



# COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

The Town and Country Planning Scotland Act 1997 – Section 36(1)

Town and Country Planning General Development Procedure Order 2013 Regulation 16

Planning Register - Part 1

## Application Details

Reference Number	24/00175/FULTEL
Date registered as valid	04/06/2024.
Description of Development	Erect a 20-metre lattice telecommunications tower with antennas, dishes, enclosures, cabinets, VSAT dish and erect 2 no 17.4 metre wind turbines to tip height and install a solar array. Erect 1.8m deer fence and single access gate.

Address or description of location to which the development relates	Sgalabhal Hilltop Mast, Morsgail, Uig, Isle of Lewis
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E 114242 N 919843

Applicant Name	EE Ltd.
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Applicant Address	1 Braham Street, London, E1 8EE
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Agent name (if applicable)	Declan Rooney, WHP Telecoms
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Agent address (if applicable)	8 Carryduff Business Park, Comber Road, Carryduff, BT8 8AN
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The above application summary is accompanied by plans and drawings sufficient to describe the development and where relevant any design statement.

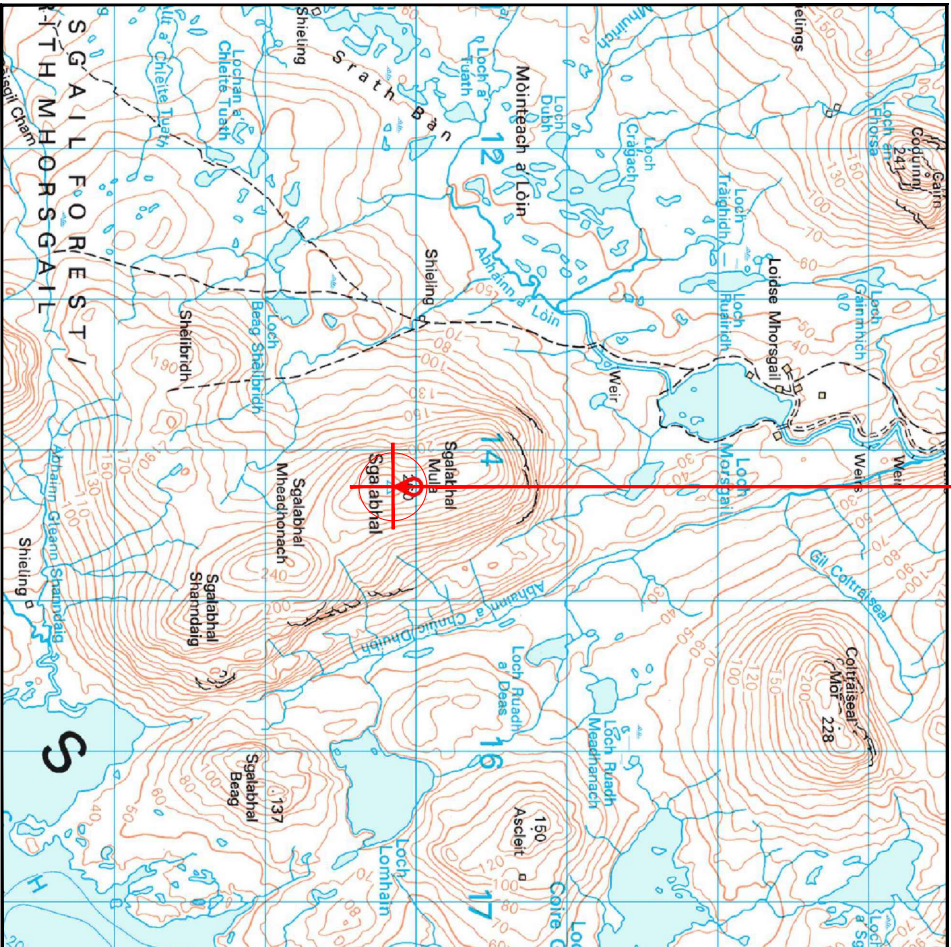
Important Note: on Tuesday 07 November 2023, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar experienced a criminal cyber incident and is working with Police Scotland, the Scottish Government and the National Cyber Security Centre to investigate the matter.

The Online Planning Portal remains unavailable as does our suite of integrated software and hardware systems. In order to enable access by the wider public to application documents and consult upon planning applications, interim systems have been put in place on the temporary website of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, including a rudimentary facility to display a limited number of documents per application.

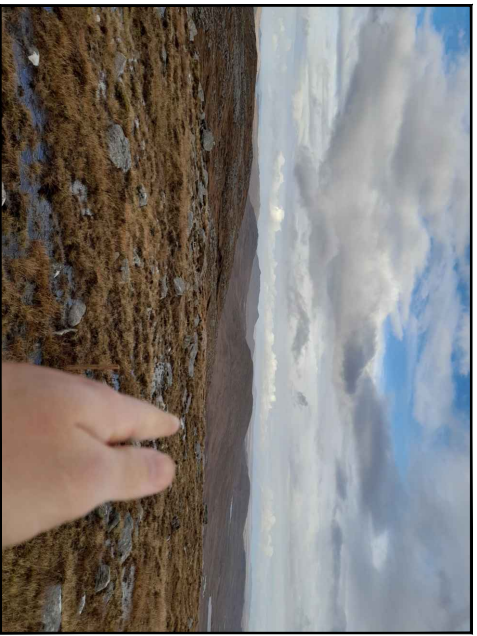
Any party wishing to view the application file in full may do so at the offices of Comhairle nan Eilean

Siar at Sandwick Road, Stornoway Isle of Lewis, HS1 2BW or Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula. HS7 5LA, ordinarily between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public and local holidays). It is recommended that in advance of visiting an office to view an application that you make an appointment by sending an email to [planning@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cne-siar.gov.uk)

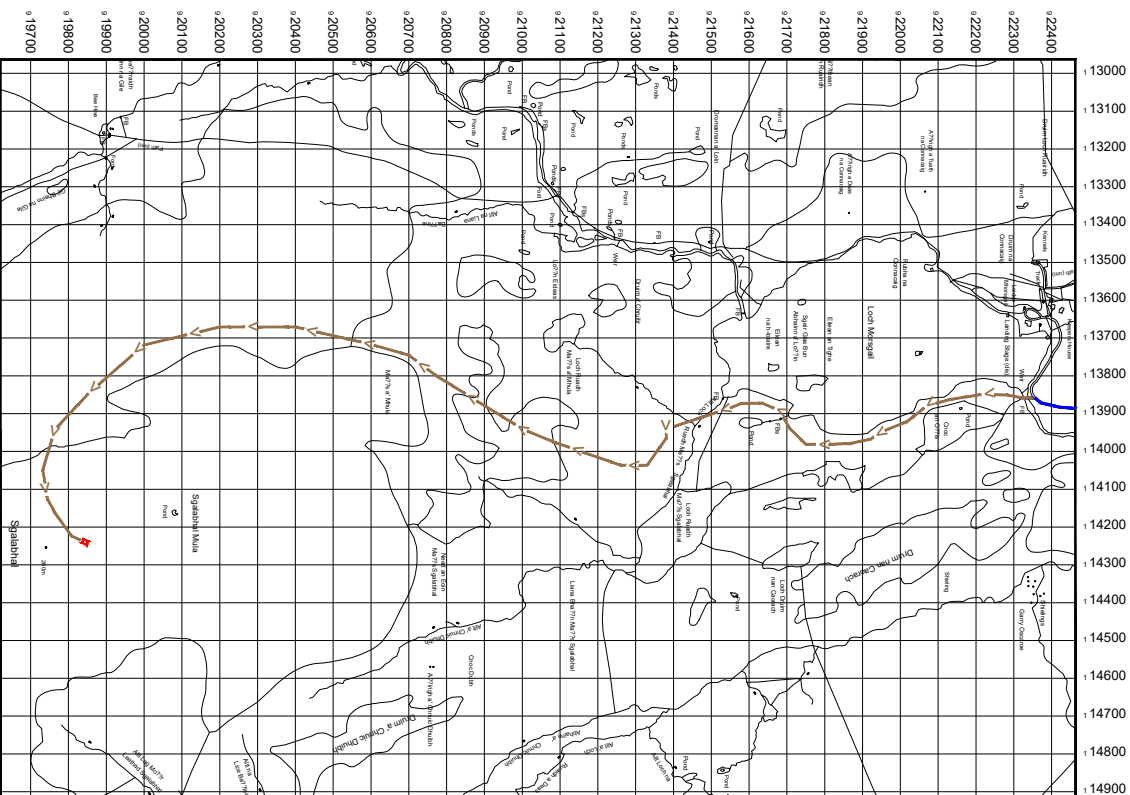
SITE LOCATION



SITE AREA PLAN



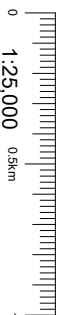
SITE PHOTOGRAPH



NGR E: 114242 N: 919843

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licence no. 100022432

SITE LOCATION PLAN



GOOGLE MAPS QR CODE  
What3Words

Site Location - multiples.spun.licks  
End of Public access road - punctuate.ghosts.hometown

NOTES:

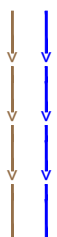
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: There are 2 routes to site on a B class road from the A858. You can access by the B8011 towards Morsgail Lodge. The site is then accessed over a wooden bridge (shown in photos below) via ATV following the existing route which could cause concern delivering plant and material to site - best solution would be localised drops via Heli due to distance and terrain of the ATV route.

Demise:



Access from Public road:



Existing ATV Access Route To Site:



Master:	MBNL / EE / HSG	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	B
Date:	08/11/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description:	Turbine Updated				
Checked:	MG						
Approved:	PJ						
Master:	MBNL / EE / HSG	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	A
Date:	24/08/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description:	First Issue				
Drawn:	CCD						
Checked:	MG						
Approved:	PJ						



Hatfield Business Park  
Hatfield  
Hertfordshire  
AL10 9BW

Tel: 01707 315000  
Fax: 01707 319001

Design Consultant & Principal Contractor:



WHP Telecoms  
Unit 1 Maple Park,  
Low Fields Avenue, Leeds  
LS12 6HH  
Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name: SGALABHAL HILLTOP 1

Site ID: TNS0059A

Address: SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH

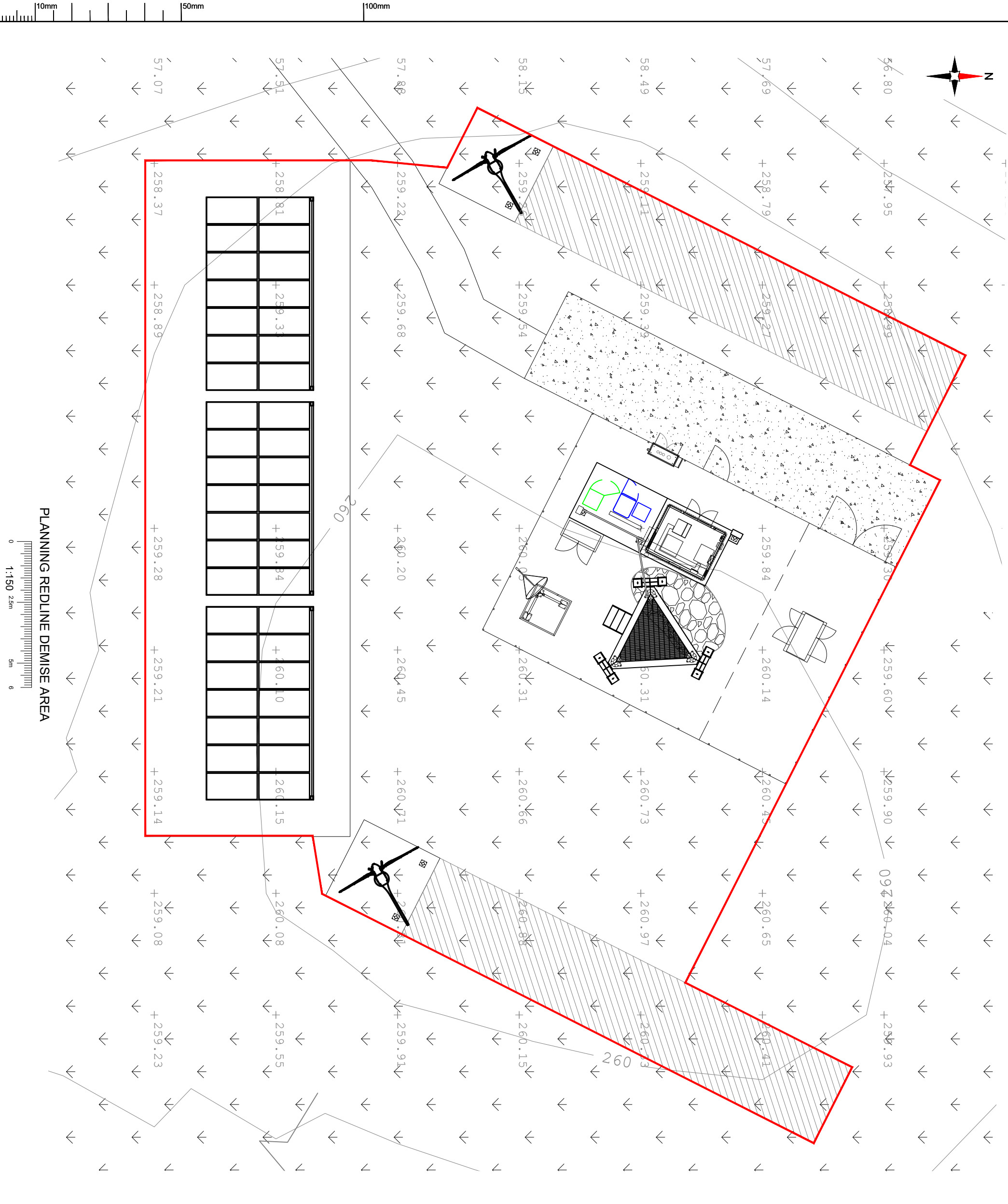
Title: 002 SITE LOCATION PLAN

Project: SRN-TNS

Purpose of Issue: PLANNING

EE Call ID:	VMO2 Call ID:	3UK Call ID:
85665	24891	EIS091

Master Drawing No:	Issue:
TNS0059A_85665_GA_REV_B	B



NOTES:  
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**NEW CODE:**  
Planning Redline :  Outlined in Red

Master:	MBNL / EE / HSG:	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	B
M001	MBNL	Revision / Upgrade Description:	Turbine Updated				
Date:	08/11/2023	Checked:	CGD	Approved:	PJ		
Master:	MBNL / EE / HSG:	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	A
M001	MBNL	Revision / Upgrade Description:	First Issue				
Date:	24/08/2023	Checked:	CGD	Approved:	PJ		

Hatfield Business Park  
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Hertfordshire  
AL10 9BW

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Fax: 01707 319001



**WHP Telecoms**  
Unit 1 Maple Park,  
Low Fields Avenue, Leeds  
LS12 6HH

Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com



Site Name:  
**SGALBAHAL HILLTOP 1**

Site ID:  
**TNS0059A**

Address:  
**SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH**

Title:  
**008 - PLANNING REDLINE DEMISE AREA**

Project:  
**SRN-TNS**

Purpose of Issue:  
**PLANNING**

EE Call ID:	VMO2 Call ID:	3UK Call ID:
85665	24891	EIS091
Master Drawing No:	TNS0059A_85665_GA_REV_B	
	Issue:	B

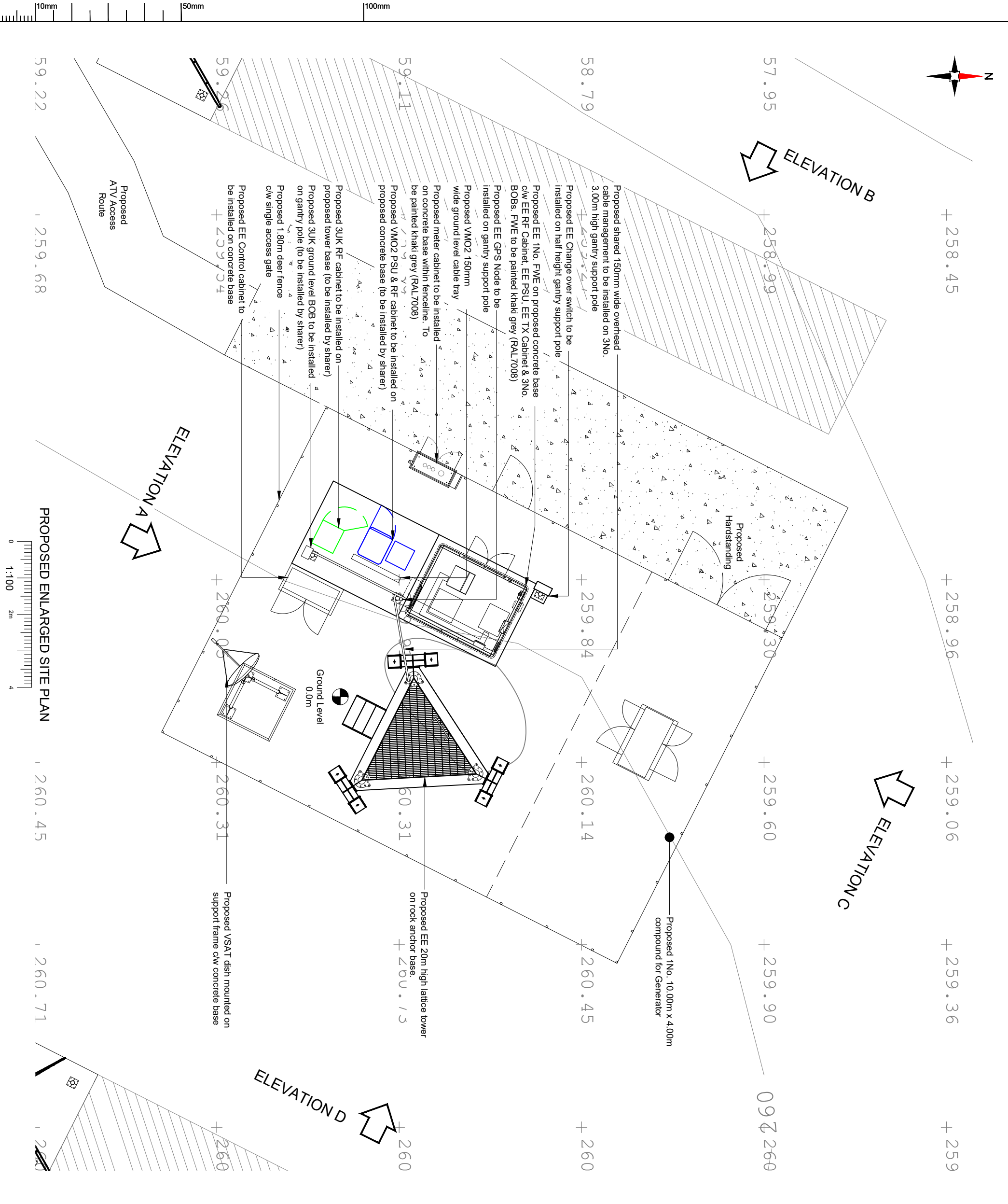
10mm

50mm

100mm

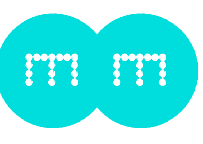
PLANNING REDLINE DEMISE AREA

0 1:150 2.5m 5m 6



NOTES:  
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Master:	MBNL / EE / HFG:	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	B
M001	MBNL	Revision / Upgrade Description:	Turbine Upgraded				
Date:	08/11/2023	Checked:	MG	Approved:	PJ		
Master:	MBNL / EE / HFG:	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Planning	Issue:	A
M001	MBNL	Revision / Upgrade Description:	First Issue				
Date:	24/08/2023	Checked:	MG	Approved:	PJ		



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Unit 1 Maple Park,  
Low Fields Avenue, Leeds  
LS12 6HH  
Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name:  
**SGALABHAL HILLTOP 1**

Site ID:  
**TNS0059A**

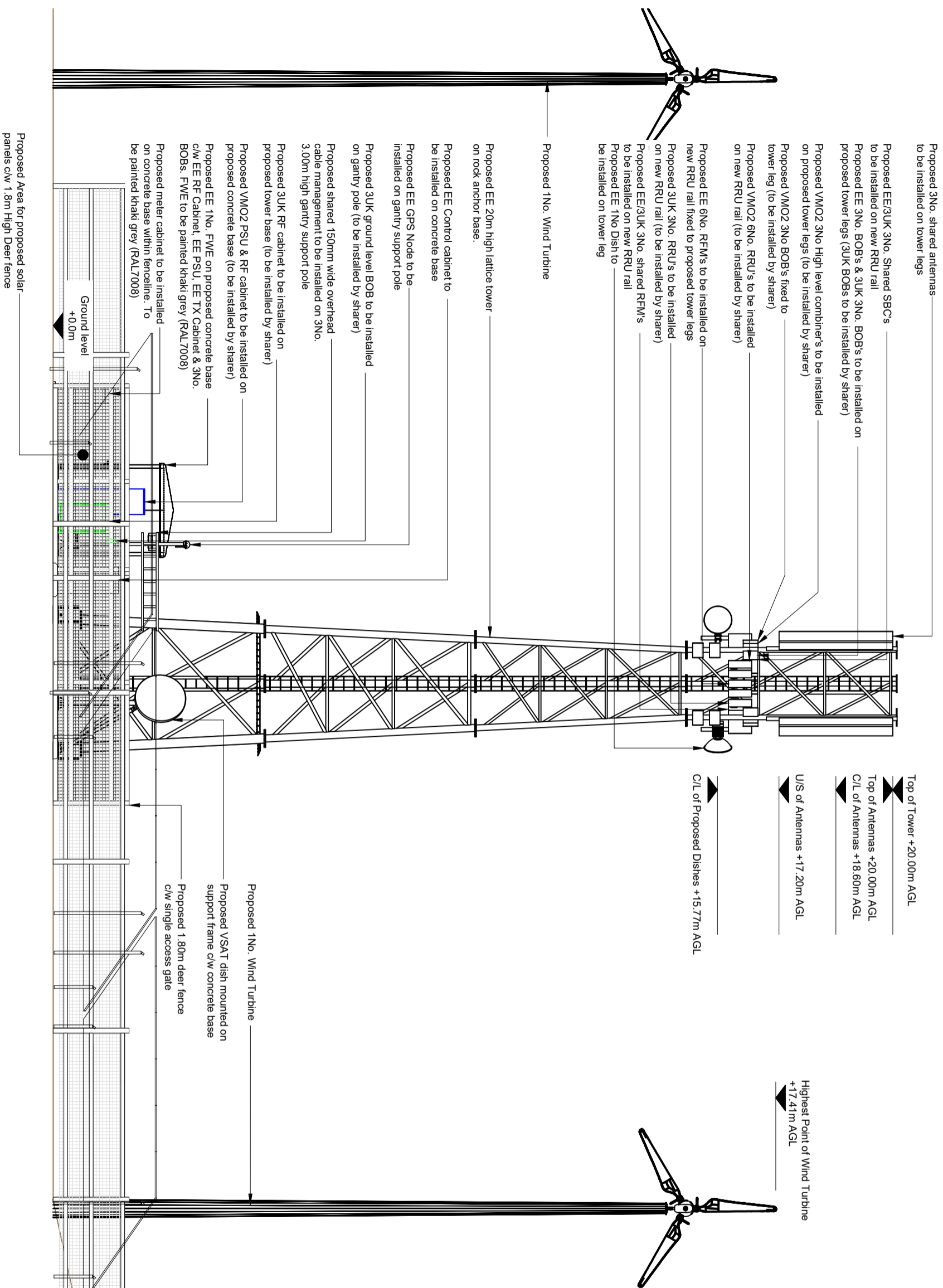
Address:  
**SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH**

Title:  
**151 PROPOSED ENLARGED SITE PLAN**

Project:  
**SRN-TNS**

Purpose of Issue:  
**PLANNING**

EE Call ID:	VM02 Call ID:	3UK Call ID:
85665	24891	EIS091
Master Drawing No:	TNS0059A_85665_GA_REV_B	Issue:
		B



Proposed 3No. shared antennas to be installed on tower legs

Proposed EE/3UK 3No. Shared SBC's to be installed on new RRU rail  
Proposed EE 3No. BOB's & 3UK 3No. BOB's to be installed on proposed tower legs (3UK BOB's to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 3No High level combiner's to be installed on proposed tower legs (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 3No BOB's fixed to tower leg (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 6No. RRU's to be installed on new RRU rail (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed EE 6No. RFMs to be installed on new RRU rail fixed to proposed tower legs

Proposed 3UK 3No. RRU's to be installed on new RRU rail (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed EE/3UK 3No. shared RFMs to be installed on new RRU rail

Proposed EE 1No Dish to be installed on tower leg

Proposed 1No. Wind Turbine

Proposed EE 20m high lattice tower on rock anchor base.

