

Appendix 11B

Scope of the Assessment

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This appendix provides the rationale for the scope of the assessment and comprises two tables. **Table 11B.1** describes and justifies the level of importance assigned to the ornithological features identified during the data gathering exercise carried out to inform this assessment. **Table 11B.2** determines and justifies whether those ornithological features require further assessment, as they have either sufficient legal protection for a breach in legislation to occur, or are of sufficient importance that a significant effect may occur as a result of the Proposed Development.

Within **Table 11B.1**, consideration is given to both the importance of ornithological features based on legislation and policy (refer to **EIA Report, Chapter 11, Section 11.3**) and importance with regard to the Proposed Development (refer to **EIA Report, Chapter 11, Section 11.7**). The justification provided for the decision to scope each ornithological feature in or out is based on information on its status both regarding the Proposed Development, and the local, county, regional, national or international context, where available.

Table 11B.1 – Importance of Ornithological Features

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA: golden eagle	International	Negligible	The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA citation references 19 active territories, accounting for 3.7% of the Scottish breeding population of 508 pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i> , 2023). Based on the data provided by the distribution and abundance surveys and VP surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix11D), activity on the Development Site comprised 102 flights between 2019 and 2022. Two nesting territories were also recorded within 6km of the Development Site. Based on the foraging range of this species (core range of 6km and maximum range of up to 9km [NatureScot, 2016a]), it is unlikely that any of the golden eagles recorded in the breeding season relate to birds from the SPA. Therefore, the relevant Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for the SPA population.	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
Knapdale Lochs SPA: black-throated diver	International	Negligible	The Knapdale Lochs SPA citation refers to four breeding pairs, circa 1.84% of the Scottish breeding population of 217 pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i>, 2023). Based on the data provided by the distribution and abundance surveys and VP surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix 11D), activity in the Field Survey Area was limited to three flights (totalling four birds) between 2019 and 2020, plus breeding at one loch from 2019 to 2021. Based on the foraging range of this species during the breeding season (believed to be <10km (NatureScot, 2016a)), it is unlikely that any of the black-throated divers recorded in the breeding season relate to birds from the SPA. Therefore, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for the SPA population.	Y
Black grouse	Regional	Regional	Black grouse is included on the SBL and is BoCC5 red-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population (measured by the number of displaying (lekking) males) is 3,344, of which NHZ14 accounts for 67 lekking males (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015). Based on the data provided by the distribution and abundance surveys and VP surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix 11D), there were a total of 14 black grouse records during species-specific surveys undertaken between March and May 2019. Single males were recorded lekking in five different locations. During the species-specific survey in 2020, there were eight records of single birds on the ground and one record of two male black grouse in flight. Single males were recorded lekking; clustered around four locations that were different to those where lekking individuals were recorded in 2019. A peak count of four males was recorded across the different leks. Therefore, the Field Survey Area is considered of regional importance for black grouse (9% of the NHZ breeding population measured by lekking males).	N

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
Black-throated diver	International	Regional	Black-throated diver is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1, the SBL, and the BOCC5 amber list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding population is 176 breeding pairs, of which NHZ14 accounts for nine breeding pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). Activity in the Field Survey Area was limited to three flights (totalling four birds) between 2019 and 2020, plus confirmed breeding at one loch from 2019 to 2021. Given the number of territories recorded, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of regional importance for this species during the breeding season (11.1% of the NHZ breeding population).	N
Buzzard	Negligible	Negligible	Buzzard is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). Its UK population is estimated at 63,000 to 87,500 pairs (Woodward <i>et al.</i> , 2020). Activity in the Field Survey Area comprised 206 flights of up to six birds during VP surveys. However, no active nests were noted. Given the status of the species and the level of activity noted, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Common gull	Negligible	Negligible	Common gull is a BOCC5 amber-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The species is common and widespread in Scotland, with a Scottish breeding population estimated at 48,113 pairs (Mitchell <i>et al.</i> , 2004), making up most of its UK breeding population. Its UK wintering population is estimated at 710,000 birds (Woodward <i>et al.</i> , 2020). During surveys, a single flight of three birds was recorded in 2020. The Field Survey Area is therefore considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Common sandpiper	Negligible	Negligible	Common sandpiper is a BoCC5 amber-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). Forrester <i>et al</i> (2007) estimate the Scottish population at 15,000-24,000 pairs, though a more recent British population estimate shows a national decline to 13,000 pairs (Woodward <i>et al.</i> , 2020). Common sandpiper was the most frequently recorded wader during surveys. However, only one territory fell within the Development Site,	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			and overall numbers were low. The Field Survey Area is therefore considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	
Common tern	International	Negligible	Common tern is an Annex 1, SBL and BoCC5 amber-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). Its Scottish breeding population is estimated as 4,784 pairs (Mitchell <i>et al.</i> , 2004). Activity recorded in the Field Survey Area during surveys was limited to one flight of two birds in 2019. The Field Survey Area is therefore considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Cormorant	Negligible	Negligible	Cormorant is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). Its UK breeding population is estimated at 8,900 pairs, with 65,000 birds occurring during winter. The species is common and widespread in Scotland (BTO, 2023). Cormorant was present in low numbers on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in 2019 and 2020. Given it was not recorded in greater numbers than would be expected, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
Golden eagle	International	Regional	Golden eagle is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1/1A, the SBL and BoCC5 green list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish population of golden eagle was estimated to be 508 breeding pairs during the most recent national population survey in 2015 (Hayhow <i>et al.</i> , 2017), with the Argyll West and Natural Heritage Zone supporting 44 pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). Based on the data provided by the distribution and abundance surveys and VP surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix 11D), activity in the Field Survey Area comprised 102 flights between 2019 and 2022. Two nesting territories were recorded within 6km of the Development Site. These account for 0.39% of the Scottish breeding population (Hayhow <i>et al.</i> , 2017) and 4.5% of the NHZ population. Therefore, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of regional importance for this species during the breeding season.	N

