

Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Amenity

Chapter 6

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Introduction

6.1 This chapter considers the potential effects of the proposed An Càrr Dubh Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development') on the landscape and visual resources of the Site and the surrounding study area, during the construction and operational phases of the project.

6.2 Landscape character and resources are considered to be of importance in their own right and are valued regardless of whether they are seen by people. Effects on views and visual amenity as perceived by people are clearly distinguished from, although closely linked to, effects on landscape character and resources. Landscape and visual assessments are therefore separate, although linked, processes.

6.3 The assessment methodology for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been developed in accordance with the Guidelines for LVIA (Version 3, 2013) (GLVIA3), and is detailed in **Appendix 6.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**. The assessment was undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at LUC.

6.4 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters:

- **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy**
- **Chapter 4: Project Description**
- **Chapter 8: Ecology**
- **Chapter 9: Ornithology**
- **Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage**
- **Chapter 13: Socio-Economic**
- **Chapter 14: Other Issues (including Aviation and Climate Change)**

6.5 The following appendices are also referred to throughout the chapter:

- **Appendix 6.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**
- **Appendix 6.2: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Special Landscape Qualities Assessment**
- **Appendix 6.3: Ben Lui Wild Land Assessment**
- **Appendix 6.4: Aviation Lighting Night-Time Assessment**

Scope of the Assessment

Effects Assessed in Full

6.6 The following effects were identified at the Scoping stage for consideration in this assessment:

- Effects on the physical landscape of the Site;
- Effects on the perceived landscape character of Landscape Character Types (LCT) within a 15 kilometres (km) radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development;
- Effects which could be of relevance to the reasons for designation as described by key characteristics/special qualities of nationally and locally designated landscapes within the Study Area, as well as the overall integrity of nationally designated areas, as set out in the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and the integrity of Area of Panoramic Quality (APQs);

- Effects on visual receptors at representative viewpoints;
- Effects on visual receptors at settlements and routes in the Study Area; and
- Cumulative landscape and visual effects (including combined, successive and sequential visual effects).

Effects Scoped Out

6.7 On the basis of the desk based and field survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) team, experience from other relevant projects and policy guidance or standards, and feedback received from consultees, the following topic areas have been 'scoped out' of detailed assessment, as proposed in the Scoping Report:

- Effects on visual receptors beyond a 45km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development, where it is judged that potential significant effects are unlikely to occur;
- Effects on landscape character beyond a 15km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development, where the potential for significant effects on landscape character is limited;
- Effects on designated landscapes beyond a 15km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development, from where potential significant effects on key characteristics and/or special qualities, or views are judged unlikely to occur;
- Effects on routes and settlements beyond a 15km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development, where the potential for significant visual and sequential effects is limited;
- Effects on landscape and visual receptors with minimal or no theoretical visibility (as predicted by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)) and/or very distant visibility, and are therefore unlikely to be subject to significant effects; and
- Cumulative effects in relation to turbines under 50 metres (m) to maximum blade tip height, single turbines beyond 5km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development and schemes at Scoping stage (except where otherwise stated).

Assessment Methodology

Legislation and Guidance

6.8 This assessment is carried out in accordance with the principles contained within the following documents:

Assessment Guidance

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3);
- NatureScot¹ (2021) Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments;
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2018) A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5;
- SNH (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2;
- NatureScot (2020) Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas - technical guidance;
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals; and

¹ Formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

- NatureScot (unpublished, 2018) Guidance for Assessing Effects on Special Qualities and Special Landscape Qualities. Working Draft 11.

Design and Locational Guidance

- SNH (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3a;
- SNH (2009) Policy Statement No 02/02: Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms in Respect of the National Heritage;
- SNH (2015) Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – Natural Heritage Considerations;
- SNH (2019) Good Practice During Windfarm Construction, Version 4; and
- SNH (2015) Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands, 2nd Edition.

Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes

- Council of Europe (2000) European Landscape Convention;

Table 6.1: Consultation responses

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit August 2021	Scoping Opinion	Receptors to be considered in the night-time aviation lighting assessment should be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) and NatureScot. The effects of aviation lighting should be factored into the Wild Land Assessment referred to in the consultation response from NatureScot.	Night-time viewpoints were agreed through follow up consultation with ABC and NatureScot. Final night-time viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5 .
		Developments to be included in the cumulative landscape impact assessments should be discussed and agreed with Argyll and Bute Council.	The final list of developments to be included within the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (CLVIA) was agreed with Argyll and Bute Council. Developments included in the CLVIA are presented in Table 6.8 .
		Designated landscapes to be assessed for the purposes of the EIA report should be agreed with ABC and NatureScot.	Designated landscapes to be included in the LVIA were agreed with ABC and NatureScot. Designated landscapes assessed in the LVIA are presented in Table 6.3 .
		The final list of viewpoints and visualisations (including those relating to night-time assessment) should be agreed with Argyll and Bute Council, Historic Environment Scotland, Mountaineering Scotland and NatureScot.	Viewpoints were agreed through follow up consultation with Argyll and Bute Council, NatureScot, and Mountaineering Scotland. Requests by Historic Environment Scotland are dealt with in Chapter 10 . Final viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5 .
		Mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion within the LVIA chapter.	Mitigation of wind farms is primarily through embedded design measures, as set out in Chapter 3 .
Argyll and Bute Council 20 th January 2022	Scoping Response	The 'Argyll & Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study' (2017) is also a material consideration in the Council's consideration of wind farm applications.	Noted.
		The assessment should address the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.	As noted in Chapter 2: Approach to the EIA , a detailed assessment of potential effects associated with decommissioning has not been assessed in the EIA. However, due to the similar activities involved in both the construction and dismantling of a wind farm site, a similar level of effect is predicted on visual amenity within the Study Area.
		It is recommended that aviation lighting, as well as any potential cumulative landscape and visual effects are fully assessed in accordance with the requirements of NatureScot.	Noted. Effects on aviation lighting are considered in Appendix 6.4 .
		The Landscape Character Type boundaries should be as defined in the Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study 2017.	Noted.

- NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment (online data);
- Carol Anderson Landscape Associates for Argyll and Bute Council and SNH (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (LWECS);
- SNH (2010) The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH Commissioned Report No.374; and
- Historic Environment Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes².

Local Development Plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance

- Argyll and Bute Council (2015) The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan; and
- Argyll and Bute Council (2016) Supplementary Guidance.

Consultation

6.9 In undertaking the assessment, consideration was given to the Scoping responses and other consultation which was undertaken as detailed in **Table 6.1**.

² Historic Environment Scotland website. Available at: <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/>

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		Requested wirelines from Knapdale NSA, before this landscape designation could be scoped out. Suggested locations include Mhoine Mhor/Crinan Canal, and in particular the panoramic viewpoint at Dunadry. Possibly include a viewpoint at Dunadry or Mhoine Mhor/Crinan Canal depending on wirelines requested above.	Wirelines were provided to the Council, and it was subsequently agreed that the Knapdale NSA can be scoped out of the assessment. No additional viewpoints were required.
		The Council has confirmed that the list of viewpoints provided on the 20 th December 2021 (subsequent to this Scoping Consultation) is acceptable.	Noted. Final viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5 .
		Ladyfield (at Scoping – ECU00003291) should be included in the CLVIA. All other relevant wind farms are included.	Noted. Ladyfield Wind Farm is included in the CLVIA. The full list of other wind farm developments considered in the CLVIA are presented in Table 6.8 .
		Noted that the nearest residential properties are located approximately 2.1km from the nearest turbine. If any of the properties in relatively close proximity to the Proposed Development will experience a high magnitude of visual change, then an Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) may be appropriate.	Due to intervening distance, no RVAA is included in the LVIA.
NatureScot 2 nd July 2021	Scoping Response	The Applicant should demonstrate how they have addressed the potential effects on the constraints identified in the LWECS sensitivity assessment.	Noted. The sensitivities identified in the LWECS sensitivity assessment are considered in the assessment of landscape character types.
		Whilst we would expect that the LVIA reflects all likely significant impacts, it is advised, in particular, that the 26 x 200m could potentially result in significant adverse impacts, including cumulative and night-time impacts, in relation to highly sensitive landscapes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ People's appreciation and enjoyment of the special landscape qualities, scenery and natural beauty in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP); ■ People's experience of Ben Lui Wild Land Area (WLA06) and its wild land qualities; ■ Views and setting of Inveraray and associated designed landscapes appreciated from Inner Loch Fyne area including e.g. key routes (A83 and A815, NCRs etc), recreational locations and settlement; ■ Views from within the designed landscape and conservation areas of Inveraray; and ■ Both Loch Awe area and Loch Fyne area where the width of the receiving uplands allows relatively close views of the Proposal from both sides of both lochs, including the sensitive settled coastal edge/loch shore. It should be noted that the distinctive Inner Loch Fyne area, Inver/Lachlan area (Loch Fyne), and SW Loch Awe area have particular sensitivities as highlighted in the LWECS. 	Noted. Assessment of the effects on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) and Ben Lui WLA are considered in Appendices 6.2 and 6.3 , respectively. Assessment of the effects on Inveraray Garden and Designed Landscape, key routes, settlements and both Loch Awe and Loch Fyne are presented in the 'Assessment of Effects' section of the LVIA.
		The turbines would be significantly taller and more widely spaced than the existing wind farms in the study area. Of particular note is the contrast with the turbines at An Suidhe (80m) and Blarghour wind farms (136m) that abut the site to the SW and NW respectively. This conglomerate of wind farms will not only create an extensive and disjointed panorama of turbine heights but also potentially 3 different rotational speeds in close proximity. These design issues need to be addressed as part of the iterative design process.	The Proposed Development has been designed to appear coherent with the Blarghour Wind Farm and to maintain a gap with An Suidhe Wind Farm. Detailed information on the iterative design process is set out in Chapter 3 .
		NatureScot support the LWECS 2017 and recommend that its findings are used to inform wind energy development in Argyll & Bute. Given the known development pressures and the high landscape and visual sensitivities of this area, as detailed in the Capacity Study; it is particularly important that cognisance is taken of the study findings.	Noted. The sensitivities identified in the LWECS sensitivity assessment are considered in the assessment of landscape character types in Table 6.11 to 6.17 of the LVIA.
		GLVIA3 and other current guidance including NatureScot's Wild Land assessment guidance (2020) should inform the LVIA.	Noted.
		LCT boundaries should be as defined in the LWECS 2017 and any other relevant current wind capacity studies. Seascape should include all potentially significantly affected waterscapes.	Noted.

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		Draft wirelines for Knapdale NSA to show worst case scenario were requested before scoping this receptor out. NatureScot suggest exploring key receptors such as Mhoine Mhor/Crinan Canal route, Dunardry panoramic view, etc to provide a representative low and high elevation view.	Wirelines were provided to NatureScot, and it was subsequently agreed that the Knapdale NSA can be scoped out of the assessment.
		NatureScot welcome the inclusion of LLTNP in the LVIA due to potential effects (day and night-time) on the special qualities. It is advised that the assessment of effects on LLTNP is carried out using our draft guidance: Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities. This draft guidance is reproduced in Annex 2 (of the Scoping Response).	Noted. An assessment on the special qualities of the LLTNP are provided in Appendix 6.2 .
		We welcome the inclusion of Inveraray Castle and Designed Landscape.	Noted.
		The Applicant is advised that a Wild Land Assessment, including an assessment of cumulative effects and aviation lighting effects, should be carried out for Ben Lui WLA using NatureScot's updated guidance (https://www.nature.scot/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance).	An assessment of the effects on the Ben Lui WLA are provided in Appendix 6.3 .
		Draft wirelines and a legible detailed ZTV were requested to confirm the Loch Etive Mountains WLA and Knapdale NSA can be scoped out of the LVIA.	Wirelines and a ZTV were provided to NatureScot, and it was subsequently agreed that the Knapdale NSA and Loch Etive Mountains WLA can be scoped out of the assessment.
		Advise further information is submitted to establish the scope of a Wild Land Assessment at an early stage. A brief justification accompanied by a detailed ZTV for the WLA and a cumulative ZTV showing the additional visibility of this proposal, together with 3 or 4 wirelines (with lit turbines marked) illustrating the likely effects from different parts of the Wild Land Area would be helpful. Any new areas of visibility; especially where the qualities are strongly expressed are of particular interest. The focus should be on how the proposal could potentially affect the wild land qualities – please refer to the WLA Description on NatureScot website.	The scope of the Wild Land Assessment was set out in further correspondence with NatureScot on 2 nd September 2021. NatureScot confirmed via email on 29 th September 2021 that they were content with the scope of the Wild Land qualities to be assessed. An assessment of the effects on the Ben Lui WLA are provided in Appendix 6.3 .
		Omitted viewpoint wirelines should be included as an Appendix in the EIAR.	Noted. Wirelines from omitted viewpoints are included in Appendix A of Volume 3 .
		We advise (informed by a desk-based study) that there are some obvious viewpoint omissions and additional viewpoints which should be explored and considered for assessment viewpoints. Coastal, water-based, and upland views are likely to be key. Some initial suggestions for additional LVIA assessment viewpoints to explore include representative views from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LLTNP including key hill views; ■ Water based users of Loch Fyne, Loch Awe and Loch Avich including any ferry routes/recreational use; ■ Key views of and from Inveraray Designed landscape including the folly at Dun na Cuaiche and key approach views; ■ Loch Fyne coast including e.g. St Catherine's/Creggans area, Inver/Lachlan area; ■ Loch Awe coast including e.g. Ford area (in addition to the road); ■ Loch Avich area; ■ Key approach/gateway views to Loch Fyne and Loch Awe; ■ Key recreational areas and routes e.g. beaches, picnic areas etc; and ■ (scattered) settlement. 	Noted. Viewpoints were agreed through follow up consultation with NatureScot. Final viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5 .
		The EIA/LVIA should include a Night-time Lighting Assessment as this is particularly relevant for very large typology turbines such as these. The requirement for aviation lighting on turbines is a fairly recent issue for the wind energy sector and we have relatively limited experience of assessing the effects and understanding the impacts. Note that the effects of aviation lighting should be factored into the Wild Land Assessment.	Noted. A night-time aviation lighting assessment is provided in Appendix 6.4 , including a detailed assessment from VP29: Ben Bhuidhe within the Ben Lui Wild Land Area.

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
		<p>Currently advise that the LVIA-related lighting assessment should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clear information on the positions and intensity of lighting proposed and, if only certain turbines are to be lit (e.g. due to a mix of turbine heights), a plan showing which turbines (numbered turbines) would be lit. ■ Production of a ZTV map which shows the areas from which the nacelle and tower lights may be seen. ■ Annotation of the positions of turbine lighting (including intermediate tower lights) on all wirelines from every viewpoint. ■ Assessment of effects on landscape character, in particular where qualities of wildness, remoteness and lack of man-made elements is a feature of that landscape. ■ A table which lists how many lit turbines will be visible from each viewpoint. 	<p>Noted, the technical details and assessment of aviation lighting is provided in Appendix 6.4. The assessment includes assessment of effects on landscape character and visual receptors and is supported by ZTV figures and visualisations.</p>
Mountaineering Scotland 13 th May 2021	Scoping Opinion (pages B21-B22)	Suggested replacing the proposed Ben Lui viewpoint with a viewpoint at Beinn Bhuidhe as it is closer to the Proposed Development (c.17km), has the same angle of view and within the Ben Lui Wild Land Area and North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality.	<p>Noted, however have included a viewpoint at Ben Lui (Viewpoint 26) as Ben Lui is also located with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. A night-time viewpoint has been included from Beinn Bhuidhe.</p> <p>In further email correspondence on 25/10/2021, Mountaineering Scotland accepted the inclusion of Ben Lui as a viewpoint.</p>
NatureScot	Post Scoping email correspondence dated 29/09/2021	<p>In relation to the Ben Lui WLA, NatureScot would like to emphasise the need to consider how people move through the area, with a focus on the effect on the wild land qualities and their experiential nature. NatureScot recommend the use of 'assessment points' to record, in the field, the likely effects on the experience of the wild land qualities while moving through the WLA.</p> <p>Although content with the scope of the WL qualities to be assessed, NatureScot request one or two further assessment points (e.g. the areas of visibility in closer proximity to the west/ south-west of the WLA) and supporting photos to provide context, showing how this changes while moving through the WLA.</p> <p>Effects of lighting should be assessed and factored into the wild land assessment.</p>	<p>Noted. Assessment points for the Ben Lui WLA assessment will include Ben Lui, Troisgeach and Beinn Bhuidhe.</p> <p>The assessment for Ben Lui WLA is presented in Appendix 6.3.</p>
		<p>Viewpoints should also seek to illustrate any potentially significant cumulative effects. This is likely to be very important for this proposal given its size and the complex interaction with nearby schemes. Should omissions become apparent at EIAR stage, we may request further viewpoint information.</p> <p>Additional VPs required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NS1: Water based, Loch Awe (NM97751348) ■ NS2: Water based, Loch Fyne (NN11310846) ■ NS3: Cobbler (Ben Arthur), the most popular Arrochar Alp (NN25950582) ■ NS4: B845 heading south, emerging view dropping down to Loch Etive (NM98493675) ■ NS5: Loch Avich, emerging view when travelling E, framed view of WF (NM91841430) ■ NS6: Emerging view from forestry plantation travelling SW (NM97521471) ■ NS7: Ben Cruachan Dam – tourist/visitor destination (NN89860435) ■ NS8: Fincharn Castle, Loch Awe (NM89860435) ■ NS9: Parking spot, Loch Awe (NM93350625) 	<p>Noted. All requested additional viewpoints have been included within the LVIA. However, with agreement from NatureScot, the assessments from the water-based locations on Loch Awe and Loch Fyne are informed by wirelines only (no photomontage provided).</p> <p>Final viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5.</p>
		<p>Note LCT boundaries should be as defined in the LWECS 2017 and any other relevant current wind capacity studies. Seascape should include all potentially significantly affected waterscapes.</p>	Noted.
	Post-Scoping email correspondence dated 25/11/2021	NatureScot and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park request that the LLTNP boundary is highlighted on maps for ease of reference and key routes such as the Cowal Way should also be distinguished from other Core Paths on maps as appropriate.	Noted.

Consultee and Date	Scoping/Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/Action Taken
	Post-Scoping email correspondence dated 28/01/2022	NatureScot are content for Knapdale NSA and Loch Etive Mountains WLA to be scoped out. However, we highlight the sensitivity of the Wild Land Area and views such as Ben Cruachan which will need careful consideration in design terms.	Noted.
		NatureScot are content with the scope of the Special Qualities selected for effects on the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.	Noted. The effects on the special qualities of the LLTNP are presented in Appendix 6.2: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Special Landscape Qualities Assessment .
		In relation to night-time viewpoints, NatureScot note the intention to use Inverinan, Dalavich and St Catherine's (instead of Strachur) as night-time visualisations however note they all appear in close proximity to settlement. Night-time viewpoints should consider areas where, for example, dark skies are a key characteristic of that landscape to fully understand and illustrate the worst-case scenario. The focus should be on potential significant effects. Viewpoints at different elevations, including hill views should also be considered to represent the potential significant effects of lighting on these receptors.	Noted. Night-time viewpoints were subsequently agreed on 6 th June 2022 to include Dalavich, Dun na Cuaich, and Beinn Bhuidhe [Ben Lui Wild Land Area].
	Post-Scoping email correspondence dated 11/03/2022	Advised that a night-time hill viewpoint should be included to represent hill walkers and elevated views down on the wind farm. Noted that the following provide a range of elevations and a representative range of receptors, where the effects of aviation lighting are likely to be a key issue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dalavich; ■ Dun na Cuaich; and ■ Beinn Ime or Beinn an Lochain (17.8km) (LLTNP) OR Beinn Bhuidhe (17.3km) (WLA) for night-time VPs. 	Night-time viewpoints were subsequently agreed on 6 th June 2022 to include Dalavich, Dun na Cuaich, and Beinn Bhuidhe [Ben Lui Wild Land Area].
Argyll and Bute Council	Post-Scoping email correspondence dated 21/12/2021	Confirm that the list of viewpoints agreed with NatureScot is acceptable to the council.	Noted. Final viewpoints are presented in Table 6.5 .
	Post-Scoping email correspondence dated 09/03/2022	Confirm that the Council is happy with the reasoning for the Knapdale NSA to be scoped out of the LVIA.	Noted.

Study Area

6.10 The Study Area for the assessment is defined as 45km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development in all directions, as recommended in SNH guidance for turbines of >150m maximum blade tip height. The extent of the Study Area is shown on **Figure 6.1.1**. The consideration of landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects, on particular receptors is dealt with in the sections which follow, with specific reference to the distance within which the potential for significant effects is considered likely for both landscape and visual receptors.

6.11 To consider cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in relation to other schemes in the wider area, wind farms within 20km of the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development were included for the purposes of modelling and detailed assessment, as agreed with Argyll and Bute Council. A review of patterns of development is also provided for wind farms in the wider area as required, following guidance from NatureScot³. Wind farms within 60km of the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development are shown on **Figure 6.1.8**.

6.12 A ZTV map to maximum blade tip height (180m) was generated, illustrating areas from where the proposed wind turbines may be visible in the Study Area. The ZTV was based on bare earth topography and therefore does not take account of potential screening by vegetation or buildings. The ZTV is used as tool for understanding where significant visual effects may occur. Receptors located outside the ZTV will not be affected by the wind turbines of the Proposed Development and are not considered further in the

assessment. The ZTV to maximum blade tip height is shown on **Figure 6.1.2** and the ZTV to hub height (102.5m) is shown on **Figure 6.1.3**.

Desk Based Research and Data Sources

6.13 Beyond those listed at Paragraph 6.8, the following data sources informed the assessment:

Designated Areas

- NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (2020) Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas.

Wild Land

- SNH (2017) Scotland's Wild Land Area Descriptions: methodology;
- SNH (2017) Descriptions of Wild Land Areas – 06 Ben Lui Wild Land Area;
- SNH (2014) Core Areas of Wild Land 2013 Map - Advice to Government – 16th June 2014;
- SNH (2014) Mapping Scotland's Wildness and Wild Land; and

³ NatureScot (2021) Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Onshore Wind Energy Developments

- SNH (2003) Wildness in Scotland's Countryside, Policy Statement No. 02/03.

Data Sources

- Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scales;
- OS Terrain@ 5 height data (DTM);
- OS Terrain@ 50 height data (DTM);
- OS 1:25,000 raster data;
- OS 1:50,000 raster data; and
- OS 1:250,000 raster data.

Cumulative Assessment

- Data from other wind farm applications for the cumulative assessment⁴; and
- Argyll and Bute Council and the Energy Consents Unit (websites) to inform the cumulative assessment.

Field Survey

6.14 Field survey work was carried out during several visits under differing weather conditions between May 2021 and July 2022, and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. Field survey work included a visit to the Site, visits to viewpoints and designated landscapes, and extensive travel around the Study Area to consider potential effects on landscape character and on experiences of views seen from specific viewpoints, settlements and routes.

Assessing Significance

Sensitivity

6.15 The sensitivity of the baseline conditions, including the importance of environmental features on or near to the Site or the sensitivity of potentially affected receptors, has been assessed in line with best practice guidance, legislation, statutory designations and / or professional judgement.

6.16 Judgements regarding the sensitivity of landscape or visual receptors require consideration of both the susceptibility of the landscape or visual receptor to the type of development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or visual receptor or view. Judgements have been recorded as high, medium, low or negligible. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of sensitivity is provided in **Appendix 6.1**.

Magnitude

6.17 The magnitude of change has been identified through consideration of the Proposed Development, the degree of change to baseline conditions predicted as a result of the Proposed Development, the duration and reversibility of an effect and best practice guidance and legislation.

6.18 Judgements regarding the magnitude of landscape or visual change have been recorded as high, medium, low or negligible and combine an assessment of the scale and geographical extent of the landscape or visual effect, its duration and reversibility. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of magnitude is provided in **Appendix 6.1**.

Significance

6.19 The sensitivity of the asset and the magnitude of the predicted effects has been used as a guide, in addition to professional judgement, to predict the significance of the likely effects.

6.20 Appendix 6.1 provides full details of the criteria considered in judging the identified aspects of sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and magnitude of change (size/scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility), and the grades used to describe each.

6.21 Levels of effect have been identified as Negligible, Minor, **Moderate** or **Major**. In terms of the direction of effects (positive or adverse) there is a wide spectrum of opinion with regard to wind energy development. To cover the worst-case scenario, effects are assumed to be adverse, unless stated otherwise.

6.22 Where the magnitude of change that will occur as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in the LVIA has been identified as being either low or barely perceptible, potential cumulative effects on the relevant landscape or visual receptor are not assessed in the cumulative assessment. In these instances, it is considered that owing to distance and/or the limited magnitude of change, there will not be potential for significant cumulative effects to arise.

6.23 This determination requires the application of professional judgement and experience to take on board the many different variables which need to be considered, and which are given different weight according to site-specific and location-specific considerations in every instance. Judgements have been made on a case-by-case basis, guided by the principles set out in **Diagram 1** in **Appendix 6.1**.

6.24 Although a numerical or formal weighting system has not been applied, consideration of the relative importance of each aspect has been made to feed into the overall decision. Levels of effect have been identified as Negligible, Minor, **Moderate** or **Major** where **Moderate** and **Major** effects are considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Assessment Limitations

6.25 No substantial information gaps have been identified during the preparation of baseline information or undertaking of the assessment, and it is considered that there is sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be taken in relation to the identification and assessment of likely significant effects on landscape, views and visual amenity.

Existing Conditions

Landscape Baseline Conditions

6.26 This section presents an overview of the landscape baseline including current landscape character (including constituent landscape elements), landscape condition and any designations attached to the landscape.

The Site and Context

6.27 The Site comprises an area described as LCT 7 - Craggy Upland and LCT 6a - Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic. It is located on the plateau between Loch Awe to the north-west and Loch Fyne to the south-east, and rises to a height of 526m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at Beinn Bhreac in the centre of the Site. The topography of the Site and surrounding landscape is heavily influenced by the geology and geomorphology of the area, including past glacial activity. The main rock types are metamorphic. Isolated glaciated rocky outcrops orientated along a north-east to south-west alignment are evident across the Site, with the lower ground being characterised by lochans.

6.28 Due partially to the elevation of the land and exposed nature of the Site, ground cover is predominantly moorland heath and bog and heather with little other vegetation present. There is an absence of footpaths and tracks within the Site area except for the access track leading into the Site from Ardchonnell Farm to the north-west of the Site. There is a lower lying area running through the central area of the Site (where the proposed turbines are located) following a north-east – south-west alignment, which is occupied by a chain of lochans. The largest and most notable water bodies are Loch an Eilein Duibh, Loch nan Car and Loch Sionnaich to the north of the Site.

6.29 The eastern-most extents of the Site, along the access track, contain areas of woodland and forestry. Large tracts of forestry are found adjacent to the Site, extending down the lower slopes to the east, south and west, and extending into the east of the Site boundary just to the west of Inveraray.

⁴ A cut-off date of 23rd June 2022 was applied for the inclusion of developments within the cumulative assessment. Since the cut-off date, there have been some changes to the cumulative baseline. These are described in **paragraph 6.86** of this chapter.

The Study Area

6.30 The Study Area for the assessment was defined as 45km from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development in all directions, in accordance with current guidance in relation to turbines of 150m or higher, measured to the top of the blade tip⁵. The Study Area is shown on **Figure 6.1.1**. It includes land within the ABC area and within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The Study Area extends across Mid Argyll, covering northern parts of the Cowal Peninsula and Knapdale, and includes the settlements of Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray and Arrochar. To the west, it covers some parts of the Inner Hebrides island group, including Scarba, Luing and Kerrera, as well as small parts of Jura and Mull. To the east, the Study Area includes the northern part of Loch Lomond.

6.31 To the north and east, the Study Area comprises high mountains and ridgelines that include several Munros (mountains over 3,000ft (914.4m) in height) such as Ben Cruachan (1126m AOD), Ben Lui (1130m AOD) and Ben lme (1011m AOD). The centre and southern part of the Study Area generally comprises an upland landscape: open and craggy on higher ground and forested on gentler, lower slopes, with both freshwater and sea lochs. The west coastline of the mainland, between Appin and Knapdale, is located in the western part of the Study Area, influenced by nearby Hebridean island groups. The land use of the Study Area responds to topography and elevation. In the open and more elevated parts of the Study Area, moorland and rough grazing predominate. Further south-east, there is greater presence of settlements and key transport routes, due to the closer proximity to Glasgow.

6.32 The landscape character of the Study Area is varied, as the landscape transitions from large scale mountains and hills to the north, south and east the Study Area to craggy upland and plateau moorland in the central and west of the Study Area. Rocky coastlines are a prominent feature in the west of the Study Area, and along the shores of the large elongated lochs which dissect the landscape, including Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Landscape character includes: craggy upland, plateau moor and forest, rocky coastland, straths, glens, steep ridges, hills and mountains. There are also extensive areas of coniferous forest in the study area, particularly across the central and south-eastern extents of the Study Area. Open, upland moorland is a typical feature of the Study Area.

6.33 The geology of the Study Area is largely igneous and metamorphic in nature. The metamorphic bedrock of the Argyll Group cuts through the centre of the Study Area in a north-east to south-west band, with igneous intrusions of Cambrian to Proterozoic and Devonian to Silurian age. The north-west of the Study Area is predominantly extrusive mafic igneous rocks, with areas of intrusive and metamorphic bedrock. The east predominantly comprises metamorphic bedrock of psammite and pelite origin, forming part of the Southern Highland Group. The Site features pockets of quaternary tills underlain by metamorphic bedrock of the Argyll Group (Cambrian to Proterozoic) and igneous intrusions.

6.34 The main roads within the Study Area include: the A83 from Tarbet (near Loch Lomond) to Campbeltown, along the western shore of Loch Fyne 5.6km to the south-east of the Proposed Development; A85 from Oban to Perth, 14.2km to the north; the A816 from Oban to Lochgilphead 17.3km to the west; the A82 from Glasgow to Inverness 26.3km to the east; A819 from Inveraray to Dalmally via Glen Array, 26.9km to the north-east; and the A815 from the tip of the Cowal Peninsula to the A83. Other less major routes include the B840 running alongside the eastern shore of Loch Awe, 2.6km to the west of the nearest turbine, and the minor road (and NCN 78 cycle route) following the western shore of Loch Awe. There is also a network of minor roads within straths across the Study Area. A railway line runs through the Study Area, from Helensburgh in the south-east, to Oban in the north-west. The route travels north from Helensburgh broadly following the banks of Loch Long and Loch Lomond before turning west and travelling along Strath Fillan and Glen Lochy. The route passes along the northernmost banks of Loch Awe before continuing west to Oban.

6.35 Recreational routes within the Study Area include: National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 78 (the Caledonia Way), which runs from Campbeltown to Inverness and passes to the west of Loch Awe 4.7km east of the nearest turbine. There are two other NCN routes (NCN 75 to the south, and NCN 7 to the south-east), and several Regional Cycle Network (RCN) routes within the south of the Study Area including, RCN 42 to the south-east and RCN 94 to the south. All of these routes are in excess of 25km from the Proposed Development.

