

8. Landscape and Visual

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This chapter assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. It should be read with reference to the Project Description in **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development** of the EIA Report. Other key relevant chapters include **Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives**, **Chapter 5: Planning Policy**, **Chapter 9: Historic Environment**, **Chapter 14: Socio-Economics (including Tourism)** and **Chapter 16: Infrastructure and Other Issues**.
- 8.1.2 All additional material relating to this chapter can be found in Volumes 2 and 3 of the EIA Report which includes the figures, appendices and visualisations respectively.
- 8.1.3 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is one of the key components of the EIA for wind farms due to the introduction of tall elements into the landscape. The Proposed Development has been considered against the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. In addition, relevant planning policy has been considered as discussed in **Chapter 5: Planning Policy**, notably National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4 and Argyll and Bute Council's Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).
- 8.1.4 The LVIA and Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) reported in this chapter has been produced by chartered landscape architects at WSP. The objective of this assessment has been to determine landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape resource and visual amenity. The following landscape and visual receptors have been assessed:
- Landscape character, key characteristics, and elements;
 - Designated landscapes including National Scenic Areas (NSA), Local Landscape Areas (LLA) (which replace Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQ)) and Wild Land Areas; and
 - Views and visual amenity experienced by residents, tourists, visitors, recreational and transport users.

Chapter Structure

- 8.1.5 The chapter is supported by a number of Technical Appendices within Volume 3: Technical Appendices, comprising:
- **Appendix 8A:** LVIA Methodology and Glossary;
 - **Appendix 8B:** Viewpoint Analysis;
 - **Appendix 8C:** Night-time Assessment;
 - **Appendix 8D:** Assessment of Effects on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP);
 - **Appendix 8E:** Assessment of Effects on the SLQs of the Knapdale National Scenic Area (NSA);
 - **Appendix 8F:** Additional Wirelines scoped out through consultation; and
 - **Appendix 8G:** Knapdale NSA Wirelines.

- 8.1.6 Figures illustrating this chapter are contained within Volume 2: Figures and include plans and visualisations of the Proposed Development, the latter being presented in accordance with the NatureScot (NS) guidance¹. Further figures illustrating plans and visualisations in support of the Night-time Assessment, and **Appendix 8F: Additional Wirelines** and **Appendix 8G: Knapdale NSA Wirelines**.

Variations and Micro-siting

- 8.1.7 Post consent, the location of the proposed 22 turbines would be subject to micro-siting of up to +/-50m. Viewpoint analysis confirms that a horizontal micro-siting allowance of up to +/-50m is unlikely to significantly alter the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) pattern or change the overall results of the LVIA with the exception of the outer turbines. The ZTV is explained in more detail in **Section 8.4**. Any horizontal micro-siting allowance of up to +/-50m remains subject to the existing site constraints which in practice would likely limit this movement within the site area.
- 8.1.8 Variations to the turbine dimensions, within the overall maximum blade tip heights, could affect the overall appearance and proportion of the turbines and each option would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Although unlikely, increases to the turbine hub height (smaller rotor diameter) within the overall blade tip height and micro-siting may however alter the number of aviation warning lights that are visible from some locations and consequently alter the night-time assessment. Whilst the night-time assessment may change in terms of the magnitude or level of effect, there would be **no significant** additional night-time effects.

8.2 Landscape Policy and Legislation

- 8.2.1 The LVIA has taken account of national and local planning requirements in relation to wind farm development, as described in **Chapter 5: Planning Policy**, and the Planning Statement which accompanies this Section 36 Application. This includes NPF4 and LDP2 in relation to renewable energy development. Further information on strategic landscape planning guidance from NatureScot (NS) / Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) is provided here.

National Planning Framework 4

- 8.2.2 NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13th February 2023, following approval by the Scottish Parliament in January 2023. This replaces NPF 3 and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). NPF4 now forms part of the statutory development plan for any area in Scotland.
- 8.2.3 NPF4 Annex B sets out statements of need for national development and provides that onshore electricity generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity is strategically important, accordingly classifying it as a national development (category 3: Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure). Inclusion as a national development establishes the general need for renewable projects of strategic scale across Scotland.
- 8.2.4 NPF4 supports development which helps to meet Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions targets and states *"The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment (page 8)."*

¹ Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Good Practice Guidance (2017)

8.2.5 Relevant landscape policies in NPF4 include:

- Policy 1 Tackling the Climate and Nature crisis;
- Policy 3: Biodiversity;
- Policy 4 Natural places;
- Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees;
- Policy 11 Energy; and
- Policy 14 Design, quality and place.

8.2.6 In relation to the project design and LVIA, Policy 11 e) advises that

“In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:

- i. *significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;*
- ii. *public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes; ...*
- iii. *impacts on trees, woods and forests;*
- iv. *proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration; ... and*
- v. *cumulative impacts.”*

Argyll and Bute Proposed Local Development Plan 2

8.2.7 The ABC LDP2 was adopted in February 2024. Its policies, as they relate to landscape and visual matters, are as follows:

- Policy 02 – Outwith Settlement;
- Policy 06 – Green Infrastructure;
- Policy 20 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
- Policy 30 - The Sustainable Growth of Renewables;
- Policy 70 - Development Impact on National Scenic Areas (NSA's);
- Policy 71 – Development Impact on Local Landscape Areas (LLA);
- Policy 72 – Development Impact on Areas of Wild Land; and
- Policy 77 – Forestry, Woodland and Trees.

8.2.8 LLAs replace ABC's previously designated APQs, however, it is only a change in name from APQ to LLA and the boundaries of the designation remain the same.

Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (ABLWECS)

- 8.2.9 NS has revised its advice on landscape sensitivity studies for wind farm developments, moving away from 'capacity studies' that attempt to define how much generic development can be located within a particular landscape and favouring sensitivity studies (Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance, April 2022).
- 8.2.10 The ABLWECS is a strategic assessment and the judgements on landscape sensitivity represent a 'rounding up' or averaging across broad character types and areas, where considerable variation can otherwise occur. In contrast, this LVIA is specific to the Proposed Development and its location.
- 8.2.11 The ABLWECS, dated 2017, revised and updated a previous 2012 study in response to changes in the cumulative baseline of other existing and consented wind energy development at that time and to reflect the then extant planning policy framework set out in SPP 2014. It is accordingly not an up-to-date study and NS has moved away from capacity studies, however (subject to the further important caveats noted below) it remains useful in providing a common definition and distribution of Landscape Character Types (LCTs). Furthermore, landscape across Scotland is classified into different types of LCTs by NS in its Landscape Assessment (2019)², and while some reference has been made to this most recent assessment, it advises that the ABLWECS should be used in relation to wind farm development. This is because the ABLWECS provides information on landscape character areas and their relative sensitivity to wind farm development at a strategic level. However, in reading the ABLWECS, a number of caveats should be noted as follows:
- The nearby consented Blarghour (17 turbines up to 136.5m to blade tip) and Creag Dhubh (9 turbines up to 144.4m to blade tip) Wind Farms, and others further south on Kintyre at Airigh (14 turbines up to 149.5m to blade tip), Clachaig Glen (14 turbines up to 126.5m to blade tip), Eascairt (13 turbines up to 100m to blade tip), High Constellation (10 turbines up to 149.5m to blade tip) are not included in the baseline. In addition, several wind farms on Kintyre noted as consented in the ABLWECS including Auchadaduie, A'Chruach Extension, Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc 3 are now operational;
 - The ABLWECS does not replace the need for LVIAs for specific wind energy developments on specific sites, which provide detailed and specific assessment of the likely landscape, visual and cumulative effects resulting from each development under consideration; and
 - The landscape and visual sensitivity criteria are applied to each LCT to produce a sensitivity rating which is applied to a range of five wind turbine types based on height alone. As a result of advancements in wind turbine technology, most of the 'turbine types' considered by ABLWECS are effectively redundant and the 'Very Large' turbine type (>130m to blade tip) will cover the vast majority of all new commercial-scale developments, including the Proposed Development. Additionally, the ABLWECS states in its Executive Summary that there is "no scope" to accommodate the Very Large turbine type (>130m to blade tip) within any LCT in Argyll and Bute.
- 8.2.12 Table 3 of the ABLWECS notes that detailed sensitivity assessments for the Very Large typology (turbines >130m to blade tip) were only undertaken for five LCTs, one of which is the *Craggy Upland* (7) LCT where the Proposed Development (all 22 turbines) is located within.

² NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment (2019).

- 8.2.13 The ABLWECS identifies the *Craggy Upland* LCT as presenting some potential to accommodate large scale wind farm development due to the “*generally simple landform and land cover and the large scale of interior plateaux*”, and the less craggy and less complex underlying landform of forested areas. It also notes that “*the very sparsely settled nature of these uplands and their relative inaccessibility which limits close views of the interior plateau.*”
- 8.2.14 A High sensitivity to Very Large turbines is ascribed to the *Craggy Upland* LCT within the ABLWECS which goes on to state that there is “*no scope*” to accommodate Very Large turbines (>130m) anywhere within Argyll and Bute including this LCT. Particular areas of sensitivity identified within the *Craggy Upland* (7) LCT as described in the ABLWECS include:
- Incremental loss of open, less modified moorland and effects on the diverse character of the more intricate pattern of small lochans and craggy knolls present in some areas;
 - Cumulative effects arising from potential differences in the layout and size of turbines associated with different wind farm developments which may be perceived in close views from Rights of Way but also from occasional open views from minor roads aligned within this LCT;
 - Cumulative effects that could occur with multiple developments seen on skyline ridges prominent in views from minor roads within this LCT, along the Loch Avich Road and from the B840 on the southern shores of Loch Awe but also from the south-eastern shore of Loch Fyne from the A886 and the A85, scenic head of Loch Awe and southern shore of Loch Etive;
 - Significant cumulative effects which would arise on roads and settlement if multiple wind farm developments extended on either side of Loch Awe;
 - Cumulative impacts on the smaller settled landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) LCT; and
 - Additional development seen in conjunction with the operational Carraig Gheal wind farm on hills which provide immediate containment to the sensitive *Craggy Upland* and *Settled Glens* (7a) and *Craggy Coast and Islands* (7b) LCTs.
- 8.2.15 These sensitivities are considered further in this assessment.

8.3 Consultation

- 8.3.1 As part of the scoping exercise, a consultation exercise was undertaken to inform the scope of any design and assessment work required as part of this EIA. Consultation relevant to the LVIA assessment was undertaken with ABC and NS who commented on aspects of methodology, sources of information, scope of assessment and cumulative development. Comments on the LVIA assessment was also received from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) and Mountaineering Scotland (MS). Post-scoping consultation was undertaken via a Technical Note issued to ABC and NS on 30 September 2022 to further agree the LVIA viewpoints and several aspects of the assessment, which was agreed through subsequent email correspondence. A summary of the consultation responses is provided in **Table 8.1**.

Table 8.1 Summary of Issues Raised During Consultation

Consultee Comments	Response to Consultee Comments
Summary of Consultation (Scoping Opinion) from NS – 24 August 2022	
The lighting assessment should be in accordance with Annex 1 of NS's updated general pre-application and scoping guidance: https://www.nature.scot/doc/general-pre-application-and-scoping-advice-onshore-wind-farms	The night-time assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the updated guidance; see Appendix 8C.
The issues highlighted in ABLWECS including landscape sensitivities, constraints and guidance should be used to inform the LVIA and fully considered and addressed.	Noted and addressed in this chapter.
<i>Inveraray Garden and Designed Landscape</i> - NS recommend the applicant fully assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposal on this nationally important landscape and its setting, referring to the citation in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and consulting with Historic Environment Scotland as the statutory consultee.	Noted and addressed in this chapter. The setting of Inveraray Garden and Designed Landscape has been assessed in Chapter 9: Historic Environment.
<i>Ben Lui Wild Land Area</i> - NS recommend assessment points in the Wild Land Area (WLA) include wirelines and photos from hill slopes as part of the assessment as only summits appear to be currently represented in visualisations proposed. NS note there is no predicted visibility from valleys. NS welcome the selection of Beinn Bhuidhe as a night time viewpoint and highlight that the focus should be on the potential for significant effect on the WL qualities, and experience of this landscape including the integral dark sky component. NS recommend consideration of the first 3 wild land qualities in the WL Description.	NS confirmed on 9 January 2024 that the Ben Lui Wild Land Assessment can be scoped out given the adoption of NPF 4 in 2023. Therefore, a Wild Land Assessment has been excluded from the EIA Report. However, the night-time viewpoint from Beinn Bhuidhe has been included as part of the Night-time Assessment in Appendix 8C.
<i>Aviation Lighting</i> - NS advise that potential landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects, from turbine lighting be fully assessed in accordance with its guidance. While NS note that night time assessment visualisations are proposed from Kilmaha, Dalavich, Strachur and Leanach, it is unclear of the rationale for this selection and are concerned that they may not be fully representative.	Night-time viewpoints were agreed with NS through subsequent email correspondence via a Technical Note on 30 September 2022. The night-time assessment reported in Appendix 8C includes effects on landscape character and designations, visual receptors including cumulative effects.
<i>Cumulative Effects</i> - Potential significant cumulative interactions are particularly relevant in this location and should be fully considered (both day time and night time) given that there are a number of existing and proposed wind farms	Noted and addressed throughout this chapter.

Consultee Comments	Response to Consultee Comments
within close proximity of this Proposal and the potential for significant cumulative interactions.	
<u>Scale, Design and Layout</u> - The scale of the proposed turbines is significantly larger than wind farms currently operational. Evidence of consideration of the optimal scale, design and layout of turbines through the iterative design process and a clear set of design objectives should be provided in the LVIA.	The design evolution has been included in Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives which discusses the different height and layout options considered.
<u>Viewpoint Selection and ZTVs</u> - NS recommend further consideration of views from the ICDL area, and from around the Kilmartin Glen area and its wider setting. Request hard copies of ZTVs to provide feedback on the viewpoint list.	Hard copies (high resolution) of ZTVs were posted to NS in September 2022. The final list of viewpoints (Table 8.3 and indicated on Figures 8.2 and 8.3) was agreed with NS through subsequent email correspondence on 29 November 2022.
Summary of Consultation (Scoping Opinion) from ABC – 31 May 2023	
ABC advice that the ABLWECS should be used to inform the LVIA and fully considered and addressed.	Noted and addressed in this chapter.
ABC advise that a cumulative assessment should be included as part of the LVIA and have highlighted the most recent schemes in planning including Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation, An Carr Dubh.	A cumulative assessment of landscape and visual effects for all included receptors has been undertaken. The cumulative assessment included existing wind farms, consented wind farms and those in planning with a cut-off date of 30 April 2024.
Designated Landscapes - An assessment of the impacts of the proposal on landscape should assess the impacts on any landscapes designated at a national and local scale. NatureScot will advise on nationally important landscape designations and wild land areas. In addition to National Scenic and Wild Land Areas, it is evident from the ZTV that there will be visibility from within several locally designated Argyll & Bute Areas of Panoramic Quality and it is expected that these will be considered in the LVIA.	An assessment on Local Landscape Designations (including Local Landscape Areas (former Areas of Panoramic Quality) have been included in Section 8.5 of this chapter. The inclusion of the assessment on the Knapdale National Scenic Area (Appendix 8E) has been agreed separately with NS who also confirmed that the Ben Lui Wild Land Assessment can be scoped out.
Viewpoint Selection - It is recommended that viewpoint selection for other wind farms in Kintyre informs the final viewpoint selection. Water based viewpoints should also be considered/included as important receptors in this landscape e.g. water based recreation.	No response has been provided by ABC on the viewpoint list in the scoping report or the Technical Note from 30 November 2022. The final list of viewpoints was agreed with NS on 29 November 2022. However, the viewpoint list includes viewpoints from other wind farms in Kintyre, where relevant, and includes water-based viewpoints.
Visible Aviation Lighting – it is noted that aviation lighting will be required, it is recommended that this, as well as any potential cumulative effects with other wind farms are fully assessed in accordance with the requirements of NatureScot.	A night-time assessment has been reported in Appendix 8C .

Consultee Comments	Response to Consultee Comments
Summary of Consultation (Scoping Opinion) from LLTNPA – 14 July 2022	
As the proposal is not within the National Park's boundary, the primary focus of the LLTNPA consultation response is in terms of the proposed LVIA methodology and viewpoint selection.	Noted
LLTNPA recommend that the ZTV includes the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park boundary in a dominant colour to assist with the LVIA. The ZTV shows that there is visibility from the Arrochar Alps, Ben Lui, Ben Donich and Ben Vane. LLTNPA consider that the viewpoint from Ben Ime should assist with showing sensitivity within this area. LLTNPA requests that an additional viewpoint be included from Ben Donich and support the inclusion of VP's 15 Hell's Glen Road, 16 Beinn an Lochain, 19 Beinn Bhuidhe and 20 Beinn Ime.	The LLTNP boundary is shown in a bold colour on the Landscape Designations Figure (Figure 8.9) which includes a ZTV. The response is noted regarding inclusion of Viewpoints at Hell's Glen Road, Beinn Lochain, Beinn Bhuidhe and Beinn Ime. Ben Donich is located to the north-east of Beinn Lochain which is closer to the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is proportionate to include only Beinn Lochain as a representative viewpoint in the LVIA. A wireline from Ben Donich is however included in Appendix 8F .
LLTNPA believe that wireframes for several viewpoints may be adequate to allow assessment. They ask that the landscape architect use professional judgement to provide this information in a manner appropriate to allow assessment of the windfarm from the National Park.	Noted
LLTNPA would also like Cowal Way to be included on the ZTV to assist with the choice of viewpoints and receptors.	The Cowal Way has been added to the ZTV – see Figure 8.10 .
Summary of Consultation (Scoping Opinion) from Mountaineering Scotland (MS) – 11 July 2022	
MS has provided comments on the proposed viewpoints and endorse Munros: 19. Beinn Bhuidhe; 20. Beinn Ime; and 21. Ben Cruachan for assessing the visual impact on hill walkers. The viewpoint relevant to mountaineering is the Graham, Viewpoint 16 Beinn Lochain, 15km away, above Lochgoilhead.	Noted
MS queried the selection of VP16 Beinn Lochain rather than The Corbett, Beinn Bheula which is only 2km further south and would offer a very similar view of Eredine from a hill with a much higher footfall.	A wireline from Beinn Bheula has been included in Appendix 8F .

8.4 Assessment Methodology and Significance

- 8.4.1 The assessment methodology is set out in **Appendix 8A** which includes a glossary of terms and abbreviations used in this chapter. The Landscape and Visual Study Area is depicted in **Figure 8.1**.

Evaluation of Significance

- 8.4.2 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, it is important to determine whether the effects, assessed as a result of the Proposed Development, are likely to be significant. Significant landscape and visual effects will be highlighted in bold in the text and in most cases, relate to effects that result in a '**Substantial**', '**Substantial to Major**', '**Major**' or a '**Major to Moderate**' effect as indicated in **Table 8.2** (and shaded dark grey). 'Moderate' levels of effect (shaded grey) can also be assessed as significant, subject to the assessor's professional opinion, which should be clearly explained as part of the assessment. White or un-shaded boxes in **Table 8.2** indicate a non-significant effect.
- 8.4.3 In those instances where there is no change as a result of the Proposed Development, the magnitude has been recorded as 'Zero' and the level of effect as 'None' or 'No View'. Intermediate levels of magnitude of change and levels of effect are also used in the LVIA and are shown in **Table 8.2** in italics, for example High – Medium magnitude or Substantial to Major level of effect.
- 8.4.4 In accordance with the EIA Regulations the type or nature of effect is also described in terms of whether it is direct or indirect; its duration (temporary / permanent or reversible) cumulative; and whether the effect is positive, neutral or negative.

Table 8.2 Evaluation of Landscape and Visual Effects

Magnitude of Change	Landscape and Visual Sensitivity			
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
High	Substantial	Major	Moderate	Not used
High - Medium	Substantial to Major	Major to Moderate	Moderate to Minor	
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	
Medium - Low	Major to Moderate	Moderate to Minor	Minor	
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
Low – Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Negligible	Negligible	
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	
Zero	None / No View			

Viewpoint Selection

- 8.4.5 The viewpoints selected for the assessment have been agreed with NS through scoping and further consultation as noted in **Table 8.1**. ABC did not specifically comment to the proposed viewpoint list during consultation.
- 8.4.6 A total of 26 viewpoints listed in **Table 8.3** have been taken forward to the assessment stage. These viewpoints are assessed and reported in **Appendix 8B**. A summary of the viewpoint analysis is set out in **Table 8.5**.

- 8.4.7 All of the viewpoint locations are illustrated on **Figures 8.2 – 8.6**, and the visualisations are illustrated as photographs, wirelines and photomontages as agreed through consultation. The figures accord with NS guidance *Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Good Practice Guidance* (2017). The viewpoint locations were photographed between March 2020 and March 2023. The visualisations illustrate the proposed turbines and, where visible, the proposed access tracks and associated infrastructure, along with forestry management within 10km. Viewpoints 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are the only viewpoints within 10km where forestry management within the Site would be visible.
- 8.4.8 Four of these viewpoints were also selected to be illustrated as night-time viewpoints, representative of locations where people are likely to be present at night and include roads and a settlement (including one location from within the Knapdale NSA as requested by NS). However, a fifth viewpoint (viewpoint 23) on a hill summit has also been included at the request of NS to illustrate night-time views from within the Ben Lui Wild Land Area (WLA). The Night-time Assessment is reported in **Appendix 8C**.
- 8.4.9 A number of other viewpoints, suggested through the assessment and scoping process have been illustrated as wirelines in **Appendix 8F**. These were all scoped out during the consultation process with the agreement of NS. The scoped-out viewpoints confirm either no visibility or very limited blade / blade tip visibility (Very-Low or Zero magnitude) which would be **not significant**. These are listed as follows:
- Viewpoint A - Inverinan (*actual visibility screened by mature, dense vegetation and built-form from within and edge of settlement*);
 - Viewpoint B - Loch Avich Road;
 - Viewpoint C - Cowal Way near Strachur;
 - Viewpoint D – A83 Inveraray Pier;
 - Viewpoint E – A83 Furnace;
 - Viewpoint F – A83 Minard;
 - Viewpoint G - A83 Ardishaig;
 - Viewpoint H - Loch Glashan;
 - Viewpoint I - Inveraray Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) (lower level viewpoint);
 - Viewpoint J - Further viewpoint between VPs 6 and 21 along the B8000³;
 - Viewpoint K - Ardcastle Woods;
 - Viewpoint L - Beinn Bheula; and
 - Viewpoint M – Ben Donich.
- 8.4.10 Viewpoints N1 – N10 - Knapdale NSA viewpoints (Crinan, Bellanoch, Kilmartin Glen, Duntrune Castle, Tayvallich, Cairnbann, Hill of Dunadd, Carnassarie Castle, Moine Mhor area, Cruach Lusach) are included in **Appendix 8G**.

³ The location of the water-based viewpoint from Loch Fyne would be similar in views from land based locations on the B8000 between these viewpoints. It is to be noted that much of the B8000 (single carriageway with passing places) between VPs 6 and 21 is heavily screened by roadside vegetation with very few gaps with almost no places to stop.

Table 8.3 List of Illustrative Viewpoints

VP No.	Viewpoint	Distance (m) (nearest turbine)	View Direction	Viewpoint Type / Receptor	Illustrative night-time viewpoint
1	B840 Durran	2,820	South-east	Specific – road users, nearby residents	-
2	Loch Awe Waters	3,420	South-east	Representative – boat users	-
3	Kilmaha	4,602	South-east	Specific – tourists / visitors	N3
4	Dalavich	6,019	South	Specific - residents	N4
5	Minor Road between Dalavich and Inverinan	7,496	South	Specific – road users, cyclists	-
6	B8000 Lachlan Bay	8,096	North	Specific – visitors (and road users)	-
7	Ardnagowan	8,219	West	Specific - residents	-
8	Leanach	8,519	North-west	Specific – road users	-
9	Strachur	8,551	North-west	Specific - residents	N9
10	Dun na Cuaiche	9,361	South-west	Representative - walkers	-
11	Ford	9,400	East	Specific - residents	-
12	Loch Fyne Waters	9,817	North-east	Representative – boat users	-
13	A83 Old Military Road	10,260	South-west	Specific – road users	-
14	St Catherine's	10,706	South-west	Specific - residents	-
15	Beinn Bhan	11,836	North-east	Representative - walkers	-
16	Minor Road at Fernoch Hill	12,728	South-west	Specific – road users, cyclists	-
17	Tom Soilleir	13,492	South-east	Representative - walkers	-
18	Hell's Glen Road (B839)	14,588	West / south-west	Specific – road users	-
19	Beinn Lochain	15,508	North-west	Representative - walkers	-

VP No.	Viewpoint	Distance (m) (nearest turbine)	View Direction	Viewpoint Type / Receptor	Illustrative night-time viewpoint
20	Ardkinglas Woodland Garden	15,950	South-west	Specific - visitors	-
21	Otter Ferry (B8000)	18,509	North-east	Specific - residents	-
22	Cruach Mor Dunardry	19,559	North-east	Representative – walkers / visitors	N22
23	Beinn Bhuidhe	22,424	South-west	Representative - walkers	N23
24	Beinn Ìme	24,099	South-west	Representative - walkers	-
25	Ben Cruachan	24,106	South-west	Representative - walkers	-
26	A83 South of Inverneill	26,424	North-east	Specific – road users	-

Cumulative Wind Energy Development

- 8.4.11 Drawing from NS guidance⁴ a baseline of all other cumulative wind energy development within the 30km LVIA Study Area has been collated. This includes all existing and consented wind energy development, and planning applications for other wind energy development. In accordance with this NS guidance, projects at scoping stage have been excluded, along with micro-generation turbines less than 50m to blade tip height. The two Blarghour Farm wind turbines (reference E03) are an exception and have been included, being located within 6km of the Proposed Development.
- 8.4.12 The baseline of other wind energy development within the LVIA Study Area has been revised to accord with ABC's wind farm database (Argyll and Bute Renewables Web Map App) and other wind energy developer sources, up until a 'cut off' date of 30 April 2024⁵.
- 8.4.13 In total, 17 other wind energy developments are included in the assessment as listed in **Table 8.4** and illustrated in **Figure 8.12**. As of 30 April 2024, this includes 10 existing wind farms, three consented developments and four applications in the Study Area. Notably, the majority of wind farm development within the Study Area are located within the *Craggy Upland LCT*, with a small number within the *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic* and *Steep Ridgeland and Mountains LCTs*.
- 8.4.14 The cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development in addition to and in combination with the other wind energy development included in **Table 8.4** has been assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 8A**.

⁴ NatureScot, March 2021, Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts of Onshore Wind Energy Developments.

⁵ A cut-off date is required for collation of 'current' baseline information and to allow the assessment to be completed.

Table 8.4 Wind Energy Development Included in the CLVIA

Ref. ⁶	Name	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Number of turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Host Landscape Character Type
Existing Wind Energy Developments within 30km					
E01	An Suidhe	704	23	77.6 / 79.6	Craggy Upland
E02	A'Chruach	5,143	21	126.5	Craggy Upland / Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic
E03	Blarghour Farm	6,229	2	27.1	Craggy Upland
E04	Carraig Gheal	12,655	20	110 / 125	Craggy Upland
E05	Cruach Mhor	15,143	35	71	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains
E06	Clachan Flats (Ardkinglass)	17,270	9	93	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains
E07	Beinn Ghlas	18,228	14	54.1	Craggy Upland
E08	Barran Caltunn	25,832	2	67	Craggy Upland with Settled Glens
E09	Sròndoire	29,529	3	100 / 120	Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic
E10	Allt Dearg	29,759	12	81	Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic
Consented Wind Energy Developments within 30km					
C01	A'Chruach Phase 2	5,987	2	135	Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic
C02	Blarghour	6,311	17	136.5	Craggy Upland
C03	Creag Dhubh	11,202	9	114.9 / 124.3 / 130.6 / 144.4	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains
Applications for Wind Energy Developments within 30km					
A01	An Càrr Dubh	3,867	13	180	Craggy Upland
A02	Glasvaar	5,811	8	149.9	Craggy Upland
A03	Blarghour Variation	6,306	14	180	Craggy Upland

⁶ The reference number in the table relates to that used in the figures.

Ref. ⁶	Name	Distance from Proposed Development (m)	Number of turbines	Height to blade tip (m)	Host Landscape Character Type
A04	Ladyfield	11,870	14	180	Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Analysis

8.4.15 The ZTV and viewpoint analysis is used to further define the scope of the assessment process. In particular, a significance threshold indicating the distance from the Proposed Development, within which significant effects may be likely, has been identified. This has been used to focus the baseline information and detailed reporting of the assessment in this chapter.

ZTV and Cumulative ZTV Analysis

8.4.16 The ZTVs have been calculated using ReSoft © WindFarm computer software to produce an area of potential visibility of any part of the proposed turbines, calculated to turbine blade-tip and hub-height, or selected infrastructure. The ZTV does not however take account of built development and vegetation, which can significantly reduce the area and extent of actual visibility in the field and as such the ZTV provides the limits of the visual assessment Study Area. As a result, there may be roads, tracks and footpaths in the wider setting which, although shown as falling within the ZTV, have restricted viewing opportunities since they are heavily screened or filtered by banks, walls and vegetation. The ZTVs therefore tend to over-estimate the potential visibility of the proposed turbines and provide a starting point in the assessment process.

8.4.17 A number of ZTV maps have been provided as follows:

- **Figure 8.2:** illustrates the ZTV calculated to blade tip at 1:250,000 scale across the Study Area and provides an overview of the theoretical extent of visibility with viewpoint locations;
- **Figure 8.3:** illustrates the ZTV calculated to hub height at 1:250,000 scale across the Study Area and provides an overview of the theoretical extent of visibility with viewpoint locations;
- **Figure 8.4a:** illustrates the central section of the blade tip ZTV of Figure 8.2 in more detail (1:95,000 scale), showing the area within 10km of the Proposed Development with viewpoint locations;
- **Figure 8.4b:** illustrates the central section of the blade tip ZTV of Figure 8.2 in more detail (1:85,000 scale) taking account of the screening effect of forestry, showing the area within 10km of the Proposed Development with viewpoint locations;
- **Figure 8.5:** (A0 fold-out) illustrates the ZTV calculated to blade tip at 1:90,000 scale across the Study Area and includes viewpoint locations; and
- **Figure 8.6:** (A0 fold-out) illustrates the central 20km area of the ZTV calculated to blade tip at 1:35,000 scale and includes viewpoint locations.

