

EARBA STORAGE

A GILKES ENERGY COMPANY

Earba Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 7.5.1: WLA Locational Assessment Analysis

February 2024



Quality Information

Prepared by

ASH design+assessment

Checked by

Chris Pasteur

Approved by

Gavin McGill

Revision History

Revision

01

Revision Date

February 2024

Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Gavin McGill

Appendix 7.5 – Annex 1:

WLA Assessment Location Analysis

WL1	Lochan na h-Earba	Grid Reference: NN 48493 83519
------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	This WL is contained within and representative of the linear valley containing the two separate lochs of Lochan na h-Earba, the levels of which are controlled by small weirs. It comprises a scooped, U-shaped valley, contained by steep craggy hills, with dispersed mature woodland around the north-eastern loch. It is accessible by a track along the south side of the lochs, around 8.5 km from the A87, from either east or west, leading to a long walk or cycle but relative ease of access by vehicle.
---------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Rough grass and rocky crag. Trees around north-eastern loch appear in naturalised patterns although likely planted and heavily grazed understorey.	Medium – High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Peaceful qualities with sense of enclosure, distant from other people but tracks provide a perceived connection to busier areas and occasional people are present.	Medium – High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Small hydro intake structures on the loch and a bridge have localised influence. Track alongside loch appears move obvious throughout.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	There is considerable risk associated with the crags around the glen but the glen floor is easily approached and limited in senses of risk.	Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Track alongside loch throughout the glen gives some sense of management and small intakes influence attribute locally but limited drawdown does not look managed.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The landform of the deep scooped glen and combinations of high enclosing crags, loch and trees provide arresting and inspiring qualities.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Surrounding terrain of steep crags is very rugged and challenging although travel through the glen floor is easy.	Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	The sense of distance from the public road and steep crags gives some fulfilment of challenge although traversing through the glen is not difficult.	Medium
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Distant from public access but easily accessible along track on bike or foot and also accessible by vehicles.	Low	Strength of Wildness	WL is rugged, inspiring and relatively undeveloped with some sense of solitude, but track provides accessibility and perceived connection to other areas outwith the WLA.	Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	The striking glen with steep craggy enclosing slopes is a notable feature of this area and is susceptibility to change in this area in relation to the arresting qualities and perceived naturalness.	High
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	The connection to the mountain interior is not perceived due to the enclosed qualities and the relative accessibility of the WL.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	This is a popular area for recreation and there is some potential to affect the attributes and responses which are appreciated such as remoteness, sanctuary and risk, even though these are not present to the strongest degree.	Medium – High
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Present	The lochs are a notable feature of the location. Although managed, they appear mostly natural and limit accessibility to some degree. The lochs are sensitive to the type of development proposed.	Medium - High

WL1

Lochan na h-Earba

Grid Reference: NN 48493 83519



Photograph looking north-east along south-western loch.



Photograph looking west across south-western loch.



Photograph looking north-east toward north-eastern loch.



Photograph looking west across north-eastern loch.

WL1	Lochan na h-Earba	Grid Reference: NN 48493 83519
------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Lochan na h-Earba would form the lower reservoir for the Proposed Development with construction works likely to be present throughout the glen, including dams at either end, a large cutting and construction of the powerhouse and outlet area, upgrading / construction of tracks around the loch, processing of excavated materials and various borrow pits and construction compounds throughout the valley.
--	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Excavation, management, and storage of materials throughout the glen would form extensive disturbance to vegetation cover which would appear less natural.	High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of many people and construction plant within the glen would noticeably alter sense of solitude.	High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Construction works would lead to human artefacts being present throughout the glen.	High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The activity within the glen would reduce sense of being far from safety although risks associated with crags would remain.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Construction works would lead to a notable presence of contemporary land use.	High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Activities within the glen would be likely to distract from arresting / inspiring qualities although this would be likely to continue to be present to some extent.	Medium
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Accessibility would be improved, but the surrounding terrain is likely to appear similarly challenging to the existing situation.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Similar to existing although there would be easier accessibility around the north side of the loch which would reduce challenge in accessing crags.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Improvements to tracks would increase accessibility including track to north of loch which would create a circular route. However, this attribute is already low.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The increase in contemporary land use and modern artefacts and reduced sense of naturalness would distract within the glen. However, the arresting qualities of surrounding crags and striking physical features would remain. The WLQ would continue to be present.	Medium – High
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Access would remain during construction via a new track to the north of the loch but construction activities would noticeably reduce sense of solitude. Some arresting qualities would remain and rock climbing would still evoke a sense of risk but overall experience of wildness would be reduced.	Medium – High
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Construction works around the loch would distract from this as a feature and reduce its perceived naturalness. However, the loch would continue to form a focus of the glen and limit accessibility to a similar extent.	Medium – High

WL1	Lochan na h-Earba	Grid Reference: NN 48493 83519
------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	Lochan na h-Earba would form the lower reservoir for the Proposed Development and would feature a large powerhouse within a rock cutting, inlet / outlet structures on the loch and dams at either end of the valley leading to a single loch rather than two distinct lochans. Operation of the reservoir would create fluctuating drawdown of up to 21 m vertical height. Existing tracks would be upgraded and a new track constructed on the northern side. Planting is proposed around the powerhouse and along the loch-shore. Further planting is also proposed on surrounding hills for biodiversity net gain purposes.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Greater management of loch including drawdown would reduce its perceived naturalness. Fencing and planting for BNG purposes may appear slightly more formalised.	Low – Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of people in the powerhouse in a localised area would lead to a greater sense of people within the landscape but response would continue to be present.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	New structures would noticeably reduce attribute locally but planting and vegetation would limit wider influence with minimal presence of modern artefacts in some areas.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Presence of manned power station may give a sense of greater proximity to safety within south-west part of valley although risk associated with crags would remain.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	New structures, wider and new tracks and management of loch and planting would lead to perceptible and locally more noticeable increase in contemporary land use.	Low – Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The inspiring qualities may be affected to some extent by appearance of drawdown but would continue to be present in relation to the landform, loch and woodland.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The terrain would remain similarly challenging.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Similar to existing although there would be easier accessibility around the north side of the loch which would reduce challenge in accessing crags.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Improvements to tracks would increase accessibility including tracks to north of loch which would create a full circular route. However, this attribute is already low.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Although there would be an increase in modern artefacts and contemporary land use and some change to sense of naturalness, arresting qualities, particularly associated with the crags and physical landform, would continue to be present.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Tracks would increase accessibility and power station may create a perceived presence of people within the area. Although physical attributes would be reduced, mostly in localised areas close to permanent features, perceptual responses would continue to be present.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Management of loch would reduce perceived naturalness though would be similar to other waterbodies in the WLA. The separation between lochans would be lost, reducing access but this would not increase remoteness due to the addition of new tracks around the loch. However, the loch would remain as a focus within the valley.	Medium

WL2	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain	Grid Reference: NN 49253 80030
------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	Contained within and representative of the scooped bowl-shaped valley containing Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain, lying around 4 km to 5.5 km from the edge of the WLA and accessed by a well-built footpath along the north side of the loch from Lochan na h-Earba of around 3.5 km and around 5.8 km of vehicle track from the public road or from Loch Pattack by stalkers' path.
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Heather and rough grass with bare rock crags and scree appears very natural. Some forest plantation at Loch Ericht seen from higher areas.	Medium – High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Containment within bowl-like valley gives sense of sanctuary and solitude although there is an awareness of proximity to others on either side of the valley.	Medium – High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	No visible artefacts other than rough stalkers paths.	High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Some sense of risk associated with crags and steep slopes and lack of visible connection to others although awareness of other people using nearby paths.	Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	From higher areas, some forestry plantation is visible around Loch Ericht but this cannot be seen from lower areas.	Medium – High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Landform and surrounding crags evoke some arresting qualities but distant views limited by surrounding containment.	Medium
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The surrounding terrain is steep and rugged although paths provide an easier route past the loch.	Medium – High	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Some sense of achievement in reaching the location up fairly steep paths.	Medium
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Paths provide access to the location although are fairly steep to climb. Distant from public road although closer to vehicle tracks.	Medium	Strength of Wildness	Little evidence of built artefacts or contemporary land use and sense of solitude, but relative ease of access reduces remoteness, and arresting qualities or sense of awe are less notable.	Medium – High