6.36 Promoted walking routes within the Study Area include the Cowal Way, a long-distance path, which runs for 90km along the length of the Cowal peninsula in Argyll and Bute. At its closest, the walking path is 11.3km to the south-east of the nearest turbine, near Strachur. The West Highland Way passes through the east of the Study Area, along the banks of Loch Lomond from near Balmaha, before turning off along Glen Falloch and Strath Fillan and cutting through the Black Mount mountain range towards Glen Coe. At its closest, the walking route is 28.8km to the nearest turbine. Additionally, the Three Lochs Way and West Island Way routes

are within the Study Area, to the south-east and south of the Proposed Development, respectively. At its closest, the Three Lochs Way passes along the eastern banks of Loch Long 25.3km to the south-east, and West Island Way 37.4km to the south, near the Kyles of Bute. There are also a number of core paths within the south-east and east of the Study Area, most of which located between 10 to 45km away, within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

6.37 Nucleated settlements in the Study Area tend to be located in the lower-lying straths and along the loch shores, including along Loch Awe to the west of the Site, and Loch Fyne to the east. Isolated or grouped properties are scattered throughout the lower lying areas and along valleys, including Ardchnonnel Croft, Blarghour, Portinnisherrick to the west of the Site. Larger settlements within the Study Area include Oban to the north-west of the Site (22.4km away), Alexandria and Helensburgh to the south-east (37.2km and 44.1km away, respectively), and Dunoon and Greenock to the south-east (35.1km and 38.4km away, respectively).

6.38 The Study Area provides a wide range of opportunities for recreation, from sea or water-based activities to mountaineering, as well as more accessible forms of recreation such as walking on footpaths. Potential impacts of the Proposed Development on recreational interests are discussed in **Chapter 13**, but many landscape and visual receptors of importance to recreation are also represented within this LVIA.

Landscape Character Types

6.39 This section provides a description of landscape character (including constituent landscape elements) – drawing on published studies, supplemented with project specific research and field work where relevant.

6.40 The landscape character of the Study Area is described in the 'Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study' (LWECS)⁶ for Argyll and Bute, published by Carol Anderson Landscape Associates in 2017. In addition, LCTs beyond the Argyll and Bute local authority area, are described in the online 'Scottish Landscape Character Assessment' published by NatureScot in 2019. LCTs across the Study Area are shown in **Figure 6.1.4**, and are shown overlaid with the ZTV in **Figure 6.1.5**.

6.41 The Site lies within two LCTs; LCT7 – Craggy Uplands in the western half of the Site (where most of the turbines are located) and LCT6a - Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic in the eastern half. These LCTs form an upland plateau landscape covered by a mosaic of moorland, heather and forestry, and dissected by a significant number of small watercourses and streams, with larger lochans present within lower-lying hollows. Both LCTs are sparsely settled, with isolated, individual farmsteads located in more sheltered locations on the edge of the moor.

6.42 The landscape of the Craggy Uplands and Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic are spatially large in scale, with an average elevation of 300m AOD which is considerably lower than the mountains to the north and east.

6.43 The LCTs within 45km of the Site are listed in **Table 6.2** below. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) is used as a means of identifying which LCTs require further assessment, and which LCTs can be scoped out because they are unlikely to experience significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. LCTs beyond 15km from the Site, and those with limited theoretical visibility within 15km of the Site, are not considered further within the assessment.

Table 6.2: Landscape Character Types within Study area

Landscape Character Types	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) and Other Considerations to Determine if LCT Carried Forward for Detailed Assessment
LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands	Host LCT, considered within the assessment.
LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic	Host LCT, considered within the assessment.
LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	Theoretical visibility indicated within 1.7-15km, particularly from site-facing slopes, considered within the assessment.
LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	Extensive theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances of 7-17km. Considered within the assessment.

⁵ SNH (February 2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance (Version 2.2)

⁶ Argyll and Bute Council (2017) Landscape wind energy capacity study [online]. Available at: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/landscape-wind-energy-capacity-study>

Landscape Character Types	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage) and Other Considerations to Determine if LCT Carried Forward for Detailed Assessment
LCT 2 – High Tops	Theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes and mountain summits, at distances of greater than 14km. Considered in the assessment.
LCT 2a – Mull High Tops	Some theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances of greater than 36km. Not considered further.
LCT 4 – Mountain Glens	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 5 – Open Ridgeland	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 30km. Not considered further.
LCT 5a – Bute Open Ridgeland	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 35km. Not considered further.
LCT 6 – Upland Forest Moor Mosaic	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 44km. Not considered further.
LCT 6b – Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic	Limited theoretical visibility from site facing slopes, at distances over 28km. Not considered further.
LCT 7a – Craggy Upland with Settled Glens	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 18km. Not considered further.
LCT 7b – Craggy Coasts & Islands	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Upland	Some theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances of 6.5-14km. Considered in the assessment.
LCT 7d – Lorn Craggy Upland	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 35km. Not considered further.
LCT 7e – Mull Craggy Upland	Some theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances over 32km. Not considered further.
LCT 8 – Moorland Plateau	Some theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances over 33km. Not considered further.
LCT 10 – Upland Parallel Ridges	Limited theoretical visibility from site facing slopes, at distances over 15km. Not considered further.
LCT 13 – Rolling Farmland with Estates	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 13a – Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 17 – Mull Basalt Lowlands	Very limited theoretical visibility, at distances over 35km. Not considered further.
LCT 18 – Lowland Ridges and Moss	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 19a – Bute Coastal Plain	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT 22 – Coastal Parallel Ridges	Some theoretical visibility at distances over 33km. Not considered further.
LCT 23 – Flat Moss and Mudflats	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
LCT – 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	Some theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances of 10-20km. Considered within the assessment.
LCT – 251 – Highland Summits	Very limited theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes, at distances over 15km. Not considered further.

Designated Landscapes

6.44 The most easterly extent of the Site (2.22% of the total Site area) is located within the West Loch Fyne Coast APQ, however no turbines will be located here, with the closest turbine located 4.7km to the north-west. With the exception of the small area in the east of the Site which is required for access via an existing track, the remainder of the Site is not located within any designated landscapes. However there are a number within the Study Area, including National Scenic Areas (NSAs), APQs, and Special Landscape Areas (SLAs).

6.45 The landscapes within the Study Area which are designated for their scenic or landscape value are listed in **Table 6.3** below and shown on **Figure 6.1.6** and overlaid onto the ZTV in **Figure 6.1.7**. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is described in the table and used as a means of identifying which designated landscapes require further assessment, and which are unlikely to be affected by the Proposed Development and are therefore not considered further.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

6.46 The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) is located within the east of the Study Area. At its closest, LLTNP is 12.1km from the closest turbine. The special qualities of the LLTNP are described in the SNH report 'The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park'⁷.

6.47 There are seven NSAs located within the Study Area: Knapdale NSA, Loch Lomond NSA, Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA, Kyles of Bute NSA, Lynn of Lorn NSA, Scarba Lunga and the Garvellachs NSA, and The Trossachs NSA. The Knapdale NSA is located closest to the Proposed Development, 22.9km to the south-west of the nearest turbine, with the remaining NSAs all in excess of 25km from the closest turbine of the Proposed Development. The special qualities of NSAs are described in the SNH report 'The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas'⁸. Potential implications for the special qualities of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are considered in **Appendix 6.2**.

Locally Designated Landscapes

6.48 Within the Study Area, locally designated landscapes include APQs in Argyll and Bute, and distant SLAs in the Highlands to the north of the Study Area. APQs are a local level landscape designation identified in the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015. APQs occupy large areas of Argyll and Bute are mapped, but there is no document setting out their characteristics and/or special qualities.

6.49 The West Loch Fyne Coast APQ is located 4.7km to the south-east of the closest turbine. There are also large numbers of locally designated landscapes across the 45km Study Area, as outlined in **Table 6.3** and illustrated on **Figure 6.1.6**. Potential implications for the special qualities of the APQs are considered in **Table 6.52** and **Table 6.53**.

Table 6.3: Designated Landscapes within the Study area

Designated Landscape	Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine	Scoped In/Out of Assessment
National Park		
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	12.1km	Theoretical visibility indicated from elevated landform in the western extents of the National Park. Considered in the assessment.
National Scenic Areas		
Knapdale NSA	22.9km	Limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 27km. Not considered in the assessment.
Loch Lomond NSA	25.1km	Very limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 32km. Not considered in the assessment.
Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA	25.5km	Very limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 36km. Not considered in the assessment.

⁷ SNH (2010) The Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park (Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 376) (iBids and Project no 648)

⁸ SNH (2010) The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas (Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.374) (iBids and Project no 648)

Designated Landscape	Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine	Scoped In/Out of Assessment
Kyles of Bute NSA	27.8km	No theoretical visibility. Not considered in the assessment.
Lynn of Lorn NSA	27.8km	Very limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 32km. Not considered in the assessment.
Scarba Lunga and the Garvellachs NSA	28.9km	Theoretical visibility from distances of over 29km. Not considered in the assessment.
The Trossachs NSA	41.7km	No theoretical visibility. Not considered in the assessment.
Areas of Panoramic Quality		
West Loch Fyne Coast	4.7km	Very limited theoretical visibility at distances between 5-17km. Part of the Site access is within this area, but will utilise and existing track. Not considered further within the assessment.
North Argyll	5.2km	Theoretical visibility indicated throughout APQ, including at hill summits and elevated site-facing slopes, at a distance of 7-40km. Considered within the assessment.
East Loch Fyne Coast	8.1km	Widespread theoretical visibility at distances between 8-29km. Considered within the assessment.
Knapdale/Melfort	14.4km	Limited theoretical visibility at distances between 16-23km. Not considered in the assessment.
North West Argyll Coast	17.8km	Very limited theoretical visibility at distances over 22km. Not considered in the assessment.
Bute & South Cowal	24.4km	Very limited theoretical visibility at distances of over 24km. Not considered in the assessment.
Loch Long Coast	24.8km	No theoretical visibility. Not considered in the assessment.
Loch Lomond	27.6km	Limited theoretical visibility at distances of over 27km. Not considered in the assessment.
Central, South & West Mull	33.0km	Theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes at distances of over 33km. Not considered further.
Jura	32.5km	Theoretical visibility from site-facing slopes at distances of over 33km. Not considered further.
Special Landscape Areas		
Inninmore Bay and Garbh Shlios SLA	36.5km	Limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 38km. Not considered in the assessment.
Ardgour SLA	41.6km	Limited theoretical visibility from distances of over 42km. Not considered in the assessment.

Wild Land Areas

6.50 Wild Land Areas (WLA) are not designated but their importance is recognised in NPF4. Each WLA has a accompanying WLA descriptions published by SNH in January 2017⁹. NPF4¹⁰ sets out that “development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported” (Page 53). It also outlines that “effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration” (NPF4, Policy 4, Page 41).

6.51 There are six WLAs located within the Study Area, including Ben Lui (WLA 06), Loch Etive Mountains (WLA 09), Ben More – Ben Ledi (WLA 07), Jura Scarba Lunga and Garvellachs (WLA 05), Breadalbane – Schiehallion (WLA 10), and Ben More Mull (WLA 08), as shown in **Table 6.4** and on **Figure 6.1.6**. Ben Lui (WLA 06), is located 12.8km to the north-east of the closest turbine, whilst Loch Etive Mountains (WLA 07) is 16.6km to the north. Theoretical visibility from Ben Lui WLA, as illustrated by **Figure 6.1.7**, is most extensive in the western extents of the WLA, on the Site-facing slopes of Beinn an t-Sithein, Stac a' Chuirn and Beinn Bhuidhe, and Beinn Bhoideach and Beinn Bhreac slightly further north. Elsewhere within the WLA, theoretical visibility is limited to higher hill summits and site-facing slopes. This includes, the summits and upper slopes of Ceann Garbh (803m AOD), Meall Nan Tighearn (739m AOD), Meall an Fhuidair (764m AOD), Troisgeach (733m AOD), Beinn a' Chleibh (916m AOD), Ben Lui (1130m AOD), and Beinn Ghuirn (880m AOD). Theoretical visibility from Loch Etive Mountains WLA is again limited to hill summits and site-facing slopes predominantly near the southern boundary of the WLA. Some more distant hill summits will also experience theoretical visibility, including Stob Ghabhar (1087m AOD), Stob a' Choire Odhair (932m AOD) and Creach Bheinn (810m AOD). With the remaining WLAs in the Study Area located at distances of over 28km from the Proposed Development, it is not anticipated that this visibility will result in any significant landscape or visual effects within the WLAs, nor affect the noted key attributes and qualities of the WLAs. These WLAs are therefore not considered further in the assessment.

Table 6.4: Wild Land Areas within the Study area

Wild Land Area (WLA)	Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine	Scoped In/Out of Assessment
Ben Lui (WLA 06)	12.8km	Some theoretical visibility indicated across western extents of WLA and elevated summits within the interior, at a distance of between 13-30km. Considered within the assessment.
Loch Etive Mountains (WLA 09)	16.6km	Some theoretical visibility indicated across southern extents of WLA, at a distance of over 17km. Not considered within the assessment.
Ben More – Ben Ledi (WLA 07)	28.7km	Very limited theoretical visibility indicated at a distance of over 30km, not considered within the assessment.
Jura Scarba Lunga and Garvellachs (WLA 05)	29.9km	Limited theoretical visibility indicated at a distance of over 29km, not considered within the assessment.
Breadalbane – Schiehallion (WLA 10)	35.3km	Very limited theoretical visibility indicated at a distance of over 35km, not considered within the assessment.
Ben More Mull (WLA 08)	43.7km	Very limited theoretical visibility indicated at a distance of over 40km, not considered within the assessment.

6.52 In accordance with **Table 6.4** above, and in agreement with ABC and NatureScot, a Wild Land Assessment has been carried out for WLA 06 Ben Lui. This is contained within **Appendix 6.3**.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

6.53 There are a number of Inventory-listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) and Local GDLs within the Study Area. The Inveraray Castle GDL is located within 3km of the proposed turbines. Theoretical visibility is indicated from across the Inveraray GDL.

⁹ NatureScot (previously SNH) (2017) Wild Land Areas map and descriptions 2014 [online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014>

¹⁰ Scottish Government (2022) National Planning Framework 4 – Revised Draft [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/11/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft.pdf>

The eastern-most extent of the Site containing the access track is located within the Inveraray Castle GDL. The access track for the Proposed Development will utilise an existing access track through a densely wooded and forested area. Any required upgrades to the access track will be minor and almost entirely screened by surrounding vegetation. Up to six turbines will be theoretically visible from the lower lying land of the GDL, within Glen Array. This includes the area to the north, east and north-west of Inveraray Castle, and the areas around Creag Dhubh. Up to six turbines are also theoretically visible from the lower slopes of Dun Corr-Bhile and Dun na Cuaiche, with visibility increasing further up slope to up to 13 turbines. In the lower-lying areas of the GDL, vegetation is likely to provide further screening of the Proposed Development, particularly near the castle and around Creag Dhubh. Effects on the setting of GDLs are considered in detail within **Chapter 10**. Effects on views from the GDL is considered in the visual assessment (see Viewpoint 4: Folly at Dun na Cuaiche).

Visual Baseline Conditions

6.54 This section describes the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the Study Area and identifies the visual receptors that will be assessed. This section also introduces the representative viewpoints that will be used to assess effects on visual receptors, including the reasons for their selection.

Analysis of Visibility of the Development

6.55 **Figure 6.1.2** and **Figure 6.1.3** show the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development to maximum blade tip height (180m) and maximum hub height (102.5m) respectively. The ZTV indicates that, across the Study Area, theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is relatively widespread within approximately 10km of the Site, becoming more localised beyond this distance. Within 10km of the Site, visibility is greatest to the south-east and north-west, across Loch Fyne and Loch Awe, respectively. To the north and south of the Site, along the ridge running between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, theoretical visibility is reduced to distances within 3-5km. The series of hills running along this ridge provide screening of the Proposed Development.

6.56 Within 5km of the Site there is theoretical visibility of up to six turbines from the B840 and theoretical visibility of up to all turbines from the minor road running along the western bank of Loch Awe. This includes visibility from the small settlements of Dalavich and Inverinan which are 4.8km and 5.4km from the nearest turbine. Other scattered settlement within 5km of the Site include Durran, Eredine, Portinnisherrick, Ardchonnell, Blarghour and Balliemeanoch. These are all located along the B840 to the east of Loch Awe. They sit in at the bottom of the ridge slopes and are therefore afforded screening of the Proposed Development from the landform of the main ridge of hills. These settlements have theoretical visibility of up to six turbines, however, actual visibility is reduced due to screening by vegetation. Visibility from the A83 and A819 to the east and north-east of the Site, is confined to one short section on each route (< 1.5km long) and limited to visibility of up to six turbines. No hubs are theoretically visible from the A83, however up to three hubs are theoretically visible from the A819.

6.57 There is theoretical visibility from several hill summits within 5km. These are all located along the ridge between Loch Fyne and Loch Awe. They include: Cruach Mhor, An Cruachan and Cruach an Lochain to the north-east of the Site, Beinn Dearg to the south of the Site, and An Suidhe and Corr Bheinn to the south-west. None of these hills are within designated landscapes.

6.58 Between 5km and 10km from the Site there is theoretical visibility from the east-facing slopes undulating craggy moorland and forestry to the west of Loch Awe. Theoretical visibility is indicated from the ridge between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, including from the south-western extents of Eredine Forest and the summits of Cruach Mhic Fhionnlaidh, Beinn Dubh Airigh and Garbh Cruach. Further north along the ridge, theoretical visibility is experienced from the Site-facing valley slopes of Glen Aray and the Stuc Scardan summit and the elevated land between Glen Shiel and Glen Fyne. There is also theoretical visibility from the steep ridges rising from the south-eastern banks of Loch Fyne, including the summits of Cruach nan Capull. Theoretical visibility is experienced along Loch Fyne's eastern shores, including the settlements of St Catherine's and Strachur and the A866. These areas along the shore are within the East Loch Fyne APQ, whilst the higher areas of land to the north of Loch Fyne are within the North Argyll APQ.

6.59 Between 10km and 20km from the Site, theoretical visibility is mostly from hill tops and slopes facing the Site, including the prominent summit of Ben Cruachan in the north, Beinn Bhuidein the north-east, Ben Ime, the Cobbler (Ben Arthur) in the east, and Beinn Mhor in the south. Theoretical visibility of up to six turbines is indicated along a short stretch of the A815 along Loch Eck and up to six turbines from a short section of the A83 as it travels through Glen Kinglas.

6.60 Between 20km and 45km from the Site there is theoretical visibility from the high mountains in the north of the Study Area, including Beinn Donn, Beinn Sgulaire and Stob Ghabhar. Theoretical visibility is also indicated from the Site-facing slopes of elevated hills on the Isle of Mull, Scarba and Jura in the west and south-west of the Study Area. Distant elevated slopes in Knapdale have theoretical visibility along with some localised hill summits in the south and east of the Study Area, including the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Visibility is also indicated from the Munro of Ben Lui.

Key Visual Receptors

6.61 Potential visual receptors include:

- Residents, including views from isolated properties, scattered communities or defined settlements;
- Road users (including those travelling on recognised tourist routes);
- Those engaged in recreational activities (e.g. hill walkers, cyclists and recreational users on Loch Awe); and
- People at their place of work, including agricultural workers.

Selection of Viewpoints for Assessment

6.62 This section sets out the viewpoints that are used to represent and assess the visual effects of the Proposed Development. The viewpoint list is a representative selection of locations agreed with the statutory consultees; it is not an exhaustive list of locations from which the Proposed Development will be visible.

6.63 A total of 26 viewpoints were selected through desk study, site work and discussions with statutory consultees (as detailed in **Table 6.1**). The viewpoints are all publicly accessible as advocated by GLVIA3¹¹ and include:

- Locations selected to represent the experience of different types of receptor;
- Locations at different distances to provide a representative range of viewing angles and distances (i.e. short, medium and long distance views);
- Locations which illustrate key cumulative interactions with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms (i.e. either in combined or successive views);
- Locations which represent a range of viewing experiences (i.e. static views and points along sequential routes);
- Specific viewpoints selected because they represent promoted views or viewpoints within the landscape; and
- Illustrative viewpoints chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular visual effect or specific issue (which could include restricted visibility in particular locations).

6.64 The viewpoints used to assess the visual effects are listed in **Table 6.5** below and their locations are shown on **Figure 6.1.2**.

Table 6.5: Viewpoint Locations

Viewpoint Locations					
No.	Location ¹²	Reason for Selection	Grid Reference		Approx. Distance (km) ¹³
			Easting	Northing	
1	Loch Awe	This viewpoint represents views available to water-based receptors on Loch Awe.	197750	713480	4.3
2	Dalavich Jetty**	The viewpoint represents views of recreational users on the western shore of the loch and residents in Dalavich. It also represents views	197029	712770	4.6

¹¹ The selection of viewpoints for LVIA should take account of the factors listed in Paragraph 6.20 of GLVIA3.

¹² **Indicates viewpoints which have been selected as night time viewpoints; * indicates viewpoints which are wirelines only included for reference, and do not include a detailed written assessment.

¹³ Distance between viewpoint and the nearest wind turbine of the Proposed Development.

Viewpoint Locations					
No.	Location ¹²	Reason for Selection	Grid Reference		Approx. Distance (km) ¹³
			Easting	Northing	
		experienced by water-based recreational users of the loch.			
3	B840, north of Balliemanoich	This viewpoint represents views available to people travelling along the B840 and recreational users of the loch.	200886	716995	4.5
4	Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)**	This viewpoint represents elevated views experienced by hillwalkers from the folly at Dun na Cuaiche. It also represents views from the West Loch Fyne APQ.	210016	710131	5.7
5	Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich)	This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users as they travel in a south-westerly direction along the minor road to the west of Loch Awe.	197368	714469	5.1
6	Beinn Dearg	This viewpoint represents elevated views from hills to the south.	202389	704908	6.1
7	Core Path above Inverinan	This viewpoint represents views from a popular cycling area, as well as static and sequential views from the road, core path, and residential properties in Inverinan.	199781	717634	5.5
8	Loch Fyne	This viewpoint represents views available to water-based receptors on Loch Fyne.	211310	708460	7.4
9	Kilmaha Viewpoint	This viewpoint represents views from road users on the minor road and cyclists on National Cycle Route 78 at a scenic viewpoint above Loch Awe.	194062	708449	7.6
10	Jetty at St. Catherines	This viewpoint represents views available to residential receptors at St. Catherine's and recreational users of the loch. It also represents views from the East Loch Fyne APQ.	212109	707566	8.6
11	Loch Avich, east of Loch Avich House	This viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors using Loch Avich.	194597	715378	8.0
12	Parking spot, Loch Awe	Represents views experienced by road users and recreational receptors parked at a parking spot along the eastern banks of Loch Awe.	193354	706259	9.2
13	Loch Avich	This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling in an easterly direction along the road by Loch Avich and recreational receptors using Loch Avich.	191875	714316	10.0
14	A886 at Strachur	This viewpoint represents views available to people travelling along the A886, residential receptors at Strachur and recreational users of the loch.	208779	701453	10.9

Viewpoint Locations					
No.	Location ¹²	Reason for Selection	Grid Reference		Approx. Distance (km) ¹³
			Easting	Northing	
15	Fincham Castle, Loch Awe	This viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors visiting Fincham Castle, on the eastern banks of Loch Awe.	189860	704364	13.2
16	B840, East of Ford	This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling along the B840.	187868	703841	15.2
17	North of Ford	The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors on the outskirts of Ford, road users travelling along the minor road, and recreational receptors travelling along the core path and promoted cycle route.	187102	704247	15.7
18	Cruachan Dam	This viewpoint represents recreational receptors experiencing views from Cruachan Dam to the north. Represents views from the North Argyll APQ and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.	208006	728140	16.1
19	Beinn Bheula	This viewpoint represents elevated views experienced from the summit of Beinn Bheula and other nearby hills within the National Park.	215475	698322	17.1
20	Ben Cruachan (1126m)	This viewpoint represents recreational receptors experiencing elevated views from approximately 18km to the north. Represents views from the North Argyll APQ and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA.	206967	730465	18.1
21	Ben Ime	This viewpoint represents views experienced by hillwalkers from the summit of Ben Ime and other nearby hills within the National Park.	225497	708480	21.2
22	Beinn Mhor (Cowal Peninsula and LLTNP)	This viewpoint represents views from a hill summit within the Cowal Peninsular and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.	210784	690825	21.5
23	The Cobbler (Ben Arthur)	This viewpoint represents views experienced by hillwalkers from the summit of The Cobbler and other nearby hills within the National Park.	225927	705827	22.2
24	B845, Loch Etive	This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling southwards along the B845. It is also representative of views from the North Argyll APQ.	198504	736713	24.3
25	Troisgeach	This viewpoint represents views experienced by hillwalkers from a hill summit within the Ben Lui WLA and National Park.	229034	719385	25.7
26	Ben Lui hilltop (1130m) (LLTNP)	This viewpoint represents elevated and distant views from a mountain summit within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Represents views from the North Argyll APQ and the Ben Lui WLA.	226628	726279	26.4

Viewpoint Locations					
No.	Location ¹²	Reason for Selection	Grid Reference		Approx. Distance (km) ¹³
			Easting	Northing	
27	Bridge on Old Military Road*	This viewpoint represents views experienced by people travelling across the Array Bridge in the Inveraray GDL. It also represents views from the West Loch Fyne APQ.	209832	709075	5.8
28	Road summit view travelling SW on minor road to west of Loch Awe*	This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users as they travel in a south-westerly direction along the minor road to the west of Loch Awe.	201300	719720	7.1
29	Beinn Bhuidhe* **	This viewpoint represents elevated and distant views from a mountain summit within the North Argyll APQ and Ben Lui WLA.	220364	718719	17.3
30	Ben Donich*	This viewpoint represents elevated and distant views experienced by hillwalkers from a hill summit within the National Park.	221837	704362	18.7
31	Waverley Paddle Boat*	This viewpoint represents distant views experienced by receptors travelling on the Waverley Paddle Boat across Loch Fyne.	189148	678299	34.8

Settlements

6.65 Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from settlements across the Study Area is illustrated by **Figures 6.1.2** and **6.1.3** and described in **Table 6.6** below. Settlements are those defined as such within the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (2015). The ZTV does not take account of any screening or filtering of views by built form or vegetation, which will substantially reduce visibility from the majority of settlements. To focus on potentially significant effects, settlements from which there is no theoretical visibility are not considered further in this assessment. Settlements with limited visibility over a longer distance i.e. beyond 15km from the Proposed Development; or where views of the surrounding landscape (including the Site) are not important to setting, and where it is unlikely that significant effects can occur, are also not considered further in the assessment.

6.66 Settlements within 5km of the Proposed Development are located within the low-lying fringes of Loch Awe, however visibility from settlements on the eastern shore is partially screened by the rising topography of the hillsides towards the Site in the east. Visibility will be further reduced by the presence of forestry on the slopes, particularly near Eredine. Dispersed farmsteads and individual or small groups of residential properties are located close to roads that follow the edge of Loch Awe.

6.67 Potential visual receptors are primarily located in lower lying areas that fringe Loch Awe to the west and north-west of Proposed Development, and along the eastern side of Loch Awe to the west, including Ardchnell Croft, Blarghour, and Portinnisherrich.

6.68 Between 5km and 15km, settlements are concentrated within the low-lying loch shores of Loch Awe, to the north and south and Loch Fyne to the east. Settlements including Inveraray and Strachur located on the shores of Loch Fyne will have some visibility of the Proposed Development on the skyline, however the intervening hills enclosing Loch Fyne to the west will provide some screening of the Proposed Development and the Site. Views from Ford, at the southern end of Loch Awe, are likely to be restricted by intervening built form and tree cover within parts of the settlements, although clearer views are likely to be available from the roads that follow Loch Awe, when leaving the settlement.

6.69 Between 15km and 45km away, there are larger settlements located along the route of the River Awe to the north (including Taynuilt), along the coastal edge of the Firth of Lorn further to the north-west (including Oban), on the shores of Loch Fyne to the south-west (including Lochgilhead), and along the coast of the Clyde in the south (including Rothesay, Helensburgh and Greenock). There is no theoretical visibility from settlements outside of the Loch Awe and Loch Fyne area, due to their low-lying positions within glens, straths or along coastal edges and the intervening uplands which serve to screen views from these areas.

Table 6.6: Settlements

Settlement	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage)
Eredine	Limited theoretical visibility (generally low levels) across this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Within 15km	
Dalavich	Extensive theoretical visibility across the settlement, potential for close-range views of turbines. Considered in the assessment.
Inverinann	Extensive theoretical visibility across the settlement, potential for close-range views of turbines. Considered in the assessment.
Inveraray	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Kilchrenan	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Annat	Limited theoretical visibility across this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Porsonachan	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Ardbrecknish	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Cladich	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Strachur	Theoretical visibility across the settlement. Considered in the assessment.
Newton	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Furnace	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
St. Catherine's	Theoretical visibility across the settlement. Considered in the assessment.
Minard	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Torran	Limited theoretical visibility around this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Ford	Limited theoretical visibility across this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Kilmelford	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Within 15-45km	
Aberfoyle	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Alexandria	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Ardrishaig	Limited theoretical visibility (generally low levels) across this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
Ballachulish	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Balloch and Haldane	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Bonhill	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Cardross	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.

Settlement	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage)
Drymen	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Dumbarton	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Dunbeg	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Dunoon	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Garelochhead	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Gourock	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Greenock	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Helensburgh	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Innellan	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Inverkip	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Kilcreggan	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Lochgilphead	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Oban	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Port Bannatyne	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Port Glasgow	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Renton	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Rhu	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Rosneath	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Rothesay	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Sandbank	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Skelmorlie	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Tarbert	Limited theoretical visibility across this settlement, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation and built development. Not considered further.
Tighnabruaich	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.
Wemyss Bay	No theoretical visibility. Not considered further.

Routes

6.70 Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from routes (roads, railways and recreational routes) is illustrated on **Figures 6.1.2** and **6.1.3**. Within the Study Area, road and rail routes tend to use low lying areas or valleys and passes, whereas walking routes are more variable and can pass over hills and along ridges. Visibility from a route will vary as you move along it, depending on the surrounding topography, built form and vegetation pattern alongside the route.

6.71 Based on an analysis of theoretical visibility and potential views, **Table 6.7** below provides information on which routes have been carried forward for detailed assessment. Due to the lower susceptibility of receptors typically using roads and railways, those beyond 15km from the Proposed Development have been scoped out of the assessment. Single track roads have also been scoped

out of the assessment as they tend to be less frequently used by large numbers of road users. Due to the higher susceptibility of receptors using promoted long-distance footpaths and cycle routes, including National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, these have been included when they fall within 15km from the Proposed Development. Where there is limited theoretical visibility, or where actual visibility from a route is likely to be limited due to localised screening, these routes are not considered further as the likelihood for significant effects is limited. It is considered that users of Core Paths beyond 10km are unlikely to experience significant effects due to intervening woodland and forestry, topography and built form, therefore Core Paths beyond 10km have been scoped out. There are no other Core Paths within 10km of the Proposed Development.

6.72 The ZTV indicates visibility from continuous sections of the minor road that follows the western shore of Loch Awe between Ford and Inverinan and from sections of the B840 on the eastern shore of Loch Awe between Ford and Eredine. Theoretical visibility along the B840 is greatest along the most southern sections of the route, to the south-west of the Site, however there is potential for intermittent visibility from short sections of the B840 to the north. Both these routes are therefore considered in the assessment.

6.73 Additionally, there is some visibility indicated from sections of the A815 as it follows the shores of Loch Eck and Loch Fyne to the south-east. Views from the sections along the shores of Loch Eck will be screened by vegetation. Similarly, the short section of the A886 which runs along the shores of Loch Fyne before continuing south along Glendaruel, will have visibility. Therefore, both these routes are considered in the assessment.

6.74 From other roads within the Study Area, including the A83, A85, and the A816, the ZTV indicates that there will be no visibility and these are not considered further in the assessment. Theoretical visibility of up to six turbines is indicated from a <1km section of the A819. Given the limited visibility, this route has also not been considered further in the assessment. Other roads within the Study Area are detailed in **Table 6.7**, however none will have visibility and therefore are not considered in the assessment.

