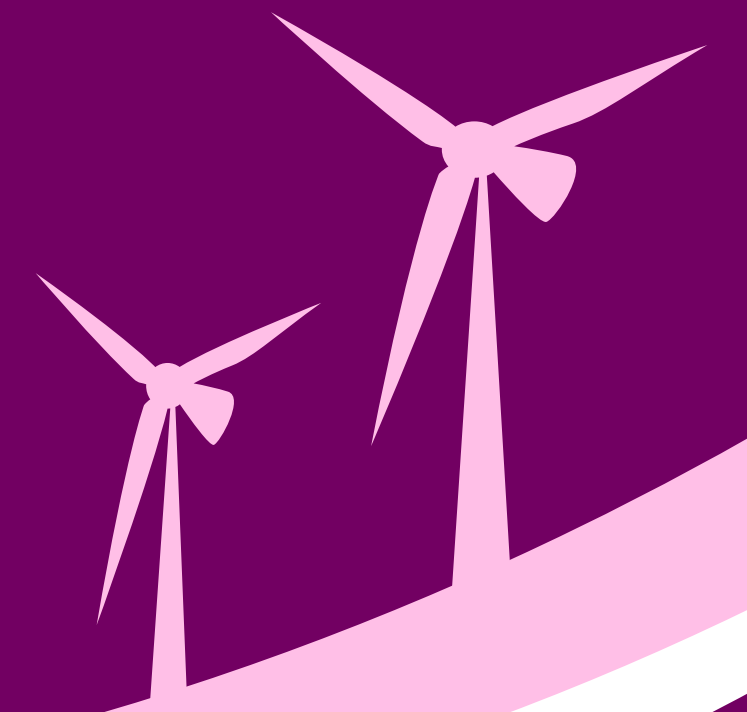


# Environmental Impact Assessment



**RSK Environment Ltd, an experienced independent environmental consultant, has been appointed to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed Millennium East Wind Farm. This assessment forms part of the formal application for consent that will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers.**

## **The EIA process includes:**

- Consultation with the local authority, local community councils, statutory and non-statutory organisations, and the public to identify specific concerns and issues.
- Determining the existing environmental conditions at and around the proposed site by reviewing the available data and undertaking specialist field surveys.
- Assessing the potential impacts of the wind farm on the surrounding environment.
- Mitigation proposals to reduce any significant impacts identified, where these cannot otherwise be avoided.

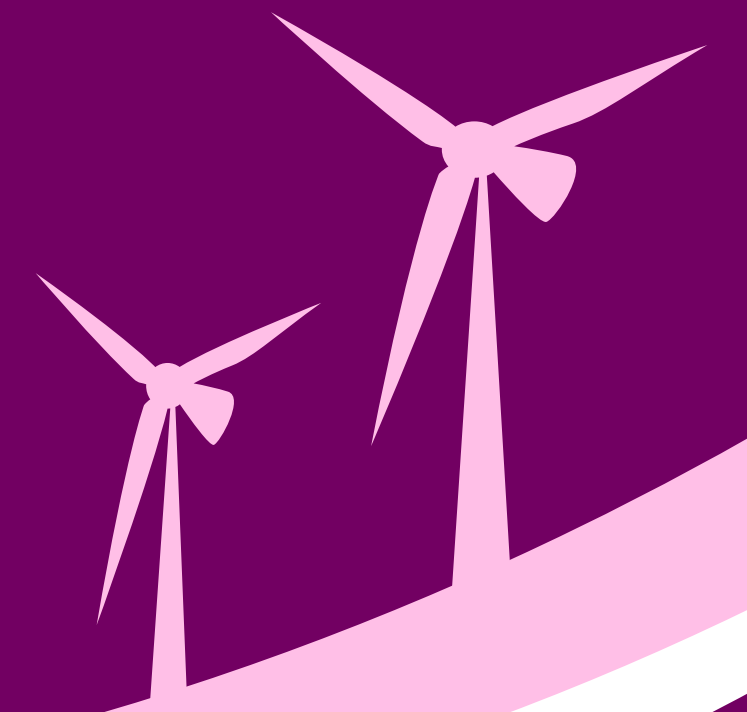
## **The EIA includes detailed studies for:**

- Landscape character and visual amenity
- Ecology and ornithology
- Hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and peat
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Traffic and transportation
- Noise and vibration
- Climate change
- Aviation and radar
- Shadow flicker
- Socio-economics





# Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)



**A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will establish the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.**

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of theoretical visibility of a Proposed Development. A ZTV based on the finalised design for Millennium East Wind Farm has been prepared for this exhibition.

The ZTV indicates the areas where proposed turbines will theoretically be visible, based on bare earth terrain (it does not take account of screening from vegetation or buildings), across the surrounding study area, which is defined as a 45 km buffer from the outer turbines of the Proposed Development.

The LVIA includes computer-generated wirelines and photomontages from a number of agreed viewpoints, to provide a representative view of what the Proposed Development would look like from different locations across the study area.

The landscape and visual impacts have influenced the design process in the placement of turbines as well as for other elements of the Proposed Development, including the setting of ancillary infrastructure, and the Battery Energy Storage substation.

The LVIA considers the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and local landscape designations, including key views from designated landscape areas.