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
Golden plover	International	Negligible	Golden plover is an Annex 1 species, is included on the SBL and is BoCC5 green-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The breeding population of golden plover within Scotland is estimated at 37,480 breeding pairs, with NHZ14 supporting 1,429 breeding pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015). There are an estimated 25,000-35,000 individuals wintering in Scotland (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). The only record from VP surveys was a single flight of two birds in August 2020. There were no golden plover territories recorded within the Moorland Bird Survey area. Given the very low level of activity recorded, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Goosander	Negligible	Negligible	Goosander is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population has been estimated at 2,000-3,000 pairs, with 2,600-12,200 birds present in winter (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). Goosander was present in low numbers on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in 2019 and 2020. As it was not recorded in greater numbers than would be expected, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
Goshawk	National	Negligible	Goshawk is Schedule 1 listed and is a BoCC green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish population of goshawk was estimated to be 279 breeding pairs in 2020 (Eaton <i>et al.</i>, 2022), with NHZ14 supporting at most five pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015). Based on the data provided by surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix 11D), activity in the Field Survey Area comprised one flight by a single bird during VP surveys. The Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this species. This is because there is no evidence that the species breeds within the Field Survey Area (i.e. no significant population); while the species cannot be described as common and widespread, a single flight during three years of surveys is likely to represent incidental	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			dispersal. No significant effects would be predicted at such low levels of goshawk use.	
Great black-backed gull	Negligible	Negligible	Great black-backed gull is a BoCC5 amber-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding population has been estimated as 14,776 pairs (Mitchell <i>et al.</i> , 2004). During surveys, only two flights of a single bird were recorded during VP watches, both in 2019. Given this, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Greenshank	National	Negligible	Greenshank is a Schedule 1 species that is BoCC green-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding population is estimated as 1,297 pairs, but with none in the Argyll West and Islands NHZ (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). Its Scottish wintering population is estimated at 50-90 birds (Forrester <i>et al.</i> , 2007). Surveys returned a single record of greenshank in 2019. This low level of activity is likely to represent incidental use of the Field Survey Area, rather than dependence on it. The Field Survey Area is therefore considered of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Grey heron	Negligible	Negligible	Grey heron is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). Its Scottish breeding population has been estimated at 3,300-5,320 active nests, with 10,000-15,000 birds present in winter (Forrester <i>et al.</i> , 2007). Species activity recorded in the Field Survey Area was limited to five flights by single birds during VP surveys across 2019 and 2020. Given this very low level, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for grey heron.	Y
Hen harrier	International	Negligible	Hen harrier is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1/1A, the SBL and BoCC5 red list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The breeding population of hen harrier within Scotland is estimated at 501 breeding pairs, with NHZ14 supporting 125 pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). There is little information on numbers of hen harriers in the UK outside the breeding season, although Forrester estimated that	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			Scotland holds between 1,050-1540 individuals (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). Based on the data provided by the distribution and abundance surveys and VP surveys during both the non-breeding and breeding seasons (Confidential Appendix11D), activity in the Field Survey Area comprised 12 flights. All but one were of single birds, with one flight of two birds in mid-August 2020, and there were a minimum of three individuals (an adult male, an adult female, and an immature male). However, there is no evidence that the species bred within the Field Survey Area. Winter provided fewer sightings than the breeding season, and even if three individuals were again present this would only make up <0.3% of the Scottish wintering population. Therefore, the Field Survey Area is considered to be of negligible importance for this species.	
Kestrel	Local	Negligible	Kestrel is a BoCC5 amber-listed and SBL species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish population is estimated at 2,750-5,500 birds. Sixteen flights of one to two individuals of this common and widespread species were recorded during VP surveys. However, no breeding attempts were recorded in the Field Survey Area. The peak count of two birds relates to circa 0.07% of the Scottish population. Given this low level of usage, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Lapwing	Local	Negligible	Lapwing is on the SBL and BoCC5 red list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish non-breeding population has been estimated at 65,00 to 69,000 birds (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). One flight of 28 birds was recorded during a VP survey in February 2021. There were no lapwings recorded in the breeding season. This represents incidental use by 0.04% of the Scottish wintering population. Given this, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Lesser black-backed gull	Negligible	Negligible	Lesser black-backed gull is an BOCC5 amber-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population has been estimated as	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			25,057 pairs (Mitchell <i>et al.</i>, 2004). The UK wintering population is estimated at 130,000 birds, down from 220,000 birds over the summer period (BTO, 2023). Seven flights of between one and three birds were recorded in the Field Survey Area during VP surveys. Given this low level of usage, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for the species.	
Little grebe	Negligible	Negligible	Little grebe is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population has been estimated as 650 to 2,250 pairs, with 5,000 to 6,000 birds present in winter (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). The species was present in low numbers on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in 2019 and 2020. As little grebe was not recorded in greater numbers than would be expected, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
Mallard	Negligible	Negligible	Mallard is BOCC5 amber-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population was estimated as 17,000-43,000 pairs, with 65,000-90,000 birds present in winter (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007). Mallard was present on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in low numbers in 2019 and 2020. Five pairs were recorded using the Development Site during the breeding season. The numbers recorded are low for the size of the area covered, and no greater than would be expected locally. The Field Survey Area is therefore considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
Osprey	International	Regional	Osprey is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1, the SBL and BoCC5 amber list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The breeding population of osprey within Scotland is estimated at 229 breeding pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i>, 2023). NHZ14 supports 16 pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015).	N

