River Deveron Catchment

River Fiddich

River Fiddich Catchment

Burn Treble Catchment

Burn Treble

River Deveron

0 1 2 Kilometers

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Preliminary Turbine Location (Scoping Stage) (200m tip height)
- Surface Water Features
- SEPA Catchment Watersheds

Overlain surface water features are derived from OS data at this stage and may not directly correspond with underlying mapping, but would be verified as part of the assessment process.

Figure Title
Figure 3.10: Surface Water Features and River Catchments

Project Name
Craig Watch Wind Farm Scoping Report

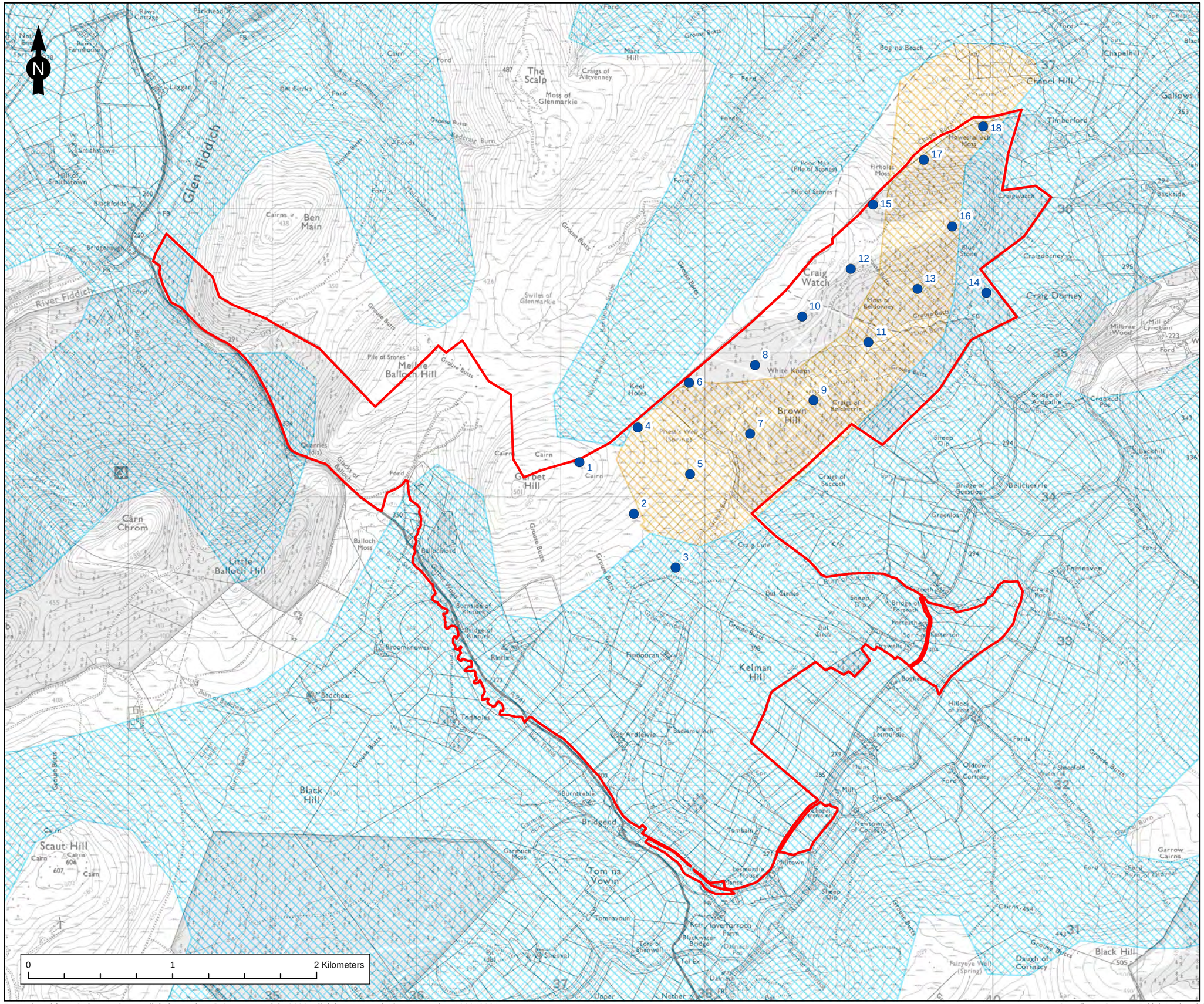
Project Number	Figure No.
1620010178	3.10
Date	Prepared By
November 2020	JT
Scale	Issue
1:25,000 @A3	1

Client
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

RAMBOLL

P:\ORDERS\162xxxxxxx\1620010xx\1620010178_CraigWatchEIA\Hydrology\GIS\MapFiles\162_10178_ScopingReport_A3_SurfaceWaters_B.mxd

Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.



Legend

Site Boundary

Superficial Geology (1:625k)

PEAT

TILL-DIAMICTON

Figure Title
Figure 3.11A: Superficial Geology

Project Name
Craig Watch Wind Farm Scoping Report

Project Number	Figure No.
1620010178	3.11A
Date	**Prepared By**
October 2020	JT
Scale	**Issue**
1:25,000 @A3	1

Client
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

RAMBOLL

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Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.

C:\Users\jetur\OneDrive - Ramboll\Documents\ArcGIS\TEMP WORKING LOCATIONICRAIG_WATCH\162_10178_Fig3.11b_ScopingReport_A3_Template_Geological_Map_Bedrock.mxd

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Preliminary Turbine Location (Scoping Stage) (200m tip height)
- UNNAMED IGNEOUS INTRUSION, ORDOVICIAN TO SILURIAN - MAFIC IGNEOUS-ROCK
- UNNAMED IGNEOUS INTRUSION, ORDOVICIAN TO SILURIAN - ULTRAMAFITITE
- APPIN GROUP - METALIMESTONE
- APPIN GROUP - GRAPHITIC PELITE, CALCAREOUS PELITE, CALCSILICATE-ROCK AND PSAMMITE
- APPIN GROUP - QUARTZITE
- ARGYLL GROUP - PSAMMITE, SEMIPELITE AND PELITE
- ARGYLL GROUP - QUARTZITE
- SOUTHERN HIGHLAND GROUP - PSAMMITE AND PELITE
- UNNAMED EXTRUSIVE ROCKS, NEOPROTEROZOIC - MAFIC LAVA AND MAFIC TUFF

0 1 2 Kilometers

Figure Title
Figure 3.11B: Bedrock Geology

Project Name
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Scoping Report

Project Number	Figure No.
1620010178	3.11B
Date	Prepared By
October 2020	JT
Scale	Issue
1:25,000 @A3	1

Client
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

RAMBOLL

Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.

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Legend

Site Boundary

Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map v2

IMPORTANCE

- Unknown soil type
- Non-soil
- Mineral soils
- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5

Figure Title
Figure 3.12: SNH Carbon and Peatland Map

Project Name
Craig Watch Wind Farm Scoping Report

Project Number	Figure No.
1620010178	3.12
Date	Prepared By
October 2020	JT
Scale	Issue
1:25,000 @A3	1

Client
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

RAMBOLL

Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford Electoral Ward
- Speyside Glenlivet Electoral Ward

Figure Title

Figure 3.13: Socioeconomics Study Area (Local Area)

Project Name
Craig Watch Wind Farm Scoping Report

Project Number	Figure No.
1620010178	3.13
Date	**Prepared By**
November 2020	BR
Scale	**Issue**
1:375,000 @A3	1

Client
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

RAMBOLL

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Coordinate System: British National Grid. Projection: Transverse Mercator. Datum: OSGB 1936.

APPENDIX B
CONSULTEE LIST

Craig Watch Wind Farm

Table B.1: Consultee List
Statutory Consultees
Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
Aberdeenshire Council
Moray Council
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
NatureScot (NS)
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Internal Scottish Government Advisors
Transport Scotland
Marine Scotland
Scottish Forestry
Scottish Forestry Grampian
Non-Statutory Consultees
BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen)
British Horse Society
British Telecom (BT)
Cairngorms National Park Authority
Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace
Crown Estate Scotland
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB)
Deveron Fisheries Trust
Fisheries Management Scotland
Joint Radio Company
John Muir Trust
Mountaineering Scotland
NATS Safeguarding
RSPB Scotland
Saving Wildcats
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Scottish Water
Scottish Wildcat Action
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Visit Scotland

162_10178_CraigWatch_Scoping Report

Table B.1: Consultee List
Community Councils
Dufftown and District Community Council
Huntly Community Council
Strathbogie Community Council
Strathisla Community Council
Tap O' Noth Community Council

APPENDIX C

PRE-SCOPING CONSULTATION SUMMARY IN RELATION TO ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

Table C.1: Consultation Summary

Date and Form of Consultation	Consultee	Date and Form of Response	Comments
8th April 2019 (email)	North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC)	17th May 2019 (records sent by email)	Contacted for existing ecological and ornithological records (incl. non-statutory sites) relevant to the Site and surrounding area. NESBReC responded providing relevant records which have been used to identify any known sensitive features and inform the scope of baseline field surveys. Information obtained will be further used to inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.
8th April 2019 (email)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	13th May 2019 (records sent by email)	Contacted for ornithological records relevant to the site and surrounding area. RSPB responded providing relevant records which have been used to identify target species and inform the scope of baseline field surveys. Information obtained will be further used to inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.
8th April 2019 (email)	North East of Scotland Raptor Study Group (NESRSG)	3rd May 2019 (letter by email)	Contacted for ornithological records relevant to the site and surrounding area. NESRSG responded providing relevant records which have been used to identify target species and inform the scope of baseline field surveys. Information obtained will be further used to inform the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.
14th May 2019 (letter sent by email)	NatureScot (NS) (formerly SNH)	16th May 2019 (email)	Contacted and provided with the proposed scope of ornithological and ecological surveys. NS responded to confirm that they are in agreement with the scope of surveys proposes, and that the main ecology/ornithology consideration for development at this location will comprise the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Protection Area (SPA) breeding common gull colony.
21st August 2019 (letter sent by email)	NatureScot (NS) (formerly SNH)	27th August 2019 (email)	Contacted and advised on the requirement to force an amendment of a Vantage Point (VP) survey location, on account of access restrictions and advise on the appropriateness of an alternative VP location. NS responded to confirm the requirement was acknowledged and did not see any issue as long as the alteration is duly acknowledged in the assessment.
9th April 2020 (letter sent by email)	NatureScot (NS) (formerly SNH)	4th May 2020 (email)	Contacted NS upon the completion of Year 1 ornithology surveys, for advice on the requirement for further survey.

Craig Watch Wind Farm

Table C.1: Consultation Summary

Date and Form of Consultation	Consultee	Date and Form of Response	Comments
			NS responded to agree that a full second year of ornithology survey would not be required and given the main ornithology considerations at this site (breeding common gull) only a second breeding season of ornithology surveys would be required.
4th November 2020 (email)	Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA)	11th November 2020 (email)	Contacted SWA to enquire about wildcat records and known range in the area of the Site, and to discuss any requirement for further targeted wildcat surveys. SWA provided wildcat/wildcat hybrid records they have relevant to the Site. SWA stated that although much of the Site (conifer plantation) is not good habitat for wildcat, they provided some information regarding the potential habitat enhancement measures that could be adopted as part of the HMP to benefit wildcats.

162_10178_CraigWatch_Scoping Report

TA 2.8: Scoping Opinion

The Scottish Government
Energy Consents Unit

Scoping Opinion On Behalf Of Scottish Ministers Under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

Craig Watch Wind Farm
Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited

19 March 2021

CONTENTS

1. Introduction

1.1 This scoping opinion is issued by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit on behalf of the Scottish Ministers to Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited a company incorporated under the Companies Acts with company number 12792263 and having its registered office at 19th Floor 22 Bishopsgate, London, United Kingdom, EC2N 4BQ ("the Company") in response to a request dated 20 November 2020 for a scoping opinion under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 in relation to the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm ("the proposed development"). The request was accompanied by a scoping report.

1.2 The proposed development would be located approximately 8 km southeast of Dufftown, Moray. Currently the Site largely consists of commercial plantation forestry and associated rides. The Site is within a sparsely populated area characterised by extensive forestry.

Up to **18 wind turbines**, each up to a maximum tip height of **200m** with associated transformers and switchgear at each turbine. A total turbine generating capacity of over 50MW for the proposed development is envisaged.

1.3 In addition to the wind farm there will be ancillary infrastructure including:

- permanent foundations supporting each wind turbine;
- associated crane hardstanding at each turbine location;
- a series of new on-site access tracks with associated watercourse crossings;
- underground cable arrays within the Site connecting the turbines to the on-site substation;
- a control building and substation compound;
- temporary construction compound(s) and laydown area(s);
- a permanent anemometer mast including associated foundations and hardstanding; and
- energy storage systems.

In addition, the following ancillary works may be necessary:

- forest felling and replanting;
- extraction of rock from borrow pits;
- concrete batching plant;
- off-site public road improvements; and
- temporary anemometer masts for 3-6 months during the construction period for calibration purposes.

1.4 The normal operating life of a wind farm would be at least 30 years, although the Company does not seek a time-limited consent.

1.5 The proposed development is jointly within the planning authorities of Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council.

2. Consultation

2.1 Following the scoping opinion request a list of consultees was agreed between Ramboll UK Ltd (acting as the Company's agent) and the Energy Consents Unit. A consultation on the scoping report was undertaken by the Scottish Ministers and this commenced on 20 November 2020. The consultation closed on 11 January 2021. Extensions to this deadline were granted to Aberdeenshire Council, NatureScot and RSPB. The Scottish Ministers also requested responses from their internal advisors Transport Scotland and Scottish Forestry. Standing advice from Marine Scotland Science (MSS) has also been provided with requirements to complete a checklist prior to the submission of your application. A full list of consultees is set out at **Annex A.**

2.2 The purpose of the consultation was to obtain scoping advice from each consultee on environmental matters within their remit. Responses from consultees and advisors, including the standing advice from MSS, should be read in full for detailed requirements and for comprehensive guidance, advice and, where appropriate, templates for preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.

2.3 Unless stated to the contrary in this scoping opinion, Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report to include all matters raised in responses from the consultees and advisors.

No responses were received from: Civil Aviation Authority, Crown Estate Scotland, Fisheries Management Scotland, Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, John Muir Trust, Mountaineering Scotland, Nuclear Safety Directorate, Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays), Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Wild Land Group Visit Scotland, BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen), Glasgow Airport Edinburgh Airport, BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Edinburgh), Glasgow Prestwick Airport, Highland and Islands Airports. Scottish Wildcat Action, Saving Wildcats Strathisla Community Council, Dufftown and District Community Council, Strathbogie Community Council, Huntly Community Council, or Tap O' Noth Community Council.

2.4 With regard to those consultees who did not respond, it is assumed that they have no comment to make on the scoping report, however each would be consulted again in the event that an application for section 36 consent is submitted subsequent to this EIA scoping opinion.

2.5 The Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the requirements for consultation set out in Regulation 12(4) of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 have been met.

3. The Scoping Opinion

3.1 This scoping opinion has been adopted following consultation with Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council, within whose area the proposed development would be situated, NatureScot (previously "SNH"), Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland, all as statutory consultation bodies, and with other bodies which Scottish Ministers consider likely to have an interest in the proposed development by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies.

3.2 Scottish Ministers adopt this scoping opinion having taken into account the information provided by the applicant in its request dated 20 November 2020 in respect of the specific characteristics of the proposed development and responses received to the consultation undertaken. In providing this scoping opinion, the Scottish Ministers have had regard to current knowledge and methods of assessment; have taken into account the specific characteristics of the proposed development, the specific characteristics of that type of development and the environmental features likely to be affected.

3.3 A copy of this scoping opinion has been sent to Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council for publication on their website. It has also been published on the Scottish Government energy consents website at www.energyconsents.scot.

3.4 Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the proposed development to consider in full all consultation responses attached in **Annex A and Annex B**.

3.5 Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out at Section 3 of the scoping report.

3.6 In addition to the consultation responses, Ministers wish to provide comments with regards to the scope of the EIA report. The Company should note and address each matter.

3.7 If the development includes or may include battery storage and/or solar panels further information may be required in the EIAR if not available at the scoping stage.

The proposed development set out in the Scoping Report refers to wind turbines, and grid technologies including battery storage and/or solar panels. Any application submitted under the Electricity Act 1989 requires to clearly set out the generation station(s) that consent is being sought for. For each generating station details of the proposal require to include but not limited to:

- the scale of the development (dimensions of the wind turbines, solar panels, battery storage)
- components required for each generating station
- minimum and maximum export capacity of megawatts and megawatt hours of electricity for battery storage

3.8 Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water (via EIA@scottishwater.co.uk) and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.

3.9 Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.

3.10 MSS provide generic scoping guidelines for both onshore wind farm and overhead line development https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren) which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.

In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.

MSS also provide standing advice for onshore wind farms (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in **Annex 1 of the standing advice**, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process.

3.11 Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868, should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures.

3.12 The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 3.2 to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment. Moray Council has requested additional viewpoints – see A9. HES has also provided advice on visualisations - see A29.

3.13 The noise assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 3.8 of the scoping report. The noise assessment report should be formatted as per Table 6.1 of the IOA "A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise.

3.14 As the maximum blade tip height of turbines exceeds 150m the LVIA as detailed in section 3.2 of the scoping report must include a robust Night Time Assessment with agreed viewpoints to consider the effects of aviation lighting and how the chosen lighting mitigates the effects.

3.15 Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, radio links, and finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.

4. Mitigation Measures

4.1 The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.

5. Conclusion

5.1 This scoping opinion is based on information contained in the applicant's written request for a scoping opinion and information available at the date of this scoping opinion. The adoption of this scoping opinion by the Scottish Ministers does not preclude the Scottish Ministers from requiring of the applicant information in connection with an EIA report submitted in connection with any application for section 36 consent for the proposed development.

5.2 This scoping opinion will not prevent the Scottish Ministers from seeking additional information at application stage, for example to include cumulative impacts of additional developments which enter the planning process after the date of this opinion.

5.3 Without prejudice to that generality, it is recommended that advice regarding the requirement for an additional scoping opinion be sought from Scottish Ministers in the event that no application has been submitted within 12 months of the date of this opinion.

5.4 It is acknowledged that the environmental impact assessment process is iterative and should inform the final layout and design of proposed developments. Scottish Ministers note that further engagement between relevant parties in relation to the refinement of the design of this proposed development will be required, and would request that they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.

5.5 Applicants are encouraged to engage with officials at the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.

5.6 Applicants are reminded that there will be limited opportunity to materially vary the form and content of the proposed development once an application is submitted.

5.7 When finalising the EIA report, applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.

5.8 It should be noted that to facilitate uploading to the Energy Consents portal, the EIA report and its associated documentation should be divided into appropriately named separate files of sizes no more than 10 megabytes (MB). In addition, a separate disc containing the EIA report and its associated documentation in electronic format will be required.

Magnus Hughson
Energy Consents Unit

19 March 2020

ANNEX A

Consultation

List of consultees

Aberdeenshire Council A1
Moray Council A9
British Horse Society A19
BT A24
Cairngorms National Park A25
Defence Infrastructure Organisation A26
Historic Environment Scotland A29
Joint Radio Company A37
NATS Safeguarding A39
NatureScot A40
River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board A43
RSPB Scotland A45
Scottish Forestry A47
Scottish Water A52
Transport Scotland A55

Civil Aviation Authority *
Crown Estate Scotland*
Fisheries Management Scotland*
Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust*
John Muir Trust*
Mountaineering Scotland*
Nuclear Safety Directorate *
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)*
Scottish Wildlife Trust*
Scottish Wild Land Group *
Visit Scotland*
BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding (Aberdeen)*
Scottish Wildcat Action*
Saving Wildcats *
Strathisla Community Council*
Dufftown and District Community Council*
Strathbogie Community Council*
Huntly Community Council*
Tap O' Noth Community Council*

*No response was received.

Internal advice from areas of the Scottish Government was provided by officials from Transport Scotland and Scottish Forestry.

As a consequence of a significant cyber-attack affecting its contact centre, internal systems, processes and communications, SEPA have been unable to respond to the consultation on this scoping opinion request. You can find SEPA's recovery plan here - service level status.

Standing advice and SEPA's planning guidance is available at http://sepa.org.uk/environment/land/planning

If bespoke advice from SEPA is considered essential in advance of submission of your application, please get back in touch with ECU to discuss next steps. It should be noted however that facilitation of further engagement will very much depend on SEPA's recovery plan progress.

ANNEX B

Marine Scotland Science advice on freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries in relation to onshore wind farm developments.

July 2020

Marine Scotland Science (MSS) provides internal, non-statutory, advice in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for onshore wind farm developments in Scotland.

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea trout and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) are of high economic value and conservation interest in Scotland and for which MSS has in-house expertise. Onshore wind farms are often located in upland areas where salmon and trout spawning and rearing grounds may also be found. MSS aims, through our provision of advice to ECU, to ensure that the construction and operation of these onshore developments do not have a detrimental impact on the freshwater life stages of these fish populations.

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations (2017) state that the EIA must assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on water and biodiversity, and in particular species (such as Atlantic salmon) and habitats protected under the EU Habitats Directive. Salmon and trout are listed as priority species of high conservation interest in the Scottish Biodiversity Index and support valuable recreational fisheries.

A good working relationship has been developed over the years between ECU and MSS, which ensures that these fish species are considered by ECU during all stages of the application process of onshore wind farm developments and are similarly considered during the construction and operation of future onshore wind farms. It is important that matters relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, particularly salmon and trout, continue to be considered during the construction and operation of future onshore wind farms.

In the current document, MSS sets out a revised, more efficient approach to the provision of our advice, which utilises our generic scoping and monitoring programme guidelines (https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren). This standing advice provides regulators (e.g. ECU, local planning authorities), developers and consultants with the information required at all stages of the application process for onshore wind farm developments, such that matters relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries are addressed in the same rigorous manner as is currently being carried out and continue to be fully in line with EIA regulations. At the request of ECU, MSS will still be able to provide further and/or bespoke advice relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries e.g. site specific advice, at any stage of the application process for a proposed development, particularly where a development may be considered sensitive or contentious in nature.

MSS will continue undertaking research, identifying additional research requirements, and keep up to date with the latest published knowledge relating to the impacts of onshore wind farms on freshwater and diadromous fish populations. This will be used to ensure that our guidelines and standing advice are based on the best available evidence and also to continue the publication of the relevant findings and knowledge to all stakeholders including regulators, developers and consultants.

MSS provision of advice to ECU

- MSS should not be asked for advice on pre application and application consultations (including screening, scoping, gate checks and EIA applications). Instead, the MSS scoping guidelines and standing advice (outlined below) should be provided to the developer as they set out what information should be included in the EIA report;
- if new issues arise which are not dealt with in our guidance or in our previous responses relating to respective developments, MSS can be asked to provide advice in relation to proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programmes which should be outlined in the EIA Report (further details below);
- if new issues arise which are not dealt with in our guidance or in our previous responses, MSS can be asked to provide advice on suitable wording, within a planning condition, to secure proposed monitoring programmes, should the development be granted consent;
- MSS cannot provide advice to developers or consultants, our advice is to ECU and/or other regulatory bodies.
- if ECU has identified specific issues during any part of the application process that the standing advice does not address, MSS should be contacted.

MSS Standing Advice for each stage of the EIA process

Scoping

MSS issued generic scoping guidelines (https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren) which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.

In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.

If a developer identifies new issues or has a technical query in respect of MSS generic scoping guidelines then ECU should be informed who will then co-ordinate a response from MSS.

Gate check

The detail within the generic scoping guidelines already provides sufficient information relating to water quality and salmon and trout populations for developers at this stage of the application.

Developers will be required to provide a gate check checklist (annex 1) in advance of their application submission which should signpost ECU to where all matters relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries have been presented in the EIA report. Where matters have not been addressed or a different approach, to that specified in the advice, has been adopted the developer will be required to set out why.

EIA Report

MSS will focus on those developments which may be more sensitive and/or where there are known existing pressures on fish populations (https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status/Pressures). The generic scoping guidelines should ensure that the developer has addressed all matters relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries and presented them in the appropriate chapters of the EIA report. Use of the gate check checklist should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process:

Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:

- any designated area, for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of the proposed development area;
- the presence of a large density of watercourses;
- the presence of large areas of deep peat deposits;
- known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area; and
- proposed felling operations.

Post-Consent Monitoring

MSS recommends that a water quality and fish population monitoring programme is carried out to ensure that the proposed mitigation measures are effective. A robust, strategically designed and site specific monitoring programme conducted before, during and after construction can help to identify any changes, should they occur, and assist in implementing rapid remediation before long term ecological impacts occur.

MSS has published guidance on survey/monitoring programmes associated with onshore wind farm developments (https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren) which developers should follow when drawing up survey and/or monitoring programmes.

If a developer considers that such a monitoring programme is not required then a clear justification should be provided.

Planning Conditions

MSS advises that planning conditions are drawn up to ensure appropriate provision for mitigation measures and monitoring programmes, should the development be given consent. We recommend, where required, that a Water Quality Monitoring Programme, Fisheries Monitoring Programme and the appointment of an Ecological Clerk of Works, specifically in overseeing the above monitoring programmes, is outlined within these conditions and that MSS is consulted on these programmes.

Wording suggested by MSS in relation to water quality, fish populations and fisheries for incorporation into planning consents:

1. No development shall commence unless a Water Quality and Fish Monitoring Plan (WQFMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with Marine Scotland Science and any such other advisors or organisations.

2. The WQFMP must take account of the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Science's guidelines and standing advice and shall include:

    a. water quality sampling should be carried out at least 12 months prior to construction commencing, during construction and for at least 12 months after construction is complete. The water quality monitoring plan should include key hydrochemical parameters, turbidity, and flow data, the identification of sampling locations (including control sites), frequency of sampling, sampling methodology, data analysis and reporting etc.;
    b. the fish monitoring plan should include fully quantitative electrofishing surveys at sites potentially impacted and at control sites for at least 12 months before construction commences, during construction and for at least 12 months after construction is completed to detect any changes in fish populations; and
    c. appropriate site specific mitigation measures detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment and in agreement with the Planning Authority and Marine Scotland Science.

3. Thereafter, the WQFMP shall be implemented within the timescales set out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority in consultation with Marine Scotland Science and the results of such monitoring shall be submitted to the Planning Authority on a 6 monthly basis or on request.

Reason: To ensure no deterioration of water quality and to protect fish populations within and downstream of the development area.

Sources of further information

NatureScot (previously “SNH”) guidance on wind farm developments - https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/advice- planners-and-developers/renewable-energy-development/onshore-wind- energy/advice-wind-farm

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) guidance on wind farm developments – https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/energy/renewable/#wind

A joint publication by Scottish Renewables, NatureScot, SEPA, Forestry Commission Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, MSS and Association of Environmental and Ecological Clerks of Works (2019) Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction - https://www.nature.scot/guidance-good-practice-during-wind-farm- construction.

Marine Scotland Science advice on freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries in relation to onshore wind farm developments.

July 2020

Annex 1

MSS – EIA Checklist

The generic scoping guidelines should ensure that all matters relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries have been addressed and presented in the appropriate chapters of the EIA report. Use of the checklist below should ensure that the EIA report contains the following information; the absence of such information ***may necessitate requesting additional information*** which could delay the process:

MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
1. A map outlining the proposed development area and the proposed location of: o the turbines, o associated crane hard standing areas, o borrow pits, o permanent meteorological masts, o access tracks including watercourse crossings, o all buildings including substation, battery storage;			

o permanent and temporary construction compounds; o all watercourses; and o contour lines;			
2. A description and results of the site characterisation surveys for fish (including fully quantitative electrofishing surveys) and water quality including the location of the electrofishing and fish habitat survey sites and water quality sampling sites on the map outlining the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure;			
3. An outline of the potential impacts on fish populations and water quality within and downstream of the proposed development area;			
4. Any potential cumulative impacts on the water quality and fish populations associated with adjacent (operational and consented) developments including wind farms, hydro schemes, aquaculture and mining;			
5. Any proposed site specific mitigation measures as outlined in MSS generic scoping guidelines and the joint publication “Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction” (https://www.nature.scot/guidance- good-practice-during-wind-farm- construction);			
6. Full details of proposed monitoring programmes using guidelines issued by MSS and accompanied by a map outlining the proposed sampling and control sites in addition to the location of all turbines and associated infrastructure			
7. A decommissioning and restoration plan outlining proposed mitigation/monitoring for water quality and fish populations.			

Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.
1. Any designated area, for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of the proposed development area;			
2. The presence of a large density of watercourses;			
3. The presence of large areas of deep peat deposits;			
4. Known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area; and			
5. Proposed felling operations.			

Our Ref: ENQ/2020/1830
Your Ref: ECU00002177

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The Scottish Government
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22 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Proposed Section 36 Application for Erection of 18 Wind Turbines and Associated Infrastructure at Craig Watch Wind Farm, Near Huntly
Grid Reference: 337281.833962

I refer to your request for a scoping opinion for the above proposal received on 9 December 2020. I am now in receipt of necessary consultation responses and I can now offer a scoping opinion under Regulation 12 of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations).

The proposed development is located within both the Moray and Aberdeenshire Council administrative areas. Whilst this scoping opinion is given considering the impacts of the proposed development upon the Aberdeenshire area, cognisance should also be made to any comments from Moray Council officers.

Schedule 4 of the Regulations states the information which should be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report). These guidelines offer the backbone to the structure of an EIA Report and should be used as the basis for your submission.

In order to make an assessment of the above information there are specific criteria and guidance set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations. In particular these include characteristics of the development, an outline of any alternative options/sites and the main reasons for the options/sites chosen. Environmental issues are of obvious key importance such as those aspects of the environment that would be likely to be significantly affected. Detailed survey work would be required to inform the EIA Report. Following analysis of the aspects of the environment which would be likely to be significantly affected, a detailed assessment of the effects themselves would be required along with mitigation measures proposed.

Examples of the types of issues that should be addressed include:

- Climate change
- Local Economic Effect
- Landscape Resource
- Soils and geology
- Visual Amenity
- Ornithology
- Visual Amenity
- Ecology
- Nature Conservation
- European Protected Species
- Hydrology and Water Supplies
- Forestry and Tree Felling
- Transport and Traffic including road safety issues and impact on local road network during and after construction work
- Noise
- Cultural Heritage and archaeology
- Land Use
- Land Ownership
- Tourism and Recreation, including footpaths
- Proposed mitigation measures

Please note that the above list is by no means exhaustive and that other issues might become obvious following public consultations and consultations with statutory consultees.

Comments on specific chapters, including those made from internal consultees, are below.

Landscape and Visual Amenity:

The proposed study area of 45km from the outermost turbines of the development is in line with standard practice and is acceptable. The approach indicated within the scoping report also seems appropriate. There should be a clear separation between landscape impacts and visual impacts within the EIAR.

The various ZTVs should be included within the EIAR including the ZTV for the development on its own with a separate ZTV showing the development along with other wind energy developments within the study area to demonstrate cumulative impacts. It's also recommended that ZTVs showing previous design iterations be included within the EIAR to demonstrate how the progression of the design phase has altered the anticipated impacts.

It's noted that the study area includes various landscape designations as noted within the Scoping Report. It's encouraged that viewpoints should be identified from areas throughout these designations where the ZTV's indicates a potential impact.

The proposal to discount the North Aberdeenshire Coast SLA from the LVIA is acceptable for the reasons stated within the scoping report. If there is no visibility from the Howe of Cromar SLA, Dee Valley SLA and Clachnaben and Forest of Birse SLA as suggested

within the scoping report, it is appropriate to discount these from the LVIA, however this should be explained within the 'effects scoped out' section of the EIAR chapter for clarity. Should the design iteration change from what is proposed, this should be re-assessed.

The approach regarding the assessment of visual receptors is acceptable. The precautionary approach to include properties within 5km of the proposed development site is welcomed should it be considered that there is a potential for overbearing effects. It is encouraged that a commentary of the assessment of the houses considered should be included within the RVAA for clarity.

The preliminary viewpoints included within the scoping report appear acceptable at this time and include a variety of receptors. It is reminded that viewpoints should be taken from the various landscape designations within the study area. Aberdeenshire Council are happy to be involved in further discussions relating to the selection of viewpoints.

It is strongly recommended that a comprehensive study of any proposed borrow pits be included within the landscape and visual impact assessment. The EIAR should include details of the location, area, depth, extraction volume, method of extraction and sections of the borrow pits. The extent of the borrow pit should also be included on photomontages of the development. Without these images and details, it is unlikely that a full assessment of the potential impacts can be taken.

In terms of the CLVIA, all developments in planning, including those at scoping stage, should be included. There is a cluster of developments forming in this area, including the Clashindarroch development (including extensions) and Garbet and so this should be considered with the potential for all developments to take place. It is recommended that where there are various developments proposed in close proximity to one another, some level of co-ordination should be taken to ensure the scale/layouts of the developments minimise potential adverse cumulative visual effects.

Cultural Heritage:

The proposed study areas of 1km, 5km and 10km as outlined within the scoping report are considered appropriate. There is a concern from Infrastructure Services (Archaeology) that the scale and number of wind turbines proposed would act cumulatively with others (operational, approved and pending developments) to impact upon the historic environment.

There is also a concern that there is no reference to Craig Dorney hillfort in section 3.3 of the scoping report. Given that this regionally significant hillfort is within 400m of a proposed wind turbine and <300m from the site boundary, it is recommended this be included within the study. It is also recommended that a LiDAR survey of the proposed development site is undertaken (in addition to the desk based assessment and walkover survey as outlined within the scoping report) as it is likely that remains extend beyond the demarcated area within the HER.

It is recommended that VIA's for Tap o'Noth hillfort and Craig Dorney hillfort are included .

It is reminded that there may be a requirement for archaeological mitigation in the form of watching briefs and/or fencing off assets for the duration of the work. Details of proposed

mitigation (embedded and otherwise) and any good practice methods to be used during the development should be included within the EIAR.

No additional information is requested to be included by Infrastructure Services (Environment – Built Heritage) who are content with the proposed approach.

Ecology:

The contents of Section 3.4 of the scoping report are noted. It is understood that the study areas will be altered in order to consider all design iterations prior to the submission of an application, however the desk-study study areas of 2km, 5km and 10km from a central point appear appropriate in the first instance.

It is noted that there are various designated sites within the 10km study area which should be considered within the EIAR along with any mitigation or best practice measures to manage any anticipated impacts.

The proposed surveys are sufficient at this stage, however it is reminded that additional surveys and studies may become apparent at a later date.

It is noted that a potential wildcat was identified adjacent to the site and you are consulting with Scottish Wildcat Action. As there is a known presence of wildcat within the area it is strongly recommended that the potential impacts upon wildcat and any mitigation to minimise these be covered fully within the EIAR.

The issues scoped out of the assessment are noted.

Consultation with Infrastructure Services (Environment – Natural Heritage) has raised no concerns with the content of the scoping report.

Ornithology:

Consultation with Infrastructure Services (Environment – Natural Heritage) raised no concerns with the content of the scoping report or the approach taken. It is within the scope of both NatureScot and RSPB to consider the impacts upon ornithological interests and would be best placed to make detailed comments on this section of the scoping report.

It is recommended that the EIAR includes details of best practice measures and mitigation proposed to avoid significant effects from the development, along with any enhancement measures. The proposal to submit an Outline HMP with the EIAR is welcomed.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology:

The proposed study area of the site area plus a 250m buffer in relation to impacts on water resources is typical and appropriate as a baseline, however this may need to be increased should connectivity downstream be identified. In terms of peat and carbon rich soils, the study area being limited to the site area is suitable, however NatureScot may request otherwise.

It is within the scope of both SEPA and NatureScot to consider these topics closely and may request additional information to be included within the EIAR.

Infrastructure Services (Environment – Natural Heritage) raise no concerns relating to the information contained within section 3.6 of the scoping report. No response has been received from Infrastructure Services (Flood risk and coastal protection) at present. An addendum to this scoping response will be issued at a later date including any comments they may have.

Traffic and Transport:

The inclusion of a TA within the EIAR is supported. It is noted that the study area will be defined by the preferred abnormal load and construction traffic routes. Should the preferred routes be within the Aberdeenshire Council area, please get in contact to discuss this, along with the construction traffic management plan to identify any potential issues (i.e. planned road maintenance etc) prior to a formal application submission.

A consultation with Infrastructure Services (Transportation) has not raised any concerns with the content of the scoping report or the approaches outlined within it. A response is anticipated from Infrastructure Services (Roads Development). This will be forwarded at a later date as an addendum to this Scoping opinion.

Noise and Vibration:

It is noted that discussions between the appointed acoustic consultant and our Environmental Health Officer have already begun. This is indeed positive and is something which is encouraged to continue throughout the pre-application stage to ensure the submission includes all relevant data.

Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health) confirms that the noise impact assessment must be in accordance with the advice given in ETSU-R-97, the IoA Good Practice Guide and associated Supplementary Guidance Notes, and Aberdeenshire Council advice contained in https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2646/20150206wtguidancenote.pdf No other comments regarding the content of the scoping report was given.

Aviation and Telecommunications:

It is within the scope of the MoD and NATS to comment on this section. It is reminded that aviation lighting of 2000cd and a lower 200cd should be shown within the visualisations of the development.

The content of this section of the scoping report is noted.

Socioeconomics:

The proposal to scope-out effects on population and demographics (in terms of health, housing and education) and tourism and recreational locations is noted. Given that the potential effects on visual amenity from tourism and recreational facilities would be included within the landscape and visual amenity section of the EIAR, the scoping out of

these effects are acceptable. Accommodation provision during the construction phase should be considered.

Forestry:

The study area of the site area is noted and accepted. Scottish Forestry will consider the proposals in greater detail. Infrastructure Services (Environment – Natural Heritage) raised no concerns in relation to the content or approach within their consultation. It is reminded that any compensatory planting plans should be included within the EIAR for consideration.

Shadow Flicker:

The content of section 3.12 of the scoping report is noted. No comments are made by (Infrastructure Services (Environmental Health) on the matter.

Climate:

The contents of section 3.13 of the scoping report is noted. A carbon calculator relating to the carbon savings should be included within the EIAR, however this may be most suited to be within the peat section.

Effects scoped out:
Air Quality/Ice Throw/Population and human health/risk of major accidents and/or disasters.

It is agreed these subjects can be scoped out of the EIAR.

Overall, Aberdeenshire Council is broadly satisfied with the approach of the EIA but recommends continued engagement throughout the pre-application stage.

I hope the above information is of assistance as a formal scoping opinion in respect of the relevant EIA Report. Obviously during the processing of any associated planning application other issues may become obvious following public consultation and consultations with statutory consultees.

This opinion will be held for public inspection for a two-year period, or until a planning application is submitted at which time the opinion will be transferred to the planning register with the application.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

Head of Planning and Environment Service

Our Ref: ENQ/2020/1830
Your Ref: ECU00002177

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The Scottish Government
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29 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
EIA Screening/Scoping Opinion for Proposed Section 36 Application for Erection of 18 Wind Turbines and Associated Infrastructure at Craig Watch Wind Farm, Near Huntly
Grid Reference: 337281.833962

I refer to your request for a scoping opinion for the above proposal received on 9 December 2020 and our previous correspondence in relation to it dated 22 January 2021. I am now in receipt of the Infrastructure Services (Flood Risk and Coast Protection) consultation response and I can now offer additional advice to be read as an addendum to our previous scoping opinion under Regulation 12 of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations), dated 22 January 2021.

It is noted within the Flood Risk and Coast Protection response that flood risk to the site is not a concern, however it is possible that the site may increase run off and as such an indicative drainage design should be submitted as part of the EIAR. As part of industry guidance and practice, drainage should be discharged locally to open ground/forest where possible by regular cross drains discharging to the downhill side of the road. Effort should be made to avoid directing run off from tracks and hardstanding towards existing watercourses, however should this be the approach taken, typical track details (including drainage arrangements) and watercourse crossings together with a maintenance schedule is likely to be sufficient to address our interests.

It's also noted that while it is often considered that the proposed roads/tracks and hardstanding areas are permeable, the trafficking during construction compresses the material and so we consider these areas to be effectively impermeable.

No Flood Risk Assessment is required.

I hope the above information is of assistance as an addendum to the previous formal scoping opinion in respect of the relevant EIA Report. Obviously during the processing of any associated planning application other issues may become obvious following public consultation and consultations with statutory consultees.

This opinion will be held for public inspection for a two-year period, or until a planning application is submitted at which time the opinion will be transferred to the planning register with the application.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

Head of Planning and Environment Service

Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland

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Your reference:
Our reference: *20/01663/S36SCO*

19 February 2021

Dear Sir

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

PROPOSAL: 20/01663/S36SCO Scoping related to the construction and operation of a wind farm located on land approximately 8 km southeast of Dufftown at Craig Watch Wind Farm

A formal Scoping Opinion has been requested from Craig Watch Wind Farm Limited regarding the content of an EIA Report which is to be submitted at a later date most likely in support of an Electricity Act Section 36 application. Noting the proposal might compose of up to 18 turbines, 200m high we would make the following comments.

The submitted plan shows the development occupying an area of existing woodland. It is important that the matter of compensatory woodland planting is fully addressed in the EIA Report and ideally areas for such compensation are identified up front (preferably in the same locality). This matter is commented upon again below under Landscape and Visual Impact.

If any new welfare facility is proposed for site staff, details of water supply and foul drainage arrangements must included in EIA Report.

Scoping response on landscape and visual matters

The Scoping Report dated November 2020 sets out the methodology and scope of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The Council agrees in general with the methodology to be adopted for the LVIA and with the Study Area being defined as 45km from the proposal. Further comments on detailed matters are set out below.

Design of the wind farm

The proposed development site largely lies in an area of woodland. Detailed consideration should be given to the landscape and visual effects of felling and restocking proposals (both adverse and beneficial) in the LVIA and mitigation and landscape enhancement should be optimised in the

design of any Wind Farm Forest Plan and/or compensatory planting. Proposed forest felling areas should be shown in relevant visualisations from nearby viewpoints.

Please note that within the current non-statutory Moray Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance, the A941 passing the site is classed an identified scenic route into Moray.

Mitigation of visible aviation lighting should be thoroughly considered in the EIA-R.

Scope of the LVIA

We agree with the general scope of the LVIA although we recommend that the assessment of effects on landscape character should be more focussed than set out in the Scoping Report to provide detailed consideration of effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) lying within approximately 20km of the proposal. We would prefer to see a more thorough assessment where effects are most likely to be significant than a lengthy and more cursory assessment of a great many LCTs.