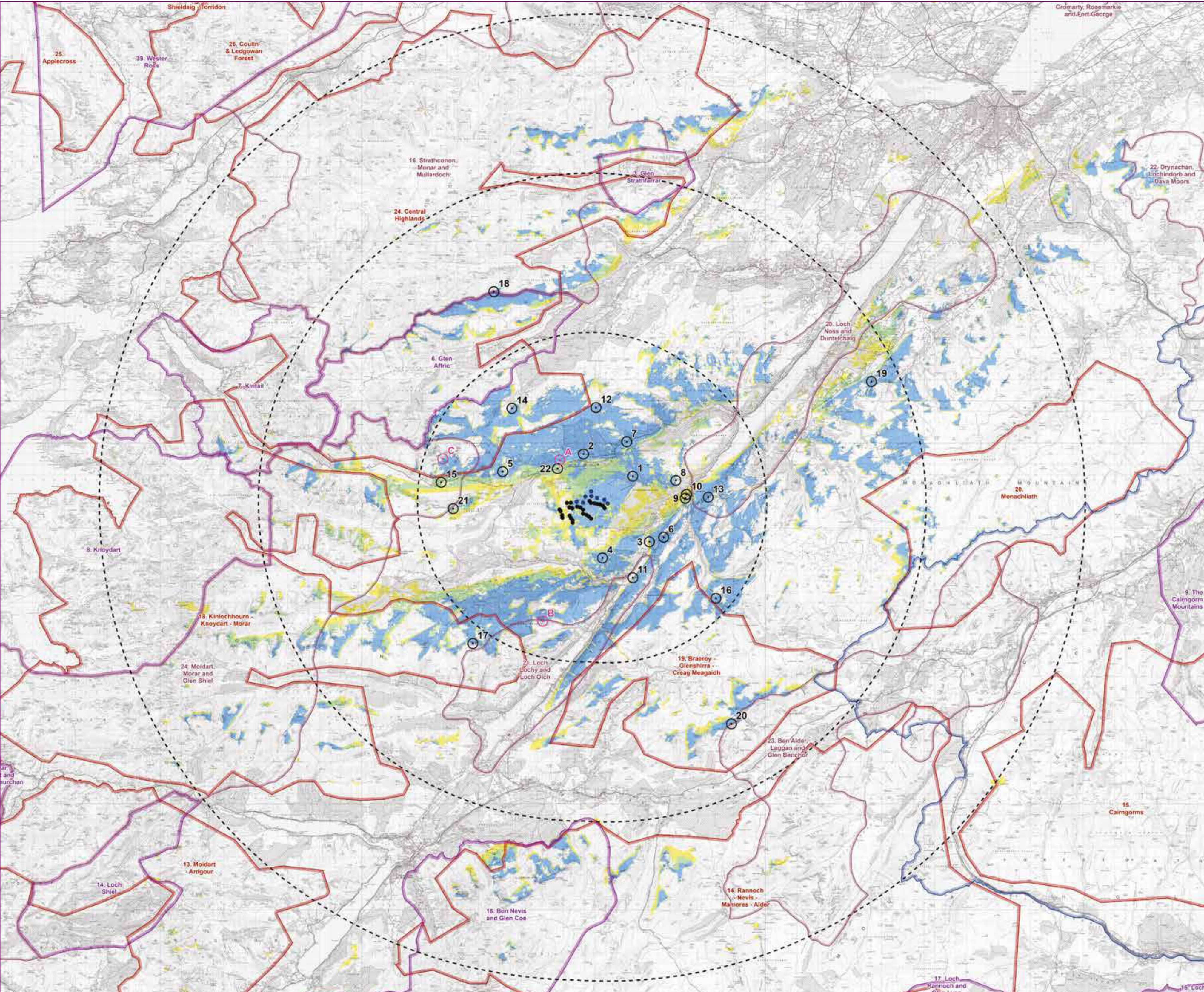
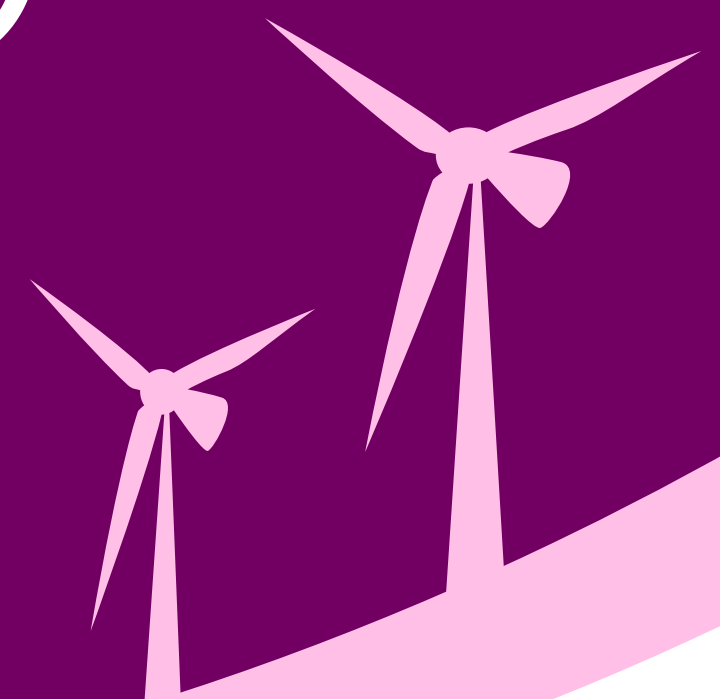
The visual assessment examines the effect on views from settlements, residential properties, roads, recreational routes and tourist/visitor attractions.

The LVIA also takes into account the cumulative effects of other existing and consented wind farm developments within the 45 km study area.





# Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) Assessment (LVIA)



**Legend**

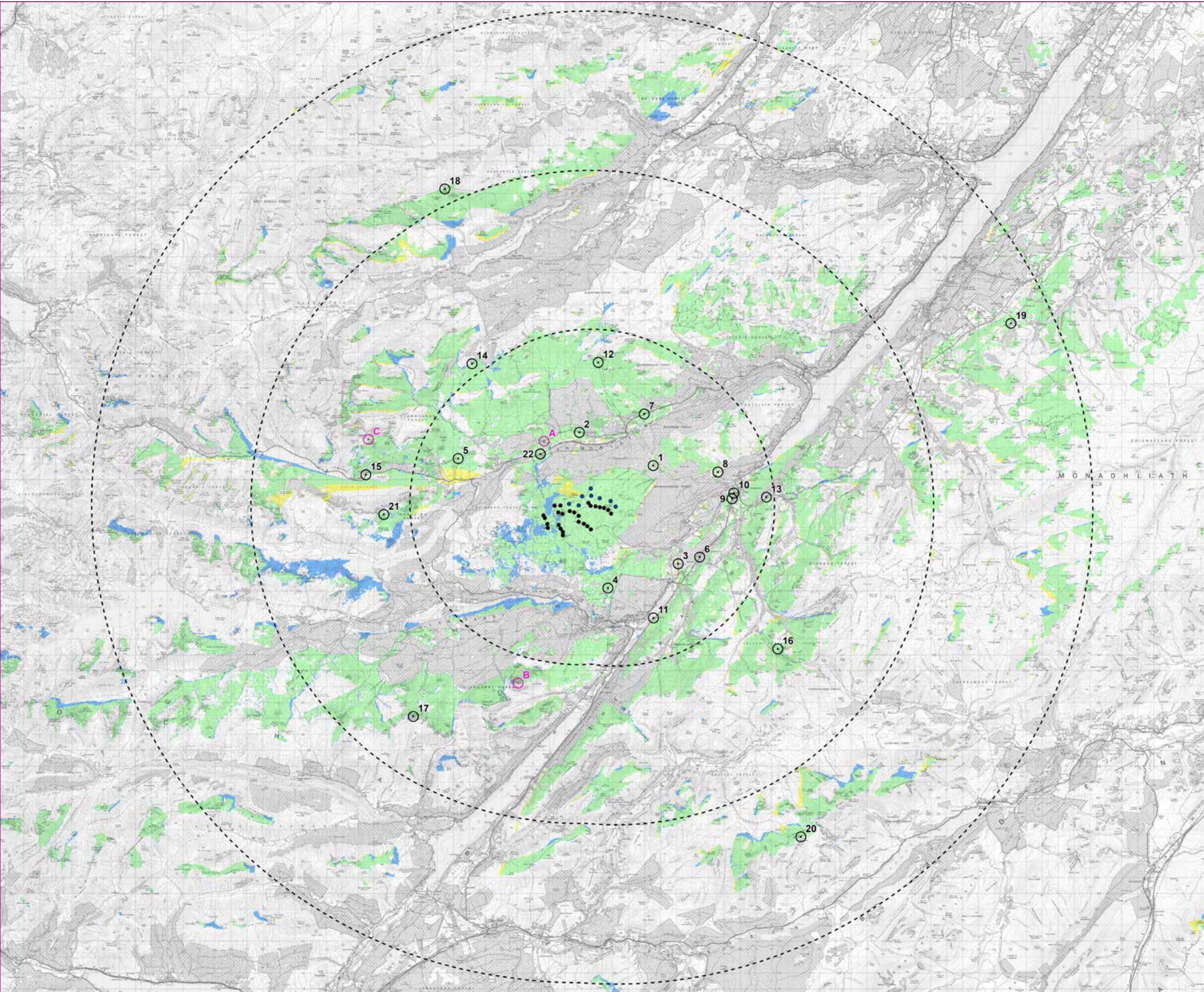
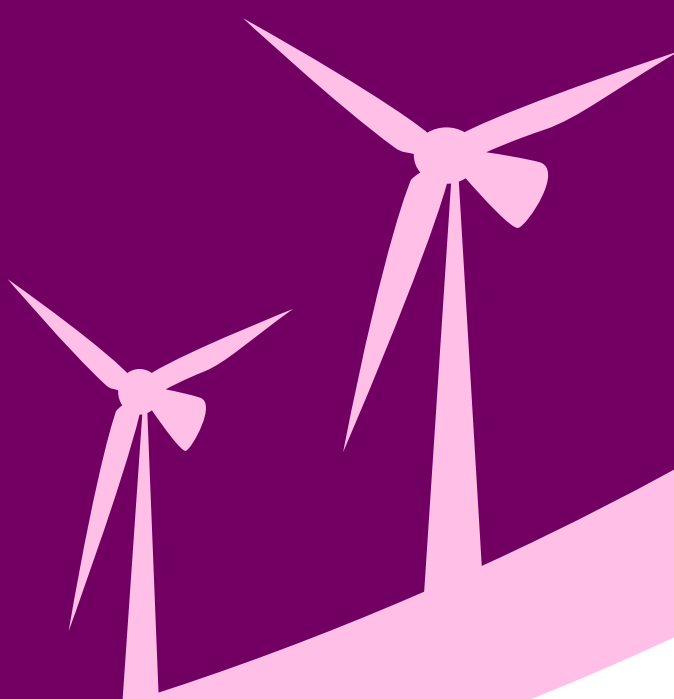
- Proposed Millenium East Wind Turbines
- Existing Millenium Wind Turbines and Extension
- Distance Radii form Outermost Turbine (15, 30, 45km)
- ⊙ Photomontage Viewpoints
- ⊙ Wireline Only Viewpoints
- ▭ Highland Council Special Landscape Areas