8.4.18 Further cumulative ZTV maps are also illustrated in **Figures 8.13-18**, indicating the extent of theoretical cumulative visibility in relation to the Proposed Development, and other existing and consented wind farms, and wind farm applications within the 30km Study Area. The cumulative developments have been grouped according to their planning status

or geographical location. All of the cumulative ZTVs assume bare ground and are calculated to blade tip height, indicating the maximum theoretical visibility of other wind farms within the ZTV footprint of the Proposed Development. The cumulative ZTVs do not therefore illustrate the complete ZTV for other cumulative wind energy development, which is likely to be visible from other locations where the Proposed Development is not visible.

ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development

- 8.4.19 The ZTV pattern for the Proposed Development reflects the underlying landform within the 30km Study Area and the percentages of theoretical visibility cover are summarised as follows:
- Total ZTV (to blade tip) coverage accounts for 29.7% of the Study Area;
 - Total ZTV (to hub height) coverage accounts for 24.4% of the Study Area;
 - Total ZTV (to blade tip) coverage accounts for 34.5% within 10km of the Proposed Development, excluding woodland / forestry; and
 - Total ZTV (to hub height) coverage accounts for 27% within 10km of the Proposed Development, excluding woodland / forestry.
- 8.4.20 The blade tip ZTV coverage (**Figures 8.2, 8.5 and 8.6**) for the Proposed Development is limited, accounting for less than a third of the total Study Area.
- 8.4.21 ZTV cover generally reflects the underlying topography in the Study Area. The Proposed Development, although in an elevated location within an upland setting, would be surrounded by hills in most directions within the landmass between two lochs - Loch Fyne and Loch Awe. Within 10km, the ZTV coverage illustrates full theoretical visibility of all of the proposed turbines within the remote upland plateau in the area immediately surrounding the turbines (up to 1km). Beyond 1km within the upland area, visibility of the proposed turbines reduces and ZTV coverage becomes patchy due to the low hills and undulations within the plateau. Visibility also reduces as the plateau falls away steeply towards Loch Fyne to the east and south-east where visibility along the western edge of the loch is mostly limited to elevated summits and facing slopes. Similarly, theoretical visibility falls away steeply to the west and north-west of the proposed turbines as the landform falls towards Loch Awe. The exception is a shallow valley which causes a 'dip' in the landform at the Abhainn a'Bhealaich tributary, enabling some views towards the proposed turbines from low-lying areas along the eastern edge of the Loch Awe around Durran and the B840 which follows the edge of the loch. Extensive coniferous forestry within the upland area merges with deciduous woodland on the lower slopes and shoreline and further limits visibility of the proposed turbines as illustrated in **Figure 8.4b**.
- 8.4.22 The greatest area of potential visibility within 5km would be from the open waters of Loch Awe (Viewpoint 2) and from the shoreline and rising landform to the west of the loch which face the turbines of the Proposed Development as indicated by Viewpoint 3.
- 8.4.23 Most of the views towards the Proposed Development from the lochs are from the facing shores and rising landforms to the east of Loch Fyne and to the west of Loch Awe. Scattered settlements along these facing shores and the transport routes connecting them are indicated as having varying degrees of theoretical visibility of the turbines of the Proposed Development with the number of theoretical turbines visible increasing with elevation in these areas - typically occurring along elevated stretches of roads.
- 8.4.24 Between 5-10km, ZTV coverage continues on the elevated forested slopes to the west of Loch Awe and along the shoreline where views would be available in open areas from roads (Viewpoint 5) and settlements (Viewpoint 4). Views to the east and south-east are indicated along the eastern shoreline and containing hills to the east of Loch Fyne.

- 8.4.25 Within 10-20km, the ZTV illustrates continued theoretical visibility along the eastern edge of Loch Fyne including facing slopes and ridge line summits. Visibility is also indicated from glens radiating from Loch Fyne including Caol Ghleann, the River Curr Glen at Strachur, Hell's Glen and Glen Kinglass. To the north and north-west of the Study Area, patches of theoretical visibility are indicated in elevated locations and summits beyond Loch Awe with the greatest areas of visibility indicated to the north of Loch Avich and at the existing Carraig Gheal Wind Farm. Further fragmented visibility is also indicated along the undulating plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne to the south-west of the Study Area.
- 8.4.26 ZTV coverage becomes sparser beyond 20km. The main areas of theoretical visibility are indicated to the north and north-east - north of the A85 Pass of Braner, and north of Bonawe; to the south-west - on the western edge of Loch Fyne and facing slopes near Inverneill; and to the west - on the islands of Scarba and northern edge of Jura. Elsewhere theoretical visibility is indicated on isolated summits and facing slopes including some located within the LLTNP to the east and Knapdale NSA to the south-west.

Viewpoint and Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis

- 8.4.27 The viewpoint analysis in **Appendix 8B** has been conducted from 26 viewpoint locations as illustrated in **Figures 8.19– 8.44**. Each of these viewpoints are illustrated as baseline photographs and visualisations (wirelines and / or photomontages) with the exception of Viewpoint 2 from Loch Awe which is presented as a wireline only (**Figure 8.20**) due to limited public accessibility onto the loch. The figures accord with Scottish Natural Heritage, *Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Good Practice Guidance, Version 2.2*, February 2017 which was agreed with NS through consultation.
- 8.4.28 Cumulative wind farm development included within the 30km study area, that would be theoretically visible from each viewpoint, has been illustrated in the wirelines.
- 8.4.29 The outer distance from the Proposed Development within which significant effects may be likely has been identified by the viewpoint analysis of the Proposed Development. Further, cumulative viewpoint analysis has identified a likely threshold for significant cumulative visual effects that would result from the Proposed Development in addition to or in combination with other existing and consented wind energy developments and applications. These are set out in the two sections below.

Potential for Significant Effects: Proposed Development

- 8.4.30 The viewpoint analysis indicates that **significant** visual effects are likely to occur at limited locations within approximately 9.8km of the Proposed Development (subject to a clear view of the turbines of the Proposed Development and screening by landform and / or vegetation), as indicated by Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 12 inclusive. The greatest magnitude of change (High-Medium magnitude) is visible at Viewpoints 2 and 3 (all other viewpoints are assessed as Medium magnitude or less).
- 8.4.31 A further **significant** effect on views in the direction of the Proposed Development has also been identified in the south-west at the summit of Beinn Bhan (Viewpoint 15) at approximately 11.8km distance from the nearest turbine. The magnitude of change would be Low resulting in **significant** visual effects due to a combination of the High sensitivity of this receptor and the extent of visibility of the Proposed Development at this distance. In overall terms, however, the views from the summit of Beinn Bhan would be **not significant** when considered as part of the wider 360° views and the walker experience.

- 8.4.32 There would be **no significant** visual effects from the northeast, east and west of the Proposed Development or beyond the containing slopes and facing edges of the lochs.
- 8.4.33 Taking a precautionary approach, the assessment has focused on receptors, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development to the north, south, east and west and within 12km to the south-west of the Proposed Development and nationally important receptors within the wider LVIA Study Area. Receptors that would not be significantly affected have been excluded from the assessment with appropriate reasoning provided as part of the baseline analysis.

Potential for Significant Cumulative Effects

- 8.4.34 The effects on viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 15 as result of the Proposed Development would be cumulative and further analysis is provided. In total 24 of the 26 of the viewpoints are cumulative, in that they also involve the visibility of other wind farms, in particular the existing An Suidhe and A'chruach Wind Farms, the consented Blarghour Wind Farm and the application An Carr Dubh, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar wind farms which are all located within approximately 10km from the Proposed Development. Other wind farms beyond 10km are also frequently visible from some of the assessment viewpoints, although often to a negligible degree except at viewpoints 7, 10, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 25.
- 8.4.35 The Proposed Development would contribute to a **significant** cumulative visual effect at six of the assessment viewpoints (viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 15). There would be no cumulative effects from viewpoints 1 and 8. The viewpoint assessment also identifies five other viewpoints (10, 18, 19, 22 and 23) that, while not affected by the Proposed Development, are significantly affected as a result of other existing, consented or application wind farms within the Study Area.
- 8.4.36 The Proposed Development would generally appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines from the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, primarily due to the scale of the turbines of both wind farms. However, they would only be visible in the same view for approximately seven years as An Suidhe would be decommissioned ~28 years prior to the end of the operation period of the Proposed Development, thereby reducing the cumulative effect.
- 8.4.37 Importantly, these levels of effect are indicative of a visual effect on a particular viewpoint location, and they should not be assumed to translate into visual effects on the overall visual experience, as each of the viewpoints have been specifically located where the sensitivity of the receptor and / or the views of the Proposed Development would be greatest. In this sense, they are not always typical or representative.

Potential for Significant Night-time Visual Effects

- 8.4.38 A night-time assessment of the effects of the aviation warning lights is provided in **Appendix 8C** and supported by **Figures 8.3.A – 8.3.K**.
- 8.4.39 The night-time viewpoint assessment, contained in **Appendix 8.3** concludes that allowing for the embedded mitigation, two of the five night-time viewpoints (N3 and N4) would be significantly affected by the proposed aviation warning lights in a worse-case scenario when they are operating at 2000 cd during periods of poor visibility (<5km from the lit turbines). *The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting and Mitigation Report for Eredine Wind Farm* (see **Appendix 15A**) suggests that conditions of poor visibility (<5km from the lit turbines) would occur for approximately 7% of the time. These viewpoints would not be significantly affected when the aviation warning lights would operate at 200cd (reduced to 10%). *The Wind Farm Aviation Lighting and Mitigation Report for Eredine Wind Farm* suggests that this would occur approximately 93% of the time.

- 8.4.40 The remaining three night-time viewpoints would not be significantly affected at either of the two lighting intensities.

Interpretation of Viewpoint Analysis Summary Tables

- 8.4.41 The information set out in **Table 8.5** provides a summary of the viewpoint analysis of the effects of the Proposed Development on an independent or 'standalone' basis and a cumulative basis. The standalone part of the assessment helps to define the contribution the Proposed Development would make to any subsequent cumulative assessments (in addition to or in combination with other wind farms). It is also relevant to the latter half of the operational period for the Proposed Development, when the consented periods of operation for other wind farms would expire and they would be decommissioned, assuming no extensions to the operating periods or re-powering schemes are granted.
- 8.4.42 The summary of the cumulative viewpoint analysis sets out the effects of Proposed Development 'in addition' to and 'in combination' with other existing, consented and application wind energy developments in accordance with the methodology in **Appendix 8A** as follows:
- Proposed Development: Assessed on an individual basis (the LVIA)
 - This part of the assessment does not consider the additional or combined cumulative effects of other developments and only reports on the effect of the Proposed Development alone.
 - Scenario 1: Existing + Consented + the Proposed Development
 - The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including the existing and consented wind energy developments with the Proposed Development.
 - Scenario 2: Existing + Consented + Applications + the Proposed Development
 - The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including existing and consented wind energy developments and applications with the Proposed Development.
- 8.4.43 Significant effects resulting from the Proposed Development are indicated in bold text and shaded dark grey in **Table 8.5**. Further information on **Table 8.5** is provided in **Appendix 8A**.

Table 8.5 Summary of Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint No. and Title	Field of View	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) (22 turbines up to 200m to blade tip)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
1. B840 Durrán	68°	2,820	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
2. Loch Awe Waters	55°	3,420	High	High-Medium	Substantial to Major	Medium-Low	Substantial to Major	Substantial to Major (PD, Blarghour)	Medium	Substantial to Major	Substantial to Major (PD, Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh)
3. Kilmaha	50°	4,602	High	High-Medium (Medium)	Substantial to Major (Major)	Low	Substantial to Major (Major)	Substantial to Major (Major) (PD)	Medium	Substantial to Major (Major)	Substantial to Major (Major) (PD, An Carr Dubh, Blarghour Variation)
4. Dalavich	25°	6,019	High	Medium	Major	Medium	Major	Major (Blarghour, PD)	High - Medium	Major	Substantial to Major (Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh, PD)
5. Sustrans Cycle Route 78 between Dalavich and Inverinan	33°	7,496	High-Medium	Medium	Major to Moderate	Medium	Major to Moderate	Major to Moderate (Blarghour, PD)	High-Medium	Major to Moderate	Major (Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh, PD)
6. B8000 Lachlan Bay	<1°	8,096	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Low	Minor to No View	Moderate (A'Chruach)	Low	Minor to No View	Moderate (A'Chruach, Glasvaar)

Viewpoint No. and Title	Field of View	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) (22 turbines up to 200m to blade tip)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
7. Ardnagowan	27°	8,219	High	Very Low (Low-Very Low)	Minor (Moderate to Minor)	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Ladyfield)
8. Leanach	33°	8,519	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Zero	No cumulative effect		Zero	No cumulative effect	
9. Strachur	30°	8,551	High	Low	Moderate	Zero	No cumulative effect		Low	Moderate	Moderate
10. Dun na Cuaiche (Fort)	17°	9,361	High	Low	Moderate	Low- Very Low	Moderate	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	Major to Moderate (An Carr Dubh, Ladyfield)
11. Ford	13°	9,400	High	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor	Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor
12. Loch Fyne Waters	8°	9,817	High	Low	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate (PD)	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate (PD)
13. A83 Old Military Road	8°	10,260	High	Very Low	Minor	Zero	No cumulative effect		Low- Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (An Carr Dubh)
14. St Catherine's	18°	10,706	High	Very Low	Minor	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Low-Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (An Carr Dubh)
15. Beinn Bhan	18°	11,836	High	Low	Moderate	Low-Very Low	Moderate	Moderate (PD)	Medium	Moderate	Major to Moderate (Glasvaar, PD)
16. Minor Road at Fernoch Hill	13°	12,728	High-Medium	Low	Moderate to Minor	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor	Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor
17. Tom Soilleir	20°	13,492	High	Low	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate

Viewpoint No. and Title	Field of View	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) (22 turbines up to 200m to blade tip)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
18. Hell's Glen Road (B839) near A815	15°	14,588	High-Medium	Low	Moderate to Minor	Medium	Moderate to Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats)	Medium	Moderate to Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats, An Carr Dubh)
19. Beinn Lochain	19°	15,508	High	Low	Moderate	High-Medium	Moderate to Minor	Substantial to Major (Creag Dhubh)	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Substantial to Major (Creag Dhubh)
20. Ardkinglas Woodland Garden	13°	15,950	High	Low	Moderate	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate	Zero	No cumulative effect	
21. Otter Ferry	10°	18,509	High	Low- Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate (A'Chruach)	Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate (A'Chruach, Glasvaar)
22. Cruach Mor Dunardry Summit	8°	19,559	High	Low- Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Low- Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Glasvaar)
23. Beinn Bhuidhe	8°	22,424	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium-Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats)	Medium-Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats, Ladyfield)
24. Beinn Ìme	10°	24,099	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh, Ladyfield)
25. Ben Cruachan	10°	24,106	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal, Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation)

Viewpoint No. and Title	Field of View	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) (22 turbines up to 200m to blade tip)			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect:	<u>Cumulative Scenario 1:</u>			<u>Cumulative Scenario 2:</u>		
						Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
26. A83 South of Inverneill	10°	26,424	High	Very Low	Minor	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Low- Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (Glasvaar)

8.5 Baseline of Landscape Receptors

- 8.5.1 Information on the existing landscape resource or baseline conditions included in this assessment has been collected from the local development plan and the ABLWECS, as well as OS maps and information gathered from field surveys. This baseline information is set out as an inventory of the existing landscape resource and focuses on those landscape receptors with most potential to be significantly affected.
- 8.5.2 The baseline inventory includes the following landscape receptors:
- Landscape Character; and
 - Landscape Planning Designations and Wild Land Areas.
- 8.5.3 The assessment has focused on those local landscape receptors, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development to the north, south, east and west and within 12km to the south-west of the Proposed Development and nationally important landscape planning designations within the wider LVIA Study Area.

Baseline Landscape Character

- 8.5.4 Landscape across Scotland is classified into different types of landscape character (LCTs) by NS in its Landscape Assessment (2019)⁷. Whilst some baseline reference has been made to this most recent assessment, NS advises that the ABLWECS (revised 2017) should be used in relation to wind farm development. This is because the ABLWECS provides information on landscape character areas and their relative sensitivity at a strategic level to wind farm development. The assessment divides the landscape into broad Landscape Character Types (LCT), illustrated in **Figures 8.7 and 8.8**.
- 8.5.5 The site lies within an extensive area of *Craggy Upland* LCT which covers more than half of the area within 10km.
- 8.5.6 Including the host LCT, there are five LCTs within 10km (and up to 12km in the south-west) of the Proposed Development that are also overlapped by the blade tip ZTV as follows:
- AGC 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (two units);
 - AGC 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (two units);
 - AGC 7 – Craggy Upland ('host' LCT) (two units);
 - AGC 10 – Upland Parallel Ridges; and
 - AGC 20 – Rocky Mosaic (four out of seven units).
- 8.5.7 The *Craggy Upland* LCT is divided into a north-west and south-eastern section on either side of Loch Awe. The Proposed Development is located in the south-eastern part of this LCT, which would be directly affected by the Proposed Development. Moving away from the Development Site, other areas of landscape character could be indirectly affected by views of the Proposed Development (notably the turbines) and through effects on their key perceptual characteristics and qualities such as 'wildness' or 'naturalness'.
- 8.5.8 Within the wider 30km Study Area, only those areas of landscape character which are designated at a national or international level, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV for the

⁷ NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment (2019).

Proposed Development and agreed with consultees, have been included in the assessment. These are:

- 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills (located within the LLTNP and sourced from the NS 2019 assessment);
- 251 – Highland Summits (located within the LLTNP and sourced from the NS 2019 assessment);
- NSA 23 – Knapdale NSA (sourced from the NS 2019 assessment):
 - ▶ 43 - Upland Parallel Ridges – Argyll;
 - ▶ 56 - Flat Moss and Mudflats; and
 - ▶ 55 - Coastal Parallel Ridges.

8.5.9 Two further LCTs located to the north and north-east of the Proposed Development (AGC 2 – High Tops and AGC 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Upland) have very limited theoretical visibility from elevated areas and hill summits and are unlikely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development due to the long intervening distance of over 20km. These areas are covered by the Ben Lui Wild Land Area, which NS agreed can be scoped out of the assessment.

8.5.10 There are no other LCTs within the nationally designated NSAs in the Study Area that have not already been listed as included in the assessment. Effects on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the Knapdale NSA and LLTNP are included in the assessment with the effects on the remaining designated landscapes including all WLAs excluded from the assessment as agreed with NS.

Baseline Pattern of Wind Farm Development

8.5.11 There are currently a number of clusters of wind farm development within the Study Area (**Figure 8.12**) and the baseline pattern of wind farm development is a pattern that has emerged in recent decades and may continue to evolve. Broadly speaking, there is a pattern of wind farm development where the largest wind farms and clusters of development occupy the higher ground and hills, all set back from coastal areas and loch sides.

8.5.12 The main clusters of development are described as follows:

- An Suidhe, A'Chruach, A'Chruach Phase 2 and Blarghour, closest to the Proposed Development (within 10km);
- Carraig Gheal, Beinn Ghlas and Barran Caltunn, located between north of Loch Awe and south of Loch Etive (between 15 – 30km);
- Clachan Flats, located within the North Argyll LLA (beyond 15km);
- Cruach Mor and Creag Dhubh, located south-east of Loch Fyne (between 10-20km); and
- Allt Dearg and Sronaire, located west of Loch Fyne (at approximately 30km).

8.5.13 The Proposed Development would most closely associate with the adjacent existing An Suidhe Wind Farm and, to a degree, with the nearby consented Blarghour Wind Farm. This association is comparable to other clusters in Argyll and Bute in that it is located within a forested upland / moorland landscape that avoids designated landscapes and WLAs, is set back from the coastline / loch shores and is in an area not easily accessed by the road network. Whilst the Proposed Development is close to An Suidhe, it would

appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines primarily due to the difference in scale of the turbines of each. However, they would only be visible in the same view for around seven years as An Suidhe would be decommissioned around 28 years prior to the end of the operation period of the Proposed Development.

Baseline Planning Designations

- 8.5.14 Landscape planning designations and WLAs within the 30km Study Area are illustrated in **Figure 8.9** which also includes other cumulative wind farm development.
- 8.5.15 The Proposed Development is not located within any landscape designations or WLAs. Therefore, there can be no physical or direct impacts on landscape designations or WLAs within the Study Area.
- 8.5.16 Landscape designations and WLAs may however be indirectly affected by development beyond their boundaries that may otherwise affect the designation's SLQs, including views and perceptual qualities, for which they are valued and designated.

National Landscape Designations

- 8.5.17 The LLTNP is located approximately 10km south-east of the Study Area at its closest point and extends well beyond 30km.
- 8.5.18 There are four NSAs located within the Study Area: Knapdale NSA, Loch Lomond NSA, Kyles of Bute NSA and Scarba Lunga and the Garvellachs NSA. The Knapdale NSA is located closest to the Proposed Development, 15km to the south-west, with the remaining NSAs all in excess of 25km with very limited to no visibility of the Proposed Development.
- 8.5.19 As agreed with NS and LLTNPA, the effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs of the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA are included in the assessment in **Appendices 8D and 8E**. Effects on the remaining NSAs are excluded from the assessment as set out in the Scoping Report.
- 8.5.20 GDLs are considered under visual receptors as a visitor or tourist attraction and the potential for effects on their settings is assessed in **Chapter 9: Historic Environment**.

Local Landscape Designations

- 8.5.21 There are two Local Landscape Areas (LLA) (former APQ) within 10km of the Proposed Development – East Loch Fyne (Coast) and West Loch Fyne (Coast). Effects on East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA are included in the assessment.
- 8.5.22 There is very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA, which would be further reduced as a result of screening from intervening vegetation as established during site visits. It is therefore excluded from the assessment on the basis that effects would be **Not Significant**.
- 8.5.23 North Argyll LLA is located just beyond 10km from the Proposed Development. ZTV analysis and site visits indicate limited visibility to No View of the Proposed Development, and it is therefore excluded from the assessment on the basis that effects would be **Not Significant**. It is noted that North Argyll LLA is already influenced by the existing Clachan Flats Wind Farm located within it and the consented Creag Dhubh Wind Farm partially located within it.
- 8.5.24 ZTV analysis and site visits indicate very limited visibility to No View of the Proposed Development from the remaining LLAs beyond 10km. They are therefore excluded from the assessment on the basis that effects would be **Not Significant**.

Wild Land Areas

- 8.5.25 Wild Land Areas (WLA) are not designated but their importance is recognised in NPF4. NPF4 outlines that “*effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration*” (NPF4, Policy 4, Page 41).
- 8.5.26 As agreed with NS during post-scoping consultation (9 January 2024), day and night-time effects on the Ben Lui WLA and all other WLAs are scoped out of the assessment.

8.6 Baseline of Visual Receptors

- 8.6.1 The visual assessment draws upon the ZTV, site visits and viewpoint analysis and assesses the potential visual effects on views and visual amenity likely to be experienced by receptors (people) within the landscape as follows:
- Views from settlements and residential properties;
 - Views experienced whilst travelling through the landscape (road / rail / ferry users, walkers, horse riders and cyclists for example); and
 - Views from tourist and recreational destinations.
- 8.6.2 As noted previously, the assessment has focused on those visual receptors, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development to the north, south, east and west and within 12km to the south-west of the Proposed Development. Within the wider Study Area, the assessment has considered receptors of national importance such as Scotland's Great Trails, Sustrans Cycle Routes and popular hill walking summits (Munros and Corbetts), also overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. Receptors that would not be significantly affected have been excluded from the assessment with appropriate reasoning provided as part of the baseline analysis.

Visual Receptors: Settlements and Residential Properties

- 8.6.3 The assessment of visual effects likely to be experienced from settlements includes consideration of residential areas, the public realm, and public open spaces within the settlement boundaries that would be frequented by people. Settlements included in the assessment are those defined in the LDP2.
- 8.6.4 The main settlement within 10km at Inveraray is outwith the ZTV and would have No View of the Proposed Development. Settlements within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are listed as follows:
- Eredine;
 - Dalavich;
 - Ford;
 - Minard;
 - Furnace;
 - Strachur; and
 - St Catherines.
- 8.6.5 Site visits and wireline analysis (Viewpoints E and F in **Appendix 8.6**) indicate that visibility from Minard and Furnace would be very limited (up to one blade tip) and barely discernible. They are therefore excluded from further assessment on the basis that effects would be **Not Significant**.

8.6.6 The remaining five settlements of Eredine, Dalavich, Ford, Strachur and St Catherine's are included in the assessment.

8.6.7 Due to the position and relative remoteness of the Development Site there are no residential properties within 2km of the Proposed Development. The nearest residential property is approximately 2.5km from the nearest proposed turbine. A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has therefore been scoped out of the assessment.

Visual Receptors: Transport Routes

8.6.8 Main transport routes (A and B class roads) within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are listed as follows:

- A and B class roads:
 - ▶ A83;
 - ▶ A815;
 - ▶ A886;
 - ▶ B840; and
 - ▶ B8000.
- Unclassified, minor roads:
 - ▶ Minor road (C29 / C30) along western shores of Loch Awe.

8.6.9 Site visits and wireline analysis (Viewpoint 13, and Viewpoints D, E, F and G in **Appendix 8.7**) indicate that visibility from the A83 would be very limited (blade tips) and barely discernible, and views would be often screened by intervening vegetation. Similarly, views from the A815 would only be limited to a very short section of the route south-east of Strachur where views would be largely screened by intervening vegetation and built-form. Both routes are therefore excluded from further assessment on the basis that effects would be **Not Significant**.

8.6.10 The remaining four transport routes of A886, B840, B8000 and the minor road along Loch Awe are included in the assessment.

8.6.11 There are no railway routes or designated ferry routes within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the Proposed Development.

Visual Receptors: Recreational Routes

8.6.12 The recreational routes include Core Paths, Heritage Paths and Scottish Hill Tracks which have been assessed within 10km of the Proposed Development and Sustrans Cycle routes and national level long distance routes such as Scotland's Great Trails, which are assessed within the wider 30km Study Area.

National Recreational Routes (Scotland's Great Trails and National Cycle and Tourist Routes) within 30km

8.6.13 National recreational routes within 30km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV (**Figure 8.10**) are listed as follows, and included in the assessment:

- The Caledonia Way (on-road cycle route overlapped with the minor road (C29 / C30) along the western shores of Loch Awe (connecting with Sustrans Cycle Route 78 in the south-west to north-west)); and
- Loch Lomond and Cowal Way.

8.6.14 Other routes including the Three Lochs Way, West Island Way, Argyll Coastal Route and Clyde Sea Lochs Trail within 30km would experience very limited to mainly No View of the Proposed Development. They are therefore excluded from the assessment.

Local Recreational Routes within 10km (and 12km south-west)

8.6.15 There are a number of local recreational routes within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the Proposed Development. In order to keep this assessment, proportionate and focussed on assessing those receptors where there is potential for significant effects, routes that traverse through areas of mature forestry or woodland (around Loch Avich, Loch Glashan, Minard Forest, Inverliever Forest – C122, C142, C144, C175, C323 and C324) have been scoped out of the assessment due to restricted visibility. Local recreational routes overlapped by the blade tip ZTV (**Figure 8.11a/b**) that have a more open aspect of the Proposed Development and included in the assessment are listed as follows:

- Core Path C119 (b-c) Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace (overlapped with Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 104);
- Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan (overlapped with the Caledonia Way);
- Core Path C305 Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge;
- Core Path C120 Brainport Circular, Minard;
- Core Path C220 (a-b) Strachur Village Back Road (overlapped with Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 97 / 98 Lochgoilhead (Lettermay) to Invernaden (near Loch Eck));
- Core Path C172(c) - Loch Scammadale to Loch Avich;
- Core Paths C486 – Dun Dubh, Ford;
- Core Path C201 - Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray; and
- Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 Furnace to Ford / Kilmichael Glassary.

8.6.16 Site visits and desk-based analysis indicate that there would be very little visibility from Core Paths outwith forestry including C206 and C175 due to screening from surrounding trees, built-form and / or landform. Both of these routes are therefore excluded from the assessment along with other recreational routes routed through forestry as outlined above.

8.6.17 Overlapping recreational routes have not been 'double counted' and are assessed as one receptor where they occur with the national level receptor taking precedence in the assessment.

Visual Receptors: Recreational and Tourist / Visitor Attractions and Facilities

- 8.6.18 Recreational and tourist / visitor attractions relevant to the LVIA include those features that appear as prominent landmarks or landscape features, and locations associated with passive recreation such as walking, where there is a clear relationship between the feature / destination and an appreciation of the landscape. GDLs are included where these are open to the public, as well as National Trust gardens / land and Historic Environment Scotland visitor sites which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV (some of these locations are also referred to in **Chapter 9: Historic Environment** and **Chapter 14: Socio-Economics (including Tourism)**). The assessment excludes locations for team sports and other recreational / tourist destinations where the focus of activity is not on the landscape or is indoors – for example museums, libraries, and gift shops. The assessment has also included Munro and Corbett Mountain summits and their associated access routes which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. These receptors are indicated on the OS base maps and highlighted in **Figures 8.10 and 8.11**.
- 8.6.19 Recreational and outdoor tourist / visitor attractions that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV (**Figure 8.11a/b**) within 10km of the Proposed Development are listed as follows:
- Lachlan Bay and Castle;
 - Minard Castle;
 - Ardcastle Wood; and
 - Loch Glashan Cycle Trails.
- 8.6.20 Minard Castle is privately owned and not accessible to the general public. It is therefore excluded from the assessment. Site visits and wireline analysis confirm that there would be very limited to no visibility of the Proposed Development from Loch Glashan Cycle Trails and Ardcastle Wood (Viewpoints H and K in **Appendix 8F**) primarily due to the forested nature of these attractions limiting outward visibility. These are therefore excluded from the assessment.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 8.6.21 Within the 30km Study Area, there are 11 GDLs from the Historic Environment Scotland inventory. Crarae, Ardchattan Priory, Achnacloich, Ardanaiseig House, An Cala, Arduaine Gardens, Duntrune Castle and Benmore are all outwith the ZTV. Ballimore is located over 18km distance and although it has blade tip ZTV coverage, the intervening distance and surrounding mature woodland would render any visual effects as **Not Significant**. It has therefore been excluded from further assessment.
- 8.6.22 Inveraray Castle GDL (including the folly at Dun na Cuaiche), located within 10km of the Proposed Development, overlaps with the blade tip ZTV and has been included in the assessment.
- 8.6.23 Ardkinglas and Strone GDL is located just beyond 10km, and the House and Estate is privately owned. Only the Woodland Garden opened to the general public, and this is represented by Viewpoint 20, with effects assessed as **Not Significant**. Therefore, it is not assessed further.
- 8.6.24 Effects on the setting of GDLs are assessed separately under Historic Environment in **Chapter 9: Historic Environment**.