We note that it is proposed in the Scoping Report to use both the NatureScot online landscape character classification and the landscape character classification used in the 2018 Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study (MWELCS) for the landscape character assessment. We would advise that the assessment of effects on landscape character within Moray should be based only on the detailed classification in the MWELCS, particularly given the context of a more focussed assessment as advised above.

The assessment of effects on valued landscapes in Moray should be focussed on the Deveron Valley and Ben Rinnes Special Landscape Areas. While there may be some visibility of the proposal from the Pluscarden SLA this is unlikely to incur significant adverse effects on its character and special qualities given that it lies >30km distance from the proposal. The SLA assessment should consider potential effects on character as well as the special qualities of these designated landscapes.

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps included in the Scoping Report are unclear and make it difficult to fully ascertain the likely visibility of the proposal. A detailed ZTV should be provided in the EIA-R based on an OS 1:50,000 scale map base within 15-20km of the proposal to allow more accurate appraisal of potential visibility in the local area.

The viewpoints listed in Table 3.2 of the Scoping Report are likely to provide a good range of representative views although it is requested that the following additional viewpoints should be included:

- Auchindoun Castle – it is appreciated that visualisations will be produced from this important feature within the Cultural Heritage section of the EIA-R but as it is a popular visitor attraction we would wish to see effects on views also considered in the LVIA. The castle lies within the Ben Rinnes SLA and the assessment of effects on views should additionally inform the assessment on this valued landscape.
- The A941 close to Upper Howbog near Cabrach– we would wish to see this viewpoint included because of the importance of this approach to Moray and to allow consideration of cumulative effects with the operational Dorenell and proposed Clashindarroch extension wind farms.

We would also wish to see an additional night-time viewpoint from Ben Rinnes. The night-time viewpoint proposed from Viewpoint 12 should be substituted with one from Viewpoint 13 on the A920 as this is closer and it would be more useful in terms of considering cumulative effects with the application-stage Garbet Hill wind farm which will also require visible aviation lighting.

Lighting effects should be assessed from each of the representative viewpoints and not just from the viewpoints selected to illustrate night-time effects. While the character of the landscape is not

readily discernible during hours of darkness, lighting can affect perceptual qualities associated with some LCTs and SLAs and it is recommended that the effect on the sense of seclusion and naturalness (due to existing relatively low lighting levels in the local area) are considered in the LVIA. Cumulative effects of lighting with the application-stage Garbet Hill wind farm should be assessed.

Cumulative assessment

Table 2.2 lists wind farms lying within 20km of the proposal which will be considered in the cumulative landscape and visual assessment. It should be noted that the Garbet Hill wind farm is now at application-stage and in addition the proposed Edintore II development is at scoping-stage. Any other application-stage proposed wind farm developments to be considered in the cumulative LVIA should be confirmed with Moray Council once an assessment cut-off date has been established.

Traffic and Transportation matters

We confirm that the proposed methodology for dealing with your inability to collect representative traffic count information would be acceptable subject to sight of the historic data, including the data and Grid reference. It is also unclear where on the A941 in Dufftown the location of the count site, would this be Fife Street or Balvenie Street, or both.

With respect to the swept path analysis, the A941 leading from the A920 to the site access has varying widths and in places narrow verges. Whilst abnormal load deliveries associated with the nearby Dorenell Wind Farm have used this road previously, we would seek swept path analysis for the entire length of this section of the A941 to identify the pinch points. Also if you have not already managed to do so we would advise undertaking a site visit when Covid-19 restrictions permit.

Planning policy and guidance matters

Spatial Framework

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) requires planning authorities to set out, in the development plan, a spatial framework identifying those areas that are likely to be most appropriate for onshore wind farms as a guide for developers and communities, following a set methodology (para 161). This has been done through the Spatial Framework within the Moray Local Development Plan (MLDP) 2020, which has been a broad-brush approach required to comply with SPP and covers a significant land area of Moray. All the proposed turbines (within Moray) are located within an area with potential for wind farm development of turbines over 35 metres to tip height, with no upper height limit identified.

The limitations of the very strategic Spatial Framework are recognised and SPP (para 162) further requires that local development planning authorities should identify where there is strategic capacity for wind farms and areas with the greatest potential for wind development. The Moray Onshore Wind Energy (MOWE) Non-Statutory Guidance 2020 identifies such areas and 9 of the 11 turbines are located within an area of greatest potential for Very Large Turbines, Extensions and Repowering.

MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance 2020 and Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study 2017

The MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance and the Landscape Capacity Study are material considerations for development management purposes. Incorporating the outcomes from the Landscape Capacity Study, the Guidance identifies five typologies of wind turbine,

including “Very Large 130m-150m” (to blade tip), and highlights that there is very limited scope to accommodate further large scale wind turbine developments in Moray in landscape and visual terms.

The proposed development is located within the *Open Uplands with Settled Glens* [12b] Landscape Character Type (LCT) as defined in the Guidance and Landscape Capacity Study. LCT12b is assessed as having a High sensitivity to the very large typology (turbines >130m), with no scope to accommodate additional turbines of this scale in this landscape due to the limited extent of remaining uplands without operational and consented wind farms and the presence of significant landscape and visual constraints associated with the remaining undeveloped area.

This landscape extends across the lower rounded hills which form the eastern boundary of Moray and includes the elevated shallow bow of the Cabrach, contained by an arc of hills and the sparsely settled upper reaches of the Deveron which flows through a narrow glen. The extensive sweeping scale of this landscape, the generally smooth landform, often with gentle gradients, as well as the overall extent of the uplands and simple land cover all combine to reduce sensitivity to wind farm development. However, the operational Dorenell, Clashindarroch and Kildrummy Wind Farms lie within and close-by this landscape and this increases sensitivity in relation to potential cumulative landscape and visual effects.

In terms of LCT12b, the Guidance and Landscape Capacity Study identify that the key issues to consider are:-

- Potential sequential and simultaneous views of multiple developments along the skyline around the 360 degree bowl of the Cabrach seen from the A941.
- Cumulative effects on views from the adjacent smaller scale and settled Narrow Framed Valleys (LCT13), the Deveron valley within neighbouring Aberdeenshire and on the setting of landmark historic features such as Auchindoun Castle.
- Visual confusion and an absence of rationale which could occur between large turbines sited in simple and more expansive upland areas and the same size of turbine also located within the more settled valleys and basins of this landscape.
- Variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small turbines which may be proposed within the LCT.

The MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance and Landscape Capacity Study are strategic level guidance and will be interpreted at local level through the Council’s appointed Landscape Capacity Adviser, who has provided initial comments which have been incorporated within this response.

The Moray Council are currently undertaking an update of the Landscape Capacity Study 2017 in accordance with Nature Scot’s guidance on Landscape Sensitivity Studies.

MLDP 2020 Policies

The Applicant proposes to submit a Planning Statement which will contain an assessment of accordance with relevant policy and guidance documents set out in Section 2 of the Scoping Report. In addition to the policies set out in Table 2.1, the Planning Statement must also address Policy EP2 *Biodiversity*

The following comments on policies should be considered and addressed by the Applicant as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and development management process.

Policy PP2 *Sustainable Economic Growth*

Proposals which support the Moray Economic Strategy to deliver sustainable economic growth will be supported where the quality of the natural and built environment is safeguarded, there is a clear locational need and all potential impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated. Policy PP2 seeks to achieve the right planning balance between promoting renewable energy and a low carbon economy and the need to safeguard the environment, including in landscape and visual terms.

Policy PP3 *Infrastructure and Services*

Policy PP3 seeks to ensure development is planned and co-ordinated with infrastructure to enable places to function properly and are adequately serviced.

Part (b) states that development proposals will not be supported where they adversely impact on access routes and cannot be adequately mitigated by an equivalent or better alternative provision in a location convenient for users. Consideration must be given to any potential impact on access rights by the development both during and after construction.

New requirements include the provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and fibre optic broadband connections to all premises (unless justification is provided to substantiate it is technically unfeasible). Further guidance on requirements for the provision of EV charging can be found in Part 1 of the MLDP 2020 Planning Policy Guidance.

Developer obligations will be sought in accordance with the Council's Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance.

Policy DP1 *Development Principles*

Policy DP1 sets out the detailed criteria to ensure that proposals meet siting, design and servicing requirements, provide sustainable drainage arrangements and avoid any adverse effects on environmental interests.

As set out in Part (i), the scale of development must be appropriate to the surrounding area and must be integrated into the surrounding landscape, which include safeguarding existing trees and any notable topographical features (e.g. distinctive knolls), stone walls and existing water features. Development must also conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and cultural heritage resources.

An LVIA will be undertaken to determine the likely significant effects that the proposed development will have on the landscape and visual resource. The Council agrees in general with the methodology to be adopted for the LVIA and with the Study Area being defined as 45km from the proposal. It is recommended that the assessment of effects on landscape character should be more focussed than set out in the Scoping Report to provide detailed consideration of effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) lying within approximately 20km of the proposal. A more thorough assessment where effects

are most likely to be significant would be preferred than a lengthy and more cursory assessment of a great many LCTs.

It is noted within the Scoping Report that it is proposed to use both the NatureScot online landscape character classification and the landscape character classification used in the Landscape Capacity Study for the landscape character assessment. The assessment of effects on landscape character within Moray should be based only on the detailed classification in the Landscape Capacity Study, particularly given the context of a more focussed assessment as advised above.

The assessment of effects on valued landscapes in Moray should be focussed on the Deveron Valley and Ben Rinnes Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). While there may be some visibility of the proposal from the Pluscarden SLA, this is unlikely to incur significant adverse effects on its character and special qualities given that its distance from the proposal. The assessment of SLAs should consider potential effects on character as well as the special qualities of these designated landscapes.

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps included in the Scoping Report are unclear and make it difficult to fully ascertain the likely visibility of the proposal. A detailed ZTV should be provided in the EIA Report (EIA-R) based on an OS 1:50,000 scale map base within 15-20km of the proposal to allow more accurate appraisal of potential visibility in the local area.

The preliminary viewpoints listed in Table 3.2 of the Scoping Report are likely to provide a good range of representative views although it is requested that the following additional viewpoints should be included:-

- Auchindoun Castle: it is noted that visualisations would form part of the Cultural Heritage section of the EIA-R, however as a popular visitor attraction within the Ben Rinnes SLA, the effects on views should also be considered in the LVIA; and
- The A941, close to Upper Howbog near Cabrach: due to the importance of this approach to Moray and to allow consideration of cumulative effects with the operational Dorenell and proposed Clashindarroch extension wind farms.

In respect of night-time viewpoints, an additional viewpoint from Ben Rinnes is requested. The proposed night-time viewpoint from Viewpoint 12 should be substituted with one from Viewpoint 13 on the A920 as this is closer and would be more useful in terms of considering cumulative effects with the application-stage Garbet Hill Wind Farm, which will also require visible aviation lighting.

Lighting effects should be assessed from each of the representative viewpoints and not just from the viewpoints selected to illustrate night-time effects. While the character of the landscape is not readily discernible during hours of darkness, lighting can affect perceptual qualities associated with some LCTs and SLAs and it is recommended that the effect on the sense of seclusion and naturalness (due to existing relatively low lighting levels in the local area) are considered in the LVIA. Mitigation of visible aviation lighting should be thoroughly considered in the EIA-R. Cumulative effects of lighting with the application-stage Garbet Hill Wind Farm should be assessed.

In respect of cumulative wind farms (Table 2.2), it should be noted that Garbet Wind Farm is at application-stage and the proposed Edintore II Wind Farm is at scoping-stage. Any other application-stage proposed wind farm developments to be considered in the

cumulative LVIA should be confirmed with Moray Council once an assessment cut-off date has been established.

Policy DP9 *Renewable Energy*

All renewable energy proposals will be considered favourably where they meet criteria set out in Policy DP9, including safeguarding and enhancing the built and natural environment as well as impacts on landscape and noise. Detailed consideration of onshore wind turbine proposals will be determined through site specific consideration of areas such as landscape and visual impact and cumulative impact on which further guidance is set out in the MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance and as informed by the Landscape Capacity Study.

There are concerns regarding the number, siting and heights of the proposed turbines which has the potential to have significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, in addition to cumulative impact.

Detailed assessment of impact will also include consideration of the extent to which the proposal contributes to renewable energy generation targets, its effects on greenhouse gas emissions and net economic impact, including socio-economic benefits such as employment. This allows for the range of benefits to be fully considered in order to achieve the right planning balance between promoting renewable energy and a low carbon economy and the need to safeguard the environment, including in landscape and visual terms.

Moray Council fully supports the Scottish Government's aspirations regarding net zero carbon and is developing its own Climate Change Strategy which includes actions on a wide range of areas identified in the Programme. While national targets have been set, there are no "regional" targets for wind energy production and it is worth noting that Moray (as of 31/12/2020) has consented but not yet operational capacity of 439MW and operational capacity for 310MW of generation from wind farms alone. Moray also has consented solar farms, is actively working on a wide range of projects to cut carbon such as carbon conscious Town Centres, a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and a range of policies in the MLDP 2020.

Policy EP1 *Natural Heritage Designations*

The proposed site is in close proximity to the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Craigs of Succoth SSSI. The development must ensure that is does not compromise the objectives and that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the designation. Comments from NatureScot will determine the acceptability of the scope of assessment and identify any information required to be submitted as part of a detailed planning application for the site.

Policy EP2 *Biodiversity*

All developments must, where possible, retain, protect and enhance features of biological interest and provide for their appropriate management. Proposals must safeguard, and where physically possible extend or enhance, wildlife corridors and green/blue networks and prevent fragmentation of existing habitats.

The Applicant must demonstrate that they have included biodiversity features into the design of the development. Examples of how to achieve biodiversity enhancement can be found in Part 2 of the MLDP 2020 Planning Policy Guidance.

Policy EP3 *Special Landscape Areas and Landscape Character*

Proposals, including those outwith SLAs, will only be permitted where they do not prejudice the special qualities of the designated area set out in the Moray Local Landscape Designation Review (www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_121575.html), adopt the highest standards of design and minimises adverse impacts on the landscape and visual qualities that the area is important for. Policy EP3 also sets out acceptable uses for proposal in rural and urban areas within a SLA.

The Ben Rinnes, Spey Valley and Deveron Valley SLAs lie closest to the site. In addition, the ZTV identifies impacts on the Burghead to Lossiemouth Coast, Culbin to Burghead Coast, Lossiemouth to Portgordon Coast, Pluscarden Valley, Portgordon to Cullen Coast, Spynie and Quarrelwood SLAs. There are also SLAs in the Aberdeenshire Council area which should also be taken account of, in particular the Deveron Valley.

The LVIA will determine the likely significant effects that the proposed development will have on the landscape and visual resource and proposes to assess the Ben Rinnes, Deveron Valley (Moray), Pluscarden Valley and Spey Valley SLAs in more detail. The assessment of effects should be focussed on the Ben Rinnes and Deveron Valley (Moray) SLAs. While there may be some visibility of the proposal from the Pluscarden SLA, this is unlikely to incur significant adverse effects on its character and special qualities given that the distance from the proposal. The SLA assessment should consider potential effects on character as well as the special qualities of these designated landscapes.

The Ben Rinnes SLA identifies wind farm development in adjacent upland areas as a potential threat to the sensitivity of the landscape. This could adversely affect views and the character of the secluded Glen Rinnes and Glen Livet, particularly where turbines would be seen on containing skylines.

The Deveron Valley SLA (Moray) also identifies wind energy development sited in adjacent upland areas and visible on prominent skylines as a potential threat. Such development would affect views and the intimate scale and sense of seclusion associated with this valley.

Proposals should also take account of the special qualities of the Cairngorm National Park and developers should consult with the Park Authority and NatureScot as appropriate.

Policy EP7 *Forestry, Woodlands and Trees*

In support of the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (CWRP), Policy EP7 has a strong presumption against woodland removal and, where identified, will not support removal of ancient woodland.

Garbet Wood, within the site boundary, is identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), although it would appear that this woodland will be unaffected by development. Whilst not designated as 'ancient woodland' on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), this is not definitive and the AWI should only be considered as a starting point. Given that LEPOs can develop the characteristics of ancient woodland, should any woodland removal

be proposed at Garbet Wood, the Applicant will be required to demonstrate the value of the woodland by way of a detailed woodland survey, carried out at the appropriate time of year by a suitably qualified consultant who has experience of woodland habitat surveys which must include a National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey and map with site community floristic descriptions, target notes and locally important site features as well as an assessment of the role and importance of the Garbet Wood's connectivity to the wider woodland network. Should the detailed survey establish that Garbet Wood is classed as ancient woodland, the proposal will be contrary to Policy EP7(c).

Any remaining woodland removal proposed (0.1ha or more), including Garbet Wood if not classed as ancient woodland, will be assessed against the remaining part of Policy EP7(c) which states that permanent woodland removal will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits (excluding housing) and where removal will not result in unacceptable adverse effects on the amenity, landscape, biodiversity, economic or recreational value of the woodland or prejudice the management of the woodland. The provision of compensatory planting is not considered to be a sufficient justification for woodland removal. The Applicant must justify and evidence such benefits. Further advice on woodland removal can be found in Part 1 of the MLDP 2020 Planning Policy Guidance.

In addition to woodland removal, the application and EIA-R must give consideration to any tree removal (single trees or area less than 0.1ha) that may be required, in particular relating to the proposed access route and requirements to accommodate abnormal load deliveries. Where it has been demonstrated that it is technically unfeasible to retain trees, compensatory planning on a one-for-one basis must be provided in accordance with Policy EP7(e).

Detailed consideration should be given to the landscape and visual effects of felling and restocking proposals (both adverse and beneficial) in the LVIA and mitigation and landscape enhancement should be optimised in the design of any Wind Farm Forest Plan and/or compensatory planting. Proposed forest felling areas should be shown in relevant visualisations from nearby viewpoints.

Policy EP8 *Historic Environment*

Policy EP8 seeks to protected archaeological sites and Scheduled Monuments from development that would have an adverse impact on their integrity and setting.

There are a number of listed buildings, archaeological sites and scheduled monuments within the vicinity of the site. Comments from the Regional Archaeologist will determine the acceptability of the scope of assessment and identify any information required to be submitted as part of a detailed planning application for the site.

Conclusion

There is very limited scope to accommodate further large scale wind turbine developments in Moray in landscape and visual terms. The proposal site is not located within an area identified within the MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance as an area of greatest potential for Very Large (>130m) Turbines, Extensions and Repowering. Sited within LCT12b, the landscape is assessed as having a High sensitivity to turbines over 130m, with no scope to accommodate additional turbines of this scale.

Detailed consideration of onshore wind turbine proposals will be determined through site specific consideration of areas such as landscape and visual impact and cumulative impact on which further guidance is set out in the MOWE Non-Statutory Guidance and as informed by the Landscape Capacity Study.

Detailed assessment of impact will also include consideration of the extent to which the proposal contributes to renewable energy generation targets, its effects on greenhouse gas emissions and net economic impact, including socio-economic benefits such as employment. This allows for the range of benefits to be fully considered in order to achieve the right planning balance between promoting renewable energy and a low carbon economy and the need to safeguard the environment, including in landscape and visual terms.

There are concerns regarding the number, siting and heights of the proposed turbines which has the potential to have significant adverse landscape and visual impacts, in addition to cumulative impact.

Comments have been provided within this response in respect of aviation lighting, the focus of the assessment of effects on landscape character, viewpoints for visualisations and tree/woodland removal. These should be addressed as part of the EIA-R and development management process.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

Neal MacPherson
Principal Planning Officer

Melrose J (Joyce)

From: Sophie Arnold <sophie.arnold@bhs.org.uk>
Sent: 07 December 2020 14:38
To: Econsents Admin; Hughson M (Magnus)
Cc: Helene Mauchlen
Subject: RE: Scoping - Craig Watch Wind Farm
Attachments: Response to scoping request - Craig Watch Windfarm.pdf

Dear Magnus

Many thanks for consulting with us regarding the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm below. The British Horse Society (BHS) is always pleased to be consulted on transport, planning and development matters and where possible or necessary we are able to engage local riders to get a locally based response.

Please find our response attached.
Best wishes
Sophie

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Fulfilling your passion for horses

Helene Mauchlen (Scotland)
Woodburn Farm
Crieff
Perthshire
PH7 3RG

Email Helene.Mauchlen@bhs.org.uk
Website www.bhsscotland.org.uk
Tel 024 76 840710
Mob 07900 670223

Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

By email to:
Econsents_admin@gov.scot
Magnus.Hughson@gov.scot

07 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017
REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM

I refer to the above scoping request for the proposed Craig Watch Windfarm in the planning authority area of Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

The British Horse Society (BHS) is always pleased to be consulted on transport, planning and development matters and where possible or necessary we are able to engage local riders to get a locally based response. Thank you very much for consulting with us, horses are important and good for people so their safety and capacity to access safe off road hacking is a key consideration in terms of their welfare and the wellbeing of their riders and those who look after them.

A project, like the one you are carrying out is an excellent opportunity to improve connections in a community and hopefully resolve any problems in terms of countryside access, transport and travel.

The BHS is here to help, so please do not consider this response the final word, we hope to work with you on an on-going basis to ensure horses and horse riders get as good a deal as they can out of any proposed improvements, so please do not hesitate to contact us in the future.

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Fulfilling your passion for horses

Helene Mauchlen (Scotland)
Woodburn Farm
Crieff
Perthshire
PH7 3RG

Email Helene.Mauchlen@bhs.org.uk
Website www.bhsscotland.org.uk
Tel 024 76 840710
Mob 07900 670223

The Importance of Off-Road Riding

Scotland's equestrian industry is important with the horse being a major rural economic driver, recent joint research between SRUC and BHS showed:

Current trends in the sector point to a continued increase in horse numbers and riding activity in all geographical areas of Scotland and across a wide cross section of society. The expenditure on direct upkeep averages £3,105 per horse per annum.

This report also showed:

A concern for all riders, including tourists, is diminishing access to safe off-road riding. Most riding accidents happen on minor roads in the countryside. With increasing numbers of horses and riders requiring access to the countryside, more formal access to off-road riding will be a priority in areas considered of higher risk.

The full report can be accessed at:
http://www.sruc.ac.uk/downloads/file/2391/2015_scoping_study_on_the_equine_industry_in_scotland

Scotland has a duty to get horse riders off busy roads; few riders access busy roads by choice (and the horse has as much right to be on the public highway as cars, bikes and pedestrians) - but they often have no choice as that is the only way they can access their safe off road hacking.

I can also refer you to:
http://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/horse-riders

Equestrian road users are vulnerable - that means they are more likely to be involved in a road accident and also more likely to suffer the worst consequences.

Horses and their riders (as well as carriage drivers) are vulnerable on the road network. A collision between a horse and a vehicle can have life threatening consequences for the horse, rider and those in a vehicle. There is evidence to suggest that the number of road traffic collisions involving horses is underreported in casualty data.

Horse riding is more prevalent (particularly on roads) in certain parts of the country. Rural areas have larger numbers of horse riders, who make a significant contribution to the rural economy. Yet according to Road Safety Scotland 70% of road accidents happen on country roads. (http://dontriskit.info/country-roads/view-the-campaign)

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

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The BHS expects developers to work with representatives of the local horse riding community to understand their road safety and countryside access concerns and facilitate engagement with other partners and consider whether any road safety interventions should be introduced, where there are significant numbers of horse riders and/or road traffic collisions involving horses.

Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, horse-riders and carriage drivers enjoy a right of access to most land in Scotland, provided that they behave responsibly. Land managers in turn are obliged to respect equestrian access rights and take proper account of the right of responsible access in managing their land. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code gives guidance on how the requirements to behave responsibly can be met. Please refer to:
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

This access legislation, which is over a decade old now gives horse riders the same rights of responsible access as walkers and cyclists. It is vital that any off road tracks or non-motorised user's tracks or paths are multi-use catering for all including horse riders and carriage drivers.

Active Travel and Suitable infrastructure

Whilst the active travel movement does not consider equestrian travel to be a form of active travel there are many people for whom riding is an attractive mode of travel whether that be for travel purposes or leisure purposes, and the delivery of Active Travel should not discourage this, just as it should not discourage the use of micro-scooters, roller blades, skateboards and other similar modes of travel. In urban areas, many riding horses are kept within the 10 mile journey distance and they must not be disadvantaged by new facilities that may be put in place for the cyclists. Level crossings which are currently used by equestrians should not be replaced by alternatives which would preclude the use by equestrians, for example, a footbridge. Similarly, other infrastructure like gates, bridges, cattle grids and slippery surfaces should all be installed with equestrians in mind. Access control must always be the least restrictive option.

The British Horse Society (BHS) represents the interests of the 3.4 million people in the UK who ride or who drive horse-drawn vehicles. With the membership of its Affiliated Riding Clubs and Bridleway Groups, the BHS is the largest and most influential equestrian charity in the UK. The BHS is committed to promoting the interests of all equestrians and the welfare of horses and ponies through education and training.

Please see attached an information sheet on equestrian access.

https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/resource/outdoor-access-design-guide

With over 70k equines in Scotland, equestrianism is worth £650 million to the Scottish economy annually with the Scottish Racing industry contributing £300 million and the rest of the industry generating £355 million according to recent research (Developing Benchmarks & Trends to

The British Horse Society Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

The British Horse Society is an Appointed Representative of South Essex Insurance Brokers Limited who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Fulfilling your passion for horses

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Tel 024 76 840710
Mob 07900 670223

Measure Equestrian Activity in Scotland - A report produced by the British Equestrian Trade Association August 2019 And Scottish Racing Annual Review and 2019 Outlook)

I trust that the above information is of assistance.

HELENE MAUCHLEN
SCOTTISH NATIONAL MANAGER
THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

Melrose J (Joyce)

From: laura.k.taylor@bt.com on behalf of radionetworkprotection@bt.com
Sent: 04 January 2021 13:40
To: Econsents Admin
Cc: radionetworkprotection@bt.com; Hughson M (Magnus)
Subject: RE: Scoping - Craig Watch Wind Farm WID11395

OUR REF: WID11395

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your email dated 07/12/2020.

We have studied this Windfarm proposal with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links.

The conclusion is that, the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.

Please direct all queries to radionetworkprotection@bt.com

Kind regards
Laura Taylor
Engineering Services - Radio Planning
Email: radionetworkprotection@bt.com
BT's Values: Personal. Simple. Brilliant.

Melrose J (Joyce)

From: Nina Caudrey <ninacaudrey@cairngorms.co.uk>
Sent: 08 December 2020 10:25
To: Hughson M (Magnus); Econsents Admin
Cc: Planning; tayside_grampian@nature.scot; Jennifer Heatley
Subject: Scoping - Craig Watch Wind Farm

Hello Magnus
Thank you for consulting us on the above proposal. The proposed development is located approximately 11km outwith the National Park boundary. Policy 3.3a of the current Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (2017 – 2024) is therefore relevant in relation to the potential for effects on the Special Landscape Qualities and landscape character of the National Park from wind farm development outwith the National Park (available via https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/national-park-partnership-plan/).

In accordance with our working protocol with NatureScot, available via https://www.nature.scot/agreement-roles-advisory-casework-between-scottish-natural-heritage-and-scottish-national-park , NatureScot provide advice on the potential effects of development outwith the National Park on the Special Landscape Qualities and landscape character of the National Park. We therefore have no other comments to make at this stage and refer you and the applicant to their advice.
from
Nina

Nina Caudrey, MRTPI
Planning Officer (Development Planning)

Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3HG

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Teena Oulaghan
Assistant Safeguarding Officer
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 7RL
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: 07970170934

E-mail: teena.oulaghan100@mod.gov.uk

Your Reference: ECU00002177

Our Reference: DIO10050047

21 January 2021

Magnus Hughson.
Energy Consents Unit,
Scottish Government,
4th Floor,
5 Atlantic Quay,
150 Broomielaw,
Glasgow,
G2 8LU.

Dear Magnus,

RE: ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM.

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the Scoping Opinion Request in respect of the Craig Watch Wind Farm Proposal received in this office on 7th December 2020.

The MOD has assessed the scoping request using the grid references detailed in Annex A below for 18 turbines, a maximum of 200.00 metres to blade tip, and has identified the following concerns:

Air Traffic Control (ATC) Radar

The turbines will be approx. 40 km from, detectable by, and will cause unacceptable interference to the ATC radar used by Lossiemouth.

Wind turbines have been shown to have detrimental effects on the performance of Primary Surveillance Radars. These effects include the desensitisation of radar in the vicinity of the turbines, and the creation of "unwanted" aircraft returns which air traffic controllers must treat as aircraft returns. The desensitisation of radar could result in aircraft not being detected by the radar and therefore not presented to air traffic controllers. Controllers use the radar to separate and sequence both military and civilian aircraft, and in busy uncontrolled airspace radar is the only sure way to do this safely. Maintaining situational awareness of all aircraft movements within the airspace is crucial to achieving a safe and efficient air traffic service, and the integrity of radar data is central to this process. The creation of "unwanted" returns displayed on the radar leads to increased workload for both controllers and aircrews and may have a significant operational impact. Furthermore, real aircraft returns can be obscured by a turbine's radar return, making the tracking of both conflicting unknown aircraft and the controllers' own traffic much more difficult.

Air Defence (AD) radar

The turbines will be approx. 74 km from, detectable by, and will cause unacceptable interference to the AD radar at ASACS Buchan.

Wind turbines have been shown to have detrimental effects on the operation of radar. These include the desensitisation of radar in the vicinity of the turbines, and the creation of "false" aircraft returns. The probability of the radar detecting aircraft flying over or in the vicinity of the turbines would be reduced, hence turbine proliferation within a specific locality can result in unacceptable degradation of the radar's operational integrity. This would reduce the RAF's ability to detect and deter aircraft in United Kingdom sovereign airspace, thereby preventing it from effectively performing its primary function of Air Defence of the United Kingdom.

An operational assessment has been conducted by an AD Subject Matter Expert (SME) who considered the position of the turbine(s) weighed against a number of operational factors including:

a) Detectability of the turbine(s).
b) Position of the development.
c) Quantity of turbines within the development.
d) Other developments within the vicinity.
e) Loss of coverage due to the development's electromagnetic shadow.

Close examination of the proposal has indicated that the proposed turbine(s) would have a significant and detrimental affect on AD operations. The MOD therefore has concerns with the development. The reasons for this objection include, but are not limited to:

a) Several of the turbines within the development being RLOS.
b) The quantity of the turbines visible to the radar at RRH Buchan would exceed our 'cumulative effect' thresholds

Research into technical mitigation solutions is currently ongoing and the developer may wish to consider investigating suitable mitigation solutions.

If the developer can overcome the issues stated above, the MOD would request that the development be fitted with MOD accredited aviation safety lighting in accordance with the Civil Aviation Authority, Air Navigation Order 2016.

MOD Safeguarding wishes to be consulted and notified about the progress of planning applications and submissions relating to this proposal to verify that it will not adversely affect defence interests.

I hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. Further information about the effects of wind turbines on MOD interests can be obtained from the following website:

***MOD*:** https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wind-farms-ministry-of-defence-safeguarding

Yours sincerely

Redacted

Teena Oulaghan
Safeguarding Manager

Annex A

Turbine	Easting	Northing
1	337,131	834,240
2	337,508	833,884
3	337,799	833,511
4	337,536	834,483
5	337,898	834,158
6	337,893	834,796
7	338,315	834,442
8	338,349	834,916
9	338,756	834,670
10	338,677	835,252
11	339,138	835,077
12	339,014	835,584
13	339,477	835,446
14	339,956	835,418
15	339,169	836,030
16	339,719	835,878
17	339,523	836,340
18	339,933	836,572

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

By email to: econsents_admin@gov.scot

Magnus Hughson
Energy Consents Unit
4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300047870
Your ref: ECU00002177
18 January 2021

Dear Magnus Hughson

The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Scoping Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 07 December 2020 about the above scoping report. We have reviewed the details in terms of our historic environment interests. This covers World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments and their settings, category A-listed buildings and their settings, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, inventory battlefields and historic marine protected areas (HMPAs).

The relevant local authority archaeological and cultural heritage advisors will also be able to offer advice on the scope of the cultural heritage assessment. This may include heritage assets not covered by our interests, such as unscheduled archaeology, and category B- and C-listed buildings.

Proposed Development
We understand that the proposed development comprises up to 18 wind turbines to a maximum blade tip height of 200m, plus associated ancillary infrastructure including access tracks, underground cable network, control building and substation, temporary construction compounds, permanent anemometer mast and energy storage system.

Scope of assessment
We consider that, based on the information provided so far, there is the potential for significant adverse impacts on the setting of historic environment assets in the vicinity of the proposed development. At this stage it is not yet clear whether the impacts would raise issues of national interest such that we might object to the scheme; further information is required to enable us to provide a more definite view on the principle of the proposed development.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

Potential direct impacts
We can confirm that there are no scheduled monuments, category A listed buildings, Inventory battlefields, gardens and designed landscapes or World Heritage Sites within the proposed development boundary.

Potential impacts on the setting of assets
There are a number of nationally important historic environment assets within our remit in the vicinity of the development whose settings have the potential to be significantly adversely impacted by it. The annex to this letter gives details of a number of assets which appear likely to experience impacts. This list should not be treated as exhaustive and is only intended as a reference to those assets which at this stage appear most likely to be significantly impacted.

Potential cumulative impacts
We recommend that the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed development in combination with other developments in the vicinity be assessed. This should assess the incremental impact or change when the proposed development is combined with other present and reasonably foreseeable developments.

Scoping report
We welcome that cultural heritage effects are scoped in to the assessment. We welcome that the operational effects of the proposal on the setting of cultural heritage assets as well as direct impacts from construction will be assessed; we have provided further comments in the attached annex. We strongly recommend that our Managing Change Guidance Note on Setting is used to inform setting assessments and further information on good practice in cultural heritage assessment can be found in Appendix 1 of the EIA Handbook.

Further information
The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS 2019) was adopted on the 01 May 2019 and replaced the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS 2016). The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland is a strategic policy document for the whole of the historic environment and is underpinned by detailed policy and guidance. This includes our Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes. All of these documents are available online at www.historicenvironment.scot/heps.

Practical guidance and information about the EIA process can also be found in the EIA Handbook (2018). Technical advice is available on our Technical Conservation website at http://conservation.historic-scotland.gov.uk/.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Victoria Clements who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8730 or by email on Victoria.Clements@hes.scot.

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Annex

Historic Environment Scotland's interest
Based on the information provided at this stage we consider that there is the potential for significant adverse effects on the setting of nationally important designated assets located in the vicinity of the development site application boundary. At this stage it is not yet clear whether the adverse effects on the setting of these assets would be such that they would merit our objection to the proposed development. We would be happy to provide further advice about the principle of the development as further information such as visualisations become available. We recommend that further consultation with us is undertaken as soon as possible in the iterative design process for the development so that we can provide advice at a useful and constructive stage in the process.

The designated historic environment assets identified below are in the vicinity of the development and have the potential to be impacted by it. Our comments have focused on those assets where we consider that significant adverse impacts to their settings are most likely. This list is not considered to be exhaustive, and we would recommend that a wider search is undertaken of the surrounding area for potential impacts in the first instance; any impacts to the settings of assets should be assessed appropriately to determine whether these will be significant.

We generally recommend that a ZTV is used to identify potential setting impacts in the first instance and that consideration should be given to including assets where even though the ZTV indicates that no direct intervisibility would be possible there is the potential for turbines to appear in the background of key views towards these assets.

While the provision of the ZTV in the Scoping Report is a useful starting point, we would welcome sight of a larger-scale ZTV with heritage assets highlighted on them and provisional wireframes and photomontages in advance of any EIA Report and planning application and would be happy to advise on the initial findings of this assessment.

Scheduled monuments
Auchindoun Castle, castle and fort (SM 90024 and a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers)
The monument comprises the remains of a late 15th century medieval castle which is located within the impressive earthworks of a prehistoric hillfort. To the south west are the remains of a late 18th/early 19th century lime kiln and there is evidence of historic quarrying on the east side of the hill. It is situated on a prominent hill which is overlooked to the south and east by the slopes of Ben Main; to the north it is bounded by the Allt Catha and to the east a steep drop to the River Fiddich.

The monument's elevated position would have allowed the hillfort and subsequent castle to have controlled this section of Glen Fiddich and the north/south route over the

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Cabrach. There are long-distant and wide-sweeping views from the monument out over the surrounding landscape, including those to the south along the Glen Fiddich and the old hill road to Donside. As the monument is also a highly visible and prominent feature in the landscape, views towards it are of equal importance. In summary, the monument has a spectacular setting and the views both from and towards it are key characteristics of this setting. The current landscape character surrounding the monument is rural, consisting of high moorland and is largely devoid of settlements and large-scale modern development. This landscape contributes to the setting of the monument and its sense of place.

Some large-scale development, for example, Dorenell Wind Farm and its associated overhead line (OHL) is visible from the monument to the south, but the turbines are largely screened by topography, located approximately 6km away and the OHL is located on low-lying ground. Although we did not object to the scheme, its extension and the OHL, we did however highlight that there would be a significant impact on the setting of Auchindoun Castle and raised concerns about the potential cumulative impact arising from any further developments.

The proposed development would be located 2.3 km to the south of the monument. We welcome that an initial assessment has been undertaken and that further analysis and visualisations will be included in the EIA Report. Given the location of the castle and the proposed wind farm, we agree at this stage that there is the potential for a significant adverse impact on its setting, although the scale of the current ZTV is not sufficient to determine how many turbines might be visible. In light of this, we recommend that the following visualisations are required:

- Views from the castle looking south/south-west towards the turbines – a photomontage and wireframe should be produced from the main entrance of the castle.

- Views approaching the castle from the west with turbines appearing in this view – a photomontage and wireframe should be produced from a point along the approach to the castle. The exact location of this should show the worst case scenario of turbines potentially being visible when looking towards the castle in this location.

- Views towards the castle from other points in the landscape with turbines appearing in the same view - photomontages and wireframes should be produced of any potential views looking towards the castle with turbines appearing in the same view. There are a few such locations that we are currently aware of in the wider landscape, for example, a point south-west of the castle along the A941 road and Jock's Hill, but there may be others that we are not currently aware of.

Particular attention should also be given to assessing the cumulative impact of the development on current and proposed wind farms on the setting of the castle and supported by visualisations.

We request the opportunity to review the findings of this assessment along with provisional visualisations as early as possible in the iterative design process as this will enable us to provide more specific advice regarding impacts and any potential requirements for mitigation.

<u>Mortlach, Battle Stone, symbol stone (SM350)</u>
The monument comprises a Class II Pictish symbol stone bearing a Celtic cross, two fish and an unidentified beast on one side and a serpent, a bull's head or bucranium, a horse rider and a dog on the other. It is situated within the Mortlach cemetery and is thought to be near its original location which was a nearby field. The proposed turbines would be located approximately 4 km to the south east and as it is unclear from the ZTV if they would be visible from the monument; the potential for impacts on the setting of this asset should therefore be assessed further and supported by a wireframe.

<u>Balvenie Castle (SM 90028 and a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers)</u>
The monument comprises the remains of a 13th to 16th century castle which is set within a defensive moat on a wooded hillock. The proposed turbines would be located approximately 6.5km to the south east and because it is unclear from the ZTV if they would be visible from the castle, this should be assessed further. Although the mature trees located around the castle screen much of the surrounding landscape from view, any assessment should consider seasonal changes to leaf cover and the possibility of views opening up in future from windblow, disease etc. Any assessment should consider potential impacts from the turbines on views from and towards the monument and include a wireframe to demonstrate the impacts.

<u>Wormy Hillock, henge 690m WNW of Finglenny (SM3278)</u>
The monument comprises a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age henge measuring 6.2m by 5.4m across which is surrounded by a 4.3m wide ditch and a 4-5m wide bank and has an entrance in the south east. It is situated within a valley on the left bank of the Ealaiche Burn and is presently surrounded by commercial forestry. The proposed turbines would be located 8 km to the north west and the assessment should consider whether views might open up in future due to any cycles of clearance or re-design. Any assessment should consider potential impacts from the turbines on views from and towards the monument and include a wireframe to demonstrate the impacts.

<u>Tap o'Noth, fort (SM63)</u>
This Iron Age or Early Medieval hillfort is situated on the summit of Tap O' Noth at 563m AOD and is one of the largest and most spectacular forts in Scotland. Consisting of 21 ha, the hillfort includes more than 100 house platforms between the stone rampart and

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wall and a rock cut well or cistern. It commands views over the surrounding landscape in all directions and has an important relationship with other monuments in the vicinity. It is also highly prominent within this landscape. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 8.8 km to the north west. As it is unclear from the ZTV if any turbines are likely to be visible from the monument, or in views towards it, the assessment should consider the potential for impacts on the setting of this asset further. We welcome the commitment in the scoping report to the production of visualisations to support the assessment of this asset and will be happy to provide further advice on this as the design progresses.

Category A listed buildings
We are largely content with the list of assets provided within the scoping report and we welcome the proposal to assess the potential impacts on the setting of these assets. In addition, we recommend that any potential impacts on the setting of the two listed buildings below are included in the assessment:

- Craig Castle (LB 2736)
- Drumminor Castle (LB 2743)

Should significant impacts on the settings of any of these category A listed buildings be identified, we recommend that visualisations are produced to support the written assessment. We recommend that the potential cumulative impacts on the setting of the listed buildings is included in the assessment.

Scoping report
We welcome that section 3.3 of the scoping report states that direct impacts and impacts on the setting of assets will be assessed and that mitigation for any significant effects will be identified. As indicated above, we would welcome further early consultation as the design of the project progresses so that we can provide advice regarding impacts on the setting of assets at a useful and constructive stage in the project design process.

We are content that impacts on Inventory gardens and designed landscapes will be scoped out of further assessment given the distances involved. We welcome the information provided regarding the baseline historic environment at this stage and the early indication of potential significant impacts on assets such as Auchindoun Castle. Consultation with HES and the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS) is proposed, and as noted above we would welcome further consultation on this proposal should it go forward.

We note that 5 and 10km study areas are being proposed for the assessment of potential impacts on the setting of assets. We do not generally recommend the use of defined radii for the identification of impacts on setting, rather the use of an appropriately scaled ZTV as discussed above; however, in this instance we have not identified any assets

within our remit beyond 10km which are likely to receive significant impacts to their setting.

We welcome that site visits will be undertaken to assets to assess the potential for impacts to their settings and that the assessment will adhere to the guidance provided in our Managing Change guidance note on setting and the EIA Handbook.