- ▭ Cairngorms National Park
- ▭ National Scenic Area
- ▭ Wild Land Areas
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility to Blade Tip**
- ▭ 1-3 turbines may be visible
- ▭ 4-6 turbines may be visible
- ▭ 7-8 turbines may be visible

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)



# Cumulative Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV)



Legend

- Proposed Millenium East Wind Turbines
- Existing Millenium Wind Turbines and Extension
- Distance Radii form Outermost Turbine (15, 30, 45km)
- ⊙ Photomontage Viewpoints
- ⊙ Wireline Only Viewpoints

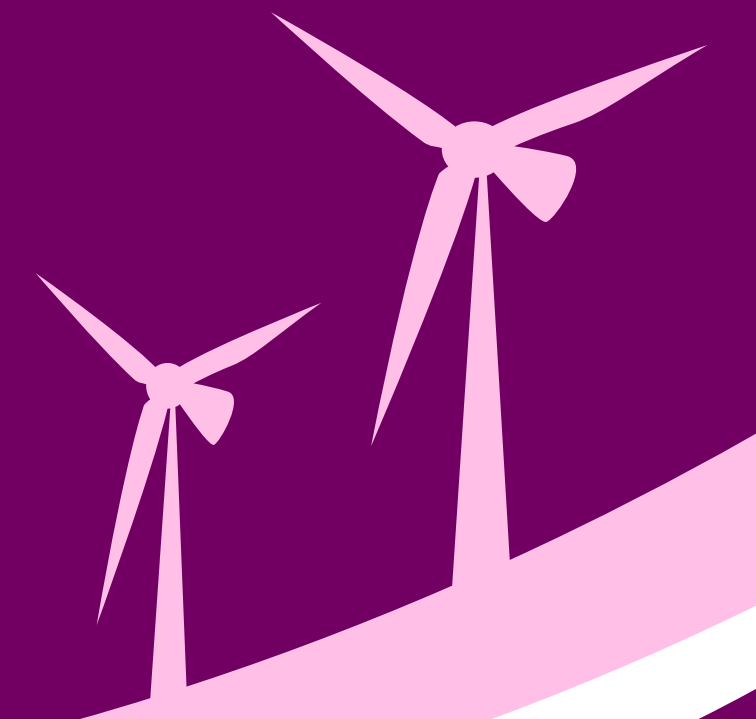
Zone of Theoretical Visibility to Blade Tip

- Yellow Millenium East may be visible
- Green Both may be visible
- Blue Millenium and Ext. may be visible

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)



# Photomontage



Viewpoint 6: A82 near Newtown, Aberchalder (Existing view)

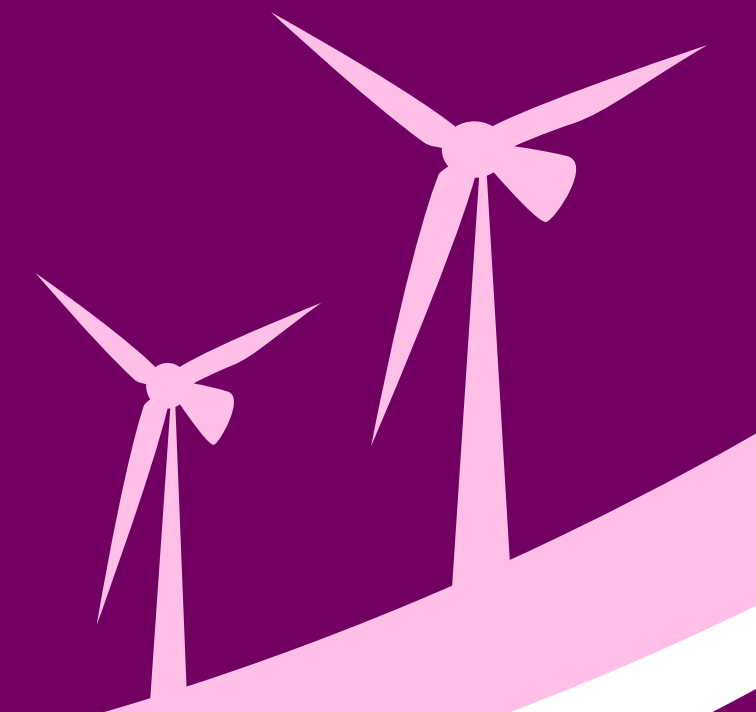


Viewpoint 6: A82 near Newtown, Aberchalder (Photomontage)

**Disclaimer:** These visualisations are for exhibition purposes only so they can be seen clearly at this size. They do not conform fully to NatureScot and THC visualisation standards but final visualisations included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) that would accompany any application for consent will meet appropriate standards and guidance. Please stand at arms length from visualisation to obtain the best view.



# Photomontage



Viewpoint 7: A887 at Dundreggan (Existing view)

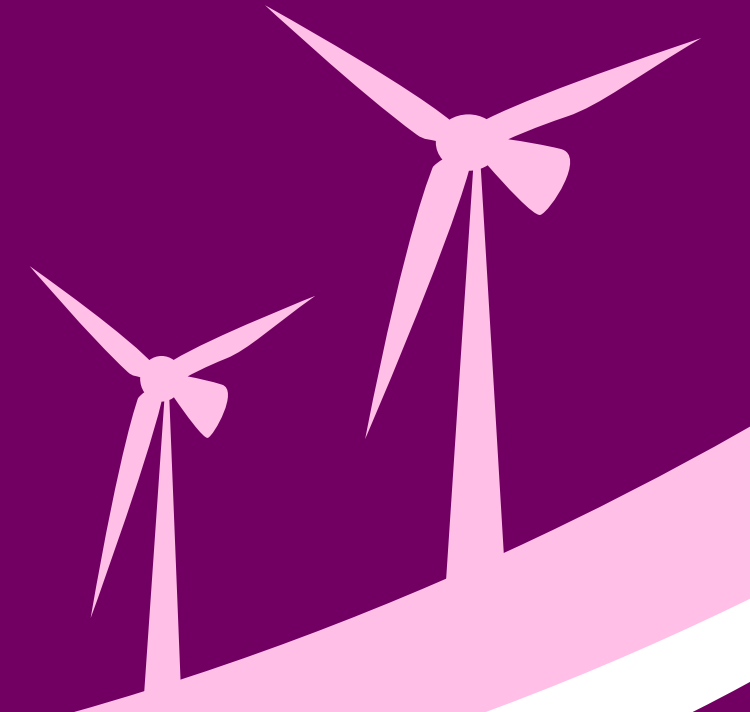


Viewpoint 7: A887 at Dundreggan (Photomontage)