Hills and Mountains (not covered by recreational routes)

- 8.6.25 The assessment recognises that a range of recreational / tourist activities may be undertaken within the hills and moorlands including but not limited to stalking / hunting / fishing, climbing / mountaineering, paragliding, horse riding, skiing, and mountain biking. The assessment has focused on the walker as the main receptor activity whose attention is likely to be most focused on the landscape and an appreciation of their surroundings.
- 8.6.26 The following hill summits located within the 30km Study Area and overlapped by the ZTV are included in the assessment:
- Munros:
 - ▶ Beinn Bhuidhe (Viewpoint 23);
 - ▶ Group of four Munro's within the LLTNP north of Arrochar (Beinn Ime (Viewpoint 24), Beinn Narnain, Ben Vane and Ben Vorlich);
 - ▶ Group of four Munro's to the north of Loch Awe and the A85 (Ben Cruachan (Viewpoint 25), Stob Daimh, Beinn a'Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich); and
 - ▶ Beinn a'Chleibh, part of the Ben Lui Munros.
 - Corbetts:
 - ▶ Beinn a'Bhuiridh;
 - ▶ Meall an Fhudair;
 - ▶ Cowal Corbetts (Beinn Bheula, Beinn Lochain (Viewpoint 19), Ben Donich, The Brack and Cnoc Coinnich; and
 - ▶ Beinn Luibhean, Beinn an Lochain and The Cobbler (part of the Arrochar Alps).

Offshore (water-based) Recreational Receptors

- 8.6.27 Offshore (water-based) recreational receptors including people using recreational yachts / pleasure boats and sea kayaks / canoes, particularly along Loch Fyne and Loch Awe (Viewpoints 2 and 12) would have theoretical visibility of parts of the Proposed Development and are included in the assessment. It is to be noted that as of 1 August 2023, Loch Awe Boats confirmed that it would not be hiring boats to the general public and access to Loch Awe is by permit only and therefore private. Therefore, the wireline from Viewpoint 2 is illustrative of a very small number of people who would privately use the shores of Loch Awe. There would be **No View** of the Proposed Development from Loch Avich.

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

- 8.6.28 The LLTNP is also an attraction for other outdoor activities. The ZTV illustrates that visibility of the Proposed Development is limited to elevated areas and hill summits within the LLTNP which are included above.

8.7 Future Baseline

- 8.7.1 The Proposed Development would cover a period of approximately 38 years (including construction, operation and decommissioning). The approximate time periods associated with the Proposed Development, and whether they are predominantly long-term or short-term are listed as follows:

- Construction: approximately 24 months (short-term);
- Operation: up to 35 years (long-term and reversible); and
- Decommissioning: approximately 12 months (short-term).

8.7.2 The LVIA also recognises that some elements of the Proposed Development such as borrow pits and access tracks will be permanent and remain beyond the construction and decommissioning period, although subject to mitigation in respect of the borrow pits, whilst access tracks may re-vegetate over time if left un-used. The operation period of up to 35 years, although 'long-term' is assessed as though it were permanent, whilst noting that the effects of the proposed turbines would be reversible once decommissioned.

8.7.3 The LVIA considers that during this period of 38 years, the predicted future baseline and evolution of landscape and visual receptors is unlikely to change significantly under the current regime of landscape and forestry management and maintenance. However, land management, and consequently landscape character, is dependent on a number of economic and environmental factors including the future effects of climate change and human adaptation which are difficult to predict at a local level and not a matter for this assessment. It is, however, likely that mitigation and adaptation in response to changing climate and biodiversity pressures will continue to have an influence on this area in the form of increased renewable energy and other environmental changes which are likely to alter the landscape baseline as follows:

- Change resulting from an increased reliance on renewable energy, including wind farm development; and
- Change to current levels of forestry and woodland, which may increase.

8.7.4 Change to the future baseline of other large scale wind energy development closest to the Proposed Development, that can be reasonably predicted, is set out in **Table 8.6**. It is likely that An Suidhe would be decommissioned by 2035, approximately 28 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, in which case it would be visible alongside the Proposed Development for seven years. Both An Suidhe and A'Chruach wind farms would cease operation during the first half of the operational period for the Proposed Development (according to their consented periods of operation). The consented A'Chruach Phase 2 and Blarghour wind farms, when built, would cease operation during the second half of the operational period for the Proposed Development. This information has been noted in addition to the baseline cumulative assessment where relevant.

Table 8.6 Cumulative Operational Timescales of Existing and Consented Wind Energy Development within 10km

Name and reference	Year of Commissioning / Construction Completed	Operational Period
Eredine Wind Farm		
		Proposed operational period of 35 years from 2028 (assuming construction begins in 2026) up to 2063.
Existing Wind Energy Developments within 10km		
E01. An Suidhe	2010	Operational until 2035 after which it will be decommissioned
E02. A'Chruach	2016	Operational until 2041 after which it will be decommissioned
Consented Wind Energy Developments within 10km		
C01. A'Chruach Phase 2	2015	Consented to operate for 25 years
C02. Blarghour	2021	Consented to operate for 30 years

8.8 Embedded Mitigation

- 8.8.1 The design evolution for the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives**, encompassing all of the environmental mitigation applied in response to a range of different environmental and technical criteria. A project description including the associated infrastructure is detailed in **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development**.
- 8.8.2 Landscape related aspects of the design and mitigation are described in this section. The layout of the Proposed Development and its various infrastructure components are shown in **Figure 4.1**.

Design Statement

- 8.8.3 Policy 11(e) ii of NPF 4 sets out that project design and mitigation should demonstrate how significant landscape and visual impacts are addressed, recognising that such impacts “are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy” and that “where impacts are localised and/ or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable”.
- 8.8.4 The inherent nature of wind turbines as tall, modern structures means that the form of the wind farm as a whole is important. The appearance of the wind farm as an object or composition in the landscape has been a key factor in generating the layout. In this respect the design evolution has taken account of the following guidance:
- SNH *Guidance on Siting and Designing Windfarms*, Version 3a, 2017, which aims to achieve a simple, rational and cohesive design that, to a reasonable degree, avoids overlapping turbines and gaps within the visual composition; and
 - Landscape constraints, opportunities and guidance for wind farm development within the *Craggy Upland LCT*, described by the ABLWECS.

- 8.8.5 This advice has been reflected in consultation with ABC and NS and has led to design refinements that have responded to the local landscape character, scale and form, to provide an improved 'landscape fit'. The Proposed Development has evolved from the scoping stage, through the design process which has involved many iterations. This has led to a reduction in the horizontal and vertical scale of the Proposed Development and a reduction in turbine numbers from 26 to 22 and reducing the horizontal extent of the Proposed Development. The vertical turbine height has also reduced from 230m to blade tip at scoping to up to 200m to blade tip.
- 8.8.6 The Proposed Development has been designed to balance technical and project requirements with a need to safeguard the environment and satisfactorily accommodate it within its landscape setting. The design evolution has aimed to reduce landscape, visual and cumulative effects and to respect the landscape characteristics identified in the ABLWECS, including consideration of the appropriate scale, form, pattern and construction materials, as well as the potential cumulative effect of other wind farm developments.
- 8.8.7 A key consideration for the Proposed Development was the landscape character and large scale and simplicity of the host uplands (*Craggy Upland LCT*) with extensive moorland and coniferous forestry which has a reduced susceptibility to wind farm development in comparison to the more complex craggy knolls and lochans and other smaller scale and complex landscape character types.
- 8.8.8 Although in an elevated location within an upland setting, the proposed turbines would be located within coniferous forestry and surrounded by low-rising summits formed from An Suidhe (514m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) to the north adjacent to the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, Corr Bheinn (353m AOD) to the north, Beinn Dearg (482m AOD) and associated ridgeline to the east and south-east, and Beinn Laoigh (435m AOD) / Beinn Dubh Airigh (460m AOD / Garbh Chruach (392m AOD) to the west and south-west. Due to the undulating upland landform and presence of further dispersed low summits, the ZTV is fragmented as described previously in paragraphs 8.4.19 -8.4.26.
- 8.8.9 In addition to the opportunities afforded by the Development Site location, the design and layout of the Proposed Development provides further mitigation. The 'simple' turbine layout is suitable for the underlying landform and simple landscape character of the *Craggy Upland LCT* and accords with general SNH guidance *Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape*, Version 3a, 2017 for wind farm development as a simple, balanced and cohesive turbine composition as well as being located within large-scale, broad and simple landscape character type. The proposed turbines have been cohesively located on the central plateau of the LCT (away from its more craggy and complex edges and beyond the foreground ridges enclosing Loch Awe and Loch Fyne) to benefit from intervening screening and limit the visibility of the proposed turbines, as well as reducing its horizontal and vertical extent from key views. This is particularly the case when perceived from the edges (which includes small settlements and routes) and shores of Loch Fyne and Loch Awe, settlement of Inverary (resulting in no visibility of the turbines), and views from some surrounding elevated areas mainly within the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA. The height of the proposed turbines at 200m to blade tip is considered to be appropriate considering the large-scale landscape setting of its location.
- 8.8.10 The scale of the turbines can be accommodated in this location, creating a simple, cohesive, balanced and clear design and visual composition that minimises excessive 'turbine clutter' in the form of uneven gaps / overlaps and outlying turbines. This has the following design advantages:
- Through design, the proposed turbines have been located within the central plateaux of the landscape and set within a forested area, that limits their visibility from surrounding areas;

- The Proposed Development would appear as a clearly recognisable scheme that ‘fits’ with the scale and simplicity of the local landscape character, such that the aesthetics and visual composition of the turbines (appearing as a simple and reasonably balanced composition) can be appreciated in their own right where visible; and
- The simple visual composition of the proposed turbines reflects the character of the *Craggy Upland* LCT and the pattern of other existing and consented wind farm development nearby.

- 8.8.11 The Development Site infrastructure, including the access road and the locations of the temporary construction compounds and proposed battery storage and substation compound are also discretely located to mitigate the effects on the local landscape character.
- 8.8.12 In common with other nearby existing and consented wind farm development (An Suidhe, A'Chruach, Blarghour, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas located within the *Craggy Upland* LCT), the Proposed Development is located within a forested upland / moorland landscape. It is set well back from the shores and slopes of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Whilst An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible in conjunction with the Proposed Development, particularly in views from the Loch Awe direction (Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16), both developments would be perceived as separate wind farms such that differences in turbine height, scale and rotation speed can be appreciated as distinctly separate, allowing both to be reasonably accommodated in landscape and wider views.
- 8.8.13 An Suidhe Wind Farm is relatively small and dated, as compared to wind farm proposals that are currently coming forward. It should also be noted that An Suidhe Wind Farm and the Proposed Development would be visible together in views for approximately seven years after which An Suidhe would be decommissioned (2035). Thereafter, the Proposed Development would be seen as clearly separate from its nearest neighbours of A'Chruach and Blarghour Wind Farms.

Design Consideration in relation to the ABLWECS

- 8.8.14 The ABLWECS provides specific landscape advice on landscape sensitivity for different areas of landscape character to ‘generic’ wind farm development. Its purpose is not to provide advice on specific wind farm development such as the Proposed Development but is a useful starting point in the design process. In particular, the ABLWECS identifies that the Proposed Development is within the *Craggy Upland* LCT, and this landscape includes existing wind farm development which is a recognised key characteristic that contains a number of attributes indicating reduced sensitivity to wind farm development.
- 8.8.15 The constraints and opportunities of the *Craggy Upland* LCT reported in the ABLWECS have been reviewed in the design evolution and assessment process of the Proposed Development as set out in **Table 8.7**.

Table 8.7 Consideration of the ABLWECS

ABLWECS	Design consideration of the Proposed Development
Craggy Upland - Constraints	
<i>The backdrop of steep slopes and skyline ridges which provide the immediate setting to the settled fringes of Loch Awe and to the less settled Loch Avich area but also to the small scale settled</i>	The Proposed Development has been located within the central upland plateau area to the east of Loch Awe where it is set back from the rising slopes and ridgeline. This minimises visibility from

ABLWECS	Design consideration of the Proposed Development
<i>landscapes of the adjacent Craggy Uplands with Settled Glens (7a) to the west.</i>	the eastern settled fringe of Loch Awe. At the western settled fringe of Loch Awe (and the less settled Loch Avich area), the proposed turbines would be perceived as beyond the defining ridgeline and slopes 'containing' the loch. Due to their 'set back' location, a proportion of the turbines would be screened by intervening landform (over half of the proposed turbines from Dalavich – Viewpoint 4). The visible turbines would be seen in views where wind turbines are already a feature in wide views across the loch.
<i>Areas of more complex craggy landform including steep-sided ridges and knolly tops and the higher pronounced summits of Beinn Chapull, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Ghlas seen from adjacent settled glens.</i>	The proposed turbines would be located to the south and east of Loch Awe - away from Beinn Chapull (515m AOD) (13.5km distance), and the nearby Beinn Dearg (484m AOD) and Beinn Ghlas (512m AOD) (14km distance) which are located to the west / north-west of Loch Awe.
<i>The intricate pattern of lochans and small knolly hills in the south-eastern part of the interior plateau of this character type and the more extensive areas of unmodified ground where a degree of naturalness and seclusion can be experienced.</i>	The proposed turbines would be located in an area modified by extensive coniferous forestry and associated forest access tracks and management activities including harvesting. In addition, the area adjacent to the Development Site is also influenced by An Suidhe Wind Farm, which influences the degree of naturalness and seclusion from this location.
<i>Occasional pronounced small open-topped hills close to Loch Awe and long wooded lower hill slopes which form spurs and promontories extending into Loch Awe and add to its scenic interest.</i>	The proposed turbines would be located away from 'small open-topped hills close to Loch Awe' in an area characterised by extensive coniferous forestry.
<i>The wider setting to the planned settlement of Inveraray and views from Loch Fyne.</i>	There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the settlement of Inveraray. Views from the waterbody of Loch Fyne would be limited to partial views of blades and occasional hubs due to the location of the turbines behind the rising landform and ridgeline to the west of the loch. Visibility on the waterbody increases with distance to the south of the loch within the Study Area.
<i>Prominent hills which form landmark features including Beinn Bhreac and Beinn Dearg which lie in the area between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne and are seen from inner Loch Fyne.</i>	The proposed turbines would be located in the area between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne and would be visible in views from inner Loch Fyne which include Beinn Bhreac (526m AOD) and Beinn Dearg (482m AOD). The turbines would be visible behind Beinn Dearg and would be either screened by the hill or visible as blades or blade tips (or the occasional hub) as indicated in Viewpoints 6, 7, 9 and 14.
<i>Potential effects of large turbines sited on the north-eastern edge of this landscape on the scenic basin of north Loch Awe.</i>	The Proposed Development would not be located in the north-eastern edge of this landscape.

ABLWECS	Design consideration of the Proposed Development
<i>Potential cumulative effects with the operational wind farms of A'Chruach, An Suidhe, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas particularly affecting views from Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Cumulative effects could also occur in more extensive views from the popular Munro of Ben Cruachan, the Wild Land Areas of Loch Etive Mountains and Ben Lui to the north and east and the sea and islands to the west.</i>	There would be no to very little visibility from the scenic basin of north Loch Awe.
	There would be cumulative effects from the introduction of the Proposed Development in combination with the existing wind farms at An Suidhe and A'Chruach. There would be very limited cumulative effects with Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas due to the intervening distance with the Proposed Development. It is not considered that the LCT would become a 'wind farm landscape' but would retain its existing status as a 'landscape with wind farms'. It is noted that An Suidhe Wind Farm is relatively small and dated, as compared to wind farm proposals that are currently coming forward and the Proposed Development would be operating concurrently for approximately 7 years before An Suidhe is decommissioned.
Craggy Upland - Opportunities	
<i>The general simple landform and land cover and the large scale of interior plateaux. Forested areas are generally less sensitive as the underlying landform tends to be less craggy and complex.</i>	The Proposed Development would be located within the large scale of the interior plateaux between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. It would be situated within a less sensitive area of extensive coniferous forestry.
<i>The very sparsely settled nature of these uplands and their relative inaccessibility which limits close views of the interior plateau.</i>	The Proposed Development would be located in a remote and relatively inaccessible area.
Craggy Upland – Cumulative Issues	
<i>Incremental loss of open, less modified moorland and effects on the diverse character of the more intricate pattern of small lochs and craggy knolls present in some areas.</i>	The proposed turbines would be located in an area modified by extensive coniferous forest and associated forest access tracks and management activities.
<i>Cumulative effects that could occur with multiple developments seen on skyline ridges present in views from minor roads within the Craggy Upland (7) character type, along the Loch Avich road and from the B840 on the southern shores of Loch Awe but also from the south-eastern shore of Loch Fyne and from the A886 and the A85, at the scenic head of Loch Awe and southern shore of Loch Etive.</i>	There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the A85, scenic head of Loch Awe and the southern shore of Loch Etive. There would be very limited visibility of the Proposed Development from Loch Avich Road which has greater visibility of the consented Blarghour Wind Farm. There would be sequential but limited visibility of the Proposed Development and consented Blarghour Wind Farm from the B840 (assuming the latter is constructed). Visibility of the Proposed Development with other cumulative wind farms from the A886 would be more limited due to the intervening landform and vegetation along the A886.

ABLWECS

Design consideration of the Proposed Development

Significant cumulative effects which would arise on roads and settlement if multiple wind farm developments extended either side of Loch Awe. The spatial pattern of operational wind farms (and small size/limited visibility of Beinn Ghlas turbines) limits incidence of development seen along the very long length (40km) of Loch Awe in sequential views. Extensive forestry and woodland also restricts visibility from roads along Loch Awe although additional new wind farm developments (as opposed to extensions to existing wind farms) could result in turbines being prominent in the backdrop of every open view seen from the B840 / Cycle Route 74.

Currently there are two existing schemes (An Suidhe and A'Chruach) and one consented scheme (Blarghour) affecting views to the south and east from the B840. To the north and west of Loch Awe, the existing Carriag Gheal Wind Farm is located to the south of Beinn Ghlas. The Proposed Development would be located adjacent to the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm and, although extending the extent of wind farm development south, would be visible in part of the view already influenced by an existing wind farm. As noted above, An Suidhe Wind Farm has a limited remaining lifespan. There are currently no existing or consented wind farm developments to the south-west of Loch Awe.

Cumulative impacts on the smaller settled landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) where the large turbines of Carraig Gheal already significantly impacts on character and views on the south-eastern shores of Loch Awe and where additional development could significantly extend this effect into Ford area at the bottom of Loch Awe where wind farm development currently has little influence.

There would be limited visibility of the Proposed Development from the settled landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) around Loch Awe within the 10km study area. Partial visibility of the Proposed Development from the eastern shoreline of Loch Awe would be mostly screened by woodland and forestry as indicated in Viewpoint 1. Views from Ford would also be screened by landform and intervening woodland as indicated in Viewpoint 11.

Additional development seen in conjunction with the operational Carriag Gheal wind farm on hills which provide immediate containment to the sensitive Craggy Upland and Settled Glens (7a) and Craggy Coast and Islands (7b).

The Proposed Development would be visible in a different part of the landscape to Carriag Gheal Wind Farm. There would be very limited visibility of the Proposed Development from *Craggy Upland and Settled Glens (7a)* and *Craggy Coast and Islands (7b)*, and the Proposed Development minimises intrusion on these LCTs. It is also not sited on or near Beinn Chapull, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Ghlas resulting in no significant cumulative effects,

Landscape Specific Mitigation

- 8.8.16 Specific landscape mitigation which has been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development and detailed in **Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives** is summarised here.

Construction Mitigation

- 8.8.17 Measures to mitigate adverse landscape and visual effects during construction will be included in a Construction Environmental Management Plan, such as the restriction of construction traffic to designated routes, to avoid damage to the road corridor such as the creation of wheel ruts and ensure these are cleared-up and reinstated. Peat and topsoil will be handled in accordance with a Peat Management Plan (PMP).

- 8.8.18 There would be regular environmental monitoring and reporting to ensure the removal, reinstatement, and clear up of temporary construction compounds / laydown areas and any related construction arisings / redundant material.
- 8.8.19 A Site Restoration Plan will be submitted for approval by ABC before construction begins. The key elements will include the reinstatement of the borrow pit working areas, construction compounds, laydown areas and cable trenches. Development Site tracks would be 'softened' with shoulders graded with excavated subsoil or peat and completed with the original topsoil or turfs where available.
- 8.8.20 Two temporary construction compounds are proposed. The primary construction compound would comprise an area measuring 100m x 50m and the secondary 50m x 50m. The laydown areas would be fully re-instated, and temporary construction compounds partially re-instated with stored turfs or excavated soil and / or re-planted to accord with the Site Restoration Plan and Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Design Plan. Part of temporary construction compound 1 will be retained for battery storage.

Forestry Design and Management

- 8.8.21 The existing Forest Design Plan has been amended to accommodate the Proposed Development and a new integrated Wind Farm and Forest Design Plan has been developed as described in more detail in **Appendix 4A** and illustrated in **Figures 4A.1 to 4A.8**. Using a bespoke approach for each turbine based on wind direction, topography and tree condition, the permanent area required to be kept free from forestry around the proposed turbines and other infrastructure, excluding advanced felling would be 104ha of forestry (198.1ha including advanced felling) as illustrated in **Figures 16B.6-7**. The remaining areas of the forest areas would be re-stocked, felled and maintained as coniferous forestry to accordance with the proposed Forest Design Plan and other approved forest plans as reported in **Appendix 4A**. Forestry felling, required for the Proposed Development (including baseline felling) would be most visible from viewpoints 7 and 11, with limited visibility from viewpoints 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 within 10km. Forestry felling would not be widely visible from other surrounding areas and would be largely limited.
- 8.8.22 There are a number of limitations and assumptions in relation to forestry management, as follows, that are relevant to this assessment:
- Where Forest Plans exist, felling phases are described, and the replanting design and species choices are included. Designed open space and non-intervention or Long Term Retention may be developed;
 - By assessing the changes to the forest structure and any permanent woodland loss resulting from the Proposed Development, a reasonable worst case is assumed whereby the integrity of the woodland as a whole is preserved;
 - The typical planting and felling cycles for the normal commercial conifer, Sitka spruce are assumed to be in the range of 40 to 60 years. Given an average growth rate of 50cms per year, Sitka spruce may well attain a height of 25m in 50 years at which stage the stem dimensions typically meet the specifications for sawmilling and other wood processing and ready for felling as part of commercial operations. Once the tree crop is felled, the area is not usually left fallow for more than two years. After this period, replanting would then take place. The site is typically cultivated which promotes early establishment and conifer transplants taken directly from the tree nursery are planted to re-establish the forestry crop. It is estimated that conifer transplants take between 5 and 7 years to grow to a height of 2m; and

- It should be noted that the final tree height is dependent upon the local site conditions, particularly exposure to wind and soil strength. In exposed locations and areas of weak soil, a tree may not achieve a height of 20m before succumbing to windthrow.

Internal Access Tracks

- 8.8.23 A total of approximately 22km of new and 19km of upgraded wind farm access tracks would be constructed. Temporary passing places would also be provided. The tracks would feature local widening on corners and would be surfaced with coarse aggregate (see **Figure 4.11** for typical track cross sections). New sections of track across areas of peat deeper than 0.5m would be floated, comprising a total of approximately 3,338m.
- 8.8.24 Limited sections of the wind farm access tracks would be visible from viewpoints 3, 4 and 5 within 10km and are illustrated in **Figures 8.21, 8.22 and 8.23**. These are the only viewpoints within 10km where, apart from the turbines, any other associated infrastructure would be visible. These low levels of visibility of the Development Site infrastructure confirm minimal landscape and visual effects on the surrounding receptors.
- 8.8.25 On completion of construction, the Development Site entrance and access tracks would be cleared of any construction signage and left in a tidy and co-ordinated condition with verges restored and field boundary fencing neatly tied into new gates / access details.

Temporary Construction Compound

- 8.8.26 During the construction period, two temporary construction compounds including laydown area (maximum areas of 5,000m² and 2,500m²) would be required as shown on **Figure 4.1**. The locations have been selected partly because they have low landscape sensitivity and would not be visible from surrounding receptors due to intervening landform and forestry.
- 8.8.27 The areas would be prepared by stripping soil, laying down a geotextile material and then a working surface of stone. The stripped soil would be stored adjacent to the compounds for subsequent use in reinstatement works at the end of the construction period. The site laydown areas would be fully re-instated and compounds partially re-instated with stored turfs or excavated soil and / or re-planted to accord with the Site Restoration Plan and Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Design Plan. Part of temporary construction compound 1 will be retained for battery storage.

Wind Turbines

- 8.8.28 A total of 22 wind turbines are proposed with a blade tip height of up to 200m, each with an associated crane pad. The turbines would be a uniform semi-matte grey colour (no company logos or advertising) to reduce their contrast with the background sky and minimise their reflectivity. This measure would also ensure a reasonable degree of parity between the proposed turbines and other existing, nearby turbines.
- 8.8.29 The 33kV switchboard/transformer required for each turbine will most likely be located within the turbine tower, but subject to final manufacturer's design, this equipment may also be located within its own adjacent stand-alone kiosk measuring approximately 5m by 3m by 3m high (**Figure 4.3**). These would each be colour-coordinated with the substation and control building and associated battery storage equipment to have a low contrast with the surrounding landscape and best match the existing forestry colours.
- 8.8.30 Aviation warning lights would be required and a lighting strategy to provide mitigation of the potential landscape and visual effects at night is proposed. An assessment of the night-time effects is reported in **Appendix 8C**.

Substation and Energy Storage System

- 8.8.31 The proposed turbines and the on-site substation and control building / battery storage compound would be linked by underground electrical cables, routed along the verges of the internal access tracks.
- 8.8.32 The substation compound (180m x 110m) is illustrated indicatively in **Figure 4.7** and would include two single storey, pitched roofed buildings comprising the network operator building and the wind farm control building up to 7m high, with switchgear infrastructure and car parking. The substation compound would also be enclosed by a security fence.
- 8.8.33 The battery storage equipment is illustrated in **Figure 4.8** and would extend over an area 50m x 50m. It would contain four containerised inverters, up to four battery control and fire panels, up to 32 battery modules and an auxiliary transformer. It would also be enclosed by a security fence.
- 8.8.34 These compounds have been located within the existing forestry, away from visual receptors. The forestry enclosing these compounds would be maintained throughout the operational period of the Proposed Development and the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Management Plan.

Borrow Pits

- 8.8.35 Up to nine borrow search areas have been identified, as described in **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development** and illustrated in **Figure 4.1**. The assessment has allowed for the development of indicative borrow pits in all search areas, as a worst-case and assumes that each would contain a borrow pit and an on-site concrete batching plant.
- 8.8.36 The majority of the proposed borrow pit search areas are surrounded by existing forestry that is to be retained throughout the operational period of the Proposed Development and the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Plan.
- 8.8.37 Upon completion, all of the borrow pits would be restored in accordance with the Site Restoration Plan and programme, drawing upon the advice of a landscape architect or other suitable environmental consultant in agreement with ABC. This will ensure that proposed reinstatement techniques are suitable and may identify appropriate environmental enhancement opportunities. It is anticipated that steep faces would be backfilled and/ or re-profiled to match the surrounding topography, and disturbed surfaces would be covered with soil and re-seeded / re-turfed or left as exposed rock outcrops.

Operational Mitigation

- 8.8.38 The operation of the Proposed Development would cover a period of 35 years and include site management to ensure the adequate maintenance of site facilities and landscape features, such as access tracks, field boundaries, gates, and signage.

Decommissioning

- 8.8.39 The Proposed Development would be decommissioned at the end of its operational period which is expected to take up to approximately 12 months. In accordance with **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development**, all visible, above ground structures (turbines, battery storage and substation) would be removed upon decommissioning, thereby rendering the vast majority of the landscape and visual effects as reversible. Subject to forestry / landowner requirements, the main operational site entrance and some of the internal access tracks would remain as permanent features, with redundant areas

and crane hard standings removed and restored in accordance with industry guidance. A Site Decommissioning Plan will set out environmental protection measures and restoration principles which will be implemented. This plan will be agreed with ABC.

8.9 Residual Landscape Effects

- 8.9.1 Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as follows.
- *"An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. ... The study area should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the development may influence in a significant manner."*
- 8.9.2 These effects are assessed by considering the landscape sensitivity (value and susceptibility) against the magnitude of change. The type of effect may also be described as temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, cumulative and beneficial (positive), neutral, or adverse (negative).
- 8.9.3 The residual landscape effects, assessed here, are those effects remaining after all of the embedded design mitigation has been taken into account. An assessment of the cumulative landscape effects, taking account of other existing and consented wind farm development and any current wind farm applications, as set out in **Table 8.3** has been undertaken according to the methodology detailed in **Appendix 8C**. The assessment has taken a precautionary approach and focused on the landscape character within 10km (and 12km south-west). This has been guided by the results of the viewpoint analysis (**Appendix 8.2**) which indicated that **significant** visual effects would be limited, primarily to within approximately 10km (and up to 12km south-west) of the proposed turbines.
- 8.9.4 The effects of the proposed aviation warning lights of the Proposed Development on the landscape receptors are considered in **Appendix 8C**.

Landscape Effects on Craggy Upland LCT

- 8.9.5 The 'host' landscape for the Proposed Development is the *Craggy Upland LCT* (number AGC 7 on **Figure 8.8** and in the ABLWECS) - an upland area of craggy outcrops dissected by steep glens forming irregular slope profiles, upland lochs and a mosaic of open moorland and forestry, located either side of Loch Awe.
- 8.9.6 The *Craggy Upland LCT* within 10km shares several similar qualities to the adjacent *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT* (AGC 6a on **Figure 8.8**) to the west of Loch Fyne. Together they occupy a large proportion of the landscape within 10km and expand the upland nature of the host LCT to form an extensive upland landscape. The upland areas transition to *Rocky Mosaic LCT* (AGC 20 on **Figure 8.8**), which form lower lying, more settled areas – along the coastal edges of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. To the south-west the *Craggy Upland LCT* adjoins the *Upland Parallel Ridges LCT*. To the south-east, beyond Loch Fyne, *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT* and *Rocky Mosaic LCT* transition into *Steep Ridgeland and Mountains LCT* within 10km.
- 8.9.7 In the wider 30km Study Area, there is a greater diversity of landscape character identified to the east and south-east within the LLTNP and to the west / south-west and north on the coastline and islands and at Loch Etive.