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Distinctive bowl-shaped valley has qualities of a 'hidden' loch though less influence of mountains. Sense of solitude, naturalness and lack of artefacts are susceptible to change, but qualities associated with topography are less susceptible.	Medium – High
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	When accessing this location the proximity to less wild landscape around Loch Laggan and Loch Ericht / Loch Pattack is easily perceived which makes the area feel narrow and unconnected to the larger interior.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	This area is visited by walkers due to the presence of paths. Potentially susceptible to changes affecting accessibility, lack of artefacts and perceptual responses.	Medium – High
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Present	The loch is a key landscape element of the location and affects accessibility although is isolated without influence of other waterbodies. Qualities of naturalness are susceptible to the type of development proposed.	High

WL2	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain	Grid Reference: NN 49253 80030
-----	----------------------------	--------------------------------



Photograph looking north-west from northern stalkers' path.



Photograph looking east from northern stalkers' path.



Photograph looking south-east from head of loch.



Photograph looking north-west from end of loch.

WL2	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain	Grid Reference: NN 49253 80030
------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain would form the upper reservoir for the Proposed Development with construction works involving dam construction at the southern end of the loch, borrow pits and compound areas and construction and use of new tracks, likely to be influential throughout, and construction of intakes at the northern end of the loch. The water level would be lowered during construction to facilitate these works.
--	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Excavation and storage of materials and lowering of the water level would form disturbance to vegetation cover throughout the valley which would appear less natural.	High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of many people and construction plant within the glen would noticeably alter sense of solitude.	Medium – High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Construction works would lead to human artefacts being prominent throughout the valley.	High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Increased activity would reduce sense of risk although steep craggy slopes would still be associated with risk and there is already awareness of proximity to others.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Construction works would lead to a notable presence of contemporary land use.	High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Construction activities would distract from arresting qualities, but surrounding landform and crags would likely still arouse inspiring qualities to some extent.	Medium
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Greater accessibility to the valley would reduce challenge in approach and movement around the loch but surrounding steep slopes would still appear challenging.	Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Access improvements would reduce challenge although similar fitness would still be required to access the location.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	New access tracks to and around the loch would noticeably improve access though arrival on foot would still require fitness and comprise a challenging walk.	Medium			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Increased activities would form a distraction, reduce sense of solitude within the valley and may reduce the 'hidden' loch quality as the sense of arrival at the bealach would be diminished. Arresting qualities relating to the physical form of the valley would remain.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Although access improvements may enable more accessibility, changes to sense of solitude and remoteness and increased appearance of modern artefacts and contemporary land use would reduce visitors' perceptions of wildness within the valley.	Medium – High
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	The natural appearance of the loch would be altered by the construction works. Although it would continue to be present it would appear managed and its role as a focus within the valley would be diminished.	High

WL2	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain	Grid Reference: NN 49253 80030
------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain would form the upper reservoir for the Proposed Development. The dam would form a new, prominent feature throughout the valley and the loch would appear more managed with tracks to either side and up to 70 m vertical drawdown.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Dam and drawdown would reduce perceived naturalness of loch but re-vegetation of other surrounding areas would lead to the setting appearing generally natural.	Low – Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	New access tracks and features would give greater indication of presence of people in the landscape but the sense of solitude would continue to be present.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would form a very noticeable new modern artefact throughout the valley and intakes would be locally influential.	High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	There may be a sense of being in closer contact with other people, slightly reducing the perceived risk but this would be limited.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Dam, fluctuating levels of drawdown, and tracks around the loch would lead to appearance of a more managed landscape, although within an unmanaged setting.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Surrounding topography would still evoke some arresting qualities but higher water level may reduce perceived height of containing slopes. Dam would form a new focus and may screen wider views towards Loch Pattack.	Low – Medium
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The terrain would remain similarly challenging although new tracks would create easier routes in some areas.	Low			
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	New tracks would create greater accessibility with an awareness of vehicular access, although on foot it would remain remote from the public road.	Low – Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Fitness would still be required to reach the location but may be perceived as less fulfilling due to apparent vehicular accessibility.	Low – Medium

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The large dam would form a prominent modern artefact and higher water level and dam may reduce perceived height of surrounding slopes, reducing sense of naturalness. Qualities of a hidden loch would remain but would appear managed.	Low – Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	There would be some improved access but good walking routes are already present. Dam and reservoir and consequent changes to perceived naturalness, lack of artefacts and contemporary land use would affect the experience of wildness but accessibility may open up new areas to a wider range of people and perceptual responses would remain present.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Loch would still form a focus of the valley but the dam and drawdown would lead to it appearing managed and less natural. Tracks would provide some access improvements, but paths already provide access to walkers in the same areas. Overall there would be more formality to the loch and it would contribute less to the sense of wildness experienced.	Medium

WL3	Càrn Dearg	Grid Reference: NN 50411, 76439
------------	-------------------	--

Description:	Elevated rocky summit area situated 6.8 km from the edge of the WLA and on the north-eastern edge of the greater mountain mass of Ben Alder and Aonach Beag. Gravelled vehicle tracks provide some access to the location, but a long off-road drive, cycle or walk along at least 16 km of track to Culra Lodge is required to access the location, followed by a walk of around 2 km across rough, steep ground.
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Terrain is rough and rocky and appears very natural, with the exception of a few small forest plantations in the easterly / south-easterly context.	Medium – High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	The WL feels a long way from busy areas with a strong sense of solitude, although forestry, a bothy and tracks suggests surrounding presence of others.	Medium – High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	A small bothy is passed on the way to the WL and is visible from the summit. Some tracks are seen at distance but otherwise there are no artefacts visible.	Medium – High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The steep mountain sides and distance from other people gives some sense of risk and awe, although this is not a strong characteristic of the location.	Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Some geometric coniferous forest plantations in easterly / south-easterly and western context show signs of contemporary land use.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Sense of elevation and surrounding mountains and peaks evoke strong arresting and inspiring qualities.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The surrounding terrain is steep, rugged and challenging.	High	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Considerable physical challenge required to reach the location although tracks would allow this to be reduced by vehicles. Notable perception of challenge within the surrounding area.	High
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The location is a long way from public roads requiring a significant walk, although off-road vehicles can reduce this journey via tracks.	Medium – High	Strength of Wildness	The WL feels far from others, requiring physical effort to access and evokes strong arresting qualities, but nearby tracks and forest plantations reduce some attributes.	Medium – High

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Striking mountain and glens are clearly evident but arresting qualities and sense of risk are less susceptible to change as they are more focused on physical topography at this WL. However, aspects of perceived naturalness and accessibility are more susceptible to change.	Medium – High
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Partially present	Sense of being on the edge of the mountain interior due to contemporary land use in the easterly / south-easterly context. However, associated sense of solitude and remoteness are susceptible to new development.	Medium
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	Peak is accessed by walkers, and others may be evident in the surrounding area such as Culra Bothy and tracks around River Pattack. Potentially susceptible to changes in accessibility which may increase visitor numbers.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	Some lochs and rivers are evident but generally distant, forming part of the overall context and therefore less susceptible to change.	Low

