed estimate of the likely visual effects.

There are no residential properties with an expected view of the Proposed Development due to the rising topography to the south and east of Calbost (refer to the ZTV in Figure 1.5a and 1.5b). Therefore, there is no residential visual amenity assessment within this SLVIA.

2.7 INFORMATION SOURCES

A number of different sources of information are used to help understand the Proposed Development's location and its surrounding context as follows:

NatureScot (2023) Scottish Landscape Character Types, Map and Descriptions[15];

NatureScot Commissioned Report No. 103 – An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish Seascape in relation to windfarms (SNH, 2005)[16];

Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015)[17];

Scotland National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4);

Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (November 2018)[18];

Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan – Supplementary Guidance for Marine Fish Farming (Adopted November 2018)[19];

OS mapping at 1:50,000, 1:25,000 and 1:10,000;

Aerial Photography;

Google Earth, Street View and Maps;

Strava Heat Map; and

[14] The Landscape Institute, Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17th September 2019.
[15] NatureScot (2023) Scottish Landscape Character Types, Maps and Descriptions. Available online at: Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions | NatureScot
[16] NatureScot Commissioned Report 103: An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to windfarms | NatureScot. Available online at: NatureScot Commissioned Report 103: An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to windfarms | NatureScot
[17] Scottish Government (2015), Scotland's National Marine Plan. Available online at: Scotland's National Marine Plan - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
[18] Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2018). Available online at: ohldp-adopted-plan.pdf (cne-siar.gov.uk)
[19] Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan – Supplementary Guidance: Marine Fish Farming (Adopted November 2018). Available online at: sg-marine-fish-farm-final-for-adoption-nov-web-version.pdf (cne-siar.gov.uk)

Figures 1 to 16.

2.8 SCOPING RESPONSES & CONSULTATIONS

A Screening and Scoping Request was submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Sar (CnES) in June 2022.

Comments received via the CnES Screening & Scoping Response (2nd December 2022) and NatureScot response on landscape and visual issues are summarised in Table 2-2 below, together with the applicant's response.

TABLE 2-2: SLVIA SCOPING RESPONSES

CONSULTEE	TYPE & DATE	CONSULTATION RESPONSE	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES)	Scoping Response Document 2nd December 2022	Based on the advice of NatureScot it is concluded that agreed that the Development is likely to have a significant effect on landscape, seascape, and visual resource of the local area and that a full landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is carried out with representative viewpoints. A ZTV of high quality resolution should be generated to inform suitable viewpoints for use in the LVIA. The LVIA should include consideration of aspects of the development, such as feed barge, raft, underwater lighting and buoys as well as the cages. Impacts on the Wild Land area to the west and south should be carefully considered as part of the LVIA.	The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on specific landscape and visual characteristics and landscape / seascape capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development within a Wider Study Area of 10 km radius, including the Eisgein Wild Land Area located ~9 km south west of the Proposed Development. The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on landscape / seascape character, landscape and seascape capacity, visual amenity for local recreational and residential receptors.
Nature Scot	Scoping Response Document 2nd December 2022	We advise that this proposal is likely to have significant effects on the surrounding landscape. We recommend that a full landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is carried out with representative viewpoints. The LVIA should include consideration of aspects of the development, such as feed barge, raft, underwater lighting and buoys as well as the cages. We recommend that impacts on wild land should be carefully considered as part of the LVIA. The developer is referred to our good practice guidance, 'Marine Aquaculture and the Landscape: the siting and design of marine aquaculture developments in the landscape, at https://www.nature.scot/doc/siting-and-design-aquaculture-landscape-visual-and-landscape-considerations	The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on specific landscape and visual characteristics and landscape / seascape capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development, within a Wider Study Area of 10 km radius, including the Eisgein Wild Land Area located ~9 km south west of the Proposed Development. The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on landscape / seascape character, landscape and seascape capacity, visual amenity for local recreational and residential receptors. A cumulative assessment of the Proposed Development and nearby finfish been conducted. Viewpoints within the SLVIA have been selected to represent both static and cumulative views, where possible. Reference has been made to all NatureScot documents on Aquaculture development.

CONSULTEE	TYPE & DATE	CONSULTATION RESPONSE	APPLICANT'S RESPONSE
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Scoping Response Document 2nd December 2022	We have reviewed the details in terms of our historic environment interests. This covers world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas (HMPAs). We can confirm that there are no heritage assets within our remit, as listed above, within the proposed development area or its vicinity. We are therefore content for impacts on cultural heritage assets within our remit to be scoped out of the assessment.	The ruins of five Shieling Huts between Loch na Craoibhe and Loch nan Learga (Canmore reference 134078), located approximately 1 km to the west of the proposed Development. Due to the steep cliffs and the Cnoc and Lochan topography to the west of the Proposed Development, there is not predicted intervisibility of with the heritage assets, therefore, no heritage assets are assessed within the SLVIA.
RYA Scotland	Scoping Response Document 2nd December 2022	RYA Scotland has no comment that this wish to make at this stage.	Recreational receptors along the coastline are included within the SLVIA.

2.9 SURVEY & SITE VISIT

Following the desk-based assessment, fieldwork was undertaken in April 2023. The key activities during baseline fieldwork were:

To identify any significant features and elements in the landscape such as vegetation or built form that would screen the Proposed Development and thereby verify or refine the ZTV;

To visit each viewpoint location identified during the desk study and Scoping Report, and to microsite each viewpoint location in accordance with good practice guidance and obtain accurate coordinates; and,

To undertake photography using a digital SLR camera at each viewpoint location.

The baseline fieldwork also allowed the Study Area to be refined and therefore the focus of the assessment stage of the SLVIA.

2.10 ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

Following identification of the landscape components which define landscape character such as topography, vegetation, built form, infrastructure and land use and to help identify the landscape and visual receptors, the SLVIA has been informed by a ZTV. ZTVs are computer generated from a digital terrain model of the study area. They illustrate the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development throughout the study area based on the average eye height (1.7 m). The ZTV has been created using the height of the containment pens, associated pole-mounted top netting, and the proposed feed barge.

ZTVs do have some limitations which need to be considered when looking at the theoretical visibility illustrated. They do not take account of screening elements such as buildings, vegetation and local landform which can substantially reduce visibility. Notwithstanding their limitations, ZTVs are currently the best tool for predicting the likely visibility of the Proposed Development and may be used to inform viewpoint selection and to refine the scope of the SLVIA.

The ZTV indicates a very limited visibility on land, constrained by the steep sided, rocky coastline topography, containing potential visibility of the Proposed Development within 5km along the coastline.

The ZTV indicates there would be open, uninterrupted views for sea-based receptors along the coastline.

2.11 SLVIA VIEWPOINTS

Many of the issues identified during the consultation and scoping phases were considered through viewpoint analysis in the field.

Viewpoints were selected by analysis of the ZTVs. Following methodology established in GLVIA3, the viewpoints were chosen based on the following criteria:

Representative of the likely impacts;

Showing a range of different types of views;

Representative of a range of different receptor groups;

Representative of a range of distances and directions; and

Representative of the varying image of the Proposed Development in the landscape.

The viewpoints were selected to illustrate the landscape/seascape context and views from nearby residential properties/groups of properties, and to represent the local landscape and seascape character.

A summary of the illustrated viewpoints is provided in Table 2-3 below. All viewpoints are located in the public realm and focus on the indicative location of the Proposed Development. Site photography was undertaken during periods of fine weather and clear visibility. Refer to Figure 1.5a for Viewpoint Locations, and Figures 1.12 – 1.17 Appendix B, for the baseline landscape photographs presented with wireline images and photomontages of the Proposed Development.

TABLE 2-3: LVIA SELECTED VIEWPOINTS AT CONSULTATION STAGE

VIEWPOINT NUMBER	VIEWPOINT NAME	REASON FOR SELECTION	DISTANCE TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	GRID REFERENCE
Viewpoint 1	Sea based view (1.5 km north of the Development)	Coastal view north of the Proposed Development to illustrate views for recreational receptors along the coastline within the Low Rocky Island Coasts Seascape Character Type 13	1.5 km	E 142198 N 917508
Viewpoint 2	Sea based view (1.5 km north west of the Development)	Coastal view north west of the Proposed Development to illustrate views for recreational receptors along the coastline within the Low Rocky Island Coasts Seascape Character Type 13 within the bay of Camas Chalaboist	1.5 km	E 141958 N 917244
Viewpoint 3	Sea based view (4.7 km north of the Development)	Coastal view north of the Proposed Development	4.7 km	E 144213 N 920591
Viewpoint 4	Sea based view (3.7 km east of the Development)	Coastal view east of the Proposed Development	3.7 km	E 146722 N 915189
Viewpoint 5	Calbost	View from a local road adjacent to the residential properties at Calbost within the	2.1 km	E 141255 N 917130

VIEWPOINT NUMBER	VIEWPOINT NAME	REASON FOR SELECTION	DISTANCE TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	GRID REFERENCE
		Dispersed Crofting LCT 319		
Viewpoint 6	Calbost (north)	View from a local road adjacent to the residential properties at Calbost within the Dispersed Crofting LCT 319	2.1 km	E 141369 N 917332

2.12 SLVIA STUDY AREA

The Study Area covers a 10 km radius from the Proposed Development.

Beyond this distance, the Proposed Development is unlikely to be perceptible within the landscape due to its limited scale, low profile, and the reduction of visual effects over distance.

The 10 km radius Study Area has been defined based on the ZTV (Figure 1.5a, Appendix B), site assessment and following guidance within the NatureScot (2018) Visualisations for Aquaculture guidance which states:

"where a proposal is sited in an open or expansive coast, the ZTV radius will be greater, e.g. 7 km or up to 10 km; other factors such as complex seaways or straits, or the presence of ferry routes, or sensitive viewpoints may require a larger ZTV radius to ensure they are appropriately considered…" [20]

Due to the local topography of the steep rocky coastline the ZTV presents a very contained potential visibility of the Proposed Development, within 3 km to the north and 2 km south.

Therefore, a Detailed Study Area was adopted, based on a distance of a 5 km radius from the Proposed Development to focus on the areas where the greatest landscape and visual impacts may occur, and the lack of visibility for sensitive receptors beyond 5 km radius due to the local topography of the coastline (reference (Figure 1.5b, Appendix B).

[20] Nature Scot (February 2018) Visualisations for Aquaculture - Guidance Note, para 29, page 7. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-02/Visualisations%20for%20Aquaculture%20-%20Guidance%20%20Note.pdf

3. LANDSCAPE LEGISLATION & POLICIES

3.1 EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

The European Landscape Convention ('ELC') which was ratified in the UK on 21 November 2006 and became binding on 1 March 2007[21].

The ELC defines landscapes as: "An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

The ELC applies to natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas including land, inland water and marine areas. Its purpose is to promote landscape protection, management and planning in relation to all landscapes regardless of whether their quality and condition is considered outstanding, ordinary or degraded.

The UK is recognised as putting many of the principles of the ELC into practice. The importance of landscapes in contributing to local identity and in reflecting local cultural influences and ecological diversity is shown through the use of Landscape Character assessments and the NatureScot National Character Areas project.

GLVIA3 highlights the definition of landscape from the European Landscape Convention, which includes seascapes and marine environments. As defined in the UK Marine Policy Statement,

"There is no legal definition for seascape in the UK, but the European Landscape Convention (ELC) defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". In the context of this document, references to seascape should be taken as meaning landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other"[22].