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# Photomontage



Viewpoint 10: Caledonian Canal Boat Lift (Existing view)

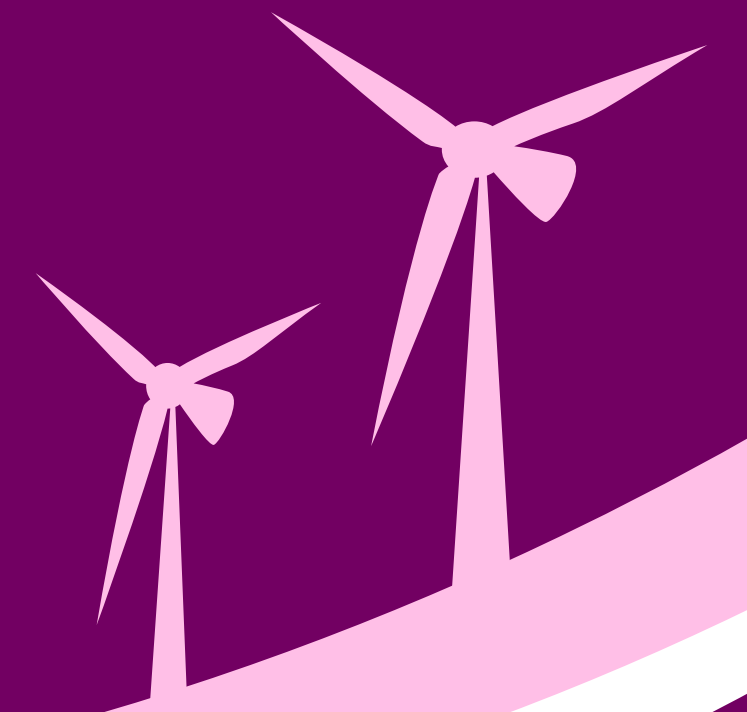


Viewpoint 10: Caledonian Canal Boat Lift (Photomontage)

**Disclaimer:** These visualisations are for exhibition purposes only so they can be seen clearly at this size. They do not conform fully to NatureScot and THC visualisation standards but final visualisations included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) that would accompany any application for consent will meet appropriate standards and guidance. Please stand at arms length from visualisation to obtain the best view.



# Photomontage



Viewpoint 13: NCN 78 east of Fort Augustus (Existing view)

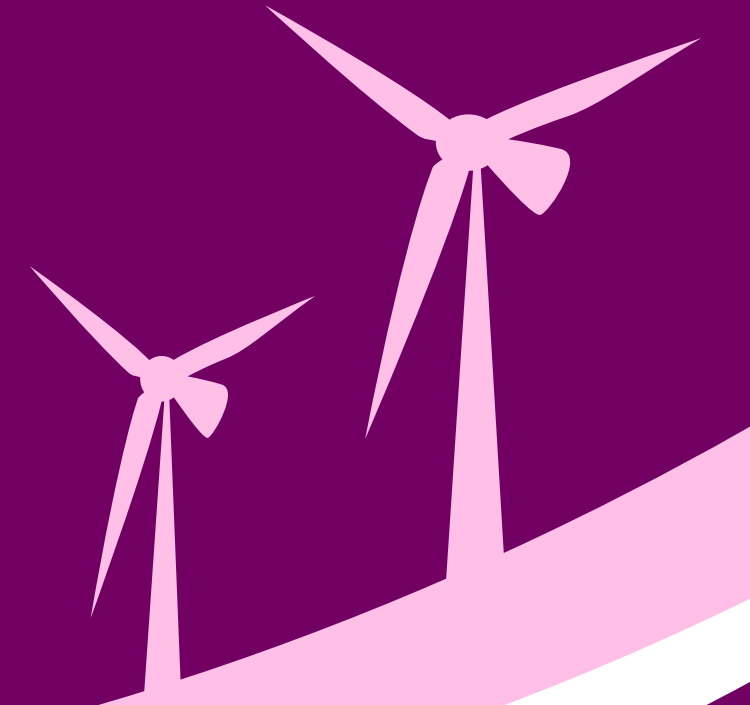


Viewpoint 13: NCN 78 east of Fort Augustus (Photomontage)

**Disclaimer:** These visualisations are for exhibition purposes only so they can be seen clearly at this size. They do not conform fully to NatureScot and THC visualisation standards but final visualisations included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) that would accompany any application for consent will meet appropriate standards and guidance. Please stand at arms length from visualisation to obtain the best view.



# Archaeology and Cultural heritage



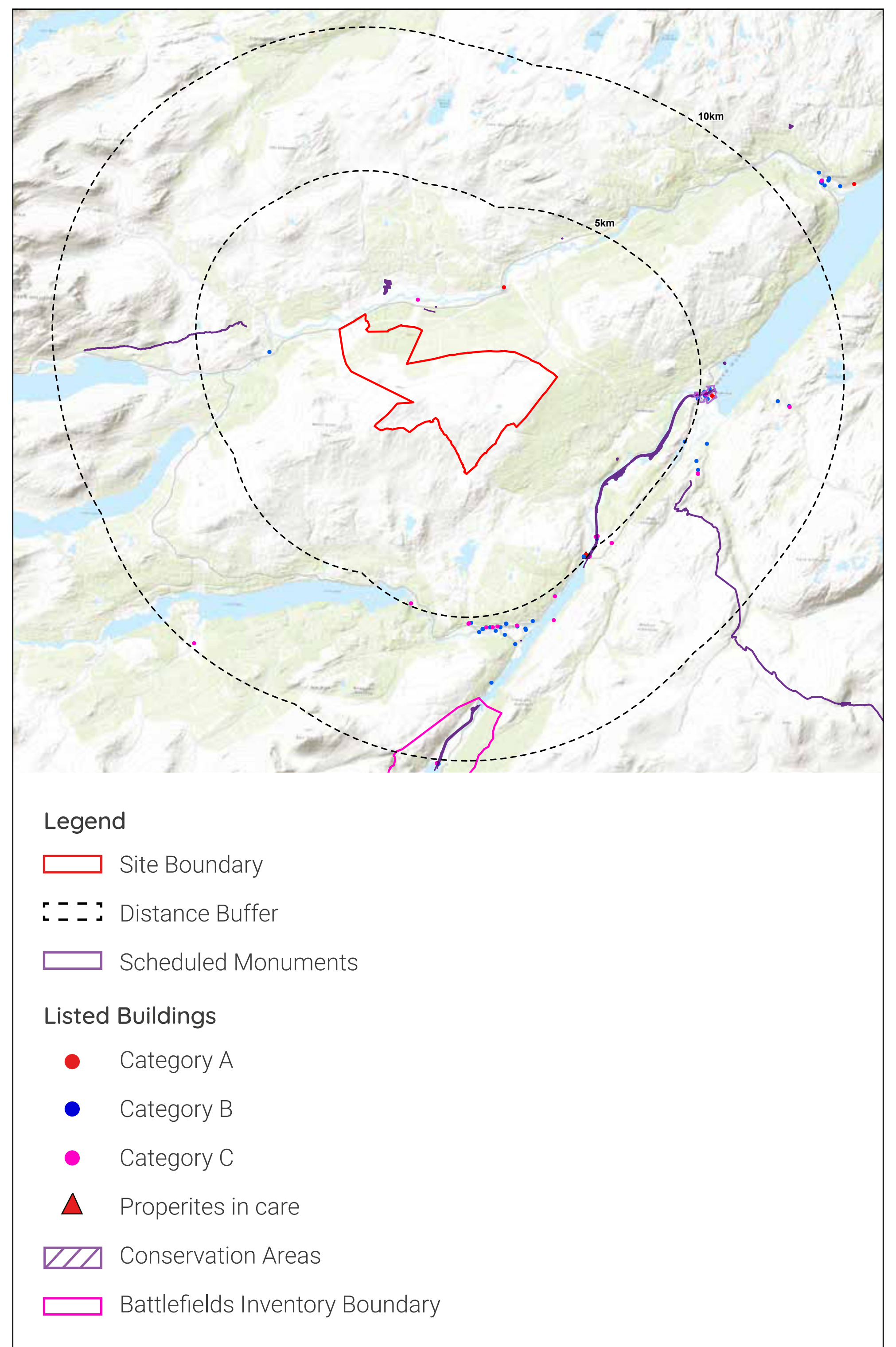
## The effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment, including archaeology and cultural heritage, will be assessed.