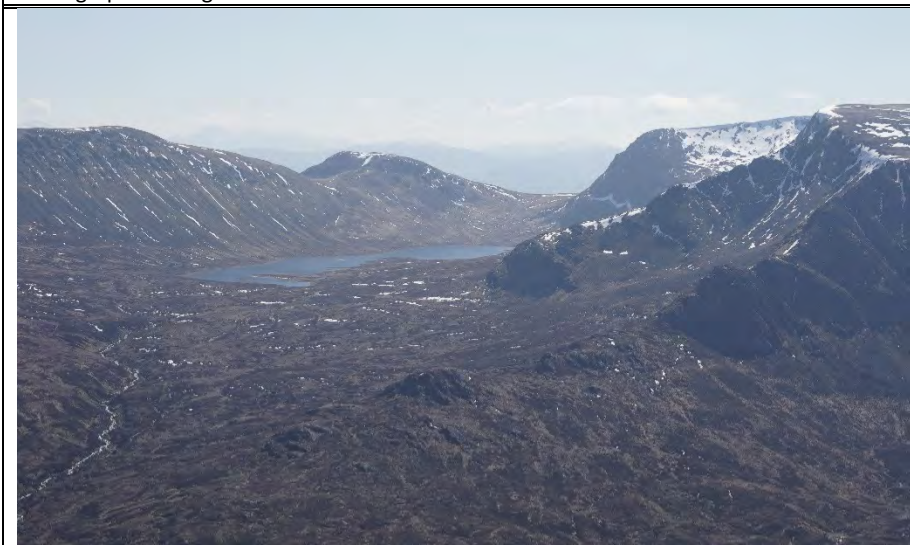
WL3	Càrn Dearg	Grid Reference: NN 50411, 76439
-----	------------	---------------------------------



Photograph Looking North



Photograph Looking East



Photograph Looking South



Photograph Looking West

WL3	Càrn Dearg	Grid Reference: NN 50411, 76439
------------	-------------------	--

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction works at the Leamhain Dam including borrow pits and compound areas around Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain and access tracks to the location would be seen within the context to the north at around 2.5 km.
--	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Works such as borrow pits and peat stripping would reduce perceived naturalness in northern context but other closer and surrounding areas would retain perceived naturalness.	Low - Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of activity at dam site may reduce sense of solitude slightly and form a distraction but people would still seem far away.	Medium – Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Construction works at Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain would be prominent to the north but continued lack of artefacts in other directions.	Medium – High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The proximity of other people in the landscape may lead to a small reduction in the sense of risk but this would be limited.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Construction works would increase appearance of contemporary land use and draw this further into the northern context.	Medium – High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The construction works would be distracting within the northerly context but the arresting qualities associated with wider mountainous views, particularly to the south and west, would remain.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	There would be no perceptible change to the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	There would be no perceptible change to this response.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The construction works would not lead to an increase in accessibility to the WL.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The works would draw contemporary land use and activity closer to the WL, and could affect the sense of landscape scale to the north, but the arresting qualities of the wider mountains to south and west contribute more strongly to this WLQ and would be unchanged.	Low – Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The construction works would bring contemporary land use further into the northern context of the WL but the connection to the more remote mountain interior to the south and west would remain unchanged.	Negligible
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	There would be no changes to accessibility. Construction works may reduce experience of physical attribute of wild land and sense of sanctuary to some degree but the experience associated with the wider landscape to south and west would remain.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Works would affect the appearance and perceived naturalness of Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain though lochs to the south, particularly Loch a' Bhealaich Bheithe, are more indicative of the patterns of naturalness and ruggedness highlighted by the WLQ.	Low

WL3	Càrn Dearg	Grid Reference: NN 50411, 76439
------------	-------------------	--

Nature of Change (Operation)	The Leamhain Dam and reservoir including fluctuating drawdown levels of up to 70 m vertical height would be very noticeable in the northerly context at around 2.5 km including new access tracks but there would be no changes to other surrounding parts of the context and the close relationship to the more remote and rugged mountains to the south would be unaffected.
-------------------------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Drawdown areas and the rockfill dam face would appear less natural though similar to existing scree. Surrounding vegetation would still be perceived as generally natural.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	The dam and tracks at fairly close proximity to the north may slightly reduce sense of being far from others but an elevated sense of solitude would continue to be present.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would form a prominent new artefact in the northern context, potentially appearing closer due to its size but lack of artefacts in other areas would continue.	Medium – High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Unlikely to be any perceptible change to sense of risk or awe during operation.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	The dam and reservoir would indicate contemporary land use to the north, bringing this influence further towards the WL. Continued lack of influence to south and west.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Arresting qualities would remain strong, associated with the surrounding topography, especially to the south. The presence of the dam would be unlikely to change this	Negligible
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The Proposed Development would be unlikely to affect the challenging nature of the terrain at this WL.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	There would be no perceptible change to this response.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	New access tracks would be at closer proximity within the context but would not improve the accessibility to the WL which would still be easier to access by current routes.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
A strong contrast of wide, open peatland, lochs and steep-sided mountains that highlight the visibility and awe-inspiring qualities of each.	The Proposed Development would draw contemporary land use closer into the northern context and may slightly reduce sense of solitude. However arresting qualities would continue to be high being more associated with the southern and western areas. The WL would continue to be strongly representative of the WLQ.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Proximity of the Proposed Development may lead to a sense of the WL being slightly closer to the edge of the WLA, but the connection to the more remote landscape to the south would remain unaffected.	Negligible
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The Proposed Development would reduce some physical attributes of wild land and sense of sanctuary with a sense of being slightly closer to the edge of the WLA but there would be no changes to accessibility and an experience of wild land would continue to be present.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	The dam and drawdown would lead to Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain appearing more managed and less natural but other lochs which are more representative of the patterns of ruggedness and naturalness highlighted by the WLQ, particularly to the south, would be unaffected.	Low

WL4	Creag Pitridh	Grid Reference: NN 48749, 81457
------------	----------------------	--

Description:	A craggy summit overlooking Lochan na h-Earba and Loch Laggan to the north, open views down Glen Spean to the west and the mountains of Geal Charn, Beinn a' Chlachair and Carn Dearg to the south. This WL lies 2.5 km from the WLA boundary to the north, and is accessed via around 5.4 km of gravelled track and 5 km of rough, steep footpath from Glen Spean.
---------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Rough, rocky terrain appears very natural although extensive areas of forest plantation in the wider context are perceived as less natural in origin.	Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Area is accessed by recreational users and nearby properties and public road are clearly seen in the context, but elevation gives some sense of separation.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Buildings, tracks and public road are seen in westerly view, and wind turbines distantly to north though there are no features close to the WL.	Medium – Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Steep slopes give sense of risk and awe, but proximity to peopled areas tempers any sense of isolation.	Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Expansive areas of forest plantation to the west, down Glen Spean and also to the north and north-east around Loch Laggan but little evidence in other directions.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Surrounding elevated and expansive mountain landscape is very inspiring.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Surrounding terrain is steep and craggy though a few paths and tracks are present.	Medium – High	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Fitness required to reach the location although paths provide access and tracks could reduce length of walk. Perception of challenge within the surrounding area.	Medium – High
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	WL requires a notable walk but paths are present and tracks reduce this if off-road vehicles are used.	Low – Medium	Strength of Wildness	WL is relatively challenging to reach with arresting qualities but obvious contemporary land use and buildings within context reduce sense solitude and perceived risk.	Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Arresting mountains and glens, are strongly representative of the WL but less susceptible to change, being more closely associated with topography. More susceptible qualities of remoteness and naturalness are less pronounced.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Partially present	There is some connection to the mountain interior in the south-westerly context, but remoteness and sense of sanctuary are lesser at the WL due to nearby contemporary land use and constructed artefacts.	Low – Medium
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	The area is popular with walkers and clear access routes in the wider landscape affect sense of solitude. Susceptible to change where accessibility or sense of solitude may be affected but less susceptible in terms of arresting qualities, which are more focussed on the surrounding topography.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	Some lochs and rivers are evident but forming part of the overall context and are not a strong representative element of the wild land qualities at the location.	Low