3.2 NATIONAL & REGIONAL POLICY

In landscape and visual terms, policies from Scottish Planning Policy, the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (OHLDP) (November 2018) and Supplementary Guidance (SG) that are relevant to the Proposed Development are summarised in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-1: RELEVANT LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY

LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY	COMMENTS
National Planning Policy	
Scotland's National Marine Plan Scotland's National Marine Plan sets out a framework within which the industry should aim to achieve their growth targets.	Marine Planning Policy Aquaculture 5 states: "Aquaculture developments should avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts upon the seascape, landscape and visual amenity of

[21] The ELC is a convention of the Council of Europe, not the EU. Therefore, Brexit does not affect the status of this convention, and as of 31 January 2020, the UK remains a signatory of the ELC.
[22] UK Marine Policy Statement, March 2011, HM Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government, and Welsh Assembly Government, page 21, para 2.6.5.1

LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY	COMMENTS
	an area, following SNH guidance [75] on the siting and design of aquaculture." [23] The Marine Plan states the existing regulatory framework, alongside Environmental Impact Assessment, provide a framework to minimise and mitigate environmental impacts through, "Appropriate siting and design of farms, including in relation to protected areas, protected species, wider biodiversity interests, heritage assets and landscape character/visual impacts."[24]
NPF4 Policy 4 Natural Places	Policy Intent: To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions. Local Development Plans: LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.
Regional Planning Policy	
Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (OHLDP) (November 2018) Policy NBH1: Landscape Landscape Development Proposals should relate to the specific landscape and visual characteristics of the local area, ensuring that overall integrity of landscape character is maintained.	The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on specific landscape and visual characteristics and landscape / seascape capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development. The SLVIA has considered the potential effects on NSAs, landscape / seascape character, landscape and seascape capacity, visual amenity for local recreational and residential receptors. The Proposed Development is considered to be well sited in terms of its location within the context of nearby operational fish farm sites.
Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (November 2018) Policy DS1 Development Strategy Marine & Shore Environment (page 15)	The Proposed Development is located within an Area for Potential Growth (Spatial Strategy Policy 1) within the Spatial Strategy Map, MFFSG (November 2018).

[23] NatureScot (November 2011) The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations. Prepared by Alison Grant, Landscape Architect. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202011%20-%20The%20siting%20and%20design%20of%20aquaculture%20in%20the%20landscape%20-%20visual%20and%20landscape%20considerations.pdf /l

[24] Scotland's National Marine Plan, Section 7 – Aquaculture, para 7.16. Available on line at: 7. Aquaculture - Scotland's National Marine Plan - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY	COMMENTS
"The principal policy objective is to support the sustainable development of our aquaculture and marine energy resources (including any associated onshore facilities) and facilitate an integrated approach to management of the intertidal zone. Marine fish farming development proposals must demonstrate accordance with the Marine Fish Farming Supplementary Guidance (MFFSG, November 2018)."	
Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (November 2018) Policy PD6: Compatibility with Neighbouring Uses All development proposals shall ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses. Where appropriate, proposals should include mitigation measures to reduce the impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses.	The Proposed Development is considered to be well sited in terms of its location within the context of nearby operational fish farm sites.
Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (November 2018) Policy ED4: Fish Farming and Marine Planning The Council will take planning decisions in accordance with the National Marine Plan and any subsequent regional marine plan. Proposals for new marine fish farming developments or changes to existing marine fish farming sites will be assessed against the Supplementary Guidance for Marine Fish Farming which forms part of the Development Plan. h) Proposals for freshwater aquaculture developments will also be assessed against the incremental or cumulative impact of the proposal	The SLVIA has considered the potential impact of the redevelopment and follows policies of local development plan and supplementary guidance in its assessment. The Proposed Development is located within an Area for Potential Growth (Spatial Strategy Policy 1, MFFSG, November 2018) A cumulative assessment (as contained in Section 9) of the Proposed Development, and nearby finfish operations, has been conducted.
Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (November 2018) Marine Fish Farming Supplementary Guidance (MFFSG) (November 2018) The areas for potential growth are shown in the Spatial Strategy Map. These are the Comhairle's preferred areas for the location of new marine fish farming proposals or extensions to existing fish farms. Proposals within these areas will be assessed against Development policies 1 – 8. Development Policy 1 – Siting & Design in the Landscape Development Policy 4 – Noise & Lighting Development Policy 6 – Cumulative Impact	The Proposed Development is located within an Area for Potential Growth (Spatial Strategy Policy 1, MFFSG, November 2018). The Proposed Development is considered to be well sited in terms of its location within the context of nearby operational fish farm sites. A cumulative assessment (as contained in Section 9) of the Proposed Development, and nearby finfish operations, has been conducted. The SLVIA also addresses landscape and seascape capacity, in line with the NatureScot guidance (2008 & 2011).

3.3 LANDSCAPE PLANNING DESIGNATIONS

This section, which should be read in conjunction with Figure 1.6 (Appendix B) and identifies landscape planning policies, designations and constraints relevant to this appraisal. Table 3-2 summarises the constraints within the wider study area. The Proposed Development is situated within an undesignated landscape / seascape.

TABLE 3-2: LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS	PRESENT WITHIN THE SITE BOUNDARY	PRESENT WITHIN THE WIDER STUDY AREA
National Scenic Area (NSA)	No	No (South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA is located ~12 km south west)
Wild Land Areas	No	Yes (Eisgein WLA 31 is situated ~8 km south west and Harris – Uig Hills WLA 30 is situated ~12 km north west)
Area of Panoramic Quality	No	No
Very Sensitive Countryside Zone / Isolated Coast	No	Yes (1.8 km south at its closest point)
Conservation Areas	No	No
Gardens & Designed Landscapes	No	No

4. BASELINE CONDITIONS

The following section describes the existing environment in terms of landscape character and visual amenity, the baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Development will be assessed, including sensitivity of landscape, seascape or visual receptors:

- National / Regional and Local Landscape Character.
- Seascape Character Types;
- Landscape Designations; and
- Visual Receptors.

An appraisal of the baseline landscape character has been considered at three levels:

- A national/regional setting defined within the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) National Landscape Character Assessment.
- Seascape Character Types – descriptions of the seascape character types within the NatureScot Commissioned Report 103: An Assessment of the Sensitivity and Capacity of the Scottish Seascape in relation to windfarms; and
- Character of the development location and its immediate context, based on field observations.

4.1 NATIONAL / REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Within the Detailed Study Area there are five Landscape Character Types (LCTs) (refer to Figure 1.7, Appendix B). However, given the distinctive rocky coastline topography, there would be very limited opportunity for intervisibility of the Proposed Development within almost all of the landscape of the Detailed Study Area. The ZTV (Figures 1.5a and 1.5b, Appendix B) illustrate the very limited visibility along the rocky coastline east and south of Calbost, and between the steep / vertical coastline of A'Chabag south of the Proposed Development. Therefore, those LCTs with no predicted visibility been scoped out of this assessment.

The SLVIA focuses on the following LCTs where there is proposed visibility onshore within the Detailed Study Area:

- Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324; and
- Dispersed Crofting LCT 319.

4.1.1 CNOC AND LOCHAN LCT 324

The closest onshore LCT to the Proposed Development is the Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324 is mainly restricted to discrete coastal areas in Lewis, Harris and South Uist, and it situated to the south, west and northwest of the Proposed Development.

Key characteristics of the Cnoc and Lochan LCT are:

- Steep-sided irregular outline of small cnocs, separated by depressions which frequently contains small lochans;
- Intimate landscape scale with only short internal views;
- Diversity of landform and contrasting textures, creating diverse microclimates; and

Intensive use and reuse of small areas of cultivable land over thousands of years, with occasional patches of cultivated land creating focal features today[25].

4.1.2 DISPERSED CROFTING LCT 319

The Dispersed Crofting – Lewis, Harris, The Uists and Barra LCT 319 occurs around the hamlet of Calbost within the Detailed Study Area.

The Dispersed Crofting Landscape Character Type LCT is of a diminutive size within the Detailed Study Area and there is very little predicted visibility from this LCT (refer to Figure 1.6b, Appendix B) except around the shoreline east of Calbost at Camas Chalaboist.

Key characteristics of the Dispersed Crofting LCT include:

Short, even slopes interspersed between rocky knock and boulder outcrops;

Small and intimate landscape scale;

Strong, simple relationship between crofting townships and the sea;

Dispersed settlement pattern, with occasional groups focused around harbours and sheltered glens;

Combination of landform variation and coastal location of townships create a landscape with a high level of natural diversity in a relatively small area; and

Absence of woodland and trees[26].

4.2 SEASCAPE CHARACTER

4.2.1 LOW ROCKY COAST SEASCAPE CHARACTER TYPE 9 – NORTH EAST LEWIS SEASCAPE AREA 12

Seascape character assessment comprises three elements of hinterland, coastal and marine seascape character types within the NatureScot Commissioned Report No. 103 – An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish Seascape in relation to windfarms (NatureScot, 2005).

Within the Study Area, there are two seascape character areas;

Area 12: North East Lewis, and specifically the Low Rocky Island Coasts Seascape Character Type 13; and

Area 14: The Little Minch, with the Sounds, Narrows and Islands Seascape Character Type 9.

The Low Rocky Island Coasts Seascape Character Type 13 is the "host" area of the seascape character within which the Proposed Development is located. This character type extends along the coast line from the north of the Study Area to the promontory at Creag Neill at Loch Odhairn (south of the Proposed Development), beyond which the Sounds, Narrows and Islands Seascape Character Type 9 follows the coastline.

[25] NatureScot (2023) Scottish Landscape Character Types, Maps and Descriptions. Available online at: Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions | NatureScot
[26] NatureScot (2023) Scottish Landscape Character Types, Maps and Descriptions. Available online at: Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions | NatureScot

This seascape is medium to large in scale and open with a relatively simple form, that is defined by a linear coastal edge.

There is an occasional movement of ships and boats on the sea within the Low Rocky Island Coasts seascape character type, largely boats to service the existing fish farms within the visibility and recreational / sightseeing trips along the coastline.

Key characteristics of the Low Rocky Coast SCT Seascape Type 13, Unit 12 North East Lewis include:

- low rocky coastline, cliffs and fragmented coastline in places backed by the cnoc and lochan landscape;
- sparsely settled. Small crofting settlements along coastline. Large settlement at Stornoway with some industrial development, airport and busy port;
- views of the Little Minch to the south and beyond views of distant hills on mainland particularly distinctive Assynt to the east; and
- parts of this landscape feel remote except for the Stornoway area[27].

There is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the Sounds, Narrows and Islands Seascape Character Type 9, therefore this seascape character type has not been assessed further within this SLVIA.

4.3 LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE CHARACTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT LOCATION

The character of the Site and its immediate context has been informed by a review of published landscape character assessments and supplemented by site investigations.

The following description of the Site includes:

- Scale & Openness - a medium to large scale seascape with sheltered bays and inlets along the coastline, within the Cnoc and Lochan landscape. On clear days views of Skye are available from the Western Isles forming the horizon to the east;
- Settlement – there is sparse residential settlement with traditional crofting and residential properties found in the sheltered bays and inlets. There are large stretches of uninhabited coasts found throughout this seascape area. The settlement of Gravir also contains a jetty and shore base for BFS, and the associated shipping container storage units and small buildings, associated with the industry, are also evident in the landscape / seascape;
- Pattern & foci - There are generally complex and intricate patterns of indented coastline fragmenting into islands and skerries or larger scale patterns of peninsulas, sounds and narrows. Foci tend to be residential properties where they appear and strong landscape features such as distinctive mountains on the horizon and headlands;

[27] NatureScot Commissioned Report No. 103 – An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish Seascape in relation to windfarms (NatureScot, 2005), page 69. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202005%20-%20SNH%20Commissioned%20Report%20103%20-%20An%20assessment%20of%20the%20sensitivity%20and%20capacity%20of%20the%20Scottish%20seascape%20in%20relation%20to%20windfarms.pdf

Lighting – there is very limited lighting in the seascape / landscape from properties, boats, and fish farms, but this is a dark coastal area;

Movement – there is limited movement from local roads / tracks and intermittent and there are areas which are very remote and no movement is discernible except that of wind and waves;

Modification/Remoteness/Sense of Naturalness - traditional small crofting settlements with natural elements and landscape and seascape experience dominating. Operational aquaculture developments are present along the coastline; and

Degree of exposure – the landscape / seascape is exposed with indented lochs provide sheltered areas along the rocky coastline. The Proposed Development is located adjacent to the coastline within a more exposed / open seascape.