Proposed EE Control cabinet to be installed on concrete base

Proposed EE GPS Node to be installed on gantry support pole

Proposed 3UK ground level BOB to be installed on gantry pole (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed shared 150mm wide overhead cable management to be installed on 3No. 3.00m high gantry support pole

Proposed 3UK RF cabinet to be installed on proposed tower base (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 PSU & RF cabinet to be installed on proposed concrete base (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed EE 1No. FWE on proposed concrete base c/w EE RF Cabinet, EE PSU, EE TX Cabinet & 3No. BOB's. FWE to be painted khaki grey (RAL7008)

Proposed meter cabinet to be installed on concrete base within fence line. To be painted khaki grey (RAL7008)

Proposed Area for proposed solar panels c/w 1.8m High Deer fence

Top of Tower +20.00m AGL

Top of Antennas +20.00m AGL  
C/L of Antennas +18.60m AGL

US of Antennas +17.20m AGL

C/L of Proposed Dishes +15.77m AGL

Highest Point of Wind Turbine +17.41m AGL

Proposed 1No. Wind Turbine

Proposed VSAT dish mounted on support frame c/w concrete base

Proposed 1.80m deer fence c/w single access gate

NOTES:  
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: C
Master: M001	Revision / Upgrade Description: Solar Array Elevations Added		
Date: 30/05/2024	Drawn: DH		
Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		
Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: B
Master: M001	Revision / Upgrade Description: Turbine Updated		
Date: 08/11/2023	Drawn: CCD		
Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		
Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: A
Master: M001	Revision / Upgrade Description: First Issue		
Date: 24/08/2023	Drawn: CCD		
Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		



Hatfield Business Park  
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Design Consultant & Principal Contractor:



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Unit 1 Maple Park,  
Low Fields Avenue, Leeds  
LS12 6HH  
Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name: SGALABHAL HILL TOP 1

Site ID: TNS0059A

Address: SOUTH OF MORSSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH

Title: 250 PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION A

Project: SRN-TNS

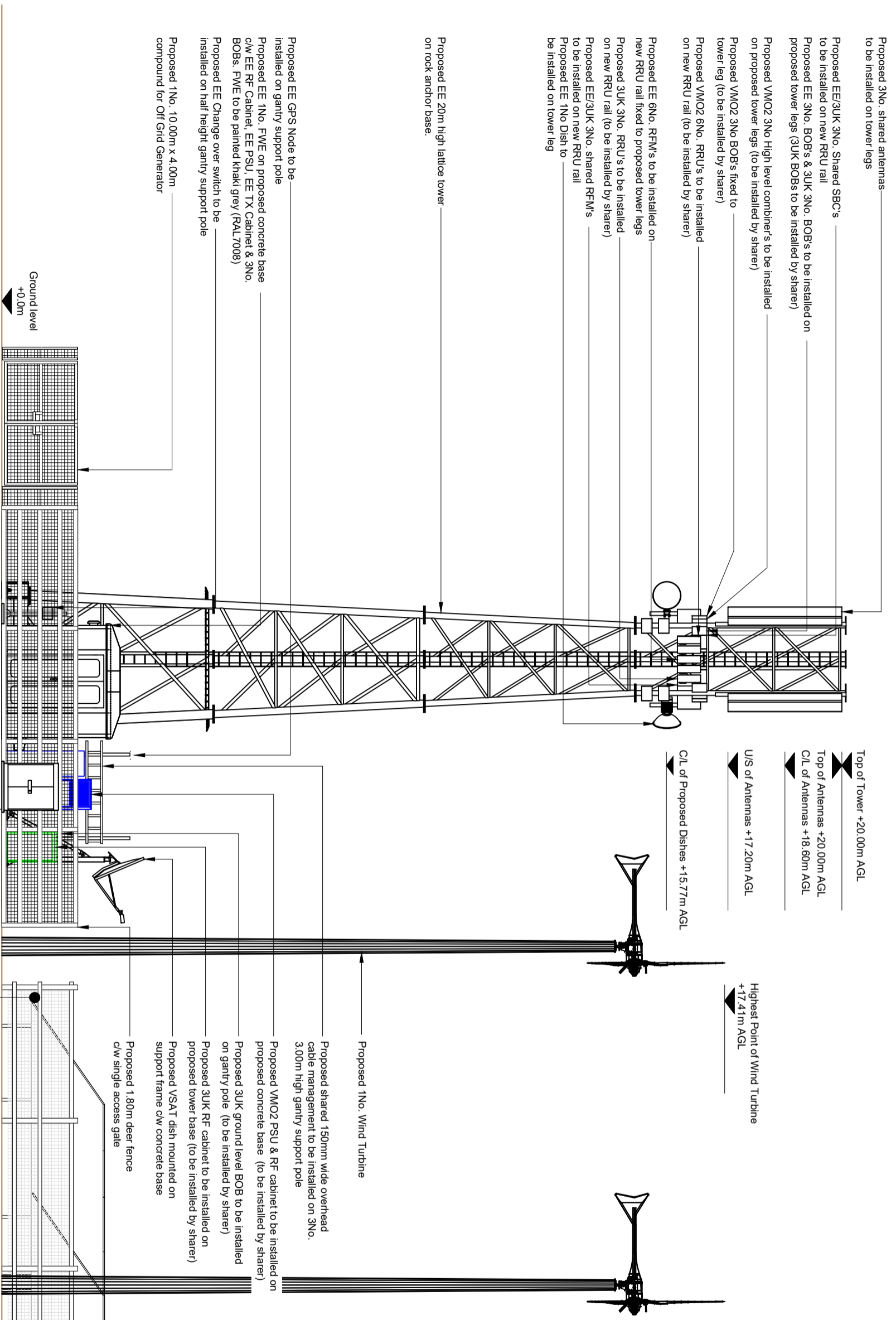
Purpose of Issue: PLANNING

EE Call ID: 85665	VMO2 Call ID: 24891	3UK Call ID: EIS091
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Master Drawing No: TNS0059A\_85665\_GA\_REV\_C

Issue: C

NOTES:  
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



Proposed 3No. shared antennas to be installed on tower legs

Proposed EE/3UK 3No. Shared SBC's to be installed on new RRU rail

Proposed EE 3No. BOB's & 3UK 3No. BOB's to be installed on proposed tower legs (3UK BOB's to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 3No High level combiner's to be installed on proposed tower legs (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 3No BOB's fixed to tower leg (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VMO2 6No. RRU's to be installed on new RRU rail (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed EE 6No. RFM's to be installed on new RRU rail fixed to proposed tower legs

Proposed 3UK 3No. RRU's to be installed on new RRU rail (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed EE/3UK 3No. shared RFM's to be installed on new RRU rail

Proposed EE 1No Dish to be installed on tower leg

Proposed EE 20m high lattice tower on rock anchor base.

Proposed EE GPS Node to be installed on gantry support pole

Proposed EE 1No. FWE on proposed concrete base c/w EE RF Cabinet, EE PSU, EE TX Cabinet & 3No. BOB's. FWE to be painted khaki grey (RAL7008)

Proposed EE Change over switch to be installed on half height gantry support pole

Proposed 1No. 10.00m x 4.00m compound for Off Grid Generator

Top of Tower +20.00m AGL

Top of Antennas +20.00m AGL

C/L of Antennas +18.60m AGL

U/S of Antennas +17.20m AGL

C/L of Proposed Dishes +15.77m AGL

Highest Point of Wind Turbine +17.41m AGL

Proposed 1No. Wind Turbine

Proposed shared 150mm wide overhead cable management to be installed on 3No. 3.00m high gantry support pole

Proposed VMO2 PSU & RF cabinet to be installed on proposed concrete base (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed 3UK ground level BOB to be installed on gantry pole (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed 3UK RF cabinet to be installed on proposed tower base (to be installed by sharer)

Proposed VSAT dish mounted on support frame c/w concrete base

Proposed 1.80m deer fence c/w single access gate

Proposed Area for proposed solar panels c/w 1.8m High Deer fence

Proposed meter cabinet to be installed on concrete base within fence line. To be painted khaki grey (RAL7008)

Master: M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning	Issue: C
Date: 30/05/2024	Revised: 30/05/2024	Revision / Upgrade Description: Solar Array Elevations Added		
Drawn: DH	Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		
Master: M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning	Issue: B
Date: 08/11/2023	Revised: 08/11/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description: Turbine Updated		
Drawn: CDD	Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		
Master: M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning	Issue: A
Date: 24/08/2023	Revised: 24/08/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description: First Issue		
Drawn: CDD	Checked: MG	Approved: PJ		

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Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name: SGALABHAL HILL TOP 1

Site ID: TNS0059A

Address: SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH

Title: 251 PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION B

Project: SRN-TNS

Purpose of Issue: PLANNING

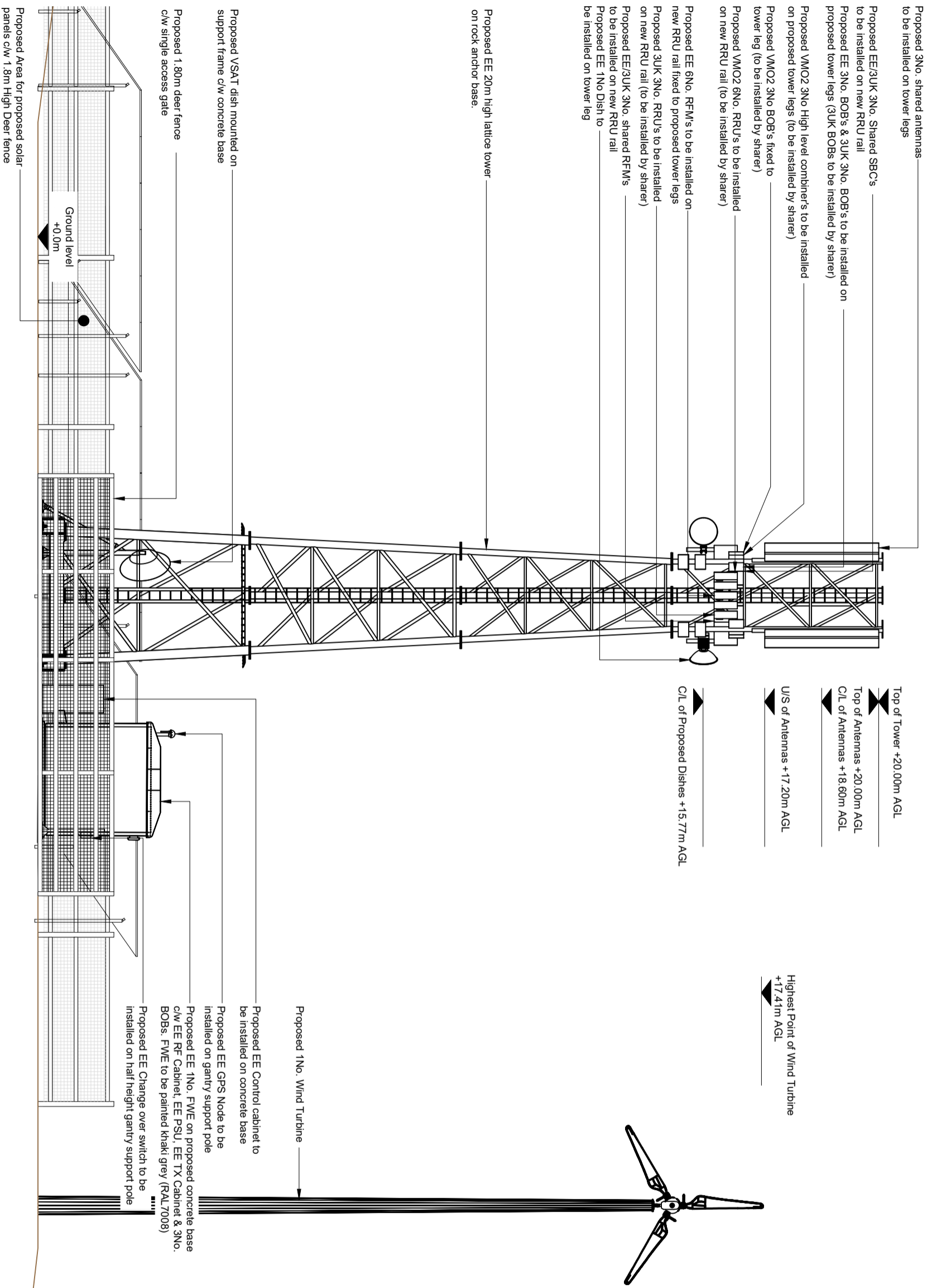
EE Call ID: 85665	VMO2 Call ID: 24891	3UK Call ID: EIS091
Master Drawing No: TNS0059A_85665_GA_REV_C		Issue: C

10mm 50mm 100mm

PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION B

0 1:100 2m 4

Ground level +0.0m



PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION C



1:100

NOTES:  
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Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: C
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
Date: 30/05/2024	Revisor / Upgrade Description: Solar Array Elevations Added		
Drawn: DH			
Checked: MG			
Approved: PJ			
Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: B
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
Date: 08/11/2023	Revisor / Upgrade Description: Turbine Updated		
Drawn: CCD			
Checked: MG			
Approved: PJ			
Master: MBNL/EE/H4G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: A
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
Date: 24/08/2023	Revisor / Upgrade Description: First Issue		
Drawn: CDD			
Checked: MG			
Approved: PJ			



Hatfield Business Park  
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AL10 9BW

Tel: 01707 315000  
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Design Consultant & Principal Contractor:



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Unit 1 Maple Park,  
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LS12 6HH  
Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name: SGALABHAL HILL TOP 1

Site ID: TNS0059A

Address: SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH

Title: 252 PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION C

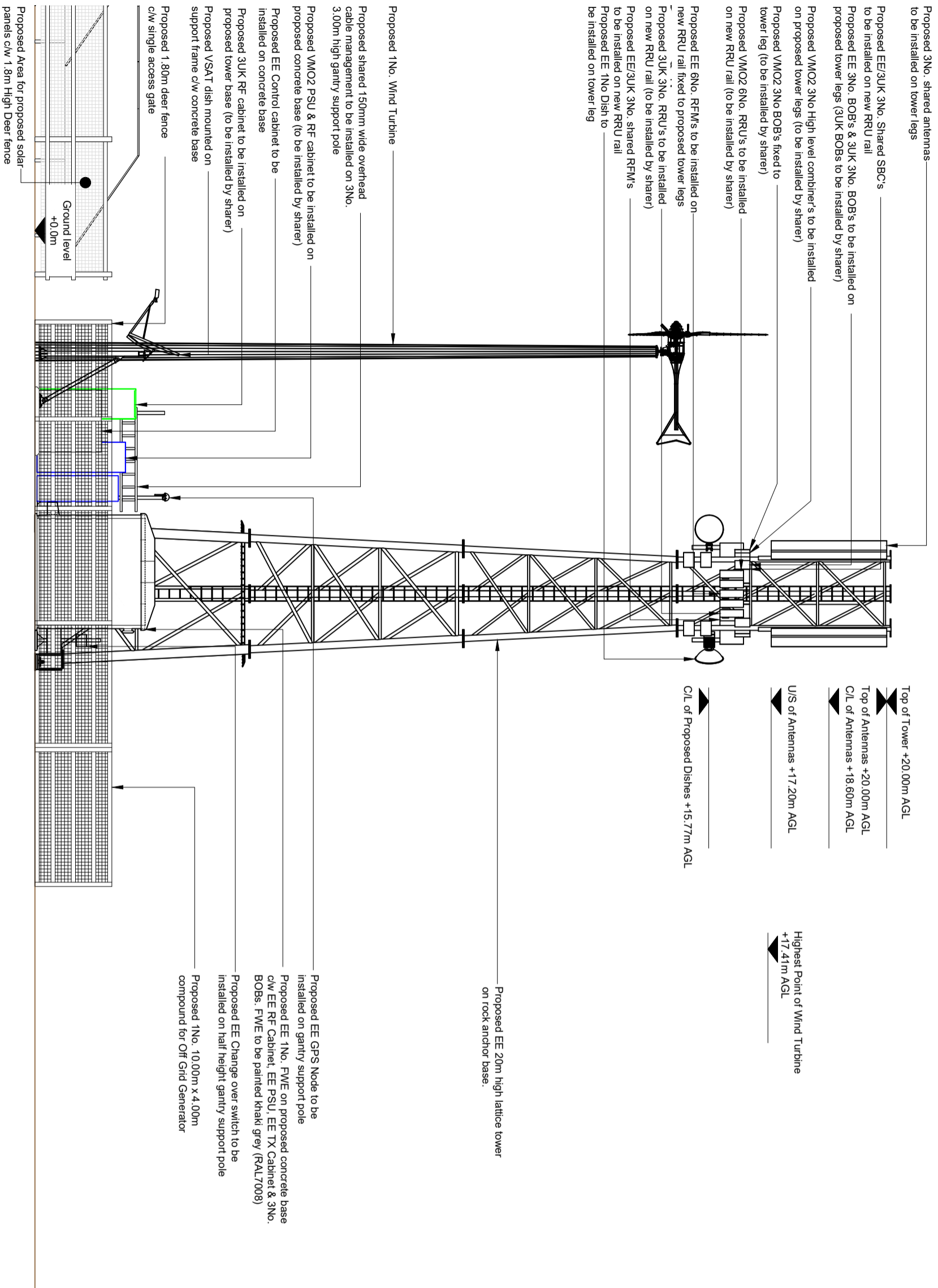
Project: SRN-TNS

Purpose of Issue: PLANNING

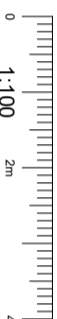
EE Call ID: 85665	VMO2 Call ID: 24891	3UK Call ID: EIS091
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Master Drawing No: TNS0059A\_85665\_GA\_REV\_C Issue: C





PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION D



1:100

NOTES:  
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Master: MBNL/EE/H3G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: C
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
Date: 30/05/2024	Revision / Upgrade Description: Solar Array Elevations Added		
Drawn: DH			
Checked: MG			
Approved: PJ			
Master: MBNL/EE/H3G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: B
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
Date: 08/11/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description: Turbine Updated		
Drawn: CCD			
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Approved: PJ			
Master: MBNL/EE/H3G	Project: TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue: Planning	Issue: A
M001	MBNL	TNS-SRN	Planning
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Site Name: SGALABHAL HILL TOP 1

Site ID: TNS0059A

Address: SOUTH OF MORSSGAIL LODGE  
ISLE OF LEWIS  
WESTERN ISLES  
HS2 9JH

Title: 253 PROPOSED SITE ELEVATION D

Project: SRN-TNS

Purpose of Issue: PLANNING

EE Call ID: 85665	VMO2 Call ID: 24891	3JUK Call ID: EIS091
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Master Drawing No: TNS0059A\_85665\_GA\_REV\_C Issue: C

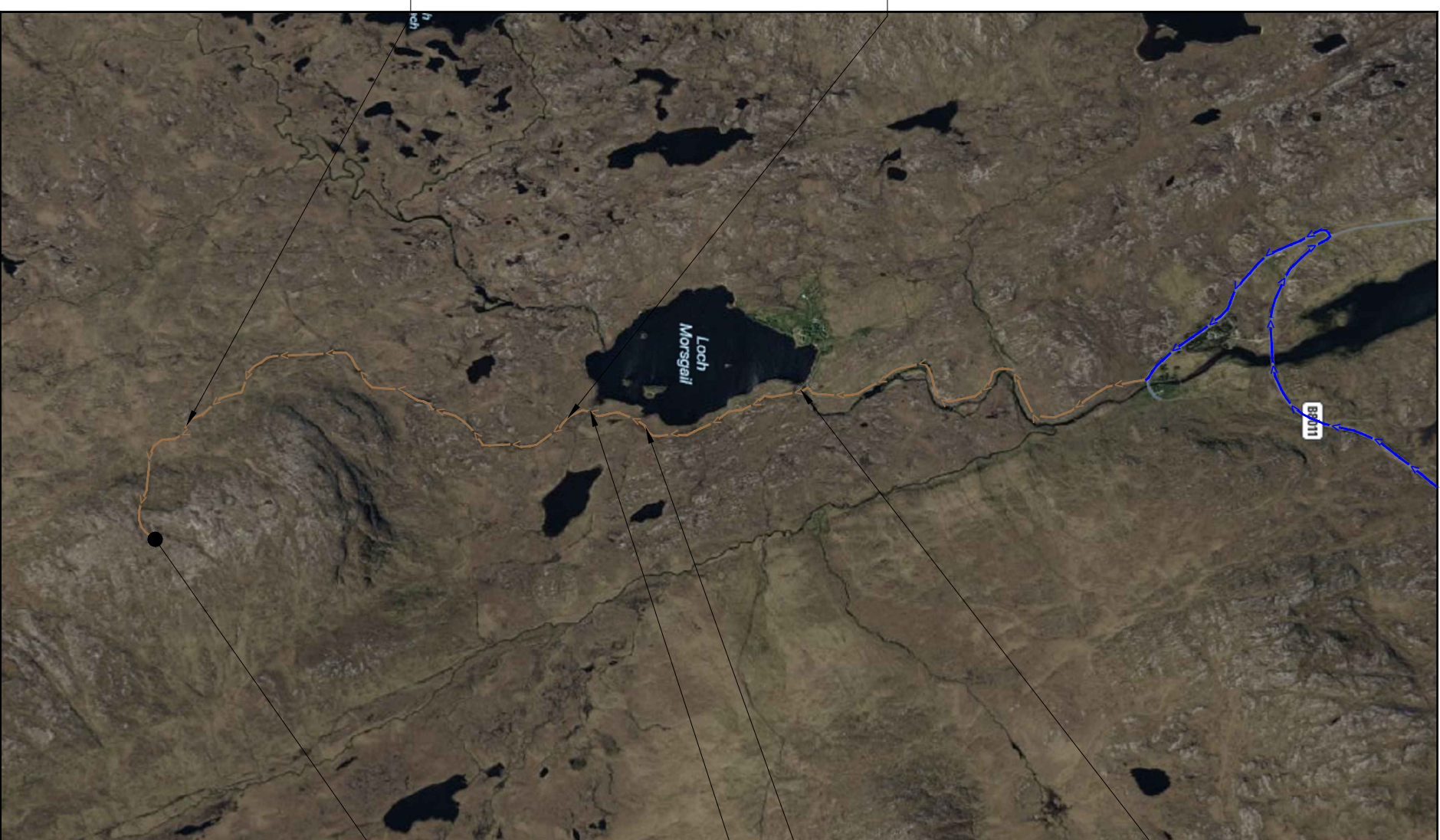
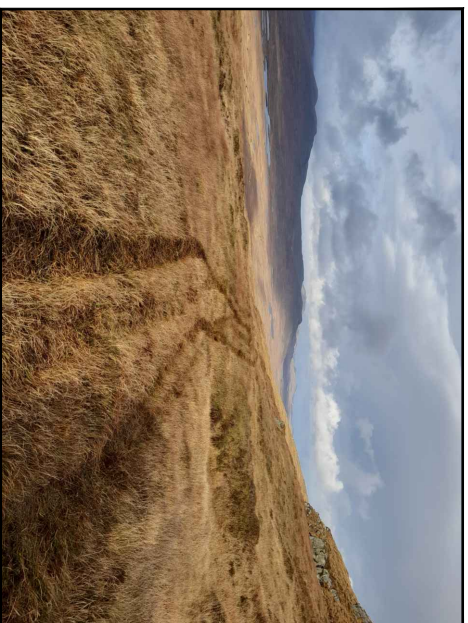
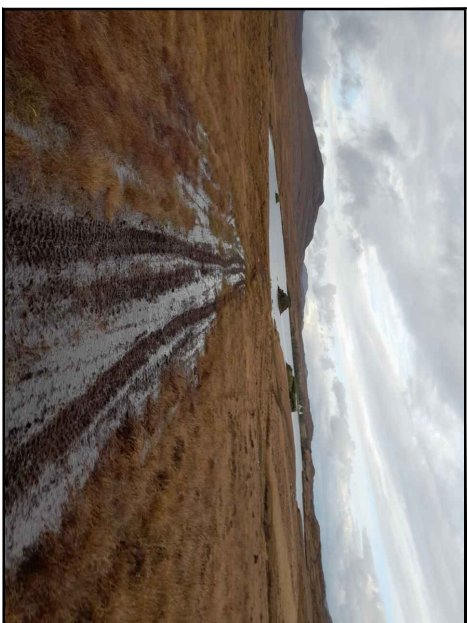
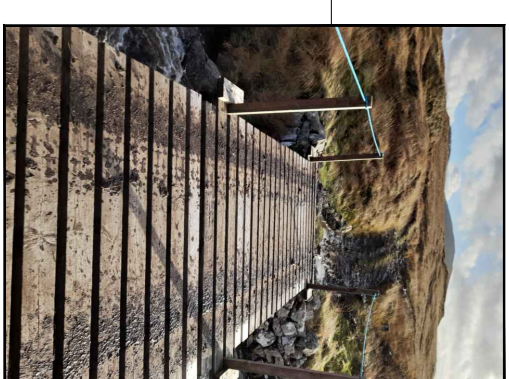
- NOTES:
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN MM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
- DIRECTIONS TO SITE:** There are 2 routes to site on a B class road from the A858. You can access by the B8011 towards Morsgall Lodge. The site is then accessed over a wooden bridge (shown in photos below) via ATV following the existing route which could cause concern delivering plant and material to site - best solution would be localised drops via Hell due to distance and terrain of the ATV route.