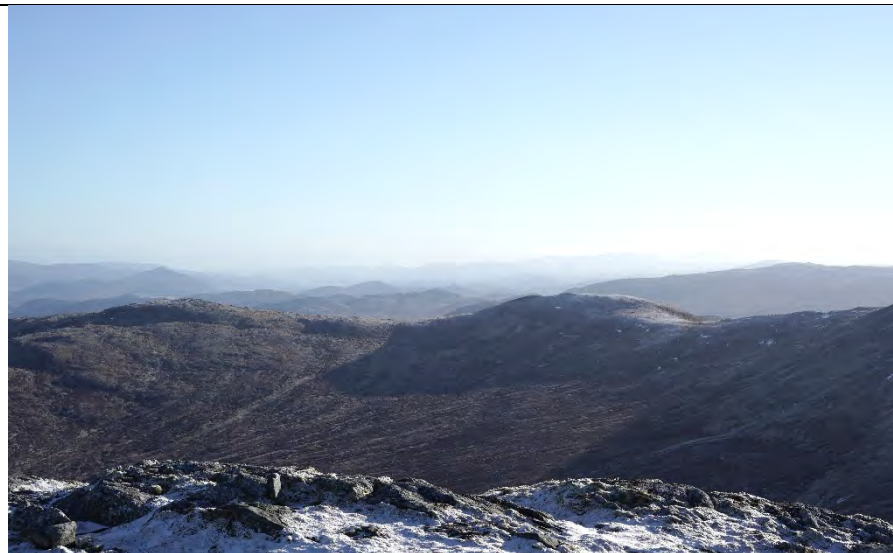
WL4

Creag Pitridh

Grid Reference: NN 48749, 81457



Photograph Looking North



Photograph Looking East



Photograph Looking South



Photograph Looking West

WL4	Creag Pitridh	Grid Reference: NN 48749, 81457
------------	----------------------	--

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction works at Lochan na h-Earba would be present close below the summit including construction of the two lower dams, some compound and borrow pit areas, and upgraded and new tracks including one along the north side of the loch. Works at the north-eastern end of the loch would be just outside the WLA boundary. New and upgraded access tracks would also be seen in the western context leading from Glen Spean to Lochan a-Earba up to Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain and some works at the surge shaft would be present on the side of the hill.
--	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Construction areas and borrow pits would appear less natural around the lochs in northern context and potentially small areas to west but wider and nearby vegetation cover would still appear natural.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of construction activities and vehicle movements to north and west would reduce sense of solitude but the elevated situation away from the works would still maintain a sense of separation.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Artefacts would appear more noticeable in valley to north and on tracks to west, closer than existing features in Glen Spean.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The closer presence of people may slightly further reduce sense of risk, but the association of risk with steep slopes would continue.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Contemporary land use would be apparent to north and west. These parts of the context are already influenced by forestry but works would draw this closer.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The appearance of works may interrupt in views but the inspiring qualities associated with the wider surrounding vista of mountain summits would remain.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Access tracks leading towards Creag Pitridh may reduce the degree of challenge in reaching the WL, but there would be no change to the terrain.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Increased accessibility of tracks and traffic may slightly affect fulfilment of challenge but there would still be a sense of achievement gained in reaching the WL.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Access tracks may increase accessibility, but a notable walk and fitness would still be required to reach the WL.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Construction works would distract in some parts of the surrounding landscape, including the glen below and westerly view towards Beinn a' Chlachair, but arresting qualities would still remain strongly present associated with the surrounding expansive mountain vistas.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The WL is not strongly representative of this WLQ but construction access and potential works to the west would interrupt the connection to the wider WLA interior in this direction and further reduce the presence of the WLQ.	Low
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Construction works would lead to more people in the landscape and some reduction in sense of solitude. This could affect visitors' enjoyment of the wild land experience, although all perceptual responses would remain present and there would still be achievement gained in accessing the WL.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Construction around Lochan na h-Earba would affect perceived naturalness but would have little effect on the role of lochs as part of the wider landscape fabric where Loch Laggan (outwith the WLA) has more influence. The WL is not strongly representative of this WLQ.	Low

WL4	Creag Pitridh	Grid Reference: NN 48749, 81457
------------	----------------------	--

Nature of Change (Operation)	The downstream faces of the Shios Dam (just outside the WLA boundary) and possibly part of the Shuas Dam would be present in the valley immediately below, raising the water level of Lochan na h-Earba which would be seen as one rather than two distinct lochs. Fluctuating draw-down levels up to 21 m vertical height would be present around the loch. New access tracks may also be perceptible in the context to the west but would be narrowed from their construction widths.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Dams and drawdown on Lochan na h-Earba would lead to the loch appearing less natural but this would be of limited perceptibility within the wider landscape context	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Unlikely to be affected by the operational development.	Negligible
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Dams would form large new artefacts in the valley below but their influence would be less notable in the northern context near the edge or just outside the WLA.	Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Access improvements may lead to a sense of the WL being slightly more connected, but this is unlikely to be perceptibly different to existing situation.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Lochan na h-Earba would appear more managed but seen within a context of extensive forest which forms a setting to this edge of the WLA. Tracks to west may indicate a small increase in contemporary land use in this direction.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Although features of the Proposed Development would be present in the context this is unlikely to affect the inspiring qualities which are associated with the wider mountain vistas.	Negligible
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Challenge in reaching the location may be slightly reduced by tracks but the surrounding terrain would continue to appear rugged and challenging.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Perception of challenge may be slightly reduced by a vehicle track reaching some way to the WL but a sense of achievement would still be gained in reaching it.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Vehicle tracks would improve some access to the WL, but a notable walk and fitness would still be required.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The lower reservoir and dams would be visible in the valley below and some tracks may be seen to the west, but this would not affect the arresting or inspiring qualities associated with surrounding topography or the sense of solitude.	Negligible
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	There may be some tracks visible to the west where the wider connection to the WLA interior is perceived. These would be reduced in width during operation and their use would be infrequent. This is unlikely to perceptibly affect the partial presence of the WLQ.	Negligible
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Access improvements enroute to this WL may lead to it being slightly easier to reach but fulfilment of physical challenge would still be gained. Sense of solitude and arresting qualities would continue to be present and the WLQ would be similar to existing.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Lochan na h-Earba may appear more managed and less natural in the northern context would still be present as large waterbody. This is unlikely to lead to any perceptible change in presence of the WLQ as Loch Laggan, outwith the WLA appears more representative.	Negligible

WL5	Beinn a' Chlachair	Grid Reference: NN 47134, 78175
------------	---------------------------	--