4.4 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

The Proposed Development is located within an undesignated landscape / seascape (refer to Figure 1.6, Appendix B).

There is a short section of Isolated Coast located ~1.8 km south of the Proposed Development from A Chebag and extends ~ 5.5 km south to the peninsula at Groibridah.

Within the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2018), isolated coasts are defined as,

"Areas of wild or natural coastline that are characterised by the absence of occupied settlement, lack of road infrastructure, and absence of human activity on or off-shore, both industrial, power, port, military or tourism related."[28]

A very short section, approximately 200 – 300 m, of the Isolated Coast lies within the ZTV at A'Chabag. Beyond this, there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development south of A'Chabag. The potential for indirect seascape and visual effects on views from the Isolated Coast have been included within this SLVIA.

The Eisgein Wild Land Area (WLA 31) is located ~9 km south west of the Proposed Development. There is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the WLA therefore it has not been assessed further within this SLVIA.

The Harris – Uig Hills Wild Land Area (WLA 30) is located ~13 km north west of the Proposed Development. There is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the NSA therefore it has not been assessed further within this SLVIA.

The South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA) is located ~13 km south west of the Proposed Development. There is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the NSA therefore it has not been assessed further within this SLVIA.

[28] Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2018), page 101. Available online at: www.ohldp-adopted-plan.pdf (cne-siar.gov.uk)

4.5 VISUAL RECEPTORS

The visual assessment draws from the ZTV, site visits and viewpoint analysis and assesses the potential visual effects on views and visual amenity likely to be experienced by receptors (people) within the landscape as follows:

- Views from residential properties and settlements;
- Views experienced while travelling through the landscape (recreational road users, walkers, horse riders, cyclists for example); and
- Views from tourist and recreational destinations.

Given the very limited ZTV and anticipated visibility of the Proposed Development, predicted visual receptors include only water-based receptors, both commercial boats or water based recreational receptors following the coastline. The area around the Proposed Development appears to be of limited importance for recreational use, it is evident that recreational vessels and kayakers travel along this coastline in low numbers.

The closest harbour is in Gravir. This is owned by the Pairc Trust and used by BFS as a shorebase and recreational vessel users are permitted to use this for launch too.

The visual assessment focuses on those receptor areas where significant effects are most likely, as detailed in the sections below.

There are no roads, core paths, settlements or isolated residential properties within the ZTV, where there would be anticipated views of the Proposed Development.

Whilst it is people who are the actual receptors of visual effects, it is the places they may occupy, and from which the Proposed Development may be seen, that are listed below.

4.5.1 RECREATIONAL RECEPTORS

Visual impacts on tourists, or those participating in recreation activities, may be brief in nature by passing through the area on boat, ferry, horse, foot, bike or kayak, their sensitivity to landscape and visual change is high because their purpose/activity is to appreciate landscape and surroundings.

The visual assessment considers views from recreational receptors within 5 km of the Proposed Development. Nearby recreational receptors within the Detailed Study Area of the Proposed Development include sea-based activities, including kayak routes and wildlife boat tours around along the coastline. Promoted routes are located north of the Proposed Development to Loch Erisort, Witches Pool, Loch Leurbost and Loch Grimshader at a distance of 8 – 10 km north and with very limited predicted visibility.

4.6 RECEPTORS SCOPED IN AND SCOPED OUT OF THE SLVIA

There are opportunities to view the Proposed Development, from the following seascape, landscape and visual receptors which are scoped into the assessment:

- Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324;
- Dispersed Crofting LCT 319;
- Low Rocky Coast SCT Seascape Unit 13; and
- Sea based recreational receptors.

The following seascape, landscape and visual receptors have been scoped out of this assessment due to lack of intervisibility:

Linear Crofting LCT 318;

Dispersed Crofting LCT 319;

Boggy Moorland – Outer Hebrides LCT 322;

Rocky Moorland – Outer Hebrides LCT 323;

Prominent Hills and Mountains LCT 326;

The settlement of Calbost;

Local road users;

Residential properties within 2 km and out with the ZTV;

Recreational receptors within 5 km and out with the ZTV;

Low Rocky Coast SCT 9 within the Seascape Character Area 14 Little Minch; and

All landscape / seascape and visual receptors beyond 5 km radius due to lack of visibility beyond 5km in the Wider Study Area.

4.7 FUTURE BASELINE

It is not anticipated that the baseline conditions described above would differ significantly in the future without the Proposed Development, or with the Proposed Development for the duration of its operations.

5. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

In order to understand the likely effects of the Proposed Development, it is first necessary to understand the construction processes involved, and the components of the Proposed Development which would be present during the operational life. The likely effects that would arise as a result of the Proposed Development can be attributed to either the short-term construction works or the long-term presence of the Proposed Development.

5.1 EFFECTS OF CONSTRUCTION

Construction activities for the Proposed Development would include, but would not be restricted to, the installation of the fish farm pens, the feed barge, and feed pipes from the feed barge to the pens.

All pen and mooring equipment would be constructed off-site and towed to the location by sea. There would be no requirement for the construction of a temporary construction compound, car park and laydown areas. The delivery of nets would be to the existing BFS shorebase at Gravir.

A boat crane would be required for installation, which would only be discernible for a short period of time and is regularly used for operations at the existing BFS sites on the Outer Hebrides. The areas where the greatest effect would be experienced would be those within or immediately adjacent to the installation of the new pens.

These activities could result in temporary landscape and visual effects during the construction period, specifically:

- Effects on landscape and seascape character, based on a current and future baseline, from construction activities within 5 km radius; and,
- Effects on visual amenity of surrounding visual receptors, including sea based recreational receptors, based on a current and future baseline, from construction activities within 5 km radius.

5.2 EFFECTS OF OPERATION

Similarly, proposed operational activities for the Proposed Development would include: the operation of the fish pens and feed pipes from the feed barge. These activities could result in seascape and visual effects during the operational period, specifically:

- Effects on seascape and landscape character within the Detailed Study Area 5 km radius; and
- Effects on visual amenity of surrounding visual receptors, including from recreational receptors, based on a current and future baseline, from the Proposed Development within a 5 km radius.

The photomontages accompanying this report are presented to illustrate the Proposed Development, and local landscape and seascape character (Figures 1.12 – 1.17, Appendix B).

6. EMBEDDED DESIGN

Mitigation is embedded within the design of the Proposed Development. The design is based on the following principles:

- The Proposed Development would be serviced from the existing BFS shorebase, located at Gravir;
- The equipment would be of the same type as the existing fish farms around Gravir i.e., plastic pens of dark, matt colour and low-lying in profile and the new pens would be aligned with the coastline;
- The proposed feed barge would be grey in colour to recede in the view with different weather and tidal conditions;
- The pens are low in profile, circular and the same dark matt colour to recede in the view with different weather and tidal conditions; and
- Navigational lighting would be used only as specified by Northern Lighthouse Board.

The development location for the Proposed Development has been selected within an open and expansive coastline area of Low Rocky Islands Coast SCT Seascape Unit 13, Seascape Character Area 12 – Northeast Lewis. NatureScot guidance on 'The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations'[29] details the key characteristics of open and expansive coasts and the implications for the siting and layout of aquaculture development in this type of coastline. Embedded mitigation in the selection of the development location takes advantage of the following seascape characteristics:

- This coast is characterised by its juxtaposition with the extensive and expansive openness of the sea, which dominates in terms of extent and scale. 'Openness will often diminish the relative size of a structure';
- Frequently exposed, the coastline is likely to be relatively regular and straight, and may be rocky, sometimes with cliffs, stony beaches and infrequent shallow bays;
- Often this character type is dominated by the changing pattern of light and movement associated with the sea, with less focus on the land or even the coast, except where there are landmark features, such as cliffs, distinct promontories or historic features;
- There may be long stretches where access is limited or only possible on foot; and
- Views are often panoramic, embracing a wide expanse of sea. There are likely to be views from other marine traffic[30].

[29] Ibid 6, page 16, Box 1
[30] Ibid 6, page 16, Box 1

7. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON THE SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE RESOURCE

7.1 CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE & SEASCAPE RESOURCE

The construction phase would result in localised and direct seascape effects within the Low Rocky Islands Coast Seascape Character Type 13. Table 7-1 below provides a list of the construction activities to be undertaken together with an appraisal of the level and type of effect predicted.

The seascape sensitivity of the Low Rocky Island Coasts Seascape Character Type 13 is considered to be medium. It is an undesignated seascape. However, the landscape / seascape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity, and may also be valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape / seascape is important.

In addition, the Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324, as the closest LCT to the Development, also has a medium sensitivity which also reflects the perceptual qualities of the coastline.

TABLE 7-1: SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE EFFECTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AND ASSESSMENT	SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT		
	SENSITIVITY & SUSCEPTIBILITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Fish Farm Pens, Feed Pipes & Feed Barge As the construction works commence the magnitude of change associated with the installation of the new pens, feed barge and feed pipes would increase from zero to small within the local landscape and seascape due to the restricted area of potential visibility. The construction activity would directly affect the seascape within which the pens and feed barge would be installed. The pens and feed barge would be towed in by boat.	The landscape and seascape effects arising during the construction works within an area of medium sensitivity and medium susceptibility to change	Small	The nature of these effects would be minor, temporary (reversible), adverse, non-significant, direct seascape effects and indirect landscape effects within the Low Rocky Island Coasts SCT 13 and the Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324.

7.2 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE DURING OPERATION

Compared to the construction phase, the Proposed Development would gain a more 'settled' appearance during the operational period when construction activity ceases. This assessment has considered the operation of the Proposed Development within the landscape and seascape.

7.2.1 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

An appraisal of the baseline landscape character has been undertaken in order to determine the sensitivity of the landscape and its capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development.

The landscape character is considered at two levels:

- National / regional setting, in relation to the NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment and Seascape Character Assessment; and
- Local setting, based on field observations to confirm the key features and characteristics pertinent to the study area and the development location.

7.2.1.1 CNOC AND LOCHAN LCT 324

The Cnoc and Lochan LCT 324 is the closest LCT to the Site, at a distance of 500 m west of the Proposed Development on the Pairc peninsula, and any potential landscape effects would be indirect.

The Cnoc and Lochan LCT has been assessed as having:

- Landscape value − the Cnoc and Lochan LCT is considered to be of a medium landscape value. It is an undesignated landscape. However, the landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity;
- Landscape quality − the distinctive rocky stepped landscape experienced within the Cnoc and Lochan LCT offering intimate / short distance views within the landscape, with distinctive boulder outcrops and inlets / lochs. The Cnoc and Lochan LCT is considered to be of a medium landscape quality;
- Capacity to change − there is a high capacity for the LCT to accommodate the Proposed Development given the lack of intervisibility within the LCT. The rising topography along the coastline prevents views of the Proposed Development, and limits visibility to a very narrow band between Stac an Fhir Mhaoil and Creag Fhraoch, and limited inland views on east facing slopes of the coastline. Potential views of the Proposed Development would not detract from the overall existing landscape quality, features and characteristics of the LCT. The medium scale landscape, predominantly uninhabited, results in a low susceptibility to the development because the landscape would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape and the existing fish farm developments; and
- Landscape sensitivity − the landscape of the Rocky Moorland LCT is of a medium landscape sensitivity.

The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development within the Cnoc and Lochan LCT would be negligible. There would be a negligible to small change to aesthetic and / or perceptual attributes of the landscape character and any indirect landscape

changes would occur across a very limited geographical area within the LCT along the coastline. The landscape would be able to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

The landscape effects would be negligible, indirect, non-significant, long-term (reversible), and adverse and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the Cnoc and Lochan LCT.