Demise:

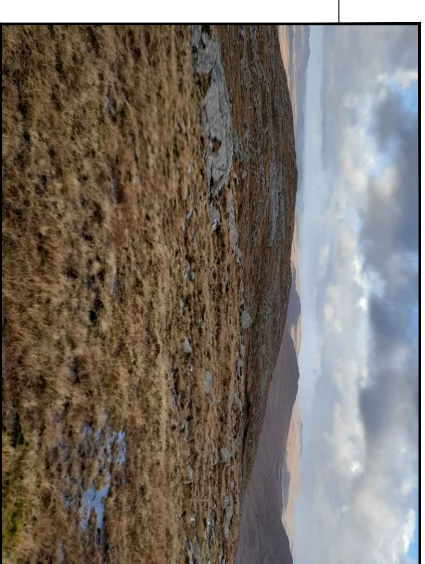
Access from Public road:

Existing ATV Access Route To Site:



Ford Crossing: NGR E: 113914 N:921779

Ford Crossing: NGR E: 113882 N:921609



Master:	MBNL / EE / HQG	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Issue:
M001	MBNL		TNS-SRN	Planning	B
Date:	08/11/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description:			
Drawn:	CCD	Turbine Updated			
Checked:	MG				
Approved:	PJ				
Master:	MBNL / EE / HQG	Project:	TNS-SRN	Purpose of Issue:	Issue:
M001	MBNL		TNS-SRN	Planning	A
Date:	24/08/2023	Revision / Upgrade Description:			
Drawn:	CCD	First Issue			
Checked:	MG				
Approved:	PJ				



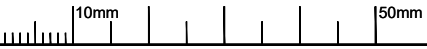
Hatfield Business Park  
Hatfield  
Hertfordshire  
AL10 9BW  
Tel: 01707 315000  
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Unit 1 Maple Park,  
Low Fields Avenue, Leeds  
LS12 6HH  
Tel: 01133023550  
e-mail: info@whptelecoms.com

Site Name:	SGALABHAL HILLTOP 1		
Site ID:	TNS0059A		
Address:	SOUTH OF MORSGALL LODGE ISLE OF LEWIS WESTERN ISLES HS2 9JH		
Title:	002a SITE ACCESS PLAN		
Project:	SRN-TNS		
Purpose of Issue:	PLANNING		
EE Call ID:	VMO2 Call ID:	3UK Call ID:	
85665	24891	EIS091	
Master Drawing No:	TNS0059A_85665_GA_REV_B	Issue:	B

SITE ACCESS PLAN



Our ref: *EE TNS 85665*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Chief Planning Officer  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Council Offices  
Old Primary School  
West Tarbert  
Isle of Harris  
HS3 3BG  
[enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk)

WHP Telecoms Ltd  
Building 8, Unit 6  
Carryduff Business Park,  
Comber,  
BT8 8AN

Dear Sir/Madam,

**CLARIFICATION OF THE DECLARATION OF ICNIRP COMPLIANCE ISSUED AS PART OF THE PLANNING APPLICATION ATTACHED FOR SITE EE TNS 85665 FOR THE PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION AT SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE, ISLE OF LEWIS WESTERN ISLES, HS2 9JH NGR E: 114242 N: 919843**

I refer to the Declaration of Conformity with ICNIRP Public Exposure Guidelines ("ICNIRP Declaration"), sent with this application in relation to the proposed telecommunications installation as detailed above.

The "ICNIRP Declaration" certifies that the site is designed to be in full compliance with the requirements of the radio frequency (RF) guidelines of the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) for public exposure, as expressed in the EU Council recommendation of July 1999, and the subsequent update in 2020.

**This ICNIRP declaration takes into account the cumulative effect of the emissions from the proposed installation and all radio base stations present at, or near, the proposed location.**

The radio emission compliance calculation is based upon the maximum possible cumulative values.

All operators of radio transmitters are under a legal obligation to operate those transmitters in accordance with the conditions of their licence. Operation of the transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence fulfils the legal obligations in respect of interference to other radio systems, other electrical equipment, instrumentation, or air traffic systems. The conditions of the licence are mandated by Ofcom, an agency of national government, who are

responsible for the regulation of the civilian radio spectrum. The remit of Ofcom also includes investigation and remedy of any reported significant interference.

The telecommunications infrastructure the subject of this application accords with all relevant legislation and as such will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me (quoting cell number EE TNS 85665).

Yours faithfully

Declan Rooney  
**Town Planner**  
**WHP Telecoms**

(for and on behalf of EE Ltd.)

Chief Planning Officer  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Council Offices  
Old Primary School  
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Isle of Harris  
HS3 3BG  
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WHP Telecoms Ltd  
Building 8, Unit 6  
Carryduff Business Park,  
Comber,  
BT8 8AN

Our ref: *EE TNS 85665 'Sgalabhal Hilltop 1.*

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024


**Declaration of Conformity with ICNIRP Public Exposure Guidelines**  
**("ICNIRP Declaration")**

**EE Limited**  
**1 Braham Street,**  
**London,**  
**United Kingdom,**  
**E1 8EE**

Declares that the proposed equipment and installation as detailed in the attached planning/GPDO application at;

***EE TNS 85665 PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION AT SOUTH OF MORSGAIL LODGE, ISLE OF LEWIS WESTERN ISLES, HS2 9JH NGR E: 114242 N: 919843***

is designed to be in full compliance with the requirements of the radio frequency (RF) public exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), as expressed in the EU Council recommendation of 12 July 1999 \* (and the subsequent update in 2020) "on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz)".

Date:	<u>30/04/2023</u>
Signed:	<u></u>
Name:	<u>Gregor Ness</u>
Position:	<u>Programme Manager for EE Ltd SRN</u>

## DESIGN STATEMENT

This Design Statement is provided in conjunction with the Supplementary Information Template, drawings and supporting material that was submitted with this planning application.

In accordance with published Government guidance, this proposal was drawn up having regard to the need for good design.

In particular:

- Considerations of design and layout are informed by the context, having regard the immediate landscape and wider locality. Around the rugged hills, there are a number of different contrasting lowland and coastal landscapes resulting in a local landscape with a variety of form, colour and grain, which is further diversified by changes of scale and aspect which have all helped to inform and determine the character and identity of the development.
- The scale, massing and height of proposed development have been considered in relation to that of the local topography, the general pattern of heights in the area, views and vistas.

The following general design principles have been taken into account in respect of this proposed telecommunications development:

- A proper assessment of the character of the area concerned.
- That the design shows an appreciation of context;

In assessing the development, it needs to be borne in mind that the works relate to the installation of an electronic communications base station. Hence, certain features of the development, e.g. the means of access to the site and apparatus, are deliberately restricted for the security of the installation and to accord with ICNIRP guidelines. Other aspects of the development, for example, the height of the proposed antennas and dishes, are dictated by technical and operational considerations related to the need to provide an acceptable level of mobile coverage to the local area.

The design concepts and principles have been guided by the special technical and operational factors affecting the need to provide an acceptable level of mobile coverage to the local area, having regard to the need to minimise impact on the scenic beauty of the NSA and Wild Lands.

The numbers of antennas and dishes, and their size, is the minimum amount of development required to provide coverage and to link this site into the wider network. As explained in the SSSI supporting report, the antennas and transmission dishes must be free from obstruction from hills, buildings, trees or large moving objects which can block signals, resulting in a reduction in network coverage or the loss of communication with adjoining sites in the network. These factors, together with the need to take account of the curvature of the earth and differing atmospheric conditions, affect the siting and height requirements of the radio dishes, in particular.

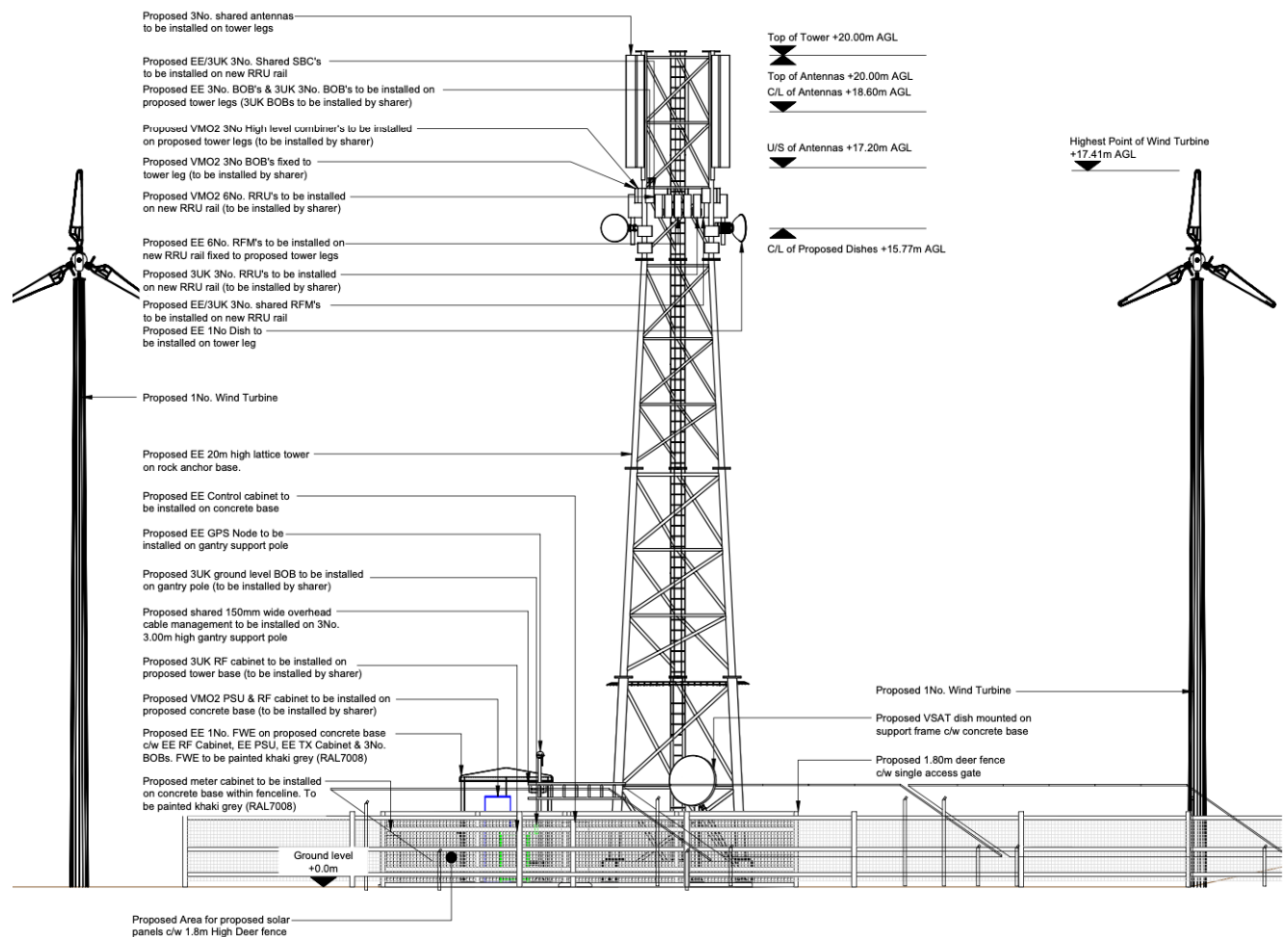
The choice of lattice mast design reflects the requirement for sufficient structural stability to handle the load bearings of the antennas, dishes, and other electronic communications apparatus, as well as taking into account environmental factors such as visual mitigation and high wind speeds common in such vast rural environments.

The use of wind turbines and solar arrays to power the development have been chosen to provide a cleaner source of energy for the development, as well as avoiding the need for permanent tracks. The turbines will have a tip height of 17.41m. The turbines will comprise of a slimline pole structure, and will not appear as a prominent feature in the landscape. This allows the effective operation of the turbines, whilst minimising its visual impact.

The solar panels are ground based equipment, which will be anchored into the ground. They will be set within a 4x20m area, south of the mast and associated turbines. When viewed from close proximity, they will integrate into the wider development and will not appear as prominent features in the landscape.

The sensitive approach to siting and design should minimise the appearance of the development proposed. In addition, the local topography and wider features of the NSA should help minimise views. Insofar as the mast, turbines, solar arrays and compound may be visible, they should look straight forward in appearance and reflect their function.

A more detailed assessment of the design and visual impact can be found in 'Sgalabhal Hilltop, Isle of Lewis, Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal'.



## Access Considerations

The access to the site is proposed to be taken from the nearest public road (B8011) towards Morsgail Lodge. The site is then accessed over a wooden bridge via and ATV. The route then follows an existing ATV track, whereby building materials will be transported during construction phase via helicopter.

Once the installation has been constructed, the development will be unmanned requiring only periodic visits about once every two to three months for routine maintenance and servicing. Typically, an engineer using a four-wheel drive light vehicle will carry this out.

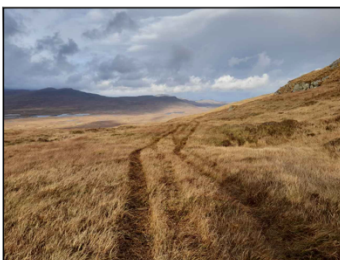
In accordance with all relevant health and safety legislation and guidelines, access to the site will be restricted to authorised personnel and the routine maintenance and servicing of the apparatus will only be carried out by properly trained and qualified staff. The proposal does not therefore give rise to any public issues associated with access.



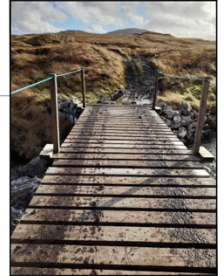
Existing ATV route condition



Existing ATV route



Bridge Crossing: NGR E: 113859 N:922430



Ford Crossing: NGR E: 113914 N:921779

Ford Crossing: NGR E: 113882 N:921609

Proposed Site location: NGR E: 114242 N:919843



SITE ACCESS PLAN



## **Landscaping**

The potential visual impact of the development proposed mainly arises from the radio mast, which cannot be screened for operational reasons and by virtue of its height would be unrealistic in any event. The land is currently used for open grazing and is a mixture of exposed rock, waterlogged vegetation and peat. For these reasons, landscaping is not considered appropriate and has not been included within the scheme.

# Sgalabhal Hilltop, Isle of Lewis

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

March 2024



creative • environmental



For WHP Telecoms

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## Version Control Sheet

<b>Version</b>	C
<b>Date Issued</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jimi McKay
<b>Checked and Approved by:</b>	Ross Wilkie

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## Appendices

Appendix A. Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction and Overview

Brindley Associates Ltd (Brindley), Landscape Architects and Environmental Planners, have been appointed by WHP Telecoms (hereafter referred to as The Applicant) to prepare a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) for a proposed telecommunications mast with ancillary equipment attached, meter cabinet and ancillary equipment, generator and compound, two wind turbines, solar panels, deer fence and compound atop Sgalabhal Hilltop, Uig, Lewis, Eilean Siar.

The Proposed Development site lies entirely within the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) area and is therefore subject to policies within the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018) as well as national planning policies.

### 1.2 The Proposed Development

This appraisal is based upon the Proposed Development as described below, and as shown on the Site Location Plan (see Figure 01). The development layout shown has been prepared for a detailed planning permission application.

This appraisal is based on promotion of a development compound comprising:

- 20m high lattice tower;
- 2no. 17.4m high to tip wind turbines;
- Solar panels;
- 1.8m deer fence with single access gate;
- Proposed ATV route; and
- Other associated infrastructure.

Where possible, the Proposed Development accords with the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018), as well as national planning policy. The Proposed Development aims to contribute to the national response to the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Scottish Government and the resultant Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

### 1.3 Purpose of the Assessment

The purpose of this appraisal is to:

- Describe the key components, features and characteristics that contribute to the landscape character, visual amenity, quality, and perception of the landscape within a 5km radius from the proposed site boundary;
- Identify and evaluate the potential effects of the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure on landscape character, key landscape features and views during the operation of the development;
- Consider the potential implications of the Proposed Development in terms of adverse or beneficial effects on key landscape characteristics and resources, together with the potential effects upon a representative range of visual receptors in the vicinity of the site; and

- Examine how remaining residual landscape or visual effects would influence perception of local character and its implications for wider landscape character and views within the 5km study area.

This appraisal has been prepared with reference to the Third Edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute in association with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) and takes the form of a desk-top study, supported by a site visit undertaken by the Brindley assessment team. The site visit was used to confirm and develop the findings of the report, which has been reviewed by Chartered Landscape Architects employed by Brindley.

There is no requirement for a formal Environmental Statement (ES) to support the Client's application for the approval of matters specified by condition.

The following extract, taken from the GLVIA Statement of Clarification 4 (January 2013), gives guidance on the terminology to be used in non-ES Landscape and Visual Appraisals, such as this:

*"In carrying out appraisals the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in doing so, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes. The reason is that should a landscape professional apply LVIA principles and processes carrying out an appraisal and then go on to determine that certain effects would likely be significant, given the term 'significant' is enshrined in EIA regulations, such a judgement could trigger the requirement for a formal EIA. The emphasis on likely 'significant effects' in formal LVIA stresses the need for an approach that is proportional to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of its likely effects. The same principle – focussing on a proportional approach – also applies to appraisals of landscape and visual impacts outside the formal requirements of EIA."*

In line with current guidance contained in the GLVIA3, singular terms such as 'significant' and 'not significant' have not been used in this appraisal. Brindley considers it useful however to set out the level of residual effect predicted. In this appraisal, landscape effects are assessed to be either 'potentially adverse' or 'potentially beneficial'. The level of effect is assessed through a combination of two considerations – the sensitivity of the landscape / townscape element or view and the magnitude of effect that will result from the Proposed Development. This evaluation is carried out for each landscape receptor appraised in detail in the report. For visual effects, a comparison is made between the nature of existing views and potential changes to those views following the implementation of the Proposed Development, including any mitigating measures outlined within this appraisal.

Visual representations provided as part of this appraisal have been undertaken with reference to the Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual representation of development proposals, published by the Landscape Institute (September 2019). A brief description of the guidance implemented as part of this appraisal is outlined in Appendix A.

#### 1.4 Objectives of the Appraisal

The key objectives of this appraisal are to:

- Establish existing baseline conditions by:
  - Identifying and evaluating the existing landscape within the Proposed Development site and the wider landscape within the study area; and
  - Identifying existing views, visual relationships, and key receptors (based on an analysis of theoretical visibility).
- Identify potential effects by:



- Identifying the main sources of landscape and visual effects associated with the Proposed Development; and
- Determining the likely effects on landscape and visual resources.

## 1.5 Structure of the Landscape and Visual Appraisal

This appraisal is structured as follows:

- Section 2.0 Baseline Conditions;
- Section 3.0 Visibility Analysis;
- Section 4.0 Identification of Receptors;
- Section 5.0 Design Response and Proposed Mitigation;
- Section 6.0 Appraisal of Landscape Effects;
- Section 7.0 Appraisal of Visual Effects;
- Section 8.0 Summary and Conclusions;
- Section 9.0 References; and
- Section 10.0 Figures.

The contents of this appraisal are supported by a number of figures and appendices. These are referenced throughout the text and included at the end.

## 1.6 Competence

This appraisal has been prepared by Landscape Architects employed by Brindley and has been reviewed by Ross Wilkie CMLI, who has over 20 years' experience as a Chartered Landscape Architect.

## 1.7 Site Visit

The Brindley assessment team undertook a site visit in March 2024 to inform the Client's bid to promote the site as suitable for a telecommunications mast and associated infrastructure development, taking cognisance of the surrounding baseline landscape conditions and views towards and from within the site. During the site visit, NatureScot / Landscape Institute (LI) compliant photography was undertaken from the assessed viewpoint locations.

## 1.8 Future Baseline

If the Applicant's proposal for a proposed telecommunications mast with associated infrastructure is refused, the site would likely remain as hilltop moorland and blanket bog / peatland.

## 2 Baseline Conditions

### 2.1 Overview

This section provides an overview of the existing baseline conditions, key features and characteristics within the site and wider surrounding landscape of the study area. Informed by desk and field studies, it then identifies landscape and visual receptors that are considered further as part of the LVA.

### 2.2 The Proposed Development Site

The Proposed Development site lies close to the summit of Sgalabhal Hill, approximately 1.6km west of Loch Lomhain. The Proposed Development is also approximately 884m northeast of a track which runs parallel to the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile stream as it descends to join another stream to form the Abhainn Cleit Duastal river to the northwest.

The high point of the site lies to the northeast of the telecommunications mast compound, reaching approximately 260m AOD. The site then generally slopes down to the southwest, reaching 258m AOD at its south-western corner.

The communication mast is proposed to be located towards the centre of the compound. Adjacent to this the two proposed wind turbines will be situated on independent concrete bases, outwith the compound to the immediate southwest and southeast, respectively. The compound will be entirely enclosed by a 1.8m high deer fence, with a single entrance on the south-eastern boundary.

Access to the site will be provided via an unmarked restricted local access road which links the B8011 in the north of the study area with Loch Morsgail. From the north-eastern and north-western extents of Loch Morsgail, unmarked tracks trace its eastern and western shores and converge around 1.2km from its southern extents, 1.2km northwest of the Proposed Development. The track proceeds on a southerly bearing along the eastern banks of Abhainn Bheinn na Gile, following the lower slopes of Sgalabhal. The remaining section linking this track and the summit of Sgalabhal will require the construction of an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) access.

Views from the immediate surrounding heath slopes are generally open in all directions, as Sgalabhal (260m AOD) and its conjoined peak Sgalabhal Mula (250m AOD) to the north are among the highest in the northern portion of the study area. Progressing southwards, Beinn a' Bhoth (308m AOD) and Griosamul (390m AOD) rise to prominence and form a backdrop to greater summits to the south, such as An Cliseam (799m AOD) on North Harris.

### 2.3 Landscape Setting

The study area for this LVA has been taken to be land lying within a 5km radius from the proposed site boundary (see Figure 01). Land within the 5km study area lies entirely within the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area. The extent of the study area includes:

- South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA);
- 30. Harris – Uig hills Wild Land Area (WLA);
- A mixture of montane vegetation, wet heather moor and blanket bog and peatland vegetation in all directions from the site boundary;
- Dubh lochans and blanket bog / peatland to the northwest and west;
- Loch Langabhat to the southeast, as well as smaller lochs to its north; and

- The inland intrusions of Loch Ròg Beag to the north and Loch Rèasort to the west.

There are no settlements within the study area, and only isolated residences such as those located between the B8011 and the confluence of the Allt Ceann Loch Bhig and Abhainn Cheann Loch Rog. Morsgail Lodge is located on the northern shores of Loch Morsgail.

The Airigh a'Sguir Scheduled Monument to the northeast of the study area, close to the shores of Loch a'Sguair, is a beehive shieling which serves as a reminder of previous human activity within the locale.

The Proposed Development site is located close to the summit of Sgalabhal, an elongated peak which slopes south-eastwards toward Loch Langabhat, encompassing the lesser summits of Sgalabhal Mheadhonach (254m AOD) and Sgalabhal Shanndaig (234m AOD). Sgalabhal Beag (137m AOD) also forms a part of this chain, rising between Loch Langabhat and Loch Lomhain.

There is very little tree cover within the study area, and that which exists is associated with the few properties dispersed to the north. Vegetation is limited to heathers and tussocky grasses throughout, with considerable portions occupied by lochans and lochs.

Within the immediate locale of the site boundary there is very little apparent human presence, aligning to its designation as Harris – Uig hills WLA.

The study area contains no Core Paths, Scotland Great Trails (SGT) or National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, though there are numerous informal tracks which traverse it from north to south. These tracks link the B8011 with numerous lochans to the west of the Sgalabhal chain.

Overall, the character of land within the 5km study area can best be understood as bare mountain moorland permeated with lochs and lochans, with sea loch intrusions occurring to the north and west, and views towards the south and northwest of dramatic isolated mountain peaks and massifs.

### 3 Visibility Analysis

#### 3.1 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Findings

The Bareground ZTV for this assessment was produced with height data of 20m for the communication tower and 17.4m for the wind turbines, which was utilised in Windfarm software to create the data required for the 5km study area (see Figure 04).

The ZTV was used to determine the main areas of theoretical visibility and identify suitable viewpoint locations for inclusion within this appraisal.

As indicated by the Bareground ZTV map, elements of the Proposed Development have the potential to be theoretically visible from approximately 59.45% of the 5km study area (see Figure 04). Theoretical visibility is largely concentrated upon the following areas:

- The moorland to the north and west of the Proposed Development site, including the southern and western slopes of Sgalabhal, including Sgalabhal Mheadhonach;
- The lochan landscape to the west of Sgalabhal;
- The south-western slopes of Coltraiseal Beag and Coltraiseal Mòr;
- The western slopes of Ascleit; and
- The northern slopes of Beinn a' Bhoth and Griosaumul.