Description:	Elevated, boulder-strewn rocky summit area overlooking Glen Spean to the north-west, the northern corries of Càrn Dearg to south and extensive distant mountain peaks beyond. The WL lies 3.3 km from the edge of the WLA and is accessed via around 5.4 km of gravelled track, 1.8 km of rough footpath and across rough, steep ground for around 2.6 km.
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The boulder-strewn summit area appears very natural but extensive coniferous forest plantation to the west and north-west is perceived as less natural.	Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Area is accessed by recreational users and nearby properties and public road are clearly seen in the context, but elevation gives some sense of separation.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Buildings, public road and tracks are clearly seen in the northerly context but few built features are present in views to the south.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Steep slopes give sense of risk and awe, but proximity to peopled areas tempers any sense of isolation.	Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Forest plantations to the north and north west and some to east show clear evidence of contemporary land use, but this is less evident in the southern context.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Expansive, elevated views of surrounding mountains, particularly to the south-west, evoke arresting and inspiring qualities.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The surrounding terrain is steep and rough although some roads and tracks can be seen in the wider context to north and west.	Medium – High	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Considerable challenge required to reach the location although tracks and paths are present for part of the route.	Medium – High
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Location requires a notable walk across steep terrain although there is some accessibility by rough paths and tracks.	Medium	Strength of Wildness	WL is relatively challenging to reach with arresting qualities but obvious forestry and buildings within context reduce sense of naturalness, solitude, and perceived risk.	Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Arresting mountains and glens are strongly representative of the WL but less susceptible to change as more closely associated with wider topography. Remoteness and naturalness are more susceptible but less pronounced.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Partially present	Although some sense of being on the edge of the mountain interior, the connection is less pronounced at this WL with more influence from Glen Spean which also reduces the presence of the more susceptible qualities of remoteness and sanctuary.	Low – Medium
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	Summit and surrounding peaks are visited by walkers and tracks and other areas used by others. Some susceptibility to changes which may lead to increased perceptions of accessibility or activity but less susceptible in terms of arresting qualities which are more focussed on wider topography.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	Some lochs forming part of the wider context, mostly outwith the WLA and are not a strong contributory element of the wild land qualities at the location.	Low

WL5	Beinn a' Chlachair	Grid Reference: NN 47134, 78175
-----	--------------------	---------------------------------



Photograph Looking North-west



Photograph Looking North-east



Photograph Looking South-east



Photograph Looking South-west

WL5	Beinn a' Chlachair	Grid Reference: NN 47134, 78175
------------	---------------------------	--

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction at Shuas Dam would be seen within the northern context from areas to the north of the summit, along with associated site compound / laydown areas. Construction of new tracks from Glen Spean to Lochan na h-Earba and up the side of Creag Pitridh to the surge shaft and tunnel adit locations would also be seen in this context, as would a new access track around the northern shore of the loch and path to the Ardverikie Wall crag. Works at Leamhain Dam may be seen on the approach.
--	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Construction around the dam and tunnel adit areas would appear less natural within this part of the context, seen from some areas but surrounding landscape would remain natural in appearance, especially to south.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Most works would only be seen from parts of the summit but would be passed enroute to the WL leading to greater awareness of others in the landscape. However, elevation would maintain sense of separation.	Low - Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Increase in construction / artefacts to north, mostly seen in part of the context where existing features are already influential and only from parts of the summit area.	Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The closer proximity of people may reduce perceptions of risk slightly, although associations with steep slopes and crags would remain.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Construction would increase presence and proximity to contemporary land use but mostly affecting edge of the WLA where forest and other land use is already influential.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Some works may be distracting, particularly at the more elevated tunnel adit or surge shaft areas but would have little effect on wider arresting qualities of surrounding mountains, particularly to south / south-west.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	New access tracks are unlikely to be the preferred route to the WL so access would still remain challenging and terrain would be unchanged.	Low			
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Access improvements within the context and construction traffic would reduce remoteness from vehicles but would still require a long walk and good fitness.	Low	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Access improvements may reduce some sense of challenge but fitness would still be required and the sense of achievement in reaching the WL would still be gained.	Low

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Construction would be seen to the north and on approach to the WL with some effects on naturalness but would be associated with the outer edge of the WLA where development and contemporary land use is already perceived. There would be limited effect on the arresting qualities of mountains.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	As all the construction works would be seen within the northern context, towards the edge of the WLA, there would be no change to the relationship with the greater interior.	Negligible
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Construction works passed on approach to the WL and in the northern context may affect visitors' experience of wild land including sense of solitude and remoteness but arresting qualities, and sense of challenge and risk would still be present.	Low – Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Appearance of works to construct the Shuas Dam in the northern context may affect the perceived naturalness of Lochan na h-Earba but this is only seen from parts of the summit area and not a strong focus. Lochs outwith the WLA are mostly more notable in the context.	Negligible

WL5	Beinn a' Chlachair	Grid Reference: NN 47134, 78175
------------	---------------------------	--

Nature of Change (Operation)	The Shuas Dam and south end of the lower reservoir would be seen from some summit areas to the north and some tracks and the tunnel adit and tracks would feature in the same direction at higher elevation on the side of Creag Pitridh. Some construction tracks and the dam would also be experienced on approach to the WL.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Limited views of Lochan na h-Earba may appear less natural but generally unlikely to be perceptible change.	Negligible	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Increase in artefacts may lead to limited perception of other people being present in the landscape but sense of solitude likely to remain the same as existing.	Negligible
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The Shuas Dam would be perceived from some parts of the summit, and tunnel adit on the site of Creag Pitridh slightly extending influence of modern artefacts.	Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Unlikely to be a change to the sense of risk in the longer term.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	New features in the landscape and on approach to WL would suggest some increase in contemporary land use, mostly in context of existing areas affected.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The arresting and inspiring qualities associated with the surrounding mountain vista would be unaffected in the longer term.	Negligible
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Unlikely to be affected as new tracks would be unlikely to be the preferred route to this WL by foot. Terrain would continue to be challenging.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	It would be possible to approach closer to the VL by vehicle which may very slightly reduce perceptions of challenge in reaching the location.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Closer to vehicle tracks but accessibility by foot would be similar to existing for walkers.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The permanent features of the Proposed Development would be unlikely to affect the appreciation of the mountainous environment, which is experienced more to the south.	Negligible
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The WL would have a similar sense of being on the edge of the mountain interior which stretches to the south. This relationship would be unaffected.	Negligible
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	In approaching this location, there may be a greater awareness of built features and accessibility in the landscape, but the perceptual responses to wild land would be largely unaffected and the overall experience is likely to be similar.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Whilst the Proposed Development would affect the appearance of Lochan na h-Earba this is not likely to noticeably affect the role of waterbodies and watercourses in the WLA.	Negligible

WL6	An Lairig	Grid Reference: NN 49170 76770
------------	------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	Elevated position on side of deep trench valley with steep mountains to north and south, around 5.7 km from the edge of the WLA. Accessed by around 4.5 km of narrow, but well-built, stalkers path from vehicle tracks around Loch Pattack and a steep hill climb of around 800 m resulting in a long journey to access by foot, although this may be reduced by use of a vehicle.
---------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Heather, rough grass boulders and bedrock with occasional peat haggings. Perceived as very natural.	High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Feels far from others with little sign of other people in the landscape.	High
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	No artefacts are evident except the minor stalkers' path through the valley and a higher one traversing the southern slope.	High	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Some steep slopes and the sense of being far from others brings perceptions of risk although there is little obvious danger.	Medium – High
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Forest areas around Loch Pattack are evident enroute to the location but no obvious contemporary land use is seen within the valley.	High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The large scale of the landscape and surrounding mountains evokes inspiring qualities.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Surrounding terrain is steep with rugged areas, boulders and hags which is difficult to cross, but traversing along the valley is relatively straight forward via the path.	Medium – High	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Requires physical effort to reach the location.	High
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Requiring a reasonably long off-road walk from vehicle tracks although made easier by the path. Very long journey from public road.	Medium – High	Strength of Wildness	Remote from others with little sign of human intervention in the landscape and high levels of most perceptual responses.	High