7.2.1.2 DISPERSED CROFTING LCT 319

The Dispersed Crofting LCT is located at a distance of 1.5 km northwest south of Calbost, and any potential landscape effects would be indirect.

The Dispersed Crofting LCT has been assessed as having:

- Landscape value − the Dispersed Crofting LCT is considered to be of a medium landscape value. However, the landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity, and the landscape may also be valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important;
- Landscape quality − the distinctive rock and lochan topography experienced within the Dispersed Crofting LCT offering views of the rocky coastline with distinctive boulder outcrops and inlets / lochs. The Dispersed Crofting LCT is considered to be of a medium landscape quality;
- Capacity to change − there is a high capacity for the LCT to accommodate the Proposed Development, which would not detract from the overall existing landscape quality, features and characteristics of the LCT, given the lack of visibility of the Proposed Development within this LCT, with only 1 − 2 pens visible from the coastline east of Calbost. There is a dispersed settlement pattern, with groups focussed around harbours and within sheltered glens. This results in a low susceptibility because the landscape would be able to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape; and
- Landscape sensitivity − the landscape of the Dispersed Crofting LCT is of a medium landscape sensitivity.

The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development within the Dispersed Crofting LCT would be negligible. There would be a negligible to small change to aesthetic and / or perceptual attributes of the landscape character and any indirect landscape changes would occur across a very limited geographical area, the rocky foreshore along the coastline at Camas Chalaboist, within the LCT. The landscape would be able to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

The landscape effects would be negligible, indirect, non-significant, long-term (reversible), and adverse, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the Dispersed Crofting LCT.

7.2.1.3 LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This is a lightly populated landscape, with little movement, excepting road vehicles along local road network between Gravir and Calbost residential properties. Around the

settlement of Gravir boat movement in an out of the harbour is evident for servicing the existing fish farms and light recreational use. There are also areas which appear to be very remote within the local landscape, with the only movement being that of the wind and waves.

Travelling through the local landscape the experience is of a series of small to medium scale landscape and seascape views, with sheltered bays and inlets along the coastline, with the contrast of open views of the sea and east towards the coast of Skye are possible from elevated viewpoints along the local road.

The coastline is a complex rocky coastline, with a larger scale patterns of peninsulas, sounds and narrows. Indented coastlines provide sheltered areas along the coastline.

The local landscape character has been assessed as having:

- Landscape value – the local landscape is considered to be of a medium landscape value;
- Landscape quality – the local landscape is considered to be of a medium landscape quality;
- Capacity to change – there is a high capacity for the local landscape to accommodate the Proposed Development, which would not detract from the overall existing landscape quality, features and characteristics given the presence of the existing aquaculture development. This results in a low susceptibility to the development because the landscape would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape and the lack of predicted visibility of the Proposed Development within the local landscape; and
- Landscape sensitivity – the local landscape is of a medium landscape sensitivity.

The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development within the local landscape would be negligible to small (limited to coastline areas and elevated locations on rocky outcrops), comprising of a small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape such as the removal of existing components of the seascape or by addition of new ones.

The change would affect a small part of the landscape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy a small geographical extent. The effects are reversible change to the landscape.

The local landscape would be able to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

The local landscape effects would be negligible to minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible), and adverse and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the local landscape.

7.2.2 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON SEASCAPE CHARACTER

Due to the reversible nature of aquaculture development it is assessed there would be no permanent changes to the seascape character as a result of the Proposed Development.

7.2.2.1 LOW ROCKY ISLAND COAST SCT 13: SEASCAPE UNIT – NORTHEAST LEWIS 12

Low Rocky Island Coast is the 'host' area of seascape character within which the Proposed Development is located.

The Low Rocky Island Coast Seascape Character Type has been assessed as having:

- Seascape value – the Low Rocky Island Coast is considered to be of a medium seascape value;
- Seascape quality – views from the coastline focus on the upland hinterland to the south, and on a clear day over to the Isle of Skye. The seascape is considered to be of a medium seascape quality overall, given the rocky coastline with distinctive boulder outcrops and inlets / lochs combined with the larger scale seascape, and the presence of the existing aquaculture development;
- Capacity to change – there is a high capacity for the seascape character area to accommodate the Proposed Development given the sense of openness along the coastline, and the presence of the existing fish farm development to the north and south. This results in a low susceptibility to the development because the seascape would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the seascape; and
- Seascape sensitivity – within the Low Rocky Island Coast there is a low sensitivity to offshore development including fish farms, given the existing aquaculture development and the commercial fishing activity.

The Proposed Development would not detract from the overall existing medium seascape quality, and low sensitivity to aquaculture development. This results in a low susceptibility to the development because the seascape would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development within the Low Rocky Island Coast SCT 13 would be small overall. There would be a small-scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape such as the addition of new fish farm equipment. The change would affect a small part of the seascape character type, as the development would occupy a small geographical extent, for example, the level of the immediate setting of the site along the coastline near Stac an Fhir Mhaoil and Creag Fhraoch.

The seascape effects would be minor, direct, non-significant, long-term (reversible), and adverse and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing seascape character.

7.3 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON THE ISOLATED COAST

The Isolated Coast, as designated within the Outer Hebrides Local Plan, is situated ~1.8 km south of the Proposed Development, at A'Chabag. There is a short section of 200 – 300 m of Isolated Coast within 2 km of the Proposed Development where there is potential visibility of the proposed pens and barge. Beyond 2km there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development along the Isolated Coast for a distance of ~6 km.

The Local Plan describes Isolated Coast as being characterised by the "absence of human activity on or off shore". This applies to this section of coastline, however, at the

entrance to Loch Odhairn, there is evidence of human activity with boat movement on the northern edge of the Isolated Coast.

The Isolated Coast has been assessed as having:

Seascape value – the Isolated Coast is considered to be of a medium – high seascape value;

Seascape quality – views from the coastline focus on the upland hinterland to the south, and on a clear day over to the Isle of Skye. The seascape is considered to be of a medium - high seascape quality overall, given the rocky coastline with distinctive boulder outcrops and inlets / lochs combined with the larger scale seascape;

Capacity to change – there is a high capacity for the seascape character area to accommodate the Proposed Development given the sense of openness along the coastline, and the lack of predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the Isolated Coastline. This results in a low susceptibility to the development because the seascape character of the Isolated Coast would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the seascape and distance of the Proposed Development from the Isolated Coast; and

Seascape sensitivity – within the Isolated Coast there is a medium - high sensitivity to off shore development.

The Proposed Development would not detract from the overall existing medium – high seascape quality, and medium sensitivity to aquaculture development. This results in a medium susceptibility to the development and the seascape would be able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and overall lack of intervisibility of the Proposed Development from the Isolated Coast.

The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development within the Low Rocky Isolated Coast would be negligible overall. There would be a small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape such as the addition of new fish farm equipment from a short section of the northern part of the Isolated Coast. The change would affect a small part of the seascape character, as the development would occupy a small geographical extent in the view ~ 1.8 km to the north.

The seascape effects on the Isolated Coast would be minor, indirect, non-significant, (reversible) and adverse and limited to the northern edge of the Isolated Coast only. There would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing seascape character of the Isolated Coast.

7.4 SUMMARY OF SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

The Proposed Development has been designed and located in line with NatureScot guidance.

"Well located and designed developments however, can complement landscape character, particularly where they can reinforce key characteristics, such as those associated with a working environment and are also more likely to be welcomed by local people.

With careful choice of location, siting and layout, aquaculture can make a positive contribution to the landscape, for example through reusing redundant buildings and, where appropriate, reinforcing a sense of human activity.

Aquaculture need not be hidden from view, but should be well enough sited and designed to fit in with the surrounding character and contribute to a lived in landscape.[31]"

As such the proposed fish farm pens, feed barge and pipes are well sited within the seascape and set within a backdrop of a rocky coastline, which helps 'absorb' the man-made structures into the seascape.

NatureScot identifies the following opportunities related to landscape character, where landscape features provide opportunity for the landscape to accommodate aquaculture development, and the following apply to the Proposed Development and the seascape / landscape context:

- There are no 'iconic or important' features within the landscape / seascape with which aquaculture may compete; and
- The landscape / seascape of the Study Area is characterised by activity, with maritime traffic of both recreational and small fishing vessels, and boats for the existing nearby aquaculture sites[32].

The Proposed Development is located within an expansive coastal location. This location takes advantage of the landform at the edge of the coast and many inlets along the rocky coast. Within the study area the landscape is experienced from cnoc and lochan landscape with very limited views across the coast and towards open water and out to sea.

Therefore, it is considered that the characteristics of the local coastline and medium to large scale of the receiving landscape, the receiving landscape and seascape have the capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development.

[31] NatureScot (November 2011) The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations. Prepared by Alison Grant, Landscape Architect. Section 1.1, page 2. Available online at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202011%20-%20The%20siting%20and%20design%20of%20aquaculture%20in%20the%20landscape%20-%20visual%20and%20landscape%20considerations.pdf
[32] Ibid 6, page 16, Box 1

8. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

Visibility of aquaculture development, and structures within the water, varies considerably with change in weather and lighting conditions. NatureScot guidance on the siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape describe how visibility of structures in the water vary due to:

- The contrast in texture between the pens, lines or buoys and the smooth, reflective surface of the water, particularly in calm weather;
- The contrast between the vertical sides of finfish pens and infrastructure and the flatwater surface.
- The constant changes in light conditions can one moment cast a structure into shadow, and the next reflect bright light upon it;
- The size, type or extent of the structures, including the feed storage barges or lighting associated with finfish farms, or numerous buoys associates with shellfish lines; and
- The changes in sea colour and tone, which can often camouflage the structures one moment, but then emphasise the structure in dramatic contrast the next.

The change / sequence of views along the coastline, from the water, and the varying relief and scale of the surrounding landscape, are important factors in the appreciation of the local seascape, and in the visual assessment of the Proposed Development within the seascape.

8.1 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

An appraisal of visual effects was undertaken from six viewpoints, which were selected to represent typical views from key receptors at varying distances and orientations from the Proposed Development (refer to Figures 1.12 – 1.17, Appendix B).

From each viewpoint the following information is provided:

- A representative baseline photograph (90 degree horizontal angle of view) to show the context of location of the viewpoint (and 360 degree angles where cumulative views are available);
- A wireline illustration (53.5 degree horizontal angle of view);
- A photomontage illustration (53.5 degree horizontal angle of view);
- A description of the existing view; and
- A qualitative assessment of the potential visual effects considering the sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change in view.

It is recognised that different receptors would appreciate the landscape in many different ways, depending on whether they live in, work in, or are holidaying in the area and how they are travelling through e.g. on road, foot, water etc. Those on holiday would experience the landscape in its broader sense forming an opinion on scenic quality based on first impression and would appreciate the landscape for its distinctiveness at a high

level. Conversely visitors may cast a more critical eye over the presence of visual detractors in the landscape.

Those living within, or travelling through, the landscape of the Detailed Study Area on a regular basis may appreciate it beyond the perception of a visitor and may appreciate familiarity of landscape and views, based on their experience of viewing it in a certain way, over time and in its present state without intervention. Therefore, those who notice change within the landscape may be more acutely affected by change irrelevant of the scale of the Proposed Development. There may also be a different appreciation for change where such change for instance brings social or economic benefits and as such it is difficult to interpret how such changes would be interpreted by various users other than as set out in the methodology in Appendix A. On this basis, this assessment visual receptors engaging in recreational activity are assessed as a high sensitivity to change, and those visual receptors in work activity are assessed as having a low sensitivity to change.

The viewpoint locations are shown on Figure 1.5a (Appendix B). Photographs and photomontages of the Proposed Development from each viewpoint are shown in Viewpoints 1 – 6, Figures 1.12 to 1.17 (Appendix B).