6.75 Loch Awe and Loch Avich, to the west and north-west of the Site, are recreational destinations for walking, cycling and water-based recreation. People involved in these recreational activities around Loch Awe and Loch Avich, including cyclists using the cycle route along the minor road to the west of Loch Awe, which connects the NCN Route 78, are considered in the assessment. Users of Loch Awe itself for activities such as sailing and fishing are also considered. Where the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility, visitors to areas designated for ecological or historical importance are also considered. These include Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape.

6.76 Within the wider Study Area, other potential receptors include hill walkers on the hills within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and on the hills to the north such as Ben Cruachan (a Munro), and people walking along long distance routes such as the Cowal Way or Scottish Great Trails. Neither the Cowal Way or any of the Scottish Great Trails within the south-east of the Study Area (West Highland Way, The Rob Roy Way, and Three Lochs Way) will experience visibility.

Table 6.7: Routes

Route	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage)
Major Roads	
A82	No visibility. Not considered further.
A83	Limited visibility of turbines (generally low levels) from localised sections of the route, however views are likely to be often screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
A85	No visibility. Not considered further.
A811	No visibility. Not considered further.
A813	No visibility. Not considered further.
A814	No visibility. Not considered further.
A815	Extensive theoretical visibility of up to nine turbines along route. Considered further.
A816	No visibility. Not considered further.
A817	No visibility. Not considered further.

Route	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Development (ZTV coverage)
A818	No visibility. Not considered further.
A819	Limited visibility of turbines (generally low levels) from localised sections of the route, however views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
A828	No visibility. Not considered further.
A880	No visibility. Not considered further.
A885	No visibility. Not considered further.
A886	Theoretical visibility of turbines from this route, between Strachur and Leanch. Considered further.
A8003	No visibility. Not considered further.
B840	Theoretical visibility along this route, however views are likely to be often screened by vegetation. Given the proximity, this route is considered further.
Minor road along western shore of Loch Awe	Extensive theoretical visibility along route. Considered further.
Recreational Routes	
Cowal Way	Very limited theoretical visibility along route. Not considered further.
West Highland Way	No visibility. Not considered further.
The Rob Roy Way	No visibility. Not considered further.
Three Lochs Way	No visibility. Not considered further.
On-road cycle route on Minor Road to west of Loch Awe (connecting NCN Route 78 in the south-west to the north-west)	Extensive theoretical visibility along route by Loch Awe. Considered further.

Other Wind Farm Development

Existing Wind Farm Development

6.77 There are several operational wind farms and wind farms under construction located across the Study Area, as listed in **Table 6.8** below and shown on **Figure 6.1.8**. Operational wind farms and those under construction are included as part of the baseline for the LVIA and considered as part of the primary LVIA assessment.

Identification of Developments to be included in the CLVIA

6.78 In line with NatureScot guidance¹⁴, the scope for the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects included wind farms and wind farm proposals within an initial 60km radius search area from the Proposed Development, to identify the distribution of wind energy development in the wider area, as shown on **Figure 6.1.8**.

6.79 The assessment of effects focuses on developments that are likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects, and concentrates on the relationship between the Proposed Development and other operational, consented and proposed developments (i.e. developments with a valid application or awaiting determination following appeal/public inquiry). Given the varied status, and therefore

certainty, associated with un-built wind farms across the Study Area the CLVIA is structured to report on two potential development scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Higher level of certainty – the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction and consented wind farms.
- Scenario 2: Lower level of certainty – the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented and undetermined valid planning applications (including selected applications at Scoping stage when their consideration is requested by consultees).

6.80 In this instance, the assessment focuses on schemes within 20km of the Proposed Development, because of the limited scope for significant cumulative effects beyond this distance. Wireframes in **Figures 6.2.1 to 6.2.31** show wind farms within 30km of the Proposed Development, to illustrate the wider cumulative context. Cumulative schemes within 45km are listed in **Table 6.8** below.

6.81 Single turbines were given consideration where it was judged that potential interactions with the Proposed Development may give rise to significant cumulative effects; this was judged to be within 5km of the Proposed Development. Proposals that have not yet progressed beyond Scoping stage are not considered within the assessment.

6.82 Wind energy developments located within the 20km radius Study Area, which are considered likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects and therefore included in the CLVIA have been selected as follows:

- Single wind turbines of ≥50m maximum blade tip height within a 5km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines; and
- Wind farms (e.g. clusters of 2 or more wind turbines) with wind turbines of ≥50m maximum blade tip height within a 20km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines.

6.83 Consented wind farms and wind farms currently in the planning system, are considered as part of the assessment of potential future cumulative effects and included in the CLVIA.

6.84 Following finalisation of design for the Proposed Development, a cut-off date of 23rd June 2022 was applied for the inclusion of developments within the cumulative assessment. These developments are listed in **Table 6.8** below, and shown on **Figure 6.1.9**. Wind farms included in the assessment are highlighted in grey.

Table 6.8: Other wind farm developments within 45km¹⁵

Name	Status	Number of Turbines	Maximum Blade Tip Height (m)	Distance (km) ¹⁶	Scenario
Blarghour	Scoping	17	180	0.5	Scenario 2
An Suidhe	Operational	23	80	1.9	Existing baseline ¹⁷
Eredine	Scoping	26	230	5.1	Scenario 2
Ladyfield	Scoping	18	200	5.7	Scenario 2
Carraig Gheal	Operational	20	125	8.7	Existing baseline
Musdale	Scoping	16	132	10.9	Scenario 2
Creag Dhubh	Appeal/ Public Inquiry	9	144.4	11.2	Scenario 2
Clachan Flats	Operational	9	93	12.7	Existing baseline
Beinn Ghlas	Operational	14	57	13.3	Existing baseline
A'Chruach	Operational	21	126.5	13.8	Existing baseline

¹⁴ NatureScot (2021) Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments

¹⁵ As of 23rd June 2022.

¹⁶ Approximate distance between the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development and other wind farms.

¹⁷ Existing baseline schemes are included within both Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.

Name	Status	Number of Turbines	Maximum Blade Tip Height (m)	Distance (km) ¹⁶	Scenario
A'Chruach Extension	Consented	2	135	15.2	Scenario 1
Cruach Mhor	Operational	35	72	22.1	Existing baseline
Barran Caltunn	Consented	2	54	22.5	Scenario 1
Srondoire	Operational	3	110	38.9	Existing baseline
Allt Dearg	Operational	12	81	39.1	Existing baseline
Inverclyde	Operational	8	110	45.3	Existing baseline

6.85 It should be noted that the baseline situation is constantly changing, and there may be changes to the status or list of wind energy developments considered between carrying out the assessment and the determination of the application. Unless there are substantial changes to proposals that will materially alter the pattern of cumulative development (such as the addition of a large wind farm located within a c.10km radius of the Proposed Development), it is considered that the cumulative assessment undertaken for the relevant landscape and visual receptors will remain relevant.

6.86 The assessment and visualisations were prepared on the basis of the information on the nearby schemes as detailed in **Table 6.8** above. However, since the cut-off date, there have been some changes to the cumulative baseline, notably:

- Blarghour Wind Farm (0.5km) has an application for 14 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180m which was submitted in March 2023. Since the 'scoping stage layout', which was used to inform the CLVIA, three of the north-western turbines (T1, T4 and T7) have been removed for the 'application layout'. For the purposes of the CLVIA, the removal of these turbines is not likely to result in changes to the composition of Blarghour and the Proposed Development when viewed together (e.g., there will not be an increased gap between the two schemes), and it is considered that the scoping layout still represents a worst-case scenario, as it contains more turbines.
- Creag Dhubh Wind Farm (11.2km) has been consented following appeal in November 2022.
- Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm (13.3km) has a Scoping application to increase maximum blade tip height to 180m.
- Glasvaar Wind Farm (14.5km) has an application for 11 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 149.9m.

6.87 Beinn Ghlas and Creag Dhubh are already considered in the CLVIA, albeit under different scenarios (i.e. under the parameters as set out in **Table 6.8**). Glasvaar has not been included in the assessment, as at the time of the cumulative cut-off date it was at Scoping stage, however, given the intervening distance and its proximity to the A'Chruach cluster, significant cumulative effects are unlikely to occur. As such, the visualisations and assessment are presented are considered to be representative and can be relied on as accurate at the time of writing.

6.88 The CLVIA has focussed on the assessment of 'additional' cumulative effects, i.e. the extra effect of adding the Proposed Development to a baseline of other built or unbuilt wind farms. Where cumulative effects are considered to be significant (**in combination**), then reference is also made to these (i.e. an unlikely assessment scenario which considers the effects if all current, past and future proposals are deemed present, including the Proposed Development).

6.89 Combined ZTVs (**Figures 6.1.10 to 6.1.14**) for other wind farms have been prepared to show where ZTVs overlap and where cumulative effects may arise. This includes combined views – two wind farms seen at the same time in a similar direction - and successive views - two wind farms seen from the same location but in different directions (i.e. the observer will need to turn round).

General Observations – Current Baseline (Operational and Under Construction Developments)

6.90 General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing wind energy development across the Study Area are summarised below:

- The closest commercial scale wind farm development to the Site, An Suidhe Wind Farm, is located immediately south of the Site 1.9km to the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development;

- Approximately 22.1km further south of the Site, the operational Cruach Mhor Wind Farm is present;
- At a distance of 13.8km to the south-west of the Site, there is a small cluster of existing wind turbines comprising the A'Chruach Wind Farm;
- The operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm is located at a distance of 12.7km to the north-east of the Proposed Development;
- The operational Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms are both located to the north-west of the Proposed Development, at distances of 8.7km and 13.3km, respectively; and
- More distant operational wind farms within the Study Area include the cluster of Allt Dearg and Sromdoire 39km to the south-west, and Inverclyde 45.3km to the south-east of the Proposed Development.

6.91 The Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (CZTV) in **Figure 6.1.10** illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational wind farms within 20km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together.

6.92 Within 5km of the Proposed Development the CZTV indicates that the Proposed Development will typically be seen together with other operational wind farms (in particular An Suidhe and Carraig Gheal Wind Farms) from areas of undulating moorland to the north-east, north-west and south of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will introduce additional visibility of wind turbines in localised areas to the north and west of the Site, in topographic low points which are shielded from view of other wind farms. Most of the introduced visibility is within the undulating moorland plateau, although a small area along the B840 south of Portinnisherrich will have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development alone. This visibility will be of blades, however visibility is likely to be further reduced due to screening by intervening vegetation. To the north-east, a small section of the A819 along Glen Array will have theoretical visibility of blades of the Proposed Development. This visibility will also be reduced due to vegetation on the horizon.

6.93 Beyond 5km, the Proposed Development will typically be seen together with other operational wind farms located within the undulating moorland to the east and west of Loch Awe. Large areas of the moorland to the west of Loch Awe are indicated as having theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and other operational schemes, notably Carraig Gheal and An Suidhe Wind Farm. Likewise, elevated hill summits in the north and east of the Study Area will have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development alongside operational schemes. Lower-lying land to the north and south of the Study Area will have theoretical visibility of other operational schemes alone, as the undulating nature of the landform screens visibility of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of wind turbines in several localised areas of the Study Area, including on the lower west-facing slopes of the hills enclosing Glen Array, the slopes enclosing the southern extents of Loch Awe and the slopes to the north of Loch Avich. A relatively large area of Loch Fyne, immediately east of Inveraray will have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development along with the lower slopes of Glen Kinglass and the A815 along Loch Eck.

General Observations – Consented Developments (Existing, plus Consented Developments)

6.94 There are two consented developments within the Study Area: Barran Caltunn, located at a distance of 22.5km to the north-west of the Proposed Development, and A'Chruach Extension immediately adjacent to the operational A'Chruach Wind Farm at a distance of 15.2km to the south.

6.95 Blarghour Wind Farm, which is located 0.5km to the north of the Proposed Development was previously consented at 136.5m to tip, however in June 2022 a new Scoping application went in to increase the maximum blade tip height to 180m. The cumulative assessment considers the more recent Blarghour Scoping application as this represents the worst-case scenario.

6.96 The CZTV in **Figure 6.1.11** illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational and consented wind farms within 20km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together.

6.97 Given that the consented A'Chruach Extension is in close proximity to another existing wind farm, and that Barran Caltunn is located some distance to the north-west of the Study Area, the patterns of visibility will be very similar to the operational CZTV shown in **Figure 6.1.10** as described under paragraph 6.92 above.

6.98 Within 5km of the Proposed Development, the CZTV indicates that the area where only the Proposed Development will be visible is the exact same as that shown with **Figure 6.1.10**. Beyond 5km the CZTV indicates that the area where only the Proposed Development will be visible is slightly reduced, as compared with **Figure 6.1.10**, in a localised area of the waters of Loch Fyne, near St. Catherine's. The area where only other wind farms are visible is increased, as compared with **Figure 6.1.10**, in the far north-west of the Study Area, where Barran Caltunn is likely to be visible.

General Observations – Proposed Developments at Application and Appeal

6.99 General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing, consented and proposed wind energy development across the Study Area are summarised below:

- Creag Dhubh Wind Farm (considered as 'at appeal' status in the CLVIA but was consented in November 2022) is located 11.2km to the south-east of the Proposed Development, near Strachur.
- Blarghour Wind Farm (at Scoping for maximum blade tip height of 180m however previously consented at 136.5m maximum blade tip height) is located immediately adjacent to the north of the Site. At its closest, Blarghour Wind Farm is located 0.5km to the north of the closest turbine of the Proposed Development. This wind farm, if consented, will increase the extent of wind turbines on the plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne.
- Several other wind farms within proximity to the Proposed Development are currently at Scoping stage in the planning process. This includes Eredine Wind Farm, 5.1km to the south-west of the Proposed Development, Ladyfield Wind Farm 5.7km to the north-east, and Musdale Wind Farm 10.9km to the north-west.

6.100 The CZTV in **Figure 6.1.12** illustrates where only the Proposed Development is theoretically visible, where only other operational, consented and proposed wind farms within 20km are theoretically visible, and where both are theoretically visible together.

6.101 Within 5km of the Proposed Development, the CZTV indicates that the area where only the Proposed Development will be visible is slightly less than as that shown with **Figure 6.1.11**. This is due to interactions with the neighbouring Blarghour scheme (proposed but previously consented, with smaller turbines). Beyond 5km, the CZTV indicates that much of the Study Area will have theoretical visibility of wind farm developments when the additional proposed wind farm developments (application stage wind farms) are considered. Overall, theoretical visibility will increase, introducing visibility in lower-lying areas of the Study Area such as Glen Array and the waters of Loch Fyne, and in the north-west of the Study Area towards Oban.

6.102 A large proportion of the study area is likely to experience theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development alongside other existing, consented and proposed wind farms, however the area in which the Proposed Development will be visible in isolation is limited. The area from where the Proposed Development is theoretically visible in isolation will be further reduced when compared with that of operational and consented schemes, with theoretical visibility experienced from the lower north-facing slopes along Glen Kinglass, from the northern extents of Loch Eck and along part of the A815, and from some small and very localised pockets of visibility in the west of the Study Area.

Climate Change

6.103 For West Scotland, the UK Climate Change Projections 2018 (UKCP18) projects that temperatures are projected to increase, particularly in summer, and winter rainfall is projected to increase whilst summer rainfall is most likely to decrease. The Landscape Institute's "*Landscape for 2030*"¹⁸ acknowledges that changes in average temperatures, precipitation and extreme weather events will have an effect on the landscape. However, whilst a change in rainfall and rising temperatures are anticipated, it is not considered that this will appreciably change the baseline landscape conditions. Mitigation associated with reducing climate change is likely to be a more noticeable change in the landscape.

Future Baseline in the Absence of the Proposed Development

6.104 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is likely that the land will continue under the same land use, and the character of the Site is therefore unlikely to change notably. However, the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area is likely to be influenced by a number of 'forces for change' including further wind energy development. Forces for change are those factors affecting the evolution of the landscape and which may, consequently, affect the perception of the Study Area in the near or distant future. Although prediction of these is necessarily speculative, those of particular relevance are discussed briefly below.

6.105 Wind farm development is a clear force for change and is likely to continue. **Figure 6.1.8** illustrates the location and extent of operational, consented and proposed wind farms within the Study Area. Commercial forestry plantations across the Study Area are likely to remain an important land use.

¹⁸ Landscape Institute (2021) Landscape for 2030: How landscape practice can respond to the climate crisis [pdf]. Available at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2021/04/12510-LANDSCAPE-2030_v6.pdf

Design Considerations

6.106 Policy 11(e)ii of NPF4 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 appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable*". The design of the Proposed Development aims to achieve a coherent and balanced turbine layout, in line with guidance provided by SNH¹⁹. The rationale behind the design strategy and documentation of the iterative design process in response to the technical and environmental constraints is identified in **Chapter 3**. The objective in designing the wind farm has been to develop a layout that responds to its setting in terms of landform and pattern, and which presents a simple visual image, avoiding the clustering of turbines and the isolation of outlying turbines in views from key locations and views from sequential routes seen by a range of different receptors (people) of varying sensitivity, and to balance this alongside environmental and technical constraints.

6.107 The design of the Proposed Development also considers its interaction in both landscape and visual terms with other existing and proposed wind farms, including the adjacent operational wind farm of An Suidhe, and particularly the proposed (previously consented) Blarghour Wind Farm, located within the Craggy Uplands LCT and other operational and consented wind farms within the vicinity of the Site. The design of the turbine layout has taken into consideration compatibility in scale and composition with adjacent wind energy developments as far as practical, including those currently at Scoping stage. It is noted however that An Suidhe Wind Farm is relatively small and dated, as compared to schemes that are currently coming forward.

6.108 Views from the settlement of Dalavich on the west side of Loch Awe were an important consideration during the design process. The main aim was to create a layout which appears relatively evenly spaced, avoids the stacking of turbines and the isolation of outlying turbines, and is set back from Loch Awe. The layout sought to locate turbines behind the foreground ridge enclosing the loch, to prevent the appearance of turbines encroaching down the enclosing slopes, and to help maximise the perceived sense of separation between the Proposed Development and Dalavich/ Loch Awe. Furthermore, the layout was designed to avoid high landform within the Site to help remove visibility of hubs above the ridge skyline in views from the east, around Loch Fyne, such as at St. Catherine's and Strachur. Here, as elsewhere, the relationship with Blarghour was carefully considered.

Micrositing

6.109 Prior to construction, micrositing may take place to allow adjustment within a defined radius of the proposed turbine locations, and a similar tolerance either side of indicative access track locations. The micrositing allowance for turbines and associated infrastructure is 50m, as set out in **Chapter 4**. This will ensure that the final position of the turbines and associated infrastructure are not varied to such a degree as to cause a notable change in the predicted environmental effects, but allows flexibility should unfavourable or unforeseen ground conditions be encountered. The assessment of effects will remain valid despite micrositing, should it be required.

Good Practice Measures

6.110 Landscape and visual considerations, including the appearance of the Proposed Development from key viewpoints, played a key role in the progression of the wind farm design. Consideration was given to the location of the turbines, as well as all ancillary infrastructure. Best practice guidance, including Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (SNH, 2017) was considered throughout the design process. The development of the wind farm design is discussed in detail in **Chapter 3**. Further commitments which have been made to reduce landscape and visual effects, such as the protection of vegetation and restoration of disturbed areas after construction are detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Outline Peat Management Plan (Outline PMP), and Outline Restoration and Enhancement Plan (OREP).

6.111 No further additional mitigation measures have been identified, and no monitoring of landscape and visual effects is proposed.

Assessment of Effects

6.112 The assessment of effects is based on the project description as outlined in **Chapter 4**. Unless otherwise stated, potential effects identified are considered to be negative.

¹⁹ SNH (August 2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (Version 3a)

6.113 The assessment of landscape and visual effects follows the methodology summarised in this chapter and set out in detail in **Appendix 6.1**, and is based upon the project description outlined in **Chapter 4**. The LVIA reports on construction and operational effects separately.

Construction Effects

Sources of Effects During Construction

6.114 During the proposed 18 month construction phase, there will be potential short-term landscape effects arising from the presence of partially constructed infrastructure and construction activities on the Site (as described in **Chapter 4**). Effects occurring during the construction phase are considered to be reversible unless otherwise stated.

6.115 The changes arising from the construction of the Proposed Development, as outlined in **Chapter 4**, will include:

- The introduction of construction activity and vehicular/personnel movements around the Site and on local roads;
- The creation of three borrow pits and extraction of material;
- The disturbance of areas of land and surface vegetation at the locations of the borrow pits and other ancillary elements, turbine bases and along the access track routes;
- Construction of temporary construction compounds, laydown areas and car park;
- The creation of site access tracks, including passing places, turning heads, junctions and watercourse crossings;
- Construction of the new control building and substation compound;
- Construction of turbine foundations;
- Construction of crane hardstandings adjacent to each turbine;
- Excavation of trenches and laying of underground cables connecting the turbines to the onsite substation;
- The introduction of tall vertical structures (turbines and anemometer mast) and the use of cranes;
- The need for lighting during construction if work extends into hours of darkness; and
- Site restoration (including restoration of disturbed moorland vegetation).

Predicted Construction Effects on the Landscape

6.116 Potential effects on the landscape character and resources of the Site during construction are set out in **Table 6.9** below.

Table 6.9: Effects of construction on the Site

Effects of Construction on the Site	
Baseline Description	The Site is described in detail in the section: The Site and Context.
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The Site forms part of a large-scale landscape with a simple pattern of upland moorland. The Site forms part of the distinctive ridge skyline visible from the neighbouring lochs of Loch Fyne in the east, and Loch Awe in the west, is inter-visible with nearby designated landscapes. Human influences within the Site are limited. Overall, susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>The Site is not within a designated landscape (except a very small area of the proposed site access to the east which is within the West Loch Fyne Coast APQ) but is inter-visible with other locally designated landscapes in proximity, including the North Argyll APQ, 5.5km to the north, and the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ, 9.5km to the east. Overall, the landscape value of the Site is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is medium.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	Construction activities will result in direct effects on the landscape of the Site. The main construction activities with the potential to affect the Site include excavations, including borrow pits, and track construction; the presence of tall cranes and partially built towers whilst turbines are being erected; and the movement of construction vehicles and plant. Construction activity

Effects of Construction on the Site	
	<p>within the West Loch Fyne Coast APQ will be limited to slight alterations to a single bend on the existing track. Dense forestry and woodland surrounding the track will limit visibility of the construction works form within the APQ with a small-scale change expected. Overall, considering the construction of the wind turbines, there will be large-scale changes within the Site relating to construction activity.</p> <p>The geographical extent of these changes will be at the Site level (small) with the undulating nature of the Site helping to reduce effects associated with lower level construction activity. The construction works are expected to last approximately 18 months, so will be temporary and short-term.</p> <p>The level of reversibility will be varied, from fully reversible changes associated with ground disturbances (albeit that vegetation will take some time to recover) to longer lasting effects associated with excavations like borrow pits and infrastructure that forms part of the operational scheme.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be high. The magnitude of change is judged to be low for the area within the APQ.</p>
Effect and significance	Overall, the effect of construction on the Site will be Significant (Major) , however many of these effects will be temporary and largely contained within the geographical extent of the Site. Most of the more widely apparent effects will reduce following the 18 month construction period. Not Significant (Minor) effects are expected in relation to the section of the Site within the APQ.

Visual Effects During Construction

6.117 In terms of visual effects during the construction phase, beyond those experienced at the Site level where low level construction activity will be apparent in certain views, these will largely relate to views of tall cranes and turbine construction experienced from the wider Study Area. These effects will be transient and change throughout the construction period as wind turbines are gradually constructed in sections. As such, visual effects during the construction phase are unlikely to exceed the level of effect associated with operational visual effects, and are not assessed separately.

Proposed Mitigation

6.118 Measures such as arrangements for vegetation and soil removal, storage and replacement and the restoration of disturbed areas after construction are detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) produced following consent and prior to construction, which will also include reference to Construction Method Statements.

Residual Construction Effects

6.119 The assessment of effects above assumes all construction related, best practice, mitigation measures are implemented, therefore the residual effects arising from construction will remain as identified in the section above.

Decommissioning

6.120 As noted in **Chapter 2**, an assessment of potential effects associated with decommissioning has not been provided in the EIA. However, due to the similar activities involved in both the construction and dismantling of a wind farm site, a similar level of effect is predicted on visual amenity within the Study Area.

Operational Landscape Effects

Sources of Effects During Operation

6.121 The main potential effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape once operational will be associated with the presence of the wind turbines, turbine transformers and related development including access tracks, borrow pits, on-site substation and main site access track as described in **Chapter 4** and shown on **Figures 4.1.a.1-7** and **4.1.b.1-7**.

Predicted Operational Effects on the Landscape

6.122 This section describes the operational effects resulting from the Proposed Development on the landscape fabric of the Site and the LCTs which have been identified as requiring detailed consideration in **Table 6.2**. Further information on key characteristics of each LCT and relevant designated landscapes is provided.

6.123 All operational effects are judged to be long term and reversible, unless specified otherwise.

Effects on the Site

Table 6.10: Effects of Operation on the Site

Effects of Operation on the Site	
Baseline Description	The Site is described in detail in the section: The Site and Context.
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	The Site is judged to be of medium sensitivity as set out in Table 6.9 : above.
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	There will be large-scale changes to the Site relating to the introduction of new features including up to 13 turbines and associated infrastructure (including access roads and turning areas, borrow pits, hard standings, and substation) which will change the character of the Site from moorland to moorland with a wind farm. The change will be experienced within a small geographical extent. The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high .
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect on the Site will be Significant (Major) .

Effects of Ancillary Infrastructure

6.124 Ancillary infrastructure of the Proposed Development is described in paragraph 6.121. It includes onsite access tracks totalling 23.1km in length (16.5km of this track will be new, and 6.6km will be upgraded existing track). The Proposed Development will make use of three borrow pits. Two borrow pits are existing, located alongside the existing access track, and a further third borrow pit will be created adjacent to Turbine 11. The new borrow pit will be restored following construction.

6.125 The majority of the Proposed Development will be located in LCT 7 Craggy Uplands (including 11 turbines, one new borrow pit and around half the access track all of which will be new access track. Two turbines, the two existing borrow pits and the remainder of the access track (including all 6.6km to be upgraded) will be located in LCT 6a Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic.

6.126 The construction of the new access track will result in the loss of moorland vegetation. In addition, small areas of forestry where the existing track needs upgrading may be lost. Due to screening by forestry, upgraded sections of the existing track are unlikely to be noticeable in the wider landscape context, and will not result in the introduction of new features to the landscape.

6.127 The new access track further west may have more direct effects on the landscape. Although the track has been designed to minimise the extent of earthworks necessary, effects on landscape character will arise. However, these effects will be experienced more locally, within 500m of the track. The undulating nature of the moorland will help further screen the tracks in the landscape, particularly from lower elevations.

6.128 The creation of a new borrow pit adjacent to T11 will also have direct effects on landscape character. However, the undulating nature of the moorland landscape will help screen views of the borrow pit. Furthermore, as the borrow pit will be restored following construction, any adverse effects on the landscape character will be short-term and reversible, and the location of the borrow pit will be barely perceptible in the longer-term.

Effects on Landscape Character Types

6.129 The following tables provide a detailed assessment of effects on LCTs which have been carried forward for detailed assessment, as set out in **Table 6.2**. LCTs are illustrated on **Figure 6.1.4**, with theoretical visibility from those LCTs indicated by the ZTV shown on **Figure 6.1.5**. The assessment describes the potential effects on landscape character resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development during the operational phase. The assessment is limited to those LCTs where potentially significant effects are considered possible, as detailed in **Table 6.2**. Operational effects are considered to be long-term, reversible and adverse unless stated otherwise.