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			Osprey were not found to breed in the raptor survey area during the breeding season surveys. However, 23 flights by a single bird and one flight by two birds were recorded during VP surveys. Therefore, it is considered that the Field Survey Area is of regional importance for this species.	
Peregrine	International	Negligible	Peregrine is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1, the SBL and BoCC5 green list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population is estimated at more than 464 breeding pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i>, 2023). NHZ14 supports 49 pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015). Only isolated incidental records of this species were noted in the Field Survey Area, in 2019 and 2020. Peregrine was not found to breed in the raptor survey area during the breeding season surveys. Therefore, it is considered that the Field Survey Area is of negligible importance for the species.	Y
Raven	Negligible	Local	Raven is a BoCC5 green-listed species (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The breeding raven population in Scotland is estimated at 3,241 breeding pairs. At least 61 pairs were recorded in Argyll in 2020, although this is considered an underestimate (Challis <i>et al.</i>, 2022). A total of 306 flights were recorded during VP surveys, mostly of one to two birds but with peak counts of 21 birds and 59 birds in October 2020 and September 2021 respectively. While these numbers are relatively high, they represent isolated instances rather than longer-term occupancy by a significant non-breeding population. The Field Survey Area is thus considered of local importance for the species. As such, significant effects on the local population are considered unlikely, and the species is scoped out.	Y
Red grouse	Local	Negligible	Red grouse is on the SBL and the BoCC5 green list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish breeding population is 100,000-150,000 pairs, with a wintering population of 200,000-300,000 (Forrester <i>et al.</i>, 2007).	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			Activity within the Field Survey Area was limited to one flight (eight birds) during VP surveys in September 2020 and one flight (two birds) in December 2021. Therefore, it is considered that the Field Survey Area is of negligible importance for this species.	
Red-breasted merganser	Negligible	Negligible	Red-breasted merganser is BOCC5 amber-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The UK breeding population is estimated at 1,565 pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i> , 2023). Within the Field Survey Area, records were limited to one flight of two birds during a VP survey in June 2019. It is thus considered that the Field Survey Area is of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Red-throated diver	International	Regional	Red-throated diver is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1, the SBL and the BoCC5 green list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding population is 1,255 breeding pairs (Eaton <i>et al.</i> , 2023), of which NHZ14 accounts for 83 pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). In 2019 and 2020, the species was recorded on eight lochans, and found incubating on three of these within the Development Site. It bred successfully on one lochan within the Development Site in 2019, 2020 and possibly also in 2021. A total of 94 flights were recorded during VP surveys and diver focal watches. Three breeding attempts in a single year constitutes 0.24% of the Scottish population and 3.6% of the NHZ population. It is thus considered that the Field Survey Area is of regional importance for this species.	N
Snipe	Negligible	Negligible	Snipe is a BoCC5 amber-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding population is 34,594 breeding pairs. NHZ14 supports 1,289 breeding pairs (Wilson <i>et al.</i> , 2015). Four flights by a single bird were recorded during surveys. One of these occurred in June 2019, and the other three in May 2020. Given the number of records, the survey area is considered of negligible importance for this species.	Y
Sparrowhawk	Negligible	Negligible	Sparrowhawk is an BoCC5 amber-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding and wintering populations are 8,000-12,000 pairs	Y