Summary
We consider that the layout as currently proposed has the potential to cause significant adverse effects on the setting of scheduled monuments in the surrounding area. At present it is not clear if these effects would be so significant that we may object. In particular, we consider that the potential impacts on the setting of Auchindoun Castle (SM 90024) from the current design are likely to be significantly adverse.

We request that further pre-application consultation is undertaken with us as early as possible in the iterative design process so that we can provide effective advice at a useful stage in the EIA process regarding the potential for significant impacts on assets within our remit and any required mitigation. We are also happy to provide further advice on the requirement for visualisations as the design progresses.

Historic Environment Scotland
18 January 2021

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Melrose J (Joyce)

From: JRC Windfarm Coordinations <windfarms@jrc.co.uk>
Sent: 16 December 2020 09:33
To: Econsents Admin
Subject: Scoping - Craig Watch Wind Farm [WF582285]

Dear econsents_admin,

A Windfarms Team member has replied to your co-ordination request, reference **WF582285** with the following response:

Dear Magnus,

***Name/Location**: Craig Watch Wind Farm*

***Site Centre/Turbine at NGR/IGR**:*

Turbine Number Easting Northing
1 337131 834240
2 337508 833884
3 337799 833511
4 337536 834483
5 337898 834158
6 337893 834796
7 338315 834442
8 338349 834916
9 338756 834670
10 338677 835252
11 339138 835077
12 339014 835584
13 339477 835446
14 339956 835418
15 339169 836030
16 339719 835878
17 339523 836340
18 339933 836572

***Development Radius**: 0.1KM*
Turbine tip height: 200M

*This proposal **cleared** with respect to radio link infrastructure operated by:*

JRC analyses proposals for wind farms on behalf of the UK Fuel & Power Industry. This is to assess their potential to interfere with radio systems operated by utility companies in support of their regulatory operational requirements.

In the case of this proposed wind energy development, JRC does not foresee any potential problems based on known interference scenarios and the data you have provided. However,if any details of the wind farm change, particularly the disposition or scale of any turbine(s), it will be necessary to re-evaluate the proposal.

In making this judgement, JRC has used its best endeavours with the available data, although we recognise

that there may be effects which are as yet unknown or inadequately predicted. JRC cannot therefore be held liable if subsequently problems arise that we have not predicted.

It should be noted that this clearance pertains only to the date of its issue. As the use of the spectrum is dynamic, the use of the band is changing on an ongoing basis and consequently,developers are advised to seek re-coordination prior to considering any design changes.

Regards

Wind Farm Team

Friars House
Manor House Drive
Coventry CV1 2TE
United Kingdom

Office: 02476 932 185

We hope this response has sufficiently answered your query.
If not, please **do not send another email** as you will go back to the end of the mail queue, which is not what you or we need. Instead, **reply to this email by clicking on the link below or login to your account** for access to your co-ordination requests and responses.

https://breeze.jrc.co.uk/tickets/view.php?auth=o1xkmcaaadikuaaaExjDRCoq9bvNug%3D%3D

Melrose J (Joyce)

From: AULD, Alasdair E <Alasdair.Auld@nats.co.uk>
Sent: 17 December 2020 08:55
To: Econsents Admin
Cc: NATS Safeguarding
Subject: Re: Scoping - Craig Watch Wind Farm [SG30773]

The proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Public Limited Company ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.

However, please be aware that this response applies specifically to the above consultation and only reflects the position of NATS (that is responsible for the management of en route air traffic) based on the information supplied at the time of this application.

This letter does not provide any indication of the position of any other party, whether they be an airport, airspace user or otherwise. It remains your responsibility to ensure that all the appropriate consultees are properly consulted.
If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS in regard to this application which become the basis of a revised, amended or further application for approval, then as a statutory consultee NERL requires that it be further consulted on any such changes prior to any planning permission or any consent being granted.
Yours Faithfully

NATS Safeguarding

D: 01489 444687
E: natssafeguarding@nats.co.uk

4000 Parkway, Whiteley,
Fareham, Hants PO15 7FL
www.nats.co.uk

NatureScot
Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Magnus Hughson
Energy Consents Unit
Scottish Government
Econsents_admin@gov.scot

14 January 2021
Your ref: **ECU00002177**

Dear Mr Hughson,

Electricity Act 1989
The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Request for Scoping Opinion for Proposed Section 36 Application for Craig Watch Wind Farm

Thank you for your consultation of 17 December 2020 and for accommodating our request for additional time to consider the proposal and form our comments. In accordance with the agreement between Energy Consents Unit and NatureScot our comments on the Scoping Report focus on statutory protected areas, landscape and visual amenity, birds in the wider countryside, peatland and carbon-rich soils and protected species (not birds). This includes impacts which do not raise issues of national interest.

Summary

The Scoping Report indicates that the applicant's consultants will continue liaison with NatureScot regarding key interests. We welcome ongoing liaison. We offer advice on specific issues to help ensure the production of a robust application and EIAR that affords a confidence in its conclusions.

NatureScot advice

Protected Areas - Natura 2000 sites
The project could have implications for 2 internationally important protected areas, Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor Special Protection Area (SPA) and the River Spey SAC Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Habitats Regulations Appraisals, or 'HRAs', will need to be completed for each site. We expect the River Spey's HRA to be relatively straightforward and focussing on standard mitigation to avoid effects on watercourses. The HRA for the breeding common gull

interest at the Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA may be more complex because this species has several pressures acting on it that negatively affect its conservation status.

Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA is designated for breeding common gull. Birds using the protected area forage from the nest and this could lead them to feed on or near and cross the proposal site. There is therefore a potential risk of collision with turbines and displacement specifically from barrier effects in which birds are deterred from using their normal routes to feeding grounds. The completed ornithological survey work and that proposed for next breeding season will provide information on which to base the EIAR assessment and inform the HRA.

The **River Spey SAC** is designated for 4 species associated with the water environment (Atlantic salmon, otter, sea lamprey and freshwater pearl mussel). If public road network improvements are required in proximity to the SAC the potential risk and impact will need to be assessed and presented to inform the HRA.

Landscape and Visual effects
Our guidance should be followed to ensure the methodologies are appropriate. We are happy to agree a finalised list of viewpoints in due course. The list provided in the Scoping Report seems suitable.

We ask that the Cairngorms National Park boundary is displayed on all relevant figures and that the EIAR includes an assessment of the effects on the CNP's Special Landscape Qualities that have potential to be influenced.

Birds in the wider countryside
The scope for this topic is appropriate and we have no further comments at this stage.

Peatland and carbon-rich soils
The Scoping Report recognises that the spatial planning tool, Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map, identifies some of the proposed site as class 1 or 2 peatland[1]. The proposed surveys should aim to establish the presence of functioning peatlands so that they can be protected. The survey results should be used to identify areas of degraded habitat where potential exists to improve condition and restore functioning peatland. We would welcome peatland restoration as a component of a Habitat Management Plan.

Protected species and sensitive habitats
The scope for this topic is appropriate and we have no further comments at this stage.

[1] On the map, the top two classes (1 and 2) taken together identify the nationally important resource:
Class 1
- Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat*
- Areas likely to be of high conservation value

Class 2
- Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat
- Areas of potentially high conservation value and restoration potential

**Priority peatland habitat is land covered by peat-forming vegetation or vegetation associated with peat formation*.

Concluding remarks

The advice in this letter is provided by NatureScot, the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage. Please contact me if you require any further information or advice.

Yours sincerely

Redacted

Jennifer Heatley
Area Officer - Tayside and Grampian
jennifer.heatley@nature.scot

cc. SEPA Planning Aberdeen
Neal MacPherson, Principal Planning Officer, Moray Council
Nina Caudrey, Planning Officer, Cairngorms National Park Authority

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board

CHAIRMAN: Andrew Allwood

CLERK: Sarah Roebuck

The Offices
Avochie Stables
Avochie
Huntly
Aberdeenshire
AB54 7YY

Tel: 01466 711388
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10th December 2020

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017
REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM

Dear Mr Hughson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping documentation for the development known as Craig Watch Wind Farm. The development site is drained by 5 watercourses. These are the Burn of Findouran, Linn burn, Tammie's burn, Chapel burn and Kellholes Stripes (Markie water). The Burn of Findouran is a major element of the Charach water (situated on the site perimeter) which enters the river Deveron.

Construction of the proposed development could potentially have an impact on the biodiversity of the area, in particular the aquatic-biodiversity such as fish populations. The Charach water is an extremely important tributary and a significant element of the upper river Deveron. Previous work by the DBIT has shown that the Charach supports healthy numbers of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar L.), trout (Salmo trutta L.) and the European eel (Anguilla anguilla L.). Furthermore, the Linn, Tammie's and Chapel burns drain straight into the river Deveron down a steep gradient.

The possible impacts that a wind farm and its associated infrastructure, can have on surrounding flora and fauna are well documented. Potential impacts on fish populations may occur during either the construction or operational phase. During construction, the potential impacts could include noise/vibration disturbance, siltation of habitat, and hydrological changes of the peat system, pollution and the blocking or hindering of upstream access of fish. During the operational phase, the main concerns are poor road drainage, accelerated levels of erosion and the poor maintenance of silt traps and road crossings.

With species such as salmon having such a complex life cycle these potential effects could impact on various parts of their lives, causing direct mortality of juveniles and adults, changes in invertebrate abundance, avoidance behaviour resulting in unused habitat, blocking of migration routes to/from spawning beds or the damage of in stream/riparian habitat.

We acknowledge that as part of the scoping exercise there was a Fish Habitat Survey (including FWPM Habitat Survey) completed during August 2020. The survey concluded "Stretches of watercourses that were considered potentially suitable for fish are limited to providing habitat for juvenile fish."

The Fish Habitat Survey along with historical juvenile fish data held by the Deveron, Bogie, and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, demonstrates the importance of the watercourses within and bordering the development site for fish stocks. It is important to also note that activities within the site boundary could also have a detrimental effect on fish stocks and their habitats outwith the site.

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) **formally request that fish stocks are fully acknowledged during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and further comprehensive data is collected during the additional baseline information collection.** The RDevDSFB suggest that all watercourses draining the site are comprehensively surveyed (electrofishing) for juvenile fish present and a full SFCC fish habitat survey of watercourses associated with the site before any works proceed.

We acknowledge and support that there will be further field surveys to identify deep areas of peat, which could ultimately help to inform the development design.

The RDevDSFB conclude from the potentially significant effects outlined in the scoping document that the proposed mitigation measures in terms of water quality, fish stocks and their habitats (both resident and migratory) are currently inadequate and if the development were submitted for planning consent in its current form, the RDevDSFB would therefore submit a conditional objection. The RDevDSFB recommend that a formal Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is specified and formed for the development and that we the RDevDSFB have full input during the formation of the plans to cover all our concerns listed.

Sincerely,

Andrew Allwood

Chairman

giving nature a home
rspb Scotland

Magnus Hughson
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
By email to Econsents_Admin@gov.scot

21 January 2021

Dear Mr Hughson,

Ref ECU00002177

REQUEST FOR SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR CRAIG WATCH WIND FARM.

Thank you for consulting RSPB Scotland on the above scoping opinion request and granting us additional time to respond.

We are generally content that the scoping report covers the key sensitivities and that the completed surveys should be adequate for the purposes of informing the EIA. However, we have the following comments.

Ornithological surveys
In Sections 3.5.3 and 3.5.5 of the scoping report it is stated that a second year of ornithological vantage point surveys was not carried out after consultation with NatureScot. The reasons for this have not been explained in the report and the applicant needs to demonstrate why they believe that this would be acceptable in this case.

The vantage point surveys consider a 500m buffer from the turbine array, rather than the site boundary, which could be an issue if the turbine layout changes. In addition, the site access track and other infrastructure has not been identified but we presume that these will be within the site boundary (or the 500m breeding bird survey buffer) and therefore the areas have been appropriately assessed.

Tree felling and replanting
The scoping report indicates that areas of woodland will likely be removed once turbine layout and access is finalised. This raises two main issues:

1. The opening up of this previously closed canopy woodland could make the area more attractive for open ground species such as hen harrier and merlin. NatureScot have produced guidance[1] to inform such proposals.
2. The location of any compensatory planting should avoid sensitive peatland habitats and areas favoured by open ground species including raptors and waders (such as curlew).

[1] SNH Guidance Note. Wind farm proposals on afforested sites – advice on reducing suitability for hen harrier, merlin and short-eared owl. January 2016.

East Scotland Regional Office
10 Albyn Terrace
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Tel 01224 624824
Fax 01767 685571
rspb.org.uk

Peat/Carbon
Turbines 1 and 4 are located on areas indicated as Class 1 peatland habitat which are considered to have Significant Protection, as defined by Scottish Planning Policy, due to the presence of carbon rich soils, deep peat and peatland habitat. Policy EP16 of the Moray LDP 2020 states that large scale renewable energy proposals on areas of peat a will only be permitted where: a) The economic, social and/or environmental benefits of the proposal outweigh any potential detrimental effect on the environment (in particular with regard to the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere); and b) It has been clearly demonstrated that there is no viable alternative. Proposals must also demonstrate that areas of the deepest peat have been avoided. This is also reflected in policy DP9 Renewable Energy of the Moray LDP. From the information provided at this stage, it has not been demonstrated that there is no viable alternative to siting turbines on very deep peat and this must form part of the EIA, if the turbine layout proposed continues to effect class 1 peatland.

The carbon payback period for proposed wind farms should be as close to zero as possible. While we note that the Carbon Calculator Tool has yet to be carried out, design choices should be considered to minimise this payback period, such as the removal or relocation of turbines and or tracks proposed on deep peat (over 0.5m) and Class 1 peatland..

Cumulative impacts
We agree that cumulative impacts must be fully considered, especially given the increasing number of windfarms proposed and operational within this part of East Moray and Aberdeenshire. Section 3.5.4 of the Craig Watch Scoping Report states that effects will be considered at an NHZ level but incorrectly states that 'The Proposed Development is located within the North East Coastal Plain NHZ'; it in fact straddles both the NHZ12 North East Glens and NHZ11 Cairngorms Massif.

Cumulative effects should be fully and appropriately considered for hen harrier, curlew and golden eagle in particular.

It is also stated that sensitive breeding information will be included in a confidential annexe issued to NatureScot and Energy Consents Unit. We respectfully request that this information is also shared with RSPB Scotland given our specialist ornithological expertise.

Yours sincerely,

Redacted

Jenny Weston
Conservation Officer
jenny.weston@rspb.org.uk

A47

Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
Aberdeenshire
AB54 4SJ

Email: grampian.cons@forestry.gov.scot
Tel: 0300 067 6210

Conservator: James Nott

Magnus Hughson
The Scottish Government
Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay,
150 Broomielaw,
Glasgow,
G2 8LU.

21st December 2020

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Scottish Forestry
Scoping Opinion for Craig Watch Wind Farm ECU00002177

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for consulting Scottish Forestry on the scoping report for the proposed Craig Watch Wind Farm.

Scottish Forestry
Scottish Forestry (SF) is the Scottish Government agency responsible for policy, support and regulation of the forestry sector in Scotland. As such SF advises the planning authorities on the potential impact of development proposals on forests, woodlands and the forestry sector.

SF is the main forestry consultee and should be consulted throughout the development of the proposal to ensure that proposed changes to the woodland are appropriate and address the requirements of the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy (COWRP) and the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).

UK Forestry Standard
The UKFS is the Government's reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring. The Scottish Government expects all forestry plans and operations in Scotland to comply with the standards. If approved, both felling operations and on and off-site compensatory planting must be carried out in accordance to good forestry practice. A key component of this is to ensure that even-age woodlands are progressively restructured in a sustainable manner: felling coupes should be phased to meet adjacency requirements and their size should be of a scale which is appropriate in the context of the surrounding woodland environment. The removal of large areas of woodland will not be supported and all forestry proposals must be compliant with the UK Forestry Standard.

The proposal requires felling, restocking and compensatory planting to facilitate and mitigate this development.

A48

Scottish Forestry / Coilltearachd na h-Alba

Section 2.4.1 of the Scoping report states 'The forestry works would be in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard in so far as this is possible.' As stated above, this is not acceptable as all forestry works must comply fully with the UKFS. Therefore, the EIA Report must clearly state that the project will be developed and implemented in accordance with the standard.

Forestry Baseline
The red line boundary of this development proposal includes two large primarily commercial forests as well as several smaller blocks. The land shown falls under several landownerships – this fact should be considered throughout the assessment process, as the enforcement of planning conditions are typically against the land and landowner and not the developer. To manage this a suitable legal agreement, laying out clear responsibilities and liabilities for the life of the development, will need to be established; this would be of particular concern for any compensatory planting on land not directly associated with the footprint of the wind farm infrastructure.

Turbines 6 – 18 are sited within the forest environment, and will have an impact on the entire Craig Watch forest block which is under separate ownerships. The access infrastructure has not been proposed, this is likely to increase the impact on the forestry area and include more land holdings.

The northern half of the main Craig Watch block is currently managed through the Howeshalloch Long Term Forest Plan approved by SF in 2016.

The Ben Main block in the far west of the application site, is currently being managed through individual felling permission applications.

There are also some felled areas with restocking obligations within the red line boundary, along with an area of woodland creation and a natural regeneration site on the northern boundary under the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS).

As identified in section 3.11.5, there is one area showing on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as being of Long Established Plantation Origin 2b, however the NWSS includes the pine area mentioned as well as an area of wet woodland and two of upland birch all within the red line boundary.

The existing forest, site survey, forest plan (restructured at year 10), felling permissions, FGS contracts and Land Information Search data should all be used to assess the baseline for this proposal.

Control of Woodland Removal Policy
The impact of this proposed development on forestry and forestry interests should be assessed under this policy as follows.

- There is a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources.

Therefore the applicant should demonstrate that woodland removal has been minimised and is the only viable option, by presenting the alternative options considered in the design stage of the proposal.

As woodland removal is likely, potentially of a significant scale (affecting the entire Craig Watch block), and the duration of impact likely to be felt for decades, SF would request that there is a stand-alone forestry chapter included in the EIAR.

- Woodland removal should be allowed only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits. In appropriate cases a proposal for CP may form part of this balance.

The scoping report suggests that only a limited range of woodland related public benefits will be assessed in the EIAR as a technical appendix. Other woodland derived public benefits are to assessed under other EIAR chapters including but not limited to, biodiversity, water quality and quantity, landscape and public access.

As discussed this does not accurately reflect the likely significant impact of this development on forestry and forestry interests hence our request for a stand-alone forestry chapter which fully recognises the impact of the development on forestry and forestry interests.
In the forestry chapter, all EIAR sections where woodland benefits are discussed, should be clearly referred to and summarised, as well as referenced for ease of cross checking.

The scoping report has omitted the public benefit of carbon sequestration specifically from the woodland, economic returns, provision of local farm shelter and job provision – these should be included in the discussions.

An estimate of all public benefits relating to forestry and forestry interests affected by the development (as listed above, as well as those stated in the Scoping report and from all other relevant chapters) should be summarised in a table in the forestry chapter, so that the full suite of forestry derived public benefits, and therefore the full impact of this proposal on forestry, is clearly presented for consultees and assessment by the ECU.

When assessing the potential public benefits of existing woodland, its future potentials, as well as its current attributes, must be considered. For example, even-aged/single-species, first rotation plantations will potentially deliver more benefits once restructured according to the UK Forestry Standard.

The chapter should describe the changes to the forest structure, the woodland composition and habitat connectivity by considering the potential cumulative impact of the development alongside existing felling and development approvals and applications in neighbouring forest blocks.

- Approval for woodland removal should be conditional on the undertaking of actions to ensure full delivery of the defined additional public benefits.

The applicant must clearly demonstrate how the proposed development and the compensation measures (including off-site CP) will deliver significant additional public benefits.

Actions that the applicant intends to take (including entering into agreement with third parties) to implement the proposal must be clearly stated in the EIA Report, including the feasibility of undertaking these actions and the timescale.

This is of particular importance due to the multiple ownerships involved in this application, who must assent and take ultimate responsibility for, the proposals on their land holding.

The assessment of the potential public benefits associated with CP should recognise that it may take many years to match those associated with the woodland being removed. For example, the creation of a woodland with varied age structure able to provide a range of habitats, or the provision of woodland-related ecosystem services such as water quality improvements, may take decades to establish fully. This ‘payback’ time should be clearly demonstrated. The applicant may wish to consider planting a larger area of woodland than that lost to development, to reduce the ‘payback’ time.

Mitigation measures and proposed CP must be fully explained in the EIA Report and agreed with Scottish Forestry. They should not be left to post-consent agreements, but conditioned within the planning approval.

SF welcomes the creation of a wind farm forest plan, however the concerns over multiple land ownership and responsibility for the delivery of the plan including mitigation should be clearly described and a legal agreement between the landowners committed to, for the life of the development.

The forest plan should be provided as a technical appendix and follow the SF guidance on the production of Long Term Forest Plan (Long Term Forest Plans: Applicant's Guidance - Scottish Forestry). The plan should clearly indicate proposed areas and timings of felling to accommodate the proposed infrastructures, including access roads, tracks, underground pipes and cables and any ancillary structures. Details of the area to be cleared around those structures should also be provided, along with evidence to support the proposed scale and phasing of felling.

These figures should be summarised in the Forestry chapter along with the proposed mitigation measures so a direct comparison can be made.

Trees felled must be replanted on-site or compensated for (off-site planting). The replanting operations must be appropriately described, including changes to the species composition, age class structure, timber production and traffic movements. Integration of the project into future forest design plans is a key part of the development process. Tree/shrub species must be suited to the site and the objectives of management.

On-site replanting must always be considered first. The replanting plan should show which areas are to be replanted and when during the life of the project. Areas of open ground in the forest that are designed for biodiversity or landscape enhancement or for recreation opportunities should not be considered for on-site replanting (to compensate for woodland removal in other parts of the forest).

Mitigation and compensation measures
The details of the proposed on-site and off-site mitigation measures must be clearly demonstrated and summarised in the Forestry chapter. This includes the location, size and timing of all of the proposed mitigation including the off-site compensatory planting (CP). It is not appropriate to leave mitigation detail to post consent habitat management plans to decide and implement.

With regards to off-site CP, as the applicant does not own the land, appropriate landowner agreements and access rights should be put in place and clearly stated in the Forestry chapter and mitigation schedules.

The CP proposals should be assessed under the forestry EIA process and the necessary consents should be in place.

CP plan
The CP Plan must be approved by Scottish Forestry and should be provided in the form of a technical appendix with the results summarised in the forestry chapter as discussed.

The CP plan must provide all the details of the proposed planting, including its maintenance over the entire life-span of the development. SF recommends following the FGS woodland creation guidance (Woodland Creation: Application Guidance - Scottish Forestry).

The CP Plan must include:

Who: The person(s) that survey, describe, assess, specify and deliver the on-site and off-site CP proposals must have the relevant qualifications, technical abilities and have the necessary experience – e.g. a chartered forester.
Where: The location of both on-site and off-site CP should be fully detailed, described and supported with good quality maps.
Why: A rationale that explains why the CP is designed and planned the way it is, should be provided (for example a clear description of the site constraints and opportunities, location, access etc).
What: A full silvicultural proposal for compensatory planting, supported with maps should be provided. This should include: ground preparation, drainage, planting technique, stocking density, species, maintenance and a protection plan.

A51

When: The timings for both on-site and off-site CP should be detailed. All CP should be completed within five years after the woodland is removed or within two years of the development being completed. Include a maintenance plan with appropriate timescales.
Trees should be fully established within the period for which enforcement action can be taken.
How: Ensure that compensatory proposals are enforceable, e.g. Section 36, 37 or legal agreement.

Monitoring of CP conditions or arrangements
An independent, qualified and technically competent professional(s) (e.g. chartered forester) with the required experience should inspect the restocking and CP scheme at regular intervals (year 1, 5 and 10) to ensure that the trees are planted correctly, maintained to the required standard and ultimately established into woodland. This monitoring programme should be conditioned in the consent. The woodland will have to be maintained thereafter. This professional individual should report to the planning authority, to allow the CP condition to be managed and ultimately discharged.

Yours sincerely,
Redacted

Tim Gordon-Roberts
Grampian Conservancy

A52

Monday, 14 December 2020

Local Planner
Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Development Operations
The Bridge
Buchanan Gate Business Park
Cumbernauld Road
Stepps
Glasgow
G33 6FB

Development Operations
Freephone Number - 0800 3890379
E-Mail - DevelopmentOperations@scottishwater.co.uk
www.scottishwater.co.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

SITE: Craig Watch Wind Farm, Dufftown, AB55 4AG
PLANNING REF: ECU00002177
OUR REF: DSCAS-0028267-C3D
PROPOSAL: Craig Watch Wind Farm

Please quote our reference in all future correspondence

Audit of Proposal

Scottish Water has no objection to this planning application; however, the applicant should be aware that this does not confirm that the proposed development can currently be serviced and would advise the following:

Drinking Water Protected Areas

A review of our records indicates that the proposed activity falls within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Cairnford Bridge, Huntly supplies Craighead Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water we should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number **0800 0778 778**.

The activity is a sufficient distance from the intake that it is likely to be low risk, however care needs to be taken and mitigations must still be put in place to protect water quality.

Some of the soils in this catchment appear to be peats and peaty gleys. Peat that is in unfavourable condition or disturbed can exacerbate the release of organic material into the water environment. Water containing a high organic content can affect WTW processes and

water supply. We would welcome consideration of the precautions specific to protecting drinking water in peatland areas and any opportunities for peat restoration.

Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.

The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in documentation. Also anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.

Surface Water

For reasons of sustainability and to protect our customers from potential future sewer flooding, Scottish Water will not accept any surface water connections into our combined sewer system.

There may be limited exceptional circumstances where we would allow such a connection for brownfield sites only, however this will require significant justification from the customer taking account of various factors including legal, physical, and technical challenges.

In order to avoid costs and delays where a surface water discharge to our combined sewer system is anticipated, the developer should contact Scottish Water at the earliest opportunity with strong evidence to support the intended drainage plan prior to making a connection request. We will assess this evidence in a robust manner and provide a decision that reflects the best option from environmental and customer perspectives.

General notes:

- Scottish Water asset plans can be obtained from our appointed asset plan providers:
    - Site Investigation Services (UK) Ltd
    - Tel: 0333 123 1223
    - Email: sw@sisplan.co.uk
    - www.sisplan.co.uk

I trust the above is acceptable however if you require any further information regarding this matter please contact me on **0800 389 0379** or via the e-mail address below or at planningconsultations@scottishwater.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Application Team
Development Operations Analyst
developmentoperations@scottishwater.co.uk

Scottish Water Disclaimer:

"It is important to note that the information on any such plan provided on Scottish Water's infrastructure, is for indicative purposes only and its accuracy cannot be relied upon. When the exact location and the nature of the infrastructure on the plan is a material requirement then you should undertake an appropriate site investigation to confirm its actual position in the ground and to determine if it is suitable for its intended purpose. By using the plan you agree that Scottish Water will not be liable for any loss, damage or costs caused by relying upon it or from carrying out any such site investigation."

To find out more about connecting your property to the water and waste water supply visit:

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We'd love to know what we're doing well or could do better.
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Scottish Water
Trusted to serve Scotland

SW Public
General

Development Management and Strategic Road Safety
Roads Directorate

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7386, Fax: 0141 272 7350
John.McDonald@transport.gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

Magnus Hughson
Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

econsents_admin@gov.scot

Your ref:
ECU00002177

Our ref:
GB01T19K05

Date:
11/01/2021

Dear Sirs,

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT) REGULATIONS 2017

SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED CRAIG WATCH WINDFARM IN THE PLANNING AUTHORITY OF MORAY COUNCIL – EIA SCOPING

With reference to your recent correspondence on the above development, we acknowledge receipt of the Scoping Report (SR) prepared by Ramboll in support of the above development.

This information has been passed to SYSTRA Limited for review in their capacity as Term Consultants to Transport Scotland – Roads Directorate. Based on the review undertaken, we would provide the following comments.

Proposed Development

The proposal comprises a wind farm of up to 18 turbines with a maximum tip height of 200m and a generation capacity of >50 MW, located on land approximately 8 km south-east of Dufftown in Moray. The nearest trunk road to the site is the A96(T) which lies approximately 12km north-east of the site at Huntly. It is noted that the development will be accessed directly via the A941. As the A941 is part of the local road network, Transport Scotland has no comment to make on the actual access point itself.

Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Section 3.7 of the SR provides detail on the proposed approach to the assessment of Traffic and Transport during the construction of the proposed development.

This states that the forthcoming assessment will be based upon the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidance. We note that the thresholds as indicated within the IEMA Guidelines are to be used as a screening process for the assessment. Transport Scotland is in agreement with this approach.

It is noted that any impacts associated with the operational and decommissioning phases of the development are to be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). We would consider this to be acceptable in this instance.

Accident Data

We note that traffic survey data for the A96(T) at Huntly will be obtained and used within the assessment. In addition, accident data for the A941 in the vicinity of the site access will be obtained to inform an accident review. Transport Scotland would request that an accident review of the A96(T)/ A920 junction is also provided.

Abnormal Loads Assessment

The SR states that construction of the development will involve between 11 and 13 abnormal loads per turbine, resulting in a potential total of 234 abnormal loads. It is also indicated that detailed swept path analysis will be undertaken for the main constraint points on the route from the port of entry through to the site access junction to demonstrate that the turbine components can be delivered to site, and to identify any temporary road works which may be necessary.

We note that Framework Abnormal Load Transport Management Plan is likely to be included within the forthcoming assessment. It should be noted that Transport Scotland will require to be satisfied that the size of turbines proposed can negotiate the selected route and that transportation will not have any detrimental effect on structures within the trunk road route path.

A full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided with the EIAR that identifies key pinch points on the trunk road network. Swept path analysis should be undertaken and details provided with regard to any required changes to street furniture or structures along the route.

I trust that the above is satisfactory and should you wish to discuss any issues raised in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me or Alan DeVenny at SYSTRA's Glasgow Office on 0141 343 9636.

Yours faithfully

Redacted

John McDonald

Transport Scotland
Roads Directorate

cc Alan DeVenny – SYSTRA Ltd.

Technical Appendix 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives

TA 3.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Wirelines

Technical Appendix 3.1: Selected Design Appraisal and Wirelines

1.1 Landscape and Visual Selected Design Evolution Appraisal

1.1.1 The design of the Proposed Development took account of a range of commercial, technical and environmental considerations. The following appraisal is intended to provide an illustration of the efficacy of the Proposed Developments iterative design in achieving a suitable landscape and visual fit and minimisation of landscape and visual effects. It is indicative of the appraisal undertaken, as part of the iterative design process for the Proposed Development, and should be read in conjunction with Chapter 3, Section 5.6: Mitigation in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Design Statement (DS).

As described in Chapter 3 and the DS, there were seven main design layouts. For the purposes of this appraisal, the key iterations comprise:

- An initial Scoping Layout – (18 turbines with a 200 m maximum tip height) - based on an initial desk-based constraints review and with consideration of findings of the ornithology and ecology surveys;
- Layout A: Wind Optimised Layout (16 Turbines with a 200 m maximum tip height) - turbines 3 and 14 removed to lessen cultural heritage and landscape and visual impacts;
- Layout B: Landscape and Visual Analysis Layout (11 Turbines with a 200 m maximum tip height) - revised layout based on the findings of a further detailed landscape and visual analysis which led to the removal of turbines 1, 2, 5, 12 and 15; and
- Layout F: Design Freeze Layout (11 Turbines with a 200 m maximum tip height) - represents the finalised design freeze layout of the Proposed Development and incorporates a number of minor changes to preceding iterations in Layouts C, D and E. This layout also entailed the renumbering of turbines and refinements to the Proposed Development's infrastructure.

1.1.2 Landscape and visual priorities that informed the design development included:

- The use of turbine sizes that would maximise yield whilst simultaneously minimising the Proposed Development's footprint and infrastructure requirements, thereby reducing impacts on the landscape fabric of the Site;
- The preference for turbines of a size that would be consistent with that of the proposed Garbet and Clashindarroch II wind farm developments, thereby limiting any incongruity between these closest schemes and the Proposed Development;
- Positioning of turbines on the flatter or gently undulating parts of the Site, away from exposed edges overlooking the Deveron Valley and Glen Markie;
- Arrangement of turbines to achieve a balanced and coherent array with minimal 'stacking'[1];
- Preferential use of existing tracks on-site to minimise effects associated with this aspect of the Proposed Development;
- Minimisation of the amount of Site infrastructure and ancillary elements required, and careful positioning and design to ensure that such elements are screened from the majority of external receptor locations; and
- Careful siting and design of proposed substation to minimise visibility from external receptor locations.

1.1.3 This appraisal focuses on the appearance of the Scoping Layout and Layouts A, B and F from three distinct sensitive receptor locations:

- Auchindoun Castle;
- The summit of Ben Rinnes; and
- A minor road in Deveron Valley.

1.1.4 The location of these three viewpoints is indicated in Volume 3a, Figure 5.8: Viewpoint Location Plan. These locations were selected to represent a range of receptor locations in different directions elevations and distances.

1.1.5 Table 3.3.1: Viewpoint Appraisal, below, provides a concise description and appraisal for each layout at each of the selected viewpoints and should be read in conjunction with the comparative wirelines in Figures 3.1.1a to 3.1.3d.

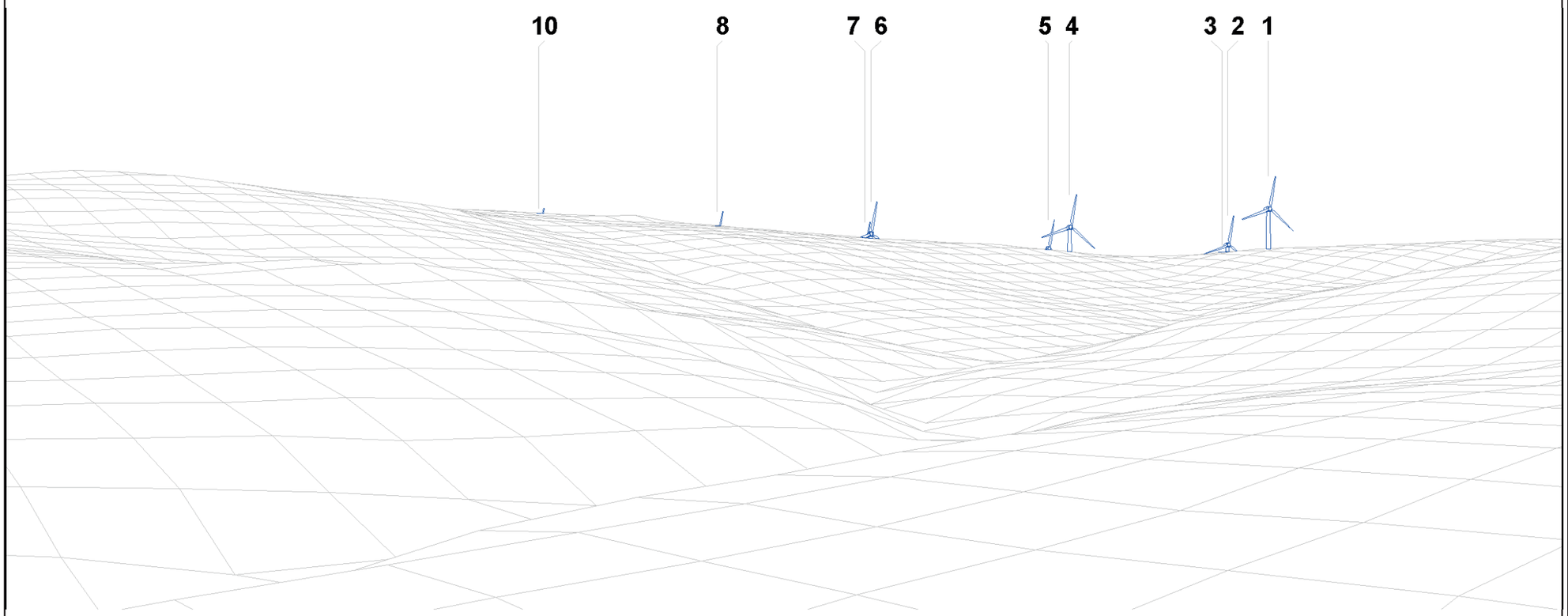
Table 3.1.1: Viewpoint Appraisal

Viewpoint	Scoping Layout	Layout A	Layout B	Layout F
Auchindoun Castle	See Figure 3.1.1a Seen from this viewpoint the Scoping Layout would have formed a prominent feature on the skyline above the incised valley associated with Slatequarry Burn, with attendant effects on the scale of the valley landscape.	See Figure 3.1.1b In response to initial landscape and visual analysis and cultural heritage advice, turbine numbers were reduced to 16 with limited effect on the landscape and visual fit the scheme. It did however achieve a discernible 'setting back' of the turbines from the exposed upland edge.	See Figure 3.1.1c The further reduction in turbine numbers to 11 in response to further detailed landscape and visual analysis provided for a significant reduction in the Proposed Development's visibility and prominence with only one rotor evident. This served to reduce potential effects on the scale and character of the intervening valley landscape.	See Figure 3.1.1d Layout F, which is a refinement of the preceding layout would result in little change to layout B viewed from this viewpoint.
Minor road in Deveron Valley	See Figure 3.1.2a All of the Proposed Development's turbines would be visible, forming a prominent and complex array on the skyline above this lower lying and enclosed viewpoint. The Scoping Layout resulted in a notable degree of 'stacking'.	See Figure 3.1.2b Reductions in the numbers of turbines, coupled with the adoption of degree of set back from the exposed edges of the Site and repositioning of turbines resulted in an appreciable improvement in the composition of the Proposed Development, including reductions in 'stacking'. However, some increased complexity resulted in the eastern (right hand) part of the array, with Turbine 15 being particularly prominent.	See Figure 3.1.2c The reductions in turbine numbers in response to further detailed landscape and visual analysis provided for a simpler and more compact array. This iteration eliminated some of the most prominent turbines that were included in Layout A and provided for a greater degree of perceived set back from the exposed edges of the Site.	See Figure 3.1.2d Final changes to the design of the Proposed Development resulted in a slight narrowing of the array in the view from this viewpoint.
Ben Rinnes	See Figure 3.1.3a Seen from this elevated viewpoint, the Scoping Layout would appear as a single cluster of turbines, with notable	See Figure 3.1.3b Based on initial landscape and visual analysis and cultural heritage advice, the number of turbines was reduced, serving to narrow the extent of the array in the	See Figure 3.1.3c Further reductions in turbine numbers in response to further detailed landscape and visual analysis narrowed the array, simplified its	See Figure 3.1.3d Layout F represented a refinement to scheme B, with minor improvements to

[1] Overlapping of turbines with resultant complexity and discordant rotor movement.

Table 3.1.1: Viewpoint Appraisal				
Viewpoint	**Scoping Layout**	**Layout A**	**Layout B**	**Layout F**
	stacking associated with Turbines 1 and 5, 4 and 7, and 13 and 14.	view slightly. However, this did not eliminate 'stacking' effects.	appearance and reduce the incidence of 'stacking'.	the coherence of the scheme evident.

1.1.6 From this it is apparent that, viewed from these viewpoints, that design changes in Layout B provided the greatest improvements in the landscape fit and appearance of the Proposed Development, whilst helping to achieve reductions in potential landscape and visual effects, as discussed in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity in the EIAR. Subsequent iterations (Layouts C, D , E and F) served mainly as relatively minor refinements based on a range of environmental and technical considerations.



Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
Cultural Heritage (Auchindoun Castle) Wireline – Scoping Layout

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.1a
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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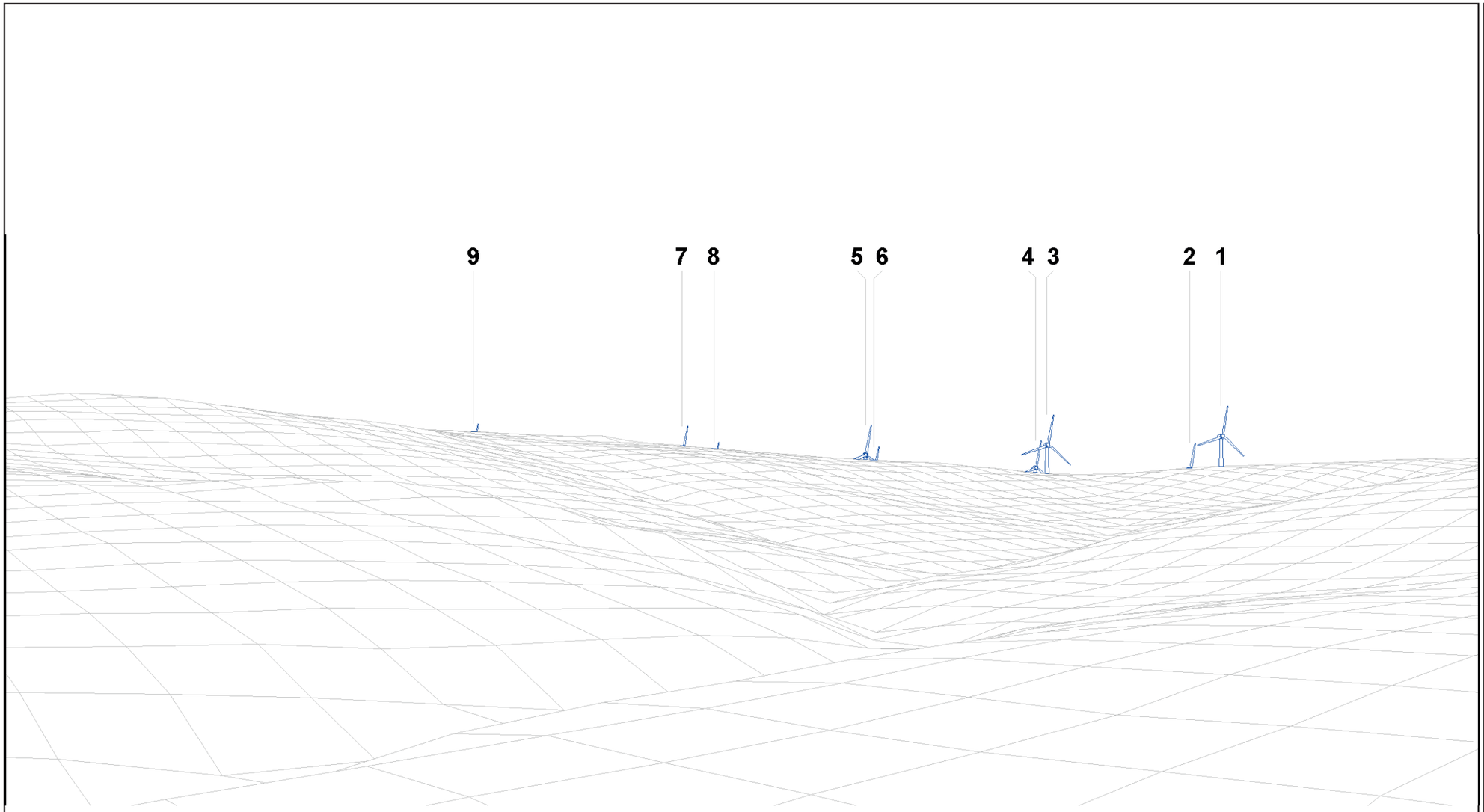

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
Cultural Heritage (Auchindoun Castle)
Wireline – Layout A

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.1b
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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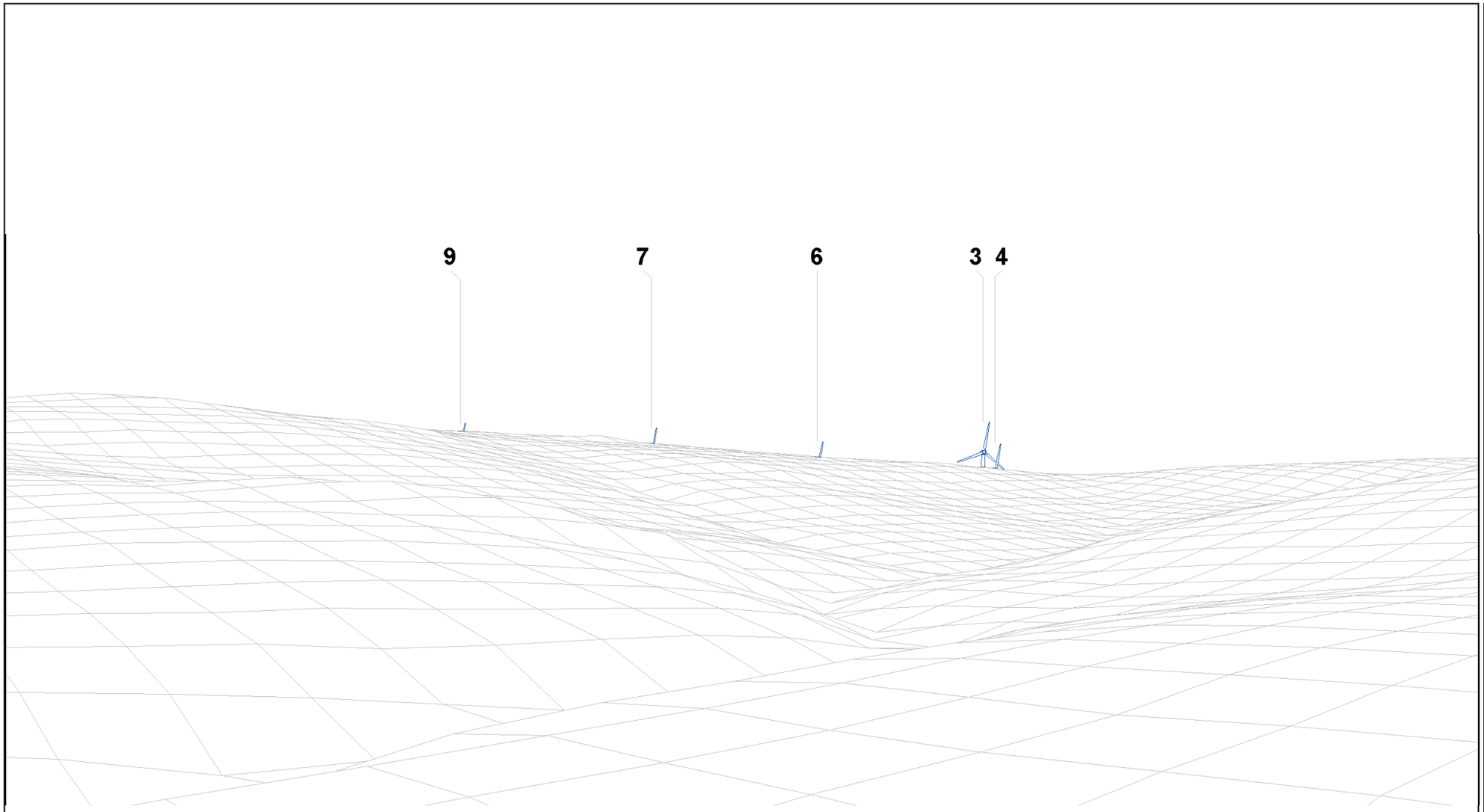

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
Cultural Heritage (Auchindoun Castle)
Wireline – Layout B

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.1c
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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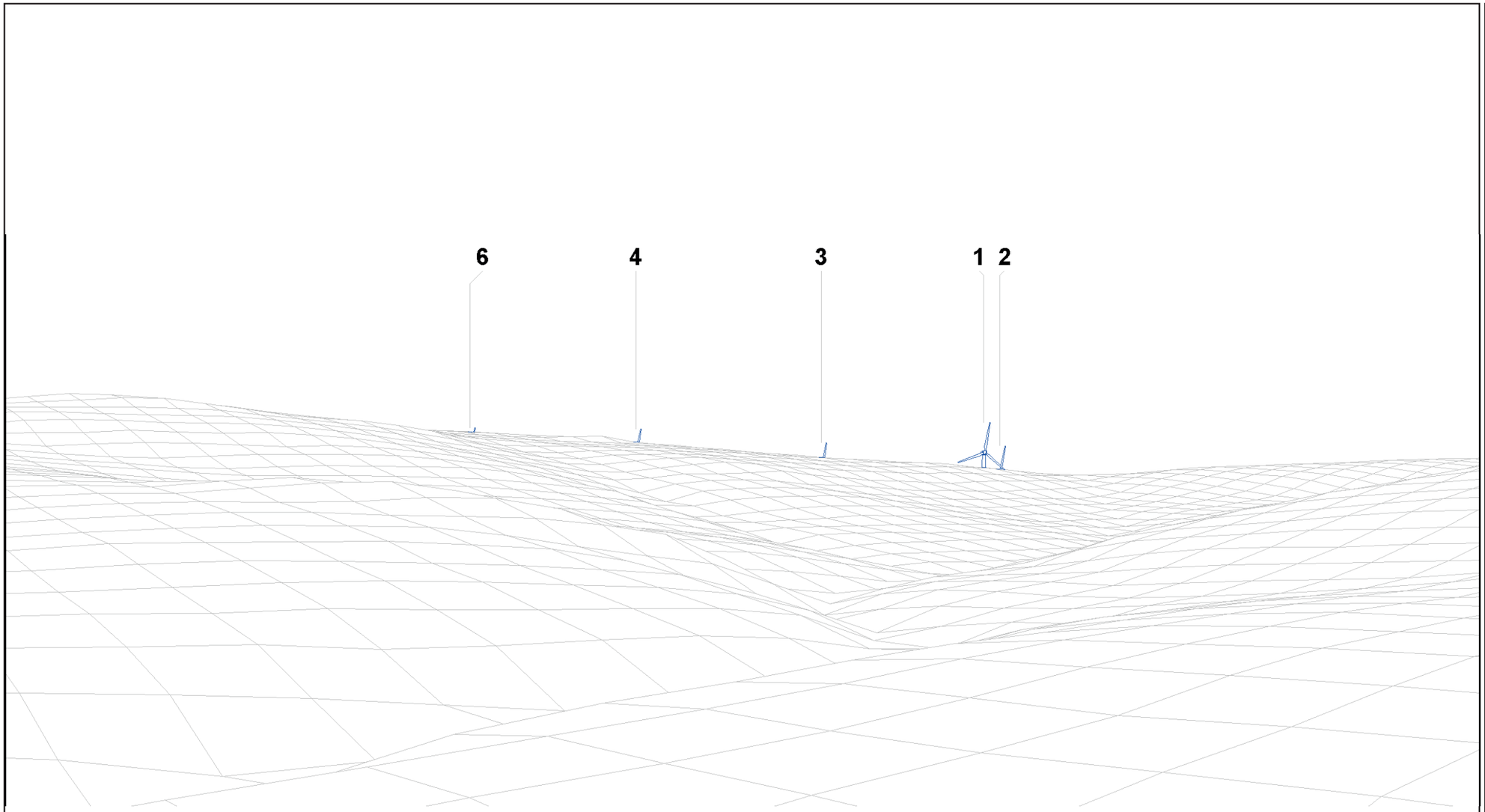

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
Cultural Heritage (Auchindoun Castle)
Wireline – Layout F

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.1d
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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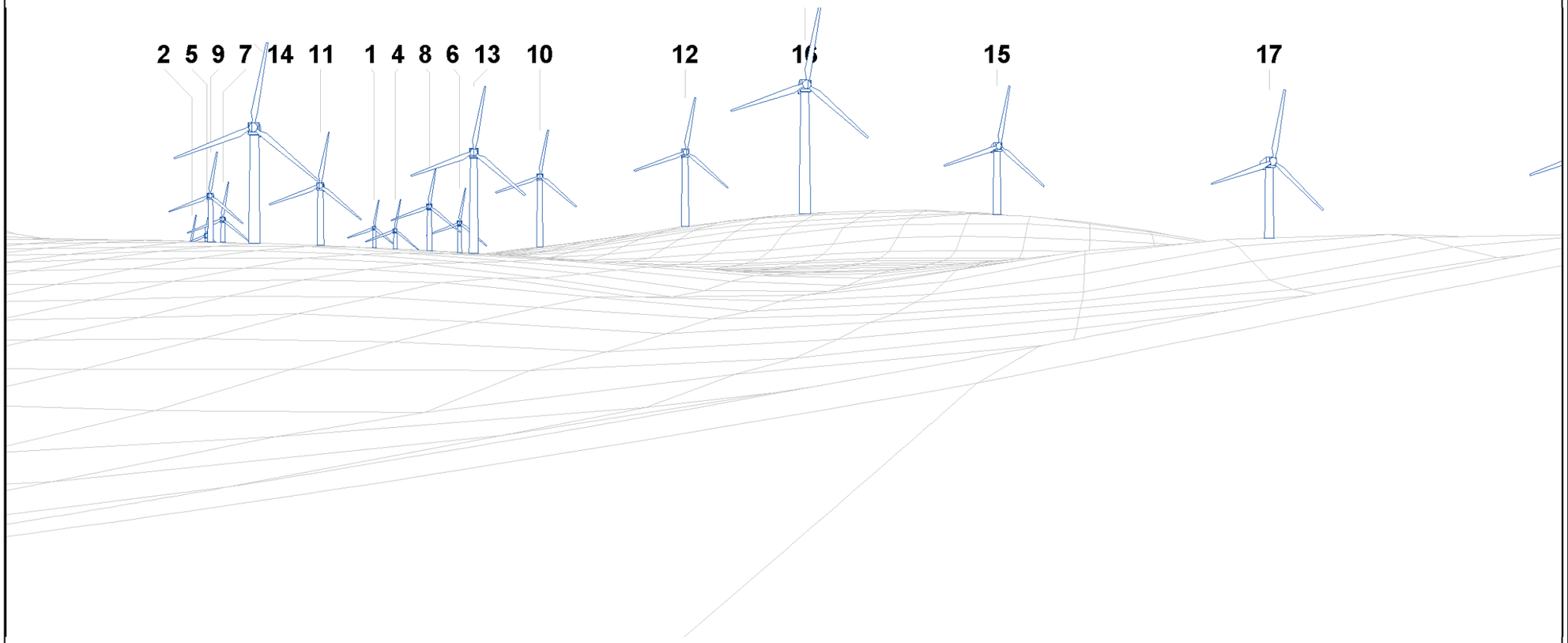

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Minor Road in Deveron Valley) Wireline – Scoping Layout

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.2a
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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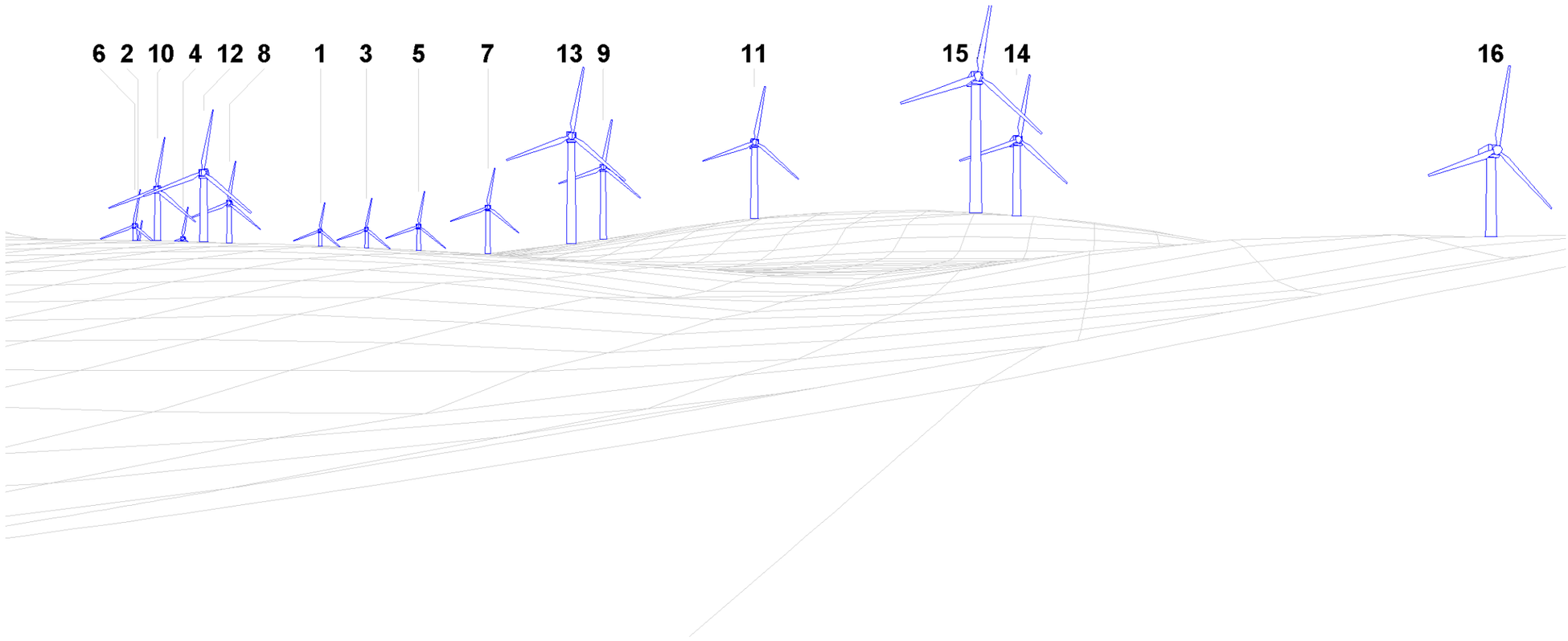


Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Minor Road in Deveron Valley)
Wireline - Layout A

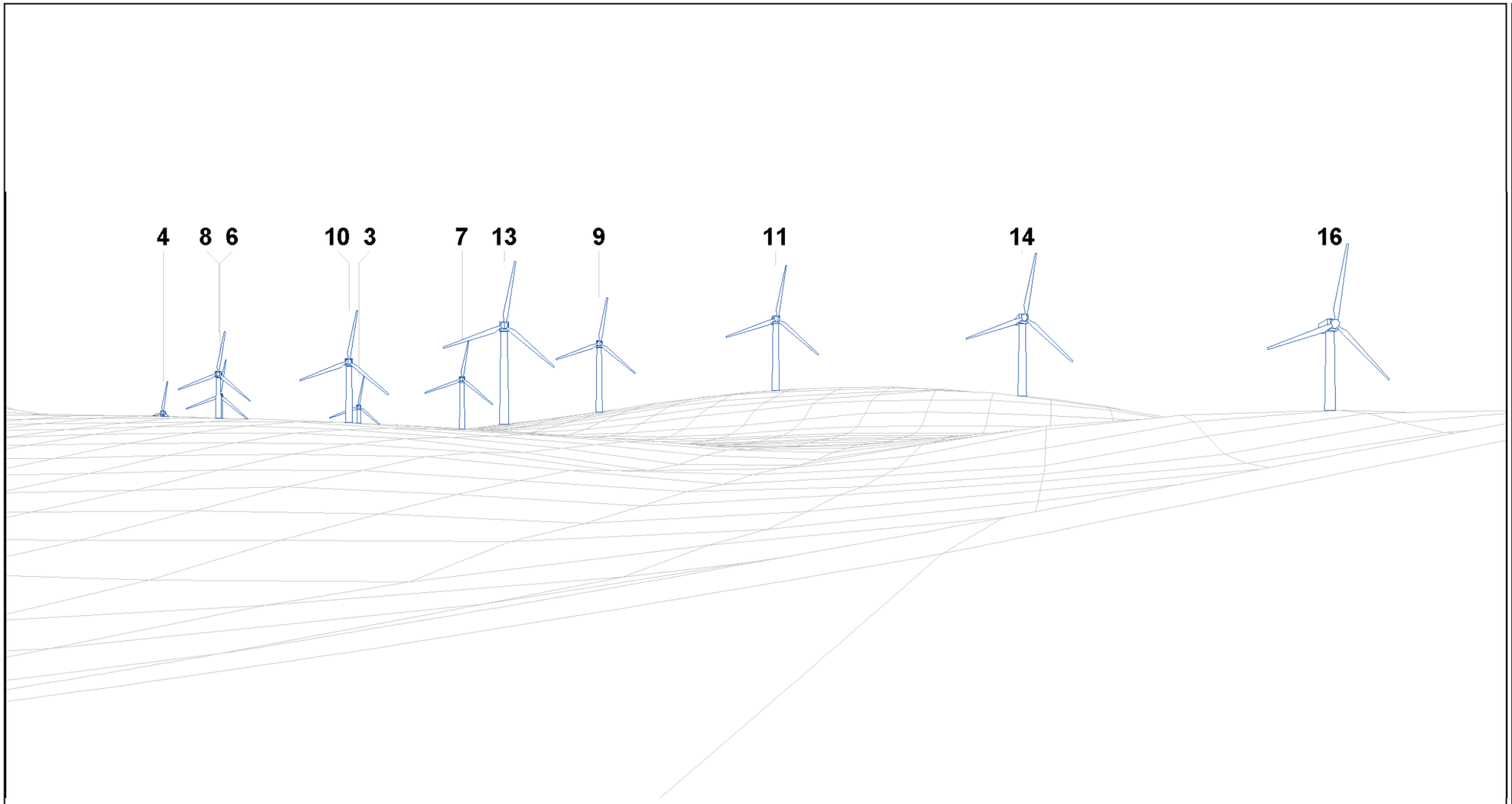
Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.2b
Date:	Prepared By:
June 2022	KL
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

RAMBOLL



Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Minor Road in Deveron Valley)
Wireline – Layout B

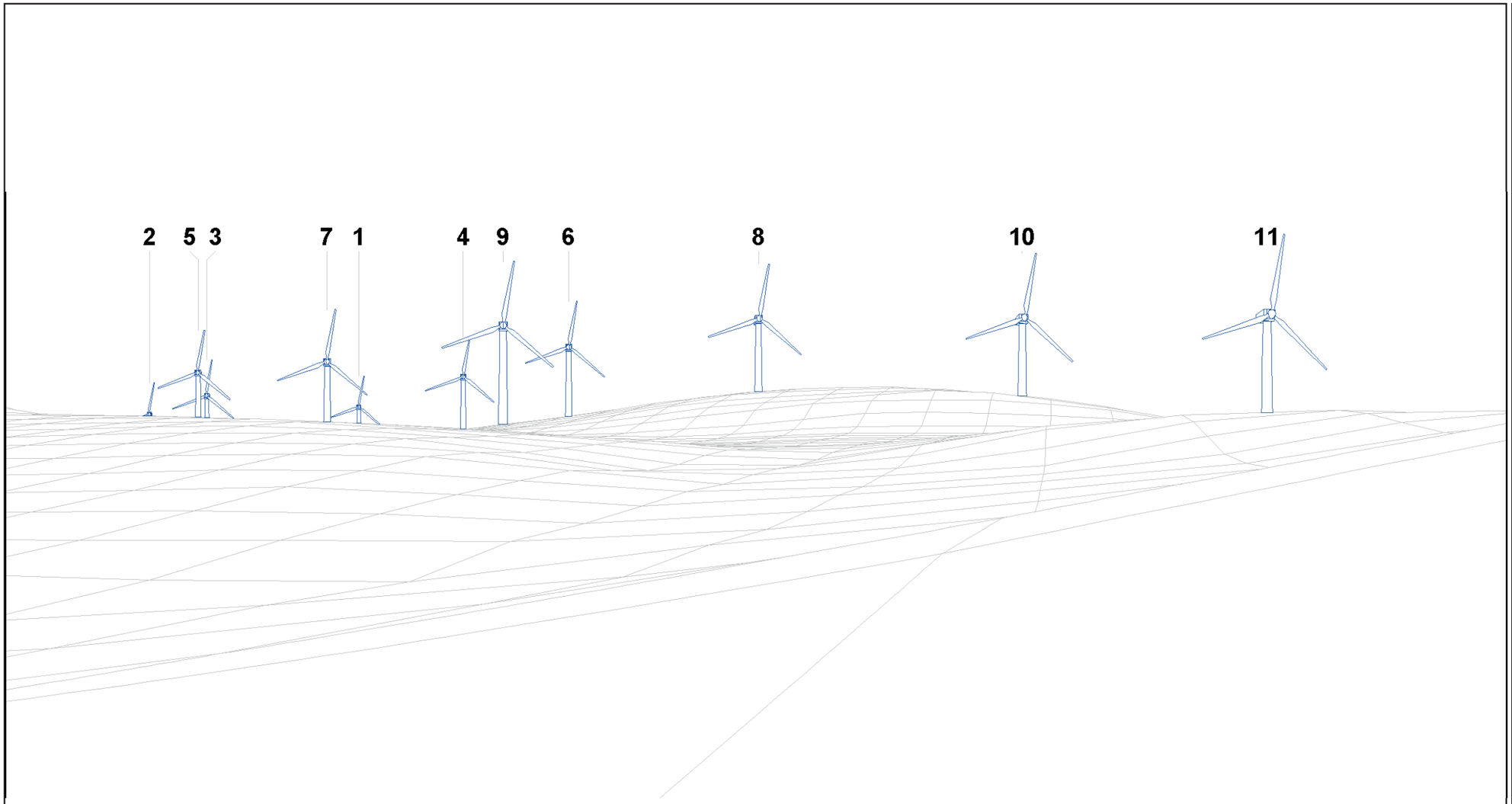
Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.2c
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

RAMBØLL



Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Minor Road in Deveron Valley)
Wireline – Layout F

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.2d
Date:	Prepared By:
May 2022	JBM
Scale:	Issue:
NTS	1

Client:

Statkraft

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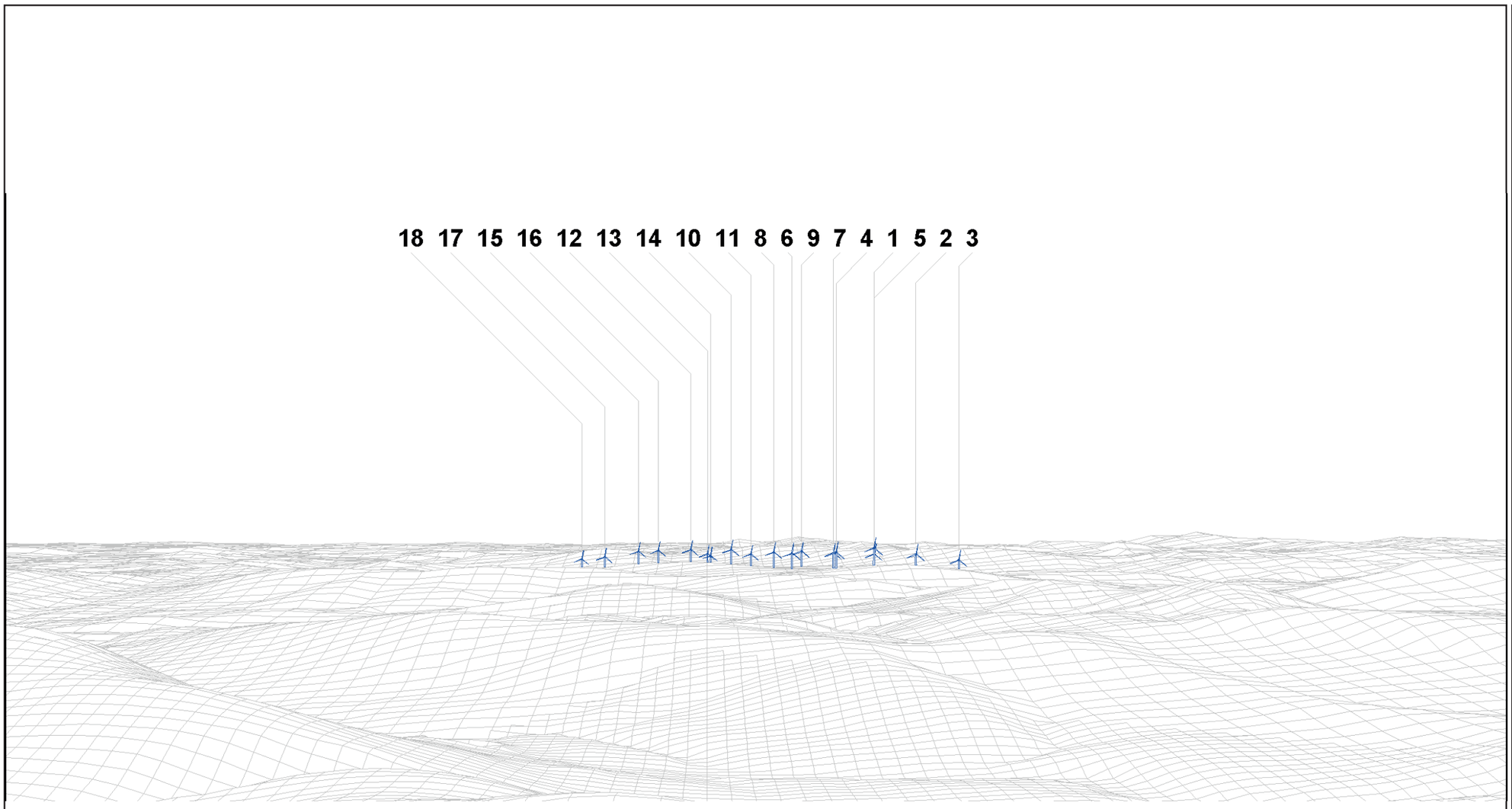

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Ben Rinnes)
Wireline – Scoping Layout

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.3a
Date: May 2022	Prepared By: JBM
Scale: NTS	Issue: 1

Client:

Statkraft

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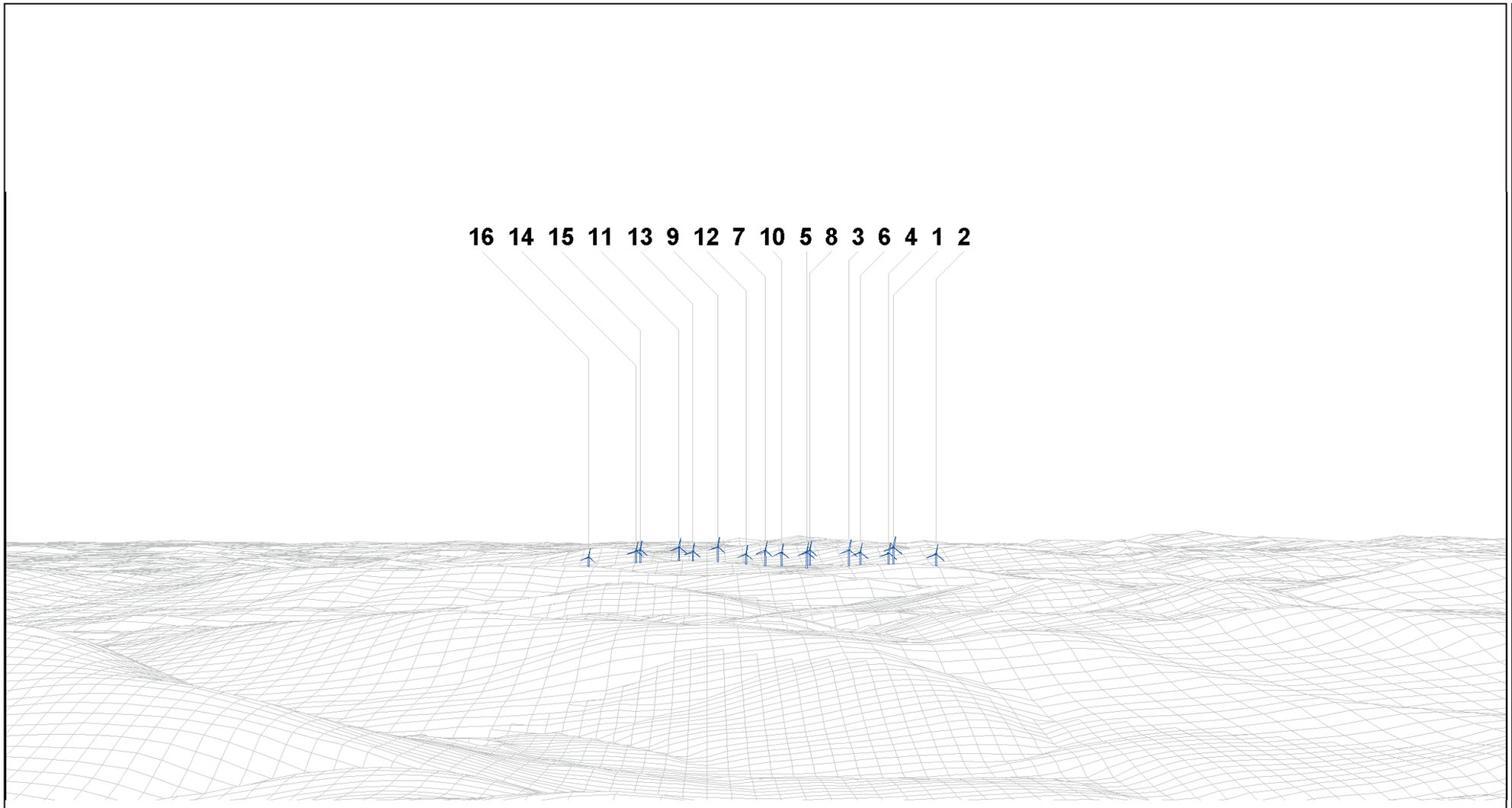

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Ben Rinnes)
Wireline – Layout A

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.3b
Date: May 2022	Prepared By: JBM
Scale: NTS	Issue: 1

Client:

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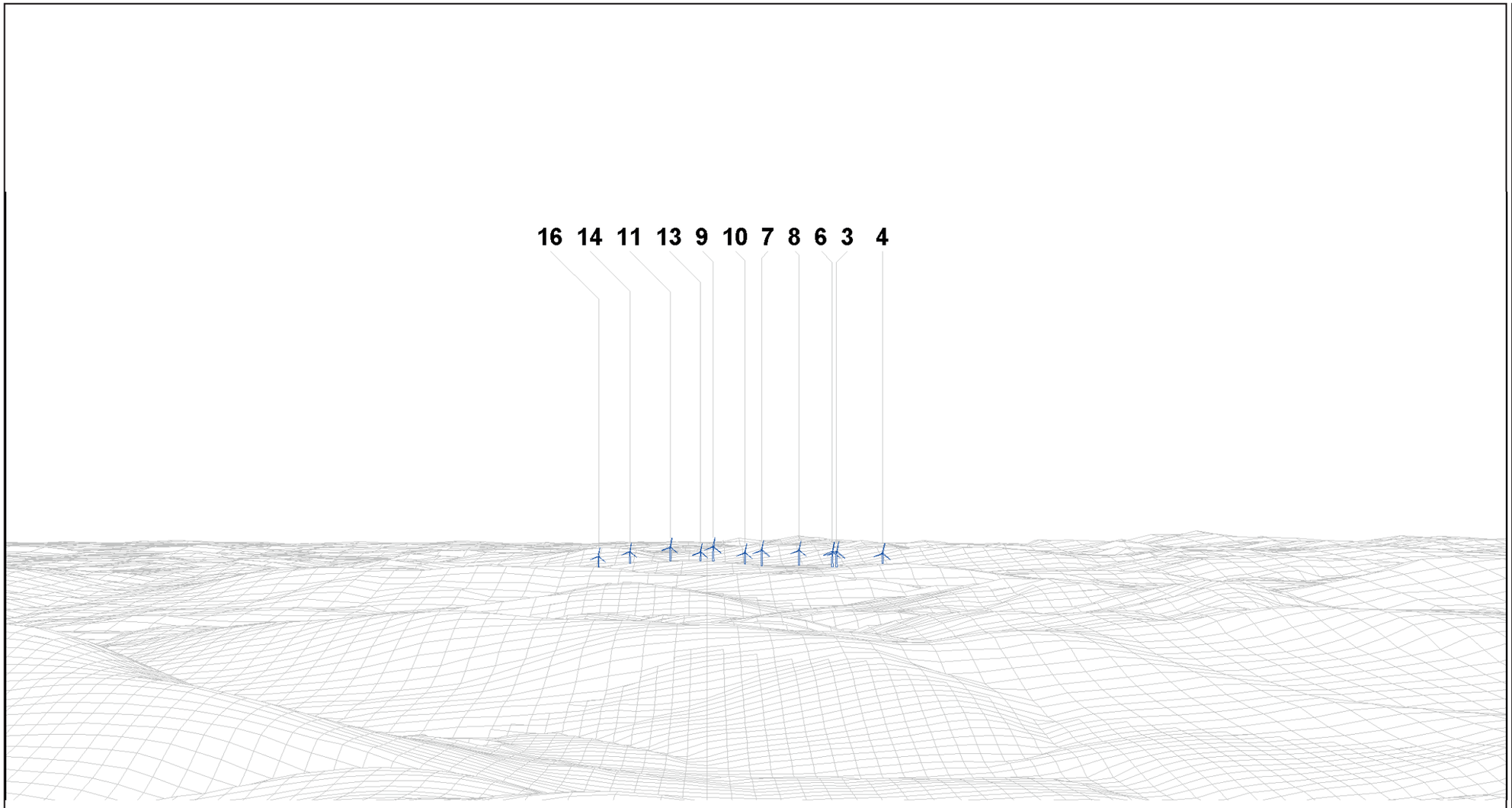

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Ben Rinnes)
Wireline – Layout B

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.3c
Date: May 2022	Prepared By: JBM
Scale: NTS	Issue: 1

Client:

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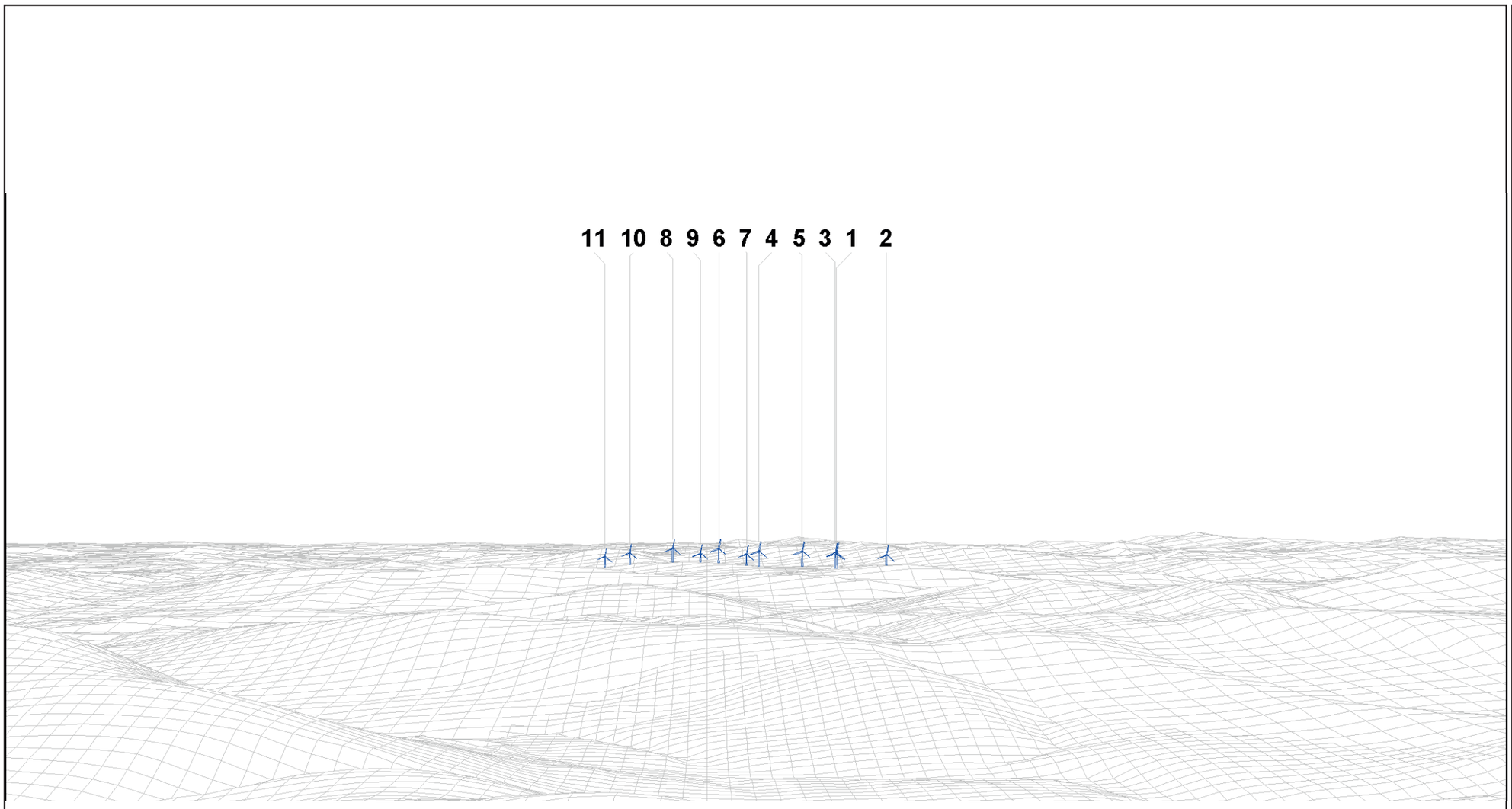

Key:

Proposed Craig Watch Wind Turbine

Figure Title:
LVIA (Ben Rinnes)
Wireline – Layout F

Project Name:
Craig Watch Wind Farm
Environmental Statement

Project Number:	Figure No:
1620010178	3.1.3d
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Technical Appendix 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Amenity

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TA 5.1: Glossary

Technical Appendix 5.1: Glossary

Terminology	Definition
Aesthetic Aspects	The key aspects of the landscape which contribute to its appearance (previously composition), such as: ▪ Scale; ▪ Enclosure; ▪ Diversity; ▪ Texture; ▪ Form; ▪ Line; ▪ Contour; ▪ Balance; ▪ Movement; and ▪ Pattern.
Analysis (Landscape)	The process of breaking the landscape down into its component parts to understand how it is made up.
Analysis (Visual)	The process of identifying the nature of visibility in an area, which is determined through topographic analysis.
Assessment (Landscape)	An umbrella term for description, classification and analysis of landscape.
Baseline	The landscape and visual character of the study area as it exists at the commencement of the assessment process – i.e., prior to the development proposal under consideration.
Classification	A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria, but without attaching relative values to the different types of landscape.
Classified Landscape	Includes non-designated valued landscapes such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Wild Land Areas.
Constraints Map	Map showing the location of important resources and receptors that may form constraints to development.
Countryside	The rural environment and its associated communities (including the coast).
Cultural and Social Factors	The elements of the landscape which are the result of human activity, e.g.: ▪ Land use management; ▪ Character of settlements and buildings; ▪ Pattern and type of fields and enclosures; ▪ Rights of way/ footpaths; and ▪ Artistic/ literary associations.
Cumulative Effects	Effects arising from the additional changes to the landscape or visual character caused by a development when seen in conjunction with other developments (associated with it or separate to it).
Digital Terrain Model (DTM)	Computer generated 3-dimensional model based on aerial survey of ground surface (e.g. Ordnance Survey Profile data). Often utilised as a basis for visibility modelling over large areas.
Digital Surface Model (DSM)	Computer generated 3-dimensional model based on aerial survey of ground surface, tree canopies, built structures etc.). Often utilised as a basis for visibility modelling where the effects of intervening structure and/ or vegetation need to be incorporated.
Direct Impacts	Impacts directly resulting from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development i.e., alterations of topography, removal of woodland or forestry, creation of access tracks.
Diversity	Where a variety of qualities or characteristics occur.
Effect	The result of an impact on a landscape or visual receptor.
Element	A component part of the landscape (e.g. roads, hedgerows, woods).

Terminology	Definition
Enhancement	Landscape or visual improvement through restoration, reconstruction or creation.
Environmental Fit	The relationship of a development to identified environmental opportunities and constraints in its setting.
Field Pattern	The pattern of hedges and walls that define fields in farmed landscapes.
Geographic Information System	Computerised data base of geographical information that can easily be updated and manipulated.
Horizontal Angle Subtended	The angle measured in degrees from the left most visible part to the right most visible part of any development.
Key Characteristics	The elements of the landscape and/ or their inter relationship which form the defining components of the landscape.
Impact	The change arising for a landscape or visual receptor as a result of some form of alteration to the baseline.
Indirect Impacts	Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the development but are often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway. Sometimes referred to as secondary impacts. Includes impacts on the character of adjacent landscapes.
Landcover	Combination of land use and vegetation that covers the land surface.
Landform	See Topography.
Landscape	Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
Landscape Capacity	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/ or human factors. The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is capable or is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the changes being proposed. The capacity of the landscape is derived from a combination of Landscape Character Sensitivity, Visual Sensitivity and Landscape Value.
Landscape Character	The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place in different areas of the landscape.
Landscape Character Type	A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation land use, settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.
Landscape Fabric	Physical elements of the landscape or development site.
Landscape Factor	A circumstance or influence contributing to the impression of the landscape (e.g. scale, enclosure, elevation).
Landscape Feature	A prominent eye-catching element or landmark (e.g. church spire, wooded hilltop).
Landscape Impact	The change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development.
Landscape Effect	The consequence of change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be positive, neutral or negative.
Landscape Evaluation	The process of attaching value (non-monetary) to a particular landscape, usually by the application of previously agreed criteria, including consultation and third-party documents, for a particular purpose (for example, designation or in the context of an assessment).
Landscape Quality (or Condition)	Based on judgments about the physical state of the landscape and about its intactness. Also relates to the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up character in any one place.
Landscape Resource	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character and value.