- 8.9.8 The landscape character of the *Craggy Upland* LCT is described within the ABWELCS (section 4.14.1) as follows:
- *“The Craggy Upland character comprises a high irregular upland plateau lying either side of Loch Awe. The landscape generally has a large scale and simple land cover of extensive moorland and coniferous forestry which reduces sensitivity to wind farm development although areas with more complex craggy knolls and lochans have an increased sensitivity. Although this is a very sparsely settled landscape with roads aligned in valleys and views additionally restricted by extensive coniferous forest and loch-side woodland, immediate skylines formed by hills on the edge of the Craggy Upland, and visible from more settled loch shores and valleys are sensitive. These uplands already accommodate a number of operational wind farms and potential cumulative effects on Loch Awe, inner Loch Fyne and on surrounding smaller scale settled gens and valleys are constraints to additional development.”*
- 8.9.9 Within the upland setting, the Development Site is located predominantly within the less sensitive coniferous forestry in a gently undulating upland ‘plateau’ formation to the east, west and south of Abhainn a’Bhealaich waterbody. The Development Site is surrounded by low-rising summits of which the nearest include: An Suidhe (514m AOD) to the north adjacent to the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, Corr Bheinn (353m AOD) to the north, Beinn Dearg (482m AOD) and associated ridgeline to the east and south-east, and Beinn Laoigh (435m AOD) / Beinn Dubh Airigh (460m AOD / Garbh Chruach (392m AOD) to the west and south-west which have contributed to the limited and ‘patchy’ ZTV coverage of the area as illustrated in **Figures 8.2 – 8.4**.
- 8.9.10 The landscape within the Development Site boundary is fairly typical of the *Craggy Upland* LCT and displays most of the key characteristics, in particular the topography and coniferous forestry.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.9.11 The landscape assessment has been undertaken in accordance with GLVIA 3 and the methodology and glossary set out in **Appendix 8A**. GLVIA 3, paragraph 5.39 advises that *“Landscape receptors need to be assessed firstly in terms of their sensitivity, combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape. ... it is specific to the particular project or development that is being proposed and to the location in question.”*
- 8.9.12 Landscape susceptibility according to the GLVIA3, glossary means *“the ability of the landscape to accommodate the development without undue consequences for maintenance of the baseline situation and / or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies”*. It may be noted that this definition is distinct from the one used for strategic assessment in the ABLWECS which states that *“Sensitivity relates to landscape character and how susceptible this is to change. In this study, change relates to wind energy development and any findings on landscape sensitivity are restricted to this. Landscapes may have different sensitivities to other forms of change or development, Sensitivity is assessed by considering the effect of different heights of wind turbine development on the physical and perceptual characteristics of landscapes. In this study, the nature of views and visibility and the value associated with a landscape are also considered in determining sensitivity,”*.
- 8.9.13 At a strategic level the ABLWECS identifies a ‘High’ sensitivity to turbines >130m (Very large turbines) within this LCT. The ABLWECS advises that there is ‘no scope’ for ‘Very large turbine’ typology within this area or anywhere within Argyll and Bute. However, since the publication of the ABLWECS in 2017, Blarghour Wind Farm (17 turbines at 136.5m to blade tip) has been consented to the north-east of the Proposed Development. There are also several other wind farm applications proposed to the north-east and south-west of the Proposed Development (up to 180m to blade tip) within this LCT.

- 8.9.14 In considering the landscape susceptibility for the Proposed Development this assessment has referred to a range of commonly accepted landscape criteria or indicators of susceptibility to wind energy development, as set out in **Table 8.8**. They include attributes of large landscape scale, simple landform and land cover, limited settlement and visual qualities of broad and simple skylines, all of which are key characteristics of the *Craggy Upland* LCT.
- 8.9.15 As a result, an overall assessment has been made of Medium landscape susceptibility for the Proposed Development.

Table 8.8 Craggy Upland: Landscape Susceptibility

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
Physical Characteristics:					
Scale	Larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale wind turbines				
			✓		
Landform and Topography	Simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes as the turbines may be less easily scaled against the landform				
		✓			
Land Cover	Large scale simple and homogenous land cover including moorland, grasslands, and large forestry plantations, where the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines				
		✓			
Pattern	Unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines.				
	✓				
Settlement	Sparse or no settlement with relatively few visual receptors and scale indicators.				
		✓			
Other Similar Development	Large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses detracting from the overall landscape sensitivity and value.				

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
	Landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines				
		✓			
Perceptual Characteristics:					
Wildness and Naturalness	Area not valued for wildness as a key characteristic or LLA.		Area valued for wildness as a key characteristic or LLA.		
		✓			
Remoteness	Area that feels closer to people and human activities. Conversely, a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquility would have a lower number of visual receptors.		Area that feels remote from people and human activities. Conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors.		
		✓			
Rational / Windswept	Open and exposed landscapes where turbines, though more visible, may be logically located on windswept locations.		Enclosed or sheltered landform likely to be of a smaller scale and limited rational for turbine locations.		
		✓			
Visual Characteristics:					
Openness and Enclosure	Enclosed landscape with limited opportunities for long range views.		Open landscapes with opportunities for long range views.		
			✓		
Skyline	Broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography.		Skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography.		
			✓		
Landmarks	Landscapes with no sensitive landmark features where turbines might detract from settings		Landscapes with landmarks and features such as church spires and prominent listed buildings where turbines might compete as landscape foci and detract from settings		
		✓			
Surrounding Context	Self-contained landscape with limited relationship with adjacent areas.		Landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop.		

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind energy development		Characteristics that are more susceptible to wind energy development		
	Low	Medium – Low	Medium	High - Medium	High
				✓	
Overall Susceptibility			Medium		

- 8.9.16 Considering landscape value, the Development Site is not designated for its scenic value at a national or local level indicating a Medium value in terms of designation alone. Other factors that contribute and indicate landscape value are listed in GLVIA 3, Box 5.1 include landscape and scenic quality (indicated by the LLA) rarity, conservation and recreational interests, perceptual aspects such as 'wildness' and associations of history, art or literature. The Development Site does not exhibit rare landscape features, however, part of the forestry covering the Development Site is crossed by a recreational route (Core Path C119 / Scottish Hill Track 104), with the wider area crossed by a number of Core Paths / Scottish Hill Tracks. Taken together the landscape value of the Development Site is assessed as Medium, noting that the parts of the LCT in the north are overlapped with the North Argyll LLA and the south-west overlapped with the Knapdale / Melfort LLA are of higher High-Medium landscape value (the latter being acknowledged in the ABLWECS (page 60)).
- 8.9.17 Considering the assessment of Medium susceptibility and the Medium value for the Development Site, the overall sensitivity of the *Craggy Upland* LCT to the Proposed Development is assessed as *Medium*. This is lower than the sensitivity rating for the ABLWECS and reflects a reduced susceptibility to change of forested areas in comparison to more sensitive locations such as the open areas of complex craggy knolls and lochans in other parts of the LCT, and locally designated areas on the edges of the LCT.
- 8.9.18 The landscape elements on the Development Site, mainly coniferous forestry have been assessed as of Low sensitivity reflecting its role as timber crop within this landscape. Areas of moorland have been assessed as of Medium to Low sensitivity, reflecting their semi-natural nature.

Landscape Effects during Construction

- 8.9.19 The 24-month construction phase would result in direct landscape effects on the Development Site and its component landscape elements of coniferous forestry. During this period there would be dynamic and progressive change to the landscape involving forestry felling, new and upgraded access track creation, movement of people and construction vehicles, plant and machinery, localised establishment of compounds, deliveries and site storage, excavation of borrow pits and localised construction of turbine foundations. Cranage, turbine delivery and construction would be visible above the forestry. This level of activity is not characteristic of this area and so the magnitude of change would progress from Zero at the start of construction to High.
- 8.9.20 Effects on landscape elements, mainly the coniferous forestry crop (Low sensitivity) would be limited, (Low magnitude) as forestry removal would be largely 'key-holed' and minimised such that the effects on this landscape element would be **Negligible** and **Not Significant**. Several sections of existing forest tracks would be used for access, and there would be limited removal of moorland vegetation (Medium to Low sensitivity) to form new access tracks and (Very Low magnitude) the effects on this landscape element (moorland) would also be **Negligible** and **Not Significant**.

- 8.9.21 In terms of the likely effects on landscape character, the magnitude of change during the construction phase would range progressively from Zero to High, primarily as a result of the progressive turbine construction and related infrastructure, including the creation of new access tracks, substation and battery storage compounds, met mast and temporary construction compound and use of borrow pits. Overall, the landscape effects on the 'host' *Craggy Upland* LCT would range from None (at the start of the construction phase) and increase to **Major** and **Significant** upon completion, due in particular to the nature of construction activity (contrasting colours, movement, people).
- 8.9.22 The geographical extent of significant effects would be limited to areas within the Development Site itself extending out to approximately 1-2km from the proposed turbines, subject to the containing effects of topography and forestry. There would be **no significant** effects to the north-east due to the presence of the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm which already has an influence on this part of the LCT. Any potential landscape effects resulting from the Proposed Development would overlap with this development and its effects on the existing LCT. Beyond 1-2km to the south-east, significant effects would be limited by the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line that crosses this landscape.
- 8.9.23 The ZTV (**Figure 8.4b**) and the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Design Plan indicate that there is approximately 1-2km of forestry in most areas around the Proposed Development, with smaller areas of theoretical visibility beyond this extending into the adjacent *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic* LCT and *Rocky Mosaic* LCT. Whilst there may be visibility, effects on the *Craggy Upland* LCT cannot extend further than its physical boundary (see assessment of the *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic* LCT and *Rocky Mosaic* LCT). Although a change to the landscape character could be more readily perceived and experienced, it would be viewed in the context of the *Craggy Upland* LCT, suggesting that whilst there would be a notable and significant change to some views, the change to the landscape character would be more limited, except that this would be an active construction site.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 8.9.24 During operation, the completed wind farm would gain a more 'settled' appearance when compared to the same area during construction. Although **significant**, the landscape effects would continue throughout the operational period mainly as a result of the proposed turbines and less as a result of the associated infrastructure.
- 8.9.25 The proposed turbines would be centrally located within a forested upland plateau, appearing as a simple, large-scale element / wind farm. The turbine blade rotation would be clearly visible. The surrounding low-lying summits would screen the lower parts of the turbines in views from much of the surrounding landscape. The forestry would further screen views within the LCT as shown in **Figure 8.4b**. Where there are more open views beyond the forestry, particularly to the north and north-east, the turbines would be visible in the context of the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm (although this is time-limited to operating concurrently with the Proposed Development for approximately 7 years). The magnitude of change would be High (subject to localised screening from landform and forestry), and the geographical extent would be approximately <2km as indicated by the ZTV which would be more limited in the south / south-east and in the north due to intervening landform. These effects would also be limited by existing / retained forestry cover in this area. It should be noted that felling and replanting of forestry surrounding the Proposed Development is carried out in accordance with the forestry felling and restocking plans, enabling the establishment and reinstatement of areas of forestry prior to construction.

- 8.9.26 The duration of these effects would be long term (35 years and assessed as permanent) although it should be noted that the effects would be largely reversed as a result of decommissioning (assessed separately).
- 8.9.27 As a result of the Medium sensitivity and the High magnitude of change, the level of effect on part of the *Craggy Upland* LCT would be **Major** and **Significant**, extending over a limited area of approximately <2km. The effects would be limited by existing / retained forestry cover in this area as well as the topography and extent of the LCT. The effects would be **not significant** in terms of the overall landscape character and the nature of these effects would be long-term, direct and negative due primarily to the height and scale of the proposed turbines.
- 8.9.28 There would be **no significant** effects to the north-east due to the presence of the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm which already has an influence on this part of the LCT. Beyond 1-2km to the south-east, significant effects would be limited by the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line that crosses this landscape.
- 8.9.29 This level of effect, and geographical extent, is not unusual for large-scale wind farm development and significant effects on the host landscape are unavoidable.
- 8.9.30 The north-west unit of the *Craggy Upland* LCT would not be directly affected, and the proposed turbines would be visible as development occurring within a separate LCT unit. The magnitude of change affecting the landscape character would consequently be reduced to (Medium to Low magnitude) **Moderate to Minor** and **Not Significant**. Considering the *Craggy Upland* LCT as a whole, the effects would be **Not Significant** in overall terms due the large scale of this landscape.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing and Consented Wind Farms

- 8.9.31 Within the south-eastern unit of the *Craggy Upland* LCT, existing wind farm development is present at An Suidhe and A'Chruach wind farms. A consented wind farm, Blarghour, is also located within the LCT. Collectively, wind farm development is a recent (emerging within the last 15 years) but established key characteristic of this LCT. There would be locally **significant** effects on landscape character within 2km of each of these two groups of wind farm development. The smaller Blarghour Farm turbines are also located within this unit of the LCT nearer to the *Rocky Mosaic* LCT.
- 8.9.32 An Suidhe Wind Farm is located within the open moorland landscape to the immediate north-east of the Proposed Development. A'Chruach Wind Farm is partly located within *Craggy Upland* LCT, approximately 5km to the south-west of the Proposed Development (the consented A'Chruach Phase II adds two turbines to part of the wind farm located in the adjoining *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic* LCT). The consented Blarghour Wind Farm would be located to the centre-north of the *Craggy Upland* LCT unit, approximately 6km north of the Proposed Development. Collectively, these wind farms form three groups of wind farm development in central areas towards the middle and south-east of the south-eastern unit of this LCT and contribute to a 'landscape with wind farms' as described by SNH⁸:
- *"The wind farms are seen as a key characteristic of the landscape, but not of sufficient dominance to be a defining characteristic of the area".*
- 8.9.33 Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms are present in the northern part of adjacent north-western unit of this LCT, at approximately 13km and 17km from the Proposed Development, and add to the presence of wind farm development in the wider *Craggy Upland* LCT.

⁸ Scottish Natural Heritage, *Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape*, Version 3a, August 2017.

- 8.9.34 The Proposed Development would be associated with the existing pattern of wind farm development at An Suidhe and A'Chruach Wind Farms. In particular, it would be visible immediately adjacent to An Suidhe Wind Farm. Although the An Suidhe turbines are older and smaller models, the footprint of the two wind farms adjoin such that the Proposed Development would 'extend' the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm footprint to the south and south-west. The height difference between the two wind farms would make the Proposed Development appear as a distinct and separate development. As previously noted, An Suidhe Wind Farm would operate concurrently with the Proposed Development for approximately seven years, at which point it would be decommissioned. **Figure 8.13** indicates that the proposed turbines would be visible in the same locations as the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm within the LCT, and visible with both An Suidhe and A'Chruach Wind Farms in some limited areas of this unit towards the south and eastern boundary of the LCT. There would be little visibility of An Suidhe Wind Farm, A'Chruach Wind Farm and the Proposed Development to the north of the LCT.
- 8.9.35 The visible extent of the Proposed Development in combination with An Suidhe and the consented Blarghour Wind Farm is indicated in **Figure 8.14**. This extends visibility of wind farm development to the centre-north of the LCT unit but indicates that all would be visible in limited areas of the LCT unit, with much of the northern area of the unit indicating no wind farm visibility.
- 8.9.36 As a result, the cumulative magnitude of change caused by the additional effect of the Proposed Development would not alter the perception of a 'landscape with wind farms'. Whilst the Proposed Development extends the existing An Suidhe footprint of wind farm development, the resulting additional effects would not overlap within areas significantly affected by the other two groups of existing and consented development. The level of cumulative effect in addition to the existing and consented development would be **Medium**.
- 8.9.37 The combined cumulative effect would see more of the *Craggy Upland* LCT affected by wind farm development, although the perception of a 'landscape with wind farms' would be maintained due to the intervening separation and a 'wind farm landscape' would not result. The level of combined cumulative effect would be Medium, affecting localised parts of the LCT in the above identified areas.
- 8.9.38 The duration of these effects would be lessened over the 35 year operational period for the Proposed Development as a result of the An Suidhe Wind Farm being decommissioned approximately seven years after the construction of the Proposed Development, and A'Chruach Wind Farm being decommissioned approximately 13 years after the construction of the Proposed Development. The consented Blarghour Wind Farm is currently subject to a Variation application to increase the turbine heights. If the current consented scheme were built it would come to the end of its operational life approximately 10 years prior to the end of the Proposed Development's operational period.
- 8.9.39 The level of combined cumulative effect would be **Major and Significant** and the additional cumulative effect of adding the Proposed Development to the existing and consented wind farm baseline would be **significant (Major to Moderate)**, with the additional effect of the Proposed Development slightly reduced by virtue of the presence of these existing wind farms. The nature of these effects would be temporary to long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Existing, Consented and Application Wind Farms

- 8.9.40 There are three other application wind farms within the *Craggy Upland* LCT. An Carr Dhubh would be located approximately 4km to the north of the Proposed Development adjacent to Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (approximately 6km north of the Proposed Development), and Glasvaar would be located approximately 5.5km to the south-west of the Proposed Development, adjacent to the existing A'Chruach Wind Farm.

- 8.9.41 Although An Carr Dhubh Wind Farm would adjoin Blarghour Wind Farm and extend the spread of turbines south towards the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, there would continue to be a clear separation between the clusters. Similarly, there would be a noticeable separation between An Suidhe and Glasvaar Wind Farms. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the wind farm cluster footprint south-west but would still maintain a clear separation with the existing A'Chruach and application Glasvaar Wind Farms. This would maintain the current pattern of wind farm development with three overall clusters of wind farms. This is also in line with the ABLWECS guidance that *"It would be preferable to consolidate existing wind farm developments in order to reduce cumulative visual effects but also minimise the incremental effects on landscape character"* in relation to the *very limited* scope to accommodate large turbines (80-130m) (p62).
- 8.9.42 The combined or overall cumulative effect would remain **significant (Major)** on part of the *Craggy Upland* LCT within <2km of An Suidhe, A'Chruach, An Carr Dhubh, Blarghour / Blarghour Variation, Glasvaar Wind Farms and the Proposed Development. The duration of these effects would be lessened over the 35 year operational period for the Proposed Development as a result of the An Suidhe Wind Farm being decommissioned approximately seven years after the construction of the Proposed Development, and A'Chruach Wind Farm being decommissioned approximately 13 years after the construction of the Proposed Development. **Significant** cumulative effects would remain as a result of other wind farm applications and the Proposed Development.
- 8.9.43 The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would be reduced to **Moderate** and **Not Significant** as a result of the presence of other existing and consented development, and other wind farm applications. The nature of these effects would be temporary to long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.
- 8.9.44 The probability of these effects occurring would range from certain (in terms of existing development) to uncertain (in respect of wind farm development at application stage).

Landscape Effects During Decommissioning

- 8.9.45 During decommissioning the Development Site would return to a 'construction site' for a temporary period and the level of effect would be variable according to the phase of activity, although in general the magnitude would reduce from operational levels to Very Low. During decommissioning, turbines and all of the associated ground-based infrastructure (excepting site tracks) would be removed. The remaining landscape effect would be **Negligible** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be temporary, direct, and neutral when compared to the pre-existing landscape.
- 8.9.46 There is insufficient information to assess cumulative effects during the decommissioning period of the Proposed Development along with the decommissioning of other existing, consented and application wind farm development. Collectively however, the nature of these effects would reduce through the decommissioning period.

Effects of Reduced Intensity Aviation Warning Lights

- 8.9.47 **No significant** night-time landscape effects have been assessed in **Appendix 8C** as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights which includes a Lighting Strategy to provide mitigation.

Indirect Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character

- 8.9.48 The effects on surrounding landscape character would be limited to effects on the key visual or perceptual characteristics of these landscapes, resulting from views of the proposed turbines and associated development where visible. The assessment considers the likely change to landscape character and as such it is different from the visual assessment of particular views, experienced by people.
- 8.9.49 In summary, a small area of AGC 6a – *Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (western unit)* LCT within 2km of the Proposed Development (up to the Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line) would be significantly affected by the Proposed Development. None of the other LCTs would be significantly affected in terms of their landscape character, although there would be **significant** effects on the views from some of these areas.

Table 8.9 Indirect Effects on Surrounding Landscape Character

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
Landscape Character within 10km (and 12km south-west)	
AGC 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	The <i>Steep Ridgeland and Mountains</i> LCT are located on the eastern shores of Loch Fyne to the east and south-east at approximately 7.7km distance at its closest point and extends beyond 10km. There are two distinct units within 10km bisected by the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> LCT. A further unit is located just beyond 10km to the north of Loch Fyne. The key characteristics of this LCT are described as: • “The <i>Steep Ridgeland and Mountains</i> generally rise to around 700m but with lower hills occurring on the western and southern fringes of the character type. • The higher mountains have a massive scale although the narrow glens and sea lochs which cut into the hills and occasional small basins occurring between peaks are more contained; • This landscape comprises mountains and long ridges (some of these very narrow) with steep slopes, patterned with small craggy knolls and deep gullies and occasionally featuring rocky summits; • Vegetation cover is simple, largely comprising extensive coniferous forestry covering lower steep slopes and with rough grass between scattered boulders, rocky outcrops and traces of birch woodland; • These uplands are very sparsely settled with isolated farms and estate houses located on narrow coastal edges and within glens accessible by road; • The difficulty of access to the interior of these uplands can give a strong sense of seclusion in places. Naturalness is accentuated by the ruggedness of the terrain but diminished by extensive coniferous forestry and by the presence of existing wind farm and hydro-electric development in some areas; and • There are views of higher hill tops on the western boundary of this character type from the Loch Fyne area.” The ABWELCS considered the sensitivity to very large wind farm development <i>within</i> the LCT to be High, this however is distinct from the sensitivity assessed for the Proposed Development which is <i>outwith</i> the LCT. Within the LCT, the steeply rising hills, cut through with glens within the LCT form a backdrop to the coastal edges of Loch Fyne in views towards the LCT. The coastline and hills are visible from roads and settlement, particularly from the west of Loch Fyne and along the Loch and the open waters of Loch Fyne. The LCT units are partially within the locally designated

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA, Ben Lui WLA and are also within close proximity to the LLTNP and Kyles of Bute NSA indicating a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is assessed as Medium. Existing wind farms are located within this LCT which have some influence on the characteristics of the LCT. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High-Medium</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 7.7km distance to the north-west. ZTV coverage is illustrated on the eastern shore of Loch Fyne where theoretical visibility of between one and 11 turbines is indicated, and on low summits and west facing slopes where visibility increases to up to 22 turbines. Within 10km, extensive coniferous forestry further limits visibility. From lower-lying areas within the LCT, such as along the coast of Loch Fyne, the Proposed Development would be partially visible mainly as blades and the occasional hub visible above the ridge skyline which encloses Loch Fyne to the west. From elevated slopes to the east of the loch, the Proposed Development would be slightly more visible, subject to coniferous forestry screening, set against the skyline with some turbines backclothed by landform. From more elevated locations, the Proposed Development would be entirely backclothed by landform. The introduction of the Proposed Development, in views from the lochside, would to a small degree, indirectly detract from the "<i>scenic composition</i>" between water and uplands. Furthermore, the Proposed Development in views from elevated hill summits may detract from the perceived "<i>naturalness</i>" of the LCT. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would, however, not be significant, and the Proposed Development, visible across Loch Fyne in a different part of the landscape, would have an overall limited characterising influence on the LCT. The magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The existing Cruach Mhor Wind Farm is located within the southern unit of this LCT, and the consented Creag Dhubh Wind Farm is located within the northern unit of the LCT. A further unit is located just beyond the study area to the north of Loch Fyne and hosts the existing Clachan Flats Wind Farm. There would be significant effects within ~2km of the turbines from each of these wind farms, reducing with distance (High to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would lead to a Very Low to Zero magnitude and a Minor to None and Not Significant effect. The combined landscape effect would be Substantial to Major and Significant (due to Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh and Clachan Flats Wind Farms, and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + proposed development</u> There are no other application wind farms within this LCT. An Carr Dubh Wind Farm (Low to Zero magnitude) and Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (Very Low to Zero magnitude) would have limited influence on the two units of this LCT within 10km. However, the northern unit of the LCT beyond 10km would be partially influenced by the application Ladyfield Wind Farm (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would lead to a Very Low to Zero magnitude and a Minor to None and Not Significant effect. The combined landscape effect would be Substantial to Major and Significant (due to Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh, Clachan Flats, and Ladyfield Wind Farms, and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
AGC 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (2 units)	<u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
	The <i>Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> LCTs comprises two relatively narrow bands of upland hill ground with a strong presence of coniferous forestry and form a transitional landscape between the settled and smaller scale Loch Fyne fringe and the more extensive and very sparsely settled uplands. The two units are located to the east and west of Loch Fyne. The key characteristics of this LCT are described as: • <i>“A narrow band of hills rising to around 400m but with relief generally between 200- 300m. Complex knolly and craggy landform is particularly found close to the north-western shores of Loch Fyne and in the Portavadie area and this, together with extensive forestry, provides containment and reduces scale. Some broader, shallower basins occur at the transition with the Craggy Upland (7) where scale is increased;</i> • Landform is particularly complex between Inveraray and Loch Gair on the north-west side of Loch Fyne comprising sharp ridges, steep slopes and a series of distinctive craggy conical peaks; • A sparsely settled landscape with clusters of houses and farms (many old townships) located in valleys and lower hill slopes at the transition with Rocky Mosaic (20); • A large-scale mosaic of extensive forestry and open moorland with some blanket bog cover; • Transmission lines, masts and forest roads are often prominent features on the north-westside of Loch Fyne; • A sense of seclusion can be experienced in the interior parts of the landscape and on the south-west side of Loch Fyne; and • Views from within this landscape are limited due to its sparsely settled nature and extensive forest cover.”
	The ABWELCS considered the sensitivity to very large wind farm development <i>within</i> the LCT to be High, this however is distinct from the sensitivity assessed for the Proposed Development which is outwith the LCT. The area is partially located within the locally designated East and West Loch Fyne (Coast) LLAs denoting local scenic importance resulting in a High-Medium value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is Medium-Low due to the larger scale and forested landscape character and the influence of existing neighbouring wind farm development on this landscape. The recently constructed Inverary to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line also crosses through this LCT. The Proposed Development would not be located within this LCT. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>Medium</i>.