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			and 22,000-32,000 birds respectively (Forrester <i>et al.</i> , 2007). Known sparrowhawk home ranges checked in Argyll account for 3.5% of home ranges checked across Scotland (Challis <i>et al.</i> , 2022), giving an approximate minimum breeding population of 280 pairs in Argyll. During surveys between 2019 and 2022, 30 flights of single birds and one flight of two birds were recorded in the Field Survey Area. As these records are not especially numerous, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	
Teal	Negligible	Negligible	Teal is an BoCC5 amber-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding and wintering populations are 1,950-3,400 pairs and circa 37,500 individual respectively (Forrester <i>et al.</i> , 2007). Teal was present in low numbers on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in 2019 and 2020. A single breeding pair was recorded within the Development Site. This comprises 0.029-0.05% of the Scottish breeding population. Owing to the low numbers recorded, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
Tufted duck	Negligible	Negligible	Tufted duck is BoCC5 green-listed (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The Scottish breeding and wintering populations are 2,250-2,700 pairs and 11,000 individuals respectively (Forrester <i>et al.</i> , 2007). Tufted duck was present on most of the larger lochans within the Field Survey Area in 2019 and 2020. However, given the low numbers recorded, the Field Survey Area is considered of negligible importance for this common species.	Y
White-tailed eagle	International	Regional	White-tailed eagle is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1/1A, the SBL, and BoCC5 amber list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i> , 2021). The latest Scottish breeding population figures stands at 150 territorial pairs and is considered to be an underestimate (Eaton <i>et al.</i> , 2023. NHZ14 supported around 20 breeding pairs in 2023, and is increasing (NatureScot, 2023) (Argyll supported 45 territorial pairs in 2021 [Eaton <i>et al.</i> , 2023]). A total of 36 flights were recorded during VP surveys from 2019 to 2021. Most were of single birds, though one concerned a pair of	N

Ornithological Feature	Importance – Legislation & Policy	Importance – Field Survey Area	Justification	Scoped Out of Assessment (Y/N)
			adults transiting the VP6 viewshed. One incidental flight of a single bird was also recorded during a diver survey. Four to five different individuals (two adults, two immatures and possibly a separate sub-adult) were recorded. While no evidence of nesting was recorded within the Development Site, the presence of two adults in the Field Survey Area accounts for 5% of the NHZ population but only 0.67% of the Scottish breeding population. The Field Survey Area could therefore be considered of regional importance for the species.	
Whooper swan	International	Regional	Whooper swan is listed on Annex 1, Schedule 1, the SBL and BoCC5 amber list (Stanbury <i>et al.</i>, 2021). The Scottish population has been estimated at 3,784 overwintering individuals (Hall <i>et al.</i>, 2016). The NHZ population is estimated at 135 wintering birds (Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2015). In March, April and May 2019, whooper swans were seen on three lochans within the Field Survey Area. In June 2020, a single bird was seen feeding close to Loch Dubh-ghlas. Three flights of between one and nine birds were recorded between October 2020 and May 2021. The species is not thought to have bred within the Development Site and was not regularly recorded roosting within the Development Site.	N

For those ornithological features that remain scoped in following the process as described in **Table 11B.1**, the following are provided in **Table 11B.2**: description of the potential environmental change and associated effect; a description of the zone of influence for each ecological feature; justification of the decision to scope in or out each ecological feature based on the likely scale of the potential effect, general working measures (i.e. those covered within the Code of Construction Practice) that negate the effect and relevant information on the features status within the local, county, regional, national or international context where that is available.