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Surrounding mountains and large-scale trench-like glen are striking and susceptible to change in this area as are elements such as lack of artefacts, naturalness, sense of solitude and awe.	High
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Partially present	There is a sense of approach into a more extensive wild interior in this area although WLQ is not directly present. Susceptible to changes to accessibility or modern artefacts / land use which may reduce sense of solitude.	Medium
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Partially present	WL is not on any of the most obvious walking routes but likely used by stalkers. May be susceptible to changes in accessibility at this location.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	A burn follows the glen and peat haggings at the watershed is evident but this is not a strongly contributing element of the wildness experienced at the location.	Low

WL6	An Lairig	Grid Reference: NN 49170 76770
-----	-----------	--------------------------------



Photograph Looking North



Photograph Looking North-east



Photograph Looking South-west



Photograph Looking West

WL6	An Lairig	Grid Reference: NN 49170 76770
------------	------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction of the Leamhain Dam would take place in the north-eastern context at around 2.5 km Distant. Borrow pits and laydown areas around Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain may be perceptible at earlier stages of construction, later becoming hidden by the dam.
--	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Limited appearance of construction disturbance to vegetation but unlikely to change perceptions of natural vegetation.	Negligible	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Works would form some disturbance and closer appearance of others, reducing sense of solitude although there would still be separation from these activities.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Dam construction would add noticeable new human artefacts to the setting to the north-east.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Visible closer proximity of other people may slightly reduce the sense of risk.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Dam construction would add presence of contemporary land use in a focused location to the north-east.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Arresting qualities relating to the large scale landform would continue to be present but construction would form a new focus and distraction in the landscape.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The Proposed Development would be unlikely to affect the appearance of rugged or challenging terrain.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Although accessing the location would remain challenging, the proximity to other people and vehicles may lead to slightly less fulfilment.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Proposed Development would reduce proximity to vehicular access and other people but would not improve accessibility to the WL.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The large-scale topography and would continue to arouse arresting qualities but disturbance of construction would reduce sense of solitude and may reduce the sense of scale in the part of the landscape affected.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The sense of moving into the more remote area would continue to be present but the closer presence of contemporary land use may lead to the WL feeling further from this interior requiring a greater journey along the valley to experience the WLQ to the same degree.	Low – Medium
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	This is a less visited area and it is unlikely that construction works would change this. The experience of wildness would be less notable for people who may visit but qualities of wild land would still be experienced.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	The construction works would not alter the presence of watercourses, waterbodies or bogs at this WL.	Negligible

WL6	An Lairig	Grid Reference: NN 49170 76770
------------	------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	The Leamhain Dam would be present in the north-eastern context at around 2.5 km distant. The top water level would not be visible at the WL, but would become visible if moving further up the slope towards Coire Cheap.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The rockfill front face of the dam would appear less natural but within a context of surrounding areas which appear very natural.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	There would be a sense of being closer to contemporary land use but no real increase in people in the landscape. The sense of solitude would therefore remain.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would introduce a prominent modern artefact to an area with no other obvious artefacts but would be focussed as a single entity in the north-eastern context, with no other features visible to the west.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development would change the sense of risk experienced at this WL.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	The dam would introduce a sense of contemporary land use within the setting though would be experienced as part of the land uses passed when accessing the location from Loch Pattack with no features when moving forward.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The dam would form a large new feature in the landscape and would potentially slightly reduce the perceived scale of adjacent landform. However, the arresting qualities of the glen and mountains would continue to be present.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Terrain would not be altered and would continue to be similarly challenging.	Negligible			
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The Proposed Development would introduce new tracks at closer proximity, but these would not improve the access to the WL.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	The location would continue to be challenging to access within similar levels of fulfilment.	Negligible

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The dam could slightly reduce the perceived scale of adjacent topography but the arresting qualities of the large scale valley and mountains would remain a dominating quality of the location.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The sense of moving into the more remote area would continue to be present. The dam would introduce some proximity to contemporary land use, but the sense of increasing isolation and moving towards a more remote area would remain.	Low
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The dam would be unlikely to alter the sense of fulfilment and experience of remoteness that would be valued by the few people accessing this area.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	The dam would introduce a sense of management to the wider water environment but this is unlikely to affect the influence of watercourses, waterbodies or bogs on the experience of wildness at the WL.	Negligible

WL7	Loch Pattack Track	Grid Reference: NN 55228 78590
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	Lying 6.5 km from the edge of the WLA, located on a vehicular track above Loch Pattack, adjacent to some felled forest plantation with an open vista over the loch and surrounding hills. This WLA is easily accessed by vehicle (around 2 km) from Ben Alder Lodge and Loch Ericht but requires a long journey on foot or bike from the public road (around 10.5 km).
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Surrounding hills are of heather and rough grass, appearing natural but adjacent forest plantation, including some felled areas appear less natural.	Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Peaceful. Feels far from public areas but popular area for recreation, including camping. Awareness of proximity to Ben Alder Lodge if passed enroute.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Surrounding fencing, vehicle tracks and bridges are seen from the location, whilst features around Ben Alder Lodge are passed on way to the location.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Limited sense of risk due to presence of tracks and often other recreational users. Scale of landscape may evoke some sense of awe.	Low
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Tracks and nearby forest suggest contemporary land use within the area.	Low – Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Views of surrounding mountains to the west are arresting.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Rugged terrain in the surrounding landscape. Nearby terrain less challenging but some haggling may be difficult to cross. Tracks provide access through the landscape.	Low – Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Likely challenge due to distance from the public road although tracks assist in travel through the landscape.	Medium
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	A long way from public roads but close to Ben Alder Lodge. Good vehicle tracks improve accessibility.	Medium	Strength of Wildness	Evokes the perceptual responses of wild land but presence of contemporary land use leads to greater awareness of human influence in the landscape. Sense of being only on the edge of the WLA.	Low - Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Partially present	Mountains are seen in the surrounding landscape and are arresting but not immediately present at the WL. May be susceptible to changes that affect the arresting qualities.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	Although there is an appearance of the mountains stretching into a greater area of wildness, there is no sense of the WL being within this interior.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Present	Popular recreational area. May be susceptible to changes to access and presence of people or other changes in wildness experience at the location although attributes are generally of lower strength.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Present	Loch Pattack and surrounding bog areas are notable features of the landscape although tracks around the loch assist access and reduce the loch's sense of naturalness slightly.	Medium

WL7

Loch Pattack Track

Grid Reference: NN 55228 78590



Photograph Looking North



Photograph Looking East



Photograph Looking South-west



Photograph Looking West

WL7	Loch Pattack Track	Grid Reference: NN 55228 78590
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction of the Leamhain Dam would form a focus within the western context, seen within the pass to the rear of Loch Pattack
--	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	As the dam progressed the rockfill face would appear less natural than surrounding vegetation types in the western context but a general sense of naturalness would remain.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	There would be an increase in activity in the surrounding landscape but this is unlikely to very noticeably change the presence of this response at the WL.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	There are already modern artefacts affecting the location but construction works would add additional artefacts to the westerly context, currently less affected.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The construction works are unlikely to change the sense of perceived risk.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	The works would increase sense of contemporary land use into the westerly and more distant context to some degree.	Low – Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Construction would feature in mountain views which contribute to arresting / inspiring qualities, but the response would still be present in relation to other surrounding landscape areas.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Construction works would be unlikely to affect the rugged qualities of the terrain at the WL.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	The appearance of activities in the pass to the west may give more sense of surrounding accessibility but there would still be a sense of achievement in reaching the WL.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Construction works would not increase accessibility to this WL but the presence of vehicles in the wider landscape may lead to a decreased sense of remoteness.	Low			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The construction works would add contemporary features into the mountain context. Although the WL is already affected by modern artefacts, this would locally distract and reduce the sense of wildness associated with this part of the context. However, arresting qualities would continue to be present.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Although the WL has a sense of being on the edge of the WLA, the works would reduce wildness associated with the westerly context, and this would become more focused towards the southwest which may further reduce the sense of being within the WLA.	Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	There is already some sense of contemporary land use associated with Loch Pattack, but the works within the setting may further distract from wild qualities in this area and may associate additional management to the burn descending from Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain.	Low