This study will consider the physical impacts of the Proposed Development on known and potential receptors, and effects on the setting of heritage assets in the wider area.

- Construction impacts: Four heritage assets have been identified within the site boundary (possible cists or shooting butts and rows of cairns used as rest points for coffin bearers in the post-medieval period which are both located in the area of the proposed turbines, and a possible shieling and a military road located at the site entrance) - all of which will be avoided by our design.
- Construction impacts on previously unrecorded heritage assets: The area is suitable only for grazing and shooting. Given the steep topography and thin soils, indicated by outcropping bedrock, it is assumed that this would have been the case throughout prehistory and the historical periods also, and the area has never been suitable for settlement. The archaeological potential of the turbine area is therefore considered to be negligible for previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage interest of all periods.
- Possible operational impacts have been identified on the setting of only one designated heritage asset: SM794 Torr Dhuin, fort. This is not anticipated to be significant.

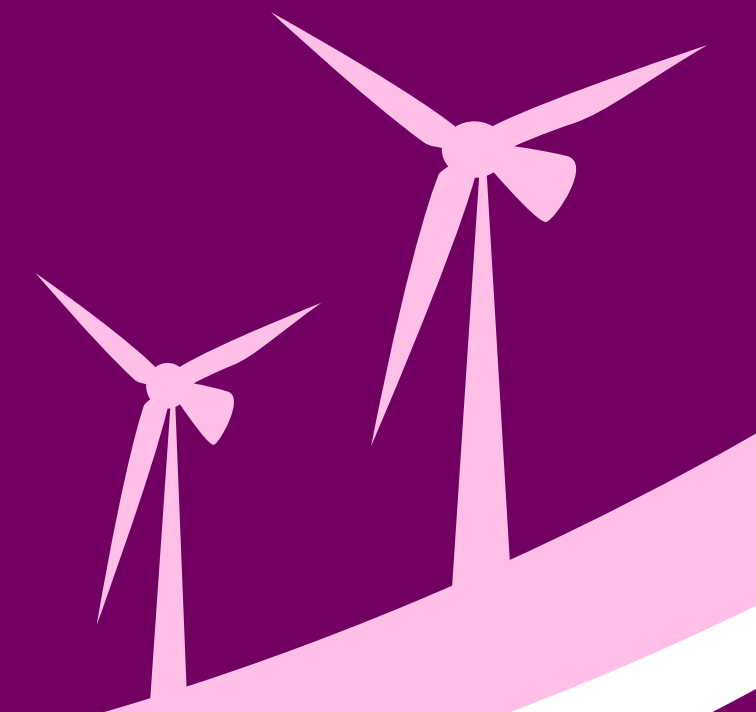
Through field visits and using visualisations, the Environmental Impact Assessment will assess the magnitude and significance of the impact on these heritage assets.

Assessments will be carried out in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland and The Highland Council.





# Ornithology and Ecology



**A 3-year programme of ornithological and ecological surveys has been carried out on the site. The results will be used to ensure that any impacts on wildlife are fully assessed and mitigated where they cannot be avoided.**

In addition, habitat and biodiversity enhancement measures the Proposed Development could deliver are explored in consultation with consultees and specialist interest groups

## Ornithology surveys

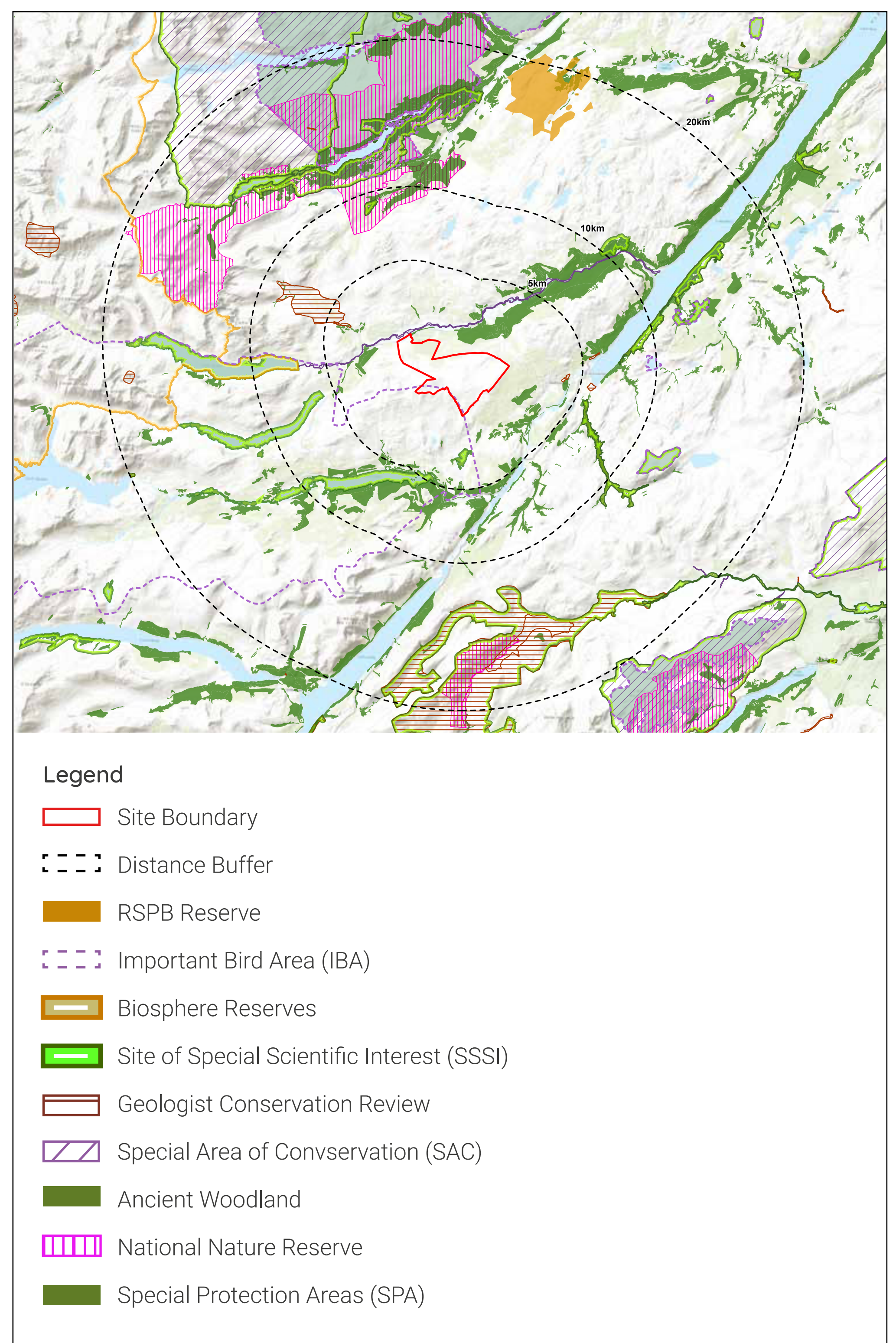
We have carried out a comprehensive survey and desk study programme to identify the use of the site and its wider surroundings by sensitive bird populations.