The viewpoints are used to assist in the appraisal of effects on landscape and visual resources and are referenced in Section 2.11 Viewpoints. Viewpoint selection and micro-siting of each viewpoint location accord with technical guidance.

8.1.1 VIEWPOINT 1 – SEA BASED VIEW (1.5 KM NORTH OF THE DEVELOPMENT)

8.1.1.1 BASELINE

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an area of open sea, along the coastline, north of the Proposed Development.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 1.5 km.

A wireline and photomontage visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.12a - c, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted view of the Proposed Development.

8.1.1.2 SUSCEPTIBILITY & VALUE

Recreational receptors would be of a high value, and the visual receptor susceptibility to change would also be high. However, in this location there will also be those working in marine industries, both on fishing boats and servicing the existing fish farms, who are of a low value and susceptibility to change.

8.1.1.3 SENSITIVITY

Recreational receptors in this location would be of a high sensitivity, and maritime workers would be of a low sensitivity.

8.1.1.4 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

Given the distance of the Proposed Development, the predicted magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development would be small. The Proposed Development

would be visible on the horizon, The Proposed Development would be visible alongside a rocky cliff / foreshore, but given the distance, the sea level elevation of the viewpoint, and the medium - large scale views out to sea, the magnitude of change to views from this location would be limited to direct views south along the coastline.

8.1.1.5 LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT

The nature of these visual effects would be Moderate, significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for recreational receptors within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development. The nature of these visual effects would be negligible - minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for maritime workers.

8.1.2 VIEWPOINT 2 – SEA BASED VIEW (1.5 KM NORTH WEST OF THE DEVELOPMENT)

8.1.2.1 BASELINE

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an area of open sea, along the coastline, northwest of the Proposed Development, near the rocky foreshore of Camas Chalaboist.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 1.5 km.

A wireline and photomontage visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.13a - c, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted view of the Proposed Development.

8.1.2.2 SUSCEPTIBILITY & VALUE

Recreational receptors would be of a high value, and the visual receptor susceptibility to change would also be high. However, in this location there will also be those working in marine industries, both on fishing boats and servicing the existing fish farms, who are of a low value and susceptibility to change.

8.1.2.3 SENSITIVITY

Recreational receptors in this location would be of a high sensitivity, and maritime workers would be of a low sensitivity.

8.1.2.4 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

Given the distance of the Proposed Development, the predicted magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development would be negligible. Only one pen of the Proposed Development would be visible on the horizon, The magnitude of change to views from this location would be limited to direct views south along the coastline.

8.1.2.5 LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT

The nature of these visual effects would be Negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for recreational receptors and maritime workers, within 1.5 km of the Proposed Development.

8.1.3 VIEWPOINT 3 – SEA BASED VIEW (4.7 KM NORTH OF THE DEVELOPMENT)

8.1.3.1 BASELINE

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an area of open sea, north west of the Proposed Development.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 4.7 km.

A wireline and photomontage visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.14a - c, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted view of the Proposed Development.

8.1.3.2 SUSCEPTIBILITY & VALUE

In this location there will be those working in marine industries, both on fishing boats and servicing the existing fish farms, who are of a low value and susceptibility to change. There are no promoted ferry routes in this location, and recreational boats would stay closer to the shoreline.

8.1.3.3 SENSITIVITY

Maritime workers would be of a low sensitivity.

8.1.3.4 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

Given the distance of the Proposed Development, the predicted magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development would be negligible.

8.1.3.5 LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT

The nature of these visual effects would be Negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for marine / water based receptors, within 4.7 km of the Proposed Development.

8.1.4 VIEWPOINT 4 – SEA BASED VIEW (4.7 KM EAST OF THE DEVELOPMENT)

8.1.4.1 BASELINE

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an area of open sea, east of the Proposed Development.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 4.7 km.

A wireline and photomontage visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.15a - c, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted view of the Proposed Development.

8.1.4.2 SUSCEPTIBILITY & VALUE

In this location there will be those working in marine industries, both on fishing boats and servicing the existing fish farms, who are of a low value and susceptibility to change. There are no promoted ferry routes in this location, and recreational boats would stay closer to the shoreline.

8.1.4.3 SENSITIVITY

Maritime workers would be of a low sensitivity.

8.1.4.4 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

Given the distance of the Proposed Development, the predicted magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development would be negligible.

8.1.4.5 LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT

The nature of these visual effects would be Negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for marine / water based receptors, within 4.7 km east of the Proposed Development.

8.1.5 VIEWPOINT 5 – CALBOST

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an elevated location on the local road network in Calbost. Views from this road are screened to the south by the rocky topography are restricted by the rise in elevation and the Cnoc and Lochan rocky outcrops to the south and south east.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 2.1 km.

A wireline visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.16a - b, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted screened view of the Proposed Development.

There are no anticipated views of the Proposed Development from this, and therefore no visual effects on views from this location in Calbost.

8.1.6 VIEWPOINT 6 – CALBOST (NORTH)

This is a viewpoint to illustrate the landscape and seascape context and views from an elevated location on the local road network in Calbost. Views from this road are screened to the south by the rocky topography are restricted by the rise in elevation and the Cnoc and Lochan rocky outcrops to the south and south east.

The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development is 2.1 km.

A wireline visualisation has been presented in Figure 1.17a - b, Appendix B, to illustrate the predicted screened view of the Proposed Development.

There are no anticipated views of the Proposed Development from this, and therefore no visual effects on views from this location in Calbost.

8.2 VISUAL EFFECTS ON VIEWS FROM WATER BASED LOCATIONS – RECREATIONAL ROUTES

Potential views from the sea will largely be from commercial and, to a lesser extent, recreational boats. The Development will be seen in the context of the surrounding dark backdrop of the rocky coastline and expansive open seascape.

The absence of identified beaches indicates that the Proposed Development would have limited impact on tourist / recreational activities. The Outer Hebrides is popular for kayaking, around small islands, and islets. However, with the lack of beach / jetty launch points there is little evidence this area is used for informal recreational activities[33]. The Stornoway Seafari boat trips do visit this coastline, but their promoted routes are to Loch Erisort, Loch Leurbost and Loch Grimshader, all situated over 5 km north of the Site.

Boat based receptors will be at sea level, therefore by utilising low profile structures and regular site formation, the potential visual effects of the Development would be minimised, and the dark coastal edge along with the expansive open water horizon would help absorb the Development.

Visual receptors would be of a high value (recreational receptors on the water), and the visual receptor susceptibility to change would also be high. For commercial fishing boats, the maritime workers would be of a low value and the visual receptor susceptibility to change would also be low given their focus on work.

There would be a low - medium magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development along the coastline, depending on proximity of the vessels to the Proposed Development exiting / entering Loch Odhairn towards Gravir.

The nature of these visual effects would be moderate, significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for recreational receptors, but only within proximity to the Proposed Development, up to 0.5 km distance. The visual effects would recede with distance after passing the pens and barge.

The nature of these visual effects would be minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for commercial boats, who are occupied in the fishing industry or servicing nearby fish farms. But only within proximity to the Proposed Development, up to 0.5 km distance. The visual effects would recede with distance after passing the pens and barge.

8.3 SUMMARY OF VISUAL EFFECTS

Views of the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

- The siting of the Proposed Development is within an area which is characterised by activity, with maritime traffic, recreational craft and commercial related to aquaculture development and fishing within this seascape;
- Localised screening offered by the dark rocky coastline helps assimilate the Proposed Development within the seascape along the coastline;

[33] Reference has been made to the Strava Heat Map to review both land based and water based recreational activities. There are no recorded routes from Gravir or Calbost for water based recreational activities. Refer to: Strava's Global Heatmap

The medium to large scale views within the seascape would be subject to a negligible to small degree of change overall, as perceived by key visual receptors; and

The screening of views by the local distinctive cnoc and lochan landscape for local receptors from the Proposed Development results in significant visual effects to be concentrated within a 0.5 km radius for sea based activities only. There are no predicted views from the local road network, residential properties, or from the settlement of Calbost.

9. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

9.1 CUMULATIVE SEASCAPE EFFECTS

The existing operational fish farms and the Proposed Development are all located within the Low Rocky Islands Coast SCT 13.

The consolidation of aquaculture within an existing developed area provides opportunity to reduce pressure elsewhere[34]. The proposed location of the Proposed Development fulfils local spatial planning guidance and policy within the Supplementary Planning Guidance Marine Fish Farm Supplementary Guidance (November 2018).

Given the spacing of the fish farm development within the lochs along the coast, and within a medium – large seascape, the predicted cumulative seascape effects would be negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

9.2 CUMULATIVE VISUAL EFFECTS

In all of the selected viewpoints there is very limited inter-visibility between the Proposed Development and the other fish farms within the Study Area due to topographical screening and the distance between the operational fish farms.

Given the lightly settled nature of the local landscape, indeed expanses of remote / inaccessible land along the coastline, there is no opportunity for sequential or static cumulative views of operational fish farms and the Proposed Development for residential / recreational land based receptors.

The Cumulative ZTV – North illustrates that there is limited opportunity for static cumulative visual effects on view from sea based receptors from the north, at VP 3, and from the east at VP 4. However, given the distance of these viewpoint from both the Proposed Development (4.7 and 3.7 km respectively) and distance from Tabhaigh Fish Farm 3 km to the north from VP 3 and 7 km north west of VP 4, there would be a negligible magnitude of change and predicted cumulative visual effects would be negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

The Cumulative ZTV – South illustrates that there is limited opportunity for static cumulative visual effects with Caolas A Deas Fish Farm, except further out to sea and at a distance of over 7 kms south of the Proposed Development. The proximity of the Gravir Fish Farm, ~1.5 km south west of the Proposed Development, provides more opportunity for static cumulative visual effects for sea based receptors at the entrance of Loch Odhairn. Sea based receptors would be maritime and recreational receptors. There would be a small magnitude of change and predicted cumulative visual effects would be negligible -minor and minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

A Cumulative ZTV is illustrated in Figures 1.11a and 1.11b, Appendix B.

[34] Scottish Natural Heritage. The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations, Section 2.11, page 11

10. SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

10.1 PREDICTED SEASCAPE & LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

10.1.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE

During the construction of the Proposed Development the medium sensitivity and medium susceptibility of the seascape and landscape character, and the predicted negligible to small magnitude of change within the Rocky Moorland LCT, Dispersed Crofting LCT, and Low Rocky Island Coast SCT 13 Little Minch LC Unit 14, would result in an overall effect during construction predicted to be negligible to minor, non-significant, adverse, direct & indirect, and short term (reversible).

10.1.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE

10.1.2.1 CNOC AND LOCHAN LCT

The landscape effects would be negligible, indirect, adverse but reversible, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the Cnoc and Lochan LCT.

10.1.2.2 DISPERSED CROFTING LCT

The landscape effects would be negligible, indirect, adverse but reversible, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the Dispersed Crofting LCT.

10.1.2.3 LOCAL LANDSCAPE

The local landscape effects would be negligible to minor, indirect adverse but reversible, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character of the local landscape.

The landscape would be able to accommodate the Proposed Development without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

10.1.2.4 ISOLATED COAST

The seascape effects on the Isolated Coast would be minor, indirect, adverse but reversible, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing seascape character of the Isolated Coast.

10.1.2.5 LOW ROCKY ISLAND COAST SEASCAPE SCT 13 – NORTH EAST LEWIS CHARACTER UNIT 12

There would be a small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape such as the addition of new fish farm equipment. The change would affect a small part of the seascape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy a small geographical extent, for example, the level of the immediate setting of the site along the coastline near Pairc Peninsula.

The seascape effects would be minor, direct, adverse but reversible, and there would be no discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing seascape character.

10.2 PREDICTED VISUAL EFFECTS

10.2.1 VIEWPOINTS

The nature of these visual effects on the selected viewpoints within the SLVIA would be negligible to moderate, non-significant and significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for land based views of the Proposed Development.