Terminology	Definition
Landscape Sensitivity (to a specific type of change)	The extent to which a landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale and is assessed in relation a particular type of development. Based on a combination of susceptibility and value.
Landuse	The primary use of land, including both rural and urban activities.
Landscape Value	The relative value or importance attached to a landscape (often as a basis for designation or recognition), which expresses commonly held national or local perception of its quality, special qualities and/ or scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness and cultural associations.
Magnitude of Landscape Impact	A measure of the amount of change to the landscape that would occur as a result of the Proposed Development, generally based on the scale or degree of change to the landscape resource, the nature of the effect and its duration. This is based on a combination of largely quantifiable parameters, such as the distance to the Proposed Development, visible extent, degree of contrast with context, extent to which the development would be visible, and the duration of an impact.
Magnitude of Visual Impact	A measure of the amount of change to the visual context that would occur as a result of a Proposed Development. This is generally based on the scale of change to the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view that would be occupied by the Proposed Development; the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture; duration and nature of the change, whether temporary or permanent, transient or persistent, the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor(s); distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development; and extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.
Methodology	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.
Mitigation Measures	Measures including any process, activity or design process to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse landscape and visual impacts of a development. Mitigation can also apply to the amelioration of existing adverse effects associated with existing developments/ features in the landscape.
Natural Factors	Elements of the landscape that have not been altered by human activity, e.g. ▪ Geology; ▪ Landform; and ▪ River and drainage pattern.
Perception (of Landscape):	The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value or meaning to the landscape.
Receptor	Physical landscape resource, special interest or individual or group experiencing view liable to change as a result of the Proposed Development.
Receptor Location	Location occupied by identified receptors.
Residual Effects	Effect of development after mitigation proposals are taken into account.
Scoping	The process of identifying likely significant effects of a development on the environment – which may be carried out in a formal or informal way.
Significant Effect	An effect which is considered by the assessor to be “significant” in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 which require the identification of significant effects.
Transient View	A view which obtained momentarily, as part of a sequence of views, e.g. from a car travelling along a road.
Visual Amenity	Particular composition of landscape elements that contribute to a view, or views.
Visibility Analysis	The process of identifying theoretical (based on digital modelling) and/ or actual predicted areas from where any given development may be seen.
Visual Effect	The consequence of change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development, which may be beneficial or adverse.
Viewshed	The extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.
Viewshadow	An area affording no visibility of the Proposed Development due to the screening effect intervening structures, topography or vegetation.

Terminology	Definition
Viewpoint Sensitivity	The extent to which a view would be altered by change of a particular type and scale, assessed in relation to the following: ▪ Location and land use (receptor activity) at the viewpoint or context of the view; ▪ Landscape character and quality at the viewpoint; ▪ Landscape character and quality of the intervening landscape; and ▪ Importance of the view (which may be determined with respect to its popularity or number of affected people, its appearance in guidebooks, on tourist maps and the facilities provided for its enjoyment and references to it in literature and/ or art).
Visualisation	Computer generated simulation or photomontage or other technique to illustrate how the Proposed Development would appear. Presented either as a wireline image (outline of the development) or as a photomontage which merges a rendered version of the development into a photograph of the view/ landscape.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) or Viewshed	The area predicted to have views of a Proposed Development on the basis of a digital terrain model or digital surface model, which may/ may not take account of landcover features.

TA 5.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions

Technical Appendix 5.2: Landscape Character Type Descriptions

1.1.1 Figure 5.3a (Volume 3a) shows the location and extent of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the 45 kilometre (km) study area. All LCTs which are found within the study area are listed in Table 5.2.1 below.

1.1.2 The Landscape Character Types have been derived from NatureScot's 2019 on-line database as this is the most up to date description on landscape character, and extends across the full 45 km LVIA study area. Supplementary descriptions and information in relation to landscape sensitivity has been guided by information contained in:

- The Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study 2017[1] (and Appendices); and
- The Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire[2].

1.1.3 LCTs that are present within the study area and fall entirely out with the viewshed for the Proposed Development have been excluded from the assessment. Additionally, a number of LCTs have been omitted on the basis of distance from the Proposed Development, highly constrained geographical extent of visibility, and/ or extent of forest cover that would limit viewpoint/ receptor locations. These are identified in Table 5.2.1. Those LCTs which are assessed as part of the LVIA are described in Table 5.2.2.

Table 5.2.1: Landscape Character Types within 45 km Study Area

NatureScot Landscape Character Type		Distance to Proposed Development	Assessed in LVIA	Justification for Omission
NS 10	Cliffs and Rocky Coast – Aberdeenshire	31.3 km south south west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 14	Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland	26 km south south west	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 17	Coastal Agricultural Plain – Aberdeenshire	39.8 km west	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 18	Low Hills and Basins	22.3 km south west	Yes	-
NS 19	Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills	7.4 km west north west	Yes	-
NS 20	Undulating Agricultural Heartland	36 km west south west	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 23	Farmed Basin – Aberdeenshire	13.3 km north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 25	Farmed Strath – Aberdeenshire	45 km west north west	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 26	Wooded Estates – Aberdeenshire	27.4 km west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 27	Farmed Moorland Edge – Aberdeenshire	3.14 km south south west	Yes	-
NS 28	Outlying Hills and Ridges	1.4 km west	Yes	-
NS 29	Summits and Plateau – Aberdeenshire	43 km north north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 30	Narrow Winding Farmed Valley	18.6 km north north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 32	Farmed and Wooded River Valleys	Host LCT	Yes	-
NS 33	Broad Wooded Valley with Estates	34 km north north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 122	Mountain Massif – Cairngorms	33 km north east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 123	Smooth Rounded Hills – Cairngorms	13.5 km north north east	Yes	-
NS 125	Rolling Uplands – Cairngorms	36.7 km east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 126	Upland Glen – Cairngorms	13.1 km north	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 127	Upland Strath	40 km east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 128	Forested Upland Fringe	34.5 km north east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 129	Broad Glen with Estates	20 km north	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 130	Farmed Basin - Cairngorms	29.5 km north north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 131	Upland Basin – Cairngorms	31 km north east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 132	Undulating Wooded Farmland	35.1 km east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 133	Farmed Straths and Glens	13.6 km north east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 281	Beaches, Dunes and Links – Moray and Nairn	29.8 km south south east	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 282	Cliffs and Rocky Coast – Moray and Nairn	32.3 km south south west	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 283	Coastal Forest	30.2 km south south east	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 284	Coastal Farmlands – Moray and Nairn	22 km south south east	No	Unlikely to experience significant effects due to combination of distance and limited visibility
NS 285	Rolling Farmland and Forests – Moray and Nairn	22 km south south east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 286	Narrow Wooded Valley – Moray and Nairn	38 km west north west	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development

[1] Retrieved from http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_107096.html

[2] Retrieved from: https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/the-strategic-landscape-capacity-for-windfarms/

Table 5.2.1: Landscape Character Types within 45 km Study Area

NatureScot Landscape Character Type		Distance to Proposed Development	Assessed in LVIA	Justification for Omission
NS 287	Broad Farmed Valley	11.3 km south east	No	Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development
NS 288	Upland Farmland	8.3 km south	Yes	-
NS 289	Upland Farmed Valleys	4 km south east	Yes	-
NS 290	Upland Moorland and Forestry	14.5 km south east	Yes	-
NS 291	Open Rolling Upland	21.4 km east south east	Yes	-

Table 5.2.1: Landscape Character Types within 45 km Study Area

NatureScot Landscape Character Type		Distance to Proposed Development	Assessed in LVIA	Justification for Omission
NS 292	Open Upland	Host LCT	Yes	-
NS 293	Low Forested Hills	16.2 km south south east	Yes	-
NS 294	Upland Valleys – Moray and Nairn	Host LCT (Red Line Boundary only – no infrastructure)	Yes	-

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
NS 292	Open Upland Contains Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study (MWELCS): ▪ 12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes ▪ 12b Open Upland with Settled Glens (Host LCT)	Host LCT	NS 292. Open Upland ▪ Represents extensive tracts of open uplands in the far south east of the Moray. ▪ Forms the transition to the Upland Farmed Valleys to the north and extending south west to incorporate the Hills of Cromdale and join the Ladder Hills at the north eastern edge of the Cairngorm mountains. ▪ Open, expansive landscape of smooth and steep-sided hills and exposed, rounded fractured rock summits which coalesce across elevated moorland valleys to form an arc of high ground. ▪ Simple, large scale vegetation patterns and managed moorland of hill tops and sides, with occasional large conifer plantations. ▪ Contrasting small scale pattern of land use at lower levels and close to minor roads, consisting of farmsteads, peat cuts, and rough pastures, sometimes integrated with small forest plantations. ▪ North east to south west orientated burns and rivers with natural, meandering courses, and associated with ribbons of native woodland on the sheltered, steeper valley sides. ▪ Broad, farmed and sparsely settled central basin, almost encircled by the arc of hills. ▪ Few roads and structures, other than occasional farms, cottages and abandoned stone buildings in lower areas. ▪ Sense of remoteness, isolation and openness, resulting from the wide, sweeping scale of the internal landscape and limited settlement and roads, and presence of ruins and relicts. ▪ 12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes ▪ Two relatively narrow areas of rolling hills separated by Glen Rinnes. ▪ Steep slopes extend up to narrow ridges or more complex summits and provide an often dramatic backdrop and setting to the small scale *Narrow Farmed Valleys* (*MWELCS 13*) and the *Broad Farmed Valley (MWELCS 7)*. ▪ The highest upland areas are extensive and of a large scale. Topographical relief is much lower to the north and there are more complex landforms and small foothills at the transition within the valleys. The steep and often dramatic slopes, ridges and summits of these uplands are important in providing the backdrop and setting to the smaller scale settled valleys of the Spey, Glenlivet and Glen Rinnes. ▪ Relatively simple land cover of moorland and upland grass with some conifer forest and shelter woods along the lower slopes. ▪ Sparsely settled with occasional small farms associated with the narrow glens which extend into the hills. ▪ Steep slopes and areas of more complex landform limits opportunities for additional development. ▪ Landscape has high intervisibility with the surrounding area, and from key summits and ridges within the character type. Ben Rinnes, Meikle Conval and Little Conval form key foci in views. ▪ 12b Open Upland with Settled Glens ▪ Extends across the lower rounded hills which form the eastern boundary of Moray. Includes the elevated shallow bowl of the Cabrach contained by an arc of hills and the sparsely settled upper reaches of the Deveron which flows through a narrow glen. ▪ Steeper slopes between Black Water Glen and Glen Fiddich create a transition between this character type and the neighbouring *Open Uplands with Steep Slopes (MWELCS 12a)* which is generally characterised by higher and more pronounced hills.	▪ NS 292: High ▪ MWELCS 12a: High ▪ MWELCS 12b: Medium Value – High: Western extent of LCT designated as part of Ben Rinnes SLA. The A941 and A920 enter Moray from Aberdeenshire across high passes which creates a sense of arrival into the area. Sense of remoteness in upper hills. Few core paths pass through LCT. Susceptibility – High: Smooth, gently rolling upland landscape with occasional forestry. Extensive sweeping scale, gentle gradients and simple landcover. Steeper slopes and areas of more complex landscape occur in the west of the LCT. Dorenell, Clashindarroch and Kildrummy Wind Farms lie within or adjacent to this LCT and limit the extent of remaining undeveloped upland areas.

[3] LCTs in Italics denote Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study LCTs (2017)
http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_107096.html

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			▪ Adjacent to rounded hills with a similar elevation lying to the northeast within Aberdeenshire although these adjacent hills are forested, contrasting with the open moorland cover of the *Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b).* ▪ The smooth gently rolling landform of the LCT is accentuated by low grass and heather cover, interspersed by occasional small conifer woodlands above improved pastures on lower slopes. ▪ Dispersed farms are situated on the lower slopes of the broad basin of the Cabrach with isolated estate buildings and farms also located within the narrow glens which cut into the hills. ▪ The A941 passes through this area, entering Moray across the dramatic high pass of the Cabrach. ▪ The extensive sweeping scale of this landscape, the generally smooth landform, often with gentle gradients, as well as the overall extent of the uplands and simple land cover all combine to reduce sensitivity to wind farm development. ▪ The consented Dorenell and operational Clashindarroch and Kildrummy wind farms lie within and close-by this landscape which increases sensitivity in relation to potential cumulative landscape and visual effects.	
NS 32	Farmed and Wooded River Valleys	Host LCT	▪ Well settled, wooded and diverse valley of the River Deveron. ▪ Significant feature within the extensive agricultural heartlands of Aberdeenshire. ▪ Attractive landscape with a high degree of integrity. ▪ The River Deveron – which flows to the east of the Proposed Development site – is aligned through a relatively broad valley, strongly contained by rolling hills. ▪ The River Ythan – located in the north east of the study area – has an open character in the west due to the surrounding farmland. It is narrow and straightened in this area. East of Fyvie, the valley is narrow, deeply incised and meandering and is contained by steep slopes. ▪ Wooded policies and small parklands in places. ▪ There is little marginal or wetland vegetation on the floodplain. Farmland abuts the rivers however in more inaccessible areas, semi-natural woodland comes down to the river banks. ▪ Mixed woodland with policies of designed landscapes which extend onto the rolling hills. ▪ Well settled hill slopes which overlook the valleys, with relatively large farms. ▪ Villages and large market towns. ▪ Castles, mansion houses and historic built features. ▪ Quiet roads and paths give a sense of seclusion, contrast with the busy A974 Aberdeen – Banff arterial road.	High Value – High: A number of GDLs are located within the LCT. Area is used for informal recreation (core paths, NCN) and it has a cultural heritage value. Attractive, well maintained landscape which forms a distinctive backdrop to some settlements. Susceptibility – High: Small to medium scale river valley landscape with a high degree of intactness and integrity. Areas of broadleaved and coniferous woodland relate to the landform and frame areas of well-maintained farmland.
NS 18	Low Hills and Basins	22.3 km south west	▪ The Low Hills and Basins LCT lies on the western boundary of Aberdeenshire and is separated from the Upland Farmland and Low Forested Hills LCTs, which largely occur in Moray, by Knock Hill and a band of higher ground on the northern edge of the Deveron Valley. ▪ This landscape merges more gradually with the Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland LCT which lies to the north, with the transition being principally marked by the generally higher elevation of this area and related changes to land-cover, including an increase in the extent of mosses, coniferous woodland and grazing land, together with the dominance of Knock Hill. ▪ Landscape of low rolling hills and ridges, creating a smooth undulating landform. ▪ Dominant feature of Knock Hill in the west of the area, widely visible from minor roads and settlement. ▪ Low-lying basins often filled with remnant mosses and wet pastures. ▪ Curving shelterbelts and clumps of Scots pine, spruce and mature broadleaves shelter farms and frame settlements. ▪ Predominantly sheep and cattle grazed medium-to-large-sized fields. ▪ Smaller, rougher fields on higher slopes in the south. ▪ Coarse textured landscape to the south, smoother in the north. ▪ Dispersed small farms and crofts concentrated on gentle slopes above broad valley floors, and occasional planned villages. ▪ Containment in the south by higher, more tightly rolling hills. ▪ Sense of naturalness created by character of less intensively farmed areas and often diverse vegetation cover.	Medium-High. Value – Medium: Not designated, a well-tended landscape with some elements of naturalness. Noted for its scenic quality. A small area of landscape which forms a transition between inland landscapes and the coastal landscapes. Not found elsewhere in the LVIA study area. Susceptibility – High: Knock Hill is a key landscape feature which is identifiable as a landmark from outwith the LCT. Development of the type proposed would reduce the perceived scale of this landform. Existing landscape elements are of human scale. No existing/ consented wind farm development currently within LCT.
NS 19	Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills	7.4 km west north west	▪ The Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills LCT forms a broad swathe of gently rolling farmland lying between the Farmed and Wooded River Valleys to the west and the Farmed Basins LCTs to the south. ▪ Landform is generally more elevated and hillier than the more open plains of the Undulating Agricultural Heartlands LCT which lie to the east of the Deveron. ▪ In places, this landscape is punctuated by narrow undulating higher ridges of the outcropping Outlying Hills and Ridges. ▪ Softly rounded hills and ridges forming rolling topography with sweeping curves. ▪ Narrow valleys with small watercourses. ▪ Simple pattern of medium large rectilinear arable fields and pasture. ▪ Geometric forests on hill sides.	Medium Value – Medium: Not designated, contains notable historic features such as stone circles (rare elsewhere in Moray) and castle ruins. Susceptibility – Medium: Broad, simple landscape with long views and a rhythmic quality. Open farmland presents opportunities for larger scale development. Contains small groups of turbines on ridges and higher hills, and transmission lines are also a feature.

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			▪ Shelterbelts on ridge tops. ▪ Broadleaf woodland on lower valley sides and dens. ▪ Farms on lower hill slopes, often with large outbuildings. ▪ No settlements of significant size. ▪ Abundance of stone circles. ▪ Open character, with long views from elevated roads to backdrop of hills to the south and south west.	
NS 27	Farmed Moorland Edge – Aberdeenshire	3.14 km south south west	▪ Lies on the edge of higher moorland Summits and Plateau - Aberdeenshire, forming a transition between these upland areas and the lowland agricultural heartlands of Aberdeenshire, sharing many characteristics with both. ▪ Low rolling hills and valleys with some rocky ridges on higher slopes. ▪ Dark heather-clad and forested hills often form the backdrop to these upland fringe areas. ▪ Areas of moorland are interspersed with farmland on higher slopes. ▪ Marginal upland farming, sheep grazing and patches of gorse scrub, birch and willow occurs at the transition with the uplands. ▪ More intensive farmland is present on softly rolling ground. ▪ Areas of waterlogged ground and small bogs in places, particularly at the transition with moorland or in wetter valley bottoms. ▪ Scrubby patches of birch, willow and Scots pine occur in more marginal areas. ▪ Clumps of broadleaf trees and shelterbelts pattern farmed lower slopes. ▪ Mixed policy-influenced plantings more common in some areas. ▪ Farm buildings of grey/ brown stone are often marked by clumps of trees. ▪ Derelict buildings are particularly evident on marginal upland areas. ▪ Prehistoric monuments and artefacts, including stone circles, carved stone balls and souterrains. ▪ Strong sense of history and culture, giving the landscape a timeless character.	Medium Value – Medium: Not designated. Medium scale landscape rare in the wider region. Part of setting and backdrop to Huntly and Keith. Contains core paths, some historic interest. Areas of perceived remoteness along upland open moorland roads. Susceptibility – Medium: Rich mosaic of textures and features which create intricate landscape pattern. Coniferous plantations are a large-scale feature and reduce landscape integrity and quality.
NS 28	Outlying Hills and Ridges	1.4 km west	▪ Lies at the transition between the high mountains of the Cairngorms and the low farmland of the north east coastlands in Aberdeenshire. ▪ Comprises a series of moorland spurs that extend from the central massif of the Cairngorms into the farmed landscape of Garioch and Formartine, forming prominent areas of high ground. ▪ Long and often narrow undulating ridges, punctuated with occasional pronounced hills, which stand proud of surrounding low-lying farmland. ▪ Distinctive and recognisable profiles of occasional dramatic outcrops of rock, creating local landmarks which are visible and ever-present across wide expanses of Aberdeenshire. ▪ Extensive tracts of coniferous woodland cover slopes, these interspersed with varying degrees with heather moorland. ▪ Green fields of pasture cover often gently folded lower slopes and this merges gradually with more intensively managed lowland farmland. ▪ Communication masts and wind farms are dominant features on parts of these outlying ridges. ▪ Important prehistoric and cultural heritage. ▪ Spectacular views across the surrounding lowlands of Aberdeenshire from these promontories of higher ground. ▪ Strong visual relationship with wider Cairngorm massif. ▪ Relatively remote and wild landscape character.	High Value – High: Not designated, adjacent to Cairngorms National Park. Occasional dramatic rocky outcrops are distinctive and integral to landscape identity of Aberdeenshire. Forms setting to many towns and villages and provides the foreground to the Cairngorm massif. Areas of high-quality landscape are reduced by large areas of conifers. Popular for informal recreation. High cultural value (sites, written word). High scenic quality. Susceptibility – Medium-High: Large scale landscape comprised of moorland spurs which extend from the Cairngorms into the wider farmland. Existing development located at lower elevations although communication masts and wind farms form dominant features on parts of this LCT.
NS 123	Smooth Rounded Hills – Cairngorms	13.5 km north north east	▪ The extensive LCT occurs in two areas, forming foothills to the north and east of the Cairngorms Central Massif, within the Cairngorms National Park. The area is incised by Strathdon, Strathavon, Glenlivet and edged by Deeside. ▪ Expansive landscape of gently rounded landforms with gentle slopes and successive long, smooth interlocking spurs and ridges. ▪ Hill slopes lightly dissected by small burns lead to broad glens. ▪ Scattered small tree groups on valley floors. ▪ Geometric conifer forests contrasting with the gently rounded landform. ▪ Heather moor clad upper slopes and summits. ▪ Settlement is limited to occasional remote settlements and farms and some estate houses. ▪ Sense of openness and remoteness.	High Value – High: Part of the Cairngorms National Park. High recreational value, landscape forms the backdrop to many towns and villages. Strong sense of remoteness. Susceptibility – High: Broad open, large scale landscape with a strong sense of remoteness and sparsity of settlement limited to estate homes and isolated farms within the valley floors and lower slopes. Traditional character with the exception of the Lecht ski centre and associated power lines.
NS 288	Upland Farmland Contains MWELCS:	8.3 km south	▪ 288 Upland Farmland ▪ The Upland Farmland LCT in Moray is represented by one area of mid-elevation, coastal uplands, to the north east of the Spey.	▪ NS 288: Medium ▪ MWELCS 8: Medium

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
	▪ 8. Upland Farmland		▪ The LCT is positioned between the Low Forested Hills to the north and Upland Farmed Valleys to the south west. ▪ To the east, it transitions into the Low Hills and Basins and Farmed and Wooded River Valley. To the south, it merges into the Farmed Moorland Edge. ▪ Broad shallow valleys. ▪ Large scale, open landscape with a simple vegetation pattern. ▪ Predominance of farming in valleys and the central basin. ▪ Backdrop to farmland provided by the Low Forested Hills, with steeper north and western sides and shallow southern and eastern slopes, covered with extensive conifer forests, and simple, undulating skyline. ▪ Broad, sweeping, rectilinear fields of the central farmland, interspersed with patches of smaller fields, peaty soils, marginal pastures and small plantations. ▪ Relatively well settled farmland area, with an even distribution of farms accessed by a network of rural roads. ▪ Small farmsteads often partially enclosed by isolated woodland pockets. ▪ Views from top areas to Cairngorms and higher moorland edges to south, and to east across Buchan plain. ▪ Limited visual diversity. ▪ 8. Upland Farmland ▪ Encompasses the broad shallow valleys largely lying to the north of the River Isla. ▪ Simple land cover of open farmland with large fields of pasture predominantly enclosed by post and wire fences. ▪ Even distribution of farms across this extensive area, accessed by a close network of minor roads. ▪ Edged by the densely forested broad upland plateau and more pronounced hill tops of the Broad Forested Hills within the Upland Farmland (8a) - forms a low dark backdrop to more settled and open farmland. ▪ Bin of Cullen, Meikle Balloch and Knock Hill form distinctive 'landmark' features from the Upland Farmland. ▪ Even dispersal of small farms and houses across LCT. ▪ Large turbines sited both in this landscape and adjoining landscapes.	Value – Medium: Not designated. Local recreational value (core paths). Few obvious historic/ culturally significant features. Susceptibility – Medium: Large scale, open character provides some opportunity for development of this type. Landscape has little influence on the adjoining landscapes. Well settled. Transitional landscape with a simple land cover pattern. Contains existing wind farm development in the north and south of the LCT, as well as adjacent landscapes to north and west. High voltage transmission lines and a large substation are located near Keith.
NS 289	Upland Farmed Valleys Contains MWELCS: ▪ 9. Rolling Forested Hills ▪ 13. Narrow Farmed Valley	4 km south east	▪ 289. Upland Farmed Valleys (NS) ▪ LCT forms a transition between the lower-lying Upland Farmland to the north and the Open Upland to the south. ▪ Network of long, elevated, well-drained, connected valleys containing rivers and large burns. ▪ Extensive forest plantations on hillsides and some broad summits linked to the network of broadleaf woodlands, policy plantings, smaller forests and tree belts at lower levels, which are integrated with farmland. ▪ A mix of larger, fields on gentler slopes, and more complex pattern of small and irregular fields on steeper slopes, upper margins, and in folds and indentations on hill sides. ▪ Containment of the River Spey provided by the spurs and steep sides of the western slopes. ▪ Relatively sparse, historic settlement pattern and distilleries, focussed in valleys, and connected by a simple framework of winding roads, with few areas of new development. ▪ Contrast between the intimate views in narrower, undulating, wooded valleys, and the views from broader valleys which open up to reveal longer distance views of hills in surrounding landscapes, and to the coastal farmlands. ▪ 9. Rolling Forested Hills ▪ Comprises often prominent, steep-sided rounded hills cut by long, well defined valleys. ▪ Ben Aigan is the most distinctive of these hills with its conical summit protruding above forested slopes. ▪ Hills are broadly patterned with coniferous forestry and grass and heather moorland. ▪ Upper hill slopes at the transition with the *Narrow Farmed Valleys* (MWELCS 13) feature small coniferous woodlands and shelterbelts extending into more strongly enclosed pasture. ▪ In places, forestry extends down onto lower slopes to fill narrow valleys. ▪ Small farms are located high on the upper slopes of the hills, often located next to small tributary valleys and accessed by narrow roads. The core of these hills is unsettled. ▪ A winding road provides a pass over the Hill of Towie upland area, aligned close to a wind farm. ▪ 13. Narrow Farmed Valley ▪ LCT covers the valleys of the upper Isla, the lower Fiddich, Glen Rinnes, Glenlivet and the upper Deveron. ▪ Valleys are narrow and have a small to medium scale which is reinforced by their well-settled character. ▪ Strongly contained by steep farmed and wooded slopes with adjacent uplands forming immediate skyline ridges.	▪ NS 289: High ▪ MWELCS 9: High ▪ MWELCS 13: High Value – High: Part of the Ben Rinnes SLA. Valleys are settled with a historic settlement pattern. Historic interest via scattered prehistoric to medieval relics. Susceptibility – High: Existing build development is limited to settlements and distilleries (and related industries) with combination of historic and modern buildings. Valleys form a small to medium scale landscape with strong containment by steep wooded and farmed slopes. Some existing wind farm development within the LCT (Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II), and views to other wind farm development are available from elevated locations. Hills are prominent and distinctive.

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			▪ The Deveron and upper Isla valleys have a particularly diverse land cover with mixed policy woodlands and avenue trees contributing to the richness of well-managed farmland. ▪ Coniferous shelterbelts and small native woodlands form a distinct pattern across the undulating pastures of Glen Rinnes and Glenlivet. ▪ These valleys are not readily visible from adjacent character types due to their visual containment, they are well settled and contain main roads increasing visual sensitivity.	
NS 290	Upland Moorland and Forestry Contains MWELCS: ▪ 10. Upland Moorland and Forestry	14.5 km south east	▪ 290. Upland Moorland and Forestry (NS) ▪ The two areas of Upland Moorland and Forestry LCT are separated by the Narrow Wooded Valley - Moray & Nairn of the River Findhorn LCT. ▪ The LCT forms a transition zone between the higher Open Upland (NS 292) to the south, and Rolling Farmland and Forests (NS 285) to the north. ▪ The transition to these rolling hills is often indefinite, reflecting the gradually falling elevation and merging patterns of land cover. ▪ Widely spaced, broad, rounded hills and upland plateau with smooth, even, gentle slopes. ▪ Generally simple, large scale landscape with expansive scale of interior plateau area. ▪ More defined, higher hills on edge of the interior plateau, forming landmark features from the adjacent lower lying landscapes to the north and south and providing a backdrop to these. ▪ Predominantly simple landcover of extensive, geometric conifer forests and heather moorland. ▪ Large scale commercial forestry blankets much of the mid and upper slopes, many of which are undergoing deforestation and restocking. The differing tree heights and open areas of landcover disturbance are prominent on the simple broad slopes, reinforced by the wider resurfaced forest roads upgraded for timber extraction. ▪ More intimate farmed landscapes at the margins and close to burns and roads, with farms, small holdings and marginal pastures. ▪ Large expanses of un-settled areas, with settlement very sparsely scattered near the very few roads. ▪ Largely inaccessible core area with relatively limited visibility in from surrounding landscapes. ▪ Regenerating native trees and lone pine trees in moorland areas. ▪ Windfarm development both within the LCT and in adjacent landscapes. ▪ Small number of built features which are generally visually separated by distance, and do not coalesce to create visual confusion. ▪ Central areas away from public roads have relatively strong wild character, due to their remoteness, rugged terrain and perceived naturalness. ▪ Extensive views out of this landscape, through gaps in the forestry cover, to the north and to the south from elevated areas. ▪ 10. Upland Moorland and Forestry ▪ A gently undulating plateau-like landform with smooth even slopes. ▪ Simple land cover of extensive coniferous forestry and moorland. ▪ Very sparsely settled and accommodates a number of wind farm developments. ▪ The more defined and higher hills found on the outer edges of lower-lying basins and interior hills are important in providing an immediate backdrop to smaller scale, settled valleys. ▪ Not notably well-used for recreation. ▪ visibility of the interior of this upland plateau is restricted from roads and settlement due to its relative extensiveness and isolation. ▪ Provide a backdrop the *Coastal Farmlands (MWELCS 4*) in the north of Moray. ▪ The skyline is generally even, and the distinctive hills of Brown Muir and Mill Buie form landmark features in views from the north.	▪ NS 290: Medium ▪ MWELCS 10: Medium Value – Medium: Small areas of the Spey Valley SLA are located on the edge of this LCT. Restricted access and sparse settlement pattern. Susceptibility – Medium: Extensive areas of forestry, with associated access tracks present within the landscape. Simple land cover – forestry and moorland. Views to Rothes I and II Wind Farms in adjacent landscape influence character of LCT. Defined hills within LCT provide a landmark backdrop to settlements in the wider area.
NS 291	Open Rolling Upland Contains MWELCS: ▪ 11. Open Rolling Upland	21.4 km east south east	▪ 291. Open Rolling Upland (NS) ▪ This Open Rolling Upland LCT is represented in one extensive tract of open uplands in the south west of Moray cut through by the River Findhorn to form two areas, located on the northern part of Dava Moor and the foothills of the Strathdearn Hills to the south. ▪ It forms a relatively narrow band of broad rounded hills, interspersed with shallow valleys and low-lying moss adjacent to the generally lower Upland Moorland and Forestry. ▪ The landscape forms part of a more extensive area of similar upland extending south and west into Highland Council area. ▪ High, rolling moorland with gentle gradients and limited relief in the west becomes hillier in the eastern reaches. ▪ Simple, rolling landscape of heather moorland and grassland, with few plantations or structures, and the contrasting setting it provides for the occasional farmed valleys at the margins and close to roads. ▪ Interest provided by occasional natural and built point features in the simple landscape, such as lochans, summits, small farms, stone bridges, crofts and abandoned shielings.	▪ NS 291: Medium ▪ MWELCS 11: Medium Value – Medium: Dava Way long-distance trail passes through LCT. Sense of naturalness can be associated with some small areas of landscape however the presence of wind farm development reduces sense of wildness overall. Susceptibility – Medium: Expansive and open large-scale landscape with some smaller scale valleys and prominent hills. Generally simple landform. Paul's Hill and Berry Burn Wind Farms

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			▪ General lack of modern structures (pylons, wind turbines, masts and houses), particularly in the central area close to roads and the Dava Way, from where most people experience the area. However due to the openness of this landscape there are views to commercial wind energy development in neighbouring areas to the east. ▪ Elevated, open and expansive views across the landscape, and long-distance views from the edge of the plateau to the north and south. Difference in extent and focus of views between east and west. ▪ Sense of remoteness from lack of roads and built development, coupled with abandoned buildings, rail lines and historic roads.	located within LCT. Transmission infrastructure located in the north west.
			▪ 11. Open Rolling Upland ▪ Upland plateau of rounded hills, some of these are well-defined such as the Knock of Braemoray and Roy's Hill, and the broad low lying basin of Moidach More. ▪ Smaller, more complex knolly hills and lochans occur to the north of Carn Kitty. ▪ Simple land cover of grass and heather moorland with semi-improved pastures and moss on lower hill slopes and within low lying basins. ▪ Sparsely settled with small farms associated with the shallow valleys of the River Divie and Dorback Burn on northern and western fringes. ▪ Areas of diverse regenerating native woodlands and heather are a feature within these valleys. ▪ A very sparsely settled area with only limited views possible into the interior uplands and basins from roads and settlement in the surrounding area. Landmark hills on the fringes of these uplands form key foci in views from well-used roads. ▪ Operational wind farm development at Berry Burn and Pauls Hill.	
NS 293	Low Forested Hills Contains MWELCS: ▪ 8a. Broad Forested Hills with Upland Farmland	16.2 km south south east	▪ 293. Low Forested Hills ▪ The Low Forested Hills LCT occurs in eastern Moray as a ridge of tree-covered higher ground running east west, located to the south of the Coastal Farmlands – Moray and Nairn. ▪ A ridge of higher ground between the coastal farmland to the north and the upland farmland basin to the south. ▪ Steeper slopes to the north descend from about 300 m to the coastal plain; gentler southern slopes descend to the upland farmland of 100 m to 150 m. ▪ Extensive woodland, mostly coniferous, caps the higher ground. It also occurs to lower levels on the sharper north and western slopes. ▪ Pastoral fields, mostly divided by fences, adjoin the lower edges of the forestry. ▪ Infrequent farmsteads and cottages are served by a network of minor roads. ▪ Views are extensive from this higher ground which feels relatively remote and contrasts with the neighbouring busier areas to the north and south.	▪ NS293: High ▪ MWELCS 8a: High Value – High: Not designated. Low recreational use. LCT forms a simple, generally wooded, skyline to the surrounding lower farmed land, coast and valleys. Landscape contains landmark hills and forms backdrops to more settled areas, providing a sense of place. Susceptibility – High: Majority of LCT has a simple landform of gentle slopes, broad indistinct summits and rounded ridges. More defined conical hills of Binn of Cullen and Meikle Balloch are highly sensitive to wind turbine development. LCT contrasts with the busier, more intensively farmed areas that surround it. Lack of through-routes means it can be perceived as relatively remote.
			▪ 8a. Broad Forested Hills with Upland Farmland ▪ Comprises the predominantly forested broader hills and upland plateaux which contain the lower and more settled *Upland Farmland (MWELCS 8)*. ▪ Although the majority of these upland areas have a simple landform of gentle slopes, broad indistinct summits and rounded ridges, the more defined conical 'landmark' hills of Binn of Cullen and Meikle Balloch also occur. ▪ Very sparsely settled although they are surrounded by well settled and farmed lowland landscapes increasing sensitivity in relation to wider landscape context and views. ▪ While the landmark hills within this character type are visually prominent, forested plateaux and broad ridges form relatively low and even containing skylines to adjacent character types. ▪ In some areas, parts of these upland areas form the backdrop to Fochabers, the Gordon Castle designed landscape and the Spey.	
NS 294	Upland Valleys Contains MWELCS: ▪ 13. Narrow Farmed Valley	Host LCT (Red Line Boundary only – no infrastructure)	▪ 294. Upland Valleys ▪ Narrow, incised, enclosed glens merging with lower hill slopes containing them, with some hill spurs and side valleys. ▪ Winding sinuous river channels with an undulating valley floor. ▪ Mainly agricultural land use with improved pasture, predominantly sheep grazed, and arable land on narrow valley floor contrasting with open heather and rough grass of higher slopes. ▪ Mature deciduous and mixed woodlands aligned along rivers and burns creating intimate scale landscape, with large scale geometric conifer forests on valley sides. ▪ Simple landcover of upper slopes and surrounding hills contrasting with more intricate valley floor vegetation patterns. ▪ Dispersed settlement of traditional farmsteads and houses, well integrated into the lower valley landscapes. ▪ Distilleries with distinctive modern buildings. ▪ Scenic B roads following the valley floors, which are popular recreation routes used to access walking routes into the hills and the whisky trail. ▪ Views to the distinctively profiled Ben Rinnes which sits between the valleys.	▪ NS 294: High ▪ MWELCS 13: High Value – High: Part of the Ben Rinnes SLA, and the route of the Speyside Way Long Distance Path. Landscape reflects the strong sense of history in the area, with archaeological landforms such as the geometric, mounded hill of Ring Cairns and important medieval castles such as the Tower of Drumin in Strathavon. Susceptibility – High: Valleys are narrow and have a small to medium scale which is reinforced by a well-settled character. Strongly contained by steep farmed and wooded slopes with

Table 5.2.2: Description of Landscape Character Types

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Types and Units[3]	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Key Characteristics (NatureScot)	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
			▪ 13. Narrow Farmed Valley ▪ LCT covers the valleys of the upper Isla, the lower Fiddich, Glen Rinnes, Glenlivet and the upper Deveron. ▪ Valleys are narrow and have a small to medium scale which is reinforced by their well-settled character. ▪ Strongly contained by steep farmed and wooded slopes with adjacent uplands forming immediate skyline ridges. ▪ The Deveron and upper Isla valleys have a particularly diverse land cover with mixed policy woodlands and avenue trees contributing to the richness of well-managed farmland. ▪ Coniferous shelterbelts and small native woodlands form a distinct pattern across the undulating pastures of Glen Rinnes and Glenlivet. ▪ These valleys are not readily visible from adjacent character types due to their visual containment, they are well settled and contain main roads increasing visual sensitivity.	adjacent uplands forming immediate skyline ridges.

TA 5.3: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Technical Appendix 5.3: Designated and Classified Landscapes

1.1.1 Designated landscapes within 45 kilometres (km) of the Proposed Development are presented in Figure 5.3a (Volume 3a) and summarised in Table 5.3.1 below. Table 5.3.2 describes only those designations or classifications which would have potential visibility of the Proposed Development. The assessment of residual effects on landscape designations and classifications is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

1.1.2 For the sake of this assessment all designated and classified landscapes are considered to be of High sensitivity.

Table 5.3.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within 45 km Study Area

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Included in Assessment
National Park (NP)		
Cairngorms National Park (CNP)	13.14 km north	Yes
National Scenic Area (NSA)		
Cairngorm Mountains	34.4 km north east	Yes
Special Landscape Area (SLA)		
Moray Council		
Ben Rinnes	3.9 km south east	Yes
Spey Valley	11.5 km south east	Yes
Deveron Valley	16.5 km south west	Yes
Pluscarden Valley	31.8 km south east	No – limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.
Findhorn Valley and the Wooded Estates	37.5 km south east	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development.
Cublin to Burghead Coast	41.7 km south east	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development.
Cluny Hill	41.5 km south east	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development.
Burghead to Lossiemouth Coast	36.4 km south south east	No – There is limited theoretical and actual visibility of the Proposed Development from within the SLA. The SLA is designated for its richly complex array of other rocky landform features, including the highest cliffs in Moray. At a distance of over 35 km from the SLA, the Proposed Development would form a minor feature in long distance views and would not significantly impact upon the character or special qualities of the SLA.
Quarrelwood	33.3 km south east	No – Quarrelwood comprises a mixed woodland sited on a low ridge on the western edge of Elgin. The ZTV indicates visibility across a high proportion of the SLA, however due to the level of dense woodland, which is present within the designated area, there is unlikely to be views of the Proposed Development, and any possible views would be filtered and distant. Any resulting impact on the special qualities of the designation would be negligible.
Spynie	32.4 km south south east	No – the ZTV indicates that between 1 and 4 turbines would be theoretically visible from within the SLA, however due to the level of woodland within the designation boundary it is considered unlikely that actual views would be available to the extent where the special qualities of the SLA would be altered.
Lossiemouth to Portgordon Coast	28.9 km south south east	No – The SLA marks a distinct change in the character of the coastal edge from the long, predominantly cobbled, beach characteristic of this SLA, to a rocky and settled coastline in the east. At a distance of over 30 km from the SLA, the Proposed Development would not significantly impact upon the character or special qualities of the SLA.
Lower Spey and Gordon Castle Policies	23 km south south east	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development.
Portgordon to Cullen Coast	28.3 km south south west	No – marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.
Aberdeenshire Council		

Table 5.3.1: Designated and Classified Landscapes within 45 km Study Area

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Included in Assessment
1. North Aberdeenshire Coast	32 km south south west	No – the SLA is designated for its coastal edge, beaches, cultural connections, elemental qualities, recreational qualities and nature conservation interests due to its location on the north coast of Aberdeenshire. It is considered that the Proposed Development, at a distance of over 30 km from the SLA boundary, would not perceptibly impact upon these qualities.
4. Deveron Valley	3.14 km south south west	Yes
5. Bennachie	18.4 km west	Yes
6. Upper Don Valley	17.1 km north west	Yes
7. Howe of Cromar	26.3 km north north west	No – marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.
8. Dee Valley	48.2 km north west	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development.
9. Clachaben + Forest of Birse	42.9 km north north west	No – no visibility of the Proposed Development within the study area.
The Highland Council		
Drynachan, Lochindorb and Dava Moors	27 km east south east	No – marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.
Wild Land Areas (WLA)		
Cairngorms (WLA 15)	31.3 km north north east	No - Given the distances between the WLA and the Proposed Development, and the marginal/no blade tip visibility shown on the ZTV, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would result in significant effects on the physical attributes and perceptual responses that contribute to the qualities of this WLA. Further information is provided in Section 5.4 of Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Lochnager – Mount Keen (WLA 16)	40 km north	No - Given the distances between the WLA and the Proposed Development, and the marginal/no blade tip visibility shown on the ZTV, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would result in significant effects on the physical attributes and perceptual responses that contribute to the qualities of this WLA. Further information is provided in Section 5.4 of Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)		
Innes House	29.7 km south south east	No – at a distance of over 29 km from the Proposed Development, and the level of woodland surrounding Innes House and gardens it is considered unlikely the Proposed Development would be a notable feature from within the designated area.
Craigievar Castle	29.8 km north west	No – the ZTV indicates visibility of the Proposed Development from the northern edge of the GDL, however existing woodland cover in this area would screen any actual views to the Proposed Development.
Forglen	31.9 km west south west	No – at a distance of over 30 km from the Proposed Development, and the level of woodland and other features within the intervening landscape, it is considered that the Proposed Development would be an indiscernible feature from within the designated area.
Hatton Castle	37.1 km west south west	No – the ZTV indicates visibility of the Proposed Development from the elevated eastern area of the GDL, however existing woodland and forestry cover in this area would screen any actual views to the Proposed Development.
Keith Hall	41.1 km west	No – at a distance of 40 km from the Proposed Development, the level of woodland, the nature of topography within the GDL (not picked up by the DTM) and existing features within the intervening landscape, it is considered unlikely the Proposed Development would be a discernible feature from within the designated area.