## Ecology surveys

- A Phase 1 habitat survey.
- A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey.
- A Peatland Condition Assessment.
- Terrestrial mammal surveys.
- Bat surveys.
- Fish habitat surveys.

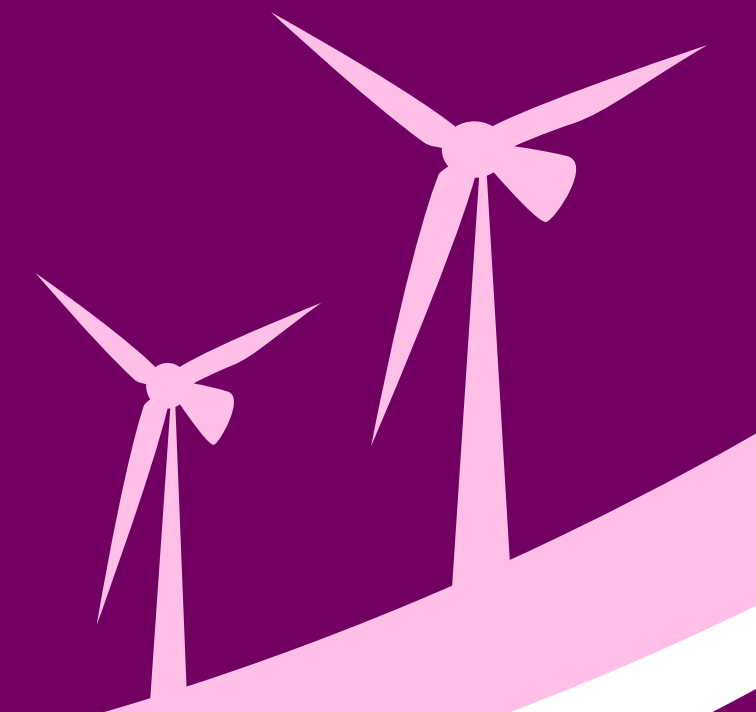
## Biodiversity enhancements

Delivering habitat and biodiversity enhancements is an integral part of the Proposed Development. These will include the restoration of degraded and eroding areas of peatland. Native riparian woodland planting will increase habitat heterogeneity, diversity and connectivity locally, and provide foraging, commuting and shelter habitat for a range of protected species known to be present at the site and in the wider area, including otters, bats and fish species. Riparian planting also plays a beneficial role in carbon capture and natural flood risk management.





# Traffic and Transport



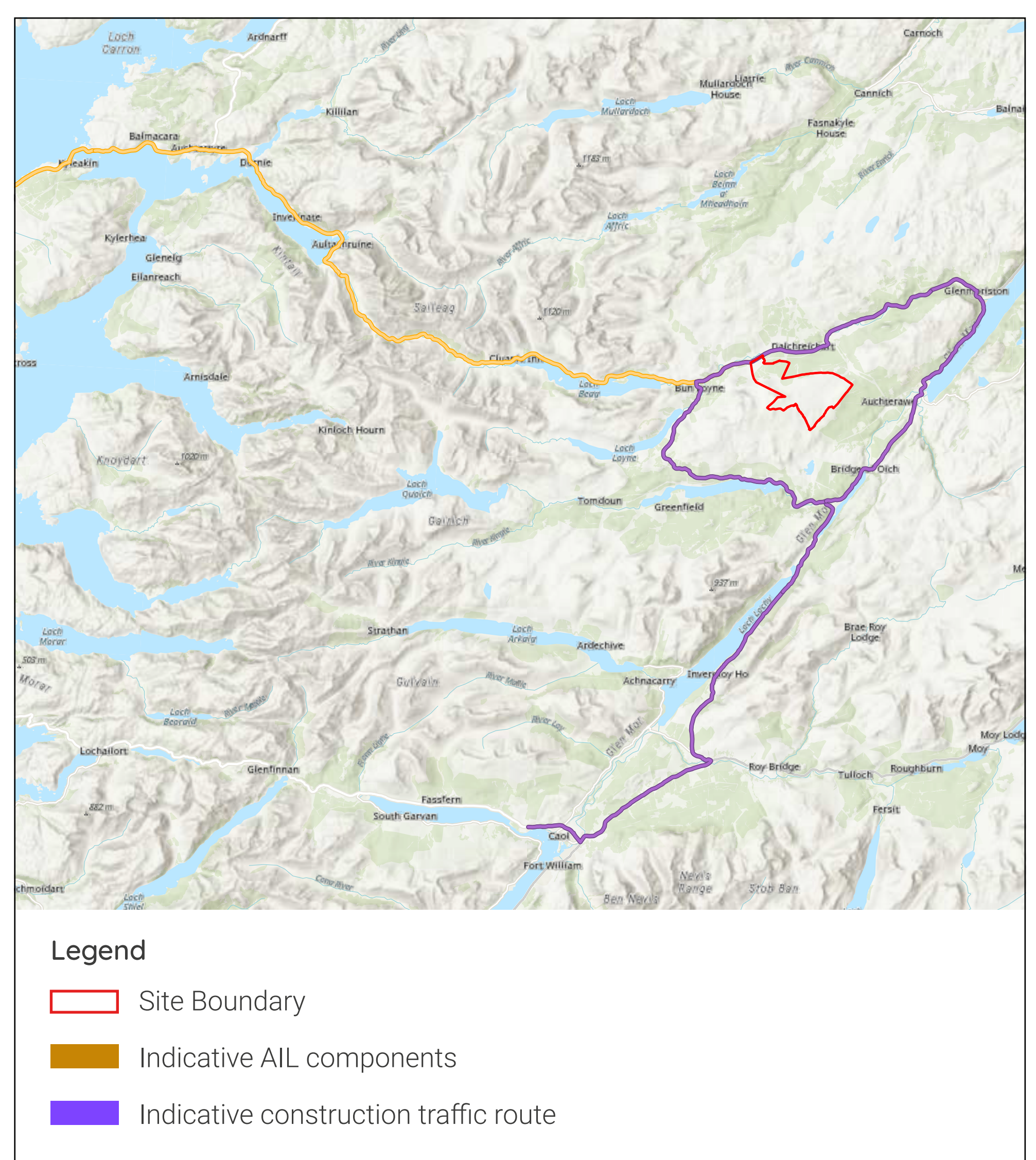
**A preliminary Abnormal Load Route Assessment (ALRA) has been carried out for the delivery of turbine components to the Site.**

Initial proposals are for the turbine blades to be transported from Kyle of Lochalsh via the A87 and A887 to Site. The tubular tower sections are proposed to be delivered from Corpach Harbour near Fort William to site via the A830, the A82 to Invergarry and then the A87 and A887.

The study area for the assessment focuses on the road routes (which will include the A887 and A87) used by general construction vehicles and AILs.