## 4 Identification of Receptors

### 4.1 Landscape Receptors

Assessment of Landscape Character has been undertaken with reference to NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment (2019). According to this Landscape Character Assessment, the Proposed Development is located entirely within LCT 326: Prominent Hills and Mountains. As such, this LCT is considered to be the 'host' landscape and will be subject to detailed appraisal (see Section 6.2.1). LCT 323: Rocky Moorland – Outer Hebrides and LCT 322: Boggy Moorland – Outer Hebrides also lie within the study area and will be subject to detailed appraisal.

In addition to the assessment of landscape character, direct landscape effects upon the Proposed Development site have also been assessed.

The following designated landscapes will also be taken forward for detailed appraisal, due to their proximity and their likelihood of experiencing theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development:

- South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA (NSA); and
- Harris – Uig hills Wild Land Area (WLA).

### 4.2 Visual Receptors

#### 4.2.1 Settlements

There are no settlements within the study area, and only isolated residences such as those located between the B8011 and the northern shores of Loch Morsgail, none of which are predicted to experience theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The closest settlement to the Proposed Development is the village of Gearraidh na h-Aibhne, which lies around 15.3km to the northeast.

#### 4.2.2 Key Transport Routes

Based upon the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04), the B8011 will be taken forward as a sequential route assessment due to the potential for road receptors to experience visibility towards the Proposed Development site.

#### 4.2.3 Key Recreational Routes

No Core Paths are present within the study area, but the following informal tracks (see Figure 02) will be taken forward as short sequential route assessments due to their proximity to and / or potential to experience visibility towards the Proposed Development:

- Track 1 (Shelibrìdh along eastern banks of Abhainn Bheinn na Gile);
- Track 2 (Gil Roisgil Cham stream north between Loch Beag Sheilabrie and Loch Mor Shelibrìdh);
- Track 3 (Loch Rèasort northeast past Lochan a' Chleite Tuath to Abhainn Bheinn na Gile); and
- Track 4 (along south-western banks of Abhainn a' Chlair Bhig and Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasort).

#### 4.2.4 Representative Viewpoints within the study area

Four viewpoints have been identified and selected as being representative of the range of visual receptors considered within the study area.

**Table 1 – Representative Viewpoints for Visual Assessment**

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Grid Reference	Representative of.
01	Morsgail Beehive Shielings	113153, 920013	Recreational users
02	Track west of Allt na Liana Baine	113223, 920731	Recreational users
03	Druim Bheinn na Gile	112828, 919776	Recreational users
04	Coltraiseal Beag hilltop	114901, 924145	Recreational users

## 5 Design Response and Proposed Mitigation

### 5.1 Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Given the nature of the Proposed Development, including the height of proposed structures and their need for unobstructed surroundings, landscape and visual mitigation measures are not considered appropriate.

As far as possible, the siting of the Proposed Development has sought to mitigate the visual impact, with reference to Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Digital Communications.

## 6 Appraisal of Landscape Effects

### 6.1 Potential Direct Effects on Landscape Fabric

The Proposed Development would introduce a single telecommunications mast measuring 20m from ground to tip, two wind turbines measuring 17.4m from ground to tip and related ancillary components into the landscape atop Sgalabhal Hill, some 2.3km northwest of Loch Langabhat. A 1.8m deer fence with a single access gate would serve to secure the installation.

#### Sensitivity

The value of the landscape is considered to be Outstanding; the Proposed Development falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA and the 30. Harris – Uig hills WLA. The landscape within the locale of the Proposed Development is of High susceptibility to changes of the nature proposed; given the exposed nature of the topography and the absence of human-made structures or widespread activity, it is likely that interventions of any kind would alter the character of the landscape.

The landscape within the Proposed Development site is thus considered to be of High / Very High sensitivity to changes of the nature proposed.

#### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:

- During the construction phase, a High Magnitude of Change is predicted. This is due to the introduction of construction activity and machinery into a relatively 'untouched' landscape; and
- Upon completion, a High Magnitude of Change is predicted. This is due to the conversion of an area of moorland atop Sgalabhal into human-made surfaces for the erection of communications and associated infrastructure.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, **Major** adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, **Major** adverse effects are predicted.

## 6.2 Potential Effects on Landscape Character Types and Landscape Designations

Predicted effects upon landscape character within the study area are described in relation to the Landscape Character Type (LCT) descriptions as provided by NatureScot in the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (2019) (see Figure 03). Direct quotes from the LCA have been italicised in the following sections.

### 6.2.1 LCT 326: Prominent Hills and Mountains

LCT 326: Prominent Hills and Mountains encompasses all of the component parts of the Proposed Development, and as such it is considered to be the 'host' landscape. The LCT is present in the study area as two discrete blocks; the central area encompasses the study area and the Sgalabhal chain, and the other instance is located at the northwest of the study area and includes Coduinn and Beinn a' Tuath.

Viewpoint 03 is representative of the LCT (see Figures 07a-c).

The following key characteristics have been attributed to the LCT by NatureScot and have been refined to those applicable to the LCT represented within the study area (italics indicate direct quotations from NatureScot):

*"The islands of the Outer Hebrides have a strong north-south orientation. This is expressed in n upland spine of Prominent Hills and Mountains which run along the eastern edge of the Uists and make up large upland areas of South Lewis, West Harris and Central Barra.*

#### Key Characteristics

- *Individual peaks with pronounced summits, long ridges and slopes.*
- *Massive vertical scale.*
- *Lower slopes of windswept heather moorland.*
- *Uninhabited.*" (NatureScot, 2019)

There are no Core Paths within the portion of the LCT which enters the study area, and no informal tracks throughout. Recreational users will rely on informal tracks to the west of Sgalabhal to gain access to the LCT or will have to traverse the terrain directly. The stark contrast between the surrounding boggy landscape of lochs and lochans and the elongated ridges has been heightened by the lack of any substantial woodland areas. The current character of the landscape is one of great openness with expansive views in all directions. The extremes present within the landscape, alongside the difficulty of access make for an impressive landscape which is likely to be experienced by relatively few people.

The LCT overlaps with the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA (see Section 6.2.4) and 30. Harris – Uig hills WLA (see Section 6.2.5).

### Extent of Predicted Visibility

With reference to the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04), theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is predicted to primarily occur across the LCT within close proximity of the Site, along the valley of Abhainn Gleann a' Ghàraidh and the northern slopes of Beinn a' Bhoth and Griosamul. The north-western area of the LCT will experience considerably less theoretical visibility, being limited to the south-eastern slopes of Coduinn and Ben a' Tuath. During the construction period, construction machinery and compounds are likely to be visible within the locale of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development would thus result in an increase in communications and associated infrastructure within the central portion of the LCT.

### Sensitivity

The value of this landscape is considered to be Outstanding, as it is designated as WLA within the study area and is primarily composed of spectacular mountain ridges which afford long distance views of the wider landscape. The LCT is considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes of the nature proposed; a small cluster of vertical human-made elements introduced into the landscape will inevitably alter the perception of the uninhabited LCT, though its expansive nature will absorb such effects to a great extent. The LCT covers an area of some 74,216 hectares (ha) across Uig, Kinloch, North Harris and South Harris, and while theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is locally evident, effects will be limited across the wider LCT.

Taking into consideration the High value of the landscape and its Low susceptibility to the type of changes proposed, the landscape is considered to be of overall Medium sensitivity to the type of changes proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted within the immediate surroundings of the Proposed Development and the peaks to the south of the LCT. This is due to the possibility for visibility of construction activity and machinery into a relatively 'untouched' landscape; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as the vertical components of the Proposed Development will come to form a partial focal point atop Sgalabhal, but effects within the wider LCT are likely to be minimal due to its massive scale.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

#### 6.2.2 LCT 322: Boggy Moorland – Outer Hebrides

LCT 322: Boggy Moorland – Outer Hebrides is present in the study area as two discrete portions; the central area encompasses most of the western portion of the study area from the base of the Sgalabhal chain to the lower slopes of Coduinn in the north down to the northern slopes of Beinn a' Bhoth in the south. The other is centred around Loch Langabhat to the southeast of the study area, and spans north as far as Loch a'Sguair.

The western portion is characterised by lochans and medium-sized lochs, interconnected with rivers and streams as the topography shelves gradually westwards to the Atlantic coast. The eastern portion features larger water bodies, of which Loch Langabhat is by far the most dominant, with the lesser lochs concentrated along its northern shores creating an immense wetland in eastward views from the site boundary.

Viewpoints o1 and o2 are representative of the LCT (see Figures o5a-c and o6a-c).

The following key characteristics have been attributed to the LCT by NatureScot (2019) and have been refined to those applicable to the LCT represented within the study area (*italics indicate direct quotations from NatureScot*):

*"The Boggy Moorland – Outer Hebrides Landscape Character Type forms extensive inland areas of Lewis, North Uist and Benbecula, and smaller areas which fringe the rocky moorlands of South Uist and Barra.*

*Key Characteristics:*

- *Large scale, gently undulating peat moorlands.*
- *Numerous large and small rounded lochs, interconnected by narrow, slow-moving rivers.*
- *Remote upland character.*
- *Predominantly uninhabited."* (NatureScot, 2019)

There are no Core Paths within the portions of the LCT which enter the study area, though there are informal tracks throughout, mainly running north-south from the vicinity of Loch Morsgail to the Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt river to the south.

The LCT overlaps with the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA (see Section 6.2.4) and 30. Harris – Uig hills WLA (see Section 6.2.5).

### **Extent of Predicted Visibility**

With reference to the Bareground ZTV (see Figures o4), theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is predicted to occur across much of the LCT within the study area. Theoretical visibility is mostly excluded lower elevations including many lochs and lochans and the far side of hilltops in the area.

The Proposed Development would result in an increase in communications and associated infrastructure becoming visible from parts of the LCT, though this is likely to occur at considerable distances from the site boundary.

### **Sensitivity of receptor**

The value of this landscape is considered to be Outstanding, as it designated as wild land area for its majority within the study area. The LCT comprises of vast areas of lochs, lochans and wetland with few human-made elements, set against a background of surrounding mountain peaks and massifs. It is worthy of mention that the LCT covers an area of some 111,859 hectares (ha) dispersed throughout the Western Isles, and while theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is locally evident, effects will be limited across the wider LCT. The LCT is considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes of the nature proposed. Taking into consideration the High value of the landscape and its Low susceptibility to the type of changes proposed, the landscape is considered to be of overall Medium sensitivity to the type of changes proposed.

### **Magnitude of Change**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted within the immediate surroundings of the Proposed Development and the dubh lochan landscape to the west of the



LCT within the study area. This is due to the possibility for visibility of construction activity and machinery into a relatively 'untouched' landscape; and

- Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as the vertical components of the Proposed Development will come to form a partial focal point atop Sgalabhal, but effects within the wider LCT are likely to be minimal due to its massive scale.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

### 6.2.3 LCT 323: Rocky Moorland – Outer Hebrides

Two discrete areas of LCT 323: Rocky Moorland – Outer Hebrides are found within the study area; the first is a narrow section to the northeast, and the second the peak of Beinisbhal to the west. This area includes numerous lesser mountain summits emerging from surrounding bog and peatland, some of which are almost equal in altitude to Sgalabhal (such as Coltraiseal Mòr to the northeast of the site boundary). In general, the LCT forms a backdrop to the more characteristic summits within the study area, such as Sgalabhal itself (260m AOD) and the larger peaks rising north-south along the western shores of Loch Langabhat, such as Beinn a' Bhoth (308m AOD) and Griosamul (390m AOD).

Viewpoint 04 is representative of the LCT (see Figures 08a-c).

The following key characteristics have been attributed to the LCT by NatureScot (2019) and have been refined to those applicable to the LCT represented within the study area (italics indicate direct quotations from the NatureScot):

*"The Rocky Moorland – Outer Hebrides Landscape Character Type forms extensive inland areas in central Lewis and South Uist and smaller areas along the east coast of Harris, North Uist, Benbecula and Barra.*

*Key Characteristics:*

- *Rocky, stepped landscape with irregular topography.*
- *Rocky knolls interlocked with peaty moorland vegetation and small lochans.*
- *Considerable diversity of form and texture.*
- *Predominantly uninhabited and sense of remoteness."* (NatureScot, 2019)

There are no Core Paths within the portions of the LCT within the study area, and no informal tracks throughout. The proximity of the B8011 will facilitate access to the north-eastern portion of the LCT within the study area; the chain of peaks from Coltraiseal Beag to Ascleit may be accessed from this point. The western portion of the LCT within the study area is considerably more isolated, and recreational users will rely on informal tracks within LCT 322 to the west of Sgalabhal to gain access to the LCT or traverse the terrain by using orienteering skills alone.

The LCT overlaps with the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA (see Section 6.2.4) and 30. Harris – Uig hills WLA (see Section 6.2.5).

### Extent of Predicted Visibility

With reference to the Bareground ZTV (see Figures 04), theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is predicted to occur primarily across the western and south-western slopes of the hills across the LCT within the study area, as well as from Loch Lomhain.

The Proposed Development would result in an increase in communications and associated infrastructure becoming visible from within the LCT, though this is likely to occur at considerable distances from the site boundary. The summit of Ascleit lies closest to the site boundary at 2.4km to the northeast, for example.

### Sensitivity of receptor

The value of this landscape is considered to be Outstanding, as it designated as wild land area for its majority within the study area. The LCT has also been subjected to relatively little recent modification and features spectacular mountain ridges which afford long distance views of the wider landscape. The LCT covers an area of some 57,409 hectares (ha) dispersed throughout the Western Isles, and while theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is locally evident, effects will be limited across the wider LCT. The LCT is considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes of the nature proposed. Taking into consideration the Outstanding value of the landscape and its Low susceptibility to the type of changes proposed, the landscape is considered to be of overall High / Medium sensitivity to the type of changes proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted within the immediate surroundings of the Proposed Development and the peaks to the east of the LCT within the study area. This is due to the possibility for visibility of construction activity and machinery from within a relatively unpopulated landscape; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as the vertical components of the Proposed Development will come to form a partial focal point atop Sgalabhal, but effects within the wider LCT are likely to be minimal due to the LCTs large area and scale.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted.

#### 6.2.4 South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA)

South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA covers an area of around 202,123 hectares (ha) across the North Uist, South and North Harris, Uig and Kinloch Community Council boundaries within the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council area. The Proposed Development lies within the NSA, some 2.4km southwest of the designation boundary.

### Special Qualities

The special qualities associated with this NSA by NatureScot, formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (NatureScot, 2010) which are most relevant to the Proposed Development are as follows:

- *"A rich variety of exceptional scenery*
- *A great diversity of seascapes*
- *The dominance of the weather"*

Of the specific locale of the Proposed Development, South Lewis and Harris is described as having the following special qualities:

- *"The wild, mountainous character*

- *Deep sea lochs that penetrate the hills*” (NatureScot, 2010).

In order to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of the wider NSA, visitors will have to scale any of the many peaks within it, as the flatter bogland tends to have more enclosed views. In the case of the study area, the predominant peaks are Sgalabhal itself (260m AOD), and those which rise progressively along the western shores of Loch Langabhat, such as Beinn a’ Bhoth (308m AOD) and Griosamul (390m AOD). From any of these vantage points to the east or west, the sense that *“the bold rugged hills of South Lewis and Harris ...rise abruptly out of an expanse of blanket bog”* (NatureScot, 2010) will be apparent.

To expand on the effect produced by sea lochs in the region, *“deep fjord-like sea lochs penetrate the hills of South Lewis and Harris. This lends the surprise of finding tidal water, apparently far inland.”* (NatureScot, 2010). This phenomenon occurs at two points within the study area, and in both places to great effect. At the far north of the study area, the B8011 crosses a narrow fjord formed where the Abhainn Cheann Loch Ròg flows out into Loch Ròg. Views north and south are impressive for how defined they are by the valley sides and the wetland character of the landscape to the northwest and southeast. The other instance occurs to the west of the study area, where Loch Rèasort extends more than 8km inland to the confluence of the Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt and Abhainn Habhsaidh. The latter site is much less accessible than that to the north, so the few recreational users in a position to experience it will be further impressed by the narrow stretch of sea enclosed by mountain ridges. The terrain which links these two sea loch incursions into the study areas is made up of a mixture of lochs from Loch Leatha in the west to Loch Morsgail towards the north, interconnected by a broad strip of dubh lochans, blanket bog and peatland.

### **Extent of Predicted Visibility**

With reference to the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04), theoretical visibility of some parts of the Proposed Development is predicted to throughout the NSA within the study area. This is concentrated on an area which spans from the summits of the Sgalabhal chain from the centre of the summit of Sgalabhal Mula to the southeast of Sgalabhal Mheadhonach. The blanket bog and moorland north of Sgalabhal Mula to the B8011 is not predicted to experience theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, with breaks in visibility also occurring south of Sgalabhal Shanndaig and Sgalabhal Beag. To the east of the study area, theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the NSA is likely to be limited to the southern slopes of Coltraiseal Beag and Coltraiseal Mòr, as well as the summit of Ascleit and the northern slopes of Sgalabhal Beag. Towards the south of the NSA within the study area, the northern slopes of Beinn a’ Bhoth and Griosamul predicted to experience patches of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, though neither of these two summits are served by Core Paths or formal tracks which facilitate access.

The Proposed Development would thus introduce visibility of communications and associated infrastructure from within the NSA. During the construction period, construction machinery and compounds are likely to be visible in proximity to the proposed development site.

### **Sensitivity of receptor**

Taking into consideration the many overlapping layers of designations and features of interest, as well as the open and expansive character of the NSA, it is considered to be a landscape of Outstanding value. The NSA is considered to be of High susceptibility to the type of changes proposed, due to limited existing development within the area and its aforementioned features. The Proposed Development would result in an increase in communications and associated infrastructure becoming visible from within parts of the designation. The NSA extends to a vast area, some 202,123 hectares (ha), and the effects of the proposed development will be limited across the wider designation. Factoring in the Special Qualities of the NSA, the designation is considered to be of Low susceptibility overall to changes of the nature proposed, notwithstanding local effects. Taking into consideration the

Outstanding value of the landscape and its Low susceptibility to the type of changes proposed the landscape is considered to be of overall High / Medium sensitivity to the type of changes proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; theoretical visibility of construction activity and machinery may occur within the locale of the Proposed Development within the NSA, though this will be temporary in nature; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the vertical components of the Proposed Development will come to form a partial focal point atop Sgalabhal, but effects within the wider NSA are likely to be minimal due to its extensive scale.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted.

### 6.2.5 30. Ha-ris - Uig hills Wild Land Area (WLA)

The Ha-ris - Uig hills WLA extends to an area of around 45,270 hectares (ha) across the Uig, Bernera, Breasclate, Kinloch and North Harris Community Council boundaries within the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council area. The Proposed Development lies within the WLA, some 1.8km southeast of the designation boundary.

### Special Qualities

The special qualities associated with this WLA by NatureScot (2014) which are most relevant to the Proposed Development are as follows:

- *"Awe-inspiring, towering, irregular, rocky mountains that adjoin low-lying peatland or the sea, offering panoramic views and possessing a strong sense of naturalness; and*
- *Extensive peatland that is simple at a broad scale, but interwoven with a complex pattern of lochs, lochans, pools and bogs at the local level that highlight the rugged nature of the landform and limit access."* (NatureScot, 2014)

The Proposed Development location and wider surroundings contain essentially no tree cover, with vegetation limited in scale to heath in most places. This contributes to the *"rocky peaks appearing awe-inspiring in contrast to the surrounding peatland and sea, whilst their irregular shapes, exposure and predominance of rock amplifies perceived naturalness"* (NatureScot, 2014).

Views in all directions from the larger summits are expansive; to the south An Cliseam rises to 799m AOD amidst lesser peaks ranging the width of North Harris across the west and south of Kinloch. Sgalabhal rises to only 260m AOD, though even this relatively modest elongated summit affords occasional visitors views west along Loch Rèasort and north for much of the length of Loch Ròg. Views towards the east encompass the lochan range north of Loch Langabhat, with views of the mainland on clear days.

A key component of the designation was identified by NatureScot in their assessments, that *"from the mountain tops, it is possible to appreciate the prevailing absence of human artefacts and contemporary land use across the WLA*

*interior” (2014). Elements which may be seen to interrupt this wild character include “main roads, the Gormul Màraig and Èitseal masts, wind farms to the distant north east and fish farms on Loch a Siar and Loch Siophort”.*

In keeping with the wild nature associated with this designation, there are few entry points into the interior of the WLA, being restricted to a handful of single carriageway Restricted Local Access Roads in the north, southwest and southeast. To the north, the B8011 permits visitors to come within 2km of Loch Morsgail, and to the southeast the A859 (outwith the study area) lies just under 3km outwith the designation in places. Beyond this, within *“the remaining area, access is off-path and physically challenging, influenced by the need to cross or avoid lochs, lochans, pools, bogs and watercourses”*. The difficulty of access to the WLA will *“contribute to a strong sense of remoteness, naturalness, sanctuary, solitude and risk”* (NatureScot, 2014). An existing communication mast atop Coltraiseal Beag, immediately adjacent to the location of Viewpoint 04 (see Figures 08a-c) is one of few human-made features readily visible within the study area.

### **Extent of Predicted Visibility**

With reference to the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04), theoretical visibility of parts of the Proposed Development is predicted to broadly occur across two areas that run north-south to the east and west of Loch Morsgail. The largest patch of theoretical visibility extends from the southern slopes of Coduinn to the northwest of the study area down to Shèlibridh in the southwest. The lesser eastern patch of theoretical visibility encompasses the southern slopes of Coltraiseal Beag and Coltraiseal Mòr, Ascleit and the Sgalabhal ridge. The northern slopes of Beinn a’ Bhoth and Griosamul to the south of the study area are also predicted to experience theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. Breaks in theoretical visibility occur from south of the Loch Ròg Beag bridge to around Loch Morsgail, extending to the northern shores of Loch Langabhat, and the southern portion of Loch Coire Geurad.

The Proposed Development would thus introduce communications and associated infrastructure into the WLA within the study area. During the construction period, construction machinery and compounds are unlikely to be visible throughout the WLA, with theoretical visibility likely being limited to areas in close proximity to the Proposed Development Site.

### **Sensitivity of receptor**

The WLA is considered to be a landscape of Outstanding value due to its designation and limited evidence human presence within its boundaries. Taking into account the extents of the designated area, some 45,270 hectares (ha), it is considered that effects will be limited across the wider designation. The designation is considered to be of Low susceptibility overall to changes of the nature proposed; a small cluster of vertical human-made elements introduced into the landscape will inevitably alter the perception of the uninhabited LCT, though its expansive nature will absorb such effects to a great extent. Taking into consideration the Outstanding value of the landscape and its Low susceptibility to the type of changes proposed, the landscape is considered to be of overall High / Medium sensitivity to the type of changes proposed.

### **Magnitude of Change**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; theoretical visibility of construction activity and machinery may occur within the locale of the Proposed Development within the WLA, though this will be temporary in nature; and

- Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the vertical components of the Proposed Development will come to form a partial focal point atop Sgalabhal, but effects within the wider WLA are likely to be minimal due to its expansive scale.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted.

## 7 Appraisal of Visual Effects

### 7.1 Settlements

As detailed in Section 4.2.1, there are no settlements within the study area.

### 7.2 Key Transport Routes

#### 7.2.1 B8011

The B8011 is minor road which travels broadly east-west across western Lewis, deviating inland to the south to circumvent Loch Ròg Beag; at its southern extents the route briefly enters the study area for around 1.7km in a long bend over a bridge around Cnoc Sgoilte. The route commences outwith the study area on the outskirts of Gearraidh na h-Aibhne, where it branches off the A858 and heads southwest, weaving to adapt to the coastline throughout the first section, before heading inland on its southwest bearing. The road passes between Loch Sgàire to the north and Loch Faoghail an Tuim to the south. The landscape from this point onwards to the study area is characterised by the rock faces through which the road was cut, as well as long open sections with views mainly to the south of smaller lochs such as Loch Ruadh Gheure Dubh Mhor and Loch an Fhir Mhaoil. Within the study area the route experiences spectacular channelled views northwest up Loch Ròg Beag, with distant views of peaks such as Cairn Seabhal to the northwest and Beinn Drobhanais to the northeast. Exiting the study area, the road runs parallel to the western shores of Loch Ròg Beag until it reaches the coast, at which point it bears west to follow the course of the Amhuinn a Ghlinne to terminate on the outskirts of Timgearraidh.

#### Extent of Predicted Visibility

The Bareground ZTV and site visits confirmed that visibility of the Proposed Development along the route will occur to the east and west of the Loch Ròg Beag inlet, for around 606m to the east of the bridge, and then for approximately the remaining 428m within the study area to the northwest. Travelling east, the orientation of the road is such that intermittent views of the Proposed Development may occur, though at the closest point these will occur at around 4.6km from the site boundary. Travelling west, it is unlikely that road users will perceive the Proposed Development, due to the direction of travel and the brief window for theoretical visibility to occur.