Table 5.3.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
National Park		
Cairngorms NP[1] (CNP)	13.14 km north	In light of the restricted theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from the NP, and the distance from the Site meaning the Proposed Development would be seen in the background of longer distance views from the Park, the special qualities of the CNP as set out in the CNPA Landscape Toolkit have been reviewed in order to assess those which are most likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development. The following Special Qualities have been identified as requiring assessment as the experience of these is influenced by activities occurring outwith the National Park,

[1] Text adopted from: Cairngorms National Park Authority Landscape Toolkit [accessed: https://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/cairngorms-landscapes/cairngorms-special-landscape-qualities/]

Table 5.3.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		rather than only from the physical aspects of the Park itself. Given the size and scale of the Proposed Development, it has the potential to impact upon these qualities. This approach was agreed with NatureScot, the Moray Council and Aberdeenshire Council during an LVIA Consultation meeting on 10 June 2021. General Qualities Landscapes Both Cultural and Natural At the lower altitudes the land has been long-inhabited, with patterns of land use, settlement and transport derived from the primary industries of farming, forestry and field sports. In contrast, the highest ground comprises uninhabited wild land of moor and mountain, with the greatest extent of natural vegetation and landform in the British Isles. Hence within this large area can be found both cultural landscapes, with a rich history of human occupation, and natural, wild landscapes under the dominion of nature. Visual and Sensory Qualities Grand Panoramas and Framed Views Vast and distant panoramic views are frequent throughout the Park, made possible by open landscapes and elevated viewpoints, and visibility and colours always highly susceptible to changing weather and season. Views range from broad pastoral straths of green, improved pasture; middle-distance open, rolling hills of brown heather moor, with woodland at lower levels; and far distant, exposed, wild mountain terrain. The assemblage of landscape features is aesthetically pleasing, with views often framed by vegetation and landform, and the eye led to an inviting arrangement of hill slopes and glens. A Landscape of Many Colours All Scottish landscapes are visually reflective of seasonal and weather-related changes. Fresh, luminous spring growth and rich autumn hues are a universal and life-enriching feature of rural Scotland. The Park however possesses characteristics which make its colours distinctive and recognisable. These derive from its combination of bedrock, natural vegetation, lochs and rivers, land management and microclimate, and include the distinctive dark green canopy and orange bark of Scots pine; the hillside patchworks of muirburn with its various subtle hues; the brilliant white snow fields and snow patches; the lochs nestled in woodland brightly reflecting the sky; the pink granite sparkling in a sharp winter sun; and the cloak of purple heather in late summer. Dark Skies At night, even the complete absence of colour, a pitch-black sky bespeckled only with the light of the stars, is a distinctive feature as dark skies become increasingly rare in Britain. Recreation Spirituality For those seeking peace and escape from modern intrusions, solitude in this vast landscape can be readily found. Whether it is sought on the highest exposed peaks, the still calm of a pine forest or far into the heather-clad hills, the beauty of the landscape and dominance of nature prevails.
National Scenic Area		
Cairngorm Mountains NSA	34.4 km north east	The NSA within the Cairngorms (CNP) is centred on the highest mountain plateau at the core of the park. However, it also covers lower hills and areas of moorland, woodland and inhabited strath which characterise much of the park. As the NSA is located within the CNP, the key characteristics of the NSA are described in Appendix 1 of the NS Commissioned Report No 375: "The special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park". These are detailed below: "*Appendix 1: National Scenic Areas within the Cairngorms National Park – Description from Scotland's Scenic Heritage, 1978*[2] *The granite plateau of the Cairngorm Mountains forms the most extensive area of land above 1,000 metres anywhere in Britain. Its height is less immediately apparent than its bulk, but there are four summits over 1,200 metres (Cairngorm, Ben Macdhui, Cairn Tool and Braeriach) while three others, Cairn Lochan, Beinn a'Bhuird and Ben Avon are nearly so. The high plateau is bleak and bare, and it is the immensity of scale, once realised, which impresses. Its edges are glacially sculptured into huge corries which excel in grandeur to anything to be found elsewhere in Scotland, with the exception of Coire Leis of Ben Nevis".* *This scale "…with the vast corries, the massive slopes, the long passes, the wide skies, and the very bareness of the ground, where the elements work with a power not known at lower altitudes gives to these plateaux their distinctive quality." (Murray, 1962).* *The edge of the plateau, where not etched by corries, is well defined by long smooth steep slopes which, seen from Spey side or Dee side, rise in tiers. Snow lies for a long time at the top of these slopes. Lower down, deer forest, sheep grazing, and forestry assume a greater importance in the appearance of the landscape. It is the forests around the plateau foot which for many people characterise the Cairngorm Mountains; three extensive and differing remnants of the native Caledonian Pine Forest occur at Rothiemurchus and Abernethy, Glen Feshie, and Mar.* *In Rothiemurchus the pines on the upper forest slopes give way to a mixture of pine and birch, and then to the rich policy woodlands of Strathspey. The forests are deeply carpeted with heather, blaeberry and other flora, and the woods are interspersed with lochans of varying character, and views culminating in the peaty waters of the Spey itself. Glen Feshie is wilder and sterner, the pines mature and solitary, interspersed with juniper.* *The river dominates in this forest, a great, braided, mountain stream with shingle beds cast over an uneven flood plain, almost continental in scale.* *"Mar Forest is different yet again. Higher, and therefore less rich than Rothiemurchus in its flora, it graduates from birch, pine, and fir to massive pines alone, again with a ground cover of heather and blaeberry. Like Glen Feshie the rivers are important here but not for their scale and grandeur. They are noisy burns dashing over granite boulders washed brightly pink by their clear waters, a lively element in the landscape. These wooded flanks of the Cairngorm plateau form a setting of rare beauty for the mountain massif, and, are in turn enhanced by the mountain backdrop*."
Special Landscape Area		
Moray Council[3]		

[2] Text adopted from: Scottish Natural Heritage and Cairngorms National Park Authority (2010). The special landscape qualities of the Cairngorms National Park. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report, No.375 (iBids and Project no 648) [accessed: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/Publication%202010%20-%20SNH%20Commissioned%20Report%20375%20-%20The%20Special%20Landscape%20Qualities%20of%20the%20Cairngorms%20National%20Park.pdf]

[3] Text adopted from Carol Anderson Landscape Architects (2018) Moray Local Landscape Designation Review [retrieved from: http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file124520.pdf accessed 12/03/2021]

Table 5.3.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
Ben Rinnes	3.9 km south east	This landscape forms part of the wider setting to Cairngorms National Park with remote uplands and sparsely settled glens displaying similar characteristics to the landscapes within the Park. It is important in comprising the remaining area of relatively little modified uplands within Moray as well as accommodating Moray's highest hill, Ben Rinnes, which is particularly popular with walkers. Ben Rinnes forms a dominant landmark feature seen beyond Moray's boundaries due to its height (840 m), its isolation from other hills and its distinctive form. This hill can appear conical in views from the west where its sharp summit and steep slopes above Glen Rinnes are appreciated although from the east across the Spey Valley, its curving flanks, interrupted by occasional granite tors, give a broad and more bulky form. The smaller twin hills of Meikle Conval and Little Conval, which provide an attractive backdrop to the settlement of Dufftown, echo the smooth and steep-sided form of Ben Rinnes. Uplands between Glen Rinnes and Glen Fiddich have a sinuous sculpted appearance with flowing slopes and rounded tops, deeply dissected by narrow valleys. The high twisting ridge stretching between Corryhabbie Hill and Carn an t-Suidhe has a particularly dramatic presence in views from Glen Livet. The uplands within this candidate SLA are largely covered with heather moorland which produces a dazzling display during flowering in late July and August. Glen Rinnes and Glen Livet form tranquil and relatively little developed glens which are strongly contained by steep-sided uplands. Small farms, undulating walled pastures and often extensive birch riparian woodlands are dramatically back-dropped by steep heathery hills. The narrow Glen Fiddich is more remote with the ruinous Glenfiddich Lodge nestling close to a tight curve in the river. Glen Suie, which continues over the bealach near Morton's Way to link with Glen Livet in the south, is similarly unsettled with some abandoned buildings. The 14th century Auchindoun Castle, a former tower house with a great vaulted hall, occupies a strategic position, set on a knoll high above a loop in the River Fiddich. Extensive birch woodlands trace the river and extend into the steep-sided gullies which cut into the hills which provide a dramatic immediate setting to the castle to the south east. Part of the National Inventory designated Battle of Glenlivet site (1594) extends into the south western edge of these uplands. The battle is nationally significant as it represents the religious struggles between Presbyterians and Catholics in Scotland at the time and saw the first use of artillery in the Highlands. The Corbett hill of Ben Rinnes and the two Conval Hills are very popular with walkers. The hills between Glens Rinnes and Fiddich are less frequented but accommodate a network of Heritage Routes used by mountain bikers and walkers. Distilleries are present within Glen Rinnes and Glenlivet with some of these comprising attractive historic buildings and adding to the romance associated with this landscape. Beneath the heather on the lower flanks of this range of hills lie numerous remains of prehistoric settlement, including field clearance cairns and roundhouses, many of which are deemed regionally significant in importance. This sense of longevity of human activity within this wilder part of Moray is further enhanced with the remains of a prehistoric hillfort surrounding the summit of Little Conval.
Spey Valley	11.5 km south east	The diverse and handsome landscape of broad gently weaving river, floodplain farmland, wooded valley sides and distinctive settlements together with the romance associated with the Spey due to its connection with whisky distilling are key reasons for designation of this SLA. The broad and open floodplain of the Spey south of Fochabers narrows further upstream where the valley is increasingly constrained by steep hillsides. The Spey is aligned close to a scarp on the lower slopes of Ordiequish Hill in the east where the bright orange rainwater eroded sandstone Earth Pillars form an arresting natural feature. The middle section of the valley is strongly contained on both sides by steep wooded slopes including those of the prominent heather-capped hill of Ben Aigan which looms over the valley. The river forms tight loops defining arcs of floodplain arable fields and pasture. The Spey is wide and occasionally braided forming banks of cobbles and vegetated islands. Grassy verges and tracks commonly line the banks of the river and provide access for fishing while small timber fishing huts are a regular feature. Occasional rocky cliffs occur against the river and the valley is particularly incised west of Craigellachie with only small areas of floodplain present. Relatively large farms are present in the Inchberry to Fochabers area raised on slightly elevated ground above the floodplain west of the Spey. Extensive clipped beech hedges edge fields and roads in the Dipple area. Smaller farms and houses are sited close to the minor road which forms the route for the Speyside Way on the east side of the valley between Fochabers and Boat o' Brig. Steep slopes and terraces, backed by extensive coniferous forest, accommodate small species-rich pastures and mixed woodlands fringed by ferns and gorse. This area has an intimate scale and more tranquil nature than the western side of the river in this area which is more intensively farmed and accommodates busy roads and the railway. Narrow shelves of farmland and the retained historic field patterns of small croft houses and farms are perched above the floodplain of the Spey to the north east of Rothes although increasingly in the middle sections of the valley within this candidate SLA, the forested side slopes of hills dominate. The candidate SLA area extends beyond the narrow confines of the more incised river valley west of Aberlour to include the broad stepped shoulders of land in the Archiestown and Knockando area. Again, around Knockando the historic field patterns survive, adding further to the sense of longevity of human activity in the landscape. Landform is notably complex in the Knockando area where a number of small tributary burns cut steeply down to the Spey. Woodlands accentuate the containment of the landscape and this area has an intimate scale and a timeless character enhanced by the presence of smaller distilleries, the restored Victorian woollen mill, a historic kirk and an old railway station set within folded hills and valleys. The Spey Valley has a rich cultural heritage which complements the diversity of its woodlands and farmland. The Early Medieval period, survives as a series of Scheduled Pictish symbol stones overlooking the Spey at Inveravon Parish Church, Knockando Parish Church, and Arndilly House. The flat floodplain to the north of Craigellachie around Dandaleith – opposite Arndilly House - is also the site of the most recent discovery of a new Pictish stone in the region in 2013, one which is unique in terms of carving. Interesting architectural features enrich this landscape and include traditional (and not so traditional) distilleries, the 16th century Ballindalloch Castle, numerous estate lodges, Telford's graceful high arched bridge spanning the Spey at Craigellachie, the planned settlements of Aberlour and Archiestown and the Victorian settlement of Craigellachie. The distilleries and their history of whisky production in Speyside has led to the area being called the heart of single malt distilling in Scotland. The quality of the water owing to low levels of dissolved minerals, combined with the areas lack of accessibility for whisky tax collectors until the arrival of the railway in the 19th century, led to a boom in distilleries being established along the river. They now form a regular and very recognisable landscape feature with the area. The peaceful Winding Walks close to Fochabers weave through majestic conifers including tall noble fir and western Red cedar crowded into a narrow steep-sided glen. There are other forest walks at the Earth Pillars close-by and the Speyside Way follows minor roads, forest tracks and the banks of the river through this landscape. The association of the Spey valley with whisky distilling attracts visitors and conjures a romantic perception of the landscape and cultural heritage of the area. Views are generally open in the north but become more confined upstream where the valley is contained by steep-sided hills. Adjacent uplands, and particularly the high and distinctive heather-clad Ben Rinnes with its ridgeline tors, are highly visible in the section of the valley west of Craigellachie and form part of the wider setting to this candidate SLA.
Deveron Valley (Moray)	16.5 km south west	Designation of the Deveron Valley acknowledges the high scenic quality resulting from its meandering river bounded by rolling wooded hills, which forms an important setting to settlements along the valley floor and sides, and backdrop to estates. The richly diverse yet harmonious balance of features in the SLA contribute to the special qualities of the area. The importance of the area for connectivity, in terms of roads, water catchments and woodland networks and the presence of an existing SLA covering the Deveron Valley within neighbouring Aberdeenshire is also recognised. The Deveron has a convoluted alignment and this, together with its strong containment by steep slopes, lends it an intimate scale and instils a sense of seclusion. The valley is beautifully curvaceous and the diverse landcover of policy woodlands, shelterbelts, field and avenue trees and occasional native woodlands on undulating lower hill slopes and flat fields on the more open valley floor give

Table 5.3.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		it a richly diverse but harmonious character. Broadleaved woodlands sweep down on steep slopes at the tight loop in the river opposite Tower Hill. The river is often briefly glimpsed through trees from the minor road which is perched on the southern slopes above the floodplain. Rounded wooded and heathery hills (most of these located within the adjacent Deveron Valley SLA in Aberdeenshire) form a backdrop to the valley and contrast with the more patterned and settled valley floor and lower slopes. Long views are possible above Milltown of Rothiemay to the north towards Knock Hill where side slopes are gentler and the valley more open. Settlements and individual buildings contribute to the richness of this landscape. The intact small granite built settlements of Milltown of Rothiemay and Marnoch are located close to the river at bridging points. Overlooking Milltown of Rothiemay lie the remains of a Scheduled recumbent stone-circle while on the other side of the river adjacent to Corskellie lies the remains of a Scheduled cup-marked stone. Both sites are testament to the importance of this landscape in the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age. Sitting above the river downstream of Milltown of Rothiemay and next to the Kirktown Burn is the Scheduled ruin of St Drostan's Church, dedicated to St Peter in medieval times but which is thought to overly an earlier 6th century church founded by St Drostan himself. Some fine estate houses are also sited on lower slopes and include Mayen House, the survivor of a late Georgian villa, surrounded by ornamental grounds with stands of purple beech and exotic conifers and Mains of Mayen, a crowstepped one and a half-storey farmhouse.
Aberdeenshire Council[4]		
4. Deveron Valley (Aberdeenshire)	3.14 km south south west	Designation of the Deveron Valley acknowledges the high scenic quality resulting from its meandering river bounded by rolling wooded hills, which forms an important setting to settlements along the valley floor and sides, and backdrop to castles and estates. The importance of the area for connectivity, in terms of transport corridors, water catchments and woodland networks is also recognised. The Deveron Valley is a farmed landscape, framed by wooded hills and ridges. The valley is unified by the meandering River Deveron, which flows from the hills of Moray into the Moray Firth at Banff Bay. The landscape is a pleasing composition of river, farmland, wooded estates and heather-clad/ forested hills, forming the setting to numerous villages and historic buildings. The Deveron Valley has a strong woodland structure comprising deciduous woodland associated with traditional estates, as well as forested hills, riverside trees and beech hedging. Woodland on the steep sided valleys are important for nature conservation and contribute to the landscape character of this area. There are numerous small settlements and estates with distinctive local architecture. The River Deveron is popular for fishing of salmon, sea trout and brown trout. Other opportunities for recreation include canoeing, walking, cycling and golf. Some of the hills enclosing the valley provide opportunities for panoramic views across the Deveron and beyond, including Fourman Hill, a Marilyn on the boundary with Moray, south east of Milltown of Rothiemay. Views across the valley from the A97 are also available, e.g. south of Aberchirder. The following aspects and features of this landscape are considered worthy of recognition through SLA designation: • Meandering river framed by rolling wooded hills and ridges, providing views into the valley. • Strong network of woodland throughout the valley provides landscape structure and wildlife habitat. A variety of woodland types include coniferous plantations, deciduous hilltop copses, shelter belts and a wealth of roadside trees including beech and ash. • The presence of historic estates has a strong influence along the river, including parkland around Duff House, Forglen and others, but more generally in the wooded landscape. • The valley landscape forms an important part of the setting of various settlements, including the planned town of Huntly and the market town of Turriff. • Distinctive local granite architecture displayed in villages and towns, farms and most notably in castles such as Huntly. • The attractive landscape makes the Deveron a popular setting for a range of outdoor recreation including fishing, canoeing, walking and cycling, with the NCN Route 1 between Banff and Turriff. • A continuous valley landscape, from the hills to the sea.
5. Bennachie	18.4 km west	Designation of Bennachie and its setting recognises its importance to Aberdeenshire's landscape identity, its popularity with visitors and its intervisibility with the surrounding landscape. Designation also recognises the contribution of the moorland spurs to scenic qualities of the area, by forming dark ridges across the skyline which contrasts with the green lowlands. The Bennachie ridge is part of the Grampian Outliers, and comprises a series of rounded hills – Suie Hill in the west and Mither Tap in the east. Oxen Craig is the highest point on the ridge, although Mither Tap has the most distinctive profile. Bennachie is an iconic landform, visible from much of the wider Aberdeenshire area. The hills are blanketed with moorland and forestry, with rocky outcrops at the higher summits. This moorland and forestry forms a dark ridge seen across the skyline from the farmed and wooded lowlands. Bennachie has numerous historic features, including an Iron Age hill fort at the summit of Mither Tap, and cairns on other summits. The Maiden Stone is a Pictish symbol-bearing slab of pink granite, located near Garioch. The Place of Origin is a modern sculpture, located overlooking the quarry at Kemnay. There are spectacular views over the surrounding lowlands from the hill summits, and conversely the series of hills is widely visible from the surrounding lowlands, forming a distinctive focal point in views. Bennachie is visible from the A944 to the south and A96 to the north and east. The upland areas have an intact landcover of heather moorland and forestry, supporting wildlife such as cuckoos, red squirrels and roe deer. The hills provide opportunities to experience tranquillity and solitude, whilst being in proximity to farmed and settled lowland areas. The following aspects and features of this landscape are considered worthy of recognition through SLA designation: • Bennachie is the iconic hill of central Aberdeenshire, instantly recognisable from across the wider landscape, in both long and short range views. • Intact landcover of heather moorland on the main Bennachie ridge. • Extensive woodland across lowland and upland, including native woods, estate policies and forestry plantations, with a substantial amount recognised as ancient woodland. • Hill forts are found on summits such as Mither Tap and Tillymuick, with cairns and other features emphasising the long history of settlement.

[4] Text adopted from: Aberdeenshire Council (2017) Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance – Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas [accessed: https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20071/9-special-landscape-areas-part-1.pdf] and Aberdeenshire Council (2021) Proposed Local Development Plan (Stage 2/ non-adopted) Appendix 13 Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas [accessed: https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldpmedia/pldp2020/Appendix13AberdeenshireSpecialLandscapeAreas.pdf]

Table 5.3.2: Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation	Distance and Direction from the Designated Landscape to the nearest Turbine	Key Characteristics & Special Qualities
		• The River Don is a key feature of Aberdeenshire, meandering through the upland glen south of Bennachie, and across the farmland around Kemnay. • The farmland to the east provides the setting to Bennachie, but also typifies lowland Aberdeenshire with its mosaic of wooded estates and open farmland. • A hugely popular area, with walkers enjoying the spectacular views from the Bennachie summits, and Pitfichie being a centre for mountain biking. • Panoramic views from the upland areas, particularly from the Bennachie summits, over the Don Valley and beyond to the patchwork of Aberdeenshire farmland.
6. Upper Don Valley	17.1 km north west	Designation of the upper Don Valley and enclosing ridges recognises the high scenic qualities of its rolling wooded hills enclosing steep sided gorges and wider straths. The naturalness and connectivity created by the river corridor, woodland network and relationship with the adjacent Cairngorms National Park are also seen in this area. The Upper Don Valley comprises rolling arable and pastoral farmland, bisected by the meandering River Don and contained by hills blanketed in open moorland and woodland. The A97 (Highland Tourist Route) passes through this area and is seen as a gateway into the Cairngorms National Park to the west. The A944 runs along the valley floor parallel to the River Don, and passes through an attractive wooded gorge west of Alford. The Don is one of Aberdeenshire's major rivers, with a strong identity. The Upper Don Valley is well wooded, with both broadleaved woodland and coniferous forestry. There are numerous features of built heritage interest, including a cairn on Lord Arthur's Hill and the medieval Kildrummy Castle. There are small settlements and scattered farmsteads along roads, built with traditional materials. The Don Valley is a gateway into the Cairngorms National Park, and attractive drives are available along both the A944 and A97. Higher hills within the Cairngorms National Park are visible beyond those enclosing the valley. The Upper Don valley is farmed and settled, with accessible hills, and does not display true wildness characteristics although the network of meandering rivers, burns and woodland contributes to naturalness within the landscape. The following aspects and features of this landscape are considered worthy of recognition through SLA designation: • Distinctive valley landforms, including the steep sided gorge west of Alford and the wider strath around Kildrummy. • The Don is contained by rolling wooded hills with attractive broadleaved woodland and a patchwork of arable farmland and pasture. • Broad open moorland forms the backdrop to views along and across the strath, including views to the higher hills within the Cairngorms National Park. • Moorland ridges extend almost to the river in places, creating an interlocking visual pattern of upland and lowland. • Substantial and well visited built heritage features include the medieval Kildrummy Castle and its more recent namesake and associated gardens. The designed landscape of Glenkindie House has an influence on the approach to the National Park. • An agricultural but sparsely settled landscape, the settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms, often featuring traditional granite buildings set in small woodlands, rather than nucleated villages. • The meandering, occasionally braided River Don is a key river that contributes to the identity of Aberdeenshire, forming a link between the mountains and the sea. • The Don valley is the route of the A97 Highland Tourist Route, a major gateway into the National Park, with glimpses into the higher hills west of Glenkindie. • The southern ridge of Balderonoch Hill, Broom Hill and The Socach offers panoramic views for walkers over Strathdon and south into the Howe of Cromar.

TA 5.4: Residual Effects on Landscape Character Types

Technical Appendix 5.4: Residual Effects on Landscape Character Types

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
NS 292 See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 5: Ben Aigan (Figure 5.13a – 13f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 6: Ben Rinnes (Figure 5.14a – 5.14j) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 7: Corryhabbie Hill (Figure 5.15a – 5.15h) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 19: A941 Upper Howbog near Cabrach (Figure 5.27a – 27f)	Open Upland Contains Moray Wind Energy Landscape Capacity Study (MWELCS): ▪ 12a: Open Upland with Steep Slopes ▪ 12b: Open Upland with Settled Glens	NS 292: Host LCT ▪ MWELCS 12a: 1.6 km east ▪ MWELCS 12b: Host LCT	NS 292: High ▪ MWELCS 12a: High ▪ MWELCS 12b: High	The magnitude of impact on the 12b Open Upland with Settled Glens would be Substantial at the Site, reducing to Moderate across the wider LCT unit. The magnitude of impact on the 12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes would be Slight. The Proposed Development would be located within the 12b Open Upland with Settled Glens unit of the Open Upland LCT. The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility would be extensive across this LCT unit, particularly within 5 km of the Proposed Development. The pattern of visibility reflects the gentler landform, in the LCT, with large areas of ZTV coverage across the gentle slopes and rounded summits of the upland hills. Views from lower lying areas such as the shallow basins at Cabrach, and areas in the lee of hills, would be screened by intervening topography leaving gaps in the ZTV coverage. The Proposed Development would introduce new, large-scale infrastructure and vertical features across a currently undeveloped, simple upland landscape that currently has few distinctive elements. Felling in forested areas of the LCT is an existing characteristic of the landscape in and around the Site. The Proposed Development would result in the considerable loss of characteristic landcover elements such as moorland and forest. However, impacts from forestry removal would be temporary until replacement planting has time to mature. The Proposed Development would introduce wind energy development across a minor upland ridgeline which outcrops above the Deveron and Markie Water valleys. It would add complexity and movement to the	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* would be Substantial. The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes* would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development into LCT unit 12b would considerably increase the influence of wind energy development on the character of the open upland landscape, particularly across elevated summits and the southern most extent of the Deveron Valley. The Proposed Development would result in a notable increase in the influence of large scale turbines across LCT unit. Within the neighbouring LCT unit 12a, the addition of the Proposed Development would represent a discernible increase in the influence of wind energy development across the more elevated parts of the adjacent LCT unit. The Proposed Development would be viewed as a separate cluster of development across open moorland landscape, in the context of existing development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch. Influence from Hill of Towie and Berry Burn/ Pauls Hill/ Rothes I and II also extend across the western area of this LCT unit. The addition of the Proposed Development would not affect the role of this LCT unit as the setting to the valley landscapes of Glen Rinnes and Strath Spey, nor would it impact upon the landmark status of Ben Rinnes from within these areas. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* would be Moderate.	Open Upland with Settled Glens LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major** (Significant) to Moderate (Not significant). Significant effects would occur within the landscape of the Site and in the area surrounding the Proposed Development where ZTV coverage is almost continuous. Significant effects would, however, reduce to the south of the LCT unit where the presence of Dorenell Wind Farm forms a key influence on the landscape, and where distance reduces the prominence of the Proposed Development. The introduction of the Proposed Development would significantly increase the prominence of wind energy developments to the north of the LCT but would serve to consolidate the pattern of existing development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch, in-filling an area of landscape between these two developments. Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): Moderate (Not significant). The Proposed Development would pose no significant effect on the role of the LCT unit as a backdrop/ setting to Glen Rinnes and Strath Spey. It would not detract from the perceived size or scale of Ben Rinnes from within the LCT or from the adjacent valley landscapes. When viewed from elevated areas, the Proposed Development would be viewed in an expansive landscape view, in the context of a high degree of existing/ consented wind farm development.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Open Upland with Settled Glens LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major** (Significant). The introduction of the Proposed Development would considerably increase the influence of wind energy developments across the north and west of the LCT unit. However, the Proposed Development would begin to consolidate the existing pattern of development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch, in-filling an area of landscape between these two developments. *Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a):* Moderate (Not significant). The Proposed Development would not significantly alter the role of the LCT unit as a backdrop/ setting to Glen Rinnes and Strath Spey. When viewed from elevated areas, the Proposed Development would be viewed in an expansive landscape view, in the context of a high degree of existing/ consented wind farm development which already influence these areas of the LCT unit. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Open Upland with Settled Glens LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). The presence of the proposed Garbet and Clashindarroch II Wind Farms would, if consented, establish an emerging pattern of wind energy development across the upland landscape, providing additional context for the Proposed Development. The introduction of the Proposed Development would notably increase the level of wind energy developments within the LCT unit but would be consistent with this emerging pattern.

[1] The cumulative assessment considers three scenarios 1) Operational and Consented Development, 2) Operational, Consented and In-Planning development and 3) Operational, Consented, In Planning and In Scoping development. Consideration of Scenarios 1 and 2 are undertaken in accordance with appropriate guidance for Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The third scenario has been included at the request of consultees to ensure a full understanding of the potential cumulative effects

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				currently simple and static appearance of the open and smooth rolling upland hills, which forms the setting to scattered settlement within the surrounding glens and valleys. The Proposed Development would be viewed in conjunction with the existing Clashindarroch, Kildrummy and Dorenell developments and would result in a notable increase in the prominence of large scale turbines within the landscape, and their influence on the character of the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens LCT unit*. From the neighbouring *12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT* unit, the ZTV indicates that visibility would be fragmented, largely present across summits and the more elevated, steep site facing slopes to the north and south of Glen Rinnes. There would be no visibility from within Glen Fiddich/ Black Burn, Glen Rinnes or Strath Spey (as it lies within this unit). The Proposed Development would form a new element in views from elevated locations within the unit. From these locations, the Proposed Development would be viewed within expansive and panoramic views. These views include a mosaic of land uses such as farming, forestry, settlement, transport and other wind energy development at varying distances which serve to influence the existing character of the LCT unit and provide context for the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would not affect the role of this LCT unit as the setting to the valley landscapes of Glen Rinnes and Strath Spey, nor would it impact upon the landmark status of Ben Rinnes from within these areas.	The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12a Open Upland with Steep Slopes* would be Slight. For host LCT unit 12b, the addition of the Proposed Development to operational, consented and other in planning wind farm development would result in a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development across the unit. While located adjacent to Garbet Wind Farm, and with the proposed Clashindarroch II located to the east of the Site the Proposed Development would have a notable influence of wind energy development on the character of the open upland landscape, due to its large scale and elevated siting. On the adjacent LCT unit 12a the addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind energy development across elevated parts of the landscape unit. However, the Proposed Development would be located within a cluster of other proposed large scale wind energy development of a similar size and scale already present in this area of the landscape. The change would be discernible, but the baseline landscape context would remain constant. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Slight. The magnitude of cumulative impact on the *12a Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Slight. The proposed (scoping) Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension turbines would add substantially to the influence of operational, consented and proposed large-scale wind energy development across the 12b unit, wind farm development becoming a key characteristic feature of the landscape, extending into the glens and valleys which pass through and adjacent to the LCT unit. Whilst the Proposed Development would be discernible, it would not represent a prominent addition. Similar to 12b, while the addition of the Proposed Development would		Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): Moderate (Not significant). The inclusion of Garbet and Clashindarroch II Wind Farms would provide a developed context and reduce the overall additional impact of the Proposed Development on LCT unit 12a. While the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind energy development across elevated parts of the landscape unit it would be located within a cluster of large scale wind energy development of a similar size and scale which exert influence across adjacent LCTs and LCT units. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): Moderate (Not significant). The inclusion of the Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension scoping schemes to the operational, consented and proposed developments would in of themselves, substantially alter the character of the LCT unit. In this context, the addition of the proposed Development would form a discernible change but would not be prominent or inconsistent with the emerging cumulative baseline scenario. Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): Moderate (Not significant). <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					discernibly increase the influence of wind farms across upper elevations within the LCT 12a unit, the underlying landscape character would remain broadly consistent with the cumulative baseline. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Moderate. The magnitude of cumulative impact *12a Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in wind energy development being a notable land use within the LCT units. Wind energy development would be present within the LCT units, and in views to the north, east and west from both elevated locations, and from a number of locations within glens and valleys. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Moderate. The magnitude of cumulative impact *12a Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational, consented and in planning developments, would have similar effects to those assessed above. The inclusion of Garbet and Clashindarroch II would further contribute to this influence across the LCT units. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact on the *12b Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Substantial. The magnitude of cumulative impact *12a Open Upland with Settled Glens* LCT unit would be Substantial.		*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12b): **Major** (Significant). Open Upland with Steep Slopes LCT Unit (MWELCS 12a): **Major** (Significant). In combination with other wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind energy development being a defining characteristic of the Open Upland LCT units. This influence would be particularly increased following the consideration of those schemes at Scoping.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Following the addition of sites in Scoping, wind energy development would substantially influence the character of the LCT units, including from within Glen Rinnes and Glen Fiddich and across the basin of the Cabrach, where wind energy development is not currently a notable landscape element. Wind energy development would be visible from a high proportion of the LCT units.		
NS 32 See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 1: Minor road, Deveron Valley (Figure 5.9a – 5.9f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 2: Haugh of Glass (Figure 5.10a – 5.10f)	Farmed and Wooded River Valleys	Host LCT	High	The magnitude of impact would be Substantial in the area immediately north of the Proposed Development (see VP1 in Figures 5.9a – 5.9f and VP2 in Figures 5.10a – 5.10f) but would reduce to Slight/ None in all other areas of the LCT. The Proposed Development would represent a considerable alteration to the skyline to the south west of the LCT, within approximately 7 km of the Site. It would introduce movement and large scale prominent engineered structures to the edge of a landscape where elements of the size proposed are currently not a feature. The Proposed Development would notably alter the composition of the landscape in views from roads, properties and recreational routes within the LCT. Further east, visibility would reduce substantially and views of the Proposed Development from within the interior of the valley landscape would not be provided. Long distance views from upper elevations on the edge of the valley, such as to the north of Kinnoir, would include the Proposed Development. However, at distances of over 15 km it would be viewed in the context of other wind energy development and range of land uses that the influence on the character of the landscape would be lessened.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Substantial immediately north of the Proposed Development, reducing to Slight or None in all other areas of the LCT. Currently, in the area of the Site, operational wind energy development is located in adjacent landscapes in proximity to the LCT boundary (Clashindarroch, Meikleton of Arnold, Dummuie). Due to the containment of the valley in this area, these developments do not have a high level of influence across the south western extent of the LCT. Elsewhere within the LCT, small scale turbines (under 100 m to tip) are present in single or small groups to the north of Huntly, and east of Rothienorman. Adjacent landscapes also host turbines of similar sizes scattered across agricultural landscapes. The Proposed Development would introduce large scale wind energy development into the Farmed and Wooded River Valleys LCT, representing a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape in the south western area of the LCT. This influence would notably reduce with distance from the Site due to the containment present within the valley landscape. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate immediately north of the Proposed Development, reducing to Slight or None in all other areas of the LCT..	**Major** (Significant) within approximately 3 to 5 km from the Site. This effect would reduce to Moderate or Moderate/ Minor as distance increases from the Site with consequent reductions in the perceived prominence of the Proposed Development and increased screening by intervening topography.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None. Localised significant effects would be experienced in the area of the Site where large scale wind energy development would form a new characteristic of the LCT. Across the wider LCT this effect would reduce considerably as a result of containment by the valley landscape reducing visibility. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None. Localised significant effects would be experienced in the area of the Site where the Proposed Development would form a notable increase in the influence of large scale wind energy development on the character of the LCT. Across the wider LCT this effect would reduce considerably as a result of reduced visibility of the Proposed Development due to containment by the valley topography. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None. Effects would be localised to the south western end of the LCT. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Taking into account other proposed development, the addition of the Proposed Development would result in the introduction of prominent large scale wind energy development into the LCT. However development at Garbet and Clashindarroch II would provide a degree of context in the area of the LCT most impacted by the Proposed Development, reducing its influence on the character of the local landscape. The Proposed Development would remain a notable change to the character of the landscape in the south west of the LCT. This influence would notably reduce with distance from the Site due to the containment present within the valley landscape. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* There would be no change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and scoping schemes. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate in the south western extent of the LCT, reducing to Slight or None across the wider LCT. The Proposed Development, viewed in conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in turbines becoming a notable characteristic of the upland landscape which lie adjacent or in proximity to the south western extent of the LCT. Further north, single turbines or small groups of turbines of a smaller size and scale to those found in the upland landscapes to the west and south west of the LCT would have some visibility from within the LCT, however would not alter the valley landscape from forming a setting to settlement, or the contained and small scale nature of the landscape within the Deveron Valley. Elevated areas of the wider LCT would experience views to the larger scale		*Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant) reducing to Moderate (Not significant) or None. Key cumulative effects would be experienced in the south western extent of the LCT, where the emerging pattern of development would result in a large cluster of wind energy development outcropping above the Deveron Valley in the area of the Site. Across the full LCT, this influence would reduce with distance. This large cluster of development, along with that at Berry Burn/ Pauls Hill/ Rothes I and II etc. would be viewed from elevated locations within the LCT only, seen at distance across upland landscapes which form the background to views. While discernible, their influence on the overall character of the LCT would be minimal.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					wind energy development present across upland landscapes which would form more distance elements in expansive views. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial in the south western extent of the LCT, reducing to Slight or None across the wider LCT. In conjunction with other operational, proposed and in planning development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines being a key characteristic of adjacent landscapes across the south western extent of the LCT. Turbines would be viewed across the skyline and across prominent ridges at varying sizes and scales above the valley landscape. This influence would reduce across the wider LCT. These large scale developments would be present in longer distance views from elevated parts of the LCT, located within upland landscapes to the south and south west. While discernible, they would not impact upon the defining characteristics of the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial in the south western extent of the LCT, reducing to Slight or None across the wider LCT. There would be no change to the above assessment following the inclusion of Scoping schemes to the above assessment. Turbines in longer distance views would increase, but their influence on the wider LCT would not alter the key characteristics of the LCT.		
NS 18	Low Hills and Basins	22.3 km south west	Medium-High	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would result in a discernible but minor alteration to the existing landscape context. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across elevated parts of the LCT, notably to the east of Abirchirder and to the west of the	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The character of the LCT is characterised by operational and consented development both within and in close proximity to the LCT,	Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). The Proposed Development would pose no significant effect on the perceived naturalness or transitional nature of the LCT. It would not detract from the perceived size or scale of Knock Hill or its dominance within the immediate area. The Proposed Development would	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant)

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				LCT across Knock Hill, Barry Hill and Wether Hill which lie on either side of the A98 as it passes through Glen Barry. At a distance of over 20 km, the Proposed Development would form a minor element in a distant landscape. Moreover, it would be seen in the context of existing wind energy development in the surrounding area.	including turbines at Culvie Hill, Muirake, Lurg Hill, Aultmore, Windyhills, Deuchries (and extension), Gawnsmoss and Strath of Brydock. At larger distances, larger scale development at Cairnborrow, Edintore and Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II form features in adjacent landscapes at distances of over 10 km. Long-distance views to upland landscapes contain developments at Dorenell, Clashindarroch, Pauls Hill and Berry Burn (including extensions), Rothes I and II etc. The addition of the Proposed Development would contribute to this pattern of development across the upland landscape, however at distances of over 22 km, the influence of the Proposed Development on the character of the LCT would be minor. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. In addition to other operational, consented and in-planning developments, the Proposed Development would infill an area of upland landscape which contains existing, consented and proposed developments and would therefore read as a minor change to the emergent pattern of development. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact in respect of this scenario would be Slight. The Proposed Development, in addition to operational, consented, proposed and scoping schemes, would infill an area of distant upland landscape which already contains an emerging pattern of large scale wind energy development.. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in combination cumulative impact in respect of this scenario would be Slight. In conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development, the Proposed	occupy a distant location within an existing developed context.	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) There would be no significant cumulative effects on the Low Hills and Basins LCT (NS 18). The Proposed Development would contribute to an emerging pattern of development where large scale commercial development is located within upland landscapes present in long distance views from elevated parts of the LCT, while smaller scale development is scattered across more agricultural landscapes at closer distances to the LCT.

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Development would contribute to the emerging pattern of development that is present within the neighbouring *Low Forested Hills* and *Gently Undulating Coastal Farmland* LCTs, resulting in wind energy development becoming a characteristic element in views from the *Low Hills and Basins* LCT. Typically, small scale turbines (below 100 m to tip) are characteristic of lower lying enclosed agricultural landscapes surrounding the LCT, whilst larger scale commercial developments are focused across upland landscapes at distance to the south and south west. The Proposed Development would reinforce this emerging pattern. *Operational, Consented and In Planning (and Scoping)* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight. There would be no discernible change to the above assessment following the inclusion of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments. The presence of turbines across distant upland landscapes would be increased in certain areas yet would be in keeping with the existing emerging pattern of development. This would remain the same, taking into account the Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension scoping schemes.		
NS 19	Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills	7.4 km west north west	Medium	Given the large scale, open nature of views from elevated areas within the LCT, the distance at which the Proposed Development would be visible, and the context of existing wind energy developments, the magnitude of impact attributable to the Proposed Development would be Slight. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development across elevated parts of the LCT, commencing at approximately 12 km from the nearest turbine. Fragmented ZTV coverage extends across the north western extent of the LCT, between Ramstone Hill to the west	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. A moderate degree of operational and consented wind energy development is present within this LCT. Clusters of turbines are found largely near the edges of the LCT, including development at Dummuie, Glens of Foundland, Hill of Easterton, St Johns Wells, Gordonstown Hill, Mains of Hatton and Shielburn Farm. These smaller scale developments contribute to the character of the LCT. From more	Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). The Proposed Development would pose no significant effect on the character of the simple, open landscapes of the LCT. Given the distance of the Proposed Development from the LCT, impacts would only be experienced from elevated areas which are already influenced by long distance views of commercial wind energy development in the west and south west. It would not detract from the perceived size or scale of the rounded hills and ridges or interrupt their rhythmic quality. The Proposed Development would	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant)

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				of the A96, and stretching north east across the hills either side of Glen Dronach. Beyond this, visibility dissipates and becomes more sporadic towards Turriff. Some sporadic visibility is also predicted at distances of between 30 and 40 km in location near Kirkton of Auchterless (Gordontown Hill) and Hill of Blairfowl, above the River Ythan to the south of Woodhead. The LCT offers open and long-distance views from elevated areas, where wind energy development within the upland landscapes to the south and south west (such as Clashindarroch and Dorenell, Hill of Towie, and Cairnborrow) form part of the existing baseline view. Developments within the *Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills* LCT also contribute to this context. Viewed at distances of over 12 km, the Proposed Development would be discernible, forming a minor increase in the level of wind energy development present in long distance context.	elevated areas, larger scale commercial development is present in longer distance views, seen within the upland landscapes to the west and south west (such as Clashindarroch and Dorenell, Hill of Towie, and Cairnborrow) which form part of the existing baseline view. While the addition of the Proposed Development would discernibly increase the level of wind energy development present in the long distance context, at distances of over 12 km this would form a minor addition. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* There would be no change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments. Other proposed turbines located across upland landscapes would increase the presence of development in certain areas, yet the addition of the Proposed Development would remain consistent with the existing emerging pattern of development. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The cumulative effect would remain unchanged following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and Scoping wind energy developments. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented development would be such that large scale wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element within upland landscapes to the west of the LCT. Scattered, smaller scale development would be characteristic of more agricultural landscapes within and adjacent to the LCT.	occupy a distant location within an existing developed context.	*Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) There would be no significant cumulative effects on the *Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills* LCT. The character of the landscape of the LCT is influenced by operational and consented smaller scale wind energy development within and directly adjacent to the LCT boundary, located across more agricultural landscapes. At a greater distance from the LCT, there is an emerging pattern of larger-scale wind energy development present across upland landscapes to the west and south west of the LCT, located at varying distances from the LCT boundary. While this pattern of development would be notable following consideration of other proposed development, the defining characteristics of the *Farmed Rolling Ridges and Hills* LCT would be largely unaffected.