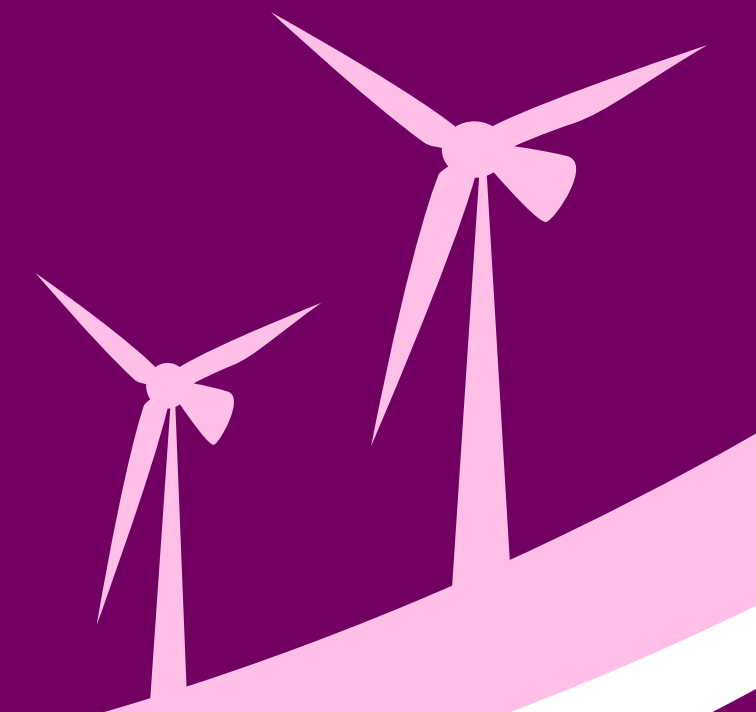
The Traffic & Transport chapter of the EIA will consider the construction phase of the Proposed Development, where the amount of traffic will be the greatest, and the potential traffic-related environmental effects such as delays, impacts on pedestrian journeys, and accidents and safety. Appropriate mitigation measures will be outlined where the effects are considered to be significant.

Cumulative traffic and transport effects will also be assessed where the construction of the Proposed Development could overlap with other known projects using the same road network and measures outlined to keep disruption to a minimum.





# Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat



**The effects of the Proposed Development on the water and soil environment, including peat excavation and appropriate reuse, peat slide hazard risk (PSHRA), water abstractions and potential Groundwater terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) will be assessed.**

This study will consider the Proposed Development's physical direct and indirect impacts on known and potential receptors, and effects on the wider water and soil setting potentially connected to the Site.

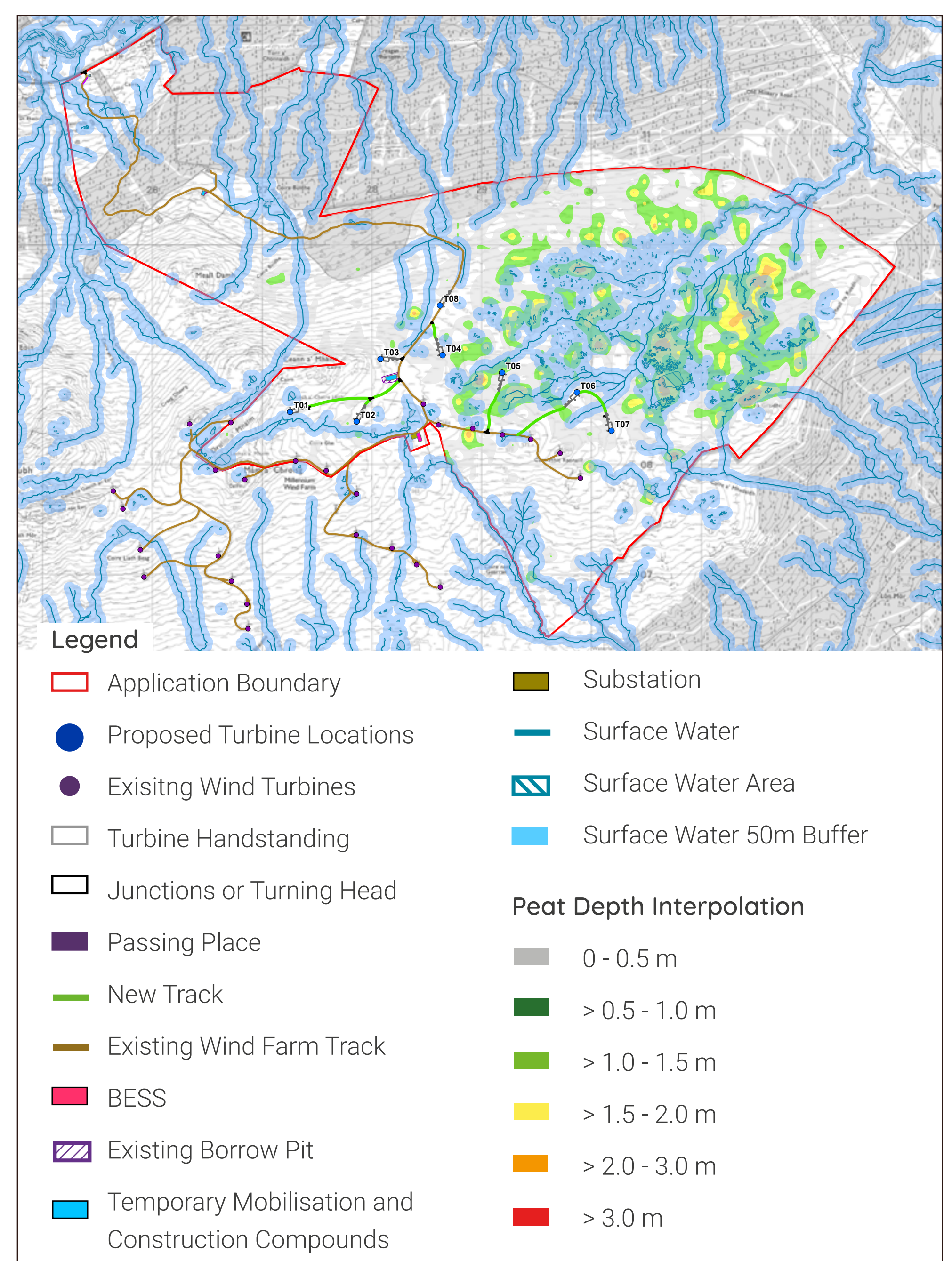
## Surveys

The hydrology, hydrogeology, geology and peat surveys include:

- A peatland geomorphology walkover
- Phase I peat depth survey on 100m grid undertaken April 2024 to inform design.
- Phase II peat depth survey undertaken August 2024 to refine design.
- Further peat probing to cover all infrastructure (10m grid for footprints and 50m intervals for track).
- A hydrological walkover for the watercourse crossing inventory, water features inventory within 50m of infrastructure, potential groundwater dependent ecosystems (GWDTEs) with 100m and /or 250m of infrastructure and key water abstractions potentially linked to the Site.

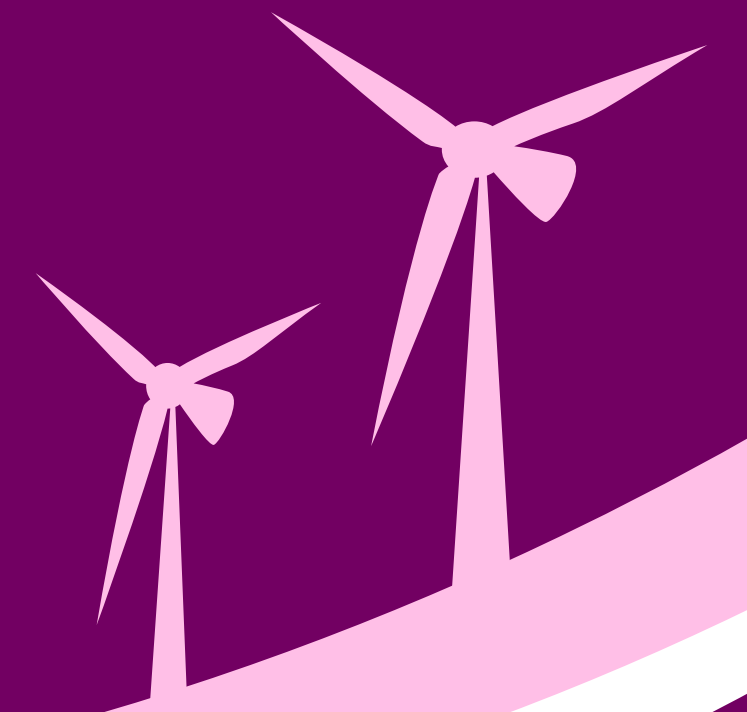
Millenium East was designed to avoid or minimise impacts on the highest value resources within the Site. This was achieved by utilising existing infrastructure and hardstands as much as possible, and by locating individual infrastructure elements within areas of shallower peat and within areas that were found degraded / eroded. By utilising the existing wind farm track, the amount of new track required for the Proposed Development was kept to a minimum, and only one new watercourse crossing would be required.