WL7	Loch Pattack Track	Grid Reference: NN 55228 78590
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	The Leamhain Dam would form a prominent feature within the western context, seen within the pass to the rear of Loch Pattack but there would be no changes to other parts of the context.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The rockfill face of the dam would appear less natural within the context of rough grasses and heather, although may be similar to scree slopes.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Although there would be an increase in contemporary land use, the sense of solitude would be similar to that currently experienced as people are typically present at closer proximity.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would form a prominent new feature, slightly extending the influence of modern artefacts into the western mountain context.	Low – Medium			
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	The dam would give further indication of contemporary land use in the western context, extending the influence more away from Loch Pattack area.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	The Proposed Development is unlikely to change the sense of perceived risk.	Negligible
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	There would be no change to the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The dam would feature in mountain views which contribute to arresting / inspiring qualities, but the response would still be present in relation to other surrounding landscape areas.	Low
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The dam may give some appearance of accessibility in the wider landscape but would not improve access to the location.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	The dam is unlikely to affect the sense of fulfilment in accessing the WL as other surrounding features already give a sense of arrival.	Negligible

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The dam would form a new feature in part of the mountain context which may lead to some effects on arresting qualities and sense of sanctuary but these responses would still be evoked at the location and the relationship with the mountains would remain similar.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The dam would form a new prominent feature, slightly increasing the sense of human intervention in the surrounding landscape. This would reduce the sense wildness associated with the westerly context but all the wild land attributes and responses would continue to be present.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Although not physically connected, the dam seen from this perspective may lead to a relationship being perceived between it and Loch Pattack which may slightly further reduce the perceived naturalness associated with the lochs and burns in this part of the context.	Low

WL8	Meall na Sguabaich	Grid Reference: NN 56310 81886
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	Elevated location set on the edge of a shallow corrie on a concave moorland slope to the east of River Pattack around 3.6 km from the edge of the WLA. This location is accessed from vehicle tracks at the Pattack Dam by a 2 km walk up a relatively straight-forward slope of rough grass and heather. A further journey of approximately 8.5 km is required to reach the Pattack Dam from the public road.
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Heather, grass and peat hags is perceived as natural. Some pine plantations are seen around River Pattack but have a relatively naturalised appearance	Medium – High	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Presence of peacefulness but visible tracks and features give sense of proximity to other people.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Track, bridges and a weir present in middle distance at River Pattack and large dam is passed enroute to the location. Wind turbines to north but are distant.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	No immediate sense of danger and feel relatively close to other people.	Low – Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Forestry seen around River Pattack appears quite naturalised but tracks and weir and proximity to dam give sense of contemporary land use in the wider area.	Medium – High	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Impressive large scale landform and mountains within the surrounding landscape and expansive views.	Medium
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Terrain fairly easy to traverse although there are no paths. Some steep slopes and small boggy areas but not rugged.	Low – Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Some challenge but less arduous than other areas.	Medium
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	Tracks provide vehicular access near the location but it is distant from the public road.	Low – Medium	Strength of Wildness	Perceptual responses are all present but features around River Pattack and relative ease of access reduce the strength of these responses and overall wildness.	Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Partially present	Mountains are seen in parts of the surrounding landscape but the nearby landscape is less remarkable or striking. May be susceptible to change where connection to more distant features is affected.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present	The features around the River Pattack disconnect this WL from the more remote interior.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Partially present	Area may be used by stalkers but less notable for recreation although areas around River Pattack are more used.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	Limited appearance of River Pattack and other burns in the surrounding landscape but not a key contributory element to the wild land experience at this WL.	Low

WL8	Meall na Sguabaich	Grid Reference: NN 56310 81886
-----	--------------------	--------------------------------



Photograph looking North



Photograph Looking South-east



Photograph Looking South-west



Photograph Looking North-west

WL8	Meall na Sguabaich	Grid Reference: NN 56310 81886
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction of the Leamhain Dam would appear in the south-westerly context at high elevation approximately 6 km distant.
--	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	As construction works progress, the rockfill front face of the dam would appear less natural to the south-west but would have limited effect on the strength of the attribute.	Negligible	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	The construction would lead to some further activities being perceived within the context but this is unlikely to affect the sense of solitude at the WL.	Negligible
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Construction at the dam would lead to new artefacts in south-western context. Relatively distant but in a part of the context not already affected.	Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	There would be no change to the sense of risk or awe.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	The construction works would introduce a sense of further contemporary land use in the south-westerly context.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Construction would appear within the most mountainous part of the context which may distract slightly from arresting qualities.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	There would be no change to the terrain.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	There would be no change to the sense of physical challenge.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	There would be no change to remoteness and accessibility.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The construction works would interrupt the most mountainous part of the context to the south-west where the connection to this WLQ is perceived. This may affect slightly the associated arresting qualities and reduce the perceived scale of the WLA stretching in this direction, but would not noticeably change the limited presence of the WLQ.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The construction works may lead to a sense of more people being present in the wider context but this WL has limited access for recreation and lower more regularly visited areas in the vicinity would not have intervisibility with the proposed works.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	There would be no perceptible change to any rivers, lochs or bogs at this WL.	Negligible

WL8	Meall na Sguabaich	Grid Reference: NN 56310 81886
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	The Leamhain Dam would appear in the south-westerly context at high elevation approximately 6 km distant and would form a noticeable new feature.
-------------------------------------	---

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The rockfill front face of the dam would appear less natural to the south-west but would have limited effect on the strength of the attribute.	Negligible	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	The appearance of the dam at over 6 km distant is not likely to alter the sense of solitude at the WL.	Negligible
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would form a new artefact in the south-western context. Relatively distant but in a part of the context not already affected.	Low	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	There would be no change to the sense of risk or awe.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Presence of the dam in the south-western context would introduce a sense of further contemporary land use in this context.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The dam would form a feature within the most mountainous part of the context which may distract slightly from arresting qualities.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	There would be no change to the terrain.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	There would be no change to the sense of physical challenge.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	There would be no change to remoteness and accessibility.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	The dam would form a new feature in the most mountainous part of the context to the south-west where the connection to this WLQ is perceived. This may affect slightly the associated arresting qualities and reduce the sense of scale of the wider WLA stretching in this direction, but would not noticeably change the limited presence of the WLQ.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Not present.	N/A
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The dam may slightly reduce the experience of wildness from higher areas but would not be a visible feature from lower areas, more visited for recreation. It is unlikely to affect the presence of this WLQ.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	There would be no perceptible change to any rivers, lochs or bogs at this WL.	Negligible

WL9	Geal-charn	Grid Reference: NN 59643 78272
------------	-------------------	---------------------------------------