The nature of these visual effects would be moderate, significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for recreational receptors, and negligible to negligible – minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for those working in aquaculture or fishing boats from the water based views.

10.2.2 SEA BASED VISUAL RECEPTORS

The nature of these visual effects would be moderate, significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for recreational receptors, but only within proximity to the Proposed Development, up to 0.5 km distance. The visual effects would recede with distance after passing the pens and barge.

The nature of these visual effects would be minor, not significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse for commercial boats, who are occupied in the fishing industry or servicing nearby fish farms. But only within proximity to the Proposed Development, up to 0.5 km distance. The visual effects would recede with distance after passing the pens and barge.

10.2.3 CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

Given the spacing of the fish farm development within the lochs along the coast, and within a medium – large seascape, the predicted cumulative seascape effects would be negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

10.2.4 CUMULATIVE VISUAL EFFECTS

Within the northern group of fish farms there would be a negligible magnitude of change and predicted cumulative visual effects would be negligible, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

Within the southern group of fish farms there would be a small magnitude of change and predicted cumulative visual effects would be negligible -minor and minor, non-significant, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

10.3 CONCLUSION

There would be no significant landscape effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development and no significant seascape effects given the medium - large scale of the receiving seascape in this location.

Significant visual effects would be limited to the visual effect on views for sea / water based recreational receptors 0.5 km of the Proposed Development, due to the distance of the nearest visual receptors in this remote landscape and seascape.

The Proposed Development would not exceed the cumulative capacity of the landscape seascape around the Pairc Peninsula, nor would it become the dominant characteristic of the landscape / seascape within the Study Area given the already established operational fish farms in the local landscape.

11. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Effects are considered to be significant for the purposes of the EIA Regulations where the effect is classified as being of 'major', 'moderate – major' or 'moderate' significance.

It is concluded that locally significant effects on landscape / seascape character and visual amenity are inevitable as a result of commercial aquaculture development. Whilst the SLVIA identifies significant visual effects within a 0.5 km radius of the Proposed Development for sea based receptors only, it is considered that overall, the landscape and seascape has the capacity to accommodate the effects identified.

APPENDIX A SLVIA METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX A SLVIA METHODOLOGY

A1 GUIDANCE

The seascape, landscape and visual assessment methodology follows the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' Third Edition (GLVIA3)[35]. As recommended by GLVIA3, this is not a generic SLVIA methodology, but has been tailored to be proportionate to the nature and location of the Proposed Scheme.

A1.1 INTRODUCTION

The level of landscape and visual effect is determined through consideration of the 'sensitivity' and 'susceptibility' of the seascape, landscape or visual receptor to the proposed Development and the 'magnitude of change' that would be brought about by the proposed Development were it to be constructed.

The time period for the assessment covers the construction of the proposed Development and associated infrastructure, to completion of the works and the commencement of its operation.

The assessment has involved a process of iterative design and re-assessment of any remaining, residual effects that could not otherwise be mitigated or 'designed out'. The type of effect is also considered and may be direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and positive, neutral or negative. The landscape and visual assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and qualitative assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

A1.2 TERMINOLOGY

A description of the terms used in this SLVIA are provided below.

A1.2.1 SENSITIVITY OF RECEPTOR

This is Established by considering the value of the receptor and its susceptibility to change. Both these two aspects inform the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors as set out in Sections 1.5.1 and 1.6.1 below. For the purposes of this SLVIA, receptor sensitivity is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.4 and A1.11).

[35] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.

A1.2.2 RESOURCE / RECEPTOR VALUE

For the landscape resource this is related to the value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different people for different reasons. For visual receptors this relates to the recognition attached to a particular view (for example in relation to heritage assets or through planning designations) and indicators of value attached to views by visitors (for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps and the provision of facilities such as car parking and interpretation). For the purposes of the SLVIA a receptor value is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.1, A1.2 and A1.9).

A1.2.3 SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE

For landscape receptors this means the ability to accommodate a proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies

For visual receptors this is a product of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and visual amenity they experience.

For the purposes of this SLVIA, susceptibility to change is classified on a three-point scale of: low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.3 and A1.10).

A1.2.4 MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

This is gauged by assessing the type and amount of change predicted to occur in relation to the landscape or visual receptor. Factors influencing the magnitude of change include: size, scale and nature of change; geographical extent; and duration and reversibility of effect as set out in Sections 1.5.2 and 1.6.2 and associated tables.

For the purposes of the SLVIA, magnitude of change is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, small, medium, and large (refer to Table A1.8 and A1.14)

Where there is no change to the receptor, or indeed no view of the Development the magnitude of change is assessed as No Change which would result in No Effects.

A1.2.5 LEVEL OF EFFECT

The level of landscape and visual effect is gauged by considering the magnitude of change along with the sensitivity of the receptor using professional judgement. For the purposes of the SLVIA, level of effect is classified on a six-point scale of: negligible, minor, minor to moderate, moderate, moderate to major and major (Tables A1.15 and A1.16).

In line with best practice guidance set out in GLVIA3, in addition to assessing level, effects are classified as: beneficial, adverse or neutral, as well as direct and indirect. An

effect is understood to be neutral when the predicted residual change would, on balance, result in neither an improvement,

A2 BASELINE

The seascape, landscape and visual baselines were established by undertaking a detailed desk study, fieldwork, and analysis of findings to create a detailed understanding of the existing landscape and visual context of both the site and surrounding landscape within the study areas.

Establishing the seascape and landscape baseline included gathering data on the seascape and landscape character and how this varies through the study area; together with its geographic extent; and how it is experienced and valued.

The visual baseline establishes the areas from where the new components of the development can be seen, who can see them, the places where those who see them would be affected and the nature of views and visual amenity.

Together the established baseline provides an understanding of the components of the landscape and visual resource that may be affected by the development, which includes the identification of key receptors and viewpoints which represent such receptors. The baseline is of sufficient detail to enable a well-informed assessment of the likely landscape & visual effects on the baseline conditions of the development.

The desk-based assessment has involved the following key activities:

- Familiarisation with the landscape and visual resources of the area within which the development would be located;
- Identification of landscape and visual resources likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- Preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps;
- Identification of the location of viewpoints, informed by the ZTV, that were used to inform the assessment of effects of both landscape and visual resources; and
- Identification of suitable study areas for the SLVIA.

The desk-based assessment began with a review of legislation, policy and guidance including published landscape character assessments of the area and its wider context. This developed an understanding of the baseline environment within which the 7 km radius Seascape / Landscape Study Area is located and has formed the basis of SLVIA fieldwork.

Viewpoints identified through consultation and during desk studies were ground-truthed through fieldwork and their positions fixed prior to photography being undertaken. Landscape character areas (LCAs) were reviewed during fieldwork and the descriptions contained in the published landscape character assessment were augmented where necessary. Landscape and visual receptors were also assessed to ensure they are accurately represented through desk-based assessment.

A2.1 ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

In accordance with GLVIA3 the assessment of landscape and visual effects are separate but linked procedures; the landscape is assessed as an environmental resource in its own right, whereas visual effects are assessed on views and visual amenity experienced by people.

Both landscape and visual effects have been assessed at construction stage and during operation of the fish farm.

A2.1.1 SENSITIVITY

As noted above, the sensitivity of landscape receptors is assessed through consideration of their value and susceptibility to change. The process for determining landscape sensitivity is set out below.

A2.1.2 LANDSCAPE VALUE

For landscape receptors, value concerns the importance of the landscape resource as evidenced by the presence of landscape designations and professional judgement. Susceptibility is concerned with the landscapes ability to absorb change brought about by the development.

Table A1.1 below illustrates how the value has been determined.

TABLE A1 1 LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE VALUE CRITERIA

Value	Landscape and Associated Designations	Description
International / High	World Heritage Site	Internationally valued and designated landscapes.
National / High	National Park; AONBs; Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest; Ancient Woodland	Nationally valued and designated landscapes.
Regional / Medium	Green Belt; Conservation Areas; Areas of High Landscape Value, Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)	Local authority landscape designations
Local / Low	Undesignated Landscape	Landscapes which are not designated nationally or locally.

The European Landscape Convention promotes the need to take account of all landscapes, with less emphasis on the special and more recognition that ordinary landscapes, such as community landscapes also have their own value. The criteria used

to assess undesignated (community value) landscapes are set out using Box 5.1 in GLVIA336, as per

TABLE A1 2: FACTORS FOR ASSESSING THE VALUE OF UNDESIGNATED LANDSCAPES / SEASCAPE

Factor	Criteria
Landscape Quality (condition)	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Scenic Quality	The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).
Rarity	The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.
Representativeness	Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.
Conservation interests	The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
Recreation value	Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.
Perceptual aspects	A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.
Associations	Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.

A2.2 SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE RECEPTORS TO CHANGE

This means the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies[37].

Susceptibility of landscape receptors to change has been assessed using the criteria set out in TABLE A1 3: Landscape / Seascape Receptor Susceptibility to Change.

[36] Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Box 5.1, Page 84.
[37] Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Paragraph 5.40, Page 88.

TABLE A1 3: LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE RECEPTOR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	The landscape receptor is highly susceptible to the development because the key characteristics of the landscape have no or very limited ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.
Medium	The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the development because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.
Low	The landscape receptor has low susceptibility to the development because the relevant characteristics of the landscape are generally able to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.

A2.2.1 LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE SENSITIVITY

TABLE A1 114: Landscape / Seascape sensitivity criteria sets out the sensitivity rating and criteria to be used in the SLVIA, which results from a combination of value and susceptibility.

As has been noted above, the sensitivity of landscape receptors is defined in terms of the relationship between value and susceptibility to change.

TABLE A1 114: LANDSCAPE / SEASCAPE SENSITIVITY CRITERIA

Landscape sensitivity criteria		Value of Receptor	
		International/ National	Regional Local
Susceptibi	High	High	High Medium
	Medium	High	Med Low

Landscape sensitivity criteria		Value of Receptor	
		International/ National	Regional
bility to change			ium
	Low	Medium	Medium or Low
	Negligible	Low	Negligible

A2.3 MAGNITUDE OF SEASCAPE / LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

The determination of the magnitude of landscape and visual effects combines an assessment of the size or scale of change likely to be experienced as a result of each effect[38], the geographical extent of the area likely to be influenced and the duration and reversibility of effects. Tables A1.5 to A1.8 set out the criteria used to assess the

[38] Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (page 90)

magnitude of seascape effects. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

A2.3.1 SIZE OR SCALE

Judgements are needed about the size or scale of change in the landscape that is likely to be experienced as a result of each effect. GLVIA3 states that 'judgements should, for example, take account of:

> The extent of the existing landscape elements that would be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape – in some cases this may be quantified.
>
> The degree to which aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either for example, removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones – for example, removal of hedges may change a small scale, intimate landscape into a large-scale, open one, or introduction of new buildings or tall structures may alter open skylines; and
>
> Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

TABLE A1 5: MAGNITUDE OF SEASCAPE / LANDSCAPE CHANGE: SIZE/SCALE OF CHANGE

Category	Description
Large	A large extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the seascape is considerable and the resultant change to the seascape / landscape character resulting from such a loss is large. Large scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the seascape / landscape or by addition of new ones – for example, removal of hedges may change a small scale, intimate seascape / landscape into a large-scale, open one, or introduction of new buildings or tall structures may alter open skylines. The effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape & seascape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
Medium	A medium extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the seascape is medium and the resultant change to the seascape / landscape character resulting from such a loss is medium. Medium scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the seascape / landscape or by addition of new ones – for example, removal of hedges may change a small scale, intimate seascape / landscape into a large-scale, open one, or introduction of new buildings or medium sized structures may alter open skylines. The effect changes some of the key characteristics of the landscape & seascape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
Small	A small extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the seascape / landscape is

Category	Description
	low and the resultant change to the seascape / landscape character resulting from such a loss is low. Small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the seascape / landscape or by addition of new ones – for example, removal of hedges may change a small scale, intimate seascape / landscape into a large-scale, open one, or introduction of new buildings or small structures may alter open skylines. The effect changes a small number of the key characteristics of the landscape & seascape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
Negligible	A barely perceptible extent of seascape / landscape features and elements of importance to the character of the baseline are lost / adjusted. There is a barely discernible change to aesthetic and / or perceptual attributes of landscape & seascape character and such changes occurs across a very limited geographical area and / or proportion of the seascape / landscape receptor. The effect changes a barely discernible number of the key characteristics of the seascape / landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
No Change	The proposals would not cause any change to the landscape & seascape character/ elements/features/characteristics.