Assessment: Proposed Development

None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 1.2km distance to the north-west of the western unit of the LCT. ZTV coverage is fragmented with theoretical visibility illustrated on the low summits and west facing slopes at between approximately 1.2km -18km (western unit), and approximately 7km and 30km distance in the eastern unit. Theoretical visibility would be subject to screening from extensive coniferous forestry across both units. The greatest effects would be on the eastern unit where there would be some localised **significant** effects within ~2km of the proposed turbines at the boundary of the LCT and where it meets the Inverary to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line (up to

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	High-Medium magnitude) and would reduce with distance. The level of effect on the western unit would be locally Major to Moderate and Significant (within ~2km), reducing to None with distance. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. The Proposed Development would not disrupt the “sense of seclusion” experienced within the interior parts of the landscape on the western side of Loch Fyne which is noted in relation to perception in the ABLWECS, however, the proposed turbines would have a localised effect on the “large-scale mosaic of extensive forest and open moorland” where it forms a transition with the Craggy Upland LCT. The magnitude of change on the eastern unit would range from Low to Zero resulting in a Minor and Not Significant level of effect, reducing to None with distance. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The existing A'Chruach Wind Farm is partially located within the western unit of this LCT, and the consented A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farm is also located within the same unit (High magnitude within 2km). There would be significant effects on the character of the unit within approximately 2km of the existing and consented turbines, reducing with distance. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Major to Moderate and Significant (within ~2km), reducing to None with distance. The combined landscape effect would be Major and Significant (due to A'Chruach and A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farms and the Proposed Development), reducing to None with distance. A'Chruach Wind Farm would be decommissioned ~22 years prior to the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> Two turbines of An Carr Dubh Wind Farm are located within this LCT (High magnitude within ~2km to Zero). Ladyfield Wind Farm is also located within this LCT (High magnitude within ~2km to Zero). Glasvaar Wind Farm would have some influence on this LCT within 2km of the turbines, but the magnitude is reduced since the turbines would be located immediately beyond A'Chruach Wind Farm (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Major to Moderate and Significant (within ~2km), reducing to None with distance. The combined landscape effect would be Major and Significant (due to A'Chruach, A'Chruach Phase II, An Carr Dubh and Ladyfield Wind Farms and the Proposed Development), reducing to None with distance. A'Chruach Wind Farm would be decommissioned ~22 years prior to the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
AGC 20 – Rocky Mosaic (four out of seven units)	The <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> LCT comprises seven units within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the proposed turbines as illustrated in Figure 8.8 and previously described in the baseline section. Three of these units, two on the western shores of Loch Fyne and one around Kilmichael to the south-west have no or very little ZTV coverage and are therefore excluded from the assessment on the basis that effects would be not significant. A further two units to the east of Loch Fyne are combined due to their similar geographic location and minimal separation distance. The remaining two units are located at Loch Awe to the eastern edge of the loch, and at the south-western end of the loch. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as:

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	• <i>“This landscape forms a linear band against loch or coast and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. It is of low relief rising to 180m at most;</i> • The irregular coastal edge, small knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape; • Pronounced craggy hills pattern this landscape and these form particularly distinctive features when seen close to the coast; • Diverse vegetation cover comprising small, enclosed fields, bracken covered hill slopes and gorse knolls, broadleaved and conifer woodland and designed landscape features such as avenue trees and parkland. • This landscape is relatively settled with the towns of Lochgilphead and Inveraray and Campbeltown sited on promontories or within inlets. Small villages and dispersed houses and farms are concentrated along the loch shore/coastal roads. • A number of major roads are aligned through this landscape type and include the A83 and A85 which are promoted tourist routes. • A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas... however, in general... wildland character is not pronounced.” The ABWELCS considered the sensitivity to Very large wind farm development <i>within</i> the LCT to be High, this however is distinct from the sensitivity assessed for the Proposed Development which is outwith the LCT. The LCT often hosts the main routes through the landscape, and as it creates the transition from land to sea, plays a key role in the scenic value of the coastal views. These LCT units are either located within or partially within the locally designated East and West Kintyre (Coast) LLAs and are crossed by a number of local recreational routes including the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way indicating a High value. The skylines viewed from these areas tend to be of a different LCT (often Upland Forest Moor Mosaic – AGC 6a). The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is assessed as Medium. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High-Medium</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be approximately 2.1km distance to the north-west. <u>Unit A – East of Loch Awe</u> The ZTV coverage within this unit is very limited with theoretical visibility of between 1-3 turbines or no visibility indicated for the majority of the unit. Where increased visibility is indicated (up to 16 turbines), surrounding mature tree cover and landform limits the visibility and influence of the proposed turbines (as illustrated at Viewpoint 1, Figure 8.19 in Durran). From within this unit, the association with the upland landscapes is secondary compared to the association with the context of the shores of the loch. The Proposed Development does not interfere with the transition of this rocky coastline between the upland landscapes of the unit and its adjacent loch shore features as illustrated in Viewpoint 1. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would be not significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on this unit of the LCT. The magnitude of change on this landscape unit would range from Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. <u>Unit B – South-west of Loch Awe</u>

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	The ZTV coverage within this unit is very limited with theoretical visibility of between 1-3 turbines or no visibility indicated at the loch shore edges south of the unit. Increased visibility is indicated in the more remote elevated areas to the north of the unit where the proposed turbines would be partially visible beyond Loch Awe in another part of the landscape. Surrounding tree cover and landform limits the visibility and influence of the proposed turbines from lower lying areas in Ford as illustrated at Viewpoint 11, Figure 8.29. Similar to Unit A, the association with the upland landscapes is secondary compared to the association with the context of the loch shores. In most cases, the Proposed Development does not interfere with the transition of this rocky coastline between the upland landscapes of the unit and its adjacent loch shore features. Where visible from more open / elevated areas of this area, the turbines would be seen against the skyline, above and beyond the slopes to the east of Loch Awe, and alongside the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm. Due to the intervening distance and overall limited visibility, the Proposed Development would not interrupt the “<i>views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops</i>” or the “<i>diverse vegetation cover</i>” of woodland present along the shores of the loch. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would not be significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on the LCT. The magnitude of change on this landscape unit would range from Low-Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. <u>Unit C – East / South-east of Loch Fyne</u> This unit includes two separate ‘units’ to the east / south-east of Loch Fyne within 10km, separated by ~3km of <i>Steep Ridgeland and Mountains</i> LCT. Although patchy, ZTV coverage is indicated throughout much of this unit. In general terms, theoretical visibility near the coastal edges of the unit are indicated as having visibility of 1-11 turbines (at between 6km and 17km distance). Visibility from the coastal edge is illustrated in Viewpoints 6, 7 and 9, Figures 8.24, 8.25, and 8.27. These are illustrative of the majority of views from this unit, where the Proposed Development would be partially visible beyond intervening hills with much of the turbines screened by intervening landform. Visibility of the turbines increases as the unit gains height away from the coastline as illustrated at the boundary with Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT in Viewpoint 8 (Figure 8.26). In common with the other units, the association with the upland landscapes is secondary compared to the association with the context of Loch Fyne. Due to the intervening distance and overall limited visibility, particularly from lower-lying locations within this unit, the Proposed Development would not interrupt the “<i>views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops</i>” or the “<i>diverse vegetation cover</i>” of woodland present along the shores of the loch. Even from elevated locations such as Viewpoint 8 at Leanach, these features would not be interrupted given the large operational quarry works, and the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line seen across the loch. Due to the location of the Proposed Development across and beyond Loch Fyne and in another part of the landscape, and overall limited extent of visibility the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change on this landscape unit would range from Low-Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. Considering the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> LCT overall, the magnitude of change on the landscape character would range from Low-Very Low to Zero resulting in a Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no wind farms within the LCT units. Blarghour Farm turbines are located close to the edge of this LCT (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Larger wind farm

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	development has occurred on adjoining upland areas and are often only partially visible from within much of this LCT but would be more evident in the transitional borders with adjacent upland areas. These include the existing An Suidhe and A'Chruach Wind Farms, and the consented Creag Dhubh, Blarghour and A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farms. Most of these would be visible on the skyline from more elevated locations within the units where they would be partly screened by landform such that they would appear as part of an 'unseen' distant landscape (Very Low to Zero magnitude) (Low to Zero magnitude due to Blarghour Wind Farm). Creag Dhubh Wind Farm would be partially visible in views inland from Loch Fyne (subject to screening from intervening landform and vegetation) where it would be seen as part of an 'upland' landscape beyond intervening hills (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would also be Moderate to None and Not Significant (due to Blarghour Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no other application wind farms within this LCT. An Carr Dubh, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar Wind Farms would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT units (Low / Low-Very Low magnitude to Zero). Ladyfield Wind Farm would be located within 1km of a unit to the north-west of Loch Fyne and there would be significant effects on the character of the unit within 2km - However there would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Development from this area and therefore no cumulative effects in that unit. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would also be Moderate to None and Not Significant (due to Blarghour / Blarghour Variation and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
AGC 10 – Upland Parallel Ridges	The <i>Upland Parallel Ridges</i> LCT is located approximately 9.8km west of the Proposed Development in the uplands of north Knapdale, to the north of Moine Mhor. The LCT is characterised by a distinctive series of linear ridges aligned in parallel in a south-west / north-east orientation. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as: • " <i>Upland landscape of long, parallel ridges and narrow, linear lochs and glens;</i> • Closely spaced ridges which follow a south-west/north-east alignment; • Steep, sharp ridge-tops with dramatic rocky outcrops; • Extensive areas of coniferous forests; • Areas of ancient oak woodland on steep, sheltered slopes of ridges and on loch edges; • Small, marginal pastures or moorland in isolated patches between the un-forested ridges; and • Dramatic scenic upland landscape. The ABWELCS considered the sensitivity to large wind farm development <i>within</i> the LCT to be High, this however is distinct from the sensitivity assessed for the Proposed Development which is <i>outwith</i> the LCT. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is assessed as High given the

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	complexity of landscape form and features within this LCT. The western part of the LCT is overlapped by the Knapdale / Melfort LLA indicating a High-Medium value, and beyond 15km south-west the LCT is overlapped by the Knapdale NSA indicating a High value. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 9.8km distance to the west. ZTV coverage within the LCT is restricted to facing slopes and some summits including Beinn Bhan (Viewpoint 15). The Proposed Development would not interfere with the most sensitive outlooks from this landscape or its relationship with the seascape to the west. Although the visual effects from Viewpoint 15 is assessed as significant in the direction of the Proposed Development, the effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would be not significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on the LCT due to the intermittent visibility and fragmented ZTV. The addition of turbines would not appear incongruous due to the influence of the existing A'Chruach, and An Suidhe Wind Farms located on either side of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of change on the landscape character would range from Low-Very Low near the northern and eastern boundary, reducing to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing or consented wind farms located within the LCT. The existing A'Chruach Wind Farm would have some influence on the eastern parts of this LCT (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to None and Not Significant (due to A'Chruach Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. Glasvaar Wind Farm would have an influence on the eastern part of the LCT (Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would reduce to Minor to None and Not Significant (reduced due to Glasvaar Wind Farm). The combined landscape effect would be Major and Significant (due to Glasvaar Wind Farm and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.

Landscape Character within the wider 30km Study Area (within LLTNP)

250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	The <i>Steep Ridges and Hills</i> LCT is located to the south-east of the wider 30km Study Area, being the closest LCT with ZTV coverage within the LLTNP. It is located between approximately 11km and 30km of the Proposed Development and has been included in the assessment because it is designated as National Park. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as: • <i>"Steep-sided hills, with pronounced summits, which rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens;</i>
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Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	• Craggier Cowal hills with upper slopes and summits broken with small rocky outcrops and knolls. These hills are deeply cut by glens and straths and by myriad smaller burns; • Long and narrow sea lochs of Loch Long, and the more sinuous Loch Goil; • Coniferous forest predominantly covers the lower slopes of the Cowal hills, extending high into narrow glens and merging with broadleaf woodlands; • Generally smoother Luss Hills forming conical peaks and long narrow ridges and spurs. These hills are more open with only small areas of coniferous forestry on lower slopes; • Hills often seen in conjunction with the higher Highland Summits; • Some hills form key landmark features in views along the sea lochs; • Settlement largely absent even from the narrow rocky coastal edges along the sea lochs and some parts feel relatively remote. MOD facilities on the fringes influence character in some areas" As part of the LLTNP, the LCT has national scenic importance resulting in a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development would be High. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 11km distance to the north-west. ZTV coverage within the LCT is restricted to facing slopes and summits including Beinn Lochain (Viewpoint 19), Beinn Mhor, Beinn Bheula, Ben Donich and adjoining hills to the south, and the arc of surrounding summits, as well as the facing slopes along the River Cur valley and north Loch Eck. Due to the elevated nature of these summits where theoretical visibility is indicated, the turbines would often be seen mainly backclothed by distant landform, and in the context of other existing wind farms. Intervening ridges and hills would provide some screening of turbine towers; however, most hubs would remain visible. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would not be significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on the LCT. This is due to the intervening landform producing limited visibility, intervening distance and the existing pattern of wind development located closer to the LCT. The magnitude of change would range from Low-Very Low near the western boundary, reducing to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing wind farms located within the LCT. The nearest existing wind farm is Cruach Mhor, located approximately 3km to the west of the LCT beyond An Socach and indirectly influencing the character of this landscape (Medium-Low magnitude). Similarly, the consented Creag Dhubh Wind Farm is located approximately 1.2km to the west of the boundary beyond the curved boundary ridgeline comprising Beinn Lochain, Beinn Tharsuinn, Stob na Boine Druim-fhinn, and Mullach Coire a'Chuir and has limited characterising influence beyond these summits (Medium magnitude at the boundary summits). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Major and Significant (due to Cruach Mhor and Creag Dhubh and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
251 – Highland Summits	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. An Carr Dhubh, Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar Wind Farms would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT and would have limited influence it (Low-Very Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Major and Significant (due to Cruach Mhor and Creag Dhubh Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights. The <i>Highland Summits</i> LCT is located to the north-east of the wider 30km Study Area, within the LLTNP. It is located between approximately 18km and 30km of the Proposed Development and has been included in the assessment because it is designated as National Park. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as: • <i>" High mountains generally lying above 800 metres, but lower and intensely craggy in the core of the Trossachs where geology is particularly complex.</i> • Steep slopes often covered in scree. • Narrow rocky ridges, deeply scooped corries and rocky gullies on many of these mountains. • Narrow glens deeply cut into the mountains, often contain fast-flowing burns and waterfalls. • Strongly patterned landscape with exposed rock, crags, small lochs and myriad water courses significantly increasing complexity. • Simple vegetation cover is, largely comprising semi-natural grassland with patchy heather and ground-hugging alpine species on upper slopes and summits. Bracken and bog occurs on lower slopes and within glen floors. Coniferous forestry present on some lower slopes, extending up into glens. • Broadleaf woodlands rare, confined to steeper slopes with fragments of oak and birch tracing burns and gullies. • Very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes. • Impounded lochs, coniferous forestry and hydroelectric infrastructure and transmission lines close to the mountains north-west of Loch Lomond. • Highly visible massive peaks and ridges of the mountains forming a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores, glens and straths. • Instantly recognisable mountain forms such as the Cobbler and Ben Lomond. Ben Ledi, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lomond are important landmark features, marking the Highland edge seen widely from the Central Lowlands of Scotland. • Popular mountains with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character, and the presence of 'Munro' and 'Corbett' peaks. The higher summits offer extensive views.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	- Distinct sense of wild character of the summits due to their rugged and natural qualities, especially away from hydro-electric infrastructure and poorly integrated forestry. - Where snow is held on the high summits and the corries of Ben Lui and Ben Oss long in the year, this accentuates the exposure and wild character. " As part of the LLTNP, the LCT has national scenic importance resulting in a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is High. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 18km distance to the south-west. ZTV coverage within the LCT is restricted to facing slopes and summits including Beinn Ime (Viewpoint 24), The Cobbler (Ben Arthur), Ben Donich, Beinn Bheula, Ben Donich and adjoining hills to the south. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would be not significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on the LCT. This is due to the intervening landform producing limited visibility, intervening distance and the existing pattern of wind development located closer to the LCT. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing wind farms located within the LCT. The existing Clachan Flats and consented Creag Dhubh wind farms would have some limited influence on this LCT (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant (due to Clachan Flats and Creag Dhubh). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative to neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. An Carr Dhubh, Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar Wind Farms would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant (due to Clachan Flats and Creag Dhubh Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
Landscape Character within the wider 30km Study Area (within Knapdale NSA)	
43 - Upland Parallel Ridges – Argyll	The <i>Upland Parallel Ridges - Argyll</i> LCT is located between approximately 15-30km south-west of the Proposed Development in the uplands of Knapdale, to the south of Moine Mhor. The LCT is characterised by a distinctive series of linear ridges aligned in parallel in a south-west / north-east orientation. The key characteristics of this LCT are the same as those described for AGC 10 – Upland Parallel Ridges above.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	As part of the Knapdale NSA, the LCT has national scenic importance resulting in a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is High. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 15km distance to the north-east. ZTV coverage within the LCT is mostly restricted to facing bluff slopes (mostly forested) and craggy summits south of the Crinan Canal such as Cruach Mor Dunardry (Viewpoint 22). The Proposed Development would not interfere with the most sensitive outlooks from this landscape or its relationship with the seascape to the west. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would be not significant, and the Proposed Development would have a limited characterising influence on the LCT. This is due to the intervening distance, orientation of key views, other intervening landscapes and existing pattern of wind farm development. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing wind farms located within the LCT. The nearest wind farms are the existing A'Chruach, Allt Dearg and Srondoir Wind Farms having some limited influence on this LCT (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant (due to A'Chruach, Allt Dearg and Srondoir Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. Glasvaar Wind Farm would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to None and Not Significant (due to Glasvaar Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
56 - Flat Moss and Mudflats	The <i>Flat Moss and Mudflats</i> LCT is located to the south-west of the wider 30km Study Area, within the Knapdale NSA. It is located between approximately 15.5km and 30km of the Proposed Development and has been included in the assessment because it is designated as an NSA. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as: • " <i>Broad lowland vale enclosed by steep, mountainous ridges.</i> • Transition from undulating farmland on margins of vale to extensive raised bog in low-lying areas and mudflats at the estuary mouth. • Rocky outcrops are striking features, upstanding from the surrounding lowland; they are often partially clothed by stands of mature broadleaf woodland. • Geometric farmland patchwork on fringes of moor, with straight hedgerows, stone walls and drainage ditches. • Strong contrasts in colour and texture between the green farmland sward, the dull greens, browns and reds of the moss and the mudflats.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	• Extensive conifer plantations on borders of bog. • Numerous prominent standing stones and other important archaeological sites. • Wide variety of different landscape patterns within a relatively small area.” As part of the Knapdale NSA, the LCT has national scenic importance resulting in a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is High. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 15.5km distance to the north-east. ZTV coverage within the LCT is mostly restricted to the centre and south of the LCT where there would be theoretical visibility of between 1-5 turbines. In reality, these would be visible as partial blades and tips (subject to screening from vegetation). The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would not be significant, and the Proposed Development would not have a very limited characterising influence on the LCT. This is due to the intervening landform producing limited visibility, intervening distance and level of surrounding vegetation within the LCT. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing wind farms located within the LCT. The nearest wind farm is A'Chruach, approximately 6km to the north-east of the boundary (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to Minor, to None and Not Significant (due to A'Chruach Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. Glasvaar Wind Farm would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would be Moderate to None and Not Significant (due to A'Chruach and Glasvaar Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.
55 - Coastal Parallel Ridges	The <i>Coastal Parallel Ridges</i> LCT is located to the south-west of the wider 30km Study Area, within the Knapdale NSA. There are two units, the nearest is a small unit at Duntrune Castle located approximately 18km from the Proposed Development. The other, larger unit extends approximately 22km - 30km from the Proposed Development and has been included in the assessment because it is designated as an NSA. The key characteristics of this LCT is described as: • <i>"Narrow rocky ridges with a strong south-west/north-east alignment, which break down to form chains of rocky islands at the coast.</i> • Horseshoe-shaped, narrow sandy bays and extensive mudflats. • Stunted oak-birch woodlands on the rocky ridges separating narrow marginal pastures, marsh or lochs.

Landscape Character Type	Assessment
	• Small blocks of conifers. • Stone walls enclosing fields and along lanes. • Small settlements, concentrated at coves. • Rich variety of archaeological sites. • Small estates." As part of the Knapdale NSA, the LCT has national scenic importance resulting in a High value. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is High. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> None of the proposed turbines would be located within this LCT. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 18km and 22km distance to the north-east of each LCT unit. There is very little ZTV coverage in the small unit to the north with mostly blade tips theoretically visible (Very Low to Zero magnitude). ZTV coverage within the larger unit indicates visibility on the east facing slopes and open ridgelines subject to screening by forestry. The turbines would be visible in clear conditions on the distant horizon in a different part of the landscape and would not have a characterising effect on the LCT. The effects on the key characteristics and features of this unit would not be significant, and the Proposed Development would not have a characterising influence on the LCT. This is due to the intervening distance, orientation of key views, and intervening landform limiting visibility. The magnitude of change would range from Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no existing wind farms located within the LCT. Other existing wind farms would have no influence on this LCT. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Existing + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no application wind farms located within the LCT. Glasvaar Wind Farm would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LCT (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to None and Not Significant. The combined landscape effect would also be Minor to None and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and neutral. <u>Night-time Effects:</u> It is concluded that there will be no significant night-time effects as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.

Effects on Landscape Planning Designations

- 8.9.50 The Proposed Development is not located within any landscape planning designations. Therefore, there can be no physical or direct impact on landscape planning designations within the 30km Study Area, which include the LLTNP, five NSAs and a number of LLAs within Argyll and Bute.
- 8.9.51 As set out in the baseline and agreed through consultation, the assessment considers indirect effects on nationally designated landscapes within the 30km Study Area, including the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA, and, within 10km of the Proposed Development, East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA. The effects on the SLQs of the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA are

assessed in **Appendices 8D and 8E**. The potential night-time effects of proposed aviation warning lights on each of these receptors are assessed separately in **Appendix 8C**.

- 8.9.52 As agreed with NatureScot during consultation, effects on the Ben Lui WLA has been scoped out of the assessment.
- 8.9.53 The assessment of landscape planning designations differs from landscape character or visual assessment in that it considers the effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs, including views and perceptual qualities and the integrity of the designation as advised by SNH in their document ‘*Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3a*’ (paragraph 3.11):
- *“The key test applied in relation to NSAs, but often employed for other valued landscapes too, is whether impacts would affect the integrity of a valued landscape.”*
- 8.9.54 In order to assist the assessment, a description of each of the landscape planning designations and their SLQs are documented by SNH (in respect of the NSA), LLTNPA (in respect of the LLTNP) and by ABC in respect of LLAs. It is important to note that wind farm development is not necessarily incompatible with the valued qualities of a landscape, this will depend on the nature and / or effects of the development and the nature of the SLQs. A visual effect on a view from the NSA for example, may or may not affect the SLQ and the integrity of the designation. In particular, the Landscape Institute further advises:
- *“An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have high susceptibility to all types of change.”*
 - *“It is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally important landscape to have relatively low susceptibility to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal.”*
 - *“The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.”*
- (GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.46-47)
- 8.9.55 The effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs have been assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 8A** which accords with GLVIA 3. In summary, the sensitivity of each relevant SLQ is determined through a combination of value and the susceptibility of the SLQ to change posed by the Proposed Development; this in turn is considered against the nature or magnitude of change in order to determine the level of effect on each receptor (SLQ). The design process is integral to the assessment which is an iterative process that seeks to reduce adverse effects and ensure that where possible, mitigation is embedded into the Proposed Development. Each effect is described in terms of its geographical extent (through reference to the viewpoints and ZTV) and whether it is cumulative, temporary / long term, positive / neutral / negative.

National Landscape Planning Designations

- 8.9.56 The effects of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA are assessed in **Appendices 8D and 8E**. In summary, there would be **no significant** effects on the SLQs or the integrity of both the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA,

Local Landscape Planning Designations

East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA

- 8.9.57 LLAs are non-statutory designations that represent landscapes and features of local / regional importance and value within the Argyll and Bute area. There is no document which describes the 'SLQs' of the LLAs. However, in general terms, they protect the regionally important scenic qualities of the area they represent given that they were identified as Regional Scenic Areas (RSA) and APQs previously. Given the title of the designation, it follows that the reasons for designation would include the availability of panoramic views. Considering the East Loch Fyne (Coast), it is evident that it is largely based on the interaction of land and water and the scenic views resulting from that interaction. Further information on the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA is described in the ABLWECS.
- 8.9.58 The East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA comprises a thin, linear area of shoreline and hinterland that follows the eastern shore of Loch Fyne between St Catherines in the north and Balimore in the south as illustrated in **Figure 8.9**. At its closest point, the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA is located approximately 6.2km south-east of the Proposed Development. The area includes three LCTs that feature the eastern shoreline as characteristic features including: *Rocky Mosaic* LCT along the majority of the coastline, *Steep Ridgeland and Mountains* LCT along short sections to the north, and *Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic* LCT which occurs in the hinterland to the centre-south of the LLA. Views from the hinterland are often restricted by extensive forestry and woodland, however, where views are available, they are focused out across the loch and across wooded slopes and occasional clearings or glens. From the southern part of the LLA, there are more expansive views of the loch as it widens.
- 8.9.59 With regard to the SLQs, the ABLWECS emphasises the special qualities of the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA relating to the coastline and views across the seascape:
- "... Key qualities include the diverse landform and landcover of these loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across the water."*
- 8.9.60 The LLA is framed by the more elevated landform of steep ridges and mountains and plateau moorland, which creates distinctive enclosing skylines which are also considered a quality of the LLA.
- 8.9.61 Local recreation / tourist attractions noted in this area include Lachlan Bay and Castle (**Figure 8.11a**) with minimal ZTV coverage (Viewpoint 6). The Loch Lomond and Cowal Way and the Argyll Coastal Route also dip into the LLA at Strachur Bay where there would be some visibility of the Proposed Development as illustrated in Viewpoint 9.
- 8.9.62 The proposed turbines are located across and beyond Loch Fyne on the central upland plateau between Loch Fyne and Loch Awe. Viewpoints 6, 7, 9, 14 and 21 are located within the LLA. There are **no significant** visual effects identified with most effects being **Minor** or **Minor to Moderate**, although a **Moderate** and **Not Significant** effect is identified at Viewpoint 9 at Strachur. This corresponds with the landscape effects on the eastern unit of the *Rocky Mosaic* LCT where the magnitude of change on the landscape character would range from Low-Very Low to Zero resulting in a **Moderate to Minor, to None** and **Not Significant** effect.

Assessment of Sensitivity

- 8.9.63 The value of the LLA is noted as High to Medium, reflecting its local, rather than National designation. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is also judged to be High to Medium reflecting the more open coastal / loch side views to the west as well as the wooded hinterlands and forested landscape characteristics that filter views in places. This also concurs with the *Rocky Mosaic* LCT, and *Steep Ridgeland and Mountains* LCT landscape character assessments. Taking account of these comments on landscape susceptibility and value, the overall landscape sensitivity of the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA is assessed as *High - Medium*.

Landscape Effects during Operation

- 8.9.64 ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of between 1-11 turbines across the LLA within 10km with increased theoretical visibility of all 22 turbines from elevated areas at Newton and towards the south of the LLA to the north and south of Otter Ferry. ZTV coverage is reduced within the *Rocky Mosaic* LCT due to its low-lying nature and intermittent screening from landform.
- 8.9.65 There would be **no effect** on the “*diverse landform and landcover of the loch shores*”. Although the turbines would be located on the uplands to the west where they would be visible across and beyond the waters of Loch Fyne, they would be mostly screened by intervening landform such that there would be partial visibility of blades or occasional hubs as illustrated in Viewpoints 6, 7, 9, and 14 with more hubs visible in distant views to the south of the LLA as indicated in Viewpoint 21. As a result, the effect on the “*scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across the water*” would be reduced, with the mountains remaining the main focal point in views.
- 8.9.66 Drawing all this together, the magnitude of change likely to affect the “... *Key qualities include the diverse landform and landcover of these loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across the water*” would be Low to Very Low and limited to open areas along the hinterland or where there is access to the shoreline. Although more hubs would be visible to the south of the LLA, visibility would be more distant and the horizontal extent of the proposed turbines on the skyline in the wide and expansive views would be greatly reduced. The Proposed Development would not affect the “*diverse landform and landcover of these loch and sea shores*” due to its distant location in an upland landscape and seen in the context of other existing wind farms.
- 8.9.67 Taking account of the High-Medium sensitivity and the Low to Very Low magnitude the level of effect on the assumed special qualities of the LLA would be **Moderate to Minor and Not Significant**. The nature of the effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative and negative. The effects on the integrity of the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA would consequently be **Not Significant**.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites

- 8.9.68 There are no large-scale wind farms within the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA. Larger wind farm development has occurred on adjoining upland areas and are often only partially visible in views across Loch Fyne towards the mountains from within the LLA. These include the existing An Suidhe and A'Chruach (and Clachan Flats) Wind Farms, and the consented Creag Dhubh and A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farms. Most of these would be visible on the skyline from more elevated locations within the LLA and to the south of the LLA where they would be partly screened by landform such that they appear beyond the hills (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Creag Dubh Wind Farm would be partially visible in views inland from Loch Fyne (subject to screening from intervening landform and vegetation) where it would be seen as part of an 'upland' landscape beyond intervening

hills (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate to Minor** and **Not Significant** in terms of the assumed special qualities and integrity of the LLA. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications

- 8.9.69 There are no application wind farms within the East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA. An Carr Dhubh, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar Wind Farms would be partially visible on the skyline in views from the LLA (Low to Very Low, to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield application Wind Farm would be located to the north-west of Loch Fyne and would be visible in views along the loch between approximately St Catherines and Newton (Low to Very Low magnitude).
- 8.9.70 The additional and combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate to Minor** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and negative.

Effects of Reduced Intensity Aviation Warning Lights

- 8.9.71 **No significant** night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.

8.10 Residual Visual Effects

- 9.1.1 Visual effects are assessed by considering the sensitivity of the receptor (people in the landscape) and the magnitude of change that would affect the view or overall visual amenity. They are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 6.1 as follows:

“An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the context and character of views.”

- 9.1.2 Guided by the results of the viewpoint analysis (**Appendix 8B**), the assessment has taken a precautionary approach and focused on visual receptors within 10km (and 12km south-west) of the Proposed Development.

Overview of Visual Effects during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

- 8.10.1 The majority of the significant visual effects would be experienced as a result of views of the proposed turbines during the operational period, and this forms the main focus of the assessment. However, the visual effects associated with the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development also have the potential to be **significant**.
- 8.10.2 An outline description of the visual effects associated with the construction and decommissioning phases is set out below.

Visual Effects during Construction

- 8.10.3 The assessed levels of effect will increase from Zero, at the start of construction and progressively increase to a maximum level of effect, equal to that occurring during operation, upon completion of the construction period. The construction effects although temporary are likely to involve greater movement of machinery and visibility of contrasting construction activity, background noise and associated lighting. The nature of these effects would be temporary, direct, and adverse. Some construction activities may be remote from the turbine locations (access works) and / or temporary (temporary construction compounds) and subject to restoration on completion of the construction period.
- 8.10.4 An outline assessment of each of the component parts of the Proposed Development, is as follows:

New Internal Access Tracks, Turning Heads and Crane Hard-standings:

- 8.10.5 Approximately 19km of upgraded on-site existing tracks, and 22km of new internal access tracks are likely to cause **no significant** visual effects on local receptors as they would have low visibility due to the Development Site's location on an upland plateau and the surrounding forestry. The access tracks are crossed by Core Path C119b,c / Scottish Hill Track 104 and users are likely to experience some **significant** visual effects during construction.

Permanent Met Mast:

- 8.10.6 Meteorological conditions will be monitored by a permanent, free standing anemometry mast. The height will match turbine hub-height, i.e., anticipated to be up to 125m. However, it is likely to cause **no significant** visual effects on local receptors during the construction period due to the intervening distance and overall limited extent of visibility. It would not be visible from any viewpoints within 10km with visibility beyond this distance limited to elevated summits in the wider Study Area.

Temporary construction compound:

- 8.10.7 Two temporary construction compounds are proposed, and they are not sited in a visually prominent location and are likely to cause **no significant** visual effects during the construction period. The construction compounds are located within forestry which is to be largely retained through the operational period of the Proposed Development as detailed in the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Plan. Mature forestry further surrounds this area of forestry. This will provide sufficient screening to avoid wider visibility or significant visual effects from surrounding receptors.

Grid Connection Infrastructure:

- 8.10.8 As with the temporary construction compounds, the substation and battery storage compound are located within forestry which is to be largely retained throughout the operational period of the Proposed Development as detailed in the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Plan. Mature forestry further surrounds this area of forestry. This will provide sufficient screening to avoid wider visibility or significant visual effects from surrounding receptors.
- 8.10.9 Electrical cables connecting to the proposed turbines to the substation would be underground within the Site, and post construction there would be no visual effects.

On-Site Borrow Pits:

- 8.10.10 Up to nine on-site borrow pit search areas are proposed, the majority of which are located within the forest, which is to be largely retained through the operational period of the Proposed Development as detailed in the Integrated Wind Farm and Forestry Plan. This already provides sufficient screening and would continue throughout the construction period, post construction restoration and beyond, to avoid wider visibility or significant visual effects from surrounding receptors.
- 8.10.11 Each borrow pit would be subject to a more detailed excavation and restoration plan.

Visual Effects during Operation

- 8.10.12 The assessed levels of effect are likely to be at their greatest during the period of operation (which is the focus of the main visual assessment), due to the visibility of the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure. However, in comparison to a busy construction site, the appearance of the Proposed Development would also recover a 'calmer' visual character with negligible levels of maintenance activity visible on the Development Site.

Visual Effects during Decommissioning

- 8.10.13 During decommissioning the Proposed Development would return to a 'construction site' for a temporary period and the level of visual effect would gradually reduce with the removal of the turbines and associated above ground infrastructure. Therefore, the visual effects likely to be experienced during the decommissioning period would reduce from the operational levels and would be **not significant** on completion of the decommissioning. As with the construction period, although temporary, these works are likely to involve greater movement of machinery and visibility of contrasting construction activity, background noise and associated lighting. In overall terms the level of visual effect would reduce to non-significant levels and the nature of these effects would be temporary, direct, and neutral when compared to the pre-existing baseline landscape of the local area.

Visual Effects on Views from Settlements and Residential Properties

- 8.10.14 As outlined in the baseline, there are no residential properties within 2km of the proposed turbines and in accordance with the Landscape Institute guidance, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is excluded from the assessment.
- 8.10.15 The visual effects likely to be experienced from settlements include consideration of residential areas, the public realm and public open spaces within the settlement boundaries that would be frequented by people. The sensitivity of each of these receptors (people) at settlements has been assessed as *High*.
- 8.10.16 In summary, there would be **significant** visual effects (day and night) on the views from parts of Dalavich as a result of the Proposed Development. There would also be **significant** cumulative effects as a result of Blarghour / Blarghour Variation, An Carr Dubh Wind Farms and the Proposed Development.
- 8.10.17 There would be **no significant** visual effects on any other settlements within the Study Area.