Table 6.11: LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands (Host)

LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands (Host)	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers two large areas of irregular upland plateau lying either side of Loch Awe. The most extensive unit is located in the north-west of the Study Area, whilst the second unit covers the plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. The Site is predominantly located within this LCT. LCT 7 shares the same boundary as LCT 40 – Craggy Upland – Argyll (NatureScot National LCA).</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An expansive upland area attaining an average elevation of around 300m but with occasional hills extending to over 500m. The area appears as an undulating plateau dominated by sweeping horizontal scale. On closer inspection, the long ridges which create this impression from afar, contain well defined valleys and scale is reduced in valleys and basins such as those occupied by Loch Avich and Loch Nant; ■ A craggy landform with numerous rocky outcrops and a knobbly texture. Uplands are dissected by steep glens to form ridges with an irregular silhouette; ■ Open moorland predominates, but extensive conifer plantations also occur; ■ Several lochs are present throughout the LCT, and tend to be the focus for settlement. Small lochans and knolls create an intricate pattern to the south-west of Eredine Forest; ■ This area is sparsely settled with occasional isolated farms on lower slopes within the glens. It does not appear to be extensively used for recreation; ■ Upland area is difficult to access and can feel remote; ■ More extensive areas of unmodified upland, often with a complex landform/loch pattern, are less influenced by forestry and wind farm development; ■ Narrow roads extend alongside Loch Awe, through the valley accommodating Loch Avich and partially accessing the interior at Musdale via Glen Feochan from the west; ■ Views are generally restricted by landform and extensive forestry although breaks in forest/tree cover allow open views across Loch Awe to the higher core. <p>The LWECs identifies this LCT as being of high sensitivity to very large (>130m) turbines. Although the simple pattern of moorland reduces sensitivity to wind energy development, areas with craggy knolls and lochans have an increased sensitivity. Furthermore, the skylines this LCT create in views from the settled shores of Loch Awe are particularly sensitive, and it is noted that cumulative effects may potentially arise due to existing operational development within the LCT.</p> <p>The operational An Suidhe (23 turbines at 80m maximum blade tip height), A'Chruach (21 turbines at 126.5m maximum blade tip height), Carraig Gheal (20 turbines at 125m tip height) and Beinn Ghlas (14 turbines at 57m maximum blade tip height) Wind Farms are located within the LCT. An Suidhe and A'Chruach Wind Farms are located to the south and south-west, whilst Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas are to the north-west of the Proposed Development.</p>
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The simple pattern of landcover, large scale landform and existing presence of wind farm development indicate a lower susceptibility, whilst the importance of the skyline of these ridges enclosing nearby lochs indicates a higher susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The northernmost extents of the LCT are located within the North Argyll APQ. In addition, the most western extents of the LCT unit to the west of the Site falls within the Knapdale/Melfort APQ. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high.</p> <p>Areas of the LCT in which operational wind farm developments are located, including to the south of the Site, and in the north-east of the Study Area are judged to be of lower sensitivity. However, considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>

LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands (Host)	
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>Direct operational effects on this LCT will arise through the introduction of 11 turbines and associated infrastructure within the Site (with the two other turbines located within the neighbouring LCT 6a - Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic).</p> <p>The introduction of turbines will locally alter the “open moorland” which dominates the landscape (including the Site) and may disrupt the “sense of naturalness” and “remote feel” of the area which are noted in relation to perception in the LWECS (2017). However, it is recognised that the upland area within this LCT is already influenced by wind energy developments located within the LCT. The Proposed Development will be introduced nearby (within 2km) the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, and will be seen in the context of this existing wind farm, albeit as a distinctly separate development, with larger turbines.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is extensive theoretical visibility from this LCT within 10km, particularly the area immediately surrounding the Proposed Development, but also the lower slopes of the LCT unit to the north-west of Loch Awe. Theoretical visibility is also extensive across the more distant areas of the LCT unit to the north-west of Loch Awe, with visibility extending to distances of approximately 15km. Within the unit in which the Site is located, visibility is limited to 5km due to intervening landform of Loch Dubh na Cruaidhe and Sron Breac-liath in the north, and An Suidhe and Creag Ghranda in the south. Site infrastructure, including tracks and borrow pits will be visible from areas that have elevated views of the Site, including parts of the area to the west of Loch Awe.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be a noticeable feature in views towards the interior of the LCT, and across Loch Awe where the turbines will often be seen on the prominent skyline, impeding on the “sense of naturalness” of the LCT. In lower-lying and more distant views from the unit to the north-west of the Site, and to the north and south of the host unit, the Proposed Development will be afforded some screening by intervening topography and forestry, reducing the perceived effects on landscape character. However, views from closer, more elevated locations facing the Site will be more extensive with limited screening.</p> <p>A large-scale change will be experienced over a large geographical extent, particularly in the unit to the north-west of Loch Awe. Overall, the magnitude of change across the LCT is judged to be high within up to 10km of the Proposed Development in places. However, this is reduced to approximately 4-5km within the host LCT unit due to intervening landform to the south-west and north-east. Effects will be more widespread across remote upland to the north west, albeit much of this is under the cover of commercial forestry and rough moorland. The scale and magnitude of change will reduce gradually with distance.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Significant (Major) within up to 10km of the Proposed Development in places. It will be less extensive to the north-east and south-west (contained within 4-5km by landform), reducing to Not Significant (Minor) beyond.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within this LCT. The consented A'Chruach Extension is located in the neighbouring LCT (6a: Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic), however this consented scheme is immediately adjacent to the operational A'Chruach Wind Farm and is designed as an immediate extension to this. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently three proposed schemes (all at Scoping stage) within this LCT. Blarghour Wind Farm and Eredine Wind Farm within the moorland plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. These schemes are located to the north and south of the Proposed Development, respectively. Musdale Wind Farm is located in the unit to the west of Loch Awe.</p> <p>The presence of Blarghour and Eredine Wind Farms within the LCT unit of the Proposed Development will result in wind farm development becoming more widespread across a larger section of the LCT. Likewise, the presence of Musdale in the westerly unit will extend the presence of turbines in this unit, filling a gap between the operational Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal Wind Farms.</p>

LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands (Host)	
	<p>The Proposed Development will be one of a series of wind farms present across the Craggy Upland LCT both to the east and west of Loch Awe. Visibility of wind farms across this LCT will be extensive, however, as indicated by the lack of green areas in Figure 6.1.12, the addition of the Proposed Development will not contribute substantially to the extension of visual influence over this area. This is due to its close proximity to An Suidhe Wind Farm and the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm, in which it will be viewed alongside. Although notably different in scale to An Suidhe, the Proposed Development will appear as one larger development alongside the proposed Blarghour scheme.</p> <p>With the introduction of Eredine, Blarghour and Musdale Wind Farm to the baseline, visual influence of this form of development across the LCT will increase but the addition of the Proposed Development in this scenario will not give rise to substantial additional change in the landscape character of these areas.</p> <p>The magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be medium, and will result in a Significant (Moderate) effect.</p>

Table 6.12: LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (Host)

LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (Host)	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers three areas of upland plateau moorland with a strong presence of forestry. The two largest units are found on both sides of Loch Fyne, running for most of the loch’s length. Units are generally elongated in nature, oriented in a north-east to south-west alignment. The third unit is smaller, and is located to the south of Tighnabruaich. The area of the Site between Inveraray and Garbh Achadh is located within this LCT. LCT 6a shares the same boundary as LCT 39 – Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll (NatureScot National LCA).</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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; ■ 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-west side 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. <p>The LWECS identifies this LCT as being of high sensitivity to very large (>130m) turbines, due to its transitional nature from settled loch fringe to craggy uplands. Furthermore, its complex and smaller scale landform, and the prominent and distinctive backdrop and skyline it creates in views from Loch Fyne increases its sensitivity.</p> <p>The operational A'Chruach Wind Farm (21 turbines at 126.5m maximum blade tip height) is located within the LCT, to the south-west of the Proposed Development.</p>

LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (Host)	
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The rugged, varied landform, with pronounced hills that form the skylines in views from the settlements on the shores of Loch Fyne indicates a higher susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed. However, the large-scale undulating plateau which forms a transition with LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands has lower susceptibility.</p> <p>Large areas of the LCT are modified by commercial forestry. A small proportion of the LCT lies within designated landscapes. The eastern boundary of the host unit falls within the West Loch Fyne (Coast) APQ. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Areas of the LCT in which operational wind farm developments are located, notably to the south of the Site, are judged to be of lower sensitivity. Furthermore, nearby wind farms in surrounding LCTs also indirectly influence the character. However, considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>Direct operational effects will arise through the introduction of up to 2 turbines and associated infrastructure within the Site (with the other 11 turbines located within the neighbouring LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands). The introduction of turbines will locally alter the “<i>sharp ridges, steep slopes and... distinctive craggy conical peaks</i>” and the “<i>large-scale mosaic of extensive forest and open moorland</i>” which is the predominant landcover. The Proposed Development may disrupt the “<i>sense of seclusion</i>” experienced within the interior parts of the landscape on the western side of Loch Fyne which is noted in relation to perception in the LWECS (2017).</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is theoretical visibility from this LCT within 5km, particularly the area to the north and east of the Proposed Development, near Cruach Mhor and Dun Corr-bhile. To the south-east of the Site, theoretical visibility is reduced to up to three turbines due to the intervening landform of Beinn Bhreac, on the boundary of the Site. Beyond 5km, theoretical visibility is largely limited to site-facing slopes in the LCT unit along the eastern coast of Loch Fyne, between distances of 11km and 24km. These slopes and summits have theoretical visibility of up to all turbines. Likewise, site-facing slopes in more distant LCT units in Knapdale and Kintyre will have visibility of up to all turbines, however these areas are at distances between approximately 27km and 47km.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be a noticeable feature in views within this LCT alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm, particularly the host unit where the turbines will be seen as being large scale set against the skyline. The Proposed Development will also influence the character of the LCT in views experienced from beyond its boundaries. For example, the introduction of vertical structures on the rugged slopes which form a backdrop to the low-lying Loch Fyne can provide scale, reducing the apparent height of the enclosing ridge. Many turbines will be screened from views by the shore of Loch Fyne, particularly to the south-east. From more distant views across the units to the east of Loch Fyne and in Knapdale, the Proposed Development will appear of a smaller scale due to the greater intervening distance. The Proposed Development will be afforded screening by intervening topography and vegetation, however will still appear to sit against the skyline.</p> <p>A large-scale change will be experienced over a medium geographical extent, particularly to the north and north-east within the host unit. Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be high within 5km of the Proposed Development, however is reduced to low elsewhere and across other LCT units.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Significant (Moderate) within up to 5km. This reduces to Not Significant (Minor) elsewhere.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>The consented A'Chruach Extension is located within this LCT, and forms a two-turbine extension to the operational A'Chruach Wind Farm. As the consented extension is immediately adjacent to the operational scheme, and will be viewed as one development, no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There is currently one proposed scheme, Ladyfield Wind Farm (at Scoping), located within this LCT to the east of Glen Array. Much of the LCT already has extensive theoretical visibility of existing wind farm development, however more visibility will be introduced into the areas north-</p>

LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (Host)	
	<p>east of Glen Array due to the presence of the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will also be theoretically visible here, however will be partially screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be one of a series of wind farms present in elevated views from this LCT, particularly towards the west and south-west. Visibility of wind farms across this LCT will be extensive, particularly due to existing operational schemes in the LCT and the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm. However, as indicated by the lack of green areas in Figure 6.1.12, the addition of the Proposed Development will not contribute substantially to the extension of visual influence over this area, and where visible will be largely screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>This is due to its close proximity to An Suidhe Wind Farm and the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm, with which it will be viewed alongside. Although notably different in scale to An Suidhe, the Proposed Development will appear as one development alongside the proposed Blarghour scheme.</p> <p>The introduction of Eredine, Blarghour and Musdale Wind Farm to the baseline, will have limited visual influence across the LCT (affecting only the most elevated locations), however Ladyfield will be more visible and will have a direct impact on the LCT. Although the influence of wind farm development across the LCT will increase, the addition of the Proposed Development in this scenario will not give rise to substantial change in the landscape character of these areas.</p> <p>The magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be low, and will result in a Not Significant (Minor) effect.</p>

Table 6.13: LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic

LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT is present within many locations however is generally focussed along the shoreline of the two main lochs within the Study Area: Loch Fyne to the south-east of the Site and Loch Awe to the north-west. LCT 20 shares the same boundary as LCT 53 – Rocky Coastland – Argyll (NatureScot National LCA).</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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; ■ 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. <p>The LWECS identifies the LCT as having high landscape sensitivity due to the small scale of the landform which provides strong containment. The loch shores are important to the wider scenic context of the area, forming an intricate band between the lochs and uplands. Additionally, the LCT is largely covered by landscape designations including several APQs.</p>

LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	
	There is no existing wind farm development within this LCT.
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The small scale of this landscape, strong containment and its complexity of landform indicates a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The majority of the LCT units are located within a designated landscape. The units around the shores of Loch Awe in the north are located within the North Argyll APQ. The units forming the shores of Loch Fyne are within the West and East Loch Fyne (Coast) APQs, with the most northern extents within North Argyll APQ. The landscape value is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of tall vertical structures such as the proposed turbines will affect the perceived "contrast between the small scale, more diverse landform and land cover of the Rocky Mosaic (20) and the simpler, larger scale landform and more uniform forestry and moorland of these adjacent upland character types"²⁰. The introduction of the Proposed Development may disrupt views from the roads and shores around Loch Awe and Loch Fyne which tend to "focus on views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops"²¹ by appearing on the skyline above the ridge of hills which encloses these lochs.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is theoretical visibility from this LCT within 5km to the west and north-west of the Proposed Development, along the eastern shores of Loch Awe. At its closest, the LCT will experience theoretical visibility within 2.5km of the Proposed Development. Between approximately 4.3 and 7km to the north-west, on the western banks of Loch Awe near Inverinan, visibility of up to all the turbines will be possible. Visibility from these areas around Loch Awe, to the north-west and west of the Site, will be afforded some screening by intervening landform and vegetation, with often visibility of turbines limited to blades (particularly around Balliemanoich). The LCT unit to the south-west, around the south of Loch Awe, will have greater visibility of the Proposed Development, with up to all turbines theoretically visible. However, extensive vegetation in this area will screen most visibility. From more open sections in this area, most turbines of the Proposed Development will be seen against the skyline, above the slopes to the east of Loch Awe, and alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm.</p> <p>To the east of the Site, from the LCT units to west of Loch Fyne, there will be very limited visibility as the Proposed Development will be entirely screened by intervening landform. The exception is a small area which will experience theoretical visibility of up to six turbines along Glen Array, within approximately 5km of the Proposed Development. However, the presence of forestry on the upper slopes will screen actual visibility of most turbines, with blades visible. Theoretical visibility is also experienced extensively from the LCT unit comprising Strachur, on the eastern shores of Loch Fyne. Up to nine turbines will be theoretically visible, however will be largely limited to blades due to the presence of intervening landform which will partially screen the Proposed Development. Further south along Loch Fyne, visibility from this LCT becomes more intermittent and limited to up to three turbines, again partially screened by landform and limited to blades.</p> <p>From many areas within the LCT, the Proposed Development will be a noticeable feature with moving turbine blades visible above the ridge skyline which enclose Loch Fyne and Loch Awe. From the west of Loch Awe, the Proposed Development will be more prominent in views, set against the skyline with less screening from landform. The introduction of the Proposed Development will interrupt the "views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops" and will also introduce vertical structures which will provide scale, potentially reducing the apparent height of the enclosing ridge and reducing the perceived "large contrast" between the small-scale landscape of the LCT and the larger-scale surrounding uplands. Furthermore, the</p>

LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	
	<p>introduction of large turbines in views from the LCT and towards the LCT will detract from its "diverse vegetation cover" of woodland present along the shores of the lochs.</p> <p>A large-scale change will be experienced over a medium geographical extent, particularly to the north-west and south-west of the Proposed Development, near Inverinan and Ford. A medium-scale change will be experienced from the eastern shores of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be high to the north-west and south-west of the Proposed Development, however is reduced to low elsewhere around Loch Awe and Loch Fyne (Strachur).</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Significant (Moderate) near Inverinan (approximately 4km), and Not Significant (Minor) at Ford (12-15km) and elsewhere around Loch Awe and Loch Fyne.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently no other proposed wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT, however Ladyfield Wind Farm (at Scoping) is located in the neighbouring LCT (6a) near Glen Array. Other proposed schemes including Blarghour, Eredine and Musdale will be visible from parts of this LCT.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen alongside other proposed schemes, notably Blarghour, from limited sections of the LCT around Loch Awe. In this case, the Proposed Development will appear as one development with Blarghour, alongside the existing operational turbines of An Suidhe. From the east shore of Loch Fyne, the Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with Ladyfield Wind Farm, however visibility of the Proposed Development will be largely screened by landform. The Proposed Development will not be seen in successive views with Musdale Wind Farm from units of this LCT.</p> <p>Visibility of wind farms across this LCT will be possible, however, as indicated by the lack of green areas in Figure 6.1.12, the addition of the Proposed Development will not contribute substantially to the extension of visual influence over these areas.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be low, and will result in a Not Significant (Minor) effect.</p>

Table 6.14: LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains

LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers four areas of steep ridges and mountains in the east and south-east of the Study Area. These units are found around the shores of Loch Fyne, with one at the northernmost end of the loch, and two units bounding the loch to the east, separated by a small unit of LCT 20: Rocky Mosaic at Strachur. The southernmost of these units is the most extensive, extending south to the Kyles of Bute, and Firth of Clyde. The final, smaller unit is found to the east of Loch Long. The Site is not located within this LCT, and at its closest, the LCT is 7.5km from the Proposed Development. LCT 1 broadly shares the same boundary as LCT 34 – Steep ridges and Mountains (NatureScot National LCA).</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Steep Ridgeland and Mountains generally rise to around 700m but with lower hills occurring on the western and southern fringes of the character type.

²⁰ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

²¹ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 There are views of higher hill tops on the western boundary of this character type from the Loch Fyne area. <p>The LWECS identifies the LCT as having high landscape sensitivity due to the complex landform and distinctive backdrop the hills provide to glens and coastal edges. The outer edges of the LCT are particularly visible from roads and settlements. Additionally, the LCT is largely covered by landscape designations including several APQs and the Ben Lui WLA, and is also within close proximity to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and Kyles of Bute NSA.</p> <p>The operational Clachan Flats (9 turbines at 93m maximum blade tip height) and Cruach Mhor (35 turbines at 72m maximum blade tip height) Wind Farms are located within the LCT, to the north-east and south-east of the Proposed Development, respectively.</p>
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The complex landform of craggy topped mountains and steep ridges, and the distinctive backdrop these mountains and ridges provide for the contrasting glens and coastal edges indicates a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Large extents of the LCT are located within designated landscapes, including Bute and Cowal APQ to the south of the Study Area, Long Loch (Coast) and East Loch Fyne (Coast) APQs to the east of the Study Area, and North Argyll APQ to the north-east of the Study Area. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of tall vertical structures such as the proposed turbines on the ridge above Loch Fyne can detract from the "dramatic scenic composition of water and steep-sided mountains"²² which contribute to a "Fjord-like landscape of sheer-sided mountains plummeting to the loch"²³. The introduction of more wind farm development can indirectly diminish the perceived "naturalness"²⁴ of the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is theoretical visibility from this LCT within 7km to the north-east and south-east of the Proposed Development, to the north and east of Loch Fyne. Theoretical visibility across this LCT extends to distances of approximately 34km, although theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent and limited to hill summits and site-facing slopes beyond 13km. From the LCT unit at the northern end of Loch Fyne visibility of all turbines will be possible, reducing to up to three turbines on the lower slopes. However,</p>

LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	
	<p>extensive areas of this LCT unit are covered with dense forestry which will provide screening of views from this area. Although the Proposed Development will introduce more wind turbines into views, the operational Clachlan Flats Wind Farm is already present in this unit and more noticeable in views from within it. The Proposed Development will also be seen alongside the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm, albeit distinctly separate developments due to differences in scale.</p> <p>Visibility from the eastern shore of Loch Fyne will be limited due to the presence of intervening landform on the western side of the loch, with up to six turbines theoretically visible. Visibility is largely limited to blades against the skyline, although up to three hubs will be visible on the horizon too. Furthermore, extensive areas of forestry on the lower slopes within this LCT will provide further screening. Moving upslope toward the summit of Cruach nan Capull and Creag Dhubh, visibility gradually increased until all turbines are in view. Likewise, visibility of all turbines is experienced from the summits of Meall Dubh, Carn Ban and Cruach nan Cuilean in the south-west.</p> <p>From lower-lying areas within the LCT, such as along the coast of Loch Fyne, the Proposed Development will be a noticeable feature with moving turbine blades visible above the ridge skyline which encloses Loch Fyne to the west. From the unit to the north of Loch Fyne and from elevated slopes to the east of the loch, the Proposed Development will be more prominent in views, set partially against the with some turbines entirely backclothed by landform. From the higher summits the Proposed Development will be entirely backclothed by landform. The introduction of the Proposed Development, especially in views from the lochside will indirectly detract from the "scenic composition" between water and uplands. Furthermore, the presence of the Proposed Development in views from elevated hill summits may detract from the perceived "naturalness" of the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will increase the sense of wind turbines being present in the distant landscape forming part of the backdrop to the LCT, but will not alter the key characteristics of the landscape.</p> <p>A medium-scale change will be experienced over a medium geographical extent, particularly to the east and elevated summits to the south-east, albeit many of these areas are densely forested. From lower elevations, a low magnitude of change will be experienced.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) for the unit to the north of Loch Fyne, and the elevated summits to the east. Elsewhere, including the sections of the LCT adjacent to Loch Fyne will have Not Significant (Negligible) effects.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There is currently one other proposed wind farm, Creag Dhubh, located within this LCT, to the east of Loch Fyne. However, many of the proposed wind farm developments in the Study Area will be visible from the more elevated slopes of this LCT, alongside existing wind farm developments. With the exception of Creag Dhubh, these will be seen at a distance from the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will increase the sense of wind turbines being present in the distant landscape to the west of this LCT. The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in combination views with the proposed Creag Dhubh, depending on location within the LCT. The Proposed Development will be seen as an extension to the proposed Blarghour, and extending the existing influence of turbines associated with An Suidhe.</p>

²² Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.8) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

²³ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.8) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

²⁴ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.10) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	
	Given the widespread visibility of wind farm development within this LCT, the Proposed Development, seen in distant views, will not alter the key characteristics of the landscape. Overall, the magnitude of change will be low , resulting in a Not Significant (Minor) effect.

Table 6.15: LCT 2 – High Tops

LCT 2 – High Tops	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT covers two large areas of rugged, steep sided mountain ranges to the north and north-east of the Site. The two units are separated by Loch Etive, to the north of the Site. The most extensive unit is located in the north-east, and extends from Loch Etive to beyond the A82 further east, and further south to the northern extents of Loch Fyne. The Site is not located within this LCT, and at its closest, the LCT is 11.2km from the Proposed Development. LCT 2 broadly shares the same boundary as LCT 35 – Rugged Mountains (NatureScot National LCA).</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The massive peaks and ridges of these mountains are highly visible and form a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores and coastal areas of Argyll and Bute. ■ Many of these mountains have an instantly recognisable form and are important landmark features seen across a wide area. ■ Mountains have a massive scale although the narrow valleys which cut into the mountains are strongly contained by steep slopes. ■ Vegetation cover is simple, largely comprising grass moorland with patchy heather. ■ The landscape is strongly patterned with exposed rock, crags, small lochs and myriad watercourses significantly increasing complexity. Coniferous forestry occurs on the edges of this landscape. ■ This mountainous area is very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes. ■ An absence of built development and difficulty of access to the interior of these uplands give a strong sense of remoteness in places. The perception of wildness is accentuated by the ruggedness of the terrain. ■ These uplands are popular with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character and the presence of ‘Munro’ and ‘Corbett’ hills. <p>The LWECs identifies the LCT as having high landscape sensitivity due to it forming a highly scenic backdrop to settled loch shores and coastal landscapes, its complex rugged landform and its strong wildland qualities. The LWECs notes that the LCT features several Munros and Corbetts which attract hill walkers. Furthermore, the majority of the LCT is designated by WLAs (Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains), and an APQ, and is within close proximity to the Ben Nevis and Glencoe NSA, and LLTNP.</p> <p>There is no existing wind farm development within this LCT.</p>
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>This is a large-scale landscape, with great topographical variety. The complex landform of rugged mountains, the complexity of the landform that characterises the landscape, and wild land qualities relating to the remoteness and inaccessibility of much of it, indicates high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Large extents of the LCT are located within designated landscapes, including the North Argyll APQ, Ben Nevis and Glencoe NSA, and Ben Lui and Loch Etive Mountains WLAs. Therefore, the overall landscape value is considered to be high.</p>

LCT 2 – High Tops	
	Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high .
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of tall vertical structures such as the proposed turbines in the nearby hills surrounding this LCT can diminish the “<i>scenic composition</i>” the mountains “<i>form with more settled lowland landscapes, lochs and the sea</i>”²⁵ and detract from the “<i>distinctive and diverse landform</i>” and the “<i>rugged nature</i>” of the mountains²⁶. The introduction of more wind farm development can indirectly reduce the perceived “<i>strong sense of naturalness</i>”²⁷ experienced throughout the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is theoretical visibility from this LCT between 10-40km. Theoretical visibility within this LCT is intermittent, and generally associated with Site-facing slopes and hill summits located to the east, north and north-east. Glens within the LCT do not have theoretical visibility, however the very upper slopes of Glen Strae will experience limited visibility of up to 13 turbines.</p> <p>From the LCT unit to the east of Loch Fyne visibility of all turbines will be possible from higher elevations, reducing to up to three on the lower slopes. Although the Proposed Development will introduce more wind turbines into views, the operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm is already present in much closer proximity to this unit and is more noticeable in views from within it. Furthermore, the Proposed Development will be seen alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. Views from summits in the north (e.g., Ben Cruachan) and north-east (e.g., Beinn Bhuidhe and Ben Lui) will be more distant, and the Proposed Development will appear to occupy a small portion of the view alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. Due to the largely elevated nature of this LCT, in most views the Proposed Development will be seen backclothed by distant landform and often in association with other operational wind farms.</p> <p>A small-scale change will be experienced over a small geographical extent at localised hill summits within 20km of the Proposed Development. A low magnitude of change is identified within 20km, but this will reduce to barely perceptible at greater distances.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) within approximately 20km, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently no other proposed wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. However, all of the proposed wind farm developments in the Study Area will be visible from the more elevated slopes of this LCT, alongside existing wind farm developments. These will be seen at a distance from the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will increase the sense of wind turbines being present in the distant landscape to the south and south-west of this LCT, forming part of the backdrop to the LCT. The Proposed Development will be seen as an extension to the proposed Blarghour, and extending the existing influence of turbines associated with An Suidhe. Given the widespread visibility of wind farm development within this LCT, the Proposed Development, seen in distant views, will not alter the key characteristics of the landscape. Overall, the magnitude of change will be low, resulting in a Not Significant (Minor) effect.</p>

²⁵ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.15) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablwecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

²⁶ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.15) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablwecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

²⁷ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.16) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablwecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

Table 6.16: LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands

LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT comprises two small units located either side of Loch Awe in the north of the Study Area. These LCT units consist of elevated moorland ridges which abuts and contrasts with the steep-sided vertical hills further north. The Site is not located within this LCT.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This elevated moorland of horizontal ridges abuts steep-sided vertical hills, a contrast which is most dramatic when seen against the hills to the north. This juxtaposition limits the sense of expansive scale of this type, as the sense of horizontal expanse is curtailed by the massiveness of some of the High Tops, such as Ben Cruachan. Elevated to around 200-300m but with the highest ridge of hills extending to over 500m, the area appears as an undulating plateau, but on closer inspection is made up of a more complex series of long slopes, low ridges and valleys which create a medium scale landscape over much of the area. ■ In many places, this craggy landform is irregular and complex, with numerous rocky outcrops and a knobbly texture. ■ Open upland moorland predominates with some large conifer plantations. ■ Rivers wind their way through some of the elevated glens, and small lochans, often at high elevations punctuate this landscape. ■ This upland area is very sparsely settled. ■ The presence of extensive forestry, tracks and the reservoir as well as its overall limited extent combine to limit the sense of naturalness. ■ Roads, settlements, the railway line, recreational watercraft on Loch Awe and views from surrounding Munros and hill tops ensure that this area is generally widely visible. <p>There is no existing wind farm development within this LCT.</p>
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The simple pattern of landcover and medium scale landform indicate a lower susceptibility. The importance of the skyline and backdrop provided by these ridges from Loch Awe, and their role in forming the foreground to the dramatic mountains in the north indicates a higher susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>Most of the LCT is located within the North Argyll APQ. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of tall vertical structures such as the proposed turbines in the nearby hills surrounding this LCT can detract from the <i>"medium scale of the smaller hills and more complex lower slopes... adjacent to the Rocky Mosaic"</i> and may detract from the <i>"dramatic contrasts in scale and form"</i> from the interaction with various landscapes of differing scales, including those along Loch Awe.</p> <p>Turbines sited on skylines above Loch Awe and visible from key viewpoints, including historic sites and major roads as well as settlements are likely to be visually prominent in an area with such wide inter-visibility.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that theoretical visibility from this LCT is generally found within between 7-18km to the north-east and north-west. In addition, there is a small area of theoretical visibility indicated from the southern boundary of the LCT, on the south-facing slopes of Cruach na Gearr-choise which is approximately 5km to the north of the Proposed Development.</p>

LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands	
	<p>Theoretical visibility within this LCT is intermittent, and generally associated with Site-facing slopes and hill summits, including Beinn Ghlas, Maol, Accurrach, Cruach Mhor and Coire an Stacain in the north-east. With the exception of Beinn Ghlas which has theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines, these hills have limited visibility due to intervening landform providing screening. Where turbines are visible, it will often be limited to blades. Theoretical visibility is more extensive in the LCT unit to the west of Loch Awe, with up to all turbines visible. However, much of this area is wooded, which will provide screening of the Proposed Development. Non-wooded areas will experience theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines, but these will be barely perceptible due to extensive screening by intervening landform and the forested skyline.</p> <p>A small-scale change will be experienced over a small geographical extent within 5km of the Proposed Development, and at localised hill summits throughout the LCT. A low magnitude of change is identified.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Not Significant (Negligible).
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently no proposed schemes within this LCT, however Ladyfield and Blarghour Wind Farms (Scoping) are located adjacent to the LCT.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be one of a series of wind farms present in the landscape surrounding the North Loch Awe Craggy Upland LCT. Visibility of wind farms across both units of this LCT will be extensive, however, as indicated by the lack of green areas in Figure 6.1.12, the addition of the Proposed Development will not contribute substantially to the extension of visual influence over this area. This is due to its close proximity to An Suidhe Wind Farm and the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm, in which it will be viewed alongside. Although notably different in scale to An Suidhe, the Proposed Development will appear as one development alongside the proposed Blarghour scheme, primarily seen in combination views. The Proposed Development will appear as a distinctly separate development to the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm, seen in successive views.</p> <p>With the introduction of Ladyfield, Blarghour and the more distant Musdale and Eredine Wind Farms to the baseline, visual influence of this form of development across the LCT will increase but the addition of the Proposed Development in this scenario will not give rise to additional change in the landscape character of these areas.</p> <p>The magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be low, and will result in a Not Significant (Minor) effect.</p>

Table 6.17: LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills (NatureScot National LCA)

LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	
Baseline	<p>Within the Study Area, this LCT comprises five units clustered together in the south-east of the Study Area. These LCT units consist of steep ridges and hills separating a series of lochs, including Loch Eck, Loch Goil, Loch Long and Loch Lomond. The most extensive unit forms the ridge of hills between Loch Eck and Loch Long and Goil. The Site is not located within this LCT.</p> <p>Key characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>"Steep-sided hills, with pronounced summits, which rise dramatically from narrow sea lochs and deep glens;</i> ■ <i>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;</i>

LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 areas²⁸. <p>There is no existing wind farm development within this LCT.</p>
Sensitivity (susceptibility and value)	<p>The complex landform of steep ridges and hills which rise dramatically from sea lochs and deep glens and provide landmark features along lochs indicates a high susceptibility to wind energy development of the type and scale proposed.</p> <p>The entirety of the LCT is located in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. In addition, the eastern extents of the LCT units in the east lie within the Loch Lomond NSA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high.</p> <p>Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be high.</p>
Magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility)	<p>The Proposed Development will be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects will be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the Proposed Development from within the LCT.</p> <p>The ZTV (refer to Figure 6.1.5) indicates that there is theoretical visibility from this LCT between 13-33km to the south-east of the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility across this LCT is quite intermittent, generally limited to hill summits and site-facing slopes beyond 13km, including Beinn Mhor, Beinn Bheag, Beinn Bheula, Ben Donich and Cnoc Coinnich. Visibility from the units east of Loch Long is more limited. From these summits visibility of up to 13 turbines will be possible, reducing to up to three on the lower slopes.</p> <p>Due to the elevated nature of these summits where theoretical visibility is indicated, the turbines will often be seen entirely or mainly backclothed by distant landform. Intervening ridges and hills will provide some screening of turbine towers, however most hubs will remain visible. Other operational wind farm development, including the neighbouring An Suidhe, and Beinn Ghlas, Carraig Gheal and Clachlan Flats Wind Farms.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development, especially in views from elevated hill summits in the south will influence the views of "hills...in conjunction with the higher Highland Summits" further north.</p> <p>A small-scale change will be experienced over a relatively small geographical extent. A low magnitude of change is identified for this LCT.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) within approximately 19km, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects (Scenario 1 and 2)	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the LCT. As such no significant additional cumulative landscape effects are predicted under scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p>

LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	
	<p>There are currently no other proposed wind farm developments located within the LCT, however the proposed Creag Dhubh is in close proximity to the LCT, located in the neighbouring LCT (1). Many of the proposed wind farm developments in the Study Area will be visible from the more elevated slopes of this LCT, alongside existing wind farm developments. These will be seen at a distance from the LCT.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will increase the sense of wind turbines being present in the distant landscape to the west of this LCT, forming part of the backdrop to the LCT. Where visible, the Proposed Development will be seen as an extension to the proposed Blarghour, and extending the existing influence of turbines associated with An Suidhe. Given the limited visibility of wind farm development within this LCT (including limited introduced visibility from the Proposed Development) the Proposed Development, seen in distant views, will not alter the key characteristics of the landscape. Overall, the magnitude of change will be barely perceptible, resulting in a Not Significant (Negligible) effect.</p>

Operational Visual Effects

6.130 This section presents the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity for receptors identified across the study area.

Effects on Visual Receptors at Viewpoints

6.131 The assessment of visual effects from the 26 viewpoints selected to represent views of the Proposed Development are set out below (as listed in **Table 6.5:** above and shown on **Figure 6.1.2**). Wirelines from an additional 5 viewpoints are provided for reference, however no detailed written assessment accompanies these. This assessment assumes that all effects are long-term, during the proposed 40-year operational lifespan of the Proposed Development, and reversible, unless stated otherwise.

6.132 Accompanying visualisations for each assessment viewpoint are contained in **Volume 3: LVIA and Cultural Heritage Visualisations** of the EIA Report prepared in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6.1**.