In combination with the existing Millennium Wind Farm, this extension could represent a substantial renewable energy development on Site with minimal additional footprint required. It also could deliver significant habitat and biodiversity enhancements for birds, mammals and habitats, and on the long term represent an enrichment to the peatland over current conditions.





# The local community



**We will work closely with local communities, businesses, and residents to ensure that the Proposed Development will bring real benefits to the local area while helping to meet national climate change and renewable energy targets and goals.**

## **Business, Employment and Investment**

We want to hear from businesses in the local area and across the Highlands to ensure we can fully consider the skills and services of local people and suppliers if the Proposed Development receives approval and proceeds to construction.

### **Opportunities available include those for:**

- An engineering, procurement and construction ('EPC') contractor.
- Construction material suppliers: concrete, aggregate and building materials.
- Electrical contractors: supply and installation of plant, cabling, earthing, etc.
- Plant and equipment hire contractors; excavation earthworks, craneage, welfare units, etc.
- Labour hire companies: engineers, plant operatives and general labourers.
- Local accommodation and catering services.
- Transport: taxis and minibuses for local labourers.

If you are a local company and would like to register your interest, please email [jenny@jmccomms.co.uk](mailto:jenny@jmccomms.co.uk) or fill in a registration form on [www.millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk)

## **Local accommodation providers**

Construction projects of this nature inevitably require some specialist technicians from outside the area, so they will require local accommodation and catering facilities. If you would like your accommodation to be considered, please register your interest by emailing

[jenny@jmccomms.co.uk](mailto:jenny@jmccomms.co.uk)

### **Community benefit**

We already work closely with the Glengarry Trust and Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company who administer the funding which has been provided from Millennium Wind Farm since 2009.

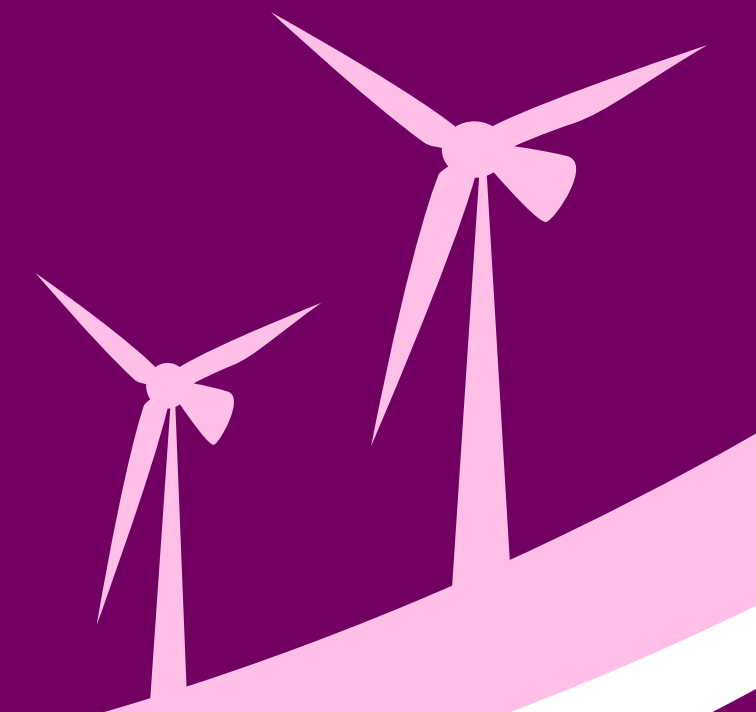
We will continue to work with the local community to deliver an additional funding package of £5,000 per MW per annum of installed wind generating capacity. The total community funding would be approximately £250,000 per year, which would equate to £8.75 million over the 35-year lifetime of the wind farm.

## **Community shareholding**

We are committed to offering shared community ownership if there is interest in the local community. Local Energy Scotland has information on shared ownership at [www.localenergy.scot](http://www.localenergy.scot).



# What next?



**We hope to submit our application for consent for the Millennium East Wind Farm to the Scottish Ministers in December 2024. The Scottish Government will then undertake its own consultation process, and the public will be invited to make formal comment on the proposals.**

In the meantime, we would welcome your feedback. Details of the comments provided to us via our public consultation will be captured and included in a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report and provided to the Scottish Government alongside our application for consent.

Please note that comments made to Nadara are not representations to The Highland Council or the Scottish Ministers.

## Website

You can view more detailed information on our website:

**[www.millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk)**



## Email

Contact the Project Team at:

**[millenniumeast@jmccomms.co.uk](mailto:millenniumeast@jmccomms.co.uk)**

## Post

Write to:

Millennium East Wind Farm

c/o JMC Communications 32A Union Road

Inverness

IV2 3JY



**nadara**



## Millennium East Wind Farm – September 2024 FEEDBACK FORM

Thank you for taking the time to review our proposal for Millennium East Wind Farm.

We would be grateful if you could contribute to our proposals by completing this questionnaire, and letting us know your thoughts. Your feedback is important and will help us to finalise our proposals.

Comments made to the prospective applicant via this feedback form are not representations to the Council. There will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Council and the Scottish Government Energy Consents unit once an application for consent has been submitted by the applicant.

We only collect personal information, such as your name and address, when you provide it to us. We will only use the data collected for specific purposes in relation to the development and construction of Millennium East Wind Farm.

**Name** (optional, leave blank if you prefer your input to remain anonymous)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address** (optional, leave blank if you prefer your input to remain anonymous)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please tick the option that best describes your location in relation to the proposed location of Millennium East Wind Farm.**

- ☐ Glenmoriston and surrounding area
- ☐ Invermoriston and surrounding area
- ☐ Fort Augustus and surrounding area
- ☐ Elsewhere in the Highlands
- ☐ Rest of Scotland/UK

**Do you support the development of renewable energy?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral ☐ Don't Know

**Do you support the proposed Millennium East Wind Farm?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral ☐ Don't Know

**Are there any specific issues about our proposals that you would like to highlight? (please continue overleaf if required).**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have any comments or suggestions for Community Benefit and/or Shared Ownership (please continue overleaf if required).**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about our public consultation?**

- ☐ Postcard ☐ Newspaper advert  
☐ Word of mouth ☐ Other – Please describe below

\_\_\_\_\_

**Would you be interested to find out more about the community benefits arising from the proposed Millennium East Wind Farm?**

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral ☐ Don't Know

**Do you have any additional comments/feedback? (please continue overleaf if required).**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ways to contact us:**

E-Mail: [millenniumeast@jmccomms.co.uk](mailto:millenniumeast@jmccomms.co.uk)  
Website: <https://millenniumeastwindfarm.co.uk/>  
Post: Millennium East Wind Farm,  
c/o JMC Communications  
32A Union Road  
Inverness  
IV2 3JY

**Thank you for your interest and participation.**