Table 8.10 Visual Effects on Views from Settlements

Settlement	Assessment
Eredine	Eredine is a small settlement located to the east of Loch Awe on the B840 at approximately 2.5km distance to the north-west of the Proposed Development. The settlement is situated on the lower slopes of the rising landform to the east of the loch and the majority of properties are orientated west / north-west (away from the Proposed Development) to take advantage of the elevated views across the loch. Views to the east, north-east and south-east are restricted by the rising landform and extensive coniferous forest and deciduous woodlands as illustrated in the photographs below.  <i>Photographs above illustrating the dense vegetation cover on rising landform around the settlement to the south-west, south and west with more open views to the north-east towards Loch Awe and western hills beyond the loch.</i> <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The blade tip ZTV indicates that residents would potentially be able to view between one and five turbines, although in practice, visibility from the settlement would be heavily filtered and screened by buildings, localised landform and dense vegetation. Wireline analysis indicate that the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible with up to four partial blades / tips visible and one hub affecting up to, 51°, horizontal Field of View (FoV) on the background skyline. Field surveys confirmed that surrounding coniferous forest, roadside, garden vegetation, individual trees and groups of mature trees on the rising landform to the east, south and south-east of the settlement would screen the majority of views of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of visual change experienced by residents from within the settlement would range from Very Low in filtered winter views if the coniferous forest were felled, to Zero. The effect of the Proposed Development on views from Eredine would range from Minor in heavily filtered winter views to No View (Not Significant) and the nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> There will be filtered views of the existing Carraig Gheal Wind Farm from open areas of the settlement in views to the north where hubs and blades would be theoretically visible at over 10km (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Blargour would be mostly screened in views to the north-east but may be partially visible in filtered winter views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of existing and consented wind farms would be Very Low to Zero. The additional and combined effect of the Proposed

Settlement	Assessment
	Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> The application An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be screened by intervening forest, woodland and garden vegetation to the east-north-east such the heavily filtered winter views would be possible if the forest were felled (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of application wind farms would be Very Low to Zero. The additional and combined effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See appendix 8.3.
Dalavich	Dalavich is a small, contained settlement, originally developed by the Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), located on the western shores of Loch Awe and is accessed along a minor road following the low-lying landform near the loch edge. The settlement is located at approximately 5.9km distance to the north / north-west of the Proposed Development. Although the settlement is located adjacent to the shoreline of Loch Awe, the property orientation varies across the settlement and a line of mature trees / deciduous woodland filters views of the loch from much of the settlement. Properties on the eastern edge of the settlement, near the loch, are orientated to the east viewing across the loch towards the rising hills from the shores. Views from these properties are partially filtered by the row of deciduous trees which line the shore between the properties and the beach as noted above. However, the landform rises slightly away from the edge of the loch land there are some more elevated views, for example around the village green, over the vegetation and through gaps in buildings towards Loch Awe and in the direction of the Proposed Development. The loch itself is, however, screened from view from the village green. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The blade tip ZTV indicates that residents would theoretically view up to 12 turbines, although in practice visibility from the settlement would be restricted to areas where views towards the Proposed Development are not obstructed by buildings and vegetation. Viewpoint 4 (Figure 8.22) indicates visibility of up to 11 turbines from open views at the lochside, affecting up to approximately 25° horizontal FoV on the background skyline, adding to other wind farm development. Much of the settlement is set back from the lochside and views towards Loch Awe in the direction of the Proposed Development are filtered by a line of deciduous trees along the shoreline as well as surrounding buildings and garden vegetation. Where visible, the turbines would appear beyond the low-lying hills and ridgeline such that the bases and lower towers of the majority of visible turbines would be screened. As a result, two turbines would be visible at full height, a further six would appear at hub height and three would be visible as partial blades – although these would be filtered further by coniferous forest. The turbines would also appear in the same FoV adjacent to the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, and both wind farms would appear distinctly separate, set back from the loch. However, they would only be visible in the same view for approximately seven years prior to decommissioning of An Suidhe Wind Farm. The magnitude of visual change experienced by residents would range from Medium where there are open views on the eastern extents of the settlement, to Zero where views would be screened within the interior settlement. From elevated areas such as the village green, further buildings and vegetation would partially screen views of the Proposed Development to the south. The effect of the Proposed Development on views from Dalavich would range from Major

Settlement	Assessment
	(Significant) to No View (Not Significant) and the nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be visible to the south-east, adjacent to the Proposed Development at ~5.4km (Low to Zero magnitude), and Blarghour Farm turbines are visible to the east (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm would be visible as upper towers and hubs to the northeast at ~5.4km distance (Medium to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of existing and consented wind farms would be Medium to Zero. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Major and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect would also be Major and Significant (due to Blarghour Wind Farm and the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh would be partially visible to the north-east at ~4.5km as upper towers, hubs and blades (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). Blargour Variation would be partially visible as hubs to the north-east at 5.4km distance subject to screening from vegetation (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of application wind farms would be High-Medium to Zero. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Major and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect would be Substantial to Major and Significant (due to Blarghour / Blarghour Variation, An Carr Dubh Wind Farms and the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> Limited significant night-time effects would result of the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Ford	Ford is a small settlement located at the south-west end of Loch Awe at approximately 9.4km distance to the west of the Proposed Development. The settlement is accessed by both the B840 and the minor road along the western shores of Loch Awe which converge at the settlement. There are several knolls between the settlement and Loch Awe some of which are covered in woodland, and this restricts views towards the loch from much of the settlement. In addition, clumps of coniferous and deciduous trees line the roads running through the settlement which further screen views. The majority of properties are located along the roads and, as a result, orientation varies. Views towards Loch Awe are available to the north of the settlement. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The blade tip ZTV indicates that there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the centre of the settlement and theoretical visibility of up to six turbines from areas along the minor road to the north of the settlement, and theoretical visibility from a small area to the south of the settlement. In reality, views from the south of the settlement should be screened by intervening vegetation. Views along the road to the north of the settlement would also be screened by intervening vegetation, but there would be some winter views and views through gaps in the vegetation as illustrated in Viewpoint 11, Figure 8.29. Residents would potentially view up to two hubs and four partial blades / blade tips where views towards the Proposed Development are not obstructed by buildings, local landform and vegetation. The turbines would be further

Settlement	Assessment
	screened by forestry such that some of the blades / blade tips would not be perceptible in the view. The two hubs would be seen to the fore of the existing An Suidhe turbines. The magnitude of visual change experienced by residents would range from Low-Very Low to Zero (with or without forestry felling). The effect of the Proposed Development on views from Ford would range from Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant) and the nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative to neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> Blades and hubs from An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible to the north-east partially behind the Proposed Development at ~12.7km distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of existing and consented wind farms would be Very Low to Zero. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant). The combined cumulative effect would also be Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative to neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be theoretically partially visible (hubs and blades) to the north-east at ~15.6km but would be heavily filtered by vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). A blade tip from Glasvaar would be barely perceptible to the south-east (Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant). The combined cumulative effect would also be Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative to neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Strachur	Strachur is a small settlement located on the eastern coast of Loch Fyne along the A815 and A886 roads, approximately 8.5km distance to the south-east of the Proposed Development. The settlement stretches along the coastline around Strachur Bay (A886) and curves inland following the A815 as it passes through a shallow valley between hills. The main settlement is quite concentrated, set back from the loch, however development has spread and is more dispersed along the A866, overlooking Loch Fyne. From the coastline (A886), the majority of properties are orientated west / north-west across Loch Fyne. Views are more short range as the road heads inland with properties orientated to view across the loch to the rising landforms beyond. Small sections of the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line would be visible on the skyline. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The blade tip ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of between five and 16 turbines across the settlement. In reality, views from the inland (main) area of the settlement would be heavily filtered or screened by surrounding vegetation and buildings – although there may be some limited views along the valley towards the proposed turbines from upper stories of properties in the most elevated part of the settlement to the south-east of the valley. The majority of views towards the proposed turbines would be from properties along the coastline (A886) where there are open views across Loch Fyne. Views from this part of the settlement are illustrated in Viewpoint 9, Figure 8.27. There would be visibility of up to two hubs, with nine turbines visible as partial blades / blade tips behind intervening landform to the west of Loch Fyne and seen in the context of the upper parts of pylons associated with the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line. Some of the turbines would be further screened by intervening coniferous forest (subject to felling) and some of the tips would not be perceptible due to distance. The magnitude of visual change experienced by residents would range from

Settlement	Assessment
	Low to Zero. The effect of the Proposed Development on views from Strachur would range from Moderate to No View (Not Significant) and the nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the overall limited visibility of the turbines beyond the loch and hillside, intervening distance, large-scale of the landscape and other human development in the views. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> No existing or consented wind farms would be visible. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blades / tips from An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be theoretically visible to the north / north-west at ~11km distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield Wind Farm would be partially visible to the north at 12.4km distance (Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change of application wind farms would be Low to Zero. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to No View (Not Significant). The combined cumulative effect would be Moderate to No View (Not Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
St. Catherine's	St. Catherine's is a small, elongated settlement located on the eastern coast of Loch Fyne spread along the A815, approximately 9.7km distance to the north-east of the Proposed Development. The settlement stretches along the coastline towards the northern end of Loch Fyne and follows the A815 as it passes close to the coastline. The majority of properties are orientated north-west across Loch Fyne. Although there are some scattered properties located along the shoreline with views directly onto Loch Fyne, the majority of views from residents would be from across the A815 where roadside scrub filters some of the views. Sections of the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line would be visible on the skyline. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The blade tip ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of between five and 11 turbines across the settlement. Although views from some areas of the settlement would be filtered by surrounding vegetation, there would be visibility between or above roadside scrub. Views would include occasional moving foreground traffic along the A815. Views from this settlement are illustrated in Viewpoint 14, Figure 8.32 which is located near a jetty and illustrates the roadside scrub to the left of the view. Wireline analysis indicates that there would be visibility of up to five turbines including up to two hubs and partial blades behind intervening landform to the west of Loch Fyne. Visibility of the turbines increases slightly to the south of the settlement where seven turbines (one hub and six partial blades) would be theoretically visible subject to screening from forestry to the west of the loch. The turbines would be viewed beyond or adjacent to the existing communications tower and pylons associated with the Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line. The magnitude of visual change experienced by residents would range from Very Low to Zero. The effect of the Proposed Development on views from St. Catherine's would range from Minor to No View (Not Significant) and the nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm is partially visible from the north of the settlement; however, the blade tips would be discernible (Zero magnitude). A blade from Clachan Flats Wind

Settlement	Assessment
	Farm is theoretically visible to the north-east at ~8.1km but is filtered by vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Partial blades and tips from the consented Blarghour Wind Farm would be theoretically visible to the north-east (Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Minor to No View (Not Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Partial blades and a hub from An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be theoretically visible to the north-west at ~8.5km subject to screening from forestry (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). Partial blades and tips from the Blarghour Wind Farm Variation would be theoretically visible to the north-east (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blade tips from Ladyfield Wind Farm are unlikely to be visible to the north-northwest (Zero magnitude). The combined cumulative effect would be Moderate to Minor, to No View (Not Significant) (due to An Carr Dubh). The additional cumulative effect would be Minor to No View (Not Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative to neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> Up to one aviation warning light would be visible from the settlement. See Appendix 8C.

Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes

- 8.10.18 This section of the assessment considers the sequential and cumulative visual effects on views of the Proposed Development from selected transport routes within 10km (and 12km south-west) of it.
- 8.10.19 The views from these routes would be experienced transiently by road users (mainly drivers and where appropriate cyclists) who would experience the Proposed Development as part of the changing sequence of views experienced from the road. Each of these routes were driven or travelled in both directions in order to assess the potential effects and each assessment has been assisted on-site with the use of sequential wirelines transects, ZTV maps and True View Visuals 3D augmented reality software. The assessment has also taken account of other wind farms visible from these routes.
- 8.10.20 In summary, **significant** effects would be limited to sections of the following transport routes:
- Up to approximately 0.4km of the A886 for northbound users on the approach to the B8000 at Leanach;
 - Up to approximately 1km of the B840 in oblique inland views at Durran for northbound and southbound users;
 - Up to approximately 0.7km of the B8000 for northbound and southbound users towards Leanach; and
 - Minor road along western shore of Loch Awe (C29 and C30) (overlapping with the Caledonia Way and Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan) for ~4.6km where there would be glimpsed open views at Kilmun and between Dalavich and Acrihamish (subject to intermittent screening from vegetation and local landform and replanted coniferous forest that would mature to screen the view over time in places reducing to non-significant levels).

- 8.10.21 There would also be **significant** night-time visual effects along parts of the minor road along the western shore of Loch Awe (C29 / C30). There would be **no significant** night-time effects on the remaining transport routes and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in **Appendix 8C**.

Table 8.11 Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes

Transport Route	Assessment
A886	The A886 runs between the A815 at Strachur on the eastern shore of Loch Fyne and the A844 on the Isle of Bute. Within 12km, the A886 runs along the eastern shore of Loch Fyne between Strachur and south-east of Leanach before it turns inland as it travels through Cowal and towards the Isle of Bute. The route is orientated in a north-east / south-west direction, turning south-east near Leanach to head inland. The route passes to the south-east of the Proposed Development at approximately 7.7km distance at its closest point. Viewpoints 8 and 9 are located along this route. Travelling northbound from Leanach to Strachur, views are largely concentrated across the loch and towards the hills to the west of Loch Fyne. The loch is generally experienced in oblique views. However, when travelling north toward Leanach the loch and the ridge to the west of Loch Fyne is visible in the direction of travel. Roadside vegetation between Lettersfarm and Stuckreoch provides filtered views across the loch. Views open up again for a short section of the route near Stucroch Caravan Park and becomes increasingly more filtered by vegetation further south towards Leanach. This section of the route is also at a higher elevation, affording more elevated views across the loch, albeit filtered by roadside vegetation in places. Sections of the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line would be visible on the skyline across the loch from much of this route, along with the operational quarry most notable from the elevated section of the route near Leanach. The section of the route along the eastern shores of Loch Fyne between Strachur and the junction with the B8000 overlaps with the locally designated East Loch Fyne LLA. It is not a designated tourist route; however, it does provide reasonable scenic views across the loch, indicating a High to Medium value. Most of the road users would experience the landscape transiently whilst driving or cycling and experiencing a sequence of views, often in one direction focused on the direction of travel and often experienced at speed (Medium susceptibility). As a result, the overall sensitivity of this route is assessed as <i>Medium</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of between 1-11 turbines from the majority of the route with theoretical visibility increasing to all 22 turbines as the route turns inland and gains elevation at Leanach. In reality, much of the route is screened by roadside vegetation and there would be at best heavily filtered winter views as noted above. Open views occur to the north of the route at the settlement of Strachur, for both northbound and southbound users, where there is very little roadside vegetation or buildings screening the view for approximately 1.3km. Views from this section of the route are illustrated in Viewpoint 9, Figure 8.27 which shows that up to two hubs would be visible alongside up to nine partial blades in oblique views to the north-west (Low magnitude for 1.3km). Open views also occur as the route approaches the junction with the B8000 where there are intermittent open views for approximately 0.4km. Views from this section are illustrated in Viewpoint 8, Figure 8.26 which indicates visibility of up to 20 turbines as a combination of hubs and blades. This view would be seen in the direction of travel for northbound road users as the route approaches the B8000 from the south / south-east (Medium magnitude of change for 0.4km). Elsewhere along the route there would be occasional glimpsed views at Stucroch offering fleeting views of up to two hubs and three partial blades in views oblique to the road (Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate and Significant (up to ~0.4km for northbound users from the

Transport Route Assessment

elevated section of the route near the B8000 junction at Leanach) to **Minor to No View** and **Not Significant** (remainder of route). There would be **no significant** effects for northbound or southbound users between Strachur and the approach to the B8000. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites
Blade tips from An Suidhe Wind Farm would be barely perceptible from the route location (Zero magnitude). A'Chruach / A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farm is partially visible between landforms as the route approaches the B8000 in views to the west at ~11km (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would also be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications

Blade tips from An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be theoretically visible to the north at ~11-13km (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield Wind Farm would be partially visible to the north at 12.4km distance as the route approaches the B8000 (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would also be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Night-time effects

No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.

See **Appendix 8C**.

B840

The B840 is largely a single-track road with passing places that follows the south-east / eastern shoreline of Loch Awe between the A819 at Cladich in the north and the A816 to the south-west of the settlement of Ford. Within 12km, the B840 runs between north of Balliemanoach in the north-east and south-west of Ford where it meets the A819. The route is roughly orientated in a north-east / south-west direction, and passes to the west and north-west of the Proposed Development at approximately 2.5km distance at its closest point. Viewpoint 1 (**Figure 8.19**) is located along this route. Much of the route travels through mature woodland and forestry, which limits longer-ranging views from the road.

The route is not a designated tourist route or overlapped by any designated landscape, indicating a Medium value. Most of the road users would experience the landscape transiently whilst driving or cycling and experiencing a sequence of views, often in one direction focused on the direction of travel and often experienced at speed (Medium susceptibility). As a result, the overall sensitivity of this route is assessed as *Medium*.

Assessment: Proposed Development

ZTV coverage indicates very limited theoretical visibility beyond 5km of the proposed turbines, and no visibility beyond 12km. However, theoretical visibility is indicated for approximately 1.7km of the route as the route approaches from the north at Balliemanoach. From here there would be open views in the direction of travel (southbound) of up to 10 turbines on the skyline at around 9.5-10km distance. In reality, views of the turbines would be heavily filtered by intervening trees and are more likely to be glimpsed in winter views (Very Low magnitude). The greatest area of theoretical visibility is indicated between Portinnisherrick and Braevallich where

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there would be theoretical visibility of between 1 and 16 turbines for ~4.7km of the route. In reality, the majority of this section of the route is screened by dense woodland and forestry with very few open areas enabling views. Where open areas exist, views towards the turbines are inland beyond rising landform and oblique to the direction of travel. Viewpoint 1, **Figure 8.19**, illustrates views from an open section of the route at Durran where the landform inland towards the turbines is less steep affording greater potential for theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. The view illustrates the presence of surrounding trees and forestry which partially screen the turbines along the edges of this open area. Views from the road would be oblique / perpendicular at this location, however the visible turbines would be a noticeable feature on the skyline at this distance (2.8km) (Medium magnitude) appearing similar in scale to the existing telegraph poles in the views. The turbines would be visible for approximately 1km of the route before forestry and landform screens views as the route continues south-west. Further locations of theoretical visibility of 1-5 turbines are indicated as the route nears and passes through Ford. Wireline analysis indicates that up to three turbines would be theoretically visible as blade tips these are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation and would not be discernible in glimpsed views through trees in winter views (Zero magnitude).

In summary, the overall magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero and the effect would range from **Moderate** and **Significant** (up to ~1km at Durran for northbound and southbound users experiencing oblique inland views) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites

An Suidhe would be glimpsed in views as the route approaches Baliemeanoch from the north (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blades from the consented Blarghour Wind Farm would also be visible from this location in oblique views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would be heavily filtered winter views of Carraig Gheal Wind Farm blades also from this section of the route across the loch to the north-west (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would be sequential views of Carraig Gheal and Blarghour Farm turbines as the route passes through Blarghour (Low to Very Low magnitude), and in views along Loch Awe to the east of St Mary's Loch near Ford where Blarghour Wind Farm would be visible (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would also be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications

Blades from An Carr Dubh Wind Farm (Medium to Zero magnitude) would be theoretically visible as the route approaches Baliemeanoch from the north, and sequentially in views along Loch Awe to the east of St Mary's Loch near Ford where Blarghour Wind Farm Variation would also be visible (Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development and An Carr Dubh Wind Farm, from different sections of the route) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Night-time effects

No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See **Appendix 8C**.

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B8000

The B8000 is largely a single-track road with passing places and runs between the A886 at Leanach and Tighnabruaich on the Cowal Peninsula. Within 12km, the route runs between Leanach and south of Lephinmore (approximately 8.3km distance). The route is orientated in a north-east / south-west direction and roughly follows the Strathlachlan River until it reaches the Loch Fyne coastline at Lachlan Bay which it follows to Lephinmore and beyond. As such, the route passes to the south and south-east of the Proposed Development at approximately 7.9km distance at its closest point. Viewpoints 6 and 21 are located along this route with Viewpoint 8 located at the junction with the A886. Roadside vegetation provides filtered or very limited outward views across the loch from many sections of this route. Where there are open views, sections of the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line would be visible on the skyline across the loch, along with the operational quarry most notable from the route near Leanach.

Much of the route is overlapped with the locally designated East Loch Fyne LLA, but is not a designated tourist route however, it does provide reasonable scenic views across the loch indicating a High to Medium value. Most of the road users would experience the landscape transiently whilst driving and experiencing a sequence of views, often in one direction focused on the direction of travel and often experienced at speed (Medium susceptibility). As a result, the overall sensitivity of this route is assessed as *Medium*.

Assessment: Proposed Development

ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of all 22 turbines at an elevated section of the route at Leanach where it meets the A886, and theoretical visibility of between 1 and 11 turbines between Lachlan Bay and Lephinmore. No theoretical visibility is indicated for ~4km between Leanach and Lephinmore. Beyond Lephinmore, visibility is very limited due to mature roadside vegetation with glimpsed views through gaps in the vegetation. Viewpoint 8 (**Figure 8.26**) (taken on the B8000 near the junction with the A886) indicates visibility of up to 20 turbines as a combination of hubs and blades. This view would be seen at oblique angles at the junction with the A886, becoming more oblique as the route progresses for ~0.7km (Medium magnitude). Between Leanach and Lachlan Bay the proposed turbines would be screened by intervening landform (Zero magnitude). At Lachlan Bay visibility of the proposed turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform due to the lower elevation of the route such that only blade tips would be visible as illustrated in Viewpoint 6, **Figure 8.24**. There would be filtered views for most of the remaining route with open areas at Barnacarry (six partial blades / tips visible for northbound users for ~0.4km – Very Low magnitude) and intermittent views for ~1km in northbound travel from Lephinmore where a hub and blade tips would be visible between roadside vegetation (Low to Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero and the level of effect would be **Moderate** and **Significant** (0.7km towards Leanach for northbound and southbound users) to **Minor to No View** and **Not Significant** (remainder of route). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites

Blade tips from An Suidhe would be barely perceptible from the route location (Zero magnitude). A'Chruach / Phase II is partially visible between landforms in views to the west at Leanach and in views at Barnacarry (Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would also be **Moderate** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications

Transport Route	Assessment
	Blade tips from An Carr Dubh would be theoretically visible to the north at ~11-13 km (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield would be partially visible to the north from Leanach at ~12.4km distance (Low to Zero magnitude). Glasvaar would be visible at Barnacarry as hubs and blade tips (Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Moderate and Significant (due to the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result of the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8.3.
Minor road along western shores of Loch Awe (C29 / C30) (overlapping with The Caledonia Way and Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan)	This minor, single-track road with passing places follows the western shoreline of Loch Awe between the B845 at Kilchrenan in the north and the B840 at the settlement of Ford. Within 12km, the route runs between north of Inverinan and south-west of Ford. The route is roughly orientated in a north-east / south-west direction and passes to the west and north-west of the Proposed Development at approximately 4.5km distance at its closest point. Viewpoints 3, 5, 11 and 16 are located along the route. Some unenclosed sections of the route offer elevated scenic views along Loch Awe. Views towards the low ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe are also available from these locations. However, views from large sections of the route are partly filtered through roadside trees and vegetation. The existing An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible from sections of the route. The route is not a designated tourist route or overlapped with any designated landscapes. It was formerly part of the Sustrans Cycle Route 78 but has now been reclassified which, <i>“means they are on roads that are likely to be too fast or busy for beginners and families”</i> and is no longer promoted as part of the Sustrans Cycle Route 78. It is, however, shown as part of the Caledonia Way Sustrans network and is recommended for experienced users - <i>“users who are confident cycling in traffic and meet Bikeability Level 3 criteria”</i>, indicating a High-Medium value. It also overlaps with a Core Path. Most of the road users (including walkers and experienced cyclists) would experience the landscape transiently whilst driving, walking or cycling and experiencing a sequence of views, often in one direction focused on the direction of travel (High to Medium susceptibility). As a result, the overall sensitivity of this route is assessed as <i>High</i> (walkers) to <i>High-Medium</i> (experienced cyclists and drivers). <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates continuous theoretical visibility along the route within 12km (apart from a 0.5km section at Torran and Inverliever Lodge) ranging from one turbine to full theoretical visibility of all 22 turbines. As noted above, much of the route passes through coniferous forestry and / or dense roadside vegetation and is heavily screened by intervening vegetation. When travelling southbound there would be some heavily filtered glimpsed views from open areas at Inverinan (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and glimpsed / intermittent views as the route passes through more open areas at Kilmun for ~0.9km of the route as illustrated in Viewpoint 5, Figure 8.23 where hubs and upper towers would be visible on the horizon on the direction of travel (southbound) (Medium magnitude). Further filtered views would be available as the route passes through the village green at Dalavich. Views from here would be filtered by vegetation or partially screened by buildings in the settlement (Medium-Low magnitude). Heavily filtered winter views would continue until Newyork (Very Low to Zero magnitude) where coniferous forest would screen the views until north-east of Kilmaha where recent felling has opened some views towards the Proposed Development for ~0.5km of the route (until replanted trees regrow and screen the view) and there are further open views as the route reaches the Kilmaha viewpoint for ~ 0.25km – particularly in winter views when roadside scrub is not in leaf (High-

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Medium magnitude). There would be intermittent visibility from sections of the route between Rubha na Lic Moire and Arichamish (~3km of the route) where there are open views between occasional scrub and local landform where forestry is absent or has been recently felled for northbound road users (Medium magnitude). Between Dalavich and Arichamish via Kilmaha, where visible, the Proposed Development would appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines from the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, both wind farms set back from the loch. However, they would only be visible in the same views for ~seven years as An Suidhe would be decommissioned ~28 years prior to the end of the operation period of the Proposed Development. Between Arichamish and south of Torran, views are mostly filtered by roadside scrub and affords winter views and occasional open views between vegetation of up to five turbines (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Between Torran and Ford for ~1km, there would be some open areas where there would be elevated views of up to approximately seven turbines which would be mostly screened by intervening landform such that two hubs would be theoretically visible in combination with blades or blade tips as illustrated in **Viewpoint 11**, Figure 8.29 (Very Low magnitude). Within the settlement of Ford, views would be mostly screened by roadside vegetation with very occasional glimpses between vegetation and buildings (Very Low to Zero magnitude). North of Inverinan, beyond 12km in the north, visibility would reduce with increased distance.

In summary, the overall magnitude of change would range from High-Medium to Zero and the effect would range from **Substantial to Major** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. **Significant** effects would occur for ~4.6km where there are glimpsed open views at Kilmun and between Dalavich and Arichamish via Kilmaha (subject to intermittent screening from vegetation and local landform and replanted coniferous forest that would mature to screen the view over time in places). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites

An Suidhe would be intermittently visible along the route alongside the proposed turbines, partially screened by intervening landform (Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Blarghour turbines would also be visible from open areas along route (Medium to Zero magnitude) and the tips and blades of Carraig Gheal to the north-east would both be mostly screened by intervening vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Farm turbines are also visible from some locations (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Substantial to Major** and **Significant to No View** and **Not Significant**. The combined effect would be **Substantial to Major** and **Significant** (due to the Proposed Development and Blarghour) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications

An Carr Dubh would be visible from open sections of the route and would be most visible from areas around Kilmun (High-Medium to Zero magnitude) where it would be visible alongside Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (High-Medium magnitude) at ~5km distance. Glasvaar Wind Farm would be visible in views south between Rubha na Lic Moire and Arichamish (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Substantial to Major (Significant) to No View (Not Significant)**. The combined effect would be **Substantial to Major** and **Significant** due to the Proposed Development, Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh Wind Farms) to **No View** and **Not Significant**. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative.

Transport Route	Assessment
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Night-time effects

Limited **significant** night-time effects would result of the proposed aviation warning lights. See **Appendix 8.3**.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

- 8.10.22 The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people (walkers / cyclists / horse riders / and others) on recreational routes overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. The recreational routes include Core Paths, heritage paths and Scottish hill tracks which have been assessed within 10km of the Proposed Development. These routes are illustrated in **Figures 8.11a/b**.
- 8.10.23 National recreational routes within 30km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are also included in the assessment. These routes are illustrated in **Figure 8.10**.
- 8.10.24 Each of these routes were walked and / or visited and walked in sections according to the ZTV coverage and the assessment has been assisted on-site with the use of sequential wirelines and True View Visuals 3D software.
- 8.10.25 All of the routes have been assessed as of *High* sensitivity on account of their High to Medium value as recreational routes, often routed through locally designated landscapes and the High susceptibility of the people using these routes, mostly walkers and cyclists, whose attention would be focused on the landscape around them.
- 8.10.26 In summary, there would be **significant** visual effects from parts of the following recreational routes:
- Core Path C119 (b-c): Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace / Scottish Hill Track 104. This route passes through the Development Site;
 - Core Path C305: Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge;
 - Core Paths C486 – Dun Dubh, Ford; and
 - Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 Furnace to Ford / Kilmichael Glassary.
- 8.10.27 There would be **no significant** visual effects on the views from any other recreational routes within the Study Area.
- 8.10.28 There would be **significant** night-time effects on the views from three routes including Core Path C119 (b-c): Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace / Scottish Hill Track 104, Core Path C305: Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge and Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 106 Furnace to Kilmichael Glassary. A full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in **Appendix 8C**.