Table 6.18: Viewpoint 1: Loch Awe

Viewpoint 1: Loch Awe				
Grid Reference	197750	713480	Figure Number	6.2.1
LCT	N/A		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	East		Distance to nearest turbine	4.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	8		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	12
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located on the open waters of Loch Awe, between the settlement of Dalavich and Kames Bay. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by water-based users of Loch Awe. The loch is well used, with several small boats present at the nearby beach at Dalavich. Several jetties are also present along the length of the loch which enable access to the loch. Several water-based receptors were observed on the loch, including fishermen and kayakers.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers 360° views across the waters of Loch Awe, and towards the steep moorland and forestry covered hills which enclose the loch to the east and west. These hills provide a distinctive long and undulating skyline above the loch.</p> <p>The turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south-east. These are set back from the loch and do not appear to encroach down the slopes, instead visible at the top of</p>			

²⁸ NatureScot (2019) SNH National Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Type 250: Steep Ridges and Hills [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20250%20-%20Steep%20Ridges%20and%20Hills%20-%20Final%20word%20pdf.pdf> [Accessed on 26th March 2021]

Viewpoint 1: Loch Awe	
	the ridge. Some turbines are afforded some screening by intervening landform, with the most southerly screened completely from view. To the east of the viewpoint, two more smaller-scale turbines are visible on the hillside. These are associated with Blarghour Farm and are completely backclothed by landform.
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors undertaking water-based activities on Loch Awe. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however views from and across the loch are of high scenic quality. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 12 new wind turbines into easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 30° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 8 turbines, and blades of an additional 4 turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe. The Proposed Development will sit against the skyline. The turbines will sit against the skyline however, those in the east of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. Due to the low level of the viewpoint, and its proximity to the eastern ridge of hills enclosing the loch, the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear to sit behind the ridge skyline and will not appear to encroach down the slopes towards the loch. Given the elevated and undulating nature of the Site, the lower sections of the turbine towers will be screened from view, along with any ground level infrastructure.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will form a prominent feature in views to the east, appearing of a much larger scale and in closer proximity than the operational An Suidhe turbines which are visible to the south-east from this location.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and from extensive areas of the open water, particularly to the west and south-west of the Site. Visibility will reduce in the northernmost section of the loch due to screening by intervening landform. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be large.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Major) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Eredine (Scoping) wind farms will be visible in views 4.8km to the east and 7.0km to the south, respectively.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, located immediately south of Blarghour. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Blarghour, and will appear as one cluster of wind turbines, with no notable distinction between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south of the viewpoint. The most northerly turbines of Eredine Wind Farm (T17 and T19), as well as the most southerly turbines will be prominent on the horizon, however, most of the other turbines will be largely screened from view by intervening landform. The Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Eredine, albeit in closer proximity to the viewpoint and afforded less screening by intervening landform.</p>

Viewpoint 1: Loch Awe	
	The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in combination views with these schemes and at closer proximity and will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. This, together with the proposed schemes visible, will result in a large scale change over a large geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be high and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Major) .

Table 6.19: Viewpoint 2: Dalavich Jetty

Viewpoint 2: Dalavich Jetty				
Grid Reference	197029	712770	Figure Number	6.2.2
LCT	LCT 7 – Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	East		Distance to nearest turbine	4.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	10		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located at the edge of the settlement of Dalavich, on the beach by the lochside. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by the residents of Dalavich and nearby properties, and recreational land and water-based users of Loch Awe. The beach is well used, with several boats present which look frequently used. In addition, there are several camping pods installed in the woodland near to the shore.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers views across the waters of Loch Awe to the steep enclosing moorland and forestry covered hills on the south-east side of the loch. These hills provide a distinctive long and undulating skyline above the loch, and this landform is a focal point in the view. Much of the settlement is set back from the shore but glimpses of this skyline are available from various places within it.</p> <p>The turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south-east. These are set back from the loch and do not appear to encroach down the slopes, but are visible at the top of the ridge. Most turbines are afforded some screening by intervening landform, with the most southerly turbines screened completely from view. To the east, two more smaller-scale turbines are visible on the hillside. These are associated with Blarghour Farm and are completely backclothed by landform.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational and residential receptors. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are also considered to be of high susceptibility.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however it is of high scenic quality and valued locally by the residents of Dalavich. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>			
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 new wind turbines into easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 25° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 10 turbines, and blades of an additional 3 turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe. The Proposed Development will sit against the skyline and will not appear to encroach down the slopes enclosing the loch. The turbines in the east of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear as a relatively evenly spaced array with an even height across the turbines.</p>			

Viewpoint 2: Dalavich Jetty	
	<p>Given the elevated and undulating nature of the Site, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will form a prominent feature in views to the east, appearing of a larger scale and in closer proximity than the operational An Suidhe turbines, which are visible to the south-east from this location.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other locations along the shores of Loch Awe, including the most easterly properties within Dalavich. Similar views will be experienced from the limited unenclosed areas within the settlement of Dalavich, notably near the main road and village green. However, most areas in the settlement will have limited visibility due to intervening built development and vegetation. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Major) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms (noting that the assessment considers the proposed Blarghour rather than the consented project) will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for Scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Eredine (Scoping) wind farms will be visible in views 5.6km to the east and 6.4km to the south, respectively.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, located immediately south of Blarghour. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Blarghour, and will appear as one larger group of wind turbines, with no notable distinction between the two schemes. From this viewpoint, the Proposed Development appears more balanced than Blarghour which features several instances of turbine stacking.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south of the viewpoint. The most northerly turbines of Eredine Wind Farm (T17-T19), as well as the most southernly turbines will be prominent on the horizon, however, most of the other turbines will be largely screened from view by intervening landform. Although theoretically visible, from this viewpoint, the southernmost turbines will be screened from view by intervening vegetation around Dalavich. However, they may be more visible from the water's edge. Despite being in closer proximity to the viewpoint, the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Eredine, however the difference in tower height is notable with T14 and T25 of the proposed Eredine Wind Farm.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in in combination views with these schemes and at closer proximity, and will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. This, together with the proposed schemes visible, will result in a large scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be high and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Major).</p>

Table 6.20: Viewpoint 3: B840, north of Balliemeanoch

Viewpoint 3: B840, north of Balliemeanoch			
Grid Reference	200886	716995	Figure Number
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	Landscape Designation	6.2.3
			None

Viewpoint 3: B840, north of Balliemeanoch			
Direction of view	South	Distance to nearest turbine	4.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	5
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located on the eastern shore of Loch Awe, in a location used for informal recreation including as a fishing area. It is located 0.5km north of Balliemeanoch. The viewpoint represents a variety of receptors, including recreational land-based and water-based users of this eastern area of Loch Awe to the north of the Site, and people travelling along the B840.</p> <p>This viewpoint offers long-ranging views across the open water of Loch Awe. Views are focussed south along the loch as the vegetated peninsula of Eilean na Maodail, which protrudes from the eastern shores of the loch, limits visibility to the west and north.</p> <p>Views to the south are framed by the steep enclosing hills of moorland and forest, with broad leaved woodland fringing the edge of the loch. The Site is screened by the enclosing hills.</p> <p>No existing wind farm development is visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users travelling along the B840 and recreational receptors engaged in water-based and land-based activities at Loch Awe. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view, whilst road users have low susceptibility.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. However, the view is of scenic quality. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 5 wind turbines into southernly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 15° of the horizontal field of view. The blades of 5 turbines, will be visible, however no hubs will be visible in views due to screening by intervening landform.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon, against the skyline, as the ridge of hills rises to the east of Loch Awe. This ridge of hills is an important backdrop to the setting of Loch Awe and its complex wooded shoreline. The turbines in the east and south of the Site will be entirely screened by intervening landform of Creag Dhubh. The most westerly turbines (T9-13) of the Proposed Development will be partially screened by landform, with theoretical visibility limited to blades. These blades will appear evenly spaced, with visibility of the most southern of these turbines limited to the blades.</p> <p>Given the Site is screened from view, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of turbines into the view, as no other wind farm developments are visible from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other discrete locations along this section of the Loch Awe shore, and the nearby B840 road near Balliemeanoch Cottage. However, most of the area surrounding the viewpoint location will have limited visibility due to intervening mature vegetation along the shores and road. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>		
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.		
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.		

Table 6.21: Viewpoint 4: Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)

Viewpoint 4: Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)			
Grid Reference	210016	710131	Figure Number 6.2.4
LCT	LCT 4 – Mountain Glens	Landscape Designation	West Loch Fyne (Coast) APQ
Direction of view	West	Distance to nearest turbine	5.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	8	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	11
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located on the summit of the prominent Dun na Cuaiche hill located towards the head of Loch Fyne, to the north of Inveraray. The viewpoint is located just north of Inveraray Castle and within the Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape, and features a folly which overlooks Loch Fyne. This is a well visited located which is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors. The viewpoint is located on Core Path C201 as adopted by Argyll and Bute Council.</p> <p>This location offers long-ranging elevated views to the south, east and west. The landform of Dùn Còrr-Bhile to the north of the viewpoint, prevents longer ranging views in this direction. The focus of the view is looking to the south, along Loch Fyne. The elevated nature of the viewpoint offers long-ranging views across the moorland hills which enclose the loch. In north-easterly views, the rugged mountains within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are visible.</p> <p>In views to the west, towards the Site, an existing overhead line is visible. It continues to the south-west, cutting across the lower slopes of the moorland ridge of hills visible to the west. The overhead line does not break the skyline in views from this viewpoint. Extensive tracts of forestry are present on the lower lying slopes to the west of the viewpoint, within Glen Array, along with areas of broadleaved woodland. Forestry and woodland extend up to near the summit of Dùn Còrr-Bhile in the north.</p> <p>The settlement of Inveraray is a prominent feature visible along the shores of Loch Fyne. In the far distance, the settlement of Strachur is visible along the eastern shores of the loch. The settlement of St Catherine's is also visible on the eastern banks of the loch, in south-easterly views.</p> <p>The turbines of Clachan Flats Wind Farm are visible to the north-east and the blades of An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible on the distant skyline to the south-west, largely obscured by the intervening ridge of hills.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors whose interest is likely to be focussed on the surrounding landscape. Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the West Loch Fyne Coast APQ. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 11 wind turbines into westerly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 15° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 8 turbines, and blades of an additional 3 turbines will be visible. The most westerly turbines will be afforded some screening by intervening landform, notably T5, T9, T10 and T11, and several turbines will be completely screened from view.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen along the skyline in views towards the west. All the turbines will be located in a section of the horizon which forms a topographic low, with the higher landform of Beinn Bhreac and Cruach Mhòr, to the south and north of the Site, respectively. From this viewpoint, the turbines will be of a large scale and will sit above the horizon at a similar height to that of the viewpoint. The turbines appear irregularly spaced from this viewpoint, with stacking apparent between T1 and T4, and T2 and T8.</p>		

Viewpoint 4: Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)	
	<p>The Proposed Development will extend the presence of wind turbines further north along the ridge. Although the Proposed Development will be seen alongside the operational turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm to the south-east, the Proposed Development will appear as a much more prominent feature with larger scale turbines which are afforded less screening by landform. However, given the undulating nature of the Site and the presence of the intervening landform of Sròn Rèithe, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other surrounding hill summits to the north of Inveraray, including Dùn Còrr-Bhile. The number of turbines visible will reduce lower down the slopes of these hills, due to increased screening by intervening landform. In addition, the extensive areas of forestry and woodland on the lower slopes will provide screening. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Overall, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Major) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for Scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Several wind farms under Scenario 2 are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, including three schemes at Scoping stage (Blarghour, Eredine and Ladyfield Wind Farms) and Creag Dhubh which is currently at appeal. The proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Eredine (Scoping) wind farms will be visible in views 7.4km to the north-west and 9.2km to the south-west, respectively. Additionally, the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm (Scoping) is located 3.6km to the north of the viewpoint, whilst Creag Dhubh (at appeal) is 6.5km to the south-east.</p> <p>Creag Dhubh (at appeal) will be visible in successive views to the east of the Proposed Development, above the ridge to the east of Loch Fyne Visibility is largely limited to blades, although some turbine hubs appear to sit on or just above the horizon.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, which is located immediately north of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Whilst the turbines of the Proposed Development are of a similar scale to that of Blarghour, the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear larger due to their closer proximity to the viewpoint. Many of the turbines at Blarghour will be largely screened by intervening landform. The Blarghour turbines which are most visible will be similar in scale to the westerly turbines of the Proposed Development and both schemes will appear to form part of the same development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south-west of the viewpoint. The most northerly turbines of Eredine Wind Farm will appear the most prominent above the horizon, and the scheme will appear as an unbalanced and uneven array with extensive stacking of turbines. Although the Proposed Development will be of a smaller scale to the turbines of Eredine, due to sense of perception and their closer proximity to the viewpoint, they will appear slightly larger and more prominent in views. Although the rotor diameters between the schemes appear consistent in scale, the difference in tower height will be notable, with the turbines at Eredine appearing taller than those of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm (Scoping). Ladyfield Wind Farm will form a dominant feature in views to the north of this viewpoint. Due to the sense of perception, the turbines of Ladyfield will appear of a larger scale due to their closer proximity to the viewpoint.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in in combination views with these schemes and, with the exception of Ladyfield Wind Farm, at closer proximity than the rest. The Proposed Development will introduce new turbines into westerly views from this location. The</p>

Viewpoint 4: Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)	
	other proposed schemes will introduce turbines into views in most directions including to the east, north and south-west. The Proposed Development, along with the proposed schemes will result in a large scale change over a medium geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be high and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Major) .

Table 6.22: Viewpoint 5: Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich)

Viewpoint 5: Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich)			
Grid Reference	197368	714469	Figure Number 6.2.5
LCT	LCT 7 – Craggy Uplands		Landscape Designation n/a
Direction of view	South-east		Distance to nearest turbine 5.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located on an elevated section of a minor road that runs along the western banks of Loch Awe, approximately 2km to the north of the Dalavich. The viewpoint is located at a section of the road where views open up to overlook Loch Awe (visibility elsewhere along the road is largely confined by vegetation and landform). It is representative of views experienced by road users and cyclists travelling along this route, and people travelling along Core Path C173(d) as adopted by Argyll and Bute Council.</p> <p>This location offers elevated views looking across to the ridge of hills which enclose Loch Awe to the east. Intervening vegetation in the fore- and middleground between the road and the loch largely screens views of the loch itself when looking towards the Site in the east. However, the open water of the loch is more visible in southerly views from this location, partially screened by intervening vegetation. Views west and north are largely confined by mature vegetation.</p> <p>The turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south-east, set upon the plateau and breaking across the skyline.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users and recreation receptors such as those travelling along the cycle route (linking the NCN Route 78) and core path. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 wind turbines into south-easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 30° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of all turbines will be visible across the skyline to the south-east from this viewpoint. The most easterly turbines will be afforded some screening by intervening landform, notably T1 and T2.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon, against the skyline, as the ridge of hills rises to the east of Loch Awe. This ridge of hills is an important backdrop to the setting of Loch Awe. With the exception of the most easterly turbine (T1 and T2), the turbines appear consistent in height. Some turbine stacking is present, including T2, T8 and T10. However, views of the Proposed Development from this location will be oblique to the direction of travel, and will be transient in nature, experienced for a short section of the route.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will form a prominent feature in views to the south-east, appearing of a much larger scale and in closer proximity than the operational An Suidhe turbines which are visible further south-east from this location. A notable gap will be present between the two</p>		

Viewpoint 5: Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich)	
	<p>schemes, however, the Proposed Development will extend the influence of wind turbines across a wider proportion of skyline and closer to the viewer, to the extent that much of the open skyline to which views are directed from this location will be occupied by wind turbines.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a c. 300m stretch of the road extending immediately south of the viewpoint. Views become more filtered by vegetation as receptors travel south, becoming almost completely screened along the stretch of road between Kilmun and Dalavich. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Significant (Major) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Eredine (Scoping) wind farms will be visible in views 5.2km to the east and 8.2km to the south, respectively.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, located immediately south of Blarghour. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Blarghour, and will appear as one cluster of wind turbines, with no notable gap between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south of the viewpoint. Eredine Wind Farm will extend the presence of wind turbines along the ridge of hills to the south of An Suidhe Wind Farm. The most northerly turbines of Eredine Wind Farm (T19 and T17) and the most southerly turbines will be more prominent above the horizon. Although the turbines of the Proposed Development are of a smaller scale than those of Eredine, due to their closer proximity and the sense of perception, they will appear more prominent in views and afforded less screening by intervening landform.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in combination views with these schemes and in closer proximity to the viewpoint. The Proposed Development alongside other proposed schemes will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. This, together with the proposed schemes visible, will result in a large scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be high and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Major).</p>

Table 6.23: Viewpoint 6: Beinn Dearg

Viewpoint 6: Beinn Dearg			
Grid Reference	202389	704908	Figure Number 6.2.6
LCT	LCT 7 – Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation None
Direction of view	North		Distance to nearest turbine 6.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	8	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	This elevated viewpoint is located on the summit of Beinn Dearg (482m AOD), which is a hill located within the undulating hills forming part of the upland plateau that lies between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne.		

Viewpoint 6: Beinn Dearg	
	<p>This viewpoint offers panoramic views in all directions. The foreground of the view consists of undulating moorland, which descends to a series of lochans in the north-west. Beyond the lochans in the middle distance, an undulating moorland ridge rises up with extensive forestry, forming a low, long and undulating skyline. Further ridges and hills are visible in the distance, including the distinctive landform of Ben Cruachan in the north.</p> <p>The operational An Suidhe Wind Farm is a notable feature in north-westerly views from this viewpoint, appearing as an irregular and uneven array. In addition, both Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms are visible as a further cluster of more distant turbines breaking across skyline beyond An Suidhe and the ridge it sits on.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>The overall sensitivity of the viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 new wind turbines into northerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 30° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of eight turbines, and blades of an additional five turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible behind an intervening ridge of hills to the north of the viewpoint, including the summit of Beinn Bhreac (526m AOD). Most visible turbines will be partially backclothed by distant landform, with only turbine blades breaking the skyline. The Proposed Development will extend the presence of wind turbines further along the ridge, north of the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will be seen alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm which is in closer proximity to the viewpoint, the Proposed Development will appear as a much larger scale, particularly when visibility includes hubs and a larger proportion of the rotor diameter. It therefore will appear as a distinctly different development.</p> <p>Given the undulating nature of the Site and the presence of intervening landform, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other surrounding hill summits within the plateau to the south of the Site. The number of turbines visible will reduce lower down the slopes of these hills, and the turbines which are visible will be afforded more screening by intervening landform. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Several wind farms under Scenario 2 are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, including four schemes at Scoping stage (Blarghour, Eredine, Musdale and Ladyfield Wind Farms) and Creag Dhubh which is currently at appeal. The proposed Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) is immediately to the west and south-west of the viewpoint at distances of 0.8km. The proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Musdale (Scoping) wind farms will be visible in views 8.2km to the north and 18.0km to the north-west, respectively. Additionally, the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm (Scoping) is located 11.8km to the north-east of the viewpoint, whilst Creag Dhubh (at appeal) is 10.2km to the south-east.</p>

Viewpoint 6: Beinn Dearg	
	<p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, which is located immediately north of the Proposed Development and Musdale Wind Farm in the distant north-west. The Proposed Development, Blarghour and Musdale wind farms will be seen alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. Both the Proposed Development and Blarghour will extend the influence larger-scale wind turbines to the north of An Suidhe, whilst Musdale will be visible behind An Suidhe. Both the Proposed Development and Blarghour will be afforded some screening by intervening landform, and will largely sit below the skyline, where they will appear to form one cluster of turbines.</p> <p>The southern turbines of the Proposed Development will overlap Musdale Wind Farm which is visible in the distant north-west, appearing to form part of the wind farm cluster comprising Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas. The difference in scale between the Proposed Development and Musdale Wind Farm will not be noticeable, however the Proposed Development will appear more prominent due to its closer proximity.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with both Ladyfield and Creag Dhubh Wind Farms to the north-east and east which form distinctly separate clusters of turbines. The turbines of Creag Dhubh (appeal) are largely screened by intervening landform with the hubs visible just above a ridge in the middle-distance. The turbines of Creag Dhubh are backclothed by distant landform and will result in a small change in the view. Ladyfield (Scoping) are more prominent in views however are largely backclothed by landform. Given the intervening distance, the difference in scale between the Proposed Development and Ladyfield and Creag Dhubh will not be perceptible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with Eredine Wind Farm, which will extend the presence of large-scale turbines to the south-west to an area which currently has no wind turbines present. Eredine Wind Farm will be much closer to the viewpoint, and will appear to enclose it to the west and south-west, introducing turbines into a 95 degree horizontal field of view. Due to the sense of perception the more distant turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a much smaller scale than those of Eredine and in an area already influenced by wind farm development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive and in combination views with the aforementioned schemes. The Proposed Development will introduce new turbines into northerly views from this location, where they will be seen in the context of the operational An Suidhe and proposed Blarghour wind farms. The other proposed schemes will introduce visibility of turbines into views to the north-east and east, north-west, west and south-west. However, given Eredine Wind Farm is in closer proximity to the viewpoint and appears of a greater scale, the introduction of the Proposed Development into views will comparatively be lesser in scale.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development in combination with the schemes under Scenario 2 will introduce a small scale change over a medium geographical extent, resulting in a medium magnitude of change. The additional cumulative visual effect will be Not Significant (Minor) under Scenario 2.</p>

Table 6.24: Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan

Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan				
Grid Reference	199781	717634	Figure Number	6.2.7
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	South		Distance to nearest turbine	5.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	12
Viewpoint location and existing view	The viewpoint is located on a Core Path (C324(b)) above the settlement of Inverinan. The viewpoint on this Core Path is accessed via the minor road which runs along the west coast of Loch Awe. The location of the viewpoint on the Core Path is more elevated than the road and			

Viewpoint 7:Core Path above Inverinan	
	<p>properties along it, and therefore is afforded more open and longer ranging views across Loch Awe to the enclosing hills in the east. Views from the Core Path become increasingly obscured as receptors travel westwards, with localised vegetation screening visibility towards the Site and eastern ridge of hills completely.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users on the Core Path and the nearby well-used cycle route, nearby residential receptors within Inverinan, and road users.</p> <p>The foreground of the view from this viewpoint includes open fields with areas of scrub and mixed woodland visible in the foreground to the south-east, and in the middle distance towards the loch. Overhead lines are located in close proximity to the viewpoint, including in views towards the Site.</p> <p>A Forestry Commission car park is visible in the foreground, to the east of the road, however this does not appear to be well used, and visibility of the skyline from the carpark is partially screened by vegetation. East of the viewpoint, several properties are visible along the main road, these are oriented to the north-west, with the rear elevations oriented to the south-east towards the Site. The most southerly of these properties have more open views across the loch, whilst those further north are afforded more screening by vegetation.</p> <p>Sections of Loch Awe are glimpsed through the vegetation in the middle distance, with the enclosing hills to the east of the loch rising up and forming the skyline of the view. The skyline is uneven, reflecting the undulating nature of the hillside. Moorland is the predominant land use across these hills, however there are localised areas of woodland on the lower slopes, and an extensive block of forestry along the skyline. Smaller blocks of forestry are visible along the horizon to the south.</p> <p>The operational turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the distant skyline to the south-east. They are set back from the loch and sit further into the plateau without encroaching down the enclosing slopes to the loch. The turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are partially screened by intervening trees visible in the foreground of the view.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors and recreation receptors such as those travelling along the cycle route (linking the NCN Route 78). Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are also considered to be of high susceptibility.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 12 new wind turbines into south-easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 30° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of five turbines, and blades of an additional seven turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe. The Proposed Development will sit against the skyline, however seven turbines (T2-T8) in the east of the Site will be partially screened by Creag Dhubh, with only blades visible. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear to be relatively evenly spaced, although some slight stacking is present with T2 and T7. The hubs of turbines T9-T13 in the west of the Site will sit above the horizon in views, as the ridge slopes down to the loch.</p> <p>Given the elevated and undulating nature of the Site, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will form a prominent feature in views to the south-east, extending the influence of wind farm development across the skyline. The Proposed Development will appear of a much larger scale and in closer proximity than the operational An Suidhe turbines which are visible further south along the ridge from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other locations within Inverinan, including from the minor road and cycle route directly east of the Core Path, and nearby</p>

Viewpoint 7:Core Path above Inverinan	
	<p>residential properties located along the road. Elsewhere, views will be largely screened by intervening vegetation, particularly in south Inverinan. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour (Scoping) and Eredine (Scoping) wind farms will be theoretically visible in views 4.1km to the south-east and 11.2km to the south, respectively.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, located immediately to the south of Blarghour. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe, bridging the gap between Blarghour and the more distant An Suidhe Wind Farm. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Blarghour, and will appear as one cluster of wind turbines, with no notable gap between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south of the viewpoint. Eredine Wind Farm is theoretically visible above the horizon to the east of Loch Awe, and will extend the presence of wind turbines along the ridge of hills to the south of An Suidhe Wind Farm. In reality, visibility of Eredine will be entirely screened by intervening vegetation. Therefore, the cumulative visual effects will be concentrated to the relationship between the Proposed Development and Blarghour Wind Farm.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with Blarghour Wind Farm, with Blarghour being in closer proximity to the viewpoint. The Proposed Development alongside Blarghour will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments, however, will appear consistent in scale and spacing with Blarghour. Both schemes will appear as one uniform cluster of turbines from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development in addition to the proposed Blarghour scheme, will result in a medium scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be high and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Moderate).</p>

Table 6.25: Viewpoint 8: Loch Fyne

Viewpoint 8: Loch Fyne				
Grid Reference	211310	708460	Figure Number	6.2.8
LCT	N/A		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	West		Distance to nearest turbine	7.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	1		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	3
Viewpoint location and existing view	The viewpoint is located on the open waters of Loch Fyne, just south of Strone Point, near the top of the loch. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by water-based users of Loch Fyne. The loch is well used, with several jetties and slipways present along the length of the loch which enable access to the loch.			

Viewpoint 8: Loch Fyne	
	<p>The viewpoint offers 360° views across the waters of Loch Fyne, and towards the moorland and forestry covered hills which enclose the loch to the east and west. These hills provide a distinctive long and undulating skyline above the loch.</p> <p>In westerly views towards the Site, the settlement of Inveraray, the historic Inveraray Castle, and Array Bridge are visible along the western coast of the loch. The notable summit of Dun na Cuaiche and the iconic monument located at the top, which is a landmark feature for Inveraray, is visible from the viewpoint, framing views towards the Site. An existing overhead line is visible running through the landscape halfway up the hillslopes above Inveraray. This line, and the associated pylons appear to sit below the horizon.</p> <p>No other existing wind farm development is visible from this viewpoint.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors undertaking water-based activities on Loch Fyne. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however views from and across the loch are of high scenic quality. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of three new wind turbines into westerly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hub of one turbine (T2), and blades of an additional two turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the west of Loch Fyne. The Proposed Development will sit behind the ridge, and most of the turbines will be entirely screened from view by intervening landform. Those which are visible will also be afforded a large degree of screening by landform and vegetation.</p> <p>As much of the Site will be screened from view, there will be limited visibility of ancillary infrastructure from this viewpoint. However, the access track will be visible ascending up the western slopes enclosing Loch Fyne. The lower section of the track will be screened by forestry, and the higher, more distant sections by undulating landform. The middle section of the track (c. 1.3km long), just as it emerges from the forestry will however be notable in views. It will introduce a linear feature which will be seen cutting across the hillside.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of wind turbines into views from this location, including in views above Inveraray and Inveraray Castle, however, visibility will be limited to three turbines, of which one hub is visible just on the horizon.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and from extensive areas of the open water, particularly to the east and south-east of the Site. Visibility will reduce in the northernmost section of the loch due to screening by intervening landform between Glen Fyne and Glen Shiel which extends out into the loch to Strone Point. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not significant (Minor) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.</p>

Table 6.26: Viewpoint 9: Kilmaha Viewpoint

Viewpoint 9: Kilmaha Viewpoint				
Grid Reference	194062	708449	Figure Number	6.2.9
LCT	LCT 7 – Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	North-east		Distance to nearest turbine	7.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	12		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint represents the view experienced from the Kilmaha Viewpoint, as marked on the OS map. This viewpoint is located at a picnic area and stopping place off the minor road to the west of Loch Awe. It is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors who have stopped at or are visiting the spot. The viewpoint is located on Core Path C173(a) as adopted by Argyll and Bute Council.</p> <p>It is located on the steep hillside that rises up from western banks of Loch Awe and is afforded long elevated views along the loch to the north and south. Views eastwards are focussed across the loch and on the enclosing hills and moorland plateau to the east of the loch, however views west are largely limited by the forested hillside.</p> <p>The foreground of the view comprises shrubland with trees that drops steeply towards the loch. The western banks of the loch are not visible from this viewpoint, screened by intervening forestry. Views to the north are focussed along the loch which is framed by the undulating hillsides that enclose it. To the east of the loch, the lower slopes with a gentle gradient are predominantly wooded, and Eredine House is a notable building present in views on the eastern shores of the loch. Forest and moorland are the predominant landcover on the upper slopes and the skyline in this direction is punctuated by the craggy hills of Cruach Mhòr and Beinn Bhreac which lie within the Site. This forms an undulating horizon. Southernly views are similar in nature, comprising views of Loch Awe framed by the enclosing undulating moorland hills, which form the skyline.</p> <p>The operational turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are clearly visible along the skyline to the east of the viewpoint. They appear as an irregular and uneven array set back from the immediate hillside.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors visiting the viewpoint such as cyclists using the route linking the NCN Route 78 or people travelling along the Core Path. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however is promoted as a scenic viewpoint on OS maps. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>			
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 new wind turbines into north-easterly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 15° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 12 turbines, and blades of an additional one turbine, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen along the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe. All the turbines of the Proposed Development will sit against the skyline, although those to the west of the Site will be partially backclothed by landform. The turbines in the far east of the Site will be partially screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>Many turbines of the Proposed Development will appear to extend high above the skyline, introducing notable vertical features into the view. The turbines will appear relatively evenly spaced, although T3 will appear as a slight outlier.</p> <p>A greater proportion of the turbine towers, and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks within the west of the Site will be partly visible on the western slopes of the Site. This lower-level</p>			

Viewpoint 9: Kilmaha Viewpoint	
	<p>infrastructure will not be visible in the eastern extents of the Site due to intervening landform and the Site's undulating nature.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines from the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm. It will extend the influence of wind farm development visible across the horizon. Unlike An Suidhe, which is set further back from the loch, from this viewpoint the Proposed Development will appear to encroach down the slopes to towards Loch Awe. Although located further away from the viewpoint than An Suidhe, the Proposed Development will comprise turbines of a larger scale and is likely to form a new focus in views out across the loch, being larger than those at An Suidhe.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other short, localised sections of the minor road to the west of Loch Awe. Views from much of the route along the western side of Loch Awe is screened by intervening forestry and woodland. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a large-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be high and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Eredine (Scoping) and Blarghour (Scoping) wind farms will be theoretically visible in views 4.7km to the south-east and 9.8km to the north-east, respectively.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour Wind Farm, located immediately to the south of Blarghour and in slightly closer proximity to the viewpoint. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale to those of Blarghour, and will appear as an extension to Blarghour with no notable gap between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will also be seen in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm (at Scoping) to the south-east of the viewpoint. Eredine Wind Farm will be visible immediately adjacent to the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm and of a much larger scale. In reality, visibility of the southern turbines will be largely screened by intervening vegetation immediately surrounding the viewpoint, however the northern turbines will be visible as a prominent feature above the skyline. Due to their closer proximity, the turbines of Eredine Wind Farm will appear noticeably larger than those of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with Blarghour Wind Farm, and in successive views with Eredine Wind Farm. The Proposed Development alongside Blarghour will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. Given the comparative scale of the proposed Eredine Wind Farm and the proximity of the Proposed Development to Blarghour Wind Farm, the Proposed Development in addition to the other proposed schemes, will result in a medium scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Significant (Moderate).</p>