Description:	Located on the elevated, boulder strewn, summit of Geal-charn on the east side of Loch Ericht, around 2.2 km from the WLA boundary. It is accessed via a combination of rough track and path for approximately 3.5 km from Balnasparran Cottages in Drumochter. It overlooks Loch Ericht with a backdrop of the Aonach Beag, Ben Alder and Ardverikie mountains to the west, and the Drumochter Pass hosting the A9 and Dalwhinnie with the Cairngorms beyond to the east / north-east
---------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Presence	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Presence	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	Bouldery summit appears generally natural but extensive coniferous forest plantations in the surrounding area appear less natural to north and west	Low – Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Location is accessed by walkers. Proximity to the A9 reduces the sense of sanctuary to some degree.	Medium
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Tracks appear in westerly context and buildings, roads and pylons apparent in Drumochter Pass to varying extents to north and east when moving around the summit plateau.	Low – Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Some steep slopes and exposure present some degree of risk and loneliness but proximity to A9 and Dalwhinnie tempers this somewhat.	Low – Medium
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Extensive forest plantation cover is evident to the west around Loch Pattack, south alongside Loch Ericht and to north around Loch Ericht and Dalwhinnie.	Low	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Elevation and surrounding mountains evoke arresting or inspiring qualities.	High
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	Terrain is uneven and bouldery with steep slopes but not excessively challenging to traverse.	Medium	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Likely sense of achievement in reaching the location, although more accessible than most Munro summits.	Medium
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The location is relatively accessible by fit individuals from the public road via tracks and a rough path with a moderate length of walk.	Medium	Strength of Wildness	The elevated location and surrounding mountains evoke notable arresting qualities and some sense of solitude and challenge, but very influenced by surrounding contemporary land use.	Medium

Wild Land Quality (WLQ)	Presence	Sensitivity	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Present	Surrounding mountains clearly present and main contribution to strength of wildness but arresting qualities mostly related to underlying topography which is less sensitive to change, more susceptible perceptions of accessibility and risk are less notable.	Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Partially present	Some connection to the remote interior to south-west and west but proximity of contemporary land use reduces remoteness. Sense of solitude is potentially susceptible but arresting qualities are more focussed on the wider mountain terrain and therefore less susceptible to change.	Low
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	Partially present	Summit is visited by walkers but proximity to the A9 and other contemporary land use reduces the perceived sense of solitude and accessibility.	Low – Medium
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Partially present	Loch Ericht forms a significant barrier feature to the remainder of the WLA but surrounding forest areas limit the sense of naturalness associated with it. The scale and situation of the loch as a hydro reservoir limit its sensitivity.	Low

WL9	Geal-charn	Grid Reference: NN 59643 78272
-----	------------	--------------------------------



Photograph Looking North-east



Photograph Looking South-east



Photograph Looking South-west



Photograph Looking West

WL9	Geal-charn	Grid Reference: NN 59643 78272
------------	-------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Construction)	Construction of the proposed Leamhain Dam would be very noticeable within the westerly context, to the rear of Loch Pattack, including associated upgrade and construction of tracks over Bealach Leamhain and potentially some borrow pit and construction compound areas within the reservoir footprint which would become concealed as the dam increased in height.
--	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The appearance of borrow pits and peat stripping in the western context would appear less natural, although seen in the context where other forestry and felling is present.	Low – Medium	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	The works would be evident in the context to the west leading to greater activity being perceived but would appear distant and unlikely to noticeably affect the sense of solitude experienced.	Low
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	Construction activities would introduce artefacts into the westerly context, currently less affected by built features.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Unlikely to lead to any changed sense of risk.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Construction would bring further contemporary land use into western context, although forestry and tracks already suggest some contemporary land use in this context.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	Construction works would be distracting in a small part of the context but arresting qualities would still be present in relation to surrounding extensive mountains.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The construction works would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain at the WL.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Given the distance from the Proposed Development and the barrier of Loch Ericht, construction is unlikely to affect the perception of physical challenge.	Negligible
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The construction works would not change the accessibility to the WL because Loch Ericht would remain a barrier in between.	Negligible			

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Construction)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Construction would form a new focus within the Bealach Leamhain pass, somewhat affecting arresting qualities. However, this part of the context is already influenced by contemporary land use at Loch Pattack. The WLQ would continue to be present and the extensive mountainous landscape would still notably influence the experience at the WL.	Low – Medium
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	The context to the west where construction would appear is already affected by existing contemporary land use around Loch Pattack. The connection to the WLQ is more focussed to the south-west but the works may slightly more confine the part of the context where this relationship is experienced.	Low
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The presence of construction activities to the west would slightly reduce the sense of wildness experienced by visitors by slightly increasing the surrounding influence of contemporary land use. However, the perceptual attribute would still be fully experienced.	Low
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Works would affect Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain, in the context of Loch Pattack. This may create a sense of formal connection between the two lochs, somewhat altering the sense of naturalness but not likely to change the partial presence of the WLQ fundamentally.	Low

WL9	Geal-charn	Grid Reference: NN 59643 78272
------------	-------------------	---------------------------------------

Nature of Change (Operation)	Construction of the proposed Leamhain Dam would be very noticeable within the westerly context, to the rear of Loch Pattack, including associated upgrade and construction of tracks over Bealach Leamhain and potentially some borrow pit and construction compound areas within the reservoir footprint which would become concealed as the dam increased in height.
-------------------------------------	--

Physical Attributes	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating	Perceptual Responses	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Perceived Naturalness	The rockfill face of the dam and changes to Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain would appear less natural affecting a small part of the surrounding context.	Low	Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude	Dam and reservoir in the westerly context may increase a sense of people occupying that area, but would be distant and unlikely to change the sense of solitude experienced.	Negligible
Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts	The dam would form a noticeable new feature drawing further development into the westerly context.	Medium	Risk, a Sense of Awe or Anxiety	Unlikely to lead to any changed sense of risk.	Negligible
Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses	Dam and tracks would bring further contemporary land use into western context, although forestry and tracks already suggest some contemporary land use in this area.	Medium	Arresting or Inspiring Qualities	The dam may slightly reduce the perceived height of containing hills and would distract in views, but the wider arresting qualities of surrounding mountains, particularly to the south-west would not be changed.	Low
Rugged or Challenging Terrain	The Proposed Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain at the WL.	Negligible			
Remoteness and Inaccessibility	The Proposed Development would not change the accessibility to the WL because Loch Ericht would remain a barrier in between.	Negligible	Fulfilment from Physical Challenge	Given the distance from the Proposed Development and the barrier of Loch Ericht, Proposed Development is unlikely to affect the perception of physical challenge.	Negligible

WLQ	Magnitude of Change (Operation)	Rating
Mountain ranges and glens of varying landform, but all arresting, with towering, steep and rugged slopes and striking physical features.	Dam occupying Bealach Leamhain pass would lead to slightly greater sense of surrounding development, but in part of the context already influenced by contemporary land use at Loch Pattack. However, arresting qualities would still be experienced in relation to the wider extensive mountainous landscape, and the WLQ would still be clearly present.	Low
An extensive and remote mountain and peatland interior with a strong sense of sanctuary, appearing even larger due to distant views to surrounding wild land areas.	Slight increase in surrounding presence of development may reduce connection to the more remote interior slightly but presence of existing land use to the west where the dam would feature already influences this and the stronger connection to the south-west would still be maintained.	Low
A large area which is visited by many people to experience wild land qualities in different ways, whilst maintaining a sense of remoteness, sanctuary, challenge and risk.	The dam would slightly reduce arresting qualities associated with the western context but visitors would still experience all the perceptual attributes of wild land and the experience is unlikely to be noticeably changed.	Negligible
An extensive pattern of lochs, lochans, burns and bog that highlight the ruggedness of the landform, limit access and contribute to the sense of naturalness.	Dam impounding Loch a' Bhealaich Leamhain, would be seen in context of Loch Pattack and may create a sense of formal connection between the two lochs, somewhat altering sense of naturalness but not likely to change the partial presence of the WLQ fundamentally.	Low