Table 8.12 Visual Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

Recreational Route	Assessment
National Recreational routes within 30km	
The Caledonia Way (<i>North of Inverinan to Oban, and south-west of Ford to Achahoish – remainder of route assessed as part of minor road along western shores of Loch Awe</i>)	The Caledonia Way is a long-distance cycling route promoted by Sustrans that spans 374km between Campbeltown and Inverness. Within the 30km Study Area it passes between Achahoish in the south and Oban in the north. The section of the route between south-west of Ford and north of Inverinan is overlapped with the minor road along the western shores of Loch Awe which is assessed in Table 8.11 above. Therefore, this assessment is focused on the sections between Achnaoish and Kilmartin in the south. Viewpoint 16 is located on the section of the route north of Inverinan. As noted in Table 8.11, much of this route within the Study Area has been reclassified by Sustrans and has been assessed as <i>High-Medium</i> sensitivity, however, the two short sections of the route that are still classified as the Sustrans National Cycle Route 78, between Ardrishaig and Crinan, and between Oban and North Connel, are assessed as <i>High</i>.
<u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> <i>North of Inverinan to Oban</i> - The majority of the route between north of Inverinan and Oban is outwith the ZTV. However, a 3km stretch between north of Inverinan and Lower Fernoch overlaps with the ZTV indicating theoretical visibility of up to 16 turbines. Site visits confirm that much of this section of the route is heavily screened by woodland allowing, at most, heavily filtered winter views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). However, the woodland clears and the route gains elevation as it approaches and passes Lower Fernoch from the south and there would be visibility for ~0.2km as illustrated in Viewpoint 16, Figure 8.34. The view would be fleeting for users heading southbound (Low magnitude). There would be no visibility from the remainder of the route due to screening from landform or vegetation with the exception of a short (0.8km) section of route at Achnacraobh where there would be views of approximately 11 turbines (hubs and blades) in the direction of travel at ~17km distance for southbound users (Very Low magnitude). The level of effect would range from Moderate to Minor, to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative. <i>South-west of Ford to Achahoish</i> - There would be very little theoretical visibility between Ford and Moine Mhor. Where small areas of theoretical visibility are indicated, wireline analysis indicates that blade tips would be visible, however these would be screened by intervening vegetation (Zero magnitude). At Moine Mhor and Crinan, theoretical visibility of blade tips would be barely perceptible between the coniferous forest and Dundard Locks (Very Low to Zero magnitude) (Viewpoints N1, N2 and N9, Appendix 8G). There would be no further visibility until the route reaches Loch Fyne at Ardrishaig where theoretical visibility of between 1 and 11 turbines is indicated between Ardrishaig and Brenfield Bay. Wirelines show theoretical visibility of partial blades and tips along this section of the route which would be barely perceptible due to distance. Surrounding built form at Ardrishaig would further screen views (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The route heads inland at Brenfield Bay towards Achahoish. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of all 22 turbines along a short (~1km) stretch of this route near Loch Arail. Blades and hubs would be visible in the direction of travel (northbound) in clear or exceptional conditions at ~32km distance (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would be no further theoretical visibility within the 30km Study Area. The level of effect would range from Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and neutral.	
<u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u>	

Recreational Route	Assessment
	An Suidhe Wind Farm would be partially visible beside the proposed turbines (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Farm turbines are theoretically visible but would be screened by intervening vegetation (Zero magnitude). Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is also theoretically visible to the west (Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Blarghour Wind Farm turbines would also be visible from open areas along route (Medium to Zero magnitude). A'Chruach / A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farm would be visible from southern sections of the route (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to Minor, to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Major and Significant (due to Blarghour Wind Farm) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be visible from open sections of the route and would be most visible from areas around Kilmun (Medium to Zero magnitude) where it would be visible alongside Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (Medium magnitude) at ~5km distance. Glasvaar Wind Farm would be visible in views south between Rubha na Lic Moire and Arichamish, as well as more distant views from the south of the route (Low to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield Wind Farm would be visible from areas north of Kilchrenan (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to Minor, to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Major and Significant (due to Blarghour / Variation and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Loch Lomond and Cowal Way	The Loch Lomond and Cowal Way is one of Scotland's Great Trails extending between Portavadie, Loch Fyne and Inveruglas, Loch Lomond (approximately 92km). Within the 30km Study Area it passes between Tighnabruaich to the south and Tarbert (Loch Lomond) to the north-east. The route passes to the south and east of the Proposed Development at approximately 9.5km distance at its closest point. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates very little theoretical visibility along much of the route due to its low-lying course along loch edges and through glens. However, there would be some theoretical visibility as the route passes Strachur at its closest point and also where the route gains elevation as it passes south of Beinn Lochain. Views from the route at Strachur would be screened or heavily filtered by vegetation such that visibility of the proposed turbines would be glimpsed in elevated open areas or seen in filtered in winter views (Low to Very Low magnitude). Where the route passes near to Beinn Lochain, there would be theoretical visibility of up to 22 turbines for approximately 2km of the route. At this section, the route passes through coniferous forest and views towards the proposed turbines would be partly screened or channelled along pathway clearings. From this elevated part of the route, the turbines would be visible as hubs and blades on the horizon in the channelled view between hills and forestry to the west / north-west at ~14km distance from the proposed turbines (Low-Very Low magnitude). There is no further visibility indicated along the route with the exception of a short section to the east of

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Lochgoilhead where theoretical visibility of two blade tips would not be discernible in views west (Zero magnitude). In summary, the overall magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero and the effect would range from Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, and negative. The effect would be not significant from the elevated section of the route near Beinn Lochain due to the large scale of the receiving landscape, panoramic views, intervening distance and extent of visibility of the turbines on the horizon in part of the view already affected by wind farm development. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be visible adjacent to the proposed turbines (Very Low to Zero magnitude), and the consented Creag Dubh Wind Farm would be intervisible with the Proposed Development (blade tips) to the east of Lochgoilhead (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Due to the routes' location along glens and low-lying areas, views towards other existing and consented wind farms would be limited. However, near Garvie Burn, the route passes within 1.2km of Cruach Mhor Wind Farm where there would be some open views of the turbines between coniferous forest from this section of the route (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Moderate to No View and Not Significant, although there would be significant sequential effects along the route where the route passes near to Cruach Mhor Wind Farm (Substantial to Major and Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh, Blarghour Variation and Glasvaar Wind Farms would be intervisible with the Proposed Development mostly as blades (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Moderate to No View and Not Significant, although there would be significant sequential effects along the route where the route passes near to Cruach Mhor Wind Farm (Substantial to Major and Significant). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.

Local Recreational Routes within 10km (and 12km south-west)

Core Path C119 (b-c) Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace / Scottish Hill Track 104	Core Path C119 (b-c) passes between the B840 at Durran and Braleckan (north of the A83). The route follows the shallow Abhainn a'Bhealaich valley through Eredine Forest and the Development Site, passing within approximately 250m of the closest proposed turbines. The route also overlaps with a Right of Way identified as Scottish Hill Track 104. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of this route between east of Loch Leacann in the south and Durran in the north. Between east of Loch Leacann and Furnace, there would be no visibility due to intervening landform. Much of the route passes through dense coniferous forestry and views are most likely to occur where the route passes
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Recreational Route	Assessment
	through areas of clear-fell and where there are views above the canopy facilitated by clearance either side of tracks or along forest rides. There may also be visibility in 'key-holed' areas adjacent to the track. Where visible, particularly between Loch Leacann and through Eredine Forest, the turbines would be seen in very close proximity (High magnitude) with reduced visibility as the route drops steeply towards Durran (Medium magnitude, as seen in Viewpoint 1). The magnitude of change would range from High to Zero and the effect would be Substantial and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be visible from open sections of the route beyond the proposed turbines to the north and north-east of the route at approximately 2km (Medium to Zero magnitude) and A'Chruach Wind Farm would be mostly screened by intervening landform, but blades may be visible to the south-west of the route from open areas at approximately 7km (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Carraig Gheal Wind Farm would be theoretically visible in views north from the east of the route but would be screened by intervening forest and woodland (Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Substantial and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Substantial and Significant (due to the Proposed Development and An Suidhe) to No View and Not Significant. The operation of An Suidhe Wind Farm and the Proposed Development would be concurrent for approximately 7 years, thereby reducing the cumulative effect upon the decommissioning of the former. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blades and hubs of An Carr Dubh and Ladyfield Wind Farms would be mostly screened by intervening vegetation in views north (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Substantial and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Substantial and Significant (due to the Proposed Development and An Suidhe Wind Farm) to No View and Not Significant. The operation of An Suidhe Wind Farm and the Proposed Development would be concurrent for approximately 7 years, thereby reducing the cumulative effect upon the decommissioning of the former. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> Limited significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan	This route overlaps with the Caledonia Way / minor road along western shore of Loch Awe and is assessed as part of the minor road along the western shores of Loch Awe in Table 8.11 above.
Core Path C305 Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge	Core Path C305 is a short route that loops from the C30 minor road north of the main settlement of Dalavich along the shores of Loch Awe and back to the C30 at Barnaline Lodge. The route is predominantly located along the loch shores of a wooded coastline that features holiday chalets and occasional jetties. Views are mostly open across Loch Awe – although part of the route follows an inland track where views are filtered by woodland and chalet buildings. The route is

Recreational Route	Assessment
	approximately 1.7km in length, located 6km north / north-west of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 4 is located at the southern edge of the route. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of this route with between 12 and 16 of the proposed turbines theoretically visible. Whilst there would be some screening from woodland in sections of the route that connect the shoreline to the C30 road and where the route diverts inland at some shoreline chalets (Very Low to Zero magnitude), parts of the route (approximately 0.7km) would have open views across Loch Awe. Views from these locations would be similar to Viewpoint 4, Figure 8.22 which is taken at the most southerly point of the route at the coastline. This view illustrates the extent of visibility along Loch Awe and the location of the Proposed Development to the south-east of the view. The proposed turbines would be partly visible (hubs, blades and some upper towers) on the skyline beyond the low-lying hills and ridgeline of the loch (Medium magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Medium to Zero and the effect would be Major and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> Where there are open views, An Suidhe Wind Farm would be visible to the south-east, adjacent to the Proposed Development at ~5.4km (Low to Zero magnitude), and Blarghour Farm turbines are visible to the east (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm would be visible as upper towers and hubs to the north-east at ~5.4km distance (Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Major and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Major and Significant (due to the Proposed Development and Blarghour Wind Farm) to No View and Not Significant. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be partially visible to the north-east at ~4.5km as upper towers, hubs and blades (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm Variation would be partially visible as hubs to the north-east at ~5.4km distance subject to screening from vegetation (High-Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Major and Significant to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Substantial to Major and Significant (due to the Proposed Development, Blarghour / Variation and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms) to No View and Not Significant. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> Limited significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights from the southern end of the route. See Appendix 8.3.
Core Path C120 Brainport Circular, Minard	Core Path C120 is predominantly a coastal route that follows the shoreline of Loch Fyne from the settlement of Minard to Minard Bay and loops back inland through woodland. Views from the shoreline are mostly east across the open waterbody of

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Loch Fyne – although views are inland in the direction of travel northbound. The route is approximately 2.9km in length, located ~6.4km south of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of this route with between one and five of the proposed turbines theoretically visible and up to six turbines theoretically visible from the inland loop of the route. Wireline analysis indicates that there would be theoretical visibility of a hub, blade and blade tip along the shoreline section of the route and up to two hubs and five blades/tip from the inland loop. In reality, views from the inland loop would be screened by intervening woodland (Zero magnitude) and views along the shoreline would also be partly screened by woodland in places along the loch (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from Very Low to Zero and the effect would be Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> The existing Clachan Flats Wind Farm would be partly visible, and the consented Creag Dhubh Wind Farm would be visible as hubs and blades in views along the loch to the north-east (both Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect of the would be Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blades from Ladyfield Wind Farm would be visible in clear conditions from the southern part of the route (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect of the would be Minor to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Core Path C220 (a-b) Strachur Village Back Road (overlapped with Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 97 / 98 Lochgoilhead (Lettermay) to Invernoaden (near Loch Eck)	These routes follow minor roads and lanes that provide access to residential properties in the settlement of Strachur, and then follow the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way through forestry beyond to the south-east. Views along the route are mostly channelled in the direction of the route, with wider views screened by residential properties or heavily filtered by dense vegetation towards the east of the route or garden trees towards the west of the route. The route is approximately 1.1km in length, located ~9km east-south-east of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of this route, with between 12 and 16 of the proposed turbines theoretically visible. Wireline analysis indicates that there would be theoretical visibility of up to 5 hubs, and 9 blades / blade tips along the route. In reality, there would be glimpsed views of a hub and up to four blade tips to the west of the route in channelled views between buildings (Low-Very Low magnitude) and a glimpsed view of up to three hubs and three blades as the route passes The Simddy (Low magnitude). Views from the remainder of the route would be screened by buildings or vegetation (Zero magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from Low to Zero and the effect would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The effect would be Not Significant as the views would be

Recreational Route	Assessment
Core Path C172(c) - Loch Scammadale to Loch Avich (overlapped with Scottish Hill Track 107)	glimpsed along the route in views which feature urban elements within the settlement, overall limited visibility of the turbines beyond the loch and hillside and the intervening distance. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be partially intervisible in views from the east of the route (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blades/tips from An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be theoretically visible to the north / north-west at ~11km. Ladyfield would be partially visible to the north at 12.4km distance (both Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result of the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C. This route follows an elevated track linking Loch Scammadale to Loch Avich for ~6.4km. The route skirts coniferous forest (recently felled) and there are some areas of scrub along an indented watercourse cutting adjacent to the route. The routes' elevated location affords long range views to the south and south-east. At its closest point, the route is located ~9.5km north-west of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that visibility of the Proposed Development would be available from the majority of this route with theoretical visibility of up to 22 turbines between 9.5-11km. Coniferous forestry / woodland on the intervening landform and on the southern end of the route would further screen parts of the turbines. Wireline analysis indicates that there would be theoretical visibility of up to 21 turbines from more elevated sections of the route with more limited visibility towards the southern end of the route. Newly planted coniferous trees would screen some of the views as the route meanders along the landform at the southern end of the route (Low-Very Low magnitude) whilst visibility would be more open from the northern, elevated sections of the route (Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from Low to Zero and the effect would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The effect would be Not Significant due to the level of screening provided by forestry / woodland at the southern end of the route limiting the overall extent of visibility of the turbines and the intervening distance. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be intervisible in views – partially to the fore of the proposed turbines (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm would also be visible on the skyline as hubs to the east (Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Moderate and Significant (due to Blarghour Wind Farm and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (Low to Zero magnitude) and An Carr Dubh Wind Farm (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude) would be theoretically visible to the east at ~10km. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant (due to Blarghour / Variation and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
Core Paths C486 – Dun Dubh, Ford	Core Path C486 follows a track between the settlement of Ford and Salachary before following a trail to the summit of Dun Dubh (301m AOD). Views along the route are mostly to the east where Loch Awe provides a focal feature beyond the settlement. The route is approximately 1.4km in length and is located ~9.7km east-west of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates variable visibility of between 1 and 22 turbines along the route, with visibility increasing with elevation. There is no ZTV coverage for approximately 0.5km of the route as it departs the track between Ford and Salachary and passes along the southwestern slopes of Dun Dubh towards the summit. Views are mostly open along the route and wireline analysis indicates that there would be theoretical visibility of 1-3 hubs and two blade tips on the lower part of the route – subject to screening from scrub and potential forestry in the near distance (Very Low magnitude), and visibility of up to 11 hubs and 10 blades/ tips at the most elevated section of the track between Ford and Salachary (Medium- Low magnitude for 0.6km of the route) before the route departs to follow the trail to the summit of Dun Dubh and visibility is screened by landform (Zero magnitude). From the summit, all 22 turbines would be visible, as towers, hubs and blades amongst the undulating landform (Medium- Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from Medium-Low to Very Low and Zero and the effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant (for 0.6km of the route and at the summit of Dun Dubh) to Minor and No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> An Suidhe Wind Farm would be partially intervisible in views from elevated parts of the route and the summit (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Two hubs and several blades of A'Chruach Wind Farm would be visible from the summit (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant (due to the Proposed Development) to Minor and No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Glasvaar Wind Farm would be visible to the southeast at ~4.8km (Medium magnitude), Blarghour Variation, Ladyfield and An Carr Dubh Wind Farms would form a cluster of wind farms to the northeast (Low to Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change of application wind farms would be Medium to Zero. The additional cumulative effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant to Minor and No View and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect would be Major

Recreational Route	Assessment
Core Path C201 - Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray	and Significant (due to Glasvaar Wind Farm and to a lesser extent the Proposed Development) to Minor and No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
	<u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C.
	Core Path C201 follows a track through the grounds of Inveraray Castle GDL between the A83 at the Castle entrance and Dun na Cuaiche tower. The route extends to 3.1km, and travels from ~10m AOD to ~245m AOD at the tower. The route passes through a manicured landscape of hedgerows, lawn, specimen trees and informal woodland within the castle grounds before passing through pasture fields, coniferous forest and deciduous woodland on the ascent to the Dun na Cuaiche summit. At the summit there are clear, panoramic views of the surrounding landscape features with the main focus to the south and southwest along Loch Fyne. At its closest point, the route is located ~8.4km northeast of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 10 is located at Dun na Cuaiche summit. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available from the middle and upper slopes of Dun na Cuaiche (~1.3km of the route). The majority of this section of the route would be screened by coniferous forest and deciduous woodland such that views of the surrounding landscape features are 'revealed' at the open summit (the final 0.1km of the route). Views from the summit are illustrated in Viewpoint 10, Figure 8.28 which captures the main views along Loch Fyne and views towards the proposed turbines beyond Inveraray to Crossaig Overhead Line to the south-east. The assessment of the view is reported in Appendix 8B (Low magnitude resulting in a Moderate and Not Significant effect). The view from the summit represents the maximum visibility of the turbines along the route, thus if coniferous forestry were felled on the slopes of Dun na Cuaiche, views would feature less of the turbines (blade tips and blades) the magnitude of change would not exceed Low. Therefore, the overall magnitude of change would be Low (as described in Appendix 8B) to Zero and the level of effect as Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the location of the turbines away from the primary view and in part of the view already influenced by the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig Overhead Line and turbines. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> Blades and hubs from An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible to the southwest from the folly at Dun na Cuaiche and would be adjacent to the proposed turbines at ~8.4km (Very Low magnitude). Srondoir and Allt Dearg Wind Farms are partially visible to the south / south-west in clear conditions at over ~40km (Very Low magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm would be partially visible as blades tips and a hub to the north-west at ~7.3km (Very Low magnitude). Creag Dhubh Wind Farm would be visible to the south-east at ~6.4km distance (Low-Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Recreational Route	Assessment
Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 Furnace to Ford / Kilmichael Glassary	<u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be partially visible (hubs upper towers) to the northwest at ~5.6km (Medium magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm Variation would be partially visible as blades tips and a hub to the northwest at ~7.3km (Low-Very Low magnitude). Ladyfield would be visible to the north at ~4.6km distance (Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant (due to An Carr Dubh and Ladyfield Wind Farms, and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights. See Appendix 8C. Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 follow the undulating upland plateau between Furnace on the eastern shoreline of Loch Fyne and Ford (105 route) / Kilmichael Glassary (106 route). Both routes follow the same path between Furnace and Carron, east of A'Chruach Wind Farm where they split. Each of the routes are 20km in length. The routes pass through extensive forestry although there are some unforested sections of each route. At their closest, the routes pass within passing within ~1.3km of the proposed turbines. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of 1-5 turbines along the majority of the routes, with some areas of visibility of 6-11 turbines and very limited theoretical visibility of up to 22 turbines. In reality, visibility of the proposed turbines would be limited by coniferous forestry for much of these routes, subject to felling. Wireline analysis indicates theoretical visibility of blade tips above Creag Mhor between Furnace and southwest of Creag Mhor where the route passes beneath overhead lines and pylons. These views would be screened by coniferous forestry (Very Low to Zero magnitude). As the route continues between overhead lines and pylons towards south of Beinn Laoigh, there would be increasing theoretical visibility of a hub and up to three blades / tips for ~3.5km of the route. In this section of the route, views would be partially screened by coniferous forestry and the proposed turbines would be seen in the context of foreground pylons (Very Low to Zero magnitude). There would be no, or very limited visibility until Creag an Lubhair where the route temporarily exists the forestry and there are views of a hub and up to five blades / tips in views northeast – although near and middle-distance coniferous forestry would screen the blades and lower hub (Low magnitude). At this point the routes split: <u>Route 105</u> – This route heads northwest and gradually descends towards Ford. ZTV coverage indicates patches of theoretical visibility on very limited parts of this route where up to 12 turbines including seven towers would be visible as it passes Loch a'Chaorainn for 0.7km of the route (Medium magnitude), and up to 11 turbines would be visible including three hubs as it passes east of Sidh Mor (subject to screening from middle distance forestry) (Medium-Low magnitude for 0.3km). <u>Route 106</u> – This route heads southwest through forestry, passing close to the A' Chruach wind turbines. The Proposed Development would be theoretically visible as up to four hubs and nine blades / tips. In reality, the views would be screened by near distance forestry and the turbines would be viewed partially behind the existing A'Chruach turbines (Very Low to Zero magnitude (Medium-Low magnitude of forestry felled for ~2km)). Up to 5 hubs would be visible from another branch of this

Recreational Route	Assessment
	route (also within forestry) and the Magnitude would remain Very Low to Zero magnitude (Medium-Low magnitude of forestry felled). The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero along much of the routes (with a limited areas of Medium magnitude for 0.7km and Medium-Low magnitude for 0.3km of Route 105). This would result in a Minor to No View and Not Significant level of effect (Major and Major to Moderate and Significant for ~1km of the routes). If forestry were felled on Route 106, there would be Major to Moderate and Significant effects for ~2km). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> The routes pass in very close proximity to A'Cruach Wind Farm which would be clearly visible from open areas of the route and above the canopy where forestry tracks pass close. Access tracks would also be visible (High to Zero magnitude). A'Chruach Wind Farm Phase 2 would also be visible as the route passes close to the turbines (High to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant (Major and Major to Moderate and Significant for ~1km of the routes). The combined effect would be Substantial and Significant (due to A'Chruach / Phase 2 and to a lesser extent, the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. A'Chruach / Phase 2 Wind Farm would be decommissioned ~21 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Glasvaar would be visible behind A'Cruach (Route 106) and to the fore of A'Chruach (Route 105) at a minimum distance of 0.8km (from Route 105) (High to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant (Major and Major to Moderate and Significant for ~1km of the routes). The combined effect would be Substantial and Significant (due to A'Chruach / Phase 2, Glasvaar and to a lesser extent, the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. A'Chruach Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 21 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect, cumulative and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> Limited significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights from Route 106 only. See Appendix 8C.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational and Tourist Destinations

- 8.10.29 The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people at recreational / visitor or tourist destinations or attractions, which are overlapped by the ZTV, within the LVIA Study Area. Each of these locations were visited and / or assessed with the use of ZTVs and wirelines. All of the destinations have been assessed as of High sensitivity on account of their High - Medium value as recreational and tourist destinations, some located within designated landscapes and the High susceptibility of the people visiting these destinations, whose attention would be focused on the landscape around them.

- 8.10.30 In summary, there would be a **significant** effect on the views from offshore recreational receptors on parts of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Whilst there would be a **significant** effect on the views from these receptors, there would be **no significant** effects on the overall recreational experience associated with the lochs.
- 8.10.31 There would be **no significant** visual effects on any land-based recreational and tourist destinations, including GDLs and hill summits.
- 8.10.32 **No significant** night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights from the assessed recreational and tourist destinations.

Table 8.13 Visual Effects on Views from Recreational and Tourist Destinations

Receptor	Assessment
Lachlan Bay and Castle	Views from Lachlan Bay and Castle are assessed as part of Viewpoint 6 within Appendix 8B and illustrated in Figure 8.24 . To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Minor to No View and Not Significant . Aviation warning lights would not be visible from this location.
Inveraray Castle GDL (including the folly at Dun na Cuaiche)	Inveraray Castle GDL is located at the northern end of Loch Fyne to the north-west of the loch. The GDL includes Inveraray Castle as well as the settlement of Inveraray, the folly at Dun na Cuaiche, Dubh Loch and the steep slopes containing Dubh Loch to the east and the west. The A83 passes through the GDL and the settlement of Inveraray, enabling public access throughout the year. There is also seasonal access to the castle grounds including the folly at Dun na Cuaiche. The western boundary of the GDL is located approximately 6.3km distance north-east of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The majority of the GDL including the settlement of Inveraray and the Castle is outwith the ZTV. However, there would be theoretical visibility on the rising landform at Dun na Cuaiche and Dun Corr Bhile to the north-east of the Castle and the steep rising landform to the east and south-east of Dubh Loch. Of these, the folly at Dun na Cuaiche is the most visited by tourists / walkers via a well-maintained marked trail to the folly from the castle grounds and viewing benches located adjacent to the folly at the summit overlooking Loch Fyne. Views from the folly at Dun na Cuaiche are assessed at Viewpoint 10 within Appendix 8B and illustrated in Figure 8.28. Views from the lower parts of the GDL would be largely screened by intervening landform and woodland (Viewpoint I, Appendix 8F). Wireline analysis indicates that the extent of visibility of the proposed turbines from the less accessible Dun Corr Bhile would be similar and although there may be a very slight increase in the number of hubs visible, the overall level of effect would remain as assessed in Appendix 8B. The magnitude of change would be Low, and the level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the location of the turbines away from the primary view and in part of the view already influenced by pylons (associated with the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig Overhead Line) and turbines. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> Blades and hubs from An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible to the southwest from the folly at Dun na Cuaiche and would be adjacent to the proposed turbines at ~8.4km (Very Low magnitude). Srondoir and Allt Dearg Wind Farms are partially visible to the south / south-west in clear conditions at over ~40km (Very Low magnitude). Blarghour would be partially visible as blades tips and a hub to the north-west at ~7.3km (Very Low magnitude). Creag Dhubh Wind Farm would be visible to the south-east at ~6.4km distance (Low-Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of

Receptor	Assessment
	the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would also be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be partially visible (hubs upper towers) to the northwest at ~5.6km (Medium magnitude). Blarghour Wind Farm Variation would be partially visible as blades tips and a hub to the northwest at ~7.3km (Low-Very Low magnitude). Ladyfield Wind Farm would be visible to the north at ~4.6km distance (Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Major to Moderate and Significant (due to An Carr Dubh and Ladyfield Wind Farms, and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development) to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	Views from Ardkinglas and Strone GDL are assessed as part of Viewpoint 20 within Appendix 8B and illustrated in Figure 8.38. To summarise the magnitude of change would be Low to Zero and the level of effect would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Hill Summits - Munros	
Beinn Bhuidhe	Views from the summit of Beinn Bhuidhe are assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 23 (Figure 8.41). To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Group of four Munro's within the LLTNP north of Arrochar (Beinn Ime, Beinn Narnain, Ben Vane and Ben Vorlich)	Views from the summit of Beinn Ime are assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 24 (Figure 8.42). Beinn Ime is the closest summit of the group of Munro's within the LLTNP, and wireline analysis indicates that there would be no increased visibility of the proposed turbines from Beinn Narnain, Ben Vane or Ben Vorlich. To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Group of four Munro's to the north of Loch Awe and the A85 (Ben Cruachan, Stob Daimh, Beinn a'Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich)	Views from the summit of Ben Cruachan are assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 25 (Figure 8.43). Ben Cruachan is the nearest summit of this group of Munro's, and wireline analysis indicates that there would be no increased visibility of the proposed turbines from Beinn Narnain, Stob Daimh and Beinn Eunaich. There would be No View of the Proposed Development from the summit of Beinn a'Chochuill. To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant.

Receptor	Assessment
	No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Beinn a'Chleibh, part of the Ben Lui Munros	Beinn a'Chleibh is located on the western boundary of the LLTNP, approximately 12km east of the northern tip of Loch Awe. There are panoramic views from the summit across the surrounding hills, glens and lochs. Beinn a'Chleibh is located ~30km to the north-east of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development:</u> Wireline analysis indicates that there would be visibility of all 22 turbines with some of the turbines partially screened by intervening landform such that eight of the turbines would be visible as hubs or blades and the remainder would be visible at full height. The turbines would be visible in clear or exceptional conditions. The magnitude of change would be Very Low, and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> There would be several existing wind farms visible in the panoramic view from this location. The most relevant include An Suidhe and A'Chruach Wind Farms visible to the fore and behind the proposed turbines respectively at over 29km (both Very Low magnitude). Carraig Gheal Wind Farm would be visible to the north-west at ~27km (Very Low magnitude). Hubs and blades of the consented Blarghour Wind Farm would be visible to the south-west at ~23km (Very Low magnitude). Other more distant existing wind farms would be theoretically visible in very clear or exceptional conditions (all Very Low magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Application wind farms visible from this location are located to the south-west and include: Ladyfield Wind Farm, partly screened at ~16km (Low to Very Low magnitude), An Carr Dubh Wind Farm, partly screened at ~24.8km (Very Low magnitude), Blargour Wind Farm Variation partially visible at ~23km (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant (due to Ladyfield Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and negative to neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Hill Summits - Corbetts	
Beinn a'Bhuiridh	Beinn a'Bhuiridh is located close to Ben Cruachan to the north / north-east of the Proposed Development and would have similar views from the summit as assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 25 (Figure 8.43). To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Meall an Fhudair	Meall an Fhudair is located near the western boundary of the LLTNP, approximately 4.7km west-north-west of Inveranan. There are panoramic views from the summit

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	across the surrounding hills, glens and lochs. Beinn a'Chleibh is located ~28.6km to the north-east of the Proposed Development. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> Wireline analysis indicates that there would be visibility of all 22 turbines with some of the turbines partially screened by intervening landform such that 12 of the turbines would be visible as hubs or blades and the remainder would be visible with hubs and upper towers. The turbines would be visible in clear or exceptional conditions. The magnitude of change would be Very Low, and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> There would be several existing wind farms visible in the view from this location. These include Clachan Flats Wind Farm, visible as three hubs at 10.6km to the fore of the proposed turbines (Low to Very Low magnitude), An Suidhe Wind Farm, visible behind and to the right of the proposed turbines, and A'Chruach Wind Farm / A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farm, visible to the left of the proposed turbines (both Very Low magnitude). Other more wind farms are either more distant or only visible as blade tips and would be theoretically visible in very clear or exceptional conditions (all Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant (due to Clachan Flats Wind Farm). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative to neutral. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Application wind farms visible from this location are located to the south-west and include: Ladyfield Wind Farm, partly screened at ~15.6km (Low to Very Low magnitude), An Carr Dubh Wind Farm, partially screened at ~23.7km (Very Low magnitude), and Blargour Wind Farm Variation, partially visible at ~22.7km (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would remain Minor to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant (due to Clachan Flats and Ladyfield Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect, cumulative and negative to neutral. <u>Night-time effects</u> No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.
Cowal Corbetts (Beinn Bheula, Beinn Lochain, Ben Donich, The Brack, Beinn an Lochain and Cnoc Coinnich)	The Cowal Corbetts are located within or on the western boundary of the LLTNP to the east of the Proposed Development. Views from the summit of Beinn Lochain are assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 19 (Figure 8.37). Beinn Lochain is the nearest summit of this group of Corbetts, and wireline analysis indicates that there would be no increased visibility of the proposed turbines from Beinn Bheula, Ben Donich, The Brack, Beinn an Lochain and Cnoc Coinnich. To summarise the magnitude of change would be Low and the level of effect would be Moderate and Not Significant. The level of effect would be Not Significant due to the large scale of the receiving landscape, panoramic views, intervening distance and extent of visibility of the turbines on the horizon in part of the view already affected by wind farm development. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.