During the construction stage, visibility of construction machinery and compounds is unlikely to occur along the section of the route which passes through the study area, though an increased presence of construction vehicles may occur at either of the junctions with the minor roads to the west of the Loch Ròg Beag bridge. This will, however, be temporary in nature.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Receptors travelling on the route are considered to be of Medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed, as changes in the landscape are likely to be registered by alert drivers, who may also be in the area for recreational purposes.

The value of views from the route is considered to be High, as it is a picturesque inland and coastal route through a loch landscape. The sensitivity of road users of this route to the type of development proposed is thus considered to be High / Medium.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as construction vehicles are unlikely to be visible from this route; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted, as construction activities are unlikely to be visible from the route, beyond the occasional vehicle associated with the Proposed Development being present on the route; and
  - Upon completion, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted, as the instances of theoretical visibility which are likely to occur will be restricted to very short sections of the route and will occur at considerable distances from the Proposed Development.

## 7.3 Key Recreational Routes

### 7.3.1 Track 1

This route commences where two tracks running south from the east and west of Loch Morsgail converge, and the route is approximately 2.1km in length. The track travels through blanket bog throughout, briefly skirting the eastern fringes of the dubh lochan terrain to the southwest of Loch Morsgail before tracing the course of the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile from where it meets a fork in the route into two separate tracks to the southwest. At the confluence of the Allt Mor Eadar Dha Sgalabhal and Allt Cleit Sheil streams, the route continues south parallel to the western banks of the latter and terminates on the summit of Shèlibridh (197m AOD).

### Extent of Predicted Visibility

Analysis of the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04) and site visit findings identified that visibility of the Proposed Development will occur throughout the entirety of the route, given its close proximity to and elevation in relation to the summit of Sgalabhal.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Taking into consideration the lack of Core Paths of formal tracks within the study area it is considered that there will be low numbers of recreational users. As such, recreational users as a group are in this instance considered to be of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed. It is likely that the attention of recreational users

will be drawn by the more immediate landscape surrounding the route, including the course of the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile.

The value of views from the route is considered to be High, as it travels through moorland surrounded by spectacular mountain summits and is largely free from evidence of human activity. The sensitivity of recreational users of this route to the type of development proposed is thus considered to be Medium.

### **Magnitude of Change**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted, as it is considered unlikely that constructions works, or related activity will be visible from this route; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as the summit of Sgalabhal is not in the direction of travel when heading north or south on the route, and the immediate landscape appears likely to absorb most recreational users' attention throughout.

### **Predicted Effects**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

### **7.3.2 Track 2**

The route commences to the northwest of Loch Morsgail and heads south, following its western banks to cross Abhainn Cleit Duastal, around 680m south of which it is adjoined by a similar track which traces the eastern banks of the loch. The route maintains a southern bearing and runs parallel to the north-south ridge of Sgalabhal, crossing the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile at around the latitude of its summit. South of this point, the track cleaves to the western shore of Loch Beag Sheilabrie and continues south to terminate at the Gil Roisgil Cham stream, which travels east-west at this point and drains into the Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt close to Loch Rèasort. The route is around 5.2km in length.

### **Extent of Predicted Visibility**

Analysis of the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04) and site visit findings identified that visibility of the Proposed Development will commence as recreational users cross the Abhainn Cleit Duastal heading south and draw parallel to the Allt na Liana Baine. This is due to the lower terrain around Loch Morsgail providing a screening effect north of this point. For the remainder of the route south of this point, it is predicted that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development will occur, though it will be perpendicular to the direction of travel throughout.

### **Sensitivity of Receptors**

Taking into consideration the lack of Core Paths within the study area it is considered that there will be low numbers of recreational users. As such, recreational users as a group are in this instance considered to be of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed. It is likely that the attention of recreational users will be drawn by the more immediate landscape surrounding the route, including the course of the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile.

The value of views from the route is considered to be High, as it travels through moorland surrounded by spectacular mountain summits and is largely free from evidence of human activity. The sensitivity of recreational users of this route to the type of development proposed is thus considered to be Medium.



### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted, as it is considered unlikely that constructions works, or related activity will be visible from this route; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted, as the summit of Sgalabhal is not in the direction of travel when heading north or south on the route, and the immediate landscape appears likely to absorb most recreational users' attention throughout.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

### 7.3.3 Track 3

This route commences at the eastern extents of Loch Rèasort, a narrow fjord which cuts into the southwest of the study area. Bearing northeast, the track follows the southern and then eastern limits of the dubh lochan landscape which extends northwards to Loch Leatha from this point. A short distance to the northeast, the route bounds the Lochan a' Chleite Tuath cluster, crossing occasional small streams and then Abhainn Bheinn na Gile, to terminate on adjoining the Track from Gil Roisgil Cham stream north between Loch Beag Sheilabrie and Loch Mor Shelibridh (see Section 7.3.2). The route is approximately 4.1km in length.

### Extent of Predicted Visibility

Analysis of the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04) and site visit findings identified that visibility of the Proposed Development will commence as recreational users climb to around 50m AOD within Morsgail Forest at around the latitude of Loch nan Faoileag and will continue throughout the route from this point to its terminus.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Taking into consideration the lack of Core Paths within the study area it is considered that there will be low numbers of recreational users. As such, recreational users as a group are in this instance considered to be of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed. It is likely that the attention of recreational users will be drawn by the more immediate landscape surrounding the route, such as the network of lochans interconnected by streams which intersperse the route. Upon reaching the terminus of the route, it is likely that recreational users' attention will be absorbed by the Beehive Shielings in Morsgail Forest, which the route passes close to upon crossing Abhainn Bheinn na Gile.

The value of views from the route is considered to be High, as it travels through boggy moorland surrounded by spectacular mountain summits and is largely free from evidence of human activity. The sensitivity of recreational users of this route to the type of development proposed is thus considered to be Medium.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted, as it is considered unlikely that constructions work, or related activity will be visible from this route; and

- Upon completion, a Medium / Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development would introduce human-made vertical elements into the view in the direction of travel.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Moderate / Minor adverse effects are predicted.

#### 7.3.4 Track 4

The route commences at Ceann Reasoirt, just south of the Loch R asort delta, and it travels southeast up the rocky valley through which the Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt drains into the delta below. Continuing its ascent, the route crosses Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt and climbs between it and another stream, Abha'nn a' Chlair Bhig, to the east. Exiting the study area around 367m south of this point, the route continues to cleave to the western banks of Abha'nn a' Chlair Bhig, passing by the B'tha'Chlair Bhig (beehive shielings) Scheduled Monument in the process, terminating where it adjoins a Core Path to the immediate west of Loch Chleistir. The route is approximately 4.6km in length in total, with around 1.3km falling within the study area.

### Extent of Predicted Visibility

Analysis of the Bareground ZTV (see Figure 04) and site visit findings identified that visibility of the Proposed Development will commence as recreational users cross the Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt and climb to around 20m AOD, heading south along the river. Theoretical visibility is predicted for the entirety of the route within the study area, though this will be perpendicular to the direction of travel throughout.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Taking into consideration the lack of Core Paths within the study area it is considered that there will be low numbers of recreational users. As such, recreational users as a group are in this instance considered to be of Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed. It is considered that the low number of potential receptors will be in the area to appreciate the natural surroundings and visit the few human-made features on the route, such as B'th a'Chlair Bhig beehive shielings Scheduled Monument (outwith the study area) to the south. The value of views from the route is considered to be High, as it travels through scenic heather moorland surrounded by spectacular mountain summits and is largely free from evidence of human activity. The sensitivity of recreational users of this route to the type of development proposed is thus considered to be Medium.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted, as it is considered unlikely that constructions work, or related activity will be visible from this route; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development would introduce human-made vertical elements into the view throughout the route, though not in the direction of travel.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and

- Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

## 7.4 Representative Viewpoints

Four viewpoints were identified and selected as being representative of the range of landscape and visual receptors considered within the study area.

As no other developments within the study area with potential to result in substantial cumulative interactions were identified, no cumulative appraisal has been carried out.

For the purposes of this assessment, unless otherwise stated, all recreational receptors are considered to be either of Medium sensitivity to the typology of development proposed, whilst road users are considered to be of varying sensitivity depending on a number of factors (see Appendix B). Where recreational activities could be considered passive, such as walking, receptors are considered to be of High sensitivity. For activities which are more active, such as mountain biking or other sports, receptors would be considered to be of Medium sensitivity. All effects during the construction stage are assumed to be temporary in nature and of short duration, whilst effects post-completion are assumed to be permanent.

Table 1: Representative Viewpoints for Visual Assessment (see Section 4.2.4 above) includes the detailed position of each representative viewpoint location. These are also illustrated on Figures 01, 04, 05a, 06a, 07a and 08a. A key component of the site appraisal process is the micro-siting of viewpoint locations to ensure supporting visualisations demonstrate attributable effects of the Proposed Development most representative of the receptor it represents. Panoramic photographs and photomontages are provided to illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint location and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view (see Figures 05a-08c).

### 7.4.1 VP01: Morsgail Beehive Shielings (see Figures 05a-c)

This viewpoint was taken between an unmarked access track and the eastern banks of Abhainn Bheinn na Gile, approximately 1.1km northwest of the Proposed Development, and some 20m northwest of the Morsgail Forest beehive shielings. The viewpoint is located at an altitude of around 67m AOD.

#### Existing View

The immediate foreground is characterised by the lower western slopes of Sgalabhal, the tawny grasses of the moorland rising towards the middle distance becoming progressively more interspersed with rocky terrain and less vegetation closer to the summit. The summit of Sgalabhal rises to the centre of the frame, forming the highest point of a ridgeline which slopes downwards to the north to Sgalabhal Mula, and the shallow dip to the south at the right of the frame forms the northern slopes of Sgalabhal Mheadhonach.

#### Proposed View

The Proposed Development would result in the addition of a communications tower at the centre of the frame, its lattice framework faintly visible from this vantage point, as well as two wind turbines slightly lower than it. Due to the angle of the view, the tower of the more easterly turbine would be screened by that to the west, though its blades would be visible on clear days from this position.

#### Sensitivity of Receptors

Recreational users are likely to be in the area to experience the spectacular scenery, and also visit the nearby Beehive Shielings in Morsgail Forest. The lack of Core Paths or formal tracks will, however, greatly reduce the

number of receptors present at this viewpoint, and they area as such considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes which may occur. The value of the view is High, being scenic and lacking in human-made interventions. Recreational users are therefore considered to be of Medium sensitivity to changes of the nature proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted, as it is unlikely that construction operations will be visible from this location; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development will be present in the view but will not become its sole focal point.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

#### 7.4.2 VP02: Track west of Allt na Liana Baine (see Figures o6a-c)

This viewpoint was taken just west of Track 2 (see Section 7.3.2), approximately 1.3km northwest of the Proposed Development, at an altitude of around 50m AOD.

### Existing View

The immediate foreground is characterised by steeply rising moorland with large boulders amidst tussocky grasses on a small rock outcrop due west of Allt na Liana Baine, beyond which Sgalabhal Mula rises to prominence at the right of the frame. Sgalabhal Mula (253m AOD) is the lesser of the two summits which form the elongated north-south ridge, the other being Sgalabhal itself (260m AOD), though the angle of the view gives the impression of the opposite effect. A broad strip of smoother grasses at the centre of the view coincides with the ascent to Sgalabhal.

### Proposed View

The Proposed Development would result in the addition of a communications tower at the centre of the view, the lattice framework of which would appear to rise halfway down a slope formed by the ridge between Sgalabhal Mula and Sgalabhal itself. The turbine at the southwest of the Proposed Development compound would be discernible as a distinct element from the communications tower, though that at the south-eastern corner would be partially screened by it. The fence surrounding the compound, and the uppermost parts of some of the ancillary components would be vaguely discernible at the foot of the communications tower on clear days.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Recreational users are likely to be in the area to experience the spectacular scenery, and also visit the Beehive Shielings in Morsgail Forest en route. Some recreational users may choose to navigate a route up to the summit of Sgalabhal from this point, though no Core Paths or informal tracks exist to permit this directly; as such receptors are considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes which may occur. The value of the view is High, being scenic and lacking in human-made interventions. Recreational users are therefore considered to be of Medium sensitivity to changes of the nature proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:

- During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; construction equipment and vehicles may be visible intermittently during works, thereby interrupting the impression of solitude and emptiness in the landscape; and
- Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development will enter the view but will not become its sole focal point.

### Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

#### 7.4.3 VP03: Druim Bheinn na Gile (see Figures 07a-c)

This viewpoint was taken from around 80m southeast of Track 3 (see Section 7.3.3), approximately 1.4km west of the Proposed Development, at an altitude of around 93m AOD.

### Existing View

The immediate foreground is characterised by a natural rock platform interspersed with tussocky grasses, beyond which the blanket peat / bogland rises gradually to form a hillside running north-south. This hilltop runs the width of the frame and obscures the Abhainn Bheinn na Gile running northwest immediately beyond it. At the centre of the view, the Sgalabhal ridge rises to form the middle distance to the horizon, sloping slightly downwards to the southeast at the right of the frame to join Sgalabhal Mheadhonach (254m AOD).

### Proposed View

The Proposed Development would result in the addition of a communications tower at the centre of the view, rising from terrain which appears flat from this vantage. Both of the wind turbines which form a part of the Proposed Development are discernible as distinct elements, though their towers appear noticeably less massive than that of the communications tower; their blades may be perceptible on clear days or when in movement.

### Sensitivity of Receptors

Recreational users are likely to be in the area to experience the spectacular scenery, and also visit the nearby Beehive Shielings in Morsgail Forest. The lack of Core Paths or formal tracks will, however, greatly reduce the number of receptors present at this viewpoint, and they are as such considered to be of Low susceptibility to changes which may occur. The value of the view is High, and the Sgalabhal ridge is very prominent from this position, occupying the entire width of the frame. As such, vertical elements along its summit will be somewhat noticeable. Recreational users are therefore considered to be of Medium sensitivity to changes of the nature proposed.

### Magnitude of Change

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; construction equipment and vehicles may be visible intermittently during works, thereby occasionally interrupting the impression of emptiness in the landscape; and
  - Upon completion, a Low Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development will enter the view but will not become its sole focal point.

## Predicted Effects

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Minor adverse effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Minor adverse effects are predicted.

### 7.4.4 VP04: Coltraiseal Beag hilltop (see Figures o8a-c)

This viewpoint was taken from the summit of Coltraiseal Beag, some 800m southeast of the B8011, at an altitude of around 223m AOD.

#### Existing View

The foreground to the left of the view features the south-eastern of the rocky summit of Coltraiseal, which then shelves away rapidly, opening up into the broad heather moorland plain to the southwest. Coltraiseal Mòr rises to the southeast at the left of the frame, the A'lt a' Lochain Duibh faintly visible as it incises its course towards the Abhainn a'Chnuic Dhuibh below. The middle distance is highlighted by a lochan to the left of the frame beyond Coltraiseal Beag and Loch Morsgail to the right, extending beyond the limits of the image, the characteristic small island at its southern limits serving as a valuable orientation marker. The blanket bog / peatland stretching across the plain between the two water bodies is interspersed with lochans which surround Ascleit to the south and Sgalabhal to the southwest of the viewpoint.

The Sgalabhal Mula / Sgalabhal / Sgalabhal Mheadhonach ridge rises to prominence at the centre of the view, the subject of the image, with the lesser summit of Sgalabhal Beag visible to the left of the frame just north of Loch Langabhat. To the right of the middle distance, the blanket bog / peatland and dubh lochan landscape to the northwest of Sgalabhal extends to the edge of the frame.

The horizon is composed of the spectacular mountain ranges to the south and southwest of Sgalabhal on North Harris; the highest peak on the Outer Hebrides is An Cliseam (799m AOD), visible directly above Sgalabhal Mheadhonach from this vantage. Griosamul and Beinn a' Bhoth are dominant peaks to the left and right of Sgalabhal Mheadhonach, merging visibly with more distant summits beyond them to the southwest. Sron Uladail (442m AOD) rises to the right of the frame, in line with the southern extents of Loch Morsgail.

#### Proposed View

The Proposed Development would result in the addition of a communications tower atop Sgalabhal at the centre of the view, framed almost symmetrically by the wind turbines to the southeast and southwest of the Proposed Development compound. These vertical features, though noticeable to some extent from this vantage, will rise between the summits of Griosamul to the left and Beinn a' Bhoth to the right, but will not breach the ridgeline formed by Rapaire (453m AOD) beyond them.

#### Sensitivity of Receptors

Recreational users are likely to be in the area to experience the spectacular scenery, with Coltraiseal Beag possibly forming an isolated visiting point for its proximity to the B8011, or as the starting point of longer hiking routes towards the south and southwest. It is worthy of mention that the lack of Core Paths and informal tracks throughout the study area will limit all but the most skilled hikers. The small number of recreational users are thus considered to be of High susceptibility to changes of the nature proposed.

The value of the view is Outstanding, encompassing some of the highest and most spectacular peaks on the Outer Hebrides. The Sgalabhal ridge is very prominent from this position, occupying the entire central portion of the frame, and vertical elements along its summit will be somewhat noticeable. Recreational users are therefore considered to be of Very High / High sensitivity to changes of the nature proposed.

### **Magnitude of Change**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted; construction equipment and vehicles are unlikely to be visible from this vantage, and their presence would be temporary; and
  - Upon completion, a Negligible Magnitude of Change is predicted; the Proposed Development will occupy a small portion of the Sgalabhal ridge line and will not compromise the appreciation of the wider landscape.

### **Predicted Effects**

- As a result of the Proposed Development:
  - During the construction phase, Negligible effects are predicted; and
  - Upon completion, Negligible effects are predicted.

## 8 Summary and Conclusions

Brindley Associates Ltd (Brindley), Landscape Architects and Environmental Planners, have been appointed by WHP Telecoms (hereafter referred to as The Applicant) to prepare a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) for a proposed communications tower with ancillary equipment attached, meter cabinet and ancillary equipment, generator and compound, two wind turbines, solar panels, deer fence and compound atop Sgalabhal Hilltop, Uig, Lewis, Eilean Siar.

The Proposed Development site lies entirely within the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) area and is therefore subject to policies within the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (2018) as well as national planning policies.

This appraisal has considered the key characteristics, sensitivities, and opportunities in terms of the local landscape and visual resource within a 5km study area from the proposed site boundary. It has outlined potential landscape effects that may result from the Proposed Development and described potential changes on visual amenity.

### 8.1 Landscape Effects

The Proposed Development would introduce a single communication tower measuring 20m from ground to tip, two wind turbines measuring 17.4m from ground to tip and related ancillary components into the landscape atop Sgalabhal Hill, some 2.3km northwest of Loch Langabhat. A 1.8m deer fence with a single access gate would serve to protect the installation.

These proposals would effect a considerable change on the character of the land within the Proposed Development site, though the presence of telecommunications and associated infrastructure in the locale means that the introduction of the elements associated with the Proposed Development would not constitute a major change in the perception of the landscape.

**Table 2** summarises the assessment of effects on landscape character and resources identified in the foregoing assessment.

**Table 2 – Summary of Predicted Effects on Landscape Receptors within the study area**

Landscape Receptor	Predicted Effect – Construction Stage	Predicted Effect – Upon Completion
Landscape resources within the site boundary	Major adverse	Major adverse
LCT 326: Prominent Hills and Mountains	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
LCT 323: Rocky Moorland - Outer Hebrides	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
LCT 322: Boggy Moorland - Outer Hebrides	Moderate / Minor adverse	Moderate / Minor adverse
South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area	Moderate / Minor adverse	Moderate / Minor adverse



Landscape Receptor	Predicted Effect – Construction Stage	Predicted Effect – Upon Completion
Harris - Uig hills Wild Land Area	Moderate / Minor adverse	Moderate / Minor adverse

## 8.2 Visual Effects

No settlements were identified within the study area.

A total of five routes were identified and selected as being representative of the range of visual receptors considered within the study area. Table 3 below summarises the visual effects on each of the routes considered in the foregoing assessment.

**Table 3 – Summary of Predicted Residual Effects on Sequential Routes**

Route name	Predicted Effect – Construction Stage	Predicted Effect – Upon Completion
B8011	Moderate / Minor adverse	Moderate / Minor adverse
Track 1 (Shelibrídh along eastern bank of Abhainn Bheinn na Gile)	Negligible	Minor adverse
Track 2 (Gil Roisgil Cham stream north between Loch Beag Sheilabrie and Loch Mor Shelibrídh)	Negligible	Minor adverse
Track 3 (Loch Réasort northeast past Lochan a' Chleite Tuath to Abhainn Bheinn na Gile)	Negligible	Moderate / Minor adverse
Track 4 (along south-western banks of Abhainn a' Chlair Bhig and Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt)	Negligible	Minor adverse

Four viewpoints were identified and selected as being representative of the range of visual receptors considered within the study area. Table 4 below summarises the visual effects on this Viewpoint considered in the foregoing assessment.

**Table 4 – Summary of Effects on Representative Viewpoints**

No.	Name / Location	Predicted Effect – Construction Stage	Predicted Effect – Upon Completion
01	Morsgail Beehive Shielings	Negligible	Minor adverse

No.	Name / Location	Predicted Effect – Construction Stage	Predicted Effect – Upon Completion
02	Track west of Allt na Liana Baine	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
03	Druim Bheinn na Gile	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
04	Coltraiseal Beag hilltop	Negligible	Negligible

### 8.3 Conclusion

The carefully considered placement of the elements of The Proposed Development would minimise the effect on landscape character to an area including the site boundary and the areas outlined in Section 8.1 -Table 2.

Visually, the Proposed Development would result in some adverse effects (outlined in Section 8.2 – Tables 3-4) though these would be offset considerably by the gains associated with the improvement in connectivity in the Western Isles as a result of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development has been considered carefully and weighed against relevant policy and design guidelines. It is our professional opinion that, due to the nature of the Proposed Development the site would be capable of accommodating the Proposed Development without leading to unacceptable effects on landscape character and visual amenity.

## 9 References

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute & Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013);
- Landscape Character Assessment (NatureScot, 2019);
- National Planning Framework 4 (Scottish Government, 2023);
- Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Scottish Government, 2019) <<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/15/enacted>>;
- Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018);
- Scotland's Environment Interactive Map (Scotland's Environment, 2023), accessed 14/03/2024, <<https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/>>;
- Landscape Character Types (LCTs) (NatureScot 2019);
- Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 374 - The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas (NatureScot, formerly Scottish Natural Heritage, 2010), accessed 14/03/2024, <<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202010%20-%20SNH%20Commissioned%20Report%20374%20-%20The%20Special%20Qualities%20of%20the%20National%20Scenic%20Areas.pdf>>;
- Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas - technical guidance (NatureScot, 2024), accessed 14/03/2024, <<https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance>>;
- Harris - Uig hills Wild Land Area (NatureScot, 2014), accessed 14/03/2024, <<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2021-06/Wild%20land%20Description%20Harris-Uig-hills-July-2016-30.pdf>>
- The Society for All British and Irish Road Enthusiasts (SABRE, 2023), accessed 06/03/2024, <<https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=B8011>>;
- Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 (Scottish Government), accessed 14/11/2023, <<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/15/enacted>>;
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals: Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (Landscape Institute, 2019); and
- Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Digital Telecommunications (Scottish Government, 2023).

## Appendix A Policy and Guidance

This appendix provides a brief summary of the local planning policies relevant to landscape and visual amenity. Direct quotes from guidance documents have been italicised in the following sections.

### National Planning Context

#### Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4)

NPF4 sets out national policies which reflect the Scottish Government's priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. The following elements of NPF4 are considered particularly relevant to the Proposed Development in the context of this LVA:

Part 1 – National Spatial Strategy, which states that *"Planning is a powerful tool for delivering change on the ground in a way which brings together competing interests so that decisions reflect the long-term public interest. Past, present and future challenges mean that we will need to make the right choices about where development should be located. We also need to be clear about the types of infrastructure we will need to build, and the assets that should be protected to ensure they continue to benefit future generations.*

##### **Spatial principles**

*We will plan our future places in line with six overarching spatial principles:*

- **Just transition.** *We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.*
- **Conserving and recycling assets.** *We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.*
- **Local living.** *We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.*
- **Compact urban growth.** *We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.*
- **Rebalanced development.** *We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.*
- **Rural revitalisation.** *We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.*

*These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national outcomes."*

NPF4 highlights the need for a collaborative approach to planning and development, where environmental considerations are clearly prioritised:

- Part 1 – National Spatial Strategy, which states that *"Applying these principles in practice. We want our future places to work for everyone. Rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives, this is an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development.*

*By applying these spatial principles, our national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:*

- **sustainable places**, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;

- **liveable places**, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- **productive places**, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.”