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Operational, Consented and In Planning The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational, consented and in planning development would be such that large scale wind energy development is a notable characteristic across upland landscapes to the west of the LCT. Scattered, smaller scale wind energy development in proximity to the LCT would remain a characteristic of the more agricultural landscapes within and adjacent to the LCT, however proposed large scale development at Clashindarroch II would be brought in closer proximity to the LCT boundary and would have a greater influence across the LCT in the south west. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented development would be such that large scale wind energy development is a notable characteristic across neighbouring upland landscapes to the west/ south west of the LCT. Smaller scale development would remain characteristic of more agricultural landscapes across the central and eastern extent of the LCT.		
NS 27 ▪ See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 11: Meikle Balloch Hill (Figure 5.19a – 5.19f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 13: A920 near Wester Bodylair (Figure 5.21a – 5.21h)	Farmed Moorland Edge – Aberdeenshire	3.14 km south south west	Medium	The magnitude of impact would be Substantial, reducing to Slight or None with distance across the northernmost unit of the LCT. The magnitude of impact on the southern two units of the LCT overall would be Negligible or None. This LCT is present in three discrete units within the 45 km Study Area. The ZTV indicates that visibility would be most extensive across the northernmost unit of the LCT, while the southern units would have marginal theoretical	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Substantial, reducing to Slight across the northernmost unit of the LCT. Negligible across the full LCT where distance combined with screening by topography and intervening woodland/ vegetation reduce the overall influence of the Proposed Development. The northern unit of the LCT contains a number of single or small clusters of wind energy development, with tip heights of up	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant) in the area of Easter and Wester Bodylair on the south western edge of the LCT, and reducing to Moderate/ Minor or None (Not significant) across the wider northern LCT unit. Ranging from Negligible to None (Not significant) across the southern units of the LCT. Significant effects predicted above the A920 at Bodylair arise from the Proposed Development's prominence on the skyline to the south west of this part of the LCT (see Figures 5.21a – 5.21h). The	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) on the northern unit of the LCT, reducing to Minor across the full LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) on the northern unit of the LCT, reducing to Minor. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				visibility at distances of over 15 km. The Proposed Development would notably influence the character of the LCT in the area of Easter and Wester Bodylair on the A920, along the south western edge of the LCT as it transitions to the *Farmed and Wooded River Valleys LCT*. The landscape is of a small scale in this area, contained by broad, open upland hills which form the background to the view. Across the skyline two clusters of wind turbines are present, with turbines at Clashindarroch and Dorenell Wind Farms visible in the background of the view (see VP13: Wester Bodylair). In this transitional area, the Proposed Development would introduce a new cluster of wind turbines across a prominent skyline. Turbines would appear prominent and, while set back from the edge of the valley, would affect the form and scale of the landscape. The landscape is influenced by existing wind farm development and therefore the Proposed Development would not introduce a new or unfamiliar feature into the landscape. However, due to the size and scale of the development and its proximity to the LCT, the Proposed Development would have more influence on the character of the landscape in this part of the LCT. Further north east, distance would reduce the influence of the Proposed Development across the majority of this unit of the LCT. To the east of the A96, visibility largely coincides with areas of forestry across The Bin and Meikle Balloch Hill where the Proposed Development would largely be viewed from open summits. It would sit within the context of existing wind energy development including that which is present within the LCT – Cairnborrow, Midtown of Glass and Meikleton of Arnold; and in adjacent landscapes i.e., Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II and Edintore.	to 135 m. Turbines at Edintore, Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II wind farms are present in the adjacent LCTs. Small scale operational and consented development is present to the north and east of the LCT, while large scale commercial development is present to the south and west across upland landscapes. The addition of the Proposed Development would bring large scale commercial development in closer proximity to the south western edge of the LCT, representing a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the northern unit of the LCT, and affecting the perceived scale of the landscape. The Proposed Development would not discernibly influence the overall character of the southern areas units of the LCT due to its limited visibility. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Substantial, reducing to Slight across the northernmost unit of the LCT. This would reduce to Negligible across the full LCT where distance combined with screening by topography and intervening woodland/ vegetation reduce the overall influence of the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and in planning wind energy developments would have similar impacts to those assessed above. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of Garbet Wind Farm, however would be of a size and scale where it would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development across the LCT and would impact upon the perceived scale of the valley landscape. These effects would be localised and would reduce with distance across the wider unit. Additionally, the Proposed Development would not be visible from other units within the LCT.	Proposed Development would bring wind energy development closer to the LCT in this area, and would have more influence on the character of the landscape than those existing developments at Clashindarroch and Dorenell which are minor elements on the skyline to the south west. Elsewhere within the LCT, the Proposed Development would be screened in views by topography (i.e., across the southern units of the LCT), or would be viewed in larger scale views from elevated areas in the context of other operational development, where its effect on the perceived size and scale of the landscape would be reduced.	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant) on the northern unit of the LCT, reducing to Minor. In Combination *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) The addition of the Proposed Development would result in significant in-addition cumulative effects. The Proposed Development would introduce a new, large scale wind energy development in closer proximity to the LCT than currently exists. Turbines would appear prominent and would form a notable feature in the adjacent landscape. Effects would be greatest across the south western extent of the northern LCT unit, and would reduce with distance. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from other units of the LCT, and therefore these areas would not be affected. In combination with other wind energy developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to an emerging pattern of development where the LCT forms a transitional landscape between the smaller scale development present within/ to the north and east of the LCT, and larger scale commercial development located to the south and west of the LCT. Wind energy development would become a characteristic element both within the LCT, and in views from the LCT. These effects are not considered to be significant.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Substantial, reducing to Slight across the northernmost unit of the LCT. This would reduce to Negligible across the full LCT where distance combined with screening by topography and intervening woodland/ vegetation reduce the overall influence of the Proposed Development. The assessment would not alter from that described above, following the inclusion of projects at Scoping. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The LCT acts as a transitional landscape between the lower lying agricultural and coastal landscapes of the north, and the upland landscapes of the south. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development would establish a pattern of wind energy development where smaller scale development is present within/ to the north and east of the LCT, while large scale commercial development is present to the south and west. Wind energy development would become a notable characteristic element both within the LCT, and in views from the LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. Taking account of other operational, consented and in planning wind energy development, the Proposed Development would further contribute to an establishing pattern of large scale wind energy development present across upland landscapes to the west and south west of the LCT. Large scale development would be visible in medium and long distance views		

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					from within the LCT, at varying sizes and scales. Wind energy development would become a notable characteristic within upland landscapes in elevated views from within the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. Following the inclusion of developments at Scoping, wind turbines would be more intensified in parts of the upland landscape, as overlapping developments reinforce the establishing pattern of large scale wind energy development present across upland landscapes to the west and south west of the LCT. Wind energy development would become a notable characteristic within upland landscapes in elevated views from within the LCT.		
NS 28 ▪ See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 9: The Buck (Figure 5.17a – 5.17f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 10: Tap o'Noth (Figure 5.18a – 5.18f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 14: Mither Tap Viewpoint (Figure 5.22a – 5.22f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 15: Clashmach Hill (Figure 5.23a – 5.23f)	Outlying Hills and Ridges There are seven areas of the Outlying Hills and Ridges LCT within the Study Area. For the purposes of this assessment, these are referred to, as follows; ▪ Unit 1 – West of Huntly ▪ Unit 2 – Gartly Moor ▪ Unit 3 – Coreen Hills/ Bennachie/ Pitfitchie Forest ▪ Unit 4 – Coiliochbhar Hill area ▪ Unit 5 – Frosty Hill area ▪ Unit 6 – Hill of Coulls area ▪ Unit 7 – Hill of Fare	1.4 km west	High	Unit 1: locally Substantial in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Slight or Negligible. Units 4 – 7: Negligible, reducing to None. Influence of the Proposed Development across the landscape would be most notable across Units 1, 2 and 3 of the LCT which lie within 20 km of the Proposed Development. The greatest impacts on the character of the LCT would be experienced at the western edge of Unit 1, as the landscape transitions into the *Farmed and Wooded River Valleys LCT* of the upper Deveron Valley. This unit of the LCT is influenced by wind turbines at Clashindarroch, Kildrummy and Bailiesward Farm, however the Proposed Development would appear as a large scale new feature on the edge of the valley, and of a greater size and scale than existing development. Views from the west facing hills above the valley would be open and the Proposed Development would form a prominent new feature above the valley and its influence on the	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Unit 1: locally Substantial in the west of the Unit, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Slight. Units 4 – 7: Negligible, reducing to None. The addition of the Proposed Development to other consented and proposed wind farms would be largely experienced in Unit 1 of the LCT as it rises above the Deveron Valley to the east of the Site. It would sit in the context of existing development at Clashindarroch, which lies within the LCT, and Dorenell wind farms. The Proposed Development would represent a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development in this area of the Unit, appearing as a large scale new feature on the edge of the valley, and of a greater size and scale than existing development. With distance, and as the influence of the wind farm extends across only elevated parts of the LCT units, the Proposed Development would form	Unit 1: **Major** (Significant), reducing to Moderate (Not significant) where there is visibility of the Proposed Development. Units 2 and 3: Moderate (Not significant), reducing to Minor or none with distance. Units 4 to 7: Minor (Not significant). Significant effects attributable to the influence of the Proposed Development would be experienced in proximity to the proposed turbines, with the LCT as it lies above the Deveron Valley to the east. With distance, and as the influence of the wind farm extends across only elevated parts of the LCT units, the Proposed Development would form part of a wider pattern of development and while it would increase the number of wind turbines within adjacent landscapes, it would not alter or affect the defining characteristics of the LCT overall.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Unit 1: Locally **Major** (Significant) in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Moderate (Not significant) where there is visibility of the Proposed Development. Units 2 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) reducing to Minor or None with distance *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1: Locally **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Moderate (Not significant) where there is visibility of the Proposed Development. Units 2 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) reducing to Minor or None with distance *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1: Moderate (Not significant). Units 2 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) reducing to Minor or None with distance

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				character across this part of the unit would be considerable. The influence would reduce further to the south/ east as elevation rises and visibility becomes intermittent. The Proposed Development would become part of a broader pattern of wind energy development present in the LCT and in adjacent landscapes. Across Units 2 and 3, the Proposed Development would increase the level of wind energy development present in distant landscapes which form the background of view from the LCT. The Proposed Development would alter a small proportion of the landscape in the overall view and would form a minor element. The change would be discernible but would not notably influence or alter the underlying character of the *Outlying Hills and Ridges LCT*. Across Units 4 - 7, visibility would be restricted to the most elevated parts of the LCT, where the Proposed Development would be seen in long distance, expansive views behind/ directly adjacent to existing development at Clashindarroch and within the context of a broad spread of wind energy development present within the upland landscape.	part of a wider pattern of development and while it would increase the number of wind turbines within adjacent landscapes, it would not alter or affect the defining characteristics of the LCT overall. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1: locally Moderate in the west of the Unit, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Slight or Negligible. Units 4 – 7: Negligible, reducing to None. Taking account of other operational, consented and proposed wind energy development, the addition of the Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development across parts of the LCT Unit 1. It would be viewed adjacent to Garbet and Clashindarroch II Wind Farms which are of a comparable size and scale and would provide context for the Proposed Development. This influence would reduce with distance. While the Proposed Development would increase the number of wind turbines within adjacent landscapes, it would not alter or affect the defining characteristics of the LCT overall. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1: Slight. Unit 2 & 3: Slight or Negligible. Units 4 – 7: Negligible, reducing to None. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, in planning and Scoping developments would result in a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development across Unit 1 of the LCT. Development at Clashindarroch, Clashindarroch II and Clashindarroch Extension, alongside the operational Dorenell, the proposed development at Garbet and Glenfiddich (Scoping) would substantially alter the character of the LCT unit. The addition of the Proposed Development would contribute a discernible addition to		In Combination *Operational and Consented* Unit 1: Locally **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Moderate (Not significant) where there is visibility of the Proposed Development. Units 2 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) reducing to Minor or None with distance *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1: Locally **Major** (Significant) in Unit 1, and **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) across areas of Unit 2. Units 3 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1: Locally **Major** (Significant) in Unit 1, and **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) across areas of Unit 2. Units 3 – 7: Moderate (Not significant) Significant cumulative effects (in addition and in combination) would be experienced across Unit 1 of the LCT due to the proximity to the Proposed Development, and the emerging pattern of development present within and directly adjacent to this LCT. The effects would reduce to not significant with distance from the development, as the cluster of wind turbines in the area of the Site is viewed within the broader landscape context, set upon upland landscapes in the background of the view.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					the influence of wind energy development on the landscape, but the emerging baseline condition would be largely unaltered. This influence would also reduce with distance. While the Proposed Development would increase the number of wind turbines within adjacent landscapes, it would not alter or affect the defining characteristics of the LCT overall. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Unit 1: locally Moderate in the west of the Unit, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Slight. Units 4 – 7: Slight. Operational and consented wind farms, in conjunction with the Proposed Development would form a notable characteristic of the landscape within Unit 1, influence both by development within the LCT (Clashindarroch, Kildrummy) and within adjacent landscapes (Dorenell, Cairnborrow). This influence would reduce across units 2 - 7 as proximity to wind energy development increases and turbines would be viewed as distant elements within a broad landscape context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1: locally Substantial in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Moderate or Slight. Units 4 – 7: Slight. In conjunction with other operational, consented and proposed wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines becoming a key characteristic of the landscape within and adjacent to Unit 1 of the LCT, particularly within the western extent of the character area. Given the intensification of wind energy development in the area in proximity to the Site, the influence would extend further than the above assessment, extending across Units		

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					2 and 3, before reducing across Units 4 - 7 as proximity to wind energy development increases and turbines are viewed as elements within a broader landscape context. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1: locally Substantial in the west of Unit 1, reducing to Slight across the wider LCT unit. Unit 2 & 3: Moderate or Slight. Units 4 – 7: Slight. Wind energy development would be a key characteristic of the landscape within Unit 1 of the LCT. Given the intensification of wind energy development in the area in proximity to the Site, the influence would extend further across Units 2 and 3 than the baseline developments currently do, before reducing across Units 4 - 7 as proximity to wind energy development increases and turbines are viewed as elements within a broader landscape context.		
NS 123 ▪ See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 8: Little Geal Charn (Figure 5.16a – 5.16h) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 17: Cromdale Hills (Figure 5.25a – 5.25f)	Smooth Rounded Hills – Cairngorms	13.5 km north north east	High	The magnitude of impact attributable to the Proposed Development would be Slight. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development across the Cromdale Hills to the north west of the LCT, across the summits and slopes associated with Little Geal Charn in the north, and across the summits of Morven, Mona Gowan and The Ca at the western extent of the Cairngorms National Park at distances of more than 25 km distant. The Proposed Development would be visible from a relatively small number of locations within the LCT, largely from within the north of the LCT. The influence of the Proposed Development across the Smooth Rounded Hills would be most notable in increasing the presence of wind energy development across the adjacent upland landscapes, reflecting the existing pattern of development which exists in these landscapes (see Viewpoint 8: Little Geal Charn and Viewpoint 17: Cromdale Hills).	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational and consented development would represent a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development across the LCT. Given the marginal visibility of the Proposed Development, where visible the proposed turbines would be viewed in the context of development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch to the north of the LCT, with other clusters of large scale wind energy development in views to the north/ north west. The change would be discernible but the overall baseline characteristics of the LCT would remain largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. There would be little change to the above assessment following the	The residual effect of the Proposed Development on NS 123 Smooth Rounded Hills LCT would be Moderate (Not significant). The Proposed Development would pose no significant effect on the remoteness, simplicity or pattern of land use/ landcover in this landscape. It would be perceived as a feature on the skyline in the landscape to the north/ north west of the LCT and would not significantly affect the openness, scale or form of the landscape.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Significant cumulative effects would arise where large areas of wind energy development form notable features across upland landscapes in the north and north west of the LCT. While the Proposed Development

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. The Proposed Development would be seen within the context of a cluster of commercial scale wind energy development, from elevated areas of the LCT within a panoramic view. The change would be discernible but the overall baseline characteristics of the LCT would remain largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, in planning and scoping developments would result in a barely discernible change to the baseline. The Proposed Development would be viewed within a cluster of large scale wind energy development and would increase the level of development in the view from the LCT, but the underlying baseline characteristics of the LCT would, for all intents and purposes, be unaffected. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development, when viewed in conjunction with other operational and consented development would contribute to an emerging pattern of development where clusters of wind farms form features within areas of upland landscapes at distances of over 12 km from the LCT. Wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element in adjacent landscapes but would not be a defining or key characteristic of the LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate.		would contribute to this conglomeration of development, it should be noted that significant in-combination effects would not be as a direct result of the Proposed Development.

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Existing clusters of operational and consented development would become larger and more complex following the inclusion of the Proposed Development and other wind energy development in planning. The pattern of development would remain consistent with the baseline, where groups of wind farms are clustered across areas of upland landscape distant to the LCT. The increase in numbers of turbines (and the overall size of turbine clusters) would result in wind energy development becoming a notable characteristic of landscapes in the wider area, from within the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be little change to the above assessment following the inclusion of the Proposed Development with other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. Turbine numbers would be increased in parts of the upland landscape but the pattern of development would remain in keeping with the establishing cumulative context.		
NS 288 ▪ See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 12: B9016 at Aultmore (Figure 5.20a – 5.20f)	Upland Farmland Contains MWELCS: ▪ 8: Upland Farmland	NS 288: 8.3 km south ▪ MLWECS 8: 8.2 km south	NS 288: Medium ▪ MWELCS 8: Medium	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The ZTV indicates a high degree of visibility across elevated parts of the LCT to the north, east and south. The LCT is influenced by wind energy development. Edintore Wind Farm is located within the south of the LCT, while turbines at Followsters Newmill and Garahill Newmill are located in the north. Adjacent to the LCT, Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II Wind Farms are present directly to the west of the LCT, while a cluster of turbines at Myreton, Netherton of Windyhill, Aultmore (consented) and Lurg Hill (consented) are located directly north. The Proposed Development would form a new element in mid to long distance views from within the LCT. It would increase the presence of	In Addition *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The character of the LCT is influenced by operational and consented development both within and adjacent to the LCT. Turbines are a notable characteristic of the LCT. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the LCT. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight.	The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor. Although there would be an increase of the numbers of turbines potentially visible, the key characteristics of the baseline landscape character would remain intact.	In Addition *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In Combination *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				wind turbines in the wider landscape and would relate to the pattern of development present in the upland landscapes to the south. It would not obstruct long distance views to the Cairngorm Mountains. The Proposed Development would be seen in conjunction and amidst a context of existing and consented turbines to the south and west of the LCT, adding to the existing and consented developed context in this direction of view. In this context, the Proposed Development would represent a discernible change in the landscape, however the underlying character of the landscape would be broadly consistent with the baseline.	There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, in planning and scoping development would result in a discernible change to upland landscapes viewed from the LCT. The development would form a new element in the view, within the context of a large extent of commercial scale wind energy development. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. In conjunction with the Proposed Development, operational and consented development would become a notable characteristic of the LCT. This is largely attributable to the operational and consented development within and in proximity to the LCT boundary. Large scale wind energy development, including in the area of the Site, would form discrete clusters of wind turbines across open upland landscapes viewed at greater distances to the south and west. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be little change to the assessment following the inclusion of developments in planning. Groups of turbines would be larger and more intensified in parts of the upland landscape but the pattern of development would remain broadly consistent in views from within the LCT.		Moderate (Not significant) There would be no significant cumulative effects on the *Upland Farmland* LCT. The character of the LCT is influenced by wind energy development both within the LCT boundary and in directly adjacent landscapes. The addition of Proposed Development would increase the presence of wind turbines in the wider landscape and would relate to the pattern of development present in the upland landscapes to the south. The Proposed Development would contribute to an emerging context of existing, consented and proposed large scale wind turbines to the south and west of the LCT, adding to the existing and emerging pattern of development across upland landscapes in mid to long distance views from the LCT.

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be little change to the assessment following the inclusion of developments in Scoping. Groups of turbines would be larger and more intensified in parts of the upland landscape but the pattern of development would remain broadly consistent in views from within the LCT.		
NS 289 ▪ See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 3: Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown (Figure 5.11a – 5.11f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 4: A941 north of Dufftown (Figure 5.12a – 5.12f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 18: Auchindoun Castle (Figure 5.26a – 5.26f)	Upland Farmed Valleys Contains MWELCS: ▪ 9: Rolling Forested Hills ▪ 13: Narrow Farmed Valley	NS 289: 4 km south east ▪ MWELCS 9: 4 km south east ▪ MWELCS 13: 4.9 km south east	NS 289: High ▪ MWLECS 9: High ▪ MWELCS 13: High	The magnitude of change would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would be theoretically visible to varying degrees across elevated summits and ridges of the LCT. No views are available from within lower lying areas such as the Dullan Water and River Isla valleys, or the unnamed glen to the east of Craigellachie, along which routes the A95. The landscape contains the Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II wind farm developments which influence the character of the LCT. In the landscape surrounding the LCT, developments at Rothes I and II, Edintore, Dorenell and Cairnborrow provide an established context of operational and consented development present in views from elevated slopes and summits above the valleys which characterise this LCT. The Proposed Development would be of a larger size and scale than these existing and consented developments which would add some complexity to the view.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate. The LCT contains the Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II (consented) wind farms which exert a high degree of influence across the LCT, and is a defining characteristic of this landscape. The Proposed Development would introduce a large-scale wind farm across an upland ridgeline, and would extend across the skyline in many areas of the LCT. When considered in the context of other consented and operational wind energy development, the Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of the proposed Garbet Wind Farm and Clashindarroch II which would alter the skyline in the area of the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the level of development in this area of upland landscape adjacent to the LCT, forming a minor addition to the array of turbines. The change would be discernible but would remain consistent with the baseline condition.	The residual effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Minor or none across the majority of the LCT. Significant effects would be experienced from the more elevated parts of the LCT, where existing development influences the character of views. It would increase the level of development visible in the middle distance of these expansive views and would add complexity given the larger size and scale of the turbines. The Proposed Development would not affect the smaller scale, intimate character of the valleys which run through the LCT.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Major/ Moderate (Significant) There would be significant cumulative effects on the character of the Upland Farmed Valleys LCT. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce large scale wind turbines across a ridgeline in middle distance views from the LCT. The proposed turbines would be skylined and would be of a larger size and scale than operational development in this area. Operational turbines at Hill of Towie (and the consented Hill of Towie II) have already influenced the character of the LCT, particularly from the elevated parts of the LCT

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					Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would contribute a discernible but minor addition to the extent of wind energy development across the upland landscape to the south of the LCT. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, considered in combination with other operational and consented wind energy developments would result in wind turbines becoming a notable characteristic of the LCT. Large scale wind energy development would be present within the LCT, as well as in relatively close proximity across upland landscapes to the south and west of the LCT boundary. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be little change to the assessment following the inclusion of developments in planning. Groups of turbines to the south and west of the LCT would be larger and more intensified in parts of the upland landscape but the pattern of development would remain broadly consistent in views from within the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. There would be little change to the assessment following the inclusion of developments in Scoping. Groups of turbines to the south and west of the LCT would be larger and more intensified in parts of the upland landscape but the pattern of development would remain broadly		where the Proposed Development is most visible. In combination with other wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to an emerging pattern of large scale wind energy development across upland landscapes to the south and west of the LCT. Turbines would be a feature in views out from the LCT in most directions.

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LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					consistent in views from within the LCT.		
NS 290	Upland Moorland and Forestry Contains MWELCS: ▪ 10: Upland Moorland and Forestry	NS 290: 14.5 km south east ▪ MWLECS 10: 14.5 km south east	NS 290: Medium ▪ MWELCS 10: Medium	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The ZTV indicates visibility of the Proposed Development across the summits and upper slopes of the broad upland hills found in the east of the LCT, with some smaller areas of visibility to the south west of Dallas. Actual views would be substantially reduced due to the presence of large areas of forestry which would contain the perceived influence of the Proposed Development across this LCT. From these locations, the presence of wind energy development already influences the character of the landscape both within the LCT, and on adjacent LCTs. Operational and consented developments at Rothes I and II, Kellas, Hill of Glaschyle are located within the *Upland Moorland and Forestry LCT*, with developments at Berry Burn, Berry Burn Extension, Pauls Hill, Pauls Hill II located in close proximity to the west. Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II are situated on upland landscape to the east, separated from the LCT by the Spey Valley. The Proposed Development would be located across a minor ridgeline in the middle distance in views from the LCT, at a distance of over 15 km. It would be viewed within the context of other existing wind energy development within this part of the view, such as Dorenell and Clashindarroch wind farms which are located at similar distances. The Proposed Development would increase the level of development in the wider landscape view. While this change would be discernible, the underlying character of the *Upland Moorland and Forestry LCT* would not be altered.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. The LCT is currently influenced by operational and consented development which lies within and directly adjacent to the LCT boundary. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a discernible by minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the LCT, viewed at a distance of over 15 km to the south east. It would be viewed in the context of development at Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II, Dorenell and Clashindarroch. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. Proposed development at Rothes II and Clash Gour (located within the LCT), as well as proposed development at Cairn Duhie, Garbet and Clashindarroch II would substantially increase the influence of wind energy development on the character of the LCT. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a discernible but minor addition to the emerging pattern of development across upland landscapes. It would not notably influence the character of the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The Proposed Development would result in a barely discernible addition to the emerging pattern of development across upland landscapes to the south west of the LCT. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational	The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). Where visible, the Proposed Development would not appear anomalous in the context of existing developments in mid to long distance views. Whilst there would be a discernible change to the existing wind farm composition within the landscape, this would not alter the key characteristics of the LCT.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Minor (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Major/ Moderate (Significant) There would be significant in-combination cumulative effects on the *Upland Moorland and Forestry* LCT. These would largely arise from the extensive level of development both within and directly adjacent to the LCT boundary, rather than being attributable to the Proposed Development.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					and consented development would result in wind energy development becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape across the LCT. This is largely attributable to the presence of Rothes I and II, Hunthill and Meikle Hill, Hill of Glaschyle, Berry Burn, Berry Burn Extension, Pauls Hill and Pauls Hill Extension which are present within and directly adjacent to the LCT. Other operational and consented development, including the Proposed Development, reinforce the pattern of development across upland landscapes within the wider area. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial. The emerging cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development would become a key, if not 'the', defining characteristic of the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments at Scoping.		
NS 291	Open Rolling Upland Contains MWELCS: ▪ 11: Open Rolling Upland	NS 291: 21.4 km east south east ▪ MWELCS 11: 21.4 km east south east	NS 291: Medium ▪ MWELCS 11: Medium	The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The ZTV indicates the majority of this LCT would not have any view of the Proposed Development. Visibility is limited to the eastern extent, across the upper elevations and summits of hills associated with Roys Hill and Carn Kitty, to the west of Knockando. Existing and consented wind energy development are a characteristic of the landscape in this area, with Berry Burn, Berry Burn Extension, Pauls Hill and Pauls Hill Extension located across the hills. The Proposed Development would be viewed at a distance of over 24 km to the east, within the context of operational	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The Proposed Development would be only visible from areas where existing wind energy development is a key characteristic of the LCT. The Proposed Development would form a barely discernible addition to the influence of wind energy development on the LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible.	The residual effect would be Minor (Not significant). The Proposed Development would have limited influence across the majority of the LCT. Where visibility occurs, wind energy development is already a defining characteristic of the LCT.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Minor (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant)

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch. The Proposed Development would result in a limited alteration to the character of the LCT.	The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in planning. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments at Scoping. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented development would result in wind energy development becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape across the LCT. This is mainly due to development which lies within the LCT including developments at Tom nan Clach, Berry Burn, Berry Burn Extension, Pauls Hill and Pauls Hill Extension, as well as those directly adjacent - Rothes I and II, Hunthill and Meikle Hill and Hill of Glaschyle. Other operational and consented development, including the Proposed Development, reinforce the pattern of development across upland landscapes within the wider area. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial. The emerging cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development would become a key, if not 'the', defining characteristic of the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Substantial. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments at Scoping.		*Operational, Consented and In Planning* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Major/ Moderate (Significant) There would be significant in-combination cumulative effects on the *Open Rolling Upland* LCT. These would largely arise from the extensive level of development both within and directly adjacent to the LCT boundary, rather than being attributable to the Proposed Development.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
NS 293	Low Forested Hills Contains MWELCS: ▪ 8a: Broad Forested Hills with Upland Farmland	NS 293: 16.2 km south south east ▪ MWELCS 8a: 16.5 km south south east	NS 293: High ▪ MWELCS 8a: High	The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The Proposed Development would be theoretically visible across the south facing hills along the southern part of the LCT, at distances of between 15 and 25 km. The Proposed Development would form a minor element in long distance views from this LCT, viewed in the context of existing and operational development at Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II, Edintore, Clashindarroch and Dorenell, as well as a number of single and small cluster turbines in the intervening landscape. Actual views would be much reduced than that indicated by the ZTV, as a high degree of these hills are under woodland or forestry.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The addition of the Proposed Development would have a barely discernible influence on the character of the LCT. The character of the LCT is influenced by consented development at Aultmore and Lurg Hill, as well as operational development at Myreton and Netherton of Windyhills. The Proposed Development would be located behind existing and operational development at Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II and Edintore, and sited in the context of operational development at Clashindarroch and Dorenell, as well as a number of single and small cluster turbines in the intervening landscape. The influence of the Proposed Development would be much reduced than that indicated by the ZTV, as a high degree of hills are under woodland or forestry. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in planning. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in Scoping. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight. The baseline cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element in the	The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). Where actually visible, the Proposed Development would not appear anomalous in the context of existing developments in long distance views. Whilst there would be a discernible change to the existing wind farm composition within the landscape, this would not alter the key characteristics of the LCT.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant). *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant).Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping Moderate (Not significant).

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					landscape, in views to the south and west from the LCT. Operational and consented development within, and surrounding, the LCT would have a discernible influence on the character of this landscape. At greater distances operational and consented development across upland hills would form discernible but not prominent elements in views at over 15 km distant. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight The consideration of other proposed developments, in conjunction with operational and consented and coupled with the Proposed Development would increase the level of development across upland hills viewed in the background from the LCT. The emerging cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element in the landscape or views. This is largely attributable to those wind farms within and adjacent to the LCT boundary. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of in-combination cumulative impact would be Slight. The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments at Scoping.		
NS 294 See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 16: A941 near Public House (Figure 5.24a – 5.25f)	Upland Valleys – Moray and Nairn Contains MWELCS: ▪ 13: Narrow Farmed Valley There are two areas of the Upland Valleys LCT within the Study Area. For the purposes of this assessment, these are referred to as follows; ▪ Unit 1 - Deveron Unit ▪ Unit 2 - Glen Rinnes Unit	NS 294: Host LCT (Red Line Boundary only – no infrastructure ▪ MWELCS 13: Host LCT (Red Line Boundary only – no infrastructure	NS 294: High ▪ MWELCS 13: High	▪ Unit 1 - Deveron: The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. ▪ Unit 2 - Glen Rinnes: The magnitude of impact would be Negligible or None. Unit 1 - Deveron: The ZTV indicates extensive visibility across Unit 1 of the Upland Valleys LCT. The Proposed Development would form a prominent feature across the edge of the valley landscape, introducing large vertical and	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Substantial ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Negligible/ None Unit 1 - Deveron: The addition of the Proposed Development would have a considerable influence on the character of the Deveron unit of the Upland Valleys LCT. It would form a prominent feature on the edge of the valley where wind turbines are not a notable element, altering the	▪ Unit 1 - Deveron: **Major** (Significant). The Proposed Development would substantially alter the perception of the small-scale river valley, forming a new and prominent feature across the skyline in many views from within the LCT unit. ▪ Unit 2 - Glen Rinnes: The residual effect would be Minor or None (Not significant).	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant)

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
				moving structures above the low lying valley floor and altering the perception of this small scale and intimate landscape unit. Clashindarroch Wind Farm is visible from within the valley, however is set further back and away from the valley edge. The Proposed Development would considerably alter a key skyline/ the edge of the valley landscape which would result in a substantial change to the baseline condition. Unit 2 - Glen Rinnes: The Proposed Development has extremely minimal visibility from within Unit 2 of the Upland Valleys LCT – the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility on the edge of the valley on the lower slopes of Hill of Knocknashaig and Hill of Clashwan. It is considered that actual views from this LCT would be much reduced due to the presence of woodland and forestry within the valley landscape providing screening. The key characteristics of the LCT are associated with the incised and enclosed glen landscapes, which have a backdrop of open slopes. The Proposed Development would not impact upon these characteristics.	perception of this small scale and intimate landscape unit. Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: The Proposed Development would form a barely discernible element from a small area on the edge of the LCT. There would be no discernible cumulative impacts arising from the addition of the Proposed Development on the character of the LCT. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Substantial ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Negligible/ None Unit 1 - Deveron: The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in Planning. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in wind energy development becoming a key characteristic of the landscape directly adjacent to the LCT, and would exert considerable influence across the Upland Valley landscape. Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: The Proposed Development would form a barely discernible element from a small area on the edge of the LCT. There would be no discernible cumulative impacts arising from the addition of the Proposed Development on the character of the LCT. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Moderate ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Negligible/ None Unit 1 - Deveron: Proposed development at Clashindarroch Extension would introduce wind energy development across the eastern edge of the Upland Valley LCT. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce large scale turbines across both sides of the valley, essentially encircling the LCT in wind farm development.		*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Unit 1 – Deveron: **Major** (Significant) Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) There would be significant in-addition and in-combination effects on the Deveron unit of the Upland Valleys LCT. This is due to the introduction of large scale wind energy development across the valley edges, which would alter the perceived size and scale of the small scale, intimate landscape within the LCT. Taking account of scoping proposals, wind energy development would be located on either side of the valley, essentially encircling the landscape in development. There would be significant in-combination effects on the Glen Rinnes unit of the LCT, however these would not be directly attributable to the Proposed Development.

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: The Proposed Development would form a barely discernible element from a small area on the edge of the LCT. There would be no discernible cumulative impacts arising from the addition of the Proposed Development on the character of the LCT. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Substantial ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Slight Unit 1 - Deveron: The baseline cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development would become a key, if not 'the', defining characteristic of the LCT. Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: The baseline cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development would constitute a barely discernible characteristic of the LCT. Due to the containment provided by the topography of the valley landscape, actual views to operational and consented development are limited. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Substantial ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Slight The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in planning. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* ▪ Unit 1 – Deveron: Substantial ▪ Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Moderate Unit 1 - Deveron: The assessment would not change following inclusion of developments in Scoping. Unit 2 – Glen Rinnes: Proposed development at Glenfiddich would notably increase the influence of wind energy development across the floor and sides of Glen Rinnes, particularly in		

Table 5.4.1: Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Sensitivity Appraisal

LCT Ref.	Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Sensitivity to the type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Impact	Cumulative Magnitude of Impact[1]	Residual Effect	Residual Cumulative Effect
					the northern extent of the LCT unit. In combination with other operational, consented, in planning and in scoping developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind energy development becoming a characteristic element of the LCT. It should be noted that this change would not be attributable to the Proposed Development.		

TA 5.5: Residual Effects on Designated and Classified Landscapes

Technical Appendix 5.5: Residual Effects on Designated and Classified Landscapes

1 Introduction

1.1.1 Table 5.3.1 of Technical Appendix (TA) 5.3: Landscape Designations and Classifications Descriptions contains a list of designated and/ or classified landscapes within 45 km of the Proposed Development's turbines that are subject to theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, along with reasons for the omission of any designated landscapes from the following detailed assessment.

1.1.2 Designated and classified landscapes taken forward into the detailed assessment comprise:

- The Cairngorms National Park
- Ben Rinnes Special Landscape Area (SLA) – Moray
- Spey Valley SLA – Moray
- Deveron Valley SLA – Moray
- Deveron Valley SLA – Aberdeenshire
- Bennachie SLA – Aberdeenshire
- Upper Don Valley SLA - Aberdeenshire

1.1.3 The location of these designations and classifications is indicated in Figure 5.4a.

1.1.4 Table 5.5.1, below, contains an assessment of residual effects (including cumulative effects) on the special qualities of each designated/ classified landscape.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
National Parks				
Cairngorms National Park (CNP) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 8: Little Geal Charn (Figures 5.16a – 5.16h) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 17: Clashmach Hill (Figures 5.23a – 5.23f)	Two of the assessment viewpoints addressed in TA 5.6: Viewpoint Assessment are located within the CNP: ▪ VP8: Little Geal Charn, in the Ladder Hills (see Figures 5.16a – 5.16h); and ▪ VP17: Clashmach Hill in the Cromdale Hills (see Figures 5.23a – 5.23f). The Proposed Development is not located within the CNP and therefore would not have direct physical effects on this designated area. The ZTV (see Figure 5.6a: Blade Tip ZTV) indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would be available across limited areas of the CNP. Views would be most present from the summits and site facing slopes of the Cromdale Hills and above Glenlivet in the north of the CNP with some more sporadic visibility occurring at summits in the Ladder Hills to the south of the Site, at distances of 15 – 18 km. Towards the centre of the CNP, scattered areas of visibility become available on higher summits across the Cairngorm Mountains massif, including the summits of Ben Avon and Beinn A'Bhuird, and Morven and Mora Gowan to the east of the CNP, north of Ballater. There would be no visibility across any of the incised glen landscapes within the CNP, nor from any of the road network. There would be no views of the Proposed Development from settlements within the CNP boundary. Additionally, many summits within the CNP would not provide views to the Proposed Development. For the assessment of the CNP, those Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs)[2] which have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development have been identified and assessed. These have been agreed with statutory authorities prior to the assessment being undertaken.			
	General Qualities <u>Landscapes Both Cultural and Natural</u> ▪ Within this large area can be found both cultural landscapes, with a rich history of human occupation, and natural, wild landscapes under the dominion of nature.	Much of the CNP would not be afforded views of the Proposed Development. Where visibility does occur, the Proposed Development would be seen distantly and set within a landscape context that is highly modified and characterised by human occupation – forestry, farming, wind energy development, road and telecommunication infrastructure etc. Given the limited proportion of the CNP impacted, its distance from the CNP and its baseline context in views out of the CNP, the Proposed Development would represent a Negligible impact on the perceived naturalness or wildness of the CNP. Consequently, the residual effect of the Proposed Development on this special quality would be Moderate/ Minor.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Negligible and confined to limited areas of elevated landscape within the CNP. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen within a vast panoramic context which contains operational development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch, located in upland landscape which is already modified by human occupation (wind energy development, forestry, settlement, farming etc.). The addition of the Proposed Development would therefore constitute a localised minor addition to the influence of wind energy development viewed from a limited extent of the CNP. The change would be discernible however the identified special qualities of naturalness, vast panoramas and solitude would remain largely unaltered.	Given the distance from the CNP boundary, the limited pattern of theoretical visibility across higher summits and the existing context of wind energy development within the landscape surrounding the CNP it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would discernibly affect the Special Landscape Qualities of the CNP or its integrity as a nationally important designation.

[1] For the full description of the special qualities of designated and classified landscapes assessed in this LVIA, please refer to Technical Appendix 5.3 of this EIAR.