Receptor	Assessment
Beinn Luibhean and The Cobbler (part of the Arrochar Alps)	Beinn Luibhean and The Cobbler are located within the LLTNP to the east of Glencroe and the A83 and form part of the Arrochar Alps along with Beinn Ime (Viewpoint 24) which is located to the immediate north and east of the two Corbett's. The views from these hills would be therefore similar to those from Beinn Ime which is assessed in Appendix 8B and illustrated in Viewpoint 24 (Figure 8.42). To summarise the magnitude of change would be Very Low and the level of effect would be Minor and Not Significant. No significant night-time effects would result from the proposed aviation warning lights.

Offshore (water-based) Recreational Receptors

Loch Awe	Loch Awe is the longest freshwater loch in Scotland (41km in length) and follows the grain of the landscape in a southwest / northeast direction. There are several small islands on the loch and small scattered settlements along or near the shoreline. At its closest the loch is ~2.8km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 2 (Figure 8.20) is located on the loch, and Viewpoint 4 (Figure 8.22) is located at the shoreline at Dalavich. There is very limited public access to the loch with vessels on the loch limited by licence. However, a promoted canoe and paddleboarding route is located to the north of the loch between Kilchurn Castle and Inishail Island and there is also a promoted Loch Awe Challenge to paddle the length of the loch. In addition, canoeist and kayakers are occasional visitors to the loch, either for fishing or scenic touring, and there are pier and jetty locations at loch side settlements including Dalavich and Portsonachan and at Torran Bay. Except for the northern end of the loch overlapped by the North Argyll LLA and outwith the ZTV, the remainder of the loch is not located within a nationally or locally designated landscape. However, views from and across the loch are of scenic quality indicating a High-Medium value. The view would be experienced by water based recreational receptors whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the surrounding landscape features. Susceptibility to change is assessed as High, and the sensitivity is assessed as <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> ZTV coverage is indicated towards the centre and south of the loch between Rubh 'an Eoin and Torran (~20km of the loch). There is no ZTV coverage at the northern, more sensitive areas of the loch. The ZTV coverage indicates the highest level of theoretical visibility to the western side of the loch with visibility on the eastern shore limited to ~5.5km of shoreline between Rubha Riabhach and Portinnisherrick, and for ~2km north of Balliemanoach. The Proposed Development would be most visible on an area of the western half of the loch as it passes close to the proposed turbines at Kilmaha (Viewpoint 3) / Innis Stiùire between Barr Phort and Rhubha na Lie Moire (~4.5km) where between 12 and 22 of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible. Viewpoint 2 is located within this area (High-Medium magnitude of change). With distance, the magnitude of change reduces to Medium at Dalavich (Viewpoint 4). The number of turbines theoretically visible also reduces to between 1-5 turbines theoretically visible at the southwest of the loch and towards the eastern shore of the loch (Low to Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from High to Zero and the effect would range from Substantial and Significant (for ~4.5km) to No View and Not Significant, reducing with distance from the turbines and/or distance from the western shoreline. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> There are several existing or consented wind farms that would be visible to varying degrees within the loch. An Suidhe Wind Farm would be partially intervisible in
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Receptor	Assessment
	views adjacent to or in front of / behind the proposed turbines (Low to Zero magnitude). The consented Blarghour Wind Farm would be visible towards the middle and northern areas of the loch (High to Zero magnitude). Carraig Gheal Wind Farm would be partly visible sequentially in views from the northern end of the loch (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Substantial and Significant to No View and Not Significant (due to the Proposed Development and Blarghour Wind Farm, and a lesser extent, Carraig Gheal) Wind Farm. It is assumed that Blarghour Wind Farm would be decommissioned approximately 8-9 years prior to the end of the operational period of the Proposed Development, reducing this cumulative effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> There are several application wind farms that would be visible to varying degrees within the loch. An Carr Dubh Wind Farm would be visible along the skyline to the east of the loch alongside Blarghour Wind Farm Variation (both High to Zero magnitude). Glasvaar Wind Farm would be partially visible to the south of the loch as blades and occasional hubs on the skyline to the east (Low to Zero magnitude). Ladyfield would be partially visible in sequential views from the northern half of the loch (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would be Substantial and Significant to No View and Not Significant (due to the Proposed Development and Blarghour / Blarghour Variation, An Carr Dubh, and a lesser extent, Carraig Gheal Wind Farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Loch Fyne	Loch Fyne is a sea loch situated between the Cowal Peninsula and Knapdale / the Kintyre Peninsula. It extends 65km to the Sound of Bute and follows the grain of the landscape in a southwest / northeast direction, curving slightly to the south and southeast as it nears the Bute. The loch is accessed by the A83 to the west and the A83 / A815 / A886 / B8000 to the east. At its closest the loch is ~4.7km from the nearest turbine. Viewpoint 12 (Figure 8.30) is located on the loch, and there are several viewpoints located on the eastern shore of the loch (Viewpoints 6, 7, 8, 9 and 21). Loch Fyne is popular with recreational users and there are promoted boat trips and tours of the loch. The loch is not located within a designated landscape but is orientated towards and along the East and West Loch Fyne LLAs, indicating a High-Medium value. The view would be experienced by recreational users on Loch Fyne whose attention is likely to be on the surrounding landscape and features (High susceptibility). Sensitivity is assessed as <i>High</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> Within 10km, ZTV coverage is indicated along the eastern shoreline and centre of the loch where up to 16 turbines would be theoretically visible (although between 1-11 turbines for the majority of the area). On the eastern shoreline theoretical visibility is very limited and indicated at Furnace and south of Minard (1-5 turbines theoretically visible). Views from the loch are illustrated in Viewpoint 12 (Figure 8.30) and described in Appendix 8B (Low magnitude – considered to be Moderate and Significant due to the extent of visibility one turbine (T20) appearing noticeable between adjoining hills and above Minard Castle). In addition, Viewpoints 7 (Figure 8.25) (Very Low magnitude – Not Significant) and Viewpoint 9 (Figure 8.27) (Low magnitude – Not Significant) illustrate views from the eastern shoreline and the screening from intervening landform experienced from Loch Fyne. Screening from the intervening landform would increase as receptors travel west across the loch and visibility of the turbines would reduce accordingly. Longer range views beyond 10km are also assessed in Viewpoints 14, 20 and 21 (all Low – Very Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would therefore range from Low to Zero and the effect would range from Moderate and Significant (between approximately

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	southwest of Minard Castle and Lephinchapel at 10-12km distance) reducing to Moderate to Minor and Not Significant with distance from the turbines and/or distance from the eastern shoreline to No View. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites</u> There are several existing or consented wind farms that would be visible to varying degrees within the loch. An Suidhe Wind Farm would be partially intervisible in views adjacent to the proposed turbines (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Blades of several existing or consented wind farms would be sequentially visible along the loch including: Clachan Flats Wind Farm (visible from the north of the loch), Blarghour Wind Farm (from the north of the loch), Creag Dubh Wind Farm (visible from the centre and north of the loch) A'Chruach / A'Chruach Phase II Wind Farm (visible from the centre and south of the loch) (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined cumulative effect would range from Moderate and Significant (due to the Proposed Development) reducing to Moderate to Minor, to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites + Applications</u> Blades of several application wind farms would be sequentially visible along the loch including: An Carr Dubh Wind Farm (Very Low magnitude) (visible from the north of the loch), Ladyfield Wind Farm (Low magnitude) (visible from the centre and north of the loch), Glasvaar Wind Farm (from the centre and south of the loch). The additional and combined cumulative effect would range from Moderate and Significant (due to the Proposed Development and Glasvaar) Wind Farm reducing to Moderate to Minor, to No View and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

8.11 Summary of Landscape, Visual and Cumulative Effects

- 8.11.1 A summary of the landscape and visual effects are provided in **Table 8.14** and **Table 8.15** respectively.
- 8.11.2 The information set out in the tables lists the main receptors included in this assessment and provides a summary of the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development as well as the cumulative effects as follows:
- Receptor Name.
 - Sensitivity: The sensitivity of the receptor is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low) in accordance with the methodology in **Appendix 8A**.
 - LVIA Assessment ('Stand-alone' of Primary Effect):
 - ▶ Magnitude: The magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is recorded (ranging from 'High', 'Medium', 'Low', 'Very Low' and 'Zero') in accordance with the methodology;
 - ▶ Level of Effect: The level of effect resulting from the Proposed Development is recorded (taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology). Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations.
 - Cumulative Assessment (CLVIA):

- ▶ **Magnitude (Existing and Consented Wind Farms):** The magnitude of change, taking account of other existing and consented wind farms is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, very low, and zero) in accordance with the methodology;
- ▶ **Additional Level of Effect:** Adding the Proposed Development to the baseline of existing and consented wind farms;
- ▶ **Scenario 1 / Cumulative Level of Effect 1:** The level of effect, taking account of the other existing, consented / under construction wind farms and the Proposed Development, is recorded (taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology). Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and the wind farm contributing most to the cumulative effects is recorded in brackets;
- ▶ **Magnitude (Other Application Wind Farms):** The magnitude of change, taking account of other wind applications is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, negligible, and zero) in accordance with the methodology;
- ▶ **Additional Level of Effect:** Adding the Proposed Development to the baseline of existing and consented wind farms and other wind farm applications;
- ▶ **Scenario 2 / Cumulative Level of Effect 2:** The level of effect, taking account of the other existing, consented / under construction, application wind farms and the Proposed Development, is recorded (taking account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology). Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and the wind farm contributing most to the cumulative effects is recorded in brackets.

Table 8.14 Summary and Evaluation of the Predicted Landscape and Cumulative Landscape Effects

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment: CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 1: Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 2: Combined Level of Effect
Direct Landscape Effects on the ‘host’ Craggy Upland LCT									
Construction Effects: Craggy Upland LCT	Medium	Zero to High	None to Major (up to 2km)	Cumulative effects would increase from None at the start of construction to the operational levels of Major (due to the PD and other wind farms within this LCT).					
Operational Effects: Craggy Upland LCT	Medium	High to Zero	Major (up to 2km) reducing to Moderate to Minor, to None	High to Zero	Major to Moderate (up to 2km) to None	Major (PD, An Suidhe, A'Chruach, Blargour, A'Chruach Phase II) to None	High to Zero	Moderate to None	Major (PD, An Suidhe, A'Chruach, Blargour, A'Chruach Phase II, An Carr Dhubh, Blarghour Variation, Glasvaar) to None
Decommissioning Effects: Craggy Upland LCT	Medium	Very Low	Negligible	The residual cumulative effects post decommissioning would be Negligible.					
Indirect Landscape Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character within 10km (and 12km south-west)									
AGC 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	High to Zero	Minor to None	Substantial to Major (Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh and Clachan Flats) to None	Medium-Low to Zero	Minor to None	Substantial to Major (Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh, Clachan Flats, Ladyfield) to None

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment: CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Level of Effect
AGC 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (two units)	Medium	High-Medium , to Zero (western unit) Very Low to Zero (eastern unit)	Major to Moderate (up to 2km - western unit) to None Minor (eastern unit) to None	High to Zero	Major to Moderate , to None	Major (PD, A'Chruach / Phase II) to None	High to Zero	Major to Moderate , to None	Major (PD, A'Chruach / Phase II, An Carr Dubh, Ladyfield) to None
AGC 20 – Rocky Mosaic (four out of seven units)	High-Medium	Unit A: Low to Zero Units B / C: Low-Very Low , to Zero	Unit A: Moderate to None Units B / C: Moderate to Minor , to None	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Moderate to None	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Moderate to None
AGC 10 – Upland Parallel Ridges	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Moderate to None	Medium to Zero	Minor to None	Major (Glasvaar) to None
Indirect Landscape Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character within the wider 30km Study Area (LLTNP and Knapdale NSA)									
250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	High	Low-Very Low , to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Medium to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Major (Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh) to None	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to None	Major (Cruach Mhor, Creag Dhubh) to None

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment: CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Level of Effect
251 – Highland Summits	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Low-Very Low, to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to Minor, to None	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to Minor, to None
43 - Upland Parallel Ridges – Argyll	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Low-Very Low, to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to Minor, to None	Low to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to None
56 - Flat Moss and Mudflats	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Low-Very Low, to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to Minor, to None	Low to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate to None
55 - Coastal Parallel Ridges	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Zero	No cumulative effect		Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Minor to None
Indirect Effects on Landscape Planning Designations									
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park (LLTNP)	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Low to Zero	Minor to None	Moderate (Creag Dhubh, Clachan Flats) to None	Very Low to Zero	Minor to None	Minor to None
Knapdale NSA	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Moderate to Minor, to None	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Moderate (Glasvaar) to None
East Loch Fyne (Coast) LLA	High-Medium	Low to Very Low, to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Moderate to Minor, to None	Low to Very Low, to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to None	Moderate to Minor, to None

Table 8.15 Summary and Evaluation of the Predicted Visual and Cumulative Visual Effects

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 1: Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 2: Combined Level of Effect
Visual Effects on Views from Settlements									
Eredine	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Minor to No View	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Minor to No View
Dalavich	High	Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Major to No View (Blarghour, PD)	High-Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Substantial to Major (Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh, PD)
Ford	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to No View	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to No View	Moderate to Minor , to No View	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor , to No View	Moderate to Minor , to No View
Strachur	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Zero	No cumulative effect		Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View
St. Catherine's	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Minor to No View	Low-Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Moderate to Minor , to No View
Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes									
A886	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate (0.4km) to No View	Very Low to Zero	Moderate (0.4km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View	Low to Zero	Moderate (0.4km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View
B840	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate (1km) to No View	Low to Very Low, to Zero	Moderate (1km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View	Medium to Zero	Moderate (1km) to No View	Moderate to No View (PD, An Carr Dubh)

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 1: Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 2: Combined Level of Effect
B8000	Medium	Medium to Zero	Moderate (0.7km) to No View	Low to Very Low, to Zero	Moderate (0.7km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View	Low to Zero	Moderate (0.7km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View
Minor road along western shore of Loch Awe (C29 and C30) (overlapping with The Caledonia Way and Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan)	High / High-Medium	High-Medium to Zero	Substantial to Major (4.6km) to No View	Medium to Zero	Substantial to Major (4.6km) to No View	Substantial to Major (Blarghour, PD)	High-Medium to Zero	Substantial to Major (4.6km) to No View	Substantial to Major (Blarghour/ Variation, An Carr Dubh, PD)
Visual Effects on Views from National Recreational Routes									
The Caledonia Way (North of Inverinan to Oban, and south-west of Ford to Achahoish)	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to No View	Medium to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to No View	Major (Blarghour)	Medium to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to No View	Major (Blarghour/ Variation, An Carr Dubh)
Loch Lomond and Cowal Way	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	High-Medium to Zero	Moderate to No View	Substantial to Major to No View (Cruach Mhor)	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Substantial to Major to No View (Cruach Mhor)
Visual Effects on Views from Local Recreational Routes									
Core Path C119 (b-c) Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace / Scottish Hill Track 104	High	High to Zero	Substantial to No View	Medium to Zero	Substantial to No View	Substantial to No View (An Suidhe, PD)	Very Low to Zero	Substantial to No View	Substantial to No View (An Suidhe, PD)

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 1: Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	Scenario 2: Combined Level of Effect
Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan	This route overlaps with the Caledonia Way / minor road along western shore of Loch Awe and is assessed as part of the minor road along the western shores of Loch Awe above.								
Core Path C305 Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge	High	Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Major to No View (Blarghour, PD)	High- Medium to Zero	Major to No View	Substantial to Major to No View (Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh, PD)
Core Path C120 Brainport Circular, Minard	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Minor to No View	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Minor to No View
Core Path C220 (a-b) Strachur Village Back Road	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View
Core Path C172(c) - Loch Scammadale to Loch Avich (overlapped with Scottish Hill Track 107)	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View (Blarghour)	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View (Blarghour / Variation, An Carr Dubh)
Core Paths C486 – Dun Dubh, Ford	High	Medium- Low to Zero	Major to Moderate, to No View	Very Low to Zero	Major to Moderate, to No View	Major to Moderate, to No View (PD)	Medium to Zero	Major to Moderate, to No View	Major to No View (Glasvaar, PD)

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Level of Effect
Core Path C201 - Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Low- Very Low, to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View	Medium to Zero	Moderate to No View	Major to Moderate, to No View (An Carr Dubh, Ladyfield)
Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 Furnace to Ford / Kilmichael Glassary	High	Medium to Zero (105) Medium-Low to Zero (106)	Major to No View (105) Major to Moderate to No View (106)	High to Zero	Major / Major to Moderate to No View	Substantial (A'Chruach / Phase II, PD) to No View	High to Zero	Major / Major to Moderate to No View	Substantial (A'Chruach / Phase II, Glasvaar, PD) to No View
Visual Effects on Views from Recreational and Tourist Destinations									
Lachlan Bay and Castle	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Low	Minor to No View	Moderate (A'Chruach)	Low	Minor to No View	Moderate (A'Chruach, Glasvaar)
Inveraray Castle GDL (including the folly at Dun na Cuaiche)	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Low- Very Low, to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View	Medium to Zero	Moderate to No View	Major to Moderate (An Carr Dubh, Ladyfield) to No View
Ardkinglas and Strone GDL	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Very Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Moderate to No View	Zero	No cumulative effect	
Hill Summits - Munros									
Beinn Bhuidhe	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium-Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats)	Medium-Low	Minor	Major to Moderate (Clachan Flats, Ladyfield)

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Level of Effect
Group of four Munro's within the LLTNP north of Arrochar (Beinn Ime, Beinn Narnain, Ben Vane and Ben Vorlich)	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh, Ladyfield)
Group of four Munro's to the north of Loch Awe and the A85 (Ben Cruachan, Stob Daimh, Beinn a'Chochuill and Beinn Eunaich)	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal, Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation)
Beinn a'Chleibh, part of the Ben Lui Munros	High	Very Low	Minor	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Low to Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (Ladyfield)
Hill Summits - Corbetts									
Beinn a'Bhuiridh	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Carraig Gheal, Ladyfield, Blarghour Variation)
Meall an Fhudair	High	Very Low	Minor	Low to Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (Clachan Flats)	Low to Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor (Clachan Flats, Ladyfield)

Receptor	Primary Assessment: LVIA: Proposed Development only			Assessment CLVIA: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
	Sensitivity	Magnitude (Standalone)	Level of Effect (Standalone)	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 1:</u> Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect	<u>Scenario 2:</u> Combined Level of Effect
Cowal Corbetts (Beinn Bheula, Beinn Lochain, Ben Donich, The Brack, Beinn an Lochain and Cnoc Coinnich)	High	Low	Moderate	High- Medium	Moderate to Minor	Substantial to Major (Creag Dhubh)	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Substantial to Major (Creag Dhubh)
Beinn Luibhean and The Cobbler (part of the Arrochar Alps)	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh)	Low	Minor	Moderate (Clachan Flats, Creag Dhubh, Ladyfield)
Offshore (water-based) recreational receptors									
Loch Awe	High	High to Zero	Substantial (~4.5km) to No View	High to Zero	Substantial (~4.5km) to No View	Substantial (PD, Blarghour, Carraig Gheal) to No View	High to Zero	Substantial (~4.5km) to No View	Substantial (PD, Blarghour / Variation, Carraig Gheal, An Carr Dubh) to No View
Loch Fyne	High	Low to Zero	Moderate (between 10- 12km) to No View	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate (between 10- 12km) to No View	Moderate (PD) to No View	Low to Zero	Moderate (between 10-12km) to No View	Moderate (PD, Glasvaar) to No View

8.12 Summary and Conclusions

- 8.12.1 The Proposed Development is located within an undesignated, forested area of *Craggy Upland* landscape character as classified in the ABLWECS. This landscape includes existing wind farm development which is a recognised key characteristic that contains a number of attributes indicating reduced sensitivity to wind farm development.
- 8.12.2 The LVIA has been undertaken in accordance with GLVIA 3 by chartered landscape architects at WSP. The assessment process has encompassed the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

Mitigation Inherent in the Proposed Development

- 8.12.3 The inherent nature of wind turbines as tall, modern structures means that the form of the wind farm as a whole is important. The appearance of the wind farm as an object or composition in the landscape has been a key factor in generating the layout. In this respect the design evolution has taken account of the following guidance:
- SNH *Guidance on Siting and Designing Windfarms*, Version 3a, 2017, which aims to achieve a simple, rational and cohesive design that, to a reasonable degree, avoids overlapping turbines and gaps within the visual composition; and
 - Landscape constraints, opportunities and guidance for wind farm development within the *Craggy Upland* LCT, described by the ABLWECS.
- 8.12.4 This advice has been reflected in consultation with ABC and NS and has led to design refinements that have responded to the local landscape character, scale and form, to provide an improved 'landscape fit'. The Proposed Development has evolved from the scoping stage, through the design process which has involved a number of iterations. This has led to a reduction in the horizontal and vertical scale of the Proposed Development and a reduction in turbine numbers from 26 to 22 and reducing the horizontal extent of the Proposed Development. The vertical turbine height has also reduced from 230m to blade tip at scoping to up to 200m to blade tip.
- 8.12.5 The Proposed Development has been designed to balance technical and project requirements with a need to safeguard the environment and satisfactorily accommodate the proposed development within its landscape setting. The design evolution has aimed to reduce landscape, visual and cumulative effects and to respect the landscape characteristics identified in the ABLWECS, including consideration of the appropriate scale, form, pattern and construction materials, as well as the potential cumulative effect of other wind farm developments.
- 8.12.6 A key consideration for the Proposed Development was the landscape character and large scale and simplicity of the host uplands (*Craggy Upland* LCT) with extensive moorland and coniferous forestry which has a reduced susceptibility to wind farm development in comparison to the more complex craggy knolls and lochans and other smaller scale and complex landscape character types.
- 8.12.7 The proposed turbines, although in an elevated location within an upland setting, would be located within coniferous forestry and surrounded by low-rising summits. The undulating upland landform and presence of further dispersed low summits has resulted in a fragmented ZTV.
- 8.12.8 In addition to the opportunities afforded by the Site location, the design and layout of the Proposed Development provides further mitigation. The 'simple' turbine layout is suitable for the underlying landform and simple landscape character of the *Craggy Upland* LCT

and accords with general SNH guidance *Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape*, Version 3a, 2017 for wind farm development as a simple, balanced and cohesive turbine composition as well as being located within large-scale, broad and simple landscape character type. The proposed turbines have been cohesively located, on the central plateau of the LCT (away from more craggy and complex edges of the LCT, and beyond the foreground ridges enclosing Loch Awe and Loch Fyne) to benefit from intervening screening and limit the visibility of the proposed turbines as well as reducing the horizontal and vertical extent of the Proposed Development from key views and particularly when perceived from the edges (which includes small settlements and routes) and shores of Loch Fyne and Loch Awe, settlement of Inverary (resulting in no visibility of the turbines), and views from some surrounding elevated areas mainly within the LLTNP and Knapdale NSA. The height of the turbines has been set at 200m to blade tip for operational reasons and is considered to be appropriate given the large-scale landscape setting of its location.

- 8.12.9 The scale of the turbines can be accommodated in this location, creating a simple, cohesive, balanced and clear design and visual composition that minimises excessive 'turbine clutter' in the form of uneven gaps / overlaps and outlying turbines. This has the following design advantages:
- Through design, the proposed turbines have been located within the central plateaux of the landscape and set within a forested area, that limits their visibility from surrounding areas;
 - The Proposed Development would appear as a clearly recognisable scheme that 'fits' with the scale and simplicity of the local landscape character, such that the aesthetics and visual composition of the turbines (appearing as a simple and reasonably balanced composition) can be appreciated in their own right where visible; and
 - The simple visual composition of the turbines reflects the character of the *Craggy Upland* LCT and the pattern of other existing and consented wind farm development nearby.
- 8.12.10 The Development Site infrastructure, including the access road and the locations of the temporary construction compound and proposed battery storage and substation compound are also discretely located to mitigate the effects on the local landscape character.
- 9.1.3 In common with other nearby existing and consented wind farm development (An Suidhe, A'Chruach, Blarghour, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas located within the *Craggy Upland* LCT), the Proposed Development is located within a forested upland / moorland landscape. It is set well back from the shores and slopes of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Whilst An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible in conjunction with the Proposed Development, particularly in views from the Loch Awe direction (Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16), both developments would be perceived as separate wind farms such that differences in turbine height, scale and rotation speed can be appreciated as distinctly separate, allowing both to be reasonably accommodated in landscape and wider views. An Suidhe Wind Farm is relatively small and dated, as compared to wind farms that are currently coming forward. It should also be noted that An Suidhe Wind Farm and the Proposed Development would be visible together in views only up to approximately seven years (2028/29 to 2035) after which the former would be decommissioned, and the Proposed Development would be seen as a separate wind farm, clearly separate from A'Chruach and Blarghour Wind Farms.

Landscape and Cumulative Landscape Effects

- 8.12.11 The Proposed Development is not located within any designated landscapes or Wild Land Areas and there would be **no significant** effects on the special landscape qualities of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, Knapdale National Scenic Area or the wild land qualities of any Wild Land Areas.
- 8.12.12 However, significant effects resulting from large-scale wind farm development are unavoidable and the Proposed Development would have a **significant** effect on part of the Craggy Upland and adjacent Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic landscapes, affecting a local area within approximately 2km of the proposed turbines. This level of effect, and geographical extent, is not unusual for wind farm development. There would be **no significant** effects to the north-east due to the presence of the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm which already has an influence on this part of the Craggy Upland landscape. Beyond 1-2km to the south-east, **significant** effects would be limited by the recently constructed Inveraray to Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line that crosses this landscape.

Visual and Cumulative Visual Effects

- 8.12.13 The viewpoint analysis indicates that **significant** visual effects are likely to affect limited locations within approximately 9.8km distance from the Proposed Development (subject to a clear view of the proposed turbines and screening by landform and / or vegetation), as indicated by viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 12 inclusively. The greatest magnitude of change (High-Medium magnitude) is visible at Viewpoints 2 and 3 (all other viewpoints are assessed as Medium magnitude or less).
- 8.12.14 A further **significant** effect on views in the direction of the Proposed Development has also been identified in the south-west at the summit of Beinn Bhan (Viewpoint 15) at approximately 11.8km from the nearest turbine. The magnitude of change would be Low resulting in **significant** visual effects due to a combination of the High sensitivity of this receptor and the extent of visibility of the Proposed Development at this distance. In overall terms, however, the views from the summit of Beinn Bhan would be **not significant** when considered as part of the wider 360° views and the walker experience.
- 8.12.15 The effects on viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 12 and 15 would be cumulative and further cumulative analysis is provided below. There would be **no significant** visual effects from the northeast, east and west of the Proposed Development or beyond the containing slopes and facing edges of the lochs.

Effects on Views from Settlements and Residential Properties

- 8.12.16 There would be **no significant** visual effects on any settlements within the Study Area with the exception of Dalavich. There would be **significant** visual effects on the views from parts of Dalavich as a result of the Proposed Development. Significant cumulative effects are also assessed from the settlement as a result of Blarghour / Blarghour Variation, An Carr Dubh Wind Farms and the Proposed Development.
- 8.12.17 There are no residential properties within 2km of the proposed turbines with the nearest property – Kirn Lodge - at approximately 2.5km to the northwest from the nearest turbine location.

Effects on Views from Transport Routes

- 8.12.18 **Significant** visual effects, would be limited to parts of the following sections of four transport routes:

- Up to approximately 0.4km of the A886 travelling northbound on the approach to the B8000 at Leanach;
- Up to approximately 1km of the B840 in oblique inland views at Durran for northbound and southbound users;
- Up to approximately 0.7km of the B8000 for northbound and southbound users towards Leanach; and
- Minor road along western shore of Loch Awe (C29 and C30) (overlapping with the Caledonia Way and Core Path C173 (a-d) Ford to Annat via Loch Avich and Inverinan) for ~4.6km where there would be glimpsed open views at Kilmun and between Dalavich and Acrihamish (subject to intermittent screening from vegetation and local landform and replanted coniferous forest that would mature to screen the view over time in places reducing to non-significant levels).

Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

- 8.12.19 **Significant** visual effects would affect views from parts of the following four recreational routes:
- Core Path C119 (b-c): Braevallich, Loch Awe to Furnace / Scottish Hill Track 104. This route passes through the Development Site;
 - Core Path C305: Dalavich to Barnaline Lodge;
 - Core Paths C486 – Dun Dubh, Ford; and
 - Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 105 / 106 Furnace to Ford / Kilmichael Glassary.
- 8.12.20 There would be **no significant** visual effects on the views from any other recreational routes within the Study Area.

Visual Effects on Recreational and Tourist Destinations

- 8.12.21 There would be a **significant** effect on the views from offshore recreational receptors on parts of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Whilst there would be a significant effect on the views from these receptors, there would be no significant effects on the overall recreational / visitor experience associated with the lochs.
- 8.12.22 There would be **no significant** visual effects on any land-based recreational and tourist destinations including GDLs and hill summits.

Night-time Assessment on Aviation Warning Lights

- 8.12.23 The Lighting Strategy for the Proposed Development has been approved by the CAA and requires 13 of the 22 turbines to be lit (T1, T2, T3, T7, T9, T12, T14, T15, T16, T18, T20, T21 and T22).
- 8.12.24 A full night-time assessment of the aviation warning light effects is provided in **Appendix 8C**. It has concluded that there would be **no significant** night-time effects on landscape character or designations including the perceptual qualities or the special landscape qualities (SLQ) and integrity of all landscape designations within the Study Area. There would also be **no significant** effects on the night-time views from four of the five settlements, three of the four roads, six of the nine recreational routes and none of the recreational and tourist destinations (including GDLs and hill summits) included in the assessment.

- 8.12.25 Parts of the settlement of Dalavich, minor road along western shore of Loch Awe (overlapped with the Caledonia Way and Core Path C173 (a-d)), and Core Path C119 (b-c) / Scottish Hill Track 104, Core Path C305 and Scottish Hill Track Right of Way 106 would be significantly affected, when the lights are operating at maximum intensity (2000cd) during periods when visibility is <5km. It is however unlikely that people would be walking along Core Paths / Rights of Way at night and the scenic views would be limited by darkness, with limited number of residents looking outside their house at night and a smaller number of drivers along the minor road at night.

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