Table 6.27: Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St Catherine's

Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St Catherine's			
Grid Reference	212109	707566	Figure Number
			6.2.10

Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St Catherine's			
LCT	LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains	Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	West	Distance to nearest turbine	8.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	1	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	5
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located at a jetty on the western edge of the small settlement of St. Catherine's, which is located along the eastern coast of Loch Fyne. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by the residents of St. Catherine's and nearby properties, and recreational land and water-based users of Loch Fyne. The jetty appears well used, with a large parking bay located off the A815.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers views across the waters of Loch Fyne to the steep enclosing moorland and forestry covered hills to the west of the loch. These hills provide a distinctive long and undulating skyline above the loch, and this landform is a focal point in the view and from the settlement in general.</p> <p>In westerly views towards the Site, the settlement of Inveraray, the historic Inveraray Castle, and Array Bridge are visible along the western coast of the loch. The notable landmark of Dun na Cuaiche and the iconic monument located at the top, is visible from the viewpoint, framing views towards the Site. An existing overhead line is visible running through the landscape halfway up the hillslopes above Inveraray. This line, and the associated pylons appear to sit below the horizon.</p> <p>The blades of four turbines at An Suidhe are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, however are barely perceptible in views due to screening by forestry present along the skyline.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors undertaking water-based activities on Loch Fyne. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the East Loch Fyne Area of Panoramic Quality, and views from and across the loch are of high scenic quality. Therefore, the value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of five new wind turbines into westerly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hub of one turbine (T1), and blades of an additional four turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon formed by the enclosing ridge of hills to the west of Loch Fyne. The Proposed Development will be behind the ridge, and most of the turbines will be entirely screened from view by intervening landform. Those which are visible will also be afforded a large degree of screening by landform and vegetation, with the blades of five turbines visible. The visible blades will appear consistent in spacing and height, with two blades barely perceptible on the horizon.</p> <p>As much of the Site will be screened from view, there will be limited visibility of ancillary infrastructure from this viewpoint. However, the access track will be visible ascending up the western slopes enclosing Loch Fyne. The lower section of the track will be screened by forestry, and the higher, more distant sections by undulating landform. The middle section of the track (c. 1.3km long), just as it emerges from the forestry will however be notable in views. It will introduce a linear feature which will be seen cutting across the hillside.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of wind turbines into views from this location, including in views above Inveraray and Inveraray Castle. However, visibility will be limited to five turbines, of which only one hub will be visible, sat just on the horizon.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and from extensive areas along the eastern shore of Loch Fyne, including along the A815 which follows the coastline to Strachur</p>		

Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St Catherine's	
	before continuing inland. Views experienced from some sections along the eastern coast of Loch Fyne will be filtered by lochside vegetation. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.28: Viewpoint 11: Loch Avich, east of Loch Avich House

Viewpoint 11: Loch Avich, east of Loch Avich House			
Grid Reference	194597	715378	Figure Number 6.2.11
LCT	LCT 7– Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation None
Direction of view	South-east		Distance to nearest turbine 8.0km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	7	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	10
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located on a small, pebbled beach on the northern shore of Loch Avich, towards the eastern end of the loch. The viewpoint location is close to a minor road and Core Path (C175(d)) that follows the shoreline, between Drissaig and Loch Avich House. The location does not appear to be well used. Loch Avich is a small loch located within a broad area of upland plateau. The loch is located to the west of Loch Awe, connected by the River Avich, and is located north of the extensive Inverliever Forest.</p> <p>To the south-east, towards the Site, views are directed across the loch to the opposite shore which is fringed with broadleaved trees. Beyond these, a low forested ridge rises forming an undulating skyline to the north and south of the loch. In the far distance, the moorland and forestry covered hills to the east of Loch Awe, including Beinn Bhreac, are visible on the horizon, framed by the flank of Tom an t-Saighdeir in the foreground.</p> <p>Views to the south and west are concentrated across the loch to the enclosing wooded and forested slopes on the other side. Views are longer to the west, extending towards the head of the loch. These views are framed by the craggy landform of Bàrr Liah and Tom an t-Saoir, to the south-west of the viewpoint. Views to the north look are largely confined by trees which grow along the northern shores of the lochside to the north of the loch.</p> <p>Some of the operational turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible above the forested skyline to the south-east of the viewpoint.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors engaged in water-based and land-based activities at the loch. Recreational receptors, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 10 new wind turbines into south-easterly views experienced from this viewpoint, however only two turbines T12 and T13 will be actually visible with the rest screened by vegetation and landform. The Proposed Development		

Viewpoint 11: Loch Avich, east of Loch Avich House	
	<p>will occupy approximately 5° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of seven turbines, and blades of an additional three turbines, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen along the horizon formed by the distant hills to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines of the Proposed Development will sit against the skyline, although those to the south of the Site will be partially backclothed by the landform of Beinn Bhreac and the more elevated plateau to the east of Loch Awe. The turbines in the far north and east of the Site will be screened by the forestry covered lower flanks of Tom an t-Saighdeir, including T2, T6 and T7. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear as a linear array which is generally evenly spaced out.</p> <p>Due to the undulating nature of the Site and the screening afforded by forestry in the foreground, ancillary infrastructure including access tracks within the Site will not be visible across the Site.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines from the existing An Suidhe Wind Farm. It will extend the influence of wind farm development visible across the horizon. The turbines of the Proposed Development will be of a larger scale and more widely spaced than those of An Suidhe.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised areas along the shores of Loch Avich and on the water itself, particularly the most northerly extents of the loch. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for Scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>No proposed wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 2 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for Scenario 2.</p>

Table 6.29: Viewpoint 12: Parking Spot, Loch Awe

Viewpoint 12: Parking Spot, Loch Awe			
Grid Reference	193354	706259	Figure Number 6.2.12
LCT	LCT 7– Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation None
Direction of view	North-east		Distance to nearest turbine 9.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	2	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	6
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located at a small parking area just off the B840 road 2.3km to the south-west of Braevallich, on the eastern shores of Loch Awe. The parking area is located an area of deciduous woodland by the shores of Loch Awe. The viewpoint is representative road and recreational receptors travelling along the B840 who stop whilst travelling along the route.</p> <p>This viewpoint offers filtered views across the open waters of the loch. North-easterly views along the loch and towards the Site are framed to the east by the lower flanks of the adjoining uplands. The lower slopes rising from Loch Awe are covered in woodland and forestry, providing further screening towards the Site.</p>		

Viewpoint 12: Parking Spot, Loch Awe	
	Views south and east are heavily filtered by the mature vegetation surrounding the parking area, whilst those to the west are focussed on the enclosing hills to the west of Loch Awe. No existing wind farm development is visible from the viewpoint.
Sensitivity	This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road and recreational receptors travelling along the B840. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view, whilst recreational users are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be low . On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium .
Assessment of visual effects	The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of six wind turbines into north-easterly views. However, in reality none of these turbines will be visible as they will be screened by intervening vegetation. No other wind turbines are present in the view. From this viewpoint, the Proposed Development will not be visible due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation. Likewise, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible. No change in view is expected from this viewpoint. Much of the eastern shore of Loch Awe is not easily accessible, and the entire length of the eastern shores feature lochside vegetation and woodland. This vegetation heavily filters views from the B840 and any passing places or potential stopping areas.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be zero and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in no visual effect .
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the Proposed Development is not visible, no cumulative effects are not predicted from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 .

Table 6.30: Viewpoint 13: Loch Avich

Viewpoint 13: Loch Avich			
Grid Reference	191875	714316	Figure Number 6.2.13
LCT	LCT 7– Craggy Upland		Landscape Designation None
Direction of view	East		Distance to nearest turbine 10.0km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible 13
Viewpoint location and existing view	The viewpoint is located to the south of Narrachan on the minor road which broadly follows the northern shores of Loch Avich. It is representative of views experienced by road users travelling along the minor road. Loch Avich is a small loch located within a broad area of upland plateau. The loch is located to the west of Loch Awe, connected by the River Avich, and is located north of the extensive Inverliever Forest. To the east, towards the Site, views are directed across the loch to the opposite shore which has the forested slopes of Tom an t-Saighdeir as a backdrop. Further in the distance, the moorland and forestry covered hills to the east of Loch Awe, are visible on the horizon. However, the skyline on which the Site is situated, is obscured from view by intervening landform and vegetation to the south of Loch Avich. A narrow field is visible in the foreground of the view, dropping down to Loch Avich in the east. The large promontory of Eilean Fraoch is visible as it		

Viewpoint 13: Loch Avich	
	protrudes into the loch. An overhead line is visible running adjacent to the road, through the fields to the east. Views to the north feature mature forestry on the slopes rising up to Cruach Narrachan to the west of the road whilst mature deciduous trees and vegetation is visible to the east of the road. Views to the west are confined by the gentle lower slopes of Cruach Narrachan and Cruach Maolachy. Views south are concentrated on the ridge comprising the landform of Bàrr Liath and Tom an t-Saoir. No existing operational wind farms are visible from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity	This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users travelling along the minor road. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. However, views open views are afforded out across Loch Avich. The value of the view is considered to be medium . On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium .
Assessment of visual effects	The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 wind turbines into easterly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 15° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of all turbines will be theoretically visible, however in reality only 5 turbine hubs will be visible, with the rest of the turbines screened by intervening landform and forestry. The Proposed Development will be seen in oblique views as people travel along the minor road. The Proposed Development will be seen above the forested horizon in the middle distance, formed by the ridge of hills running between Loch Avich and Dalavich. The turbines of the Proposed Development will sit against the skyline, although those in the east of the Site will be screened by the undulating landform of the Site and the forestry on the intervening ridge of hills. The five turbine hubs will be visible above topographic lows in the intervening ridge, and an additional three turbine blades will be visible sweeping across the skyline above the forest. The forestry will largely screen visibility of the Proposed Development. Some stacking will occur between turbines T6 and T10. Due to the undulating nature of the Site and the screening afforded by forestry in the foreground, ancillary infrastructure including access tracks within the Site will not be visible across the Site. The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a stretch of the road to the north and south of the viewpoint. The total length of the road section with open views across Loch Avich is approximately 200m long, although open views are also experienced intermittently and over shorter distances further north along the road. Views between these open sections are generally quite filtered by mature vegetation (both deciduous and evergreen). Including the stretches which will experience filtered or totally obscured views, the total length of the road section which will experience views similar to that of the viewpoint is 700m. Therefore, overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small . The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect. However, if commercial forestry was to be removed in the future, the view may become more open and the visual effect can increase to Significant (Moderate) .
Potential for cumulative effects	Scenario 1: No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1. Scenario 2:

Viewpoint 13: Loch Avich	
	<p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) will be visible from this viewpoint, at a distance of 10.8km to the east of the viewpoint. The proposed Blarghour Wind Farm will be sited immediately north of the Proposed Development. The hubs and blades of the Blarghour turbines will be visible along the horizon, with the towers of most turbines partially backclothed by landform. The Proposed Development will be seen immediately adjacent to Blarghour Wind Farm, extending the influence of turbines further south along the horizon. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear consistent in scale to Blarghour and will appear as one extended development along the ridge. Although some stacking will be present, in general both schemes create a balanced array, confined to the topographic low framed by slopes in the middle distance.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with Blarghour Wind Farm. The Proposed Development alongside Blarghour will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. The Proposed Development in addition to the other proposed scheme, will result in a medium scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Not Significant (Minor).</p>

Table 6.31: Viewpoint 14: A866 at Strachur

Viewpoint 14: A866 at Strachur				
Grid Reference	208779	701453	Figure Number	6.2.14
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic		Landscape Designation	East Loch Fyne (Coast) APQ
Direction of view	North-west		Distance to nearest turbine	10.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	5
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located from a boatyard on the eastern banks of Loch Fyne near Strachur. The viewpoint represents the view experienced from recreational receptors at boatyard located just off the A866 in Strachur, road users of the A866 and properties located along the road overlooking Loch Fyne.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located on the waterfront, with views focussed along Loch Fyne to the north, and across to the steeply graded forested hills which enclose the loch on the western side. This ridge forms a distinctive undulating skyline which is an important backdrop for the setting of Loch Fyne. The distant ridge has extensive grassland and forest cover, which transitions to deciduous woodland transitioning near the shore. The Argyll Caravan Park is visible in the distance on the western side of the loch. Southernly views are similar in nature, comprising views of Loch Fyne framed by the enclosing undulating moorland and forested hills, which form the skyline.</p> <p>The A815 and A866 are present in the foreground in views to the north and east, respectively. Properties near the A815 and A866 junction are also visible in easterly views from the viewpoint. These properties, along with others along the A866 are oriented with principal elevations to the north-west, towards the Site.</p> <p>No operational wind farm developments are visible from this viewpoint.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors in Strachur, recreational receptors at the boatyard and road users travelling along the A866. Residential and recreational receptors are also considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view, whilst road users are considered to be of low susceptibility.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>			

Viewpoint 14: A866 at Strachur	
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The majority of the Proposed Development will be screened by the intervening ridge of hills, which enclose Loch Fyne to the west. However, the Proposed Development will introduce visibility of five new wind turbines into north-westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 20° of the horizontal field of view. The blades of five turbines will be theoretically visible, and no hubs will be theoretically visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the horizon, against the skyline, as the ridge of hills rises to the west of Loch Fyne. This ridge of hills which encloses the loch is an important backdrop to the setting of Loch Fyne. The blades of five turbines of the Proposed Development will appear to move across the skyline. They will appear evenly spaced and consistent in height.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of turbines into the view, as no other wind farm developments are visible from this viewpoint.</p> <p>Given the screening of the Site by intervening landform, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a c. 1.5km stretch of the A815 between Strachur and Creggans. Similar views are also experienced from the open stretches of the A866 as it runs along the eastern coast of Loch Fyne. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Given that much of the Proposed Development is screened from view by intervening landform, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.32: Viewpoint 15: Fincham Castle

Viewpoint 15: Fincham Castle				
Grid Reference	189860	704364	Figure Number	6.2.15
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	North-east		Distance to nearest turbine	13.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	11		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	12
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located immediately east of the remains of Fincham Castle which sits on a small promontory on the southern shore of Loch Awe, approximately 300m off the B840 road and 3km to the east of the settlement of Ford. The viewpoint represents land based recreational users (such as walkers and cyclists) visiting the remains of the castle. Access to the remains of Fincham Castle is gained by walking across a small field opposite the gated access to Finchairn (south of the B840). However, the castle does not appear to be well visited due to the lack of signposting or advertisement, and there is no nearby parking area for visitors to utilise.</p> <p>This viewpoint offers long ranging views along Loch Awe, framed by the moorland and forested slopes which enclose the loch to the east and west. Views to the east are confined by the ridge of hills, with small blocks of forestry on the lower slopes, and vegetation in the foreground of the view, along the edge of the loch provides further screening. Views south are also confined by vegetation, whilst those to the west are focussed on the ruins of the castle, with the hills enclosing Loch Awe to the west a more distant feature across the loch.</p>			

Viewpoint 15: Fincham Castle	
	No existing wind farm development is visible in views from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors visiting Finchairn Castle. Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape. Therefore, the value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 12 wind turbines into north-easterly views. No other wind turbines are present in the view. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 11 turbines, and blades of an additional turbine, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be a prominent feature in views to the north-east of the castle. Due to perspective, the Proposed Development will appear to sit in a topographic low which is bounded and framed by the enclosing slopes each side of the loch which are closer to the viewpoint. The Proposed Development will appear to sit against the skyline, however, the most westerly turbines will be partially backclothed by landform, and those to the east will be afforded screening by intervening landform and vegetation. Overall, the Proposed Development will appear incoherent from this viewpoint with extensive stacking and overlap between turbines present.</p> <p>Given the intervening distance and undulating nature of the Site, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and at other localised areas on the promontory. However, extensive woodland along the shoreline of the loch will provide screening of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will be visible at distances of 13.2km, and will occupy a small proportion of the view, the position of the Site is at a focal point in the view. Given that the Proposed Development is afforded limited screening and forms a prominent feature in views along the loch, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) will be visible from this viewpoint, at a distance of 15.5km to the north-east of the viewpoint. The proposed Blarghour Wind Farm will be sited immediately north of the Proposed Development. The hubs and blades of the Blarghour turbines will be visible along the horizon, with the most north-westerly turbines partially backclothed by landform. The Proposed Development will be seen immediately adjacent to Blarghour Wind Farm, extending the influence of turbines further south along the horizon. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear consistent in scale to Blarghour and will appear as one extended development along the ridge, with no notable gap between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with Blarghour Wind Farm. The Proposed Development alongside Blarghour will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. The Proposed Development in addition to the other proposed scheme, will result in a medium scale change over a small</p>

Viewpoint 15: Fincham Castle	
	geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Not Significant (Minor).

Table 6.33: Viewpoint 16: B840, East of Ford

Viewpoint 16: B840, East of Ford				
Grid Reference	187868	703841	Figure Number	6.2.16
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	North-east		Distance to nearest turbine	15.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	12		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is located on the B840 road approximately 1km to the east of the settlement of Ford. The viewpoint is representative of people travelling along the road.</p> <p>This viewpoint offers focussed and long-ranging north-easterly views across the open waters of the loch. Views along the loch are framed by the enclosing hills of the adjoining uplands which consist of moorland and forest. Broad leaved woodland is visible along the edge of the loch. Views to the east, west and south are largely confined by nearby vegetation.</p> <p>In northerly views along Loch Awe, a small number of turbines at An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the skyline above the ridge of hills to the east of the loch. The rest of the turbines are completely screened from view by intervening landform.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users travelling along the B840. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape or at a recognised stopping point or promoted view. The value of the view is considered to be medium.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>			
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 wind turbines into north-easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 12 turbines, and blades of an additional one turbine, will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be a prominent feature in views to the north-east of the viewpoint. From this viewpoint, the Proposed Development will appear to sit in a topographic low which sits between the hills enclosing the loch to the west, and the southern extents of the ridge to the east. The Proposed Development will appear to extend above the skyline. The most westerly turbines will be partially backclothed by landform, and those to the east (T1 and T2) will be afforded screening by intervening landform and vegetation. Given the intervening distance and undulating nature of the Site, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>Overall, the Proposed Development will appear untidy from this viewpoint with extensive stacking and overlap between turbines present, notably T5 and T12, and T8 and T13. However, the views from this location will be transient in nature, and experienced from a short stretch of the road.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a c. 300m stretch of the road which extends to the north-east and south-west of the viewpoint. Views become more filtered by vegetation as receptors travel north and south, becoming completely screened by vegetation and, to the south, intervening landform. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will be visible at distances of 15.2km, and will occupy a small proportion of the view, the position of the Site is at the focal point of the view along the loch, particularly when travelling north. The Proposed Development will be behind the receptor as they</p>			

Viewpoint 16: B840, East of Ford	
	travel south along the road. Given the intervening distance, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be medium and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Scenario 1: No consented wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2: Under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) will be visible from this viewpoint, at a distance of 17.5km to the north-east of the viewpoint. The proposed Blarghour Wind Farm will be sited immediately north of the Proposed Development. The hubs and blades of the Blarghour turbines will be visible along the horizon, with the most north-westerly turbines partially backclothed by landform. The western turbines of the Proposed Development will be seen partially in front of Blarghour Wind Farm, and the Proposed Development will extend the influence of turbines further south along the horizon. The eastern turbines of the Proposed Development will be afforded some screening by intervening landform. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear consistent in scale to Blarghour and will appear as one extended development along the ridge, with no notable gap between the two schemes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in successive views with Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) which is located 8.4km to the east of the viewpoint. Views of Eredine Wind Farm is limited to blades of three turbines appearing just above the horizon. These will be barely perceptible in views from the viewpoint.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with Blarghour Wind Farm. The Proposed Development alongside Blarghour will result in views from this location being influenced by an increased number of wind farm developments. The Proposed Development in addition to the other proposed scheme, will result in a medium scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium and as such the cumulative visual effect under Scenario 2 will be Not Significant (Minor).</p>

Table 6.34: Viewpoint 17: North of Ford

Viewpoint 17: North of Ford				
Grid Reference	187102	704247	Figure Number	6.2.17
LCT	LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic		Landscape Designation	None
Direction of view	North-east		Distance to nearest turbine	15.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	6		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	9
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is sited adjacent to the minor road which runs along the western edge of Loch Awe, at a location just north of the settlement of Ford. The viewpoint is located on the hardstanding area associated with a forestry building, immediately adjacent to the road. The viewpoint is situated at a slightly higher elevation than the road. The viewpoint is located just off Core Path C173(a) as adopted by Argyll and Bute Council. The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors on the outskirts of Ford, road users travelling along the minor road, and recreational receptors travelling along the core path and promoted cycle route.</p> <p>This viewpoint offers open views towards the Site in the north-east. The foreground of the view comprises the minor road, partially screened by roadside vegetation, with a large field to the east leading to An Lodan. A powerline is visible running through the field. A small ridge is visible in the</p>			

Viewpoint 17: North of Ford	
	<p>middle distance, comprising the landform of Dun Toiseach and the lower slopes of Cnoc na Moine. This ridge screens views of Loch Awe and the difference in elevation obscures An Lodan.</p> <p>In the far distance, the horizon is formed by the distant ridge of moorland and forestry covered hills, which rise up from the east of Loch Awe. The existing An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible from this viewpoint, further south along the ridge.</p> <p>Views to the north and west of the viewpoint are confined by landform and forestry. Views to the south extend along the road, but distant views are largely restricted by mature roadside vegetation. A glimpse of the distant, elevated horizon is provided when looking south. Views to the east focus on the undulating moorland hills, which provides a backdrop to the mature vegetation visible in the middle distance.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors near Ford, recreational receptors travelling along the core path and promoted cycle route, and users. Recreational and residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view whilst road users are of low susceptibility.</p> <p>The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape. Therefore, the value of the view is considered to be low.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 9 wind turbines into north-easterly views. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 6 turbines, and blades of an additional 3 turbines, will be theoretically visible. However, actual visibility will be less than this due to screening by forestry on intervening landform, with five turbines visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be a prominent feature in views to the north-east of the viewpoint. From this viewpoint, the most westerly and easterly turbines of the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The turbines visible will appear to sit in a topographic low, between the landform of Cnoc na Moine and the moorland hills to the south of the Site which are closer to the viewpoint. The Proposed Development will sit against the skyline. Overall, the Proposed Development will appear balanced and evenly spaced.</p> <p>Given the intervening distance and undulating nature of the Site, ancillary infrastructure and tracks will not be visible.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and its immediate surroundings only. Views to the immediate south along the road are screened by vegetation, whilst intervening landform screens views further north along the road. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be partially screened from landform and vegetation in views from this viewpoint and the immediate surroundings. This viewpoint represents a worst-case scenario than from the road itself, due to its higher elevation and clearance above roadside vegetation. Views will be experienced from a localised area, at an oblique angle to the direction of travel and eastern orientation of buildings, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.35: Viewpoint 18: Cruachan Dam

Viewpoint 18: Cruachan Dam			
Grid Reference	208006	728140	Figure Number 6.2.18
LCT	LCT 3 – High Tops	Landscape Designation	North Argyll APQ
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	16.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is at Cruachan Dam at an elevation of approximately 400m. Cruachan Dam is a notable location for hillwalkers as they start their ascent to the summit of Ben Cruachan. The Dam is easily accessible and popular with many people engaging in recreational activities, including walking, hiking and fishing. It is located within the North Argyll APQ and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.</p> <p>Views from the Dam are concentrated both along the reservoir and to the enclosing hills to the north, and out towards the Pass of Brander and Loch Awe in the south. The view south is framed by the lower flanks of Beinn a Bhuidh to the east and Meall Cuanail to the west. Beyond this, extensive views across undulating moorland plateau with large tracts of forestry are available. The most northern extents of Loch Awe is visible in southerly views, as it transitions from the River Awe in the Pass of Brander.</p> <p>The operational An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon to the south of the viewpoint. It can be seen on the extensive moorland plateau to the south of the Pass of Brander, and is partially screened by intervening landform. The turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible against the skyline.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located within the North Argyll APQ and therefore, the value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into south-westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of five turbines, and blades of an additional eight turbines will be theoretically visible. Most of the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the south-west, set amongst moorland hills. Intervening landform will screen most of the Proposed Development, however turbines T3, T4 and T8 will appear more prominent on the horizon. These turbines will be noticeably larger in scale than those of the smaller and more distant An Suidhe Wind Farm. Turbine blades visible above the horizon will not be noticeably larger than the existing turbines.</p> <p>Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a short section of the access track leading to the dam. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>		
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.</p>		

Viewpoint 18: Cruachan Dam	
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.36: Viewpoint 19: Beinn Bheula

Viewpoint 19: Beinn Bheula			
Grid Reference	215475	698322	Figure Number 6.2.19
LCT	LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Direction of view	North-west	Distance to nearest turbine	17.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	10	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This is an elevated viewpoint located at the summit of Beinn Bheula, within a range of hills known as the Arrochar Alps. The summit is located between Loch Goil to the east and Loch Eck to the south-west. It is located at the western edge of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers extensive, long-ranging views in all directions, including to the summits of Ben Ime and Ben Lui in the north-east, and the Lomond hills in the east. Views to the north and west are focussed across the surrounding upland hills. Loch Fyne is visible in glimpses between hills to the north-west.</p> <p>To the north-west, An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon on the low, undulating plateau above Loch Fyne, with Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms visible also on the distant horizon as another cluster of turbines to the north of this. Clachan Flats Wind Farm is visible further north, as a distinctly separate group of turbines.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a popular Corbett within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into north-westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of 10 turbines, and blades of an additional three turbines will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the north-west, set amongst a series of moorland hill ridges. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, and the presence of several ridges of moorland hills, the Proposed Development will be entirely backclothed by a distant ridge of hills, and partially screened by another in the foreground.</p> <p>The most westerly turbines of the Proposed Development will appear evenly spaced, however those further east will be more inconsistently spaced. Some stacking will be present between T2 and T7, and T5 and T10, however, this stacking will not be perceptible in views from this viewpoint given the intervening distance. The most northerly turbines will be visible partly in front of the operational Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms. Due to the closer proximity of the</p>		

Viewpoint 19: Beinn Bheula	
	<p>Proposed Development, the turbines will appear of a larger scale than those of An Suidhe further south, and Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal situated in the background.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in north-westerly views, it will still be distant and sit below the horizon, it will be partially screened by landform, and will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint which already feature views of wind turbines.</p> <p>Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the south-east of the Site. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.37: Viewpoint 20: Ben Cruachan (1126m)

Viewpoint 20: Ben Cruachan (1126m)				
Grid Reference	206967	730465	Figure Number	6.2.20
LCT	LCT 2 – High Tops		Landscape Designation	North Argyll APQ and WLA 09: Loch Etive Mountains
Direction of view	South		Distance to nearest turbine	18.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is at the summit of Ben Cruachan, which at 1,126m AOD is a Munro and is the highest summit within Argyll and Bute. It is located within the North Argyll APQ and Loch Etive Mountains WLA, and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers.</p> <p>The summit offers expansive 360° panoramic views, with extensive visibility in clear weather.</p> <p>In southerly views, the foreground is foreshortened due to the slopes dropping sharply down from the summit. The lower hill summits of Meall Cuanail and Meall nam Measagh are visible to the south, with their southern slopes descending into the Pass of Brander.</p> <p>Beyond this, extensive views across undulating moorland plateau with large tracts of forestry are available. Loch Awe is a prominent feature in southerly views, extending into the distance. The sea is also visible on the far horizon.</p> <p>To the east views of other nearby summits are available, including to Stob Daimh which forms part of the horse-shoe shaped walk for Ben Cruachan. Similarly, views to the north are dominated by a large number of large, rugged hills with Loch Etive visible in the low-lying valley between the hills in the north-west. Loch Etive is also visible in westerly views towards the coast, with the Isle of Mull visible on the distant horizon.</p> <p>The operational Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal Wind Farms are visible to the south of the viewpoint on the extensive moorland plateau to the south of the Pass of Brander. In addition, the operational Clachlan Flats, An Suidhe and Cruach Mhor Wind Farms, are also visible, forming</p>			

Viewpoint 20: Ben Cruachan (1126m)	
	discrete clusters to the south-east and south/ south-west. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, all existing wind farms are entirely backclothed by landform.
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a popular Munro within the North Argyll APQ and Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 13 new wind turbines into southerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of all turbines will be theoretically visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible within the broad moorland plateau of hills which are located to the east of Loch Awe and west of Loch Fyne. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, the Proposed Development will sit below the skyline, completely backclothed by landform. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear quite dispersed, and the most easterly turbines of T1 and T2 will appear as slight outliers. The Proposed Development will be visible in the front of the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm.</p> <p>The turbines will be of a larger scale than those of the An Suidhe, Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal Wind Farms, however given the large intervening distance, and the sense of perception, the scale difference will not be obvious in views. The Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in the plateau between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne further north, however the Proposed Development will still be distant and will form a relatively small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint.</p> <p>Given the large intervening distance between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, ancillary infrastructure including access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the north of the Pass of Brander. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.38: Viewpoint 21: Beinn Ime

Viewpoint 21: Beinn Ime				
Grid Reference	225497	708480	Figure Number	6.2.21
LCT	LCT 251 – Highland Summits		Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Direction of view	West		Distance to nearest turbine	21.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	17		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	17

Viewpoint 21: Beinn Ime	
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is at the summit of Beinn Ime, which at 1,011m AOD is a Munro and is the highest summit within the range of hills known as the Arrochar Alps. It is located within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers.</p> <p>The summit offers expansive 360° panoramic views, with extensive visibility in clear weather. Views to the south and north take in the large panorama of rugged hills and mountains. Distant views to the south also include the Loch Long, with the sea visible on the horizon. In the view to the west, the slopes drop down from the viewpoint and views are directed along the steeply sided Glen Kinglas towards the head of Loch Fyne. Binnein an Fhìdhleir is visible to the north of the glen, whilst Beinn an Lochain is visible to the south.</p> <p>The operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm is visible to the north-west beyond the ridge enclosing Glen Kinglas. In addition, there are several other more distant wind farms visible from this elevated viewpoint, including An Suidhe to the south-west, and Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms to the north-west. These each separate groups of turbines, with distinctive gaps between each scheme.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a popular Munro within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10 degrees of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of all turbines will be theoretically visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the west, set amongst a series of moorland hill ridges. It will be seen as a distant development on the relatively low lying and extensive expanse of plateau beyond and above the head of Loch Fyne. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, the Proposed Development will be entirely backclothed by a distant ridge of hills. The towers of some of the most southerly turbines (T11-13) will be partially screened by intervening landform. The turbines of the Proposed Development will appear consistent in height. There will be stacking of T5 and T9 and T6 and T10, however, given the intervening distance this will not be very noticeable in views. The Proposed Development will appear as a distinctly separate group of turbines to other operational schemes in the view such as An Suidhe, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas, and Clachlan Flats. Due to the closer proximity of the Proposed Development, the turbines will appear of a larger scale than those of An Suidhe further south, and Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal situated further north.</p> <p>Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in westerly views, it will still be distant and sit below the horizon, and will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint which already feature several wind farms. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the east of the Site. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented</p>