In addition to the six qualities of a successful place as set out in NPF<sub>4</sub> mentioned in [Section 1.2](#): Liveable Places – Policy 14, Annex D expands on the general ideas introduced in Policy 14. Within this Annex, the following points are considered especially relevant to the Proposed Development:

**5. Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions.**

Designing for:

- **transition to net-zero** including energy/carbon efficient solutions, retrofitting, reuse and repurposing and sharing of existing infrastructure and resources
- **climate resilience and nature recovery** including incorporating blue and green infrastructure, integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions
- **active local economy** including opportunities for local jobs and training, work spaces, enabling working from home, supporting community enterprise and third sector
- **community and local living** including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity

**6. Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can meet the changing needs and accommodate different uses over time.**

Designing for:

- **quality and function**, ensuring fitness for purpose, design for high quality and durability
- **longevity and resilience** including recognising the role of user centred design to cater for changing needs over time and to respond to social, economic and environmental priorities
- **long-term maintenance** including effective engagement, clarity of rights and responsibilities, community ownership/stewardship, continuous upkeep and improvements.”

## Local Planning Context

### Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan

Adopted in November 2018, the Outer Hebrides Local Development Plan (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018) sets out the intended policies and proposals for land use in the region over a 5-year time period, while also outlining a broader vision for the coming 20 years.

### Landscape

Policy NBH1: Landscape states that *“Development proposals should relate to the specific landscape and visual characteristics of the local area, ensuring that the overall integrity of landscape character is maintained.*

*The Western Isles Landscape Character Assessment (WI-LCA) will be taken into account in determining applications and developers should refer to Appendix 1 of this Plan for a summary of this guidance.*

*Development proposals should not have an unacceptable significant landscape or visual impact. If it is assessed that there will be a significant landscape or visual impact, the applicant will be required to provide mitigation measures demonstrating how a satisfactory landscape and visual fit can be achieved.”* (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018).

This policy also relates to National Scenic Areas and Wild Land Areas. It states that *“Development that affects a National Scenic Area (NSA) will only be permitted where:*

- a) the objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the area will not be compromised; or*
- b) any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.”* And that *“Development proposals should be able to demonstrate no unacceptable adverse impact on the character of areas of Wild Land, as identified on the 2014 SNH Maps, and that any significant effects on these qualities can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation.”* (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, 2018).

### Telecommunications

The LDP includes the improvement of telecommunications and associated infrastructure throughout the Outer Hebrides as a key priority in the achievement of sustainable growth within the region, resulting in *“strong, thriving communities”*. Of particular relevance to this assessment is the Environment and Infrastructure chapter, which has been selectively referenced below, with a particular focus on the improvement of digital infrastructure improvements.

*“The Scottish Government has an ambition for Scotland to have the availability of world class digital connectivity. This will be achieved through four priorities set out within the Digital 2020 vision: Digital Connectivity (ensuring that everyone in Scotland has access to high quality digital connectivity); Digital Economy (raising awareness and use technology and platforms across the nations businesses which will grow the economy); Digital Participation (ensuring that everyone is capable, confident and has access to the right technology for use at work and home); and Digital Public Services.*

*Recognising the potential benefits of ICT in helping sustain the islands, the Comhairle, in partnership with others, strive to ensure that suitable land, buildings and infrastructure (including provision of superfast broadband links which is identified as a national development with NPF3) is available for the development of ICT related businesses.*

*Emissions of radiofrequency radiation are controlled and regulated under other legislation and it is therefore not necessary for the Comhairle to treat radiofrequency radiation as a material planning consideration.*

**Policy EI 10: Communications and associated infrastructure**

*The Comhairle recognises the importance of digital connectivity for social, economic and civil resilience and is supportive of the infrastructure roll out plans of digital communications operators, community groups and other organisations.*

*Opportunities for the provision of digital infrastructure to new homes and business premises should be explored as an integral part of development. This should be done in consultation with service providers so that appropriate, universal and future-proofed infrastructure is installed and utilised. Proposals for new mast sites should be supported by:*

- a) an explanation of how the proposed equipment fits into the wider network; and*
- b) a statement on alternative options considered including justification that mast sharing has been explored and the reasons why it is not suitable or possible; and*
- c) details of the design, including height, materials and other components of the proposal.*

*In addition, an assessment of visual impact may be required for proposals close to housing, sited in sensitive landscapes or a National Scenic Area or where they may impact upon the setting of a Listed Building or Scheduled Ancient Monument or where this information is considered necessary to inform an assessment of the proposal.*

*The removal of redundant masts and equipment and restoration of the site will be a condition of planning consent.”*

## Other Guidance

### Visual representation of development proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019)

This guidance builds on principles outlined within the Third Edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute in association with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) and is aimed at helping landscape architects, planning officers and other stakeholders select a proportionate type of visualisation to meet the circumstances in which they will be used.

For a non-Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, such as this report, Type 4 photomontage and photowire visualisations are considered suitable as they illustrate the scale, location, materiality, and colours of the Proposed Development.

### Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2) (NatureScot, 2017)

This guidance is aimed at those producing visual representations of wind farm developments and was revised in 2017 to make the information more accessible to both the public and decision makers. The guidance includes a comprehensive description of ZTV mapping, including its uses and limitations. It includes guidance on viewpoints and their selection and siting as part of an LVIA. All ZTVs prepared in support of this LVA have been produced in accordance with this guidance.

### Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 374 - The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas) (NatureScot, formerly Scottish Natural Heritage, 2010)

An updated version of research published in 1978 in a publication entitled *Scotland's Scenic Heritage*, this guidance is intended to provide greater understanding of the 40 National Scenic Areas (NSAs) in Scotland. The aim of this guidance is to assist professionals in making decisions about the impact of development on NSAs.

### Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas - technical guidance (NatureScot, 2024),

First published in September 2020, and then later revised in August 2023 to be in keeping with Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), this guidance provides a methodology "for assessing the impact of development on WLAs, as they are experienced from within the WLA, not from outwith. It supports the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4)." (NatureScot, 2024).

### Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Digital Telecommunications

This guidance contains a range of guidance topics, however the most relevant to the report is the section relating to the siting and design of telecommunications infrastructure. This states that "There are many ways that the environmental, landscape and visual impact of a ground-based mast can be mitigated. These include:

- placing a mast close to similar structures. Visual impact can be lessened by siting masts in locations that already contain engineered forms and structures such as industrial and commercial premises or major road junctions where road signs, lamp posts and traffic lights are present.
- placing a mast in or adjacent to existing trees, which may include planting trees to help integrate it in the landscape. This option is likely to be more feasible in or near wooded areas. Care should be taken to avoid the unnecessary loss of existing trees and siting outwith the crown of the tree should be sought. In addition, it should be borne in mind that antennas would need to be located above the tops of the trees to operate effectively (with allowance of future tree growth for non-mature trees). NPF4 Policy 6 has an intention to



*protect and expand forests, woodland and trees, reflecting Scottish Forestry's Control of Woodland Removal Policy.*

- *where no visual screening is available, slimline lattice masts may be the most effective design solution. Their light-permeable structure can help to reduce the visual mass and bulk of the development. Locations where the mast can be backdropped by topography in main views are preferred.*
- *appropriate colouring – for example, masts that are most often viewed against the sky, are best left with a galvanised finish or coloured pale grey. Against a wooded backdrop, colouring the equipment a matt green or brown colour could be more appropriate.”*

## Appendix B Assessment Methodology

### Introduction

This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared with reference to the Third Edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA<sub>3</sub>) (Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013).

The purpose of this appraisal is to consider potential changes resulting from the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity. Although, there is no requirement for a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), this appraisal has been prepared with reference to GLVIA<sub>3</sub> (Landscape Institute in association with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) and the GLVIA Statement of Clarification 4 (January 2013), which provides guidance on the terminology to be used in non-EIA Landscape and Visual Appraisals, such as:

*"In carrying out appraisals the same principles and process as LVIA may be applied but, in doing so, it is not required to establish whether the effects arising are or are not significant given that the exercise is not being undertaken for EIA purposes. The reason is that should a landscape professional apply LVIA principles and processes carrying out an appraisal and then go on to determine that certain effects would likely be significant, given the term 'significant' is enshrined in EIA regulations, such a judgement could trigger the requirement for a formal EIA. The emphasis on likely 'significant effects' in formal LVIA stresses the need for an approach that is proportional to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of its likely effects. The same principle – focussing on a proportional approach – also applies to appraisals of landscape and visual impacts outside the formal requirements of EIA."*

In line with the guidance, the terms "significant" and "not significant" are not used. Instead, the landscape assessment considers proposed changes in terms of being "adverse" or "beneficial" on the baseline landscape resource, whilst the visual assessment focusses upon changes resulting from the Proposed Development on visual amenity.

### Assessment Procedures

Landscape assessment and visual impact assessments are separate, though linked, procedures. Assessment of likely effects on the landscape considers the potential for effects on the environmental resource (i.e. the landscape), whereas assessment of likely visual effects considers the potential for inter-related effects on visual receptors.

Landscape effects derive from changes in the physical landscape which may give rise to changes in its character and how this is experienced, including consideration of landscape perception, which may in turn affect the perceived value ascribed to the landscape. Visual effects meanwhile relate to changes that arise in the composition of available views as a result of changes: to the landscape; to people's responses to the changes; and to the overall effects with respect to visual amenity.

The assessments of landscape and visual effects are presented separately within the LVA.

### Relevant Terminology

Key terms and definitions used in the assessment, as provided in (GLVIA<sub>3</sub>), are listed below.

- Direct effects are those directly to the Proposed Development;

- Indirect effects are those resulting indirectly from the Proposed Development as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects;
- Landscape capacity is the degree to which a particular Landscape Character Type (LCT) or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable effects on its character. Capacity varies according to the type and nature of the change being imposed, and will reflect both the sensitivity of the landscape resource and its visual sensitivity;
- Landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse;
- Landscape quality (or condition) is a measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives and the condition of individual elements;
- Landscape receptors are aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development;
- Landscape value is the relative value or importance attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a variety of reasons (often as a basis for designation or recognition), because of its quality, special features including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues;
- Magnitude (of change) combines judgements about the size and scale of the potential effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration;
- Residual effects are those attributable to the Proposed Development following assessment of any proposed design mitigation / enhancements;
- Sensitivity is related to the specific receptors' (landscape or visual) vulnerability to change. Sensitivity is assessed by combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor. Viewpoint sensitivity depends on the context of the viewpoint, its importance, the current occupation and viewing opportunity of the people and groups of people being considered, and the number of people affected;
- Visual amenity refers to the overall pleasantness of views enjoyed by people of their surroundings or to the visual setting or backdrop to the activities they enjoy whilst living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area; and
- Visual receptors are individuals and / or groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.

## Key Steps in the Methodology

The key steps in the methodology were as follows:

- Preliminary desk study of the baseline landscape and visual characteristics of the site and the 5km study area, including production of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, through the use of computer modelling to visualise the potential visibility pattern;
- The Brindley assessment team undertook a site visit in March 2024, during which we:
  - Undertook photography from representative viewpoint locations;
  - Drove and walked access tracks and paths within the 5km study area; and
  - Recorded and photographed important landscape features on and around the Proposed Development site.
- Identification of planning policy of relevance to landscape character and visual amenity;

- Description of the relevant landscape types present in the study area taking into account: key characteristics and value (including landscape designations); landform; settlement pattern; distinguishing features (such as vegetation and land cover); nature of views available; and setting;
- Selection of viewpoints across the ZTV to best represent the range of views and types of receptors likely to be affected by the Proposed Development;
- Production of visualisations of the Proposed Development from various viewpoints;
- Prediction of likely effects on landscape resources and visual amenity resulting from the Proposed Development;
- Identification of measures to mitigate potential impacts attributable to the Proposed Development;
- Evaluation of Magnitude of Change on the landscape (taking on board mitigation measures) for LCTs and designated landscape features in the study area with the potential to experience significant effects. Prediction of the Magnitude of Change in visual amenity as perceived from each viewpoint; and
- Evaluation of the residual effects (assuming the identified mitigation measures are adopted) upon selected LCTs, designated features and viewpoints.
- Findings of desk and field-based research, and initial assessment are fed into the design evolution with mitigation measures refined and adapted in order to develop the best possible proposal for the development.

### Assessment of Sensitivity, Magnitude of Change and Level of Effects

The assessment of landscape and visual effects is typically based on three stages:

- Classification of the sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors to the Proposed Development;
- Prediction of the Magnitude of Change in the landscape or the view; and
- Evaluation of the landscape and visual effects depending on the sensitivity of the landscape or viewer to change and the Magnitude of Change resulting from the Proposed Development.

### Sensitivity / Importance of Landscape and Visual Receptors

The sensitivity of a receptor is considered to be a combination of its susceptibility to the type of change proposed and the value attached to the receptor.

The susceptibility of a landscape receptor is judged on the extent to which the landscape can accommodate change without effects upon its key characteristics. Susceptibility varies according to the type of development proposed, including whether it will have direct or indirect effects on the landscape, and the landscape's:

- Individual elements;
- Key characteristics; and
- Inherent quality or condition.

The proximity of the Proposed Development has no bearing on the susceptibility of a landscape receptor. The table below defines landscape susceptibility.

**Table B1 – Landscape Receptor Susceptibility.**

Landscape Receptor Susceptibility	Definition
<p><b>Very high</b></p>	<p>Landscape receptors with key characteristics that are very highly vulnerable to the type of development / change proposed. For example, wildland areas where there is no or very little evidence of human activity. Typically, these are defined by low-scale, naturalistic elements where no or limited human-made features are present.</p> <p>Very High susceptibility is considered where the Proposed Development may have direct effects upon the landscape.</p>
<p><b>High</b></p>	<p>Landscape receptors with key characteristics that are highly vulnerable to the type of development / change proposed. Typically, these landscape receptors are defined by medium to low-scale elements, mostly of a naturalistic nature with some human-made features present.</p> <p>High susceptibility is considered where the Proposed Development may have direct effects upon the landscape and/or where the Proposed Development may have indirect effects on views from the landscape that are noted as a key characteristic.</p>
<p><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Landscape receptors with key characteristics that are of moderate vulnerability to the type of development / change proposed. Typically, these landscape receptors which are defined by medium-scale elements, with a mixture of human-made and naturalistic features.</p> <p>Medium susceptibility is considered where the Proposed Development may have indirect effects on views from the landscape that are noted as a key characteristic.</p>
<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>Landscape receptors with key characteristics that are unlikely to be affected by the type of development / change proposed.</p> <p>Low susceptibility is considered where the Proposed Development may have indirect effects on views from the landscape.</p>

The value of a landscape receptor is judged by the importance of the receptor to the people who experience it. This includes designations that may apply to it, such as local, national and global designations. The table below defines landscape value.

**Table B2 – Landscape Value.**

Landscape Value	Definition
<b>Outstanding</b>	Iconic and highly scenic landscape of international or nationally important landscape such as a World Heritage Site. The cultural associations of the landscape receptors are widely recognised in literature or other media.
<b>High</b>	Highly scenic landscape of national or local importance, the cultural associations of which are regularly recognised in art, literature, or other media. Landscape noted for its importance through local authority landscape/townscape assessments or local designation reviews.
<b>Medium</b>	A landscape which may be of value to a local community but has no formal designation. An ordinary or good quality landscape but unlikely to be visited by people to experience the landscape.
<b>Low</b>	A landscape of low quality and/or has been left derelict, this includes industrial estates and busy main roads which may be of minimal local community value and has no formal planning status.

Visual receptors' susceptibility is determined by the amount of change that can be accommodated within a view. Susceptibility of the receptor varies dependent upon:

- The context of the view;
- Its relative importance;
- The duration of the viewing opportunity;
- The number of people potentially affected; and
- Any activity they may be engaged in (e.g. leisure activities, driving, working).

The proximity of the Proposed Development has no bearing on the susceptibility of a visual receptor.

Susceptibility is described as very high, high, medium or low according to the following criteria.

**Table B3 – Visual Susceptibility.**

Visual Receptor Susceptibility	Definition
<p><b>Very high</b></p>	<p>Viewers whose attention or interest is highly focused on their surroundings, typically with a prolonged viewing opportunity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities with outstanding views of the highest scenic quality (e.g. towards or within/ across nationally designated landscapes);</li> <li>• People engaged in outdoor recreation with outstanding views of the highest scenic quality (for example users of rights of way including national trails and promoted routes with views within, across, or of nationally designated landscapes); and</li> <li>• Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views are of the highest scenic quality and an important contributor to experience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>High</b></p>	<p>Viewers whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings, typically with a prolonged viewing opportunity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents;</li> <li>• People engaged in outdoor recreation (for example users of rights of way including national trails and promoted routes, whose interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or views from nationally or locally designated landscapes);</li> <li>• Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience; and</li> <li>• People travelling on scenic routes and tourist routes, where attention is focused on the surrounding landscape.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Viewers whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings to some extent including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People travelling on local road routes, where attention may be focused on the surrounding landscape, but is transitory; and</li> <li>• People at their place of work whose attention is focused on the surroundings and where setting is important to the quality of working life (for example farmers and estate rangers).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p>Viewers whose attention or interest is less focused on their surroundings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People travelling more rapidly on major road, rail or transport routes (not recognised as scenic routes);</li> <li>• People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and</li> <li>• People at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings (and where setting is not important to the quality of working life).</li> </ul>

The value of a view is judged importance of the receptor to people. This includes views noted for their importance, such viewpoints and locally, nationally and globally designated views. The table below defines the potential value associated with a view.

**Table B4 – Value of a View.**

Value of a View	Definition
<b>Outstanding</b>	Iconic, and highly scenic view, of national or international importance, or a view which is associated with a nationally or internationally designated landscape or heritage asset, the cultural associations of which are widely recognised in art, literature, or other media.
<b>High</b>	Highly scenic view, associated with a landscape or heritage asset of national or regional value, the cultural association of which are regularly recognised in art, literature, or other media.  Views associated with local authority designated landscapes or recorded as of importance on long distance walking routes, in Conservation Area Appraisals or local authority landscape / townscape assessments.  The value of such views may have been identified as part of the consultation process and through site visits. Elements or features within the view are likely to be in good condition, with few detracting features.
<b>Medium</b>	Although the view may be valuable to the local community, the location has no formal planning status, is in an area of ordinary landscape value or reasonably good landscape value but with detracting elements or features.  People are unlikely to visit the viewpoint to experience the view.
<b>Low</b>	View is of an area of low landscape quality that has very few positive characteristics and numerous or dominant detracting features (e.g. industrial estate / busy main road).  The view may be of minimal value to the local community and the location has no formal planning status.

The overall sensitivity of a receptor is the culmination of susceptibility and value. The below table sets out the criteria used in this assessment to determine the sensitivity of receptors.

The following table provides a guide for the assessor and is not intended to be prescriptive. It has been included to illustrate how the combination of receptor susceptibility and receptor value can determine receptor sensitivity. The application of professional judgement means there may be some instances where the predicted effect does not align with the grade illustrated below.



Table B5 – Sensitivity of Receptors.

		Landscape Value / Value of View					
		Outstanding	High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium / Low	Low
Susceptibility of Receptor	Very high	Very high	Very high / high	High	High	High / Medium	High / Medium
	High	Very high / high	High	High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium
	High / Medium	High	High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Medium	High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium / Low
	Medium / Low	High / Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium / Low	Low
	Low	High / Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium / Low	Low	Low

As the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors can vary depending on the correlation of several factors, the determined sensitivity of each receptor is determined by the assessor on a case-by-case basis. As such, intermediate grades such as high/ medium are possible.

### Magnitude of Change

The change experienced in a view will depend on: the extent of visibility; the nature of a view (e.g., framed / open or back clothed / skyline view) and its context; degree of obstruction by existing features and contrast with the existing view; the angle of view; the duration of the view; and the distance from the Proposed Development.

The Magnitude of Change experienced by landscape receptors can be described as:

- **High** – When major loss or alteration to key elements/ features/ characteristics are predicted to occur, resulting in a substantial change in landscape characteristics;
- **Medium** – When partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/ features/ characteristics is predicted to occur, resulting in moderate changes in landscape characteristics;

- **Low** – When minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/ features/ characteristics is predicted to occur, resulting in a small, yet discernible change in landscape characteristics; or
- **Negligible** – When a virtually imperceptible change in characteristics is predicted to affect the landscape.

The Magnitude of Change in views and visual amenity is described as:

- **High** – Where there are predicted to be substantial changes in the view, which may be visible for a long duration, facing the change, or which may be in stark contrast with the existing view, or obstruction of a substantial part or important elements of views beyond the Proposed Development area;
- **Medium** – Where there are predicted to be moderate changes in the view, or visible for a moderate duration, perhaps at a slight angle, where changes may be in contrast with the existing view, or obstruction of a noticeable part or elements of views beyond the Proposed Development area;
- **Low** – Where there are predicted to be slight changes in the view, or visible for a short duration, perhaps at an oblique angle, or which may blend to an extent with the existing view; or
- **Negligible** – Where the change in view is barely visible, or visible for a very short duration, perhaps at an oblique angle, or which may blend with the existing view, usually at some distance from the Proposed Development.

Judgements on the Magnitude of Change rely, to a great extent, on professional judgement. The Magnitude of Change is determined on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the weighting of the variable parameters described above. As a result, intermediate grades such as high / medium are possible.

The Magnitude of Change is described as high, medium, low, negligible or none based on the interpretation of various parameters, including:

- Distance: the distance between the receptor and the Proposed Development. Generally, the greater the distance, the lower the magnitude;
- Extent: the extent of the Proposed Development which is visible;
- Proportion: the arc of view occupied by the Proposed Development in proportion to the overall field of view. A panoramic view, where the Proposed Development takes up a small part of it, would generally experience a lower magnitude than a framed or focussed view, even if the arc of view occupied by the Proposed Development is similar in both;
- Geographical extent: the extent of geographical area influenced. Generally, a larger area would result in a higher Magnitude of Change;
- Duration: the duration of the effect. An effect experienced in a single location over an extended period of time is likely to result in a higher Magnitude of Change than a similar visual effect which is of a short duration, such as a brief view from a road;
- Reversibility: whether change associated with the Proposed Development could be fully or partially reversed or is irreversible;
- Orientation: the angle of the view in relation to the main receptor orientation, where there is a dominant direction to the vista;
- Context: the elements which provide the setting and context to the Proposed Development such as other built development; and
- Backdrop: the elements which provide the backdrop to the Proposed Development. Generally, where landform or woodland forms the background to the view, the Magnitude of Change is lower.

Judgements on the Magnitude of Change rely, to a great extent, on professional judgement. The Magnitude of Change is determined on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the weighting of the variable parameters described above. As a result, intermediate grades such as high/medium are possible.

Table B6 sets out the criteria used in this assessment to determine the Magnitude of Change.

**Table B6 – Magnitude of Change.**

Magnitude of Change	Landscape	Visual
<b>High</b>	Total loss of or major alteration to key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions such that character / composition / attributes of the existing baseline would be fundamentally changed.	Major influence on the focus of the view, resulting in the Proposed Development becoming the eye-catching focus of the view.
<b>Medium</b>	Partial loss of or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions such that character / composition / attributes of the existing baseline would be partially changed.	Clearly visible element, but not an overriding or defining element in the view.
<b>Low</b>	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions.  Change arising from the loss / alteration would be discernible but underlying character / composition of the baseline condition would be similar existing circumstances / patterns.	Partial view of Proposed Development, with other features in the view being the defining elements.
<b>Negligible</b>	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements / features / characteristics of the baseline conditions. Change barely distinguishable – approximating to the 'no change' situation.	The Proposed Development may be visible but would not noticeably alter the view.
<b>None</b>	No change.	No change.

## Level of Effect

The level of effect is determined by consideration of each effect that has been identified; its Magnitude of Change; and the sensitivity of the affected receptor. Whilst similar in approach, assessments on the significance of residual effects appraise the resultant effects following the establishment of the proposed design mitigation / enhancements.

Effects are described as being:

- **Major** – When the Proposed Development results in changes that substantially affect the character or views of the landscape or the elements therein. For example, a major effect is likely when a receptor of High sensitivity is affected by a high Magnitude of Change;
- **Moderate** – When the Proposed Development results in changes that affect, to a lesser degree, the character or views of the landscape or the elements therein. For example, a moderate effect is likely when a receptor of Medium sensitivity is affected by a medium Magnitude of Change;
- **Minor** – When the Proposed Development results in a slight change that affects the character or views of the landscape or specific elements therein. For example, a minor effect is likely when a receptor of Low sensitivity is affected by a low Magnitude of Change; or
- **Negligible** – When the Proposed Development results in no or a barely perceptible change, that affects the character or views of the landscape or specific elements therein.

There are gradual transitions between levels of effects, which reflect the complex relationship between the different variables under consideration. Professional judgement and experience are applied in order to identify those effects that are likely to be significant. Each case is assessed on its own merits as factors unique to each circumstance, are considered.