A2.3.2 GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

The geographical area over which the seascape / landscape effects would be felt is also considered. This is dependent upon the nature of the proposal and the scale of effects upon the receiving landscape / seascape; however, in general effects may have an influence at the following scales:

- At the site level, within the Development site itself.
- At the level of the immediate setting of the site.
- At the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies; or
- On a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas.

TABLE A1-6: MAGNITUDE OF SEASCAPE / LANDSCAPE CHANGE: GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

Category	Description
Large	The change would affect all of the seascape / landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a large geographical extent, e.g., the change would be on a large scale, influencing several seascape types or character areas.
Medium	The change would affect a medium extent of the seascape / landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a moderate geographical

Category	Description
	extent, e.g., at the scale of the seascape / landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies.
Small	The change would affect a small part of the seascape / landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a small geographical extent, e.g., at the level of the immediate setting of the site.
Negligible	The change would affect only a negligible part of the seascape / landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a limited geographical extent, e.g., the site level, within the development site itself.
No Change	The proposals would not affect any of the seascape / landscape receptors being assessed

A2.4 DURATION AND REVERSIBILITY OF THE SEASCAPE EFFECTS

Duration and Reversibility are separate but linked considerations.

Duration can usually be simply judged on a scale such as:

Short-term: 0-5 years;

Medium-term: 5-10 years; and,

Long-term: 10-40 years.

For the purposes of this assessment this development has been assessed as permanent.

Reversibility is a judgement about whether or not a development can be removed, and once removed can the landscape / seascape be fully restored. The following are examples of the type of land use and the respective assessment of reversibility defined in GLVIA3:

Permanent, is irreversible change to the landscape / seascape, for example housing development, as it not possible to remove the development and restore the land to the original state;

Partially Reversible, change to the landscape / seascape, where the landscape / seascape can be restored to something similar to the landscape / seascape that was removed. For example, mineral development, as it is possible to restore the land to something similar to the original state, but not the same state; and,

Reversible, change to the landscape / seascape where the landscape / seascape can be fully restored. For example, a marine fish farm development, as it is possible to wholly remove the remove the development and to restore the landscape / seascape to the original state. This also includes construction activities which are of temporary nature.

TABLE A1-7: MAGNITUDE OF SEASCAPE CHANGE: REVERSIBILITY

Category	Description
Permanent	Permanent, is irreversible change to the seascape / landscape, for example housing development, as it not possible to remove the Development and restore the land to the original state.
Partially Reversible	Partially Reversible, change to the seascape / landscape, where the seascape / landscape can be restored to something similar to the seascape / landscape that was removed. For example, mineral developments, as it is possible to restore the land to something similar to the original state, but not the same state.
Reversible	Reversible, change to the seascape / landscape where the seascape / landscape can be fully restored. For example, a marine fish farm development, as it is possible to wholly remove the remove the Development and to restore the seascape / landscape to the original state. This also includes construction activities which are of temporary nature.

A2.5 OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF SEASCAPE CHANGE

The overall magnitude combines size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility as set out in TABLE A1 8.

TABLE A1 8: THE ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE

Category	Description
Large	A large extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost, the proportion that this represents within the seascape is considerable and the resultant change to the seascape / landscape character resulting from such a loss is large. The effect changes the key characteristics of the seascape / landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. Large scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape and becomes a key additional aspect. The change would affect all of the seascape / landscape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy a large geographical extent. The effects are either of a long duration, permanent, or irreversible /reversible change to the seascape / landscape.
Medium	A medium extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost, the proportion that this represents within the seascape is medium and the resultant change to the seascape character resulting from such a loss is medium. The effect changes some of the key characteristics of the seascape / landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. Medium scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape. The change would affect a medium extent of the seascape / landscape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy a moderate geographical extent.

Category	Description
	Partially Reversible, change to the seascape, where the seascape / landscape can be restored to something similar to the seascape / landscape that was removed. The effects are either of a long / or medium duration, permanent, or irreversible /reversible change to the seascape / landscape.
Small	A small extent of existing seascape / landscape elements would be lost, the proportion that this represents within the seascape is low and the resultant change to the seascape / landscape character resulting from such a loss is low. The effect changes a small number of the key characteristics of the seascape / landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. Small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the seascape / landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the seascape / landscape or by addition of new ones. The change would affect a small part of the seascape / landscape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy a small geographical extent. The effects are either of a Medium / or short duration and reversible change to the seascape / landscape.
Negligible	A barely perceptible extent of seascape / landscape features and elements of importance to the character of the baseline are lost. There is a barely discernible change to aesthetic and / or perceptual attributes of seascape / landscape character and such changes occurs across a very limited geographical area and / or proportion of the seascape / landscape receptor. The change would affect only a negligible part of the landscape / seascape receptors been assessed as the development would occupy. The effects are of short duration and reversible.

A3 ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL EFFECTS

GLVIA3 defines the assessment of visual effects as:

"…the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the context and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or the introduction of new elements".

Visual receptors are defined in GLVIA3 as:

"…people within the area who would be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – usually referred to as 'visual receptors'. They may include people living in the area, people who work there, people passing through on road, rail or other forms of transport, people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions, and people engaged in recreation of different types".

The viewpoints themselves are not visual receptors.

People have different responses to views which are dependent upon context such as the:

Location;

Time of day;

Season; and,

Degree of exposure to views.

Responses to views are also dependent upon the purpose of people being in a particular place such as:

Recreation;

Residence;

Employment; and,

Passing through on roads, rail or other forms of transport.

As people move through the seascape, certain activities or locations may be specifically associated with the experience and enjoyment of the seascape, such as:

The use of paths such as core paths, footpaths, bridleways, Byways open to all traffic (BOATs) and National Trails;

National or local cycle routes; and,

Tourist or scenic routes, and associated viewpoints on land or water.

A3.1 SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

Each visual receptor, meaning the particular person or group of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint, should be assessed in terms of both the value attached to particular views and to their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity.

A3.2 VALUE OF VIEWS

The value attached to views should be made on judgements based on the following:

Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and,

Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment and references to them in literature or art.

The criteria used to assess the value of views are summarised in Table A1.9.

TABLE A1 9 VALUE ATTACHED TO VIEWS

Value	Criteria
High	Views from and within landscapes / viewpoints of national importance, highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms an important part of the experience, or heritage assets, or through planning designations such as conservation areas, listed buildings, Gardens & Designed Landscapes,

Value	Criteria
	or with important cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a high value.
Medium	Views from landscapes / viewpoints of regional/district importance, or visitor attractions at regional or local levels where the view forms part of the experience, or local planning designations, or with local cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a medium value.
Low	Views from landscapes / viewpoints with no designations, and not particularly popular as a viewpoint, with minimal or no cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a low small value.

A3.3 SUSCEPTIBILITY OF VISUAL RECEPTORS TO CHANGE

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views depends upon:

"The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and

The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations."[39]

The criteria used to assess the susceptibility of a visual receptor are summarised in Table A1.10.

TABLE A1 10: VISUAL RECEPTOR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CHANGE

Susceptibility	Type of Receptor
High	Residents at home; People whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including the use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the seascape and on particular views; Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience; Communities where views contribute to the seascape setting enjoyed by residents in the area; and Travelers on road, rail or other transport routes along scenic routes, where the appreciation of the view contributes to the enjoyment and quality of the journey.
Medium	Travelers on road, rail or other transport routes. Users of public rights of way where the view is of moderate interest.
Low	People engaged in, outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the seascape; People at their place of work, whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings; and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.

[39] Ibid. 1. Paragraph 6.32

Susceptibility	Type of Receptor
	Road users, where the view is fleeting and incidental to the journey.

A3.4 SENSITIVITY OF VISUAL RECEPTORS

The sensitivity of visual receptors is defined in terms of the relationship between the value of views and the susceptibility of the different viewers to the proposed change. Table A1.11 summarises the nature of the relationship but it is not formulaic and only indicates general categories of sensitivity. Professional judgements are made on the merit of the view based on the visual receptor, with Table A1.11 serving as a guide.

TABLE A1 11: VISUAL SENSITIVITY CRITERIA

Visual sensitivity criteria		Value of Receptor		
		High	Medium	Low
Susceptibility to change	High	High	Medium	Medium
	Medium	High	Medium	Low
	Low	Medium	Low	Low
	Negligible	Low	Negligible	Negligible

A3.5 MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL CHANGE

The magnitude of change to visual receptors is assessed in terms of the following:

The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development.

The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture; and,

The nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it would be experienced and whether views would be full, partial or glimpses.

Tables A1.12 to A1.14 set out the criteria used to assess the magnitude of visual change. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

A3.5.1 SIZE OR SCALE

TABLE A1 12: MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL CHANGE: SIZE /SCALE

Criteria	Category
Large	The proposals would cause a complete or very large change in the view, resulting from the loss of important features in or the addition of significant new ones, to the extent that this would substantially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views are often full or sequential.
Medium	The proposals would cause a clearly noticeable change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would alter to a moderate degree the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial/intermittent.
Small	The proposals would cause a perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would partially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial only.
Negligible	The proposals would cause a barely perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would barely alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be glimpsed only.
No change	The proposals would cause no change to the existing view.

A3.6 GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

The geographical extent of the visual change identified at viewpoints is assessed by reference to a combination of the ZTV and field work. The following factors are considered:

The geographical extent of a visual effect reflects:

The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;

The distance of the viewpoint from the Development; and,

The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.

TABLE A1 13: MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL CHANGE: GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT

Criteria	Description
Large	The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is wide; The distance of the viewpoint from the development is close; and The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is large.

Criteria	Description
Medium	The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is moderate; The distance of the viewpoint from the development is moderate; and The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is moderate.
Small	The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is small; The distance of the viewpoint from the development is far; and The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is small.
Negligible	The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is negligible; The distance of the viewpoint from the development is distant; and The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is barely perceptible.
No Change	There are no changes to the existing view.

A3.6.1 DURATION AND REVERSIBILITY OF VISUAL CHANGE

The following terminology, which considers whether views would be permanent and irreversible or temporary and reversible, is used to describe the duration of the visual change at representative viewpoints:

Short-term: 0-5 years;

Medium-term: 5-10 years; and,

Long-term: 10 to 40 years.

For the purposes of this assessment the Development has been assessed as permanent.

Reversibility is a judgement about whether or not a development can be removed, and once removed can the view be fully restored. The following are examples of the type of land use and the respective assessment of reversibility defined in GLVIA3.

A3.7 OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL CHANGE

The three factors that contribute to assessment of the magnitude of visual change are combined as shown in TABLE A1 14.

TABLE A1 14: ASSESSMENT OF MAGNITUDE OF VISUAL CHANGE

Magnitude evaluation	Description of criterion
Large	The proposals would cause a complete or very large change in the view, resulting from the loss of important features in or the addition of significant new ones, to the extent that this would substantially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views are often full or sequential. The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is wide. The distance of the viewpoint from the development is close. The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is large.