Viewpoint 21: Beinn Ime	
	or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.39: Viewpoint 22: Beinn Mhor (Cowal Peninsula and LLTNP)

Viewpoint 22: Beinn Mhor (Cowal Peninsula and LLTNP)				
Grid Reference	210784	690825	Figure Number	6.2.22
LCT	LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills		Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Direction of view	North-west		Distance to nearest turbine	21.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	9		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This is an elevated viewpoint located at the summit of Beinn Mhor (741m AOD), within Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The viewpoint is a distinctive hill within the range of hills that run along to the west of Loch Eck, and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers 360° panoramic views from its summit which extends over a vast expanse of upland hills and ridges. Views to the north extend to a rugged horizon with distinctive mountains including Ben Lui, Ben Cruachan and Beinn Ime. Loch Eck, to the east of the viewpoint, is not visible from the summit. Due to the elevated nature of this viewpoint, views of the Site in the north-west appear entirely backclothed by the distant landform, and intervening hills provide some screening of the Site.</p> <p>Existing wind farm development are already present in views from this viewpoint. To the south-west, Cruach Mhor Wind Farm is visible beyond the ridge enclosing Garrachra Glen to the south-west. In addition, the operational An Suidhe, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms are visible on the distant horizon to the north-west.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a relatively remote hill within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>			
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into north-westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 10° of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of nine turbines, and blades of an additional four turbines will be visible. Most of the proposed turbines will be afforded some screening by intervening landform.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the north-west, set amongst a series of moorland hill ridges. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, and the presence of several ridges of moorland hills, the Proposed Development will appear to be between the horizon of these ridges. The Proposed Development will be entirely backclothed by a distant ridge of hills, and partially screened by another in the foreground. From this distance, the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear evenly spaced and consistent in height. T3 appears sits slightly higher than the rest of the turbines, however given the intervening distance this difference in height will be barely perceptible in views.</p> <p>The most south-easterly turbines will be visible partly in front of the operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm. The turbines will be of a larger scale than those of the Carraig Gheal. Similarly, Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm will be visible in the distance behind the Proposed Development. However,</p>			

Viewpoint 22: Beinn Mhor (Cowal Peninsula and LLTNP)	
	<p>given the large intervening distance, and the sense of perception, the scale difference between these schemes will not be obvious in views.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in north-westerly views, it will still be distant, largely screened by landform, and will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint.</p> <p>Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the south-east of the Site, such as Beinn Bheag. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.40: Viewpoint 23: The Cobbler (Ben Arthur)

Viewpoint 23: The Cobbler				
Grid Reference	225927	705827	Figure Number	6.2.23
LCT	LCT 251 – Highland Summits		Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Direction of view	West		Distance to nearest turbine	22.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This viewpoint is at the summit of the Cobbler (Ben Arthur), which is one of the most popular summits in the Arrochar Alps. It is located within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers. The viewpoint is located on a Core Path adopted by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.</p> <p>The summit offers expansive 360° panoramic views, with extensive visibility in clear weather. Views in all directions take in the surrounding rugged hills and mountains, notably Beinn Ime to the north, Beinn and Lochain to the north-west, and Ben Donich to the south-west. In the view to the north-west, the craggy summit of Beinn an Lochain is visible in the foreground of views, with the Site visible in the distance beyond the southern flank of the hill.</p> <p>The operational An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon in views to the west, whilst Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is visible in the distant north-west, completely backclothed by landform.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a popular summit within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>			

Viewpoint 23: The Cobbler	
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy less than 10 degrees of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of all turbines will be visible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in views to the west, located on the relatively low lying and extensive expanse of plateau beyond and above the head of Loch Fyne. Due to the elevated nature of the viewpoint, the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear completely backclothed. In addition, some turbines (T11, T12 and T13) will be afforded partial screening by intervening landform.</p> <p>The turbines will appear consistent in height and relatively well spaced. However, stacking is present between T1, T5 and T9, and T2 and T8. Given the intervening distance, this stacking will not be noticeable in views from this viewpoint. Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a separate group of turbines than that of the nearby An Suidhe, and will appear more prominent than An Suidhe. However, given the large intervening distance, and the sense of perception, the scale difference between these schemes will not be obvious in views.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in westerly views, it will be seen at a distance and will not break the skyline. It will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint which already feature several wind farms. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the east of the Site. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.41: Viewpoint 24: B845, Loch Etive

Viewpoint 24: B845, Loch Etive				
Grid Reference	198504	736713	Figure Number	6.2.24
LCT	LCT 2 – High Tops		Landscape Designation	North Argyll APQ
Direction of view	South		Distance to nearest turbine	24.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	9
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>The viewpoint is located at an elevated section of the minor road which travels along Gleann Salach. The viewpoint is located 1.3km north of Inveresragan. The viewpoint is located at a section of the road where views open up along the glen towards Loch Etive in the south. It is representative of views experienced by road users travelling south along this route.</p> <p>This location offers elevated views concentrated towards Loch Etive in the south, framed by the lower slopes of Na Maoilean to the west, and Beinn Mheadhonach to the east. Airds Point is a notably promontory protruding into Loch Etive from the south.</p>			

Viewpoint 24: B845, Loch Etive	
	<p>The extensive moorland plateau to the north-west of Loch Awe is visible in the distant background, forming a low, undulating skyline. Bracken and riparian woodland growing along the valley floor is visible in the foreground of the view.</p> <p>The turbines of Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm are visible on the skyline to the south, set upon the plateau and breaking across the skyline.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by road users travelling along the B845. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located within the North Argyll APQ designated landscape, and therefore, the value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of nine wind turbines into southerly views. The Proposed Development will occupy less than 10 degrees of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of five turbines, and blades of an additional four turbines will be visible. The most north-easterly and westerly turbines will be afforded some screening by intervening landform, notably T1 T2 and T7, and four turbines completely screened from view (T9, T11, T12 and T13).</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible on the distant horizon, against the moorland skyline, in southerly views from this location. This plateau of moorland forms the backdrop to Loch Etive in these views. The Proposed Development will appear to sit in a slight topographic low on the horizon, between the landform of Cruach Airdey to the north-east of Beinn Ghlas, and Cruach Mhor to the north-east of the Site.</p> <p>With the exception of T4 and T6 which are stacked, the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear evenly spaced. Five of the turbines will be most prominent, with towers visible. The remaining turbines are largely screened by landform. Despite being of a larger scale, due to the intervening distance and sense of perspective the turbines of the Proposed Development will appear similar in scale to those of Beinn Ghlas, which is in closer proximity to the viewpoint.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines to the south, it will still be very distant and form a small feature on the horizon in views from this viewpoint. Given the large intervening distance between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, ancillary infrastructure including access tracks will not be visible in views. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a barely perceptible change to the view, and will be noticeable on days with very clear visibility.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and along a c.1km stretch of the road extending immediately south of the viewpoint. As the road drops down towards Loch Etive, gradually less turbines are visible and roadside vegetation provides more filtering of views. Therefore, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the medium sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.</p>
Potential for cumulative effects	<p>Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.</p>

Table 6.42: Viewpoint 25: Troisgeach

Viewpoint 25: Troisgeach				
Grid Reference	229034	719385	Figure Number	6.2.25

Viewpoint 25: Troisgeach			
LCT	LCT 251 – Highland Summits	Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
Direction of view	South-west	Distance to nearest turbine	25.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	9	Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	12
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This is an elevated viewpoint located at the summit of Troisgeach (733m AOD), near the western boundary of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The viewpoint is also located within the Ben Lui Wild Land Area, and approximately 3km to the north-west of the small settlement of Inverarnan. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers. However, this summit does not appear to be well frequented.</p> <p>The viewpoint offers extensive, long-ranging views across the surrounding moorland hills, in all directions. Views towards the Site in the south-west are framed by the slopes of the nearby Meall an Fhudair, and further in the distance, by the northern slopes of Clachan Hill and Beinn Chas. The Alt na Lairige Reservoir is visible in the middle distance in views towards the Site. The distinctive summits of Ben Lui and Ben Oss are visible in views to the north, whilst Ben Vorlich and Beinn Ime are visible to the south.</p> <p>To the south-west, the operational turbines of An Suidhe Wind Farm are visible on the distant horizon, partially screened by the intervening landform of Clachan Hill. In the same view, the turbines of Clachlan Wind Farm are visible in closer proximity to the viewpoint. They appear of a larger scale, but are completely backclothed by distant moorland hills.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of hill located within Ben Lui WLA and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce visibility of 12 wind turbines into south-westerly views. The Proposed Development will occupy less than 10 degrees of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of nine turbines, and blades of an additional three turbines will be visible. The most northerly and southerly turbines within the Site will be afforded some screening by intervening landform, with blades visible on the distant horizon.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in views to the south-west, on the distant horizon. The Proposed Development will appear to sit in a topographic low on the horizon, between two interlocking hills. Many of the turbines will be afforded a large amount of screening by landform, with T4, T5, T8, T11 and T12 appearing most prominent with their towers visible against the skyline. T5, T8 and T11 all appear to be stacked. However, given the intervening distance, this stacking is unlikely to be obvious in views.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will appear as a separate group of turbines than that of the nearby An Suidhe and Clachlan Flats Wind Farm. It will appear of a larger scale than the distant An Suidhe turbines, but due to the sense of perspective, will appear of a similar scale to the closer turbines of Clachlan Flats Wind Farm, which is visible the other side of Clachlan Hill.</p> <p>Given the presence of intervening landform between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, lower-level ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines in south-westerly views, it will be seen at a distance and will appear to sit in a topographic low on the horizon, between hills. It will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint which already feature several wind farms, including An Suidhe and Clachlan Flats Wind Farm.</p>		

Viewpoint 25: Troisgeach	
	Overall, the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small-scale change to the view. The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the north-east of the Site. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small .
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.43: Viewpoint 26: Ben Lui hilltop (1130m) (LLTNP)

Viewpoint 26: Ben Lui hilltop (1130m) (LLTNP)				
Grid Reference	226628	726279	Figure Number	6.2.26
LCT	LCT 2 – High Tops and LCT 251 – Highland Summits		Landscape Designation	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the North Argyll APQ, and WLA 06: Ben Lui
Direction of view	South-west		Distance to nearest turbine	26.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	9		Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible	13
Viewpoint location and existing view	<p>This is an elevated viewpoint located at the summit of Ben Lui, which at 1,130m AOD is a Munro. The viewpoint is within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the North Argyll APQ, and Ben Lui WLA, and is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors, such as hillwalkers.</p> <p>From the summit there is a 360° panorama that extends over the vast expanse of upland hills, ridges and mountains of the Grampian Mountains. In clear weather, extensive visibility is possible. The viewpoint offers long-ranging views in all directions, including south-westerly views towards the Site. Due to the elevated and distant nature of this viewpoint, the Site appears entirely backclothed by the distant landform, and intervening hills provide some screening of the Site.</p> <p>In south-westerly views, the foreground is foreshortened due to the slopes dropping sharply down from the summit to the bealach between Ben Lui and Beinn a'Chlèibh. The lower hill summit of Beinn a'Chlèibh is visible in the middle distance with several distant ridges of hills extending across the horizon into the distance. To the north-west, the distinctive landform of Ben Cruachan is visible with the northern-most extents of Loch Awe visible at the foot of the Munro. Similarly, views to the north, east and south are dominated by a great number of large, rugged hills.</p> <p>Operational wind farm development theoretically visible from this viewpoint includes A'Chruach Wind Farm, Cruach Mhor and An Suidhe Wind Farm to the south-west, and Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas to the west.</p>			
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors such as hillwalkers, whose attention is focussed on their surroundings. Therefore, recreational receptors are of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of a popular Munro within the North Argyll APQ, Ben Lui WLA and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The value of the view is therefore considered to be high.</p>			

Viewpoint 26: Ben Lui hilltop (1130m) (LLTNP)	
	On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be high .
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The Proposed Development will introduce theoretical visibility of 13 new wind turbines into south-westerly views experienced from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development will occupy less than 10 degrees of the horizontal field of view. The blades and hubs of nine turbines, and blades of an additional four turbines will be visible. The turbines in the west of the Site will be afforded screening by the intervening landform of Beinn Bhuidhe.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the south-west, within the extensive plateau of moorland hills. Given the elevated nature of the viewpoint, the Proposed Development will sit below the skyline, completely backclothed by landform. The most prominent turbines (T1-4) of the Proposed Development will appear more dispersed, but relatively evenly spaced compared to the rest of the turbines. Those further west in the Site are more closely spaced, with some slight stacking present. However, visibility of these turbines is reduced due to the presence of intervening landform. Furthermore, given the intervening distance between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, any uneven spacing or stacking will be barely perceptible in views.</p> <p>The most easterly turbines will be visible partly in front of the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. The turbines will be of a larger scale than those of the An Suidhe. However, given the large intervening distance, and the sense of perception, the scale difference will not be obvious in views.</p> <p>Although the Proposed Development will extend the presence of turbines to the south-west, it will still be very distant and will form a small feature within the extensive panoramic views available from this viewpoint.</p> <p>Given the large intervening distance between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, ancillary infrastructure including access tracks will not be visible in views.</p> <p>The change in view will be experienced at this viewpoint and other localised hill summits to the north-east of the Site. Overall, the geographical extent of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small scale change to the view, and will only be noticeable on days with very clear visibility.</p>
Effect and Significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be low and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect.
Potential for cumulative effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Effects on Settlements

6.133 Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from settlements across the Study Area is illustrated by **Figures 6.1.2** and **6.1.3**. Visual effects from settlements, which have been taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined in **Table 6.6**, are discussed below. Where a settlement is represented by an assessment viewpoint reference is made to this.

Table 6.44: Dalavich

Dalavich			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 2: Dalavich Jetty	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	4.6km
Description	The settlement of Dalavich is a small village located on the western shores of Loch Awe. It is 4.6km to the west of the Site. The village is accessed via the minor road running along the western shores of Loch Awe. The village was developed by the Forestry Commission and many of the houses semi-detached two storey properties which are timber clad with corrugated metal roofs.		

Dalavich	
	<p>The settlement is quite contained with a strong presence of mature deciduous woodland around its edges, including a row of trees along the lochside. Properties on the eastern edge of the settlement, near the lochside, are oriented to the east, with views out across the loch towards the enclosing hills rising 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. These views are represented by Viewpoint 2: Dalavich Jetty (see Figure 6.2.2).</p> <p>Elsewhere within the settlement, views towards the Site are more filtered due to intervening built development. However, areas further west which are at a higher elevation than the lochside, for example around the village green, will experience longer ranging views towards the ridge enclosing Loch Awe to the east. The loch itself is screened from view.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>Dalavich is not located within a designated landscape however open views across Loch Awe towards the Site are experienced from the beach and from the Dalavich green. The value of the views is considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates widespread theoretical visibility of all turbines across the settlement. For properties within the interior of the settlement, visibility is likely to be limited by built development and mature vegetation in and around the settlement, including along the lochside. More open views are available from the eastern boundary of the settlement.</p> <p>From this settlement, the Proposed Development will be seen set above the skyline to the east. This skyline forms part of the visual setting of the settlement.</p> <p>It will be seen alongside the operational with An Suidhe Wind Farm, extending the visibility of turbines across the horizon. Up to 13 turbines, including hubs, will be theoretically visible. However, the Proposed Development and the existing An Suidhe wind farm will appear as distinctly separate developments of differing scale. The Proposed Development will be of a larger scale than An Suidhe and located in closer proximity to Dalavich.</p> <p>A high magnitude of change was identified for VP2: Dalavich Jetty, which represents views experienced from a location on Dalavich beach, in the eastern extents of the settlement. The geographical extent of similar views within the settlement is considered medium as the Proposed Development will be less visible from elsewhere within the interior settlement due to the presence of built development and intervening vegetation. However, some less enclosed areas of the settlement to the west, including near the village green, will have more open views towards the ridge of hills and the Proposed Development.</p>
Effect and Significance	<p>Overall, the magnitude of visual change experienced from the settlement of Dalavich will be high, and taking account of the high sensitivity of the visual receptors will result in a Significant (Major) visual effect.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>As illustrated by the CZTV in Figure 6.1.12 under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) and Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) will be visible in views to the east and south-east, respectively, from the settlement. The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour whilst Eredine is theoretically visible in successive views. In reality, Eredine wind farm will be entirely screened by intervening vegetation and built development, and views of Blarghour from within the settlement will be filtered by vegetation and screened by built development. Visibility of the proposed schemes is greatest from the eastern edge of the settlement, along the lochside.</p>

Dalavich	
	<p>In particular, the addition of Blarghour will introduce turbines within close proximity to the north of the Proposed Development, and will extend the presence of turbines along the ridge to the east of Loch Awe, overlooking Dalavich. Although visibility from much of the settlement will be filtered and/or screened, with visibility greatest along the eastern edge, it is considered that the schemes under Scenario 2 will give rise to a large scale change over a medium geographical extent. The magnitude of change will be high and as such the cumulative visual effect is judged to be Significant (Moderate) under Scenario 2.</p>

Table 6.45: Inverinan

Inverinan			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	5.5km
Description	<p>The settlement of Inverinan is a small hamlet located to the west of Loch Awe. It is 5.5km to the north-west of the Site. The hamlet is accessed via the minor road running along the western shores of Loch Awe, between Ford and Kilchrenan.</p> <p>The settlement is broadly in two parts. In the area to the north of the Abhainn Fionain, the properties are located along the minor road. They are quite contained, located in close proximity to one another, and are afforded open views out towards the Site in the south-east. To the south of the Abhainn Fionain, the properties are more dispersed, with long access roads off the main road. These properties in the south of the settlement are generally quite enclosed by mature woodland.</p> <p>The properties in the north of the settlement, closer to the lochside, are oriented to the north-west, facing out onto the road. Their rear elevations face to the south-east, with views out to the ridge of hills enclosing Loch Awe to the east. There is no visibility of the loch itself, just the hills rising up from it. These views are represented by Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan (see Figure 6.2.7). Visibility of the ridge of hills and the Site from the properties in the south is screened by vegetation.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>Inverinan is not located within a designated landscape however the settlement is afforded open scenic views across Loch Awe and to the enclosing ridge of hills on the eastern side. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates widespread theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines across the settlement. For properties within the south of the settlement, visibility is likely to be limited by mature vegetation surrounding the properties. More open views are available from the northern part of the settlement.</p> <p>From this settlement, the Proposed Development will be seen set above the skyline that encloses views along Loch Awe to the south-east. It will be seen alongside the operational with An Suidhe Wind Farm, extending the visibility of turbines across the horizon. Up to 13 turbines will be visible, however the hubs will be visible on up to six turbines due to screening by the intervening landform of Creag Dhubh. However, the Proposed Development and the existing An Suidhe wind farm will appear as distinctly separate developments of differing scale. The Proposed Development will be of a larger scale than An Suidhe and located in closer proximity to Inverinan.</p> <p>A high magnitude of change was identified for Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan, which represents views experienced from a core path, just off the road running through Inverinan. It represents views from the north of the settlement. The geographical extent of similar views within the settlement is considered medium as the Proposed Development will be less visible from elsewhere within the south of the settlement due to the presence of dense mature vegetation.</p>		

Inverinan	
Effect and Significance	Overall, the magnitude of visual change experienced from the settlement of Inverinan will be high , and taking account of the high sensitivity of the visual receptors will result in a Significant (Moderate) visual effect.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>As illustrated by the CZTV in Figure 6.1.12 under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) and Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) will be visible in views to the south-east and south, respectively, from the settlement. Blarghour will be seen in combined views with the Proposed Development whilst Eredine is theoretically visible in successive views with the Proposed Development. In reality, Eredine wind farm will be entirely screened by intervening vegetation. Views of Blarghour from within the south of the settlement will be screened by mature vegetation, whilst views of Blarghour are more open in the main northern part of the settlement.</p> <p>In particular, the addition of Blarghour will introduce turbines within close proximity to the north of the Proposed Development, and will extend the presence of turbines closer towards the settlement where it will be a prominent feature on the ridge of hills to the east of Loch Awe. As such, it is considered that the schemes under Scenario 2 (notably Blarghour) will give rise to a large scale change over a medium geographical extent. The magnitude of change will be high and as such the cumulative visual effect is judged to be Significant (Moderate) under Scenario 2.</p>

Table 6.46: Strachur

Strachur			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 14: A886 at Strachur	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	10.5km
Description	<p>Strachur is a small village located on the eastern coast of Loch Fyne, 10.5km to the south-east of the Site. The village is accessed by the A815 and A886. 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. The properties located along the A886 are primarily oriented towards the loch, with principal viewing directions to the north-west towards the Site. The properties located in this part of the settlement have open views to hills to the west of Loch Fyne and in the direction of the Site. These views are represented by Viewpoint 14: A886 at Strachur (see Figure 6.2.14).</p> <p>Views from elsewhere within the settlement tend to be screened by intervening built development and filtered by intermittent deciduous vegetation. Some localised areas within the main settlement have longer ranging views across to discrete sections of the ridge of hills to the west of Loch Fyne</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>Strachur is located within the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. In addition, the settlement is afforded open scenic views across Loch Fyne and to the enclosing ridge of hills on the western side. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates widespread theoretical visibility of up to six turbines across the entirety of the settlement. The most northerly extents of the settlement will have no theoretical visibility due to screening by the lower slopes of Creagan an Eich.</p>		

Strachur	
	<p>There will be visibility from some parts of the settlement, particularly along its western edge overlooking Loch Fyne. Elsewhere, visibility will be reduced by the presence of built development and intervening vegetation, which will screen and filter outward views towards the Site. Some localised areas within the main area of Strachur, just off the A815, will have views towards the ridge of hills and the Site, and theoretical visibility of up to six turbines, although no hubs will be visible. However, properties in this part of the settlement are generally oriented north and south and therefore views will not be focussed out towards the Site. Some properties in this area however are oriented with principal elevations facing north-west and south-east. These are more likely to experience visibility of the Proposed Development, with potential visibility of up to six turbines expected.</p> <p>Where visible, the Proposed Development will appear set against the skyline above the enclosing ridge of hills to the west. This ridge will provide a large amount of screening of the Proposed Development, with up to six turbines blades visible. No hubs will be visible from this settlement. A low magnitude of change was identified for VP14: A886 at Strachur, which represents views experienced from a location on the lochside just off the A886 in Strachur. The geographical extent of similar views within the settlement is considered small as the Proposed Development will be less visible from elsewhere within the settlement (further away from the loch) due to the presence of built development and intervening vegetation and landform. There may be similar views in areas along the most westerly extents of the settlement, overlooking the loch.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the magnitude of visual change will be low , and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect on residents in Strachur.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.47: St. Catherine's

St Catherine's			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St. Catherine's	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	8.5km
Description	<p>St. Catherine's is a small, elongated village located on the eastern coast of Loch Fyne, opposite Inveraray. It is 8.5km to the east of the Site. The village is accessed by the A815 which runs through the settlement following the shoreline. The settlement is quite dispersed, spread out along the A815. Properties are primarily located along this road, oriented east-west with views across the loch. These views are represented by Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St. Catherine's (see Figure 6.2.10).</p> <p>Views from properties further south along the A815 are screened by intervening vegetation located along the lochside. This will limit views towards the Site, however upper floors are likely to experience more visibility across the loch and towards the Site.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>St. Catherine's is located on the border of the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ and the North Argyll APQ where the two designations meet. In addition, the settlement is afforded open scenic views across Loch Fyne and to the enclosing ridge of hills on the western side. The value of the view is considered to be high.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be high.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates widespread theoretical visibility of up to six turbines across the entirety of the settlement.</p> <p>There will be visibility from most of the settlement, particularly from open sections of the A815 with long-ranging views across Loch Fyne. Most of the properties in the settlement are oriented</p>		

St Catherine's	
	<p>with their principal elevation facing towards the Site, and will therefore experience visibility of the Proposed Development. Where visible, the Proposed Development will appear set against the skyline, although most of the turbine towers will be screened by intervening landform. Five turbines will be visible, including one turbine hub which will appear to sit just on the horizon. Further south within the settlement, actual visibility will be reduced by the presence of mature intervening roadside vegetation which is located along the roadside by the loch.</p> <p>A low magnitude of change was identified for VP10: Jetty at St. Catherine's, which represents views experienced from a location on the jetty just off the A886 in St Catherine's. The geographical extent of similar views within the settlement is considered small as the Proposed Development will be visible from a small section of the settlement due to the presence of intervening vegetation and landform.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the magnitude of visual change will be low , and taking account of the high sensitivity will result in a Not Significant (Minor) visual effect on residents in St Catherine's.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Effects on Routes

6.134 Visibility from a route is not uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change due to the landform, built form, and vegetation cover as the viewer moves along the route. Sequential effects from the key routes which have been taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined from **Table 6.7**, are set out below.

Table 6.48: Minor Road West of Loch Awe

Minor Road West of Loch Awe and Cycle Route			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 5: Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich) Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan Viewpoint 9: Kilmaha Viewpoint Viewpoint 17: North of Ford	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	4.7km
Description	<p>This is a minor single-track road which runs along the western side of Loch Awe between Ford in the south-west and Annat in the north, where it joins the B845 towards Taynuilt. A cycle route also largely follows this minor road to the west of Loch Awe, although extends further north and slightly further south than the minor road in some places. The cycle route starts on the B840 where it meets the A816 in the south-west of the Study Area before continuing north to Ford. From Ford the route continues along the minor road to the west of Loch Awe before joining the B845 at Annat. After joining the B845, the route continues north-west where it briefly joins the A85 at Taynuilt before turning back south onto a minor road which travels west towards Oban.</p> <p>Some unenclosed sections of the road and cycle route offer elevated scenic views along Loch Awe and its valley setting. 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 road and cycle route are partly filtered through roadside trees and vegetation.</p> <p>Within the settlement of Ford, at the southern end of the road, visibility is contained due to mature woodland and built development. The enclosing wooded slopes around Loch Awe also limit longer ranging views from the settlement. However, visibility increases when travelling north out of Ford. The road starts to climb with more open north-easterly views experienced across the loch. Views to Loch Awe remain partially screened by low wooded hills to the east of An Lodan.</p>		

Minor Road West of Loch Awe and Cycle Route	
	<p>At Torran, the road passes between a series of small hills that obscure views of the loch, and views become restricted by woodland. Approximately 1km north-bound of Torran views across the loch to the eastern ridge of hills become more open. Whilst the road continues along the edge of the loch, views remain largely open albeit filtered by roadside vegetation. Visibility becomes more enclosed as the road climbs past Arichamish due to the presence of small hills and intermittent forestry. The road remains intermittently enclosed by vegetation as it continues north, although longer ranging views are experienced in short glimpses. Panoramic elevated views along the loch are available from viewpoints along this stretch including near Arinechtan and Kilmaha.</p> <p>Between Kilmaha and Dalavich, views are intermittently screened by large coniferous forestry and low hillocks. Glimpsed views are experienced towards the ridge of hills enclosing Loch Awe to the east. Locations along the road which are less enclosed are afforded long views along the loch and to the enclosing hills to the east.</p> <p>At Dalavich, views from the road and cycle route become are filtered through mature woodland and partially screened by built development within the settlement. From the section of the road adjacent to the green, the upper slopes of the ridge of the hills are the focus of the view. Just north of Dalavich, expansive views are experienced as the road rises. Such views are experienced for a short section of the route before the road becomes increasingly enclosed by woodland and forestry. This continues along the section of the route between Dalavich and Inverinan. Beyond Inverinan, the road continues through woodland which screens views of the loch. The upper slopes of the ridge to the east of the loch are visible in glimpses between vegetation.</p> <p>Scenic views from the route tend to focus on the loch and the enclosing hills backing it to the east. The operational An Suidhe Wind Farm is visible on the skyline of these hills to the east. Although it sits against the skyline, it is afforded some screening by the undulating topography of the ridge. Further north along the route, visibility of An Suidhe is reduced due to intervening landform. Long-ranging open views are experienced just north of Dalavich for southbound travellers, however these views soon become filtered.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. The road also forms part of a promoted cycle route (linking NCN 78), with recreational receptors considered to be of high susceptibility to change. Overall, receptors along this route are identified as being of high susceptibility.</p> <p>The northern extents of the road passes through the North Argyll APQ. The route also provides scenic views across Loch Awe from various locations and elevations. As such views from the road are considered to be high in value.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be high.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates that there will be theoretical visibility along 17.6km of the route between Ford and Coillaig. Most of the minor road will have theoretical visibility of up to all turbines, and with the exception of a short 1km section of the road to the north of Kilchrennan where up to three turbines will be theoretically visible, there is no theoretical visibility along the route north of Coillaig. Although theoretical visibility is indicated along extensive sections of this route, views will be filtered by mature roadside vegetation.</p> <p>There are several sections of this route that will have visibility of the Proposed Development. This includes sections of the road and cycle route as it travels through the settlements of Inverinan, Dalavich and Ford. Further promoted viewpoints and rest spots along this route will have visibility (e.g. Kilmaha Viewpoint).</p> <p>Furthest south along the route, near Ford, the forested Liever Island will provide partial screening of the Proposed Development when travelling north-bound. Travelling north between Arichamish and Kilmaha, views of the Proposed Development will be filtered and experienced in glimpses. However, the area is subject to ongoing forestry management, and in the future the felling and replanting of forestry will change the levels of visibility. The view opens out at Kilmaha, and as the route continues north elevated long-ranging views become more frequent albeit intermittent in the</p>

Minor Road West of Loch Awe and Cycle Route	
	<p>section between Kilmaha and Dalavich. Further north along the route, past Inverinan, the turbines become increasingly more screened by intervening landform.</p> <p>As the road and cycle route passes through the settlement of Dalavich, the turbines will be visible as large-scale features on the skyline to the east, with minimal screening from built development in the foreground of the view, giving rise to a high magnitude of change. Continuing north of Dalavich, views become increasingly contained by roadside vegetation and forestry. However, when approaching Dalavich from the north, the Proposed Development will be visible on the skyline in glimpses between vegetation and briefly when the forestry opens out providing widespread views across the loch.</p> <p>At Inverinan, south-easterly views of the Proposed Development are afforded some screening by the intervening landform of Creag Dhubh. Further north of Inverinnan, views of the Proposed Development will be intermittently available as the road runs parallel to the loch, with no visibility of the Proposed Development between Rubh' an Eoin and Annat due to screening by intervening hills to the east of the loch.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be seen above the skyline of the ridge to the east of Loch Awe. Often in easterly views along this route the turbines of the Proposed Development will be seen alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will appear as a distinctly separate cluster of turbines, of a larger-scale than the An Suidhe turbines. The Proposed Development will extend the influence of wind turbines across the skyline further north.</p> <p>The following viewpoints are located on this route and are representative of views likely to be experienced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoint 5: Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich) represents views experienced from a section of the route as it passes to the north of Dalavich. The Proposed Development will be seen in oblique easterly views when travelling in both directions, and forestry immediately north of the viewpoint screens visibility further north. A high magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. ■ Viewpoint 7: Core Path above Inverinan represents views experienced from just off the route as it travels through the small settlement of Inverinan to the north-west of the Site as people travel in a southerly direction. 12 turbines will be visible on the ridge of hills enclosing Loch Awe to the east. A high magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. ■ Viewpoint 9: Kilmaha Viewpoint represents views experienced from stopping point and promoted viewpoint along this route. This viewpoint offers scenic elevated views across the loch towards the Site. All 13 turbines will be visible above the skyline and will be seen alongside the operational An Suidhe Wind Farm. A high magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. ■ Viewpoint 17: Minor road, North of Ford represents views experienced from a section of the road to the south-west of the Site as people travel in a northerly direction along the western side of Loch Awe. A low magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. <p>Overall, the Proposed Development will give rise to a high magnitude of change along sustained sections of the route, due to the prominence and scale of the turbines on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be visible along a number of short sections of the route to the south of Kilmaha and visible along sustained sections of the route between Kilmaha and Dalavich and Inverinnan. The magnitude of change to views from the route will be high due to the position of the turbines on the skyline which forms part of the framed views along the loch and the relative proximity of the views from the road and cycle route.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this route is judged to be Significant (Moderate) .
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	Scenario 1: No consented wind farms will be visible from this route and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.