This LVA includes assessments of likely landscape and visual effects as a result of the Proposed Development during:

- During the construction phase; and
- In year 1, when the construction phase is complete.

**Table B7 – Matrix for Determining the Level of Effects.**

		Sensitivity of Receptor					
		Very high	High	High / Medium	Medium	Medium / Low	Low
Magnitude of Change	High	Major	Major	Major	Major / moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	High / Medium	Major	Major	Major / moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor
	Medium	Major	Major / moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor
	Medium / Low	Major / moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor
	Low	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

This matrix is not used as a prescriptive tool and the methodology and analysis of potential effects at any particular location must take account of professional judgement. Occasionally, analysis may not reflect the effects predicted by the grid; the table is used as a guide only.

### Assessment of Effects upon Routes

Potential effects that occur in views from main vehicular and marked recreational routes, paths and trails are assessed primarily from roads and footpaths that face the Proposed Development. Views from routes are however generally restricted to the direction of travel. Potential views are dependent on local circumstances including: extent and type of vegetation; boundary types; and close and mid-distance topography.

The assessment of effects upon routes includes the following, which are undertaken through desk-top study and field work:

- An analysis of views along main vehicular and marked routes;
- An assessment of the existing characteristics of the route; and
- Interrogation of other visualisation tools such as ZTV mapping.

## Nature of Effects

Effects can be direct or indirect. Direct effects are generally limited to those parts of the site physically affected by the footprint of the proposed development. Potential indirect effects generally relate to the introduction of elements of the proposed development to the context of the existing landscape and visual baseline.

Effects may be short term / temporary (i.e. those occurring during construction of the proposed development) or long term / permanent (i.e. those lasting for the lifetime of the proposed development).

Effects attributable to the proposed development can be regarded as positive/ beneficial or negative/ adverse and in some cases may be considered to be neutral. Generally, changes in the landscape that result in the loss of rural characteristics are generally considered to be negative / adverse.

Some may consider the visual effects as positive/ beneficial or negative / adverse depending upon their predisposition towards landscape, landscape change and their subjective opinion to the type of change proposed.

Assuming a precautionary approach in making an assessment of the 'worst case scenario', this assessment considers all potential effects which would arise from the proposed development to be negative / adverse, unless specifically identified as being beneficial/ neutral in the assessment. Again, depending on the receptors predisposition, not all people would consider the effects to be negative/ adverse, or that negative/ adverse effects would necessarily be considered unacceptable

## Limitations and Assumptions

The assessment has been based on the proposed site layout as provided by WHP Telecoms on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. The LVA has been undertaken with reference to a combination of desk and field study and was informed by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping and aerial photography in order to determine the scope of the assessment and focus on those receptors with the potential to experience significant effects as a result of the proposed development.

The assessment of landscape and visual effects was undertaken from publicly accessible roads and paths, based upon anticipated views from areas surrounding the proposed development, and with inward views of the study area in order to quantify the theoretical visibility patterns associated with the proposed development.



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# Sgalabhal Hilltop, Isle of Lewis

Photomontage Package

March 2024



creative • environmental



For WHP Telecoms



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Front cover visualisation created based on VPo4.



## Zone of Theoretical Visibility & Visualisation Methodology Statement

### Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping

Computer modelling has been utilised to illustrate the effects of the proposed development through the production of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping. ZTV maps indicate those areas of land from which the proposed development might appear as part of a view. As such, they provide a means of identifying potential receptors (landscape and visual) in order for an assessment to be undertaken.

The ZTVs utilised to inform the assessment have been generated in 'WindFarm R5' software produced by ReSoft. In the software, the ZTV has been banded in colour to demonstrate where the proposed development may theoretically be seen from any point in the study area.

The ZTV maps produced have utilised OS Terrain 5 dataset at 5m grid intervals. There are limitations in this theoretical modelling, and these should be borne in mind when viewing and using the ZTV Figures. Firstly, the ZTV shown in Figure 04 illustrates the 'bareground' situation and does not consider the screening effect of vegetation, buildings or other localised features that may prevent or reduce visibility.

Secondly, there may still be small-scale topography discrepancies that could alter actual visibility of the proposed development, either by screening theoretical visibility or revealing parts that are not theoretically visible. Finally, the ZTV map does not consider: the likely orientation of a viewer; the direction and speed of travel; or the angle of view. There is also no allowance for reduced visibility associated with distance, weather or lighting conditions.

### Visualisations Introduction

A photomontage is an illustration of a proposed development that is as accurate as is feasibly possible within the limits of the equipment and software used. Although it is never possible to be completely accurate due to minor errors in survey data and photographic distortion, implementation of a robust methodology based on accurate survey and proposal information will result in a negligible degree of error.

It should be borne in mind that the visual character of the proposed development will undoubtedly appear differently when viewed in varying weather and/ or lighting conditions. It must also be noted that photomontages cannot accurately convey a view as experienced on site. They should therefore be treated as an artist's impression of the proposed development rather than as a true representation. Wireframe representations, in particular, can overemphasise the proposed development, making it appear more prominent than it would in the landscape.

### Photography

Viewpoints are locations where visibility of the proposed development is theoretically available and are representative of specific conditions and/ or receptors. They are useful for assessing specific views from sensitive locations and a diverse number of receptor groups, and are selected to be representative of visibility patterns in the study area. They are also useful in illustrating indirect landscape effects. Viewpoints are, by their nature, static representations located in publicly accessible areas such as roads, tracks and footpaths, which in reality tend to be experienced by receptors moving through the landscape together with other views.

The four representative viewpoints illustrated were selected following a site visit to the proposed development site and surrounding area. The chosen viewpoint locations have been selected to illustrate potential visibility from designated landscapes and the limited number of access tracks within the study area.

Site photography for the photomontages was undertaken in March 2024 and is representative of the typical weather conditions experienced at this time of year. All viewpoints were micro-sited, on-site, to ensure worst case visibility of the proposed development from the representative location and to avoid foreground objects, where possible.

In line with best practice guidance (Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Landscape Institute, September 2019), photography utilised for the preparation of images was taken with a digital SLR camera with full frame (35mm) sensor, using a 50mm focal length prime lens, mounted on a level tripod with levelled panoramic head. The centre of the camera lens was positioned at a height of 1.5m to 1.65m above ground level. All photography was taken in landscape format.

### Survey

In the production of Type 3 visualisations, location data is required for camera viewpoints and a number of reference points which are used to accurately match the digital CGI model to the photograph. The reference points are details within the view that are easily identifiable and are commonly features such as terrain, buildings and telegraph poles. Ordnance Survey (OS) grid coordinates of the camera tripod location were obtained using a hand-held GPS unit. As there is a margin of error with hand-held GPS units, viewpoint coordinates were adjusted slightly where required, based on aerial imagery and OS data. 3D topographic survey data was used in combination with OS mapping, terrain data and GIS aerial imagery to provide reference points for accurately aligning the digital CGI model and the photograph.

### Photography Post-Production

All visualisations shown have a horizontal field of view of 53.5° and are presented in planar projection, to provide binocular scaling in line with LI Visualisation Guidance. Where possible, it was ensured that the entire development was visible within the image whilst providing sufficient landscape and visual context. Some fine-tuning of the photography settings has been used during post-production to reduce distant haze or improve the lighting conditions making the image clearer, however this was kept to a minimum.

In order to produce base photography with a horizontal field of view of 53.5°, several single frame images were 'stitched' together in cylindrical format using Kolor Autopano Giga software. To ensure the minimum of optical distortion and parallax error, the following precautions were taken:

- When taking the photography, a tripod with a panoramic head was used. The levelling plate, set between the tripod and the tripod head, ensured that the plane of rotation of the camera was exactly horizontal. This avoids 'stepping' – the result effect of misaligned adjacent frames of photography;
- To eliminate parallax error, a sliding plate on the tripod head was used. This allowed the camera to be positioned so that the nodal point of the lens was positioned over the axis of rotation;
- The photographs were taken in 15° increments, to allow for an overlap of 50% between adjacent frames in the photography stitching software. This means that each panorama is constructed using only the central 50% of each photograph, discarding the areas with the greatest amount of lens distortion;
- The photography stitching software automatically generates control points for aligning the photographs to each other. These control points were refined manually, removing inaccurate points and adding additional ones where necessary to ensure the final image was subject to the minimum level of distortion; and
- The stitched photograph's vanishing point was adjusted to match the camera in the 3D model.

### Construction of digital model

Firstly, the topographic survey and OS data was imported into digital modelling software (3DS Max) and used as a reference to accurately locate the proposed development model at OS grid coordinates. The proposed site layout drawing was then imported and used as a reference for the creation of a site model.

Models of the proposed mast for the site were created using information from the client regarding the dimensions and textures of the structures. These models were imported and accurately positioned using the site layout drawing and OS terrain 5 data as a base. Realistic textures were applied to the mast and associated infrastructure and daylight systems were applied to ensure accurate shading in the CGI renders.

### Construction of visualisations

Once the model of the development was completed, the viewpoint photography information was imported into the model. A wireframe image with a 53.5° horizontal angle of view of the OS Terrain 5 data, was exported for each viewpoint location. The wireframes were then accurately matched to each photograph using the data to determine the scale and position of the wireframe within the photograph. The wireframe was never distorted to fit the photograph. As all the above survey and photography methodology had been undertaken, a good fit between photograph and wireframe was possible by simply scaling and positioning the wireframe, together with some minor rotation of the panoramic photograph to correct slight levelling errors. Illustrations demonstrating how the model has been aligned to the photograph can be made available upon request.

Once the wireframe had been aligned satisfactorily, realistic CGI renders of the model were exported at the calculated image size. These images are based upon viewpoint and camera details recorded during site work and have been rendered to match the time of day and lighting conditions in the photograph to provide a realistic image.

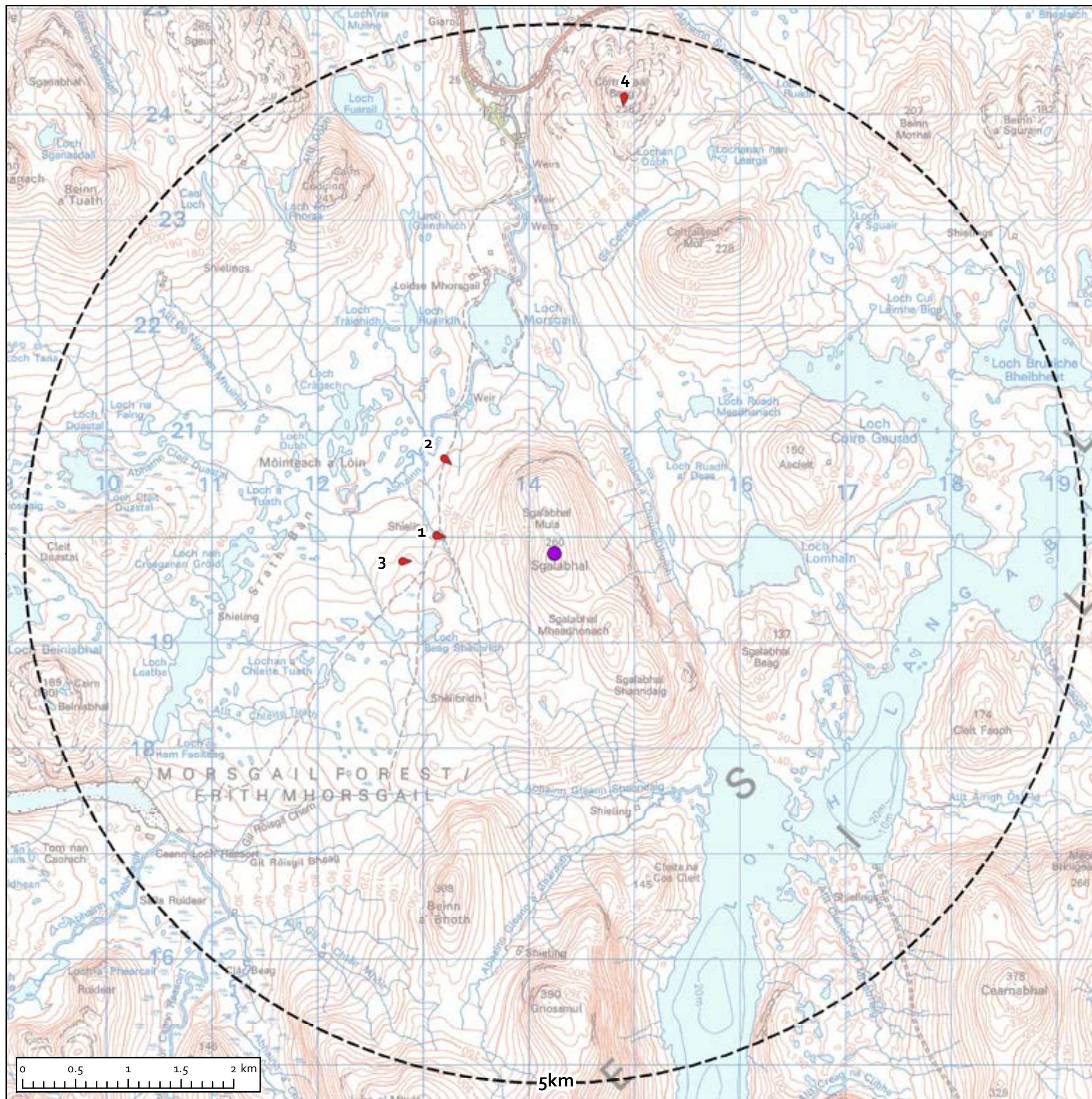
Finally, the photomontage was completed by masking those parts of the CGI image which would be hidden by foreground objects. This aspect of the work was undertaken using Photoshop CC software, with reference made to the digital model in instances where there was any uncertainty regarding which elements of the photograph screen the proposals. The CGI was then further adjusted to ensure proposed materials shown match the surroundings in terms of lighting; however, some photographic elements may be carefully added for enhanced realism for select views.

### Construction of the visualisations package




Finally, the completed visualisations were converted from cylindrical to planar format using 'WindFarm R5' software produced by ReSoft. All visualisations included in the package comprise panoramic images with a 53.5° horizontal angle of view, utilising planar projection. These images must be viewed at a certain distance and image size, as indicated on each individual visualisation, in order to obtain an accurate representation of the proposed development within the baseline view. Where possible, visualisations show the proposed development in the centre of the image.

### Summary Tables

Photography		Response
Method used to establish the camera location	Hand-held GPS on site, adjusted where required based on aerial photography & OS data	
Likely level of accuracy of location	Better than 3m	
Coordinate system used	OS Grid	
Camera make and model	Canon 6D	
Lens make and model	Canon EF 50mm	
Panoramic head make and model	Manfrotto panoramic head and leveller	
Photography orientation	Landscape	
3D Model		Response
Source of topographic height data	OS Terrain 5 data	
How have the model and the camera locations been placed in the software?	Hand-held GPS coordinates / topographic survey data in combination with GIS aerial mapping	
Elements in the view used as target points to check the horizontal alignment	OS Terrain 5 data	
Elements in the view used as target points to check the vertical alignment	OS Terrain 5 data	
3D modelling and rendering software	3DS Max and Vray 6	
External Information Utilised in Preparation of Supporting Photomontages		
Drawing Reference and Title	Drawing Date/ Date Received	Provided By
Site Layout & Elevations information	22nd February 2024	WHP Telecoms
Mapping & Terrain information	22nd February 2024	WHP Telecoms



### Legend

-  Site location
-  Study area (5km offset from site boundary)
-  Viewpoint location

### Viewpoint Locations

1. Morsgail Beehive Shielings (Grid ref. 113153, 920013)
2. Track west of Allt na Liana Baine (Grid ref. 113223, 920731)
3. Druim Bheinn na Gile (Grid ref. 112828, 919776)
4. Coltraiseal Beag hilltop (Grid ref. 114901, 924145)

### Site Location



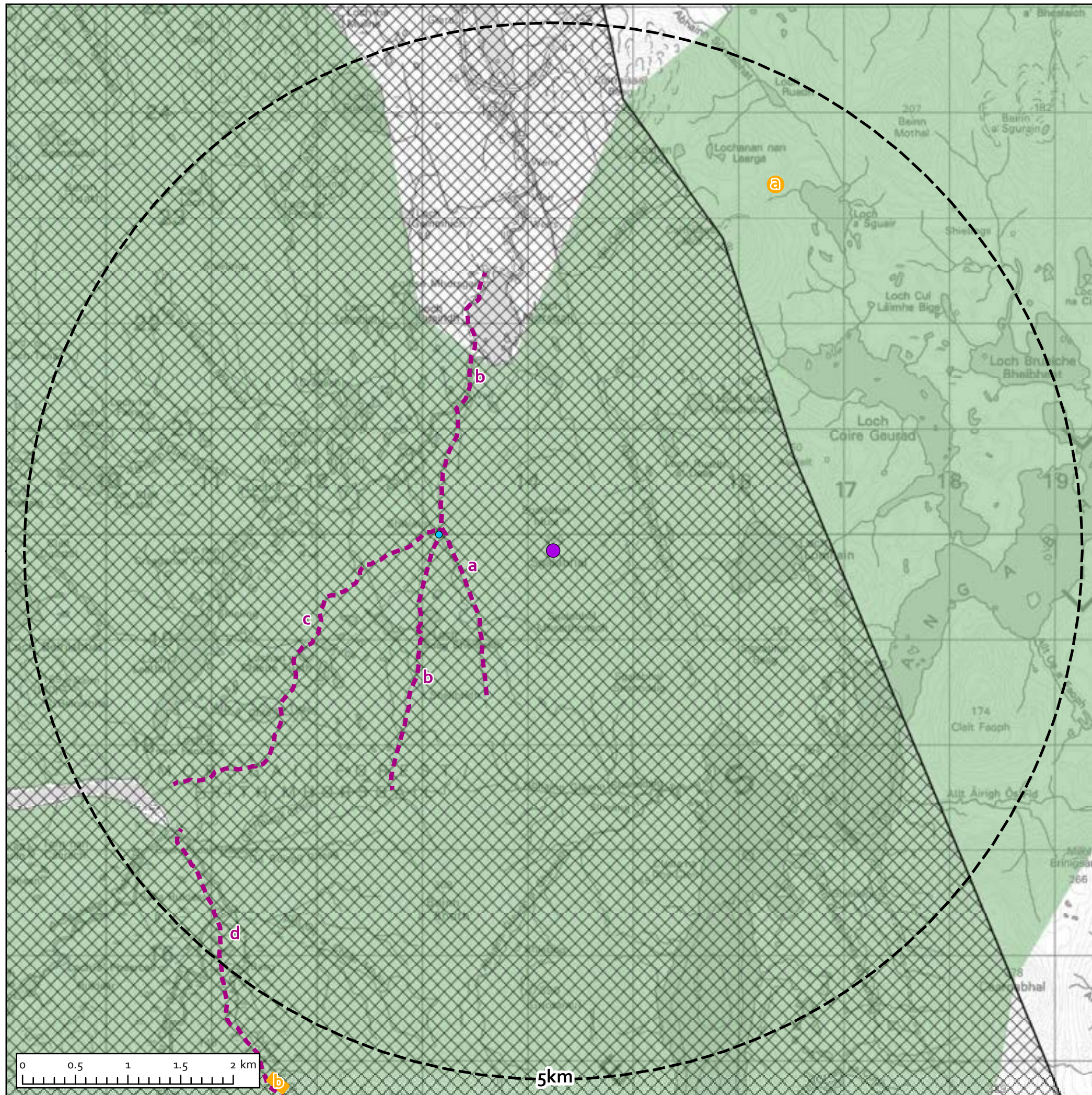
Scale: 1:250,000

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: Site Location Plan with Viewpoint Locations	
Scale: 1:37,500 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 01	Status: Planning
Drawn by: R Moore	Checked by: R Wilkie





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**Legend**

-  Site location
-  Study area (5km offset from site boundary)

**Landscape Designations**

-  Wild land:  
- 30. Harris - Uig hills
-  National scenic area:  
- South Lewis, Harris and North Uist


**Cultural Heritage Designations**

-  Scheduled monuments  
a. Airigh a'Sguir, beehive shielings  
b. Both a'Chlair Bhig, beehive shielings (outwith study area)

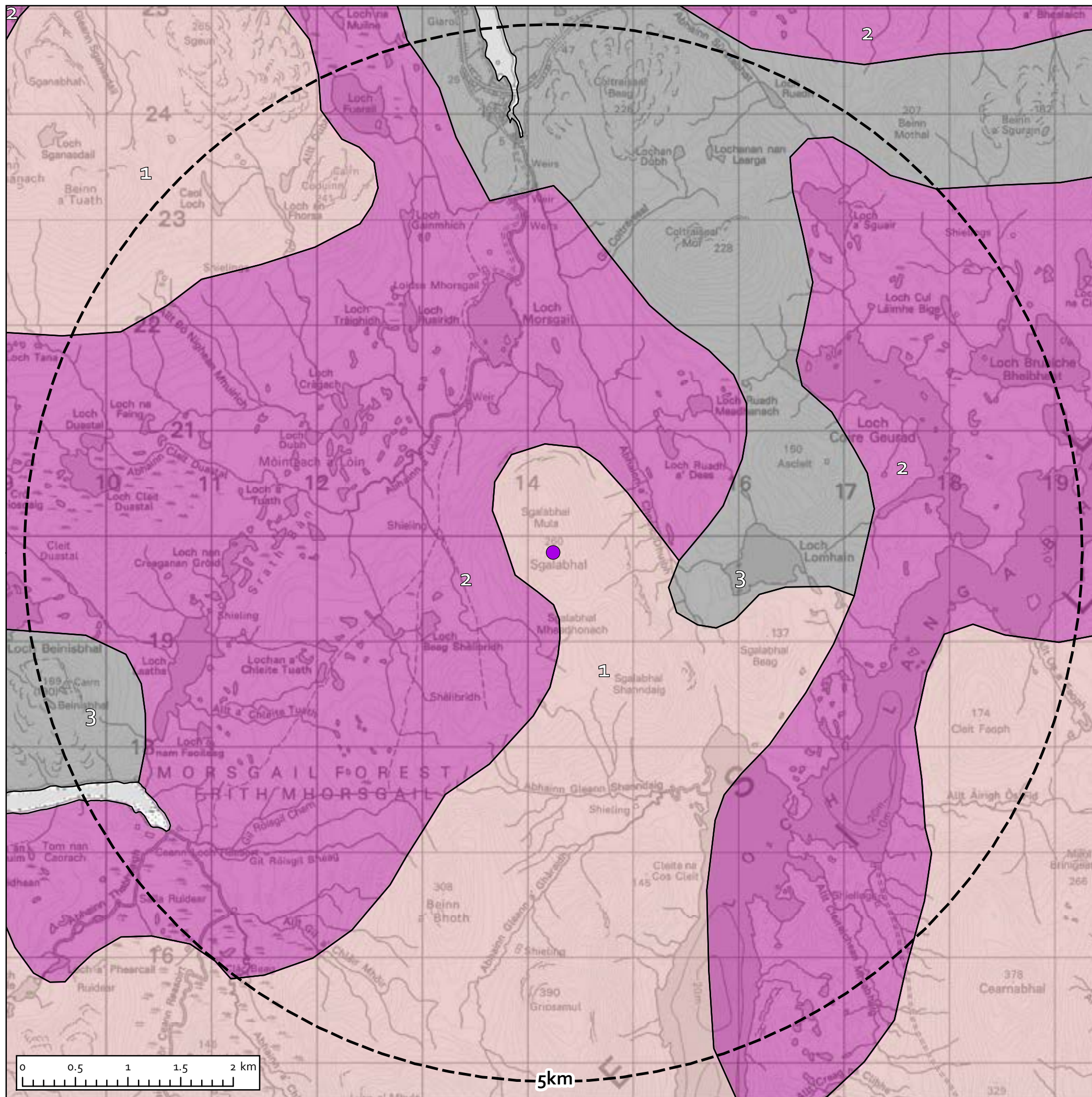
**Listed Buildings**

-  Listed buildings  
- Category B






**Designated Routes**

-  Recreational routes:  
a) Track 1: Shelibridh along eastern bank of Abhainn Bheinn na Gile  
b) Track2: Gil Roisgil Cham stream north between Loch Beag Sheilabrie and Loch Mor Shelibridh  
c) Track 3: Loch Réasort northeast past Lochan a' Chleite Tuath to Abhainn Bheinn na Gile  
d) Track 4: along south-western banks of Abhainn a' Chlair Bhig and Abhainn Mhor Ceann Reasoirt