Table 11B.2 – Scoping of Ecological Features of Local or Above Importance and those Receiving Legal Protection

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
Black grouse	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint.	N	Access tracks cross areas of suitable black grouse foraging habitat.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging black grouse.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Proposed turbines and tracks occur within 500m of some of the leks identified.
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Although effects during the operational phase will be less than that experienced during the construction phase, black grouse may still be disturbed during this phase.
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	Y	No black grouse flight activity at rotor height was identified during VP surveys.
Black-throated diver	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint.	Y	Divers forage in aquatic habitat, and may rest or nest on islands and shorelines. No such habitat is anticipated to be lost to the Proposed Development.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging black-throated divers.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Proposed access track occurs within 500m of the nest identified.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Although effects during the operational phase will be less than that experienced during the construction phase, divers may still be disturbed or displaced during this phase.
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	Y	Flight activity was limited to three flights during more than three years of surveys. This indicates that there is negligible potential for significant effects to occur on the regional population.
Golden eagle	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint.	N	Satellite data and GET modelling suggest that some higher-quality golden eagle habitat will be lost directly.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging golden eagles.	Within 750m-1km of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Some infrastructure occurs within 1km of one of the historic nests identified.
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 750m-1km of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	Y	Infrastructure within 1km of nesting sites is minimal and lies >750m away. As effects during the operational phase will be less than those experienced during the construction phase, golden eagle disturbance during operation are predicted to be negligible.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	N	Flight activity indicates that there is potential for collisions to occur and Collision Risk Modelling is required.
Osprey	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint.	Y	Osprey were not found to breed in the raptor survey area during the breeding season surveys. Ospreys forage in aquatic habitat, which will not be lost.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging ospreys.	Within 350-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	Y	Ospreys were not recorded breeding in the raptor survey area during the breeding season surveys.
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 350-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	Y	Effects during the operational phase are predicted to be less than those experienced during the construction phase.
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	N	Flight activity indicates that there is potential for collisions to occur and Collision Risk Modelling is required.
Red-throated diver	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint.	Y	Divers forage in aquatic habitat, and may rest or nest on islands and shorelines. No such habitat is

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
				anticipated to be lost to the Proposed Development.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging red-throated divers.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Breeding lochans falls within 500-750m of the proposed access track.
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 500-750m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Although effects during the operational phase will be less than that experienced during the construction phase, divers may still be disturbed or displaced during this phase.
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	N	Flight activity indicates that there is potential for collisions to occur and Collision Risk Modelling is required.
White-tailed eagle	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint	Y	There was no evidence of white-tailed eagle nesting within the Field Survey Area. Given the large home ranges, the Proposed Development footprint is considered to form a negligible of any home range.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of breeding and foraging white-tailed eagles.	Within 500-1km of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	Y	No evidence of white-tailed eagle nesting was recorded within the Field Survey Area.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 500-1km of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	Y	Effects during the operational phase are predicted to be less than those experienced during the construction phase. It is considered that this species is not displaced by operational wind farms.
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	N	Flight activity indicates that there is potential collisions to occur and Collision Risk Modelling is required.
Whooper swan	Direct habitat loss to wind turbine bases, tracks and ancillary structures.	Proposed Development footprint	Y	A single whooper swan was observed foraging in terrestrial habitat close to Loch Dubh-ghlas on only one occasion. This level of use is extremely low, and habitat loss to infrastructure in this area will be minimal.
	Construction activity including use of plant and the presence of workforce resulting in an increase in aural and visual stimuli due to noise and vibration, and movement of construction vehicles resulting in temporary disturbance or displacement of migrating, wintering and foraging whooper swans.	Within 200-600m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Proposed access track, borrow pit search areas and turbines occur within 600m of waterbodies used by whooper swans.
	Potential disturbance and displacement to birds due to the operation of turbines and associated human activities for maintenance purposes. Includes barrier effects.	Within 200-600m of Proposed Development footprint (based on disturbance distances as described by Goodship and Furness, 2022).	N	Although effects during the operational phase will be less than that experienced during the construction phase, whooper swans may still be disturbed or displaced during this phase.

Ecological Feature	Environmental Change and Potential Effect	Zone of Influence	Scoped Out (Y/N)	Justification
	Potential collision with operational turbines.	Within 500m of the Proposed Development boundary (based on guidance in NatureScot 2017 V.2).	Y	Very limited bird activity at rotor height was identified during surveys.