Minor Road West of Loch Awe and Cycle Route	
	<p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>As illustrated by the CZTV in Figure 6.1.12, under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) and Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) will be theoretically visible in views from extensive sections of the minor road and cycle route to the west of Loch Awe, between Ford and Kilcrenan. Along the route, the Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm to the immediate north of the Proposed Development, and in successive views with the proposed Eredine Wind Farm further south.</p> <p>Along the southern extents of the route, Eredine Wind Farm will be most noticeable in successive views due to its closer proximity and larger scale. Moving north, Blarghour Wind Farm and the Proposed Development will become more prominent in combined views, however, will appear as one extended cluster of turbines of a similar scale and composition. This will be most apparent along the stretch of road between Kilmaha and Inverinan, where the addition of both Blarghour and the Proposed Development will introduce turbines on the ridge of hills enclosing Loch Awe to the east. This change in view will be experienced from several relatively short sections of the route, with roadside vegetation screening views along the remainder of the route.</p> <p>It is considered that this will give rise to a large scale change over a medium geographical extent. The magnitude of change will be medium and as such the cumulative visual effect is judged to be Significant (Moderate) under Scenario 2.</p>

Table 6.49: B840

B840			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 3: B840, North of Balliemeanoch Viewpoint 12: Parking spot, Loch Awe Viewpoint 16: B840, East of Ford	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	2.7km
Description	<p>The B840 is a minor, mainly single track road that connects the A819 at Cladich to the settlement of Ford, which is located at the southern tip of Loch Awe. The road generally follows the eastern shore of Loch Awe. At its closest, the road is 2.7km from the nearest turbine.</p> <p>Much of the route travels through mature woodland and forestry, which limits longer-ranging views from the road. Localised areas which have sparser vegetation, including near Portonachan, Balliemeanoch and to the north-east of Ford, are afforded longer-ranging views across the loch. The enclosing hills which rise up from the loch to the east of the road further contain views along the road. Views towards the Site are largely screened by the landform of these enclosing hillslopes, and extensive mature vegetation along much of the eastern shore of Loch Awe.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The northern extents of the road passes through the North Argyll APQ. The route also provides scenic views along Loch Awe. As such views from the road are considered to be high in value.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be medium.</p>		
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates that there will be theoretical visibility along approximately 21km of the road between Ford and just north of Balliemeanoch. Most of the road between Balliemeanoch and Eredine Foresty will have theoretical visibility of up to six turbines, increasing to up to 13 further south near the forest and towards Ford. However, extensive roadside vegetation along most of this route will largely screen visibility.</p>		

B840	
	<p>Very localised sections of the route to the north of Balliemeanoch will have visibility of to six turbines when travelling south-bound. Visibility of up to 13 turbines will be possible from the section of the route to the north-east of Ford, for north-bound traffic.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will not introduce visibility of turbines along a route which previously had no visibility of turbines. When travelling along the route, the operational Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal Wind Farms are visible in sequential views to the west of Loch Awe.</p> <p>The following viewpoints are located on this road and are representative of views likely to be experienced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoint 3: B840, North of Balliemeanoch represents views experienced from a lochside location adjacent to the route, to the north of the Site as people travel in a south-westerly direction. Five turbines will be partly visible above the skyline of intervening hills which drop down to the loch, and they will introduce visibility of turbines into the view. A low magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. ■ Viewpoint 12: Parking spot, Loch Awe represents views experienced by road receptors who have parked at a parking area by the loch just off the B840. It represents views looking north-east. No change in view was identified from this viewpoint. ■ Viewpoint 16: B840, East of Ford represents views experienced from a section of the road to the south-west of the Site as people travel in a north-easterly direction. A medium magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. <p>Overall the Proposed Development will give rise to a medium magnitude of change at one short section of the route to the south-west of the Site. Elsewhere along the route, the magnitude of visual change will be low due to screening by roadside vegetation, resulting in a Not Significant (Negligible) visual effect.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this route is judged to be Significant (Moderate) for a short distance near Ford. This reduces to Not Significant (Minor) near Balliemeanoch and the parking spot, and Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>No consented wind farms will be visible from this route and effects under Scenario 1 will be the same as for the LVIA. Therefore, no significant additional visual effects are predicted to occur for scenario 1.</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>As illustrated by the CZTV in Figure 6.1.12, under Scenario 2, the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm (Scoping) and Eredine Wind Farm (Scoping) will be theoretically visible in views from the B840. Actual visibility of these wind farms however will be reduced along much of the route due to roadside tree planting and vegetation that will provide extensive screening from the road. However, Blarghour will be seen in combined views with the Proposed Development at localised sections of the route where views are more open, including near Balliemeanoch and further south towards Ford. Eredine will be seen in successive views with the Proposed Development in views from the Balliemeanoch area.</p> <p>Overall, it is considered that the schemes under Scenario 2 will give rise to a small scale change over a small geographical extent. The magnitude of change will be low and as such the cumulative visual effect is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) under Scenario 2.</p>
A815	
Description	<p>The A815 is a major road that connects the A83 in Glen Kinglas to Toward via St. Catherine's, Strachur, Inverchapel and Dunoon. The road generally follows closely to the eastern shore of Loch Fyne before turning south-east and travelling along Strath Eachaig, along the shores of Loch Eck, before reaching Dunoon and Toward in the far south-east of the Study Area. At its closest, the road is 7.9km from the nearest turbine.</p> <p>When travelling south from the A83, visibility from the road is largely restricted by forestry and woodland to the west of the road between the A83 junction and the B839 junction. Views open up for a short section south of the B839 junction, with long-ranging views experienced across Loch Fyne to the enclosing ridge of hills to the west of the loch.</p> <p>Travelling south, views become more filtered by roadside vegetation around Ardno with occasional glimpses across the loch and to the hills rising up from the western shores. Visibility is largely screened between the Ardno junction and Laglingarten. Some longer ranging views along the loch are experienced from short sections of the route near Laglingarten, however these tend to be focussed to the north as opposed to towards the Site in the west.</p> <p>Extensive views across the loch and to the ridge of hills on the other side are available from a stretch of the road as it passes through St. Catherine's. Through this section of the route there is limited roadside vegetation and views are uninterrupted. South of St. Catherine's, the presence of roadside vegetation filters westerly views once more, however the loch and distant hills can be seen in oblique glimpses. Localised areas of the stretch of road between St. Catherine's and Creggans are open with no roadside vegetation. These areas correspond with the small beaches along the eastern shore of Loch Fyne.</p> <p>As the road reaches Creggans, scenic views are again revealed as roadside vegetation along the shore ends. The stretch of road between Creggans and Strachur remains largely unenclosed, with distant views concentrated down the loch when travelling south-bound. Those travelling north-bound from Strachur will have visibility across the loch to the hills and the Site in the west, with views becoming more oblique as the road continues further north towards Creggans. As the road bends along the shoreline at Strachur, the hills and Site will be directly in front across the loch.</p> <p>At Strachur, the road travels in a south-easterly direction along Strath Eachaig and Loch Eck. This section of the road features mature roadside vegetation which contains views. The highpoint along the A815, at the bend just south-east of Strachur, experiences longer ranging views to the distant hills to the west of Loch Fyne. Mature woodland in the foreground of the view partially screens the distant ridge. These views towards the ridge become more concentrated further west along the road towards Loch Fyne, framed by the roadside vegetation on each side of the road.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The northern extents of the road between the A83 junction and St Catherine's passes through the North Argyll APQ. The section of the route between St Catherine's and Strachur is also within the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. The route also provides scenic views along Loch Fyne. As such views from the road are considered to be high in value.</p> <p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates that there will be theoretical visibility along approximately 20km of the road between the A83 and Invernoaden. Most of this road as it travels along the coast of Loch Fyne will have theoretical visibility of up to six turbines. However, roadside vegetation between the loch and road will screen visibility along extensive sections of the route between the A83 junction and St. Catherine's, and south of St. Catherine's to Creggans.</p> <p>In addition, a further 2.5km along Loch Eck is indicated as having theoretical visibility of up to six turbines. However, extensive roadside vegetation along this section of the route will screen visibility.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible in oblique westerly views along most stretches of this road when travelling both north and south-bound. The Proposed Development will be visible straight ahead in some lochside views from Strachur as people travel north-bound.</p>

Table 6.50: A815

A815			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St. Catherine's	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	7.9km
	Viewpoint 14: A886 at Strachur		

A815	
	<p>The Proposed Development will not introduce visibility of turbines when travelling along the route, with the operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm visible in sequential views to the north of Loch Fyne.</p> <p>The following viewpoints are located on this road and are representative of views likely to be experienced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St. Catherine's represents views experienced from a section of the road to the east of the Site as people travel in both directions. Five turbines will be partly visible above the skyline of intervening hills which drop down to the loch. A low magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. Viewpoint 14: A866, Strachur represents views experienced from near the junction between the A866 and A815, representing views as people travel in a northerly direction along the A815. A low magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. <p>Overall, the Proposed Development will give rise to a low magnitude of change at St Catherine's and Strachur. Elsewhere along the route, the magnitude of visual change will be low due to screening by roadside vegetation, resulting in a Not Significant (Negligible) visual effect.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this route is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) near Strachur and St. Catherine's. This reduces to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development from this route, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Table 6.51: A866

A866			
Representative viewpoint:	Viewpoint 14: A886 at Strachur	Approximate distance to nearest turbine:	10.5km
Description	<p>The A886 is a major road that connects the settlement of Strachur, on the eastern shore of Loch Fyne, to the town of Rothesay on the Isle of Bute to A819. The northern extents of the road generally follows the eastern shore of Loch Fyne for approximately 5km before continuing south through the Cowal Peninsula until it reaches Colintraive. From here, it continues from Rhubodach (across the Kyles of Bute) along the western shore of the island to Rothesay. At its closest, the road is 10.5km from the nearest turbine.</p> <p>When travelling along the northernmost extents of the route, between Leanach and Strachur, views are largely concentrated across the loch and towards the enclosing hills to the west of Loch Fyne. In most cases, the loch is experienced in oblique views. However, when travelling north from Leanach the loch and the ridge to the west of Loch Fyne is visible in the direction of travel. This section of the route is also at a higher elevation, offering more elevated views across the loch, albeit filtered by roadside vegetation in places.</p> <p>Roaside vegetation is more prevalent between Lettersfarm and Stuckreoch, largely screening and filtering views across the loch. Views open up again for a short section of the route near Stuckreoch Caravan Park, and becomes increasingly more filtered by vegetation further south towards Leanach.</p> <p>As the road bends near Leanach, visibility of Loch Fyne and the hills near the Site is lost. No other section of the route further south from this location has views towards the Site.</p>		
Sensitivity	<p>Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view.</p> <p>The northern extents of the road passes through the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. The route also provides scenic views along Loch Fyne. As such views from the road are considered to be high in value.</p>		

A866	
	<p>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors is judged to be medium.</p>
Assessment of visual effects	<p>The ZTV (Figure 6.1.2) indicates that there will be theoretical visibility along approximately 6.3km of the road between Strachur and Leanach. The northernmost section of this road, near Strachur will have theoretical visibility of up to six turbines. Theoretical visibility reduces to up to three turbines further south between Stuckreoch and Leanach. However, roadside vegetation will screen most of the theoretical visibility from the stretch of the road between Stuckreoch and the sharp bend at Leanach. Visibility of the Proposed Development will be possible in oblique views from the section of the route adjacent to Loch Fyne, for north-bound traffic. The Proposed Development will be in the opposite direction of travel for those travelling south-bound.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will not introduce visibility of turbines when travelling along the route, with the operational A'Chruach Wind Farm visible in sequential views to the west of Loch Fyne.</p> <p>The following viewpoint is located on this road and are representative of views likely to be experienced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoint 14: A866 at Strachur represents views experienced from a section of the road to the south-east of the Site as people travel in a northerly direction. A low magnitude of change was identified from this viewpoint. <p>Overall the Proposed Development will give rise to a low magnitude of change at between the A815 and Leanach. Elsewhere along the route, the magnitude of visual change will be zero due to screening by intervening landform, resulting in no visual effect.</p>
Effect and Significance	Overall, the effect of the Proposed Development on this route is judged to be Not Significant (Minor) between the A815 and Leanach. This reduces to Not Significant (no view) elsewhere.
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	Given the low magnitude of visual change from the introduction of the Proposed Development from this route, significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur from the addition of the consented or proposed schemes illustrated on Figure 6.1.9 which will appear as distant and/or distinctly separate developments.

Operational Effects on Designated Landscapes

6.135 This section describes the implications of the Proposed Development for locally designated landscapes in the Study Area. An assessment of effects on the Special Landscape Qualities of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is provided in **Appendix 6.2**. Designated landscapes are shown on **Figure 6.1.6** and with the ZTV overlain on **Figure 6.1.7**.

6.136 Based on the analysis in **Table 6.3** the designated landscapes listed below have been considered in the assessment and observations are drawn from the assessment sections for landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects:

- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park – see **Appendix 6.2**;
- North Argyll APQ; and
- East Loch Fyne Coast APQ.

Table 6.52: Operational Effects on the North Argyll APQ

North Argyll APQ	
Baseline description	<p>The North APQ is a local landscape designation that covers much of the north-east of the Study Area. It extends from Brochroy in the west to just east of the A82 at Beinn Achaladair and Beinn a' Churin. and down to northern extents of Loch Fyne. It covers an extensive area of 698km². The APQ extends across a distance of around 40km. The APQ reflects the quality of this landscape, although no detailed citations exist for this type of designation.</p> <p>At its nearest point, the North Argyll APQ is located 6.3km to the north-east of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The landscape of this APQ overlaps with the following LCTs considered within the assessment:</p>

North Argyll APQ	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LCT 1 – Steep Ridgeland and Mountains ■ LCT 2 – High Tops ■ LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic ■ LCT 7 – Craggy Upland ■ LCT 7c – North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands ■ LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic <p>For the purpose of this assessment the qualities of this APQ are considered to be similar to the key characteristics of the above noted LCTs, with the LWECS²⁹ noting that this APQ designation reflects the "juxtaposition of different landscape types in this area".</p> <p>The operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm is located within the APQ, just north of Loch Fyne.</p>
Potential for the Proposed Development to affect the special qualities of the APQ	<p>The Proposed Development is not located within the APQ, therefore potential effects will be indirect.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.1.7 indicates widespread theoretical visibility of up to all turbines within the APQ. Theoretical visibility is indicated between approximately 7- 41km of the Proposed Development, from hill summits and Site-facing slopes, although the number of turbines theoretically visible reduces to up to three turbines lower down the slopes. Theoretical visibility extends from the hills enclosing the north of Loch Fyne to the distant summit of Beinn an Dothaidh near the Bridge of Orchy in the far north-east of the Study Area.</p> <p>Figure 6.1.5 indicates theoretical visibility across the LCTs within the APQ which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (LCT 1): extensive theoretical visibility across the areas of this LCT within the APQ. Visibility is indicated from Site-facing slopes of hills at the head of and to the east of Loch Fyne. ■ High Tops (LCT 2): extensive theoretical visibility across the areas of this LCT within the APQ. Visibility is indicated from Site-facing slopes of hills to the north-east of Loch Fyne and in the north of the Study Area. ■ Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (LCT 6a): limited theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines from the elevated areas of this LCT within the APQ. ■ Craggy Upland (LCT 7): very limited theoretical visibility of up to nine turbines from the areas of this LCT within the APQ, north-west of Kilchrenan and at distances of greater than 10km. ■ North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands (LCT 7c): limited theoretical visibility of up to six turbines from the elevated areas of the LCT to the east of Loch Awe, within the APQ. Theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines in the LCT unit to the west of Loch Awe, within the APQ but at distances of greater than 13km. ■ Rocky Mosaic (LCT 20): no theoretical visibility indicated from sections of this LCT within the APQ. <p>The assessment of effects on landscape character identified significant effects on the key characteristics of Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (LCT6a) north of the Site and partially within the APQ, and Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (LCT1).</p> <p>Assessment viewpoints located within the APQ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoint 18: Cruachan Dam, to the north of the Proposed Development, represents recreational receptors visiting the dam and hill walkers beginning or finishing their climb at Ben Cruachan, and for which a low magnitude of change was identified.

North Argyll APQ	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoint 20: Ben Cruachan, to the north of the Proposed Development, represents recreational receptors at the hill summit, and for which a low magnitude of change was identified. ■ Viewpoint 26: Ben Lui, to the north-east of the Proposed Development, represents recreational receptors at the hill summit, and for which a low magnitude of change was identified. <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development has the potential to significantly affect some of the qualities of the APQ, notably the "juxtaposition of different landscape types... including the dramatic and rugged mountains, the small scale pattern of settled glens, the presence of the Loch and its islands and the contrasts in scale, relief and landform shape which combine to add to the diversity and associated scenic quality of this landscape"³⁰. The Proposed Development will be perceptible from hill summits and site-facing slopes to the north and north-east of the Proposed Development, including the summits of Ben Cruachan, Ben Lui and Beinn Bhuidhe. The ZTV in Figure 6.1.7 indicates intermittent theoretical visibility from large hills throughout the APQ. Visibility is limited elsewhere throughout the APQ due to intervening elevated hills.</p> <p>Locally, the effect on the North Argyll APQ is considered to be Significant (Moderate), in the area of the APQ to the north-east, around the head of Loch Fyne as the Proposed Development may adversely affect the scenic quality of the area. This effect is experienced to distances of approximately 17km and includes the not well-frequented summits of Beinn Bhuidhe, Beinnein and Fhìdhleir. However, this effect reduces to Not Significant (Minor) elsewhere within the APQ. Given that existing wind farms, including the operational An Suidhe, Clachan Flats, Carraig Gheal and Beinn Ghlas Wind Farms, are already present in views from the APQ, with Clachan Flats visible in much closer proximity to the north-eastern area than the Proposed Development, and as there will be no direct effects on key landscape features, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the North Argyll APQ. However, the Proposed Development will be seen in successive long-distance views with the consented A'Chruach Extension from some elevated locations within the APQ, although this wind farm will appear as an extension to the existing A'Chruach Wind Farm. As such the cumulative magnitude of change to views will be low and the additional cumulative visual effect will be Not Significant (Minor).</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently no proposed wind farm developments located within the North Argyll APQ. However, the proposed Ladyfield Wind Farm is immediately adjacent to the APQ boundary near Loch Fyne. Additionally, all other proposed developments (Creag Dhubh, Blarghour, Eredine and Musdale) and the Proposed Development will be visible from more elevated slopes and summits of the APQ. The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Blarghour and successive views with the other proposed schemes.</p> <p>From elevated locations across the APQ, the Proposed Development will appear of a similar scale as Blarghour, with the developments appearing as one due to their close proximity.</p> <p>From the eastern and north-eastern extents of the APQ, the Proposed Development will be seen in more distant views compared to Ladyfield and Blarghour wind farms which are both in closer proximity to the boundary of the APQ. From areas of the APQ in the north of the Study Area, Musdale wind farm will appear closer and of a greater scale than the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Views of the Proposed Development and other proposed schemes will be seen from extensive areas of the APQ, particularly in the southern extents, however visibility becomes more intermittent and concentrated at hill summits further within the interior of the APQ. Visibility of all proposed schemes, including the Proposed Development, will be experienced in localised</p>

²⁹ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf [Accessed on 7th March 2023]

³⁰ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.106-107) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

North Argyll APQ	
	<p>elevated areas. The Proposed Development alone will not result in the introduction of theoretical visibility in areas with no visibility of other operational, consented or proposed schemes.</p> <p>The magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be low, and will result in a Not Significant (Minor) effect. As such, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.</p>

Table 6.53: Operational Effects on the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ

East Loch Fyne Coast APQ	
Baseline description	<p>The East Loch Fyne Coast APQ is a local landscape designation that covers the eastern coast of Loch Fyne. It is a narrow and linear landscape designation which extends along the east coast of Loch Fyne for approximately 35km from St Catherine's in the north, to Ballimore in the south. At its nearest point, the East Loch Fyne APQ is located 7.7km to the south-east of the Proposed Development. The APQ reflects the quality of this landscape, although no detailed citations exist for this type of designation.</p> <p>The landscape of this APQ overlaps with the following LCTs considered within the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (LCT 1); ■ Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (LCT 6a); and, ■ Rocky Mosaic (LCT 20). <p>For the purpose of this assessment the qualities of this APQ are considered to be similar to the key characteristics of the above noted LCTs as well as outward coastal views from the eastern banks of Loch Fyne. The APQ 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 APQ.</p> <p>There are no existing operational wind farms within this APQ.</p>
Potential for the Proposed Development to affect the special qualities of the APQ	<p>The Proposed Development is not located within the APQ, therefore potential effects will be indirect.</p> <p>The ZTV on Figure 6.1.7 indicates extensive theoretical visibility of up to nine turbines across the APQ. Theoretical visibility is indicated within approximately 8km of the proposed turbines, near St. Catherine's, and extends to distances of approximately 30km from the Proposed Development, along the banks of Loch Fyne. Although visibility of up to six turbines is indicated between St. Catherine's and Newton, on the south-eastern coast of Loch Fyne, actual visibility will be limited in places, particularly near St. Catherine's, by intervening roadside/lochside vegetation. Less enclosed areas along the coast will afford open views towards the Proposed Development, however, the presence of roadside vegetation will result in filtered views experienced as glimpses. Beyond distances of 12km, theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent and limited to visibility of up to three turbines, which is likely to be screened by intervening vegetation.</p> <p>Figure 6.1.5 indicates theoretical visibility across the LCTs within the APQ which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (LCT 1): some theoretical visibility from the areas of this LCT within the APQ, along the lower slopes by the shore of Loch Fyne. ■ Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (LCT 6a): some limited theoretical visibility of up to three turbines from the areas of this LCT within the APQ, south-west of Leanach and at distances of greater than 15km.

East Loch Fyne Coast APQ	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rocky Mosaic (LCT 20): Extensive theoretical visibility across the unit of this LCT within the APQ, with visibility of up to nine turbines on the higher slopes, reducing to up to three turbines along the shore of Loch Fyne. <p>The assessment of effects on landscape character identified significant effects on the key characteristics of the Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (LCT 1). Not Significant (Minor) effects were identified for Rocky Mosaic (LCT 20) around Loch Fyne area.</p> <p>Assessment viewpoints located within the APQ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Viewpoint 10: Jetty at St. Catherine's, to the east of the Proposed Development, represents views experienced by recreational and residential receptors, and for which a low magnitude of change was identified; and ■ Viewpoint 14: A886 at Strachur, to the south-east of the Proposed Development, represents views experienced by receptors travelling along the road, recreational receptors at the boatyard and residential receptors in Strachur, and for which a low magnitude of change was identified; <p>The introduction of the Proposed Development has the potential to significantly affect some of the qualities of the APQ, notably the <i>"the scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across water"</i>³¹. The Proposed Development will be more perceptible from the northern extents of the APQ, particularly the stretch between Newton and St. Catherine's, where the Proposed Development will be visible beyond the enclosing ridge to the west of Loch Fyne from the coastline of the loch, and the roads running along the banks, including the A886 and A815. The ZTV in Figure 6.1.7 indicates intermittent visibility further south within the APQ, largely due to the intervening elevated hills to the west of Loch Fyne.</p> <p>Locally, the effect on the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ is considered to be Not Significant (Minor), in the area of the APQ between St. Catherine's and Newton, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) further south along Loch Fyne.</p> <p>Given that existing wind farms, including the operational Clachan Flats Wind Farm is already present in views from the APQ, and as there will be no direct effects on key landscape features, it is considered that the Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.</p>
Potential for Future Cumulative Effects	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>There are currently no other consented wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. However, the Proposed Development will be seen in successive long-distance views with the consented A'Chruach Extension from some sections of the APQ, although this wind farm will appear as an extension to the existing A'Chruach Wind Farm. As such the cumulative magnitude of change to views will be low and the additional cumulative visual effect will be Not Significant (Minor).</p> <p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>There are currently no other proposed wind farm developments located within or in proximity to the East Loch Fyne Coast APQ. However, from some sections of the APQ between Strachur and St. Catherine's, the Proposed Development will be seen in combination in views with the proposed Blarghour scheme. Both developments will be largely screened by intervening landform, with theoretical visibility limited to blades. The proposed Eredine and Ladyfield schemes will also be visible in successive views with the Proposed Development, although again will be largely screened by intervening landform. The Proposed Development alone will not result in the introduction of theoretical visibility in areas with no visibility of other operational, consented or proposed schemes. Given the limited visibility of the Proposed Development and other schemes in scenario 2, the APQ is unlikely to be substantially affected.</p> <p>The magnitude of cumulative change as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in this scenario is judged to be low, and will result in a Not Significant (Minor)</p>

³¹ Argyll and Bute Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study – Volume Two: Detailed Sensitivity Assessments (p.290) [pdf]. Available at: https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ablweecs_-_volume_two_-_final_august_2017.pdf

East Loch Fyne Coast APQ	effect. As such, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the qualities for which it was designated.
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Mitigation and Residual Effects

6.137 Measures to reduce effects upon the landscape resource and visual amenity were predominantly achieved through making changes and refinements to the design of the Proposed Development. The appearance of the Proposed Development, particularly in views from Dalavich, formed a key consideration in the design development.

6.138 Measures to reduce cumulative landscape and visual effects have been embedded into the design of the wind farm and the Site restoration proposals. All residual effects are therefore as predicted in the assessment sections above.

Summary of Significant Effects

6.139 Table 6.54 below summarises the predicted effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual resources within the Site and Study Area, prior to mitigation.

Table 6.54: Summary of Significant Effects

Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect
Construction				
The Site	Medium sensitivity	High magnitude of change. Small magnitude of change within APQ.	Significant (Major) effect. Not significant (Minor) for the area within the APQ.	-
Operational Effects on Landscape Character				
The Site	Medium sensitivity	High magnitude of change.	Significant (Major) effect.	-
LCT 7 – Craggy Upland	Medium sensitivity	High magnitude of change within 10km, reducing gradually with distance.	Significant (Major) effect within 10km, reducing to Not Significant (minor) beyond.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.
LCT 6a – Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic	Medium sensitivity	High magnitude of change within 5km, reducing to low elsewhere.	Significant (Moderate) effect within 5km, reducing to Not Significant (Minor) elsewhere.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
LCT 20 – Rocky Mosaic	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change to the north-west and south-west of the Proposed Development, however this is reduced to low elsewhere around Loch Awe and Loch Fyne (Strachur).	Significant (Moderate) near Inverinan (approximately 4km), and Not Significant (minor) at Ford (12-15km) and elsewhere around Loch Awe and Loch Fyne.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.

Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect
LCT 1 – Steep Ridglands and Mountains	High sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change at more elevated locations, reducing to low at lower elevations.	Not Significant (Minor) for the unit to the north of Loch Fyne, and the elevated summits to the east. This reduces to Not Significant (Negligible) effects elsewhere.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
LCT 2 - High Tops	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change within 20km, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere.	Not Significant (Minor) effect within 20km, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
LCT 7c - North Loch Awe Craggy Uplands	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Negligible) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
LCT 250 – Steep Ridges and Hills	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect within 19km, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Negligible) effect under Scenario 2.
Operational Effects on Views and Visual Amenity				
Viewpoint 1 - Loch Awe	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Major) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Major) effect under Scenario 2.
Viewpoint 2 - Dalavich Jetty	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Major) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Major) effect under Scenario 2.
Viewpoint 3 - B840, North of Balliemanoach	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 4 - Folly at Dun na Cuaiche (Inveraray Castle GDL)	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Major) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Major) effect under Scenario 2.

Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect	Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect
Viewpoint 5 - Minor road to west of Loch Awe (north of Dalavich)	Medium sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Major) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Major) effect under Scenario 2.					Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
Viewpoint 6 - Beinn Dearg	Medium sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.	Viewpoint 16 - B840, East of Ford	Medium sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
Viewpoint 7 - Core Path above Inverinan	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.	Viewpoint 17 - North of Ford	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 8 - Loch Fyne	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.	Viewpoint 18 - Cruachan Dam	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 9 - Kilmaha Viewpoint	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.	Viewpoint 19 - Beinn Bheula	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 10 - Jetty at St. Catherine's	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.	Viewpoint 20 - Ben Cruachan (1126m)	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 11 - Loch Avich, east of Loch Avich House	High sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under Scenario 1 or 2.	Viewpoint 21 - Ben Ime	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 12 - Parking spot, Loch Awe	Medium sensitivity	Zero magnitude of change	No visual effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under Scenario 1 or 2.	Viewpoint 22 - Beinn Mhor (Cowal Peninsula and LLTNP)	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 13 - Loch Avich	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect. This can increase to Significant (Moderate) if forestry is removed in the future.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.	Viewpoint 23 - The Cobbler (Ben Arthur)	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 14 - A886 at Strachur	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.	Viewpoint 24 - B845, Loch Etive	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Viewpoint 15 - Fincharn Castle, Loch Awe	Medium sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1.	Viewpoint 25 - Troisgeach	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
					Viewpoint 26 - Ben Lui (1130m)	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.

Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect
Operational Effects on Settlements				
Dalavich	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Major) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.
Inverinan	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.
Strachur	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
St. Catherine's	High sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Operational Effects on Routes				
Minor Road West of Loch Awe and Cycle Route	High sensitivity	High magnitude of change	Significant (Moderate) effect.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Significant (Moderate) effect under Scenario 2.
B840	Medium sensitivity	Medium magnitude of change at one short section of the route to the south-west of the Site. This reduces to low elsewhere along the route.	Significant (Moderate) effect for a short section of the route near Ford, reducing to Not Significant (Minor) elsewhere.	No significant additional cumulative effects under scenario 1. Not Significant (Minor) effect under Scenario 2.
A815	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change	Not Significant (Minor) effect near Strachur and St. Catherine's, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) elsewhere.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
A866	Medium sensitivity	Low magnitude of change between the A815 and Leanach, reducing to zero elsewhere along the route.	Not Significant (Minor) effect between the A815 and Leanach, reducing to Not Significant (no view) elsewhere.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.
Operational Effects on Designated Landscapes				

Predicted Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect	Cumulative Effect
North Argyll APQ	-	-	Significant (Moderate) within 17km to the north-east, reducing to Not Significant (Minor) elsewhere within the APQ. Overall, the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.	Not Significant (Minor) under Scenario 1 and 2. Overall, the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.
East Loch Fyne Coast APQ	-	-	Not Significant (Minor) in the area of the APQ between St. Catherine's and Newton, reducing to Not Significant (Negligible) further south. Overall, the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.	Not Significant (Minor) under Scenario 1 and 2. Overall, the Proposed Development will not significantly affect the integrity of the APQ by adversely impacting on the landscape qualities for which it was designated.
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	-	-	Not Significant (Minor). The Proposed Development is unlikely to compromise the SLQs of the LLTNP, and the integrity of the LLTNP and the reasons for its designation will not be significantly affected by the proposal.	-
Ben Lui WLA	-	-	Not Significant (Minor). The overall integrity of the WLA will not be compromised by the introduction of the Proposed Development.	Significant cumulative effects are not predicted likely to occur under Scenario 1 or 2.