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: Landscape Designations and Recreational Routes	
Scale: 1:37,500 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 02	Status: Planning
Drawn by: C Rigby	Checked by: R Wilkie
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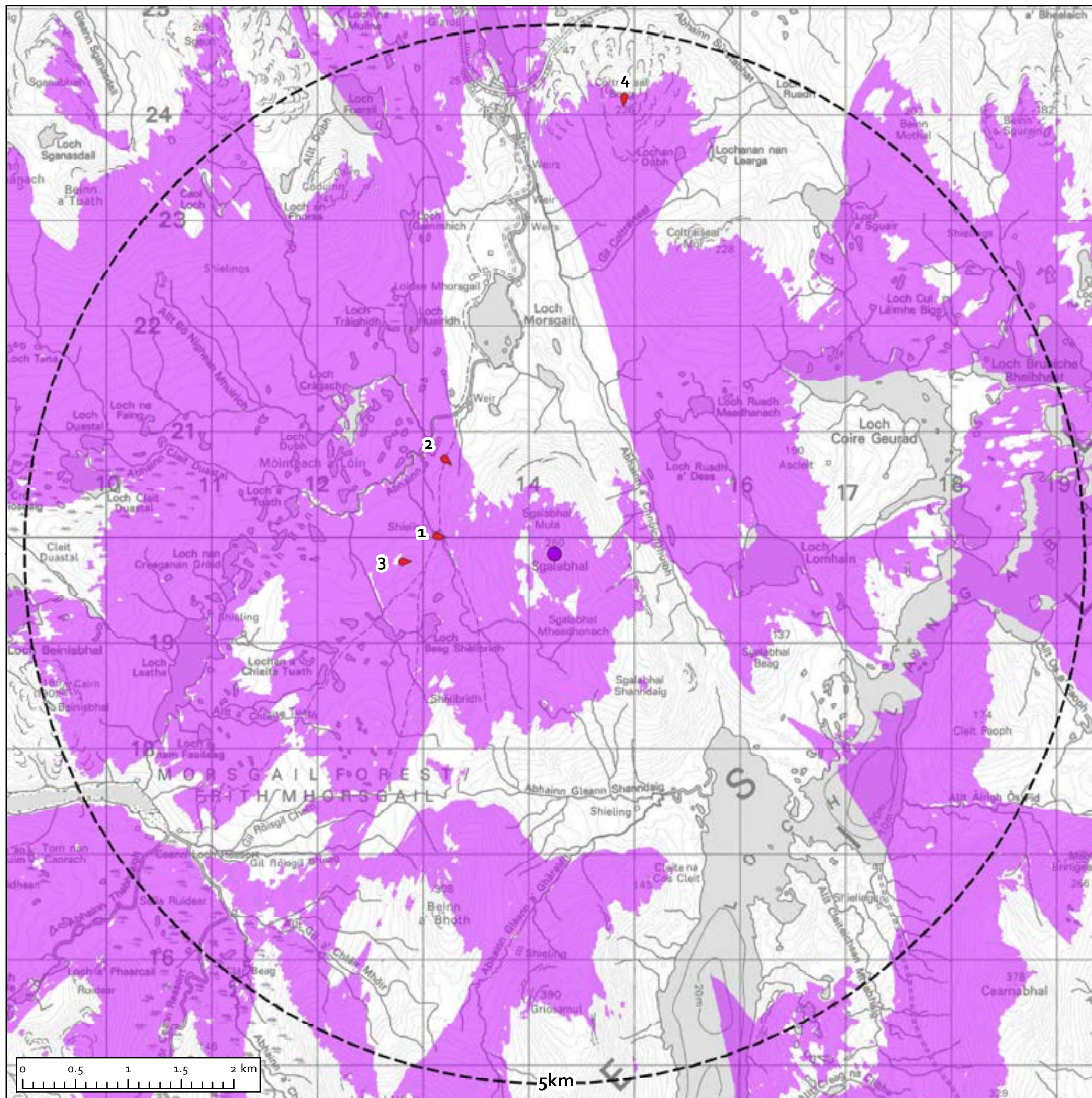
**Legend**

-  Site location
-  Study area (5km offset from site boundary)
- Landscape Character Types (LCTs) NatureScot 2019**
-  1 LCT 326: Prominent Hills and Mountains
-  2 LCT 322: Boggy Moorland - Outer Hebrides
-  3 LCT 323: Rocky Moorland - Outer Hebrides





Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: NatureScot Landscape Character Types	
Scale: 1:37,500 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 03	Status: Planning
Drawn by: C Rigby	Checked by: R Wilkie



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### Legend

-  Site location
-  Study area (5km offset from site boundary)
-  Viewpoint location
-  Proposed development theoretically visible (59.45% of 5km study area)

### Notes

1. Predicted visibility is defined from an observer eye level of 2m above ground.
2. Created using Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 dataset at 5m grid intervals.
3. The analysis does not take into account intervening screening by vegetation or buildings.
4. Reproduced from 1:25,000 scale mapping by permission of Ordnance Survey.
5. Earth's curvature and light refraction has been included in the calculation.
6. The software used to create this ZTV does not use mathematically approximate methods.

### ZTV Run Data

Site centre: 114242, 919843  
 Resolution: 5m  
 Calculation: Single development  
 Counting method: 1 for each point visible  
 Visible points: Mast (20m) / Turbines (17.41m)  
**% of 5km study area with theoretical visibility: 59.45%**

### Viewpoint Information

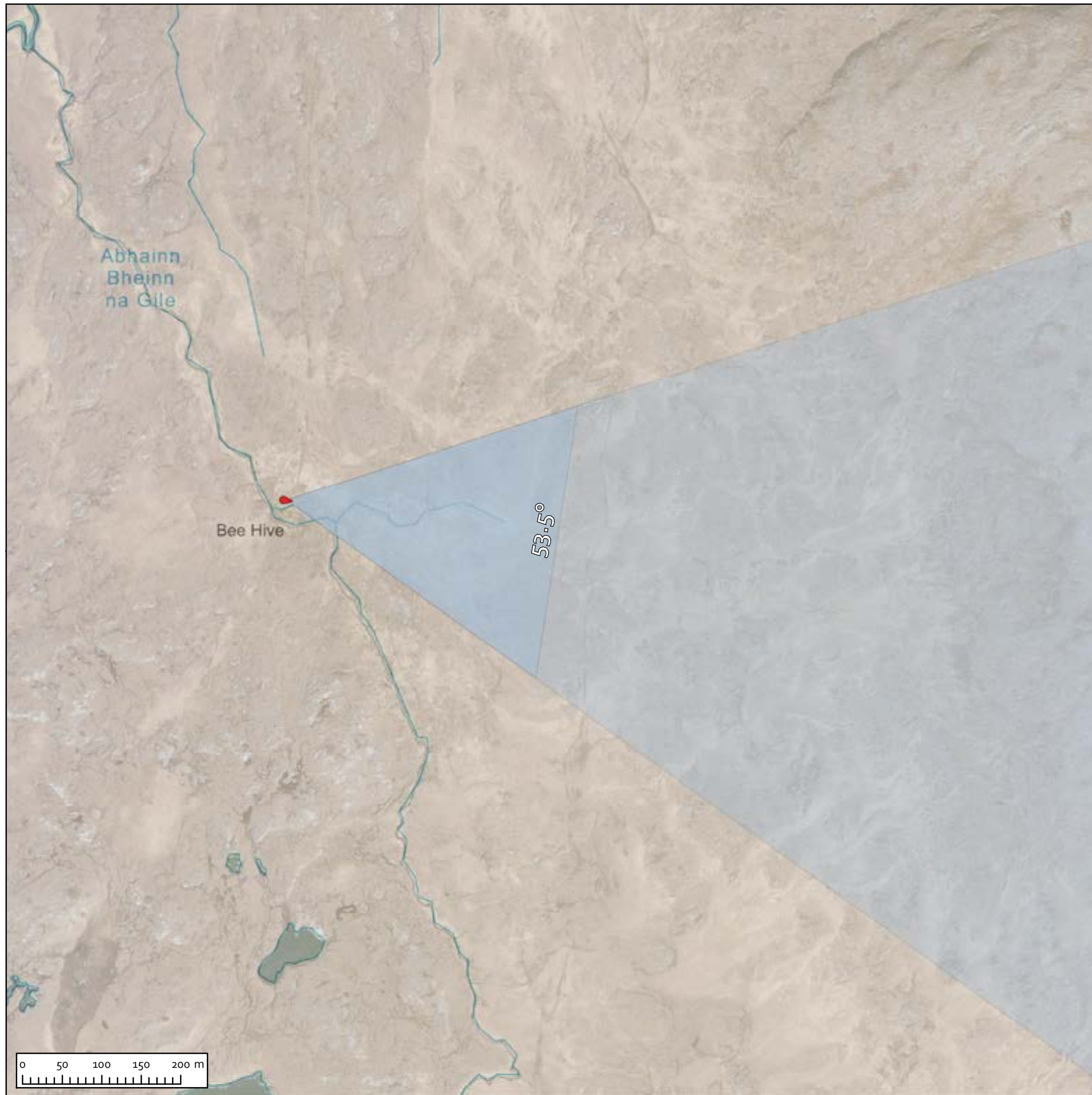
1. Morsgail Beehive Shielings (Grid ref. 113153, 920013)
2. Track west of Allt na Liana Baine (Grid ref. 113223, 920731)
3. Druim Bheinn na Gile (Grid ref. 112828, 919776)
4. Coltraiseal Beag hilltop (Grid ref. 114901, 924145)

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: Bareground Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Viewpoint Locations	
Scale: 1:37,500 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 04	Status: Planning
Drawn by: C Rigby	Checked by: R Wilkie



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**Legend**

 Viewpoint location

**VP01: Morsgail Beehive Shielings**

Viewpoint OS reference: 113153, 920013  
 Viewpoint elevation: 67m  
 Direction of view: 099°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.1km

**Tripod Location Photograph**



Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: VP01: Viewpoint Location Plan	
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 05a	Status: Planning
Drawn by: S Hyde	Checked by: R Wilkie



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Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height



**Figure Number: 05b**  
**VP01: Morsgail Beehive Shielings**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 113153, 920013  
 Viewpoint elevation: 67m AOD  
 Direction of view: 099°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.1km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 14:05pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





Photomontage (Type 3 - AVR Level 3)

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height



**Figure Number: 05c**  
**VPO1: Morsgail Beehive Shielings**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

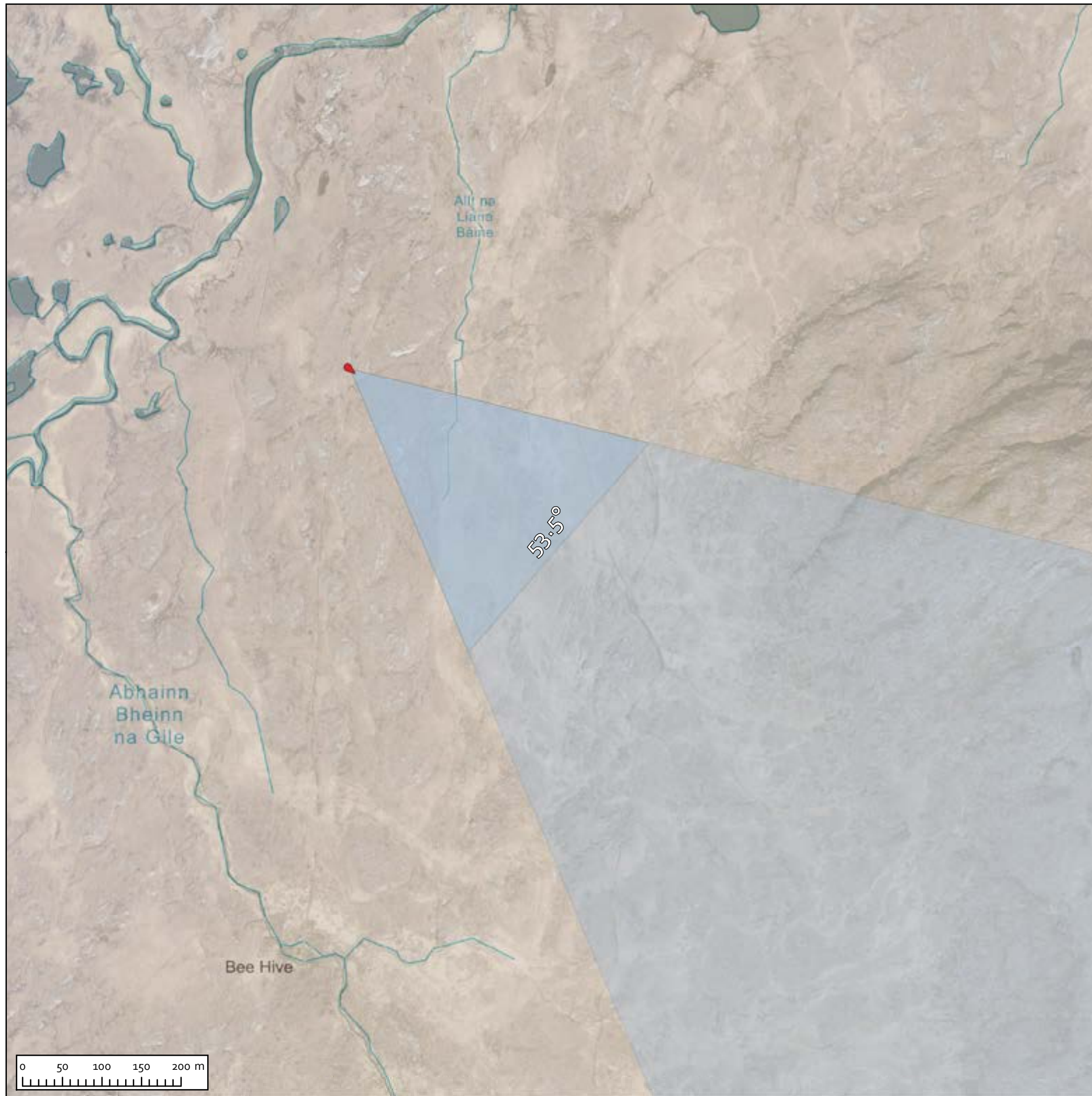
Viewpoint OS reference: 113153, 920013  
 Viewpoint elevation: 67m AOD  
 Direction of view: 099°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.1km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm


Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 14:05pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





**Legend**

 Viewpoint location

**VP02: Track west of Allt na Liana Baine**

Viewpoint OS reference: 113223, 920731  
 Viewpoint elevation: 50m  
 Direction of view: 131°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.3km

**Tripod Location Photograph**



Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: VP02: Viewpoint Location Plan	
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 06a	Status: Planning
Drawn by: S Hyde	Checked by: R Wilkie



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Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
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**Figure Number: o6b**  
**VPo2: Track west of Allt na Liana Baine**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 113223, 920731  
 Viewpoint elevation: 50m AOD  
 Direction of view: 131°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.3km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 13:35 pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height

Photomontage (Type 3 - AVR Level 3)



**Figure Number: o6c**  
**VPo2: Track west of Allt na Liana Baine**  
Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

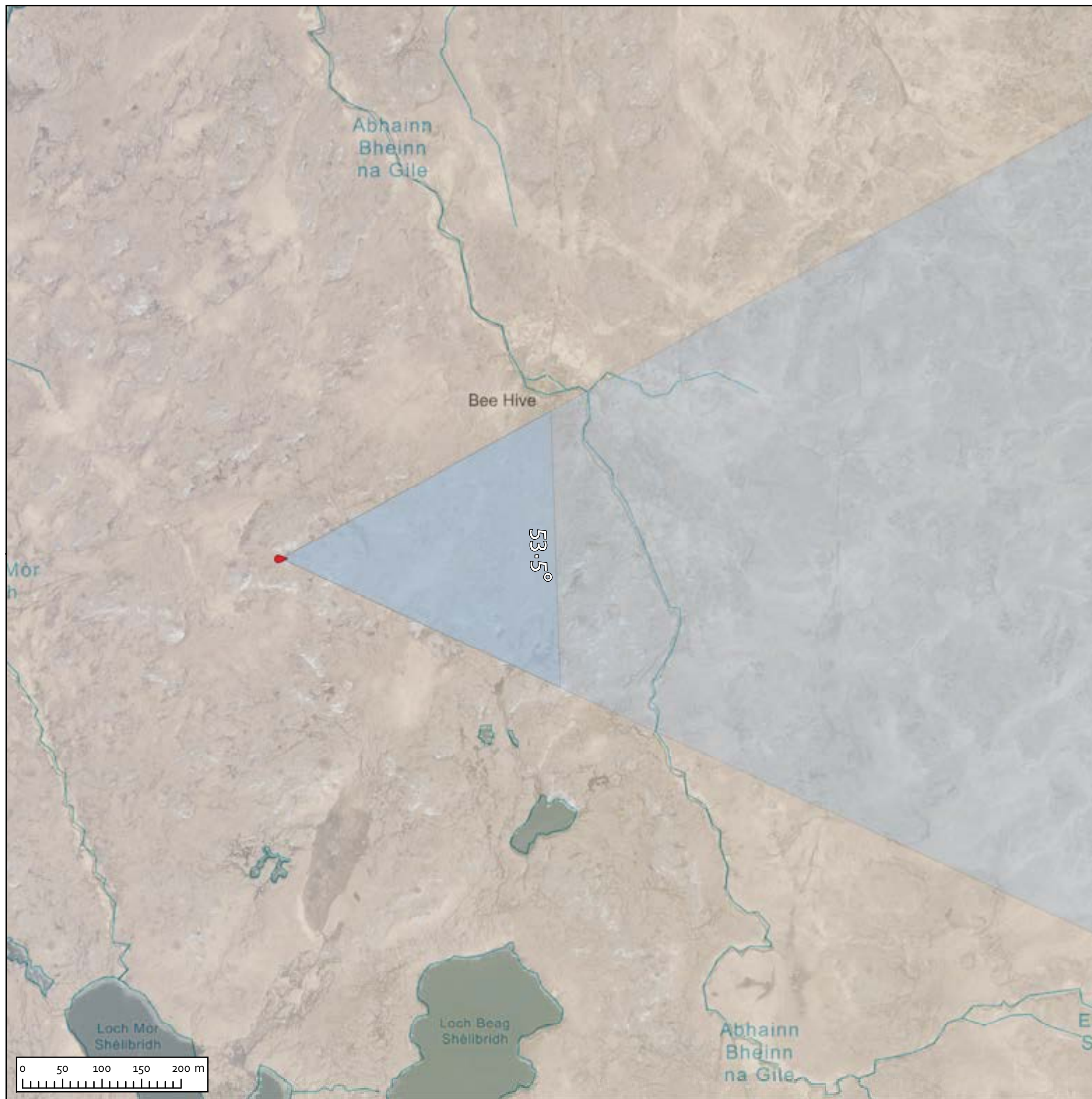
Viewpoint OS reference: 113223, 920731  
Viewpoint elevation: 50m AOD  
Direction of view: 131°  
Distance to site boundary: 1.3km  
Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
Principle distance: 812.5mm  
Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm


Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
Time: 13:35 pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
Client: WHP Telecoms  
Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





**Legend**

 Viewpoint location

**VPO3: Druim Bheinn na Gile**

Viewpoint OS reference: 112828, 919776  
 Viewpoint elevation: 93m  
 Direction of view: 088°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.4km

**Tripod Location Photograph**



Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: VPO3: Viewpoint Location Plan	
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 07a	Status: Planning
Drawn by: S Hyde	Checked by: R Wilkie



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Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height



**Figure Number: 07b**  
**VP03: Druim Bheinn na Gile**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 112828, 919776  
 Viewpoint elevation: 93m AOD  
 Direction of view: 088°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.4km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 14:40 pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height

Photomontage (Type 3 - AVR Level 3)



**Figure Number: 07c**  
**VP03: Druim Bheinn na Gile**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 112828, 919776  
 Viewpoint elevation: 93m AOD  
 Direction of view: 088°  
 Distance to site boundary: 1.4km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

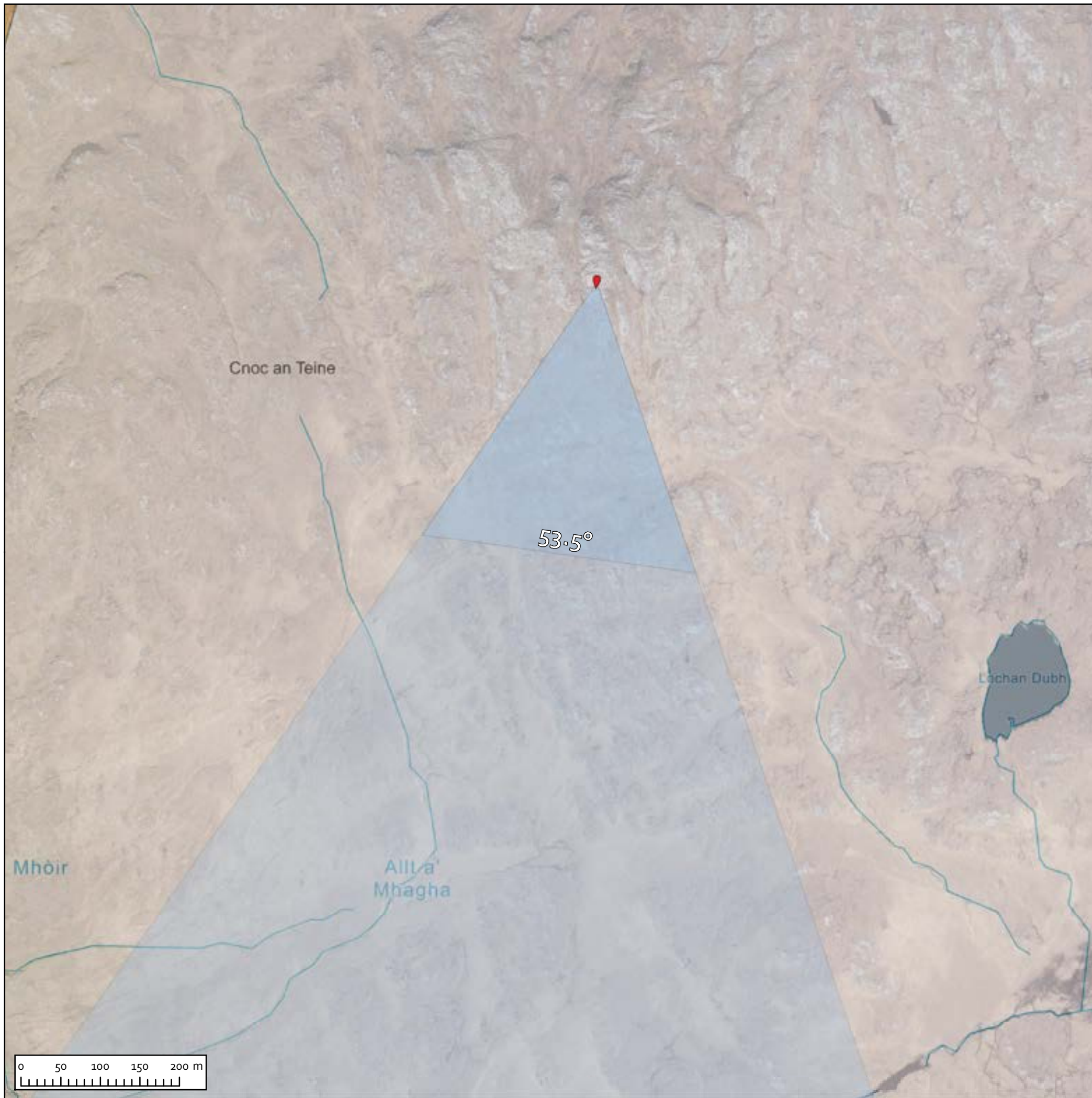
Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 14:40 pm

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal




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**Legend**

 Viewpoint location

**VP04: Coltraiseal Beag hilltop**

Viewpoint OS reference: 114901, 924145  
 Viewpoint elevation: 223m  
 Direction of view: 188°  
 Distance to site boundary: 4.3km

**Tripod Location Photograph**



Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop	Client: WHP Telecoms
Drawing Title: VP04: Viewpoint Location Plan	
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3	Date: 14 / 03 / 2024
Figure No: 08a	Status: Planning
Drawn by: S Hyde	Checked by: R Wilkie



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Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height



**Figure Number: o8b**  
**VPo4: Coltraiseal Beag hilltop**  
Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 114901, 924145  
Viewpoint elevation: 223m AOD  
Direction of view: 188°  
Distance to site boundary: 4.3km  
Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
Principle distance: 812.5mm  
Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
Time: 10:35 am

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
Client: WHP Telecoms  
Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





Photomontage (Type 3 - AVR Level 3)

View flat at a comfortable arm's length  
If viewing this image on a screen, enlarge to full screen height



**Figure Number: o8c**  
**VPo4: Coltraiseal Beag hilltop**  
 Drawn by: R Moore - Checked by: S Hyde  
 Date: 14 / 03 / 2024

Viewpoint OS reference: 114901, 924145  
 Viewpoint elevation: 223m AOD  
 Direction of view: 188°  
 Distance to site boundary: 4.3km  
 Enlargement factor: 150%

Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 18.2°  
 Principle distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 841 x 297mm  
 Correct printed images size: 820 x 260mm

Camera: Canon EOS 6D (full frame)  
 Lens: Canon EF 50mm  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date: 07 / 03 / 2024  
 Time: 10:35 am

Project: Sgalabhal Hilltop  
 Client: WHP Telecoms  
 Document: Landscape and Visual Appraisal





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