Magnitude evaluation	Description of criterion
Medium	The proposals would cause a clearly noticeable change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would alter to a moderate degree the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial/intermittent. The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is moderate. The distance of the viewpoint from the development is moderate The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is moderate.
Small	The proposals would cause a perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would partially alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be partial only. The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is slight. The distance of the viewpoint from the development is slight. The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is slight.
Negligible	The proposals would cause a barely perceptible change in the view, resulting from the loss of features or the addition of new ones, to the extent that this would barely alter the composition of the view and the visual amenity it offers. Views may be glimpsed only. The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor is negligible. The distance of the viewpoint from the development is distant. The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible is barely perceptible.
No Change	There are no changes to the existing view.

A4 NATURE OF EFFECT

The nature of an effect is also assessed. This is dependent on a number of criteria which vary between effects upon the seascape/landscape and effects on visual amenity. Effects are classified as beneficial, neutral or adverse according to the following definitions:

Beneficial effects contribute to the seascape and visual resource through the enhancement of desirable characteristics or the introduction of new, positive attributes. The removal of undesirable existing elements or characteristics can also be beneficial, as can their Development with more appropriate components;

Neutral effects occur where the development neither contributes to nor detracts from the seascape and visual resource or where the effects are so limited that the change is hardly noticeable. A change to the seascape and visual resource is not considered to be adverse simply because it constitutes an alteration to the existing situation; and,

Adverse effects are those that detract from or weaken the seascape and visual resource through the introduction of elements that contrast in a detrimental way with the existing characteristics of the seascape and visual resource, or through the removal of elements that are key in its positive characterisation.

The SLVIA describes the overall effects on receptors and explains the justification for each assessment. For each assessed effect, a conclusion has been drawn on whether the effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse.

A4.1 LEVEL OF EFFECT AND CRITERIA

In accordance with EIA Regulations, it is essential to determine whether the predicted effects are likely to be 'significant'. Significant landscape and visual effects, in the assessor's opinion, resulting from the Development would be all those effects that normally result in a 'substantial', a 'moderate / substantial', or 'moderate' effect with any exceptions being clearly explained (refer to Table 6.3). The landscape and visual assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and qualitative assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Effects predicted to be of major or moderate significance are considered to be 'significant' in the context of the EIA Regulations and are shaded in light grey in TABLE A1 15 below.

The combined sensitivity and magnitude used to determine the level of effect is summarised within TABLE A1 15below. Note that effects can be either positive or negative, and in some cases, neutral (neither positive, nor negative).

TABLE A1 15: MATRIX FOR DETERMINING LEVEL OF EFFECT

		Sensitivity (value / importance)			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of change	Large	Major	Moderate – Major	Minor – Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Moderate – Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Small	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible – Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

It should be noted that the above matrix is intended as a framework for assessment only and that the level of effect will vary depending on the circumstances, the type and scale of development proposed, the baseline context and other factors. The gradations of magnitude of change and level of effect used in the assessment represent a continuum; the assessor has used professional judgement when gauging the level of effect.

Table A1.16 below provides a more detailed summary of the categories of effect.

TABLE A1 16: CATEGORIES OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECT

Level of Effect	Description of Landscape Effect	Description of Visual Effect
Major	Considerable change over an extensive area of a highly sensitive landscape, fundamentally affecting the key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would become a prominent feature and would result in a very noticeable change to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view.
Moderate	Small or noticeable change to a highly sensitive landscape or more intensive change to a landscape of medium or low sensitivity, affecting some key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would introduce some enhancing or detracting features to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view, or would be prominent within a less well composed and less sensitivity view, resulting in a noticeable improvement or deterioration of the existing view.
Minor	Small change to a limited area of landscape of high or medium sensitivity or a more widespread area of a less sensitive landscape, affecting few characteristics without	Where the proposed development would form a perceptible but not enhancing or detracting feature within a view of high or medium sensitivity or would be a more

Level of Effect	Description of Landscape Effect	Description of Visual Effect
	altering the overall impression of its character.	prominent feature within a poorly composed view of low sensitivity, resulting in a small improvement or deterioration of the existing view.
Negligible	No discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character.	No discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing view.
No Effect	The development would not affect the landscape receptor.	The development would not affect the view
Major	Considerable change over an extensive area of a highly sensitive landscape, fundamentally affecting the key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would become a prominent feature and would result in a very noticeable change to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view.

A5 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS METHODOLOGY

The Cumulative SLVIA (CSLVIA) assesses the cumulative effects of the development in combination with other developments. In line with SHN guidance outlined in GLVIA3, cumulative effects for the purpose of this assessment are based on the following definitions:

Cumulative Effects are defined as the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar development or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together (SNH, 2012:12);

Cumulative Seascape Effects are defined as effects that 'can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape or any special values attached to it' (SNH, 2012:10); and,

Cumulative visual effects are defined as effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which 'occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint' and/or sequential effects which 'occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different Developments' (SNH, 2012:11).

A search has been undertaken using publicly available online data sources (http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx) and information on planning authority planning portals of all cumulative sites within a 5 km radius of the Development site. All developments likely to impact seascape and visual receptors has been considered. The search included:

Development under construction;

Consented but not yet constructed development;

Development for which a valid planning application has been submitted; and,

Development which has been refused planning permission and which is subject of an appeal.

In order to ensure the SLVIA assessment focuses on likely significant effects, the ZTV – Local Context was utilised and the study area limited to 2 km in line with section 1.2.2 'Study Areas' and section 7.21 (item 2) of GVLIA3. In line with paragraph 7.32 of GLVIA3, distance is also a determining factor in assessing the appropriate study area and professional judgement, knowledge of the study area and a review of the types of development up to 7 km have also been applied to determine the extents of the likely significant cumulative effects.

The assessment of effects considered all development types within 5 km of the development at various stages in the planning process as prescribed above.

An assessment of the combined effects of all cumulative developments was undertaken to understand the cumulative effects on seascape and visual receptors.

A5.1 CUMULATIVE SEASCAPE EFFECTS

Cumulative seascape effects are determined using the same methodology as prescribed above in landscape effects in line with paragraph 7.27 of GLVIA3.

A5.2 CUMULATIVE VISUAL EFFECTS

Cumulative visual effects are determined using the same methodology as prescribed above in landscape effects in line with paragraph 7.37 of GLVIA3. An assessment of whether the effects are combined (in combination/in succession, or sequential (frequently or occasionally) as per box 7.1 of GLVIA3 was used where such assessment was appropriate.

A6 VIEWPOINTS AND VISUALISATIONS METHODOLOGY

Viewpoint selection followed good practice guidance and in particular paragraphs 6.18 to 6.20 of GLVIA3. The viewpoints chosen were used to aid the description of effects on both seascape and visual resources.

The selection of viewpoints was made on the basis of the following types of publicly accessible viewpoints, as follows:

- Representative viewpoints (for example, representing views of users of a particular footpath);
- Specific viewpoints (for example, a key view from a specific visitor attraction);
- Illustrative viewpoints (chosen to demonstrate a particular effect/specific issue);
- Any important sequential views, for example, along key transport routes; and,
- Any additional viewpoints that have been requested by consultees at Scoping.

For the purposes of the SLVIA, all of the viewpoints were taken from publicly accessible land. Viewpoints 6 & 7 have been taken from a boat to represent views of receptors using East Loch Tarbert.

Baseline photographic panoramas have been produced for each viewpoint to illustrate the nature of existing views in the direction of the. A baseline photographic survey has been undertaken using a digital SLR camera in accordance with current good practice guidance[40].

For all nine viewpoints, computer rendered images (photomontages) and model have been prepared. These show the Development superimposed on to the baseline photographic view to convey the appearance of the Development more accurately in the view. These photomontage locations have been selected as they provide views of key users for a number of different receptors and users which would have varying degrees of interest and which demonstrate a particular view from vantage points, and core paths, recreational routes, or sequential views.

The methodology for photography follows GLVIA3 and the Landscape Institute (2019), 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Technical Guidance Note 02/19. A full methodology for photomontage preparation is included in Appendix A.

Photographs were taken in RAW and JPEG format using a Nikon D3 and Canon 5D Mark 3 Digital SLR camera for viewpoint photography and visualisations. The time, date, altitude and grid coordinates for each frame were recorded.

[40] Landscape Institute, 2011, Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment.

A7 ZTV METHODOLOGY

Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 dataset was used as the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) for the Bare Earth ZTV. This DTM is a 5 m by 5 m raster dataset that is representative of the land form across Great Britain.

The ZTV was produced using ArcGIS Pro 2.1 software, and the calculations were based on the proposed infrastructure. The ZTV is created by highlighting areas on the DTM where a potential piece of infrastructure may be visible, based on the DTM. The height value given to the infrastructure was dependent on the flood depth value per field within the Development, plus the height of the Proposed Development.

A7.1 VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

The viewpoints are prioritised based on their location in relation to the proposed site. This is so that viewpoints east of the site are visited in the morning and viewpoints west of the site are visited in the afternoon to guarantee where possible that the sun is behind the photographer at the time of any viewpoint photography being captured. Viewpoint location maps at 1:25,000 are printed for each viewpoint to aid location once on site.

Upon arrival at each proposed viewpoint location, minor adjustments to position are made in order to obtain as clear a view to the site centre as possible, avoiding trees, landscape or man-made obstructions where possible.

The tripod is set up. The camera is placed on the panoramic head in a portrait orientation where its height is confirmed and set at 1.6 m (please note: a portrait camera orientation is sometimes used in situations where the viewpoint is very close to a development in order that the top of the development is not cut off by the image boundaries). The head is then levelled followed by levelling of the camera itself using a hot-shoe spirit level. With the camera's viewfinder centred on the perceived site centre, exposure and focus settings are taken. These are then fixed manually on the camera so that they cannot be inadvertently altered. The head is rotated 90o to the left where the first frame of the 360o sequence is then taken. Each subsequent frame is taken using a 50% overlap of the previous frame until the full 360o sequence is captured.

The camera is then removed from the tripod and a viewpoint location photograph is captured showing the tripod in its position.

The camera and tripod configuration used is as follows:

Nikon D3 digital SLR full frame camera & 50mm f1.8 prime

Tripod: Velbon Sherpa PRO CF 531 EL with Manfrotto 438 ball leveller

Panoramic head: Manfrotto 300N

Camera settings used for all photography:

Camera mode: Manual Priority

ISO:	200
Aperture:	f13
Image format:	RAW & JPEG

The single frame photographs are opened in Adobe Photoshop CC2018 where they are checked and any dust spots are removed before being saved as a high resolution TIFF image.

Photos are stitched together to create panoramas from the individual images making up the required field of view. Stitching is done in PTGui Pro version 10.0.12 professional photographic stitching software using the required projection settings. They are then checked and any further dust spots are removed before being saved as a high resolution TIFF image.

A7.2 PHOTOMONTAGE METHODOLOGY

In producing the computer model and verified view, the following methodology has been used:

The Development is located according to the scheme design and XYZ coordinates supplied;

The arrangement and size of the Development is modelled in accordance with the application;

Viewpoint locations are inputted using GPS data collected on-site.

3DS max standard cameras are correctly positioned in virtual space.

The viewpoint photography is loaded and aligned into the environment background.

The cameras field of view is overwritten in 3DS max to match the field of view of the single photo the direction and viewing angle of each camera is aligned using GPS data and matched up to the surveyed reference points (provided by the surveyors).

The rendered images have been stitched in cylindrical projection using the PTGui Software.

The lighting in the model is matched as closely as possible to the lighting within the day and time of the photography for each viewpoint.

The stitched images are rendered for each viewpoint and merged with the full resolution base photographs using Adobe Photoshop; and

Any foreground elements within the panorama are masked out.

The Development might not be stable due to winds and waves. This might affect the position of the proposed fish pens in the visuals.

APPENDIX B SLVIA FIGURES


ERM

ERM HAS OVER 160 OFFICES ACROSS THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WORLDWIDE

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Colombia
France
Germany
Ghana
Guyana
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Mozambique
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Romania
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