[2] As set out by the 'Cairngorms Landscape Toolkit' (see Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), 2015: https://cairngorms.co.uk/planning-development/landscape-toolkit/)

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
	Visual and Sensory Qualities <u>Grand Panoramas and Framed Views</u> ▪ Vast and distant panoramic views are frequent throughout the Park, made possible by open landscapes and elevated viewpoints. ▪ Visibility and colours are always highly susceptible to changing weather and season. ▪ Views range from broad pastoral straths of green, improved pasture; middle-distance open, rolling hills of brown heather moor, with woodland at lower levels; and far distant, exposed, wild mountain terrain.	The Proposed Development would form a minor feature in long distance views to the north from some elevated areas of the CNP. It would not impact upon intervisibility within the CNP, nor would it shorten the vast or distant panoramic views experienced from summits. The Proposed Development would not impact upon the enjoyment of the scenery and landscapes of the CNP when viewed from within or outwith the CNP boundary.	*Operational, Consented and In Planning* The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of proposed development at Garbet, viewed largely as an extension to this wind farm and adjacent to proposed development at Clashindarroch II. The Proposed Development would intensify the presence of wind turbines in this area but would not represent a wholly new or anomalous element in views out of the CNP. The magnitude of in-addition impacts attributable to the Proposed Development would be Negligible across a limited number of elevated locations within the CNP. Elsewhere, the magnitude of impact would be None. Consequently, the residual effect would generally be None, but with localised Moderate/ Minor effects, which would not constitute a significant effect on the identified special qualities of naturalness, vast panoramas or solitude of the CNP. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of in addition cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Development when considered in the context of existing, consented and proposed development (and including the proposed Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension schemes currently at Scoping stage) would be Negligible areas and confined to a small number of elevated landscapes within the CNP. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor. However, the majority of the CNP would be subject to no impact or effect. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the influence of wind farms across some of the upper elevations of the CNP, however the perception and experience of the CNP's naturalness, vast panoramas and solitude would remain broadly consistent with the baseline. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of in combination impacts associated with the Proposed Development in conjunction with existing and consented developments would be Slight and confined to a limited number of elevated areas within the CNP, reducing to Negligible or None across the majority of the CNP. Wind farms are an established characteristic in views out of the CNP, are seen distantly and are set in a highly modified landscape context. On the basis of the preceding analysis the residual in combination cumulative effect would be Moderate, reducing to Moderate/ Minor or None across much of the CNP. Consequently, the combined effect of wind energy development on the special qualities of CNP are not considered significant. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate across some elevated areas within the CNP, reducing to Slight or None across the wider CNP. The effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None overall. The introduction of proposed (in planning) schemes along with the Proposed Development would result in a gradual intensification of the influence of wind energy development in panoramic views to the north, north east and north west from within the CNP. Additionally, wind energy development at Clashindarroch II, Garbet and the Proposed Development would also introduce new sources of artificial lighting into the landscape	The Proposed Development would add to the emergent pattern of development in views from a number of summits within the CNP, but would otherwise be obscured from the majority of this designated area. Where visible, the Proposed Development would be seen distantly outwith the CNP in views to the north and north west. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of other operational, consented and in planning developments within the area of the Site, and while the addition of the Proposed Development would have some minor influence on the special qualities of the CNP, specifically the degree of perceived naturalness and, remoteness and wildness, this would not be significant and would be insufficient to undermine the integrity of the CNP. In considering the combined effect of wind energy development into account, it is apparent that localised significant cumulative effects are anticipated in respect of existing, consented and proposed wind farms, and also when scoping schemes are included. Such effects arise from effects on naturalness, remoteness and wildness of summits and do not apply for the majority of the CNP, and so with few exceptions, the wind energy developments identified in the LVIA are not considered to affect the key special qualities for the CNP to the degree, or geographical extent as to undermine the integrity of the CNP.
	<u>A Landscape of Many Colours</u> ▪ All Scottish landscapes are visually reflective of seasonal and weather-related changes. ▪ The CNP possesses characteristics which make its colours distinctive and recognisable. These derive from its combination of bedrock, natural vegetation, lochs and rivers, land management and microclimate.	The local palette of colours would not be affected by the Proposed Development. While some forestry removal would occur as a result of the Proposed Development it is unlikely that this would be discernible in views from within the CNP. Any effects would be in keeping with ordinary forestry felling practices and would be temporary until replacement planting has matured.		
	<u>Dark Skies</u> ▪ At night, even the complete absence of colour, a pitch-black sky bespeckled only with the light of the stars, is a distinctive feature as dark skies become increasingly rare in Britain.	When activated, the Proposed Development would introduce new sources of artificial light to long distance views from a number of summits within the CNP. The lit turbines would be viewed at distance, and in the context of other lit elements and infrastructure such as areas of settlement, telecommunications structures and other wind energy developments present within the landscapes outwith the CNP. TA 5.8: Lighting Assessment, contains further assessment in respect of potential lighting effects on this designated area.		
	<u>Spirituality</u> ▪ Solitude in this vast landscape can be readily found on the highest exposed peaks, the still calm of a pine forest or far into the heather-clad hills. The beauty of the landscape and dominance of nature prevails.	The Proposed Development would not significantly alter the experience of solitude, peace or calmness found within the CNP, but would form a minor element, seen at distance, within expansive, panoramic mountain top views which already contains development of this type. It would not interrupt or affect the intervisibility between peaks within the CNP, nor would it alter the perceived size, scale or vastness of the mountains.		

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			during hours of darkness (when activated) however these would be located outwith the CNP, be low lying and consequently, would not notably impact upon the Dark Skies experienced within the CNP. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* When taken into account, proposed scoping schemes would broaden the distribution and influence of development in views from elevated positions in the CNP, with consequent compounding of the influence of such development on the naturalness The magnitude of impact would be Moderate across some elevated areas within the CNP, reducing to Slight or None across the wider CNP. The residual effect would be locally **Major/ Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None overall. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of Scoping developments to other operational, consented, proposed and in conjunction with the Proposed Development.	
Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)				
Moray Council				
Ben Rinnes See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 3: Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown (Figures 5.11a – 5.11f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 6: Ben Rinnes (Figures 5.14a – 5.14j) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 7: Corryhabbie Hill (Figures 5.15a – 5.15f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 18: Auchindoun Castle (Figures 5.26a – 5.26f)	▪ Part of the wider setting to Cairngorms National Park. ▪ Remote uplands and sparsely settled glens display similar characteristics to the Park landscapes. Contains the remaining area of little modified uplands within Moray. ▪ Ben Rinnes forms a dominant landmark feature – is isolated from other hills and has a distinctive form. The smaller hills of Meikle Conval and Little Conval provide a backdrop to the settlement of Dufftown. ▪ Uplands between Glen Rinnes and Glen Fiddich have flowing slopes and rounded tops and are deeply dissected by narrow valleys. ▪ The high ridge between Corryhabbie Hill and Carn an t Suidhe has a dramatic presence in views from Glen Livet. ▪ Glen Rinnes and Glen Livet form tranquil and relatively little developed glens, strongly contained by steep-sided uplands. ▪ The narrow Glen Fiddich is more remote. Glen Suie, which continues over the bealach to link with Glen Livet in the south, is similarly unsettled with some abandoned buildings. ▪ Extensive birch woodlands trace the river and extend into the steep-sided gullies which cut into the hills. These provide a dramatic setting to the castle to the south east. ▪ The SLA has a high recreation value for hill walkers. ▪ Distilleries are present within Glen Rinnes and Glenlivet with some of these comprising attractive historic buildings and adding to the romance associated with this landscape.	The Proposed Development is not located within the Ben Rinnes SLA and therefore would not have direct effects on this designated area. The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development would be visible to varying degrees from high summits and site facing slopes above Glen Fiddich, Glen Rinnes, Glen Livet and Glen Suie. Along the south eastern boundary of the SLA, views would be available from the ridgeline connecting Carn an t Suidhe, Corryhabbie Hill, Hill of Glenroads, Tor Elick, Thunderslap Hill, Lairds Seat and Jocks Hill. Further west, visibility stops as the topography descends into Glen Rinnes. A large part of the SLA extending south west along the Glen to Glenlivet and Tomnavoulin on the designation boundary would have no view of the Proposed Development. As the elevation rises out of Glen Rinnes, visibility becomes available again across the summits and southern and eastern slopes of Ben Rinnes, Hill of Knocknashaig and Cairnacay, and Meilke Conval, Little Conval and unnamed hills, east of Dufftown. In the west of the designation, some visibility is present across the Cromdale Hills as they lie within the designation boundary. From these elevated areas within the Ben Rinnes SLA, the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of other clusters of existing and consented wind energy development present across the upland landscapes to the east and south and the more agricultural landscapes to the north. The Proposed Development constitute a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development in views to the	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* As described in respect of the context of existing and consented wind farm development that form the baseline, the magnitude of cumulative impact would be Moderate and the residual in addition effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) on elevated summits, but None within more lower lying areas or within enclosed glens. Operational and consented wind energy development would be present across the immediate and middle ground, such as Dorenell Wind Farm which aligns the eastern boundary of the SLA and Clashindarroch further east. To the west/ north west of the SLA, north of Strath Spey, clusters of operational and consented developments at Berry Burn and Berry Burn II, Pauls Hill and Pauls Hill II, Rothes I and II, Harehill and Meikle Hill are visible from north western areas of the SLA. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development in views for hill walkers accessing the slopes and summit of Ben Rinnes. However, it would not alter the perceived remoteness, seclusion or tranquillity experienced from within the lower lying or more contained landscapes of the SLA. It would not alter the setting/ backdrop that the hills and ridges within the SLA provide to Glenlivet, Dufftown and other scattered settlement within the SLA glens. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The effect would be Moderate (Not significant). In addition to other operational, consented and in planning development, the Proposed Development would be sited within a more pronounced development context, and would form a consistent element within an established pattern of wind farm	The Proposed Development would be viewed from elevated locations which provide hill walkers with expansive panoramic views across neighbouring upland and agricultural landscapes towards the north coast, the Ladder Hills and the more distant Cairngorm Mountains. The Proposed Development would be viewed within the context of a wide range of existing land uses, including a number of existing and consented wind energy development present across a number of landscape types. The addition of the Proposed Development would contribute to the emerging pattern of development visible from upland landscapes within the SLA. The Proposed Development would be viewed as a separate cluster in relatively close proximity to the eastern edge of the SLA and its presence would impact eastern/ north eastern facing views from the SLA

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
		east, due to its closer proximity to the SLA in comparison to other development. This would impact upon views for hill walkers accessing the slopes and summit of Ben Rinnes. However, the Proposed Development would not influence the character of the landscapes found within the glens which form a key characteristic of the SLA. The proposed turbines would not alter the perceived tranquillity experienced from within these contained landscapes, nor would it introduce a new or unfamiliar land use. It would not impact upon the setting/ backdrop that the hills and ridges within the SLA provide to Glenlivet, Dufftown and other scattered settlement within the SLA glens. On the basis of the preceding analysis, the magnitude of impact would be Moderate across the upland areas of the SLA, reducing to none within the glens and across the south western extent of the designated area. The residual effect on the Ben Rinnes SLA would therefore be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) in upland areas, reducing to none elsewhere.	development in views from summits within the SLA. The change would be discernible, but overall the baseline context would remain constant. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The effect would be Moderate (Not significant). The proposed (scoping) Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension turbines would result in a notable increase in the developed context to the east of the SLA. The in-addition effects attributable to the Proposed Development would remain unchanged. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The Proposed Development, in conjunction with operational and consented wind energy developments would result in wind energy development being a prominent element within adjacent landscapes in elevated views to the north, east and west, impacting upon the experience of hill walkers and other people using the SLA for recreation. Turbines would also be visible from locations within glens and valleys, reducing their perceived remoteness. On the basis of this analysis, the magnitude of in-combination impact would be Moderate. The residual effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational, consented and in planning developments, would have similar effects to those assessed above. The inclusion of Garbet and Clashindarroch II would further intensify this influence across similar areas within the SLA. The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The residual effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Following the inclusion of sites in Scoping, wind energy development would substantially influence the character of the SLA, including from within Glen Rinnes, reducing the perceived remoteness, tranquillity, and lack of development within the glen landscape. Wind energy development would be visible from a high proportion of the SLA. The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The effect would be **Major** (Significant).	from elevated locations, such as the summit of Ben Rinnes. The Proposed Development would not alter the setting/ backdrop that the hills and ridges within the SLA provide to Glenlivet, Dufftown and other scattered settlement within the SLA glens. In combination with other wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind energy development being a notable land use within the upland landscapes in views from elevated areas of the SLA. Wind energy development would reduce the perceived remoteness, tranquillity, and lack of development within the glen landscape. This influence would be particularly increased following the consideration of those schemes at Scoping.
Spey Valley See Representative Viewpoint 5: Ben Aigan (Figures 5.13a – 5.13f)	▪ Diverse landscape of broad gently weaving river, floodplain farmland, wooded valley sides and distinctive settlements together with the romance associated with the Spey due to its connection with whisky distilling are key reasons for designation of this SLA. ▪ The middle section of the valley is strongly contained on both sides by steep wooded slopes including those of the prominent heather-capped hill of Ben Aigan which looms over the valley. ▪ The river forms tight loops defining arcs of floodplain arable fields and pasture. The Spey is wide and occasionally braided forming banks of cobbles and vegetated islands.	The magnitude of impact on the key characteristics and special qualities of the Spey Valley SLA would be Slight or Negligible in the area where views are available. The change arising from the alteration would be discernible but underlying landscape character or view composition would be broadly consistent with baseline. Across the wider SLA, the magnitude of impact would be None. The Proposed Development is not located within the Spey Valley SLA and therefore would not have direct, physical effects on this designated area.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). The addition of the Proposed Development to other consented and operational wind energy development would represent a barely discernible addition to the influence of wind energy across the SLA. The Proposed Development would form a small increase in the influence of turbines across a limited area of landscape, which is largely covered by forestry. The key characteristics and special qualities which form the baseline	The Proposed Development would affect a very small area of the SLA, in locations where key or defining characteristics are not present or notable. The proposed turbines would be viewed in an adjacent landscape away from the valley and would be viewed in the context of other wind farm development. The impact

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Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
	▪ Occasional rocky cliffs occur against the river and the valley is particularly incised west of Craigellachie. ▪ Beech hedges edge fields and roads in the Dipple area. Steep slopes and terraces, backed by extensive coniferous forest, accommodate small species-rich pastures and mixed woodlands fringed by ferns and gorse. ▪ This area has an intimate scale and more tranquil nature than the western side of the river in this area which is more intensively farmed and accommodates busy roads and the railway. ▪ Around Knockando the historic field patterns survive, adding further to the sense of longevity of human activity in the landscape. ▪ Landform is notably complex in the Knockando area where a number of small tributary burns cut steeply down to the Spey. ▪ Woodlands accentuate the containment of the landscape and this area has an intimate scale and a timeless character. ▪ A rich cultural heritage. ▪ Adjacent uplands, and particularly the high and distinctive heather-clad Ben Rinnes with its ridgeline tors, are highly visible in the section of the valley west of Craigellachie and form part of the wider setting to this candidate SLA.	There is very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from within the Spey Valley SLA due to the containment of the valley by the topography which defines it. The ZTV indicates that views of all turbines would theoretically be available from the western edge of the valley between Rothes and Craigellachie, and an area to the east of Craigellachie, at distances of approximately 12.5 km. Some visibility of between 1 – 4 turbines is also available across the hills above Knockando, in the southwest of the SLA. These areas of visibility often coincide with areas of woodland or forestry, as well as screening provided by vegetation located within the intervening landscape which would provide a high degree of screening. Where open areas exist, these are generally used for agriculture. The defining characteristics of the SLA are from within the valley: the intimate scale, the sense of containment, the meandering river and associated tributaries which create the valley landform, and the cultural history. The Proposed Development is not visible from within the valley landscape and therefore would not impact upon these key characteristics. The Proposed Development would be set back from the SLA boundary. At distances of over 11 km, it would not impact upon the upland landscapes which form part of the wider setting to the SLA. Where visible from elevated locations above the valley, it would form a feature within a landscape separate from the Strath Spey, in the middle distance and within the context of a larger scale landscape within broad and expansive views. It would not intrude on the valley or alter the largely intimate or small-scale landscapes found within the SLA. The magnitude of in combination impacts associated with the Proposed Development in conjunction with existing and consented developments would be Slight and confined to a limited number of elevated areas within the CNP, reducing to Negligible or None across the majority of the CNP. Wind farms are an established characteristic in views out of the CNP, are seen distantly and are set in a highly modified landscape context. On the basis of the preceding analysis the residual in combination cumulative effect would be Moderate, reducing to Moderate/ Minor or None across much of the CNP. Consequently, the combined effect of wind energy development on the special qualities of CNP are not considered significant.	condition of the SLA, including the intimate scale and tranquil nature of the valley, would remain unchanged. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). Given the limited visibility of the Proposed Development within the SLA, the containment of the valley landscape within the SLA and the presence of woodland and forestry providing screening, the addition of the Proposed Development into the emergent pattern of development established by operational, consented and proposed schemes, would not alter the magnitude of cumulative impact assessed above. The key characteristics and qualities of the SLA, for all intents and purposes, would be unaffected. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). There would be no change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development into the emergent pattern of development established by other operational, consented, proposed and scoping schemes. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant). The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented development would establish a pattern of large scale wind energy development across adjacent upland landscapes, set back from the edges of the SLA. Cumulative ZTVs (see Figures 5.7b – 5.7za in Volume 3) indicate theoretical visibility across the SLA. However, due to increased containment of the SLA by the proliferation of woodland, forestry, riparian trees and shrubs and other vegetation across the valley floor and sides, the influence of wind energy development would be substantially reduced, particularly across the valley floor. Development is set back from the edge of the designated area, and would not notably impact upon the intimate scale and tranquil nature of the SLA, nor alter views to distinctive upland summits such as Ben Rinnes. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Given the containment achieved by the topography of the SLA and the screening by woodland, forestry etc., the inclusion of other proposed wind farms would not add significantly to the impact of existing/ consented wind farms. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination impacts arising from existing, consented and proposed wind farms would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (not Significant). *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The inclusion of those wind farms at the Scoping stage would not add significantly to the impact of existing/ consented/ in planning wind farms on the key characteristics of the SLA. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination impacts on the special qualities	on the SLA would not alter the reason for its designation. Cumulative effects are largely a result of existing and proposed development in upland landscapes to the north and north west of the SLA. The addition of the Proposed Development would not contribute notably to the influence of wind farms on the qualities and characteristics of the SLA. It is these qualities, such as levels of woodland and forestry, containment by topography that result in marginal theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from within the SLA. In combination effects would result in a discernible influence of wind energy development across the upper edges of the SLA, and in some instances from within the SLA. However, it is not considered that these effects would be significant. It should be noted that any increase in in-combination effects would not be directly attributable to the Proposed Development.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			of the SLA arising from existing, consented, proposed and Scoping wind farms would remain Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (not Significant).	
Deveron Valley	▪ High scenic quality resulting from its meandering river bounded by rolling wooded hills. ▪ Forms an important setting to settlements along the valley floor and sides, and backdrop to estates. ▪ The richly diverse yet harmonious balance of features in the SLA, such as of policy woodlands, shelterbelts, field and avenue trees and occasional native woodlands on undulating lower hill slopes and flat fields on the more open valley floor, contribute to the special qualities of the area. ▪ Area is important for connectivity, in terms of roads, water catchments and woodland networks. ▪ The Deveron has a convoluted alignment and this, together with its strong containment by steep slopes, lends it an intimate scale and instils a sense of seclusion. ▪ Broadleaved woodlands sweep down on steep slopes at the tight loop in the river opposite Tower Hill. ▪ Rounded wooded and heathery hills (most of these located within the adjacent Deveron Valley SLA in Aberdeenshire) form a backdrop to the valley and contrast with the more patterned and settled valley floor and lower slopes. ▪ Long views are possible above Milltown of Rothiemay to the north towards Knock Hill where side slopes are gentler and the valley more open. ▪ Settlements and individual buildings contribute to the richness of this landscape. Some fine estate houses are also sited on lower slopes.	The magnitude of impact on the Deveron Valley SLA would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) The Proposed Development is not located within the Deveron Valley SLA and therefore would not have direct, physical effects on this designated area. The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development would be visible across a large proportion of the northern extent of the SLA. These areas are elevated above the valley landscape at Auchincrieve and Cairnhill, Rothiemay Crossroad, and across site facing slopes and the summits of Gallow Hill and Hill of Retanach, Hill of Cairns, Little Brown Hill and Meikle Brown Hill. Actual visibility would be restricted however, by forestry and woodland cover in such areas. Where views do occur the Proposed Development would be seen at distances of over 16 km and would therefore represent a minor feature within a broader landscape view which contains existing (and consented) wind energy development such as turbines at Cairnborrow, Midtown of Glass, Riverstone Kinnoir and Clashindarroch. The Proposed Development would not be visible from within the more sensitive valley landscape and would not physically or perceptually alter any of the features which contribute to the special qualities of the SLA (i.e., the woodlands, shelterbelts, character of the lower hill slopes or flat fields on the valley edge, or the open valley floor). Given its separation from the SLA, the Proposed Development would not visually intrude into the valley or alter the intimate scale of the landscape and its sense of containment and seclusion, nor affect the role that the rolling wooded hills play in providing a backdrop to settlements within the valley. The Proposed Development would result in a discernible change in the view to the south west from some elevated areas of the SLA however it is considered unlikely that this change would notably alter the key characteristics and qualities which define the SLA.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant). The edges of the SLA are influenced by smaller scale operational and consented wind energy development which lie to the north or north east of the SLA. At greater distances to the east, operational and consented developments at Edintore and Hill of Towie have some influence across elevated slopes of the SLA. Development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch, at distances of over 18 km are visible from elevated areas within the SLA, but have little influence on the valley landscape, rather forming part of the diverse land uses present in adjacent landscapes. The addition of the Proposed Development would increase the level of development in longer distance views to the south west from elevated areas of the SLA but would not notably impact upon the low lying valley landscape of the SLA. It would not alter the intimate scale of the landscape or its sense of containment and seclusion. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant). There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed wind energy developments. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant). There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. The addition of the Proposed Development would intensify the level of development in more distant views from summits within the SLA but would not affect the defining characteristics or special qualities of the designated area. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant). In conjunction with other consented and operational wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to an emerging pattern of development, where large scale clusters of turbines are present in upland landscapes in distant views from elevated areas of the SLA, such as to the south east of Dufftown and above the Spey Valley to the west. Other small groups or individual turbines are present at distances of between 2 and 5 km of the SLA boundary. These elements influence views from the hills on the edges of the SLA but it is not anticipated that the more contained or sensitive areas of the SLA, which are noted for their intimate scale and sense of seclusion provided by policy	The Proposed Development would be viewed as a feature within a distant landscape, separate from the SLA. It would increase the level of wind energy development visible from elevated parts of the SLA, however it would not discernibly affect the perception or experience of the special qualities which define the Deveron Valley SLA. There is an emerging context of wind energy development that has some influence on the experience of elevated areas within the SLA, predominantly impacting upon longer distance views from the edges of the SLA. The internal areas of the SLA, located along the valley floor and sides are less influenced by wind energy development across adjacent landscapes, due to containment by the surrounding hills. There would be no significant cumulative effects on the special qualities or characteristics of the SLA.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			woodlands, shelterbelts, field and avenues, would be notably altered by wind energy development. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The inclusion of those wind farms at the In Planning stage would not add significantly to the impact of existing and consented wind farms. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination impacts arising from existing, consented and proposed wind farms would remain Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (not Significant). *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The inclusion of those wind farms at the Scoping stage would not discernibly contribute to the impact of existing, consented and in planning wind farms on the special qualities of the SLA. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination impacts arising from existing, consented, proposed and scoping wind farms would remain Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (not Significant).	
Aberdeenshire Council				
Deveron Valley See: ▪ Representative Viewpoint 2: Haugh of Glass (Figures 5.10a – 5.10f) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 13: A920 near Wester Bodilare (Figures 5.21a – 5.21h) ▪ Representative Viewpoint 15: Clashmach Hill (Figures 5.23a – 5.23f)	▪ Meandering river passing through a farmed landscape, framed by rolling wooded hills and ridges, providing views into the valley. ▪ Strong network of woodland throughout the valley provides landscape structure and wildlife habitat. A variety of woodland types include coniferous plantations, deciduous hilltop copses, shelter belts and a wealth of roadside trees including beech and ash. ▪ The presence of historic estates has a strong influence along the river, including parkland around Duff House, Forglen and others, but more generally in the wooded landscape. ▪ The valley landscape forms an important part of the setting of various settlements, including the planned town of Huntly and the market town of Turriff. ▪ Distinctive local granite architecture displayed in villages and towns, farms and most notably in castles such as Huntly. ▪ The attractive landscape makes the Deveron a popular setting for a range of outdoor recreation including fishing, canoeing, walking and cycling, with the NCN Route 1 between Banff and Turriff. ▪ A continuous valley landscape, from the hills to the sea.	The magnitude of impact on the Deveron Valley SLA would be Substantial at the southwestern edge of the designated area, reducing to Slight and None across the majority of the SLA. The residual effect would be **Major** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None (Not significant) with distance. The proposed development is not located within the Deveron Valley SLA and therefore would not have direct, physical effects on this designated area. The ZTV indicates there would be widespread visibility of the majority of all turbines from the south westernmost extent of the SLA. North of the A920, this would include areas at Easter and Wester Bodilare and Hill of Talnmouth. South of the road, visibility extends across Market Hill and areas of the valley floor east of Haugh of Glass, and across hills associated with Daugh of Aswanley. Forestry across these hillslopes would reduce actual visibility. In this part of the SLA, west of Huntly, the Proposed Development would outcrop above the valley and would form a new and prominent feature in the landscape. Whilst set back from the edge of the valley, the turbines would affect the form and scale of the valley landscape below, impacting the setting of scattered residential properties. This is evidenced in the photomontages for Representative Viewpoints 2: Haugh of Glass and 13: A920 near Wester Bodilare. As the SLA extends northeast across the Deveron Valley, the influence of the Proposed Development on the SLA would reduce. As theoretical visibility is largely limited to slopes and summits, the Proposed Development would not affect the valley landscape which forms the setting of settlements within the valley floor. It would not alter the experience of local architecture or the use of the valley landscape for recreational activities.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The in-addition magnitude of impact would be Substantial across the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Moderate or None across the wider designated area. The residual effect would be **Major** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None to the centre and north of the SLA. When considered in addition to other operational and consented development, the Proposed Development would impact upon the skyline, altering the perceived scale of the hills which contain the valley in this area and impacting upon the setting of scattered residential properties in this area. Operational wind energy development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch form minor landscape elements, set back from the valley and have little influence on the key characteristics of the SLA in this area. Impacts would be localised. In the central and northern extents of the SLA, the influence of the Proposed Development reduces, and the addition of the proposed turbines would have a limited influence on the key characteristics of the SLA. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The in-addition magnitude of impact would be Moderate across the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Slight or None across the wider designated area. The residual effect would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Moderate/ Minor or None across the wider SLA. The addition of the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of the proposed Garbet turbines, notably extending the spread of turbines across the skyline and further impacting upon the setting of properties within the valley. The addition of the Proposed Development would alter the perceived scale of the landscape and affect the setting of residential properties in this area.	The influence of the Proposed Development on the special qualities and characteristics of the SLA would be limited to locations where the proposed turbines would be located above the valley, altering the perceived size and scale of the landscape in these areas and impacting upon the settling of settlement within the valley. This is anticipated to be a significant effect in areas to the west of Huntly, within 5 to 7 km of the Proposed Development. As distance increased, the overall impact of the Proposed Development on the key characteristics of the SLA would reduce substantially. There would be significant in-addition and in-combination effects across the south western extent of the SLA as a result of the Proposed Development. This is due to the positioning of the Proposed Development (and other proposed developments) across the skyline which forms the edge to the intimate valley

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			Impacts would be localised. In the central and northern extents of the SLA, the addition of the proposed turbines would have a limited influence on the key characteristics of the SLA. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate in the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Slight or None elsewhere across the designated area. The residual effect would be **Major / Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None (Not significant). There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate in the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Slight or None across the wider SLA. The residual effect would be locally **Major / Moderate** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None overall. The Proposed Development, viewed in conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in turbines becoming a notable characteristic of the valley landscape in the south western extent of the designated area, affecting the setting of scattered settlement in this area of the SLA. Further north, single turbines or small groups of turbines of a smaller size and scale to those found in the upland landscapes to the south west of the SLA would have some visibility from within the SLA boundary, however would not notably detract from the valley landscape forming a setting to settlement, or the contained and small scale nature of the landscape within the Deveron Valley. Woodland within the valley would also reduce the influence of these features across the SLA. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial in the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Slight or None across the wider SLA. The residual effect would be locally **Major** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None overall. When considered in conjunction with other operational, proposed and in planning development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines being a key characteristic of the landscape in the south western extent of the SLA. Turbines at Clashindarroch II and Clashindarroch, would be viewed across the skyline in the distance, while turbines at Garbet and the Proposed Development would be seen across prominent ridges in the middle ground of the view at varying sizes and scales, impacting upon the setting of scattered residential properties present within the valley. There are no proposed wind energy developments present within the landscape surrounding the central or northern extents of the SLA. Therefore, in combination effects would align with the assessment for operational and consented development within the northern and central extent of the SLA. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial in the south western extent of the SLA, reducing to Slight or None across the	in this area, affecting the size and scale of the landscape and altering the setting for properties within the valley. Further north/ north east across the SLA, these effects would reduce substantially as visibility of the Proposed Development becomes more intermittent or ceases. In-combination effects would also reduce as existing and consented developments are of a smaller size and scale to those in the upland landscapes further south, and their influence across the valley landscape is restricted by local topography and woodland vegetation.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			wider SLA. The residual effect would be locally **Major** (Significant), reducing to Moderate or None overall. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments.	
5. Bennachie See Representative Viewpoint 14: Mither Tap (Figures 5.22a – 5.22f)	• Bennachie is the iconic hill of central Aberdeenshire, instantly recognisable from across the wider landscape, in both long and short range views. • Intact landcover of heather moorland on the main Bennachie ridge. • Extensive woodland across lowland and upland, including native woods, estate policies and forestry plantations, with a substantial amount recognised as ancient woodland. • Hill forts are found on summits such as Mither Tap and Tillymuick, with cairns and other features emphasising the long history of settlement. • The River Don is a key feature of Aberdeenshire, meandering through the upland glen south of Bennachie, and across the farmland around Kemnay. • The farmland to the east provides the setting to Bennachie, but also typifies lowland Aberdeenshire with its mosaic of wooded estates and open farmland. • A hugely popular area, with walkers enjoying the spectacular views from the Bennachie summits, and Pitfichie being a centre for mountain biking. • Panoramic views from the upland areas, particularly from the Bennachie summits, over the Don Valley and beyond to the patchwork of Aberdeenshire farmland.	The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not Significant). The Proposed Development is not located within the Bennachie SLA and therefore would not have direct, physical effects on this designated area. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across elevated summits and slopes of Bennachie in the north, and south of the designated area at Cairn William and Pitfichie Hill. A small area to the west at Sui Hill and Knock Saul, would also provide theoretical views of the Proposed Development, however areas of woodland and forestry would obscure actual views. From these elevated locations, the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of a broad spread of wind energy development at varying sizes, scales and distances from the designated area. As shown in Figures 5.22a to Figure 5.22f: Viewpoint 14: Mither Tap View Point, the Proposed Development would appear as a minor element in long distance, panoramic views experienced by walkers accessing the Bennachie summits. The Proposed Development would form a very limited alteration in views to the west, and would not be present in views across the Don Valley towards the patchwork of Aberdeenshire farmland. The Proposed Development would not affect the iconic status of Bennachie in views from the surrounding landscape.	<u>In Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a minor increase in the presence of wind energy development in views experienced by hill walkers accessing the Bennachie summits. The Proposed Development would appear as a discrete cluster of development along the distant skyline within the panoramic views from the upland areas. The addition of the Proposed Development would not impact upon the lower lying areas of the SLA including the River Don valley, including the hills which form the setting to the Don valley. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) reducing to None. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible increase in the influence of wind energy development across the SLA, experienced only in views from elevated parts of the designated area, where panoramic and expansive views across a varied landscape form a key characteristic. The Proposed Development would appear as an extension to proposed development at Garbet, located behind the operational Clashindarroch and the proposed Clashindarroch II cluster of development. It would be unlikely to be distinguishable as a separate wind farm. The addition of the Proposed Development would not impact upon the lowland and valley landscapes of the SLA. The change would be discernible, but the baseline condition of the SLA would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) reducing to None. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. Hill walkers accessing the Bennachie summits within the SLA would view the Proposed Development in the context of a large cluster of commercial scale wind energy development, within an expansive and panoramic view. The addition of the Proposed Development would be almost indistinguishable.	The Proposed Development would be located at such a distance from the SLA, that it is unlikely to notably affect the special qualities and characteristics of the designated area. It would contribute to the varied land uses which characterise long distance panoramic views from the Bennachie summits, viewed in the context of existing wind energy development. There is an emerging context of wind energy development that has some influence on the experience of elevated areas across small areas of the SLA, predominantly impacting upon longer distance views from the edges of the SLA. The majority of the landscape within the SLA would not be influenced by wind energy development within adjacent landscapes, due to containment by the surrounding hills. There would be no significant cumulative effects on the special qualities or characteristics of the SLA.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			In Combination *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational and consented development, would result in an area of large-scale wind energy development across an area of upland landscape, set back from the SLA and appearing in the distance within panoramic views from the Bennachie summits. Other operational and consented development both within and in closer proximity to the SLA is of a smaller scale, and scattered across the landscape in small or single groups of turbines. Given the distance from the SLA, the existing pattern of development would not impact upon the perceived prominence of Bennachie. When viewed from elevated parts of the SLA, visitors to summits would experience a context of wind energy development which is becoming a characteristic element within adjacent or distant landscapes. However, the impact on special qualities found within the majority of the SLA would remain largely unaffected due to screening by the extensive woodland present across lowland and upland areas. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational and consented wind energy developments. While the addition of Garbet and Clashindarroch II Wind Farms to this scenario would increase the level of development visible across the upland landscape in the area of the Site, the influence this would have on the characteristics and special qualities of the SLA would remain low. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. Similarly, the addition of the Scoping Developments to other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments, in conjunction with the Proposed Development would increase the level of development visible across the upland landscape in the area of the Site, the influence these developments would have on the characteristics and special qualities of the SLA would remain low.	
6. Upper Don Valley	• Distinctive valley landforms, including the steep sided gorge west of Alford and the wider strath around Kildrummy. • The Don is contained by rolling wooded hills with attractive broadleaved woodland and a patchwork of arable farmland and pasture. • Broad open moorland forms the backdrop to views along and across the strath, including views to the higher hills within the Cairngorms National Park.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not Significant). The Proposed Development is not located within the Upper Don SLA and therefore would not have direct physical effects on this designated area.	In Addition *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None.	It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would significantly alter the special qualities and key characteristics of the SLA due to the distance of the development from the

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
	• Moorland ridges extend almost to the river in places, creating an interlocking visual pattern of upland and lowland. • Substantial and well visited built heritage features include the medieval Kildrummy Castle and its more recent namesake and associated gardens. The designed landscape of Glenkindie House has an influence on the approach to the National Park. • An agricultural but sparsely settled landscape, the settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms, often featuring traditional granite buildings set in small woodlands, rather than nucleated villages. • The meandering, occasionally braided River Don is a key river that contributes to the identity of Aberdeenshire, forming a link between the mountains and the sea. • The Don valley is the route of the A97 Highland Tourist Route, a major gateway into the National Park, with glimpses into the higher hills west of Glenkindie. • The southern ridge of Balderonoch Hill, Broom Hill and The Socach offers panoramic views for walkers over Strathdon and south into the Howe of Cromar.	The ZTV indicates scattered visibility across the most elevated areas of the SLA. This extends across the summit and higher slopes of Coiliochbhar Hill, Craigiebeg Hill and Langgadlie Hill, and south across the ridge of Balderonoch Hill, Broom Hill and The Socach at the southern edge of the designated area. These impacts would be experienced by hill walkers visiting these locations. From these elevated areas, the Proposed Development would appear within panoramic and expansive views which extend across a mosaic of landscape types (upland hills, upland farmland etc.) and comprise a mix of land uses. It would be viewed in the context of a broad spread of wind energy development at varying sizes, scales and distances from the designated area, and behind development at Clashindarroch, and adjacent to turbines at Dorenell. The change would be discernible but would only affect a small proportion of the overall view from these areas. It would not obstruct or impinge on views across Strathdon. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from lower lying areas within the SLA, and therefore no other special qualities or key characteristics would be affected.	The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational and consented wind energy development would increase the level of large-scale wind turbines in distant (over 17 km) upland landscapes to the north west of the SLA. Viewed only from the most elevated areas, where panoramic views include development at Dorenell, Clashindarroch and Kildrummy within the same area as the Site, the addition of the Proposed Development would not influence the more intimate and small scale low land landscapes of the Don Valley, nor affect the moorland hills which form the setting to the river valley. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) reducing to None. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a barely discernible increase in the influence of wind energy development in panoramic and expansive views from elevated areas of the SLA. The Proposed Development would sit behind development at Clashindarroch and Clashindarroch II, and would appear as an extension to Garbet Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would intensify the level of development in this area, but would likely not be distinguishable as a separate development. The addition of the Proposed Development would not influence the more intimate and small scale low land landscapes of the Don Valley SLA, nor would it impact upon the moorland hills which form the setting to the river valley. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) reducing to None. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping wind energy developments. The Proposed Development would be seen within the context of a large cluster of commercial scale wind energy development, within panoramic views from elevated locations where large scale wind energy development is already established. The addition of the Proposed Development would be almost indistinguishable from others in the adjacent area. <u>In Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. In conjunction with other operational and consented development, the Proposed Development would contribute to a pattern of development where large scale commercial wind farms are present across upland landscapes which form the skyline in elevated, long distance views. Smaller scale single or small groups of turbines would be present in closer proximity within the middle distance. While views from these summits would contain clusters of turbines at varying distances, they would not be prominent.	designation boundary and the existing character of the surrounding landscape. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of other wind energy development, contributing to the varied land uses which characterise long distance panoramic views from the hills and ridges within the SLA. There would be no significant cumulative effects on the Upper Don Valley SLA. This is due to the Proposed Development only being viewed at the uppermost elevations within the designated area, where it would be seen within the context of an emerging pattern of development across the upland landscapes at distances of over 17 km distant. The addition of the Proposed Development to this context would intensify the level of development in views from these elevated locations, but would not discernibly alter the key characteristics or special qualities found within the SLA. In combination with other wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to an establishing pattern of large scale wind development across upland landscapes in distant views. While smaller scale development would theoretically have increased influence across the north western edge of the SLA, actual influence would be reduced due to the presence of woodland and riparian planting, as well as the wooded hills which contain the Don Valley landscape.

Table 5.5.1: Potentially Impacted Designated and Classified Landscapes

Designation / Classification	Summary of Key Characteristics & Special Qualities[1]	Magnitude of Impact and Residual Effect	Magnitude of Cumulative Impact and Residual Effect	Analysis
			These the smaller scale developments would have some theoretical influence across the north western edge of the SLA, due to woodland and vegetation cover across the valley floor and hills which contain the valley, operational and consented development would not notably influence the smaller scale, intimate lower lying landscapes of the Don Valley SLA, nor would it affect the moorland hills which form the setting to the river valley. The majority of the SLA would remain unaffected. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. There would be little change to the above assessment following the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational and consented wind energy developments. While the addition of Garbet and Clashindarroch II wind farms to this scenario would increase the level of development visible across the upland landscape in the area of the Site, the influence these developments would have on the characteristics and special qualities of the SLA would be barely perceptible. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight across elevated areas of the SLA, reducing to None within the interior of the designated area. The residual effect would be Moderate (Not significant) reducing to None. Similarly, the addition of the Scoping Developments to other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments, in conjunction with the Proposed Development would increase the level of development visible across the upland landscape in the area of the Site. However, the influence these developments would have on the characteristics and special qualities of the SLA would be barely perceptible.	

TA 5.6: Viewpoint Assessment

Technical Appendix 5.6: Viewpoint Assessment

1.1.1 This Technical Appendix sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the LVIA for the Proposed Development. The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the LVIA and were initially utilised in the design of mitigation measures discussed in Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives.

1.1.2 Viewpoints are presented on Figure 5.8 of this EIAR, overlaid on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Proposed Development.

1.1.3 The viewpoints were selected to reflect a range of receptor locations at different distances, directions, and elevations from the Site. The selected viewpoints are intended to represent the experience that receptors would have at recognised vantage points, within landscape character types and landscape designations, settlements, important transportation and recreational routes. The viewpoints have been utilised in the development of the design strategy and in the assessment of landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development.

1.1.4 The viewpoints were agreed with Moray Council (MC), Aberdeenshire Council (AC), NatureScot (NS) and the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) during a scoping and post-scoping consultation exercises.

1.1.5 An assessment of the potential effects on both landscape character and visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at each of the agreed viewpoints was undertaken and the findings set out in the tables below. These tables describe:

- the viewpoint number and name;
- the sensitivity of the landscape character and visual receptors at each viewpoint;
- the existing view from each location;
- the cumulative context;
- the predicted operational view of the Proposed Development with other operational and consented developments; and
- the predicted cumulative view with operational, consented and proposed developments.

1.1.6 Visualisations for each of the viewpoints are illustrated on Figures 5.9a to 5.27f. These images have been created in accordance with current NS visualisation standard guidance[1], and contain details of the location, elevation, bearing and distance of the Proposed Development from the nearest Proposed Development turbine. It should be noted that bearings of views may vary according to whether the view is centred on the Site centre (as in the case of the montaged images) or whether the Site is offset to take account of cumulative developments (i.e., in cumulative wireline images).

1.1.7 The visualisations reflect the appearance of the Proposed Development at the time of the completion of construction works at the Site and include images showing the Proposed Development on its own set within the baseline view at the time of the photography for the LVIA, as well as in the context of existing, consented and proposed wind farms.

1.1.8 The night-time visualisations have been included for Viewpoint 6, 8 and 13 (Figures 5.14j, 5.16h and 5.21h). These illustrate the type of lighting proposed in worst case scenario comprising 2,000 candela steady red lights on all turbine nacelles and 32 candela lights midway down turbine towers. However, mitigation, in the form of a reduced lighting scheme, has been submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and a condition is proposed that would provide for the submission of an Aviation Lighting Landscape and Visual Impact Mitigation Plan which would include measures to minimise the visual impact of lighting based on solutions currently approved by the CAA, and that would allow flexibility for the review of the mitigation plan in line with updated CAA policy.

1.1.9 Table 5.6.1, below, summarises the findings of the Viewpoint Assessment, and Table 5.6.2 contains the detailed assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity at viewpoints. Table 5.6.3 outlines the findings of the assessment of cumulative effects at each viewpoint.

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
1	Minor Road, Deveron Valley	**Major** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	• Settlement: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* • Settlement: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented*

[1] NatureScot (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Guidance. Version 2.2 retrieved from: https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
					• Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
2	Haugh of Glass	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant)
3	Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)
4	A941 north of Dufftown	**Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	• Tourists using the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* • Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant) • Local road users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* • Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant)

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
					Operational, Consented and In Planning • Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Not significant)
5	Ben Aigan	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - ***Major/ Moderate*** *(Significant)* *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
6	Ben Rinnes	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
7	Corryhabbie Hill	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
8	Little Geal Charn	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
9	The Buck	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
			Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping - **Major** (Significant)		*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
10	Tap o'Noth	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)
11	Meikle Balloch Hill	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
12	B9016 at Aultmore	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)	• Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant)
13	A920 near Wester Bodylair	**Major** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning & Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning & Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	• Settlement and Tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
					• Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
14	Mither Tap View Point	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)	Moderate	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant)
15	Clashmach Hill	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
16	A941 near Public House	**Major** (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not Significant)
17	Cromdale Hills	**Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)

Table 5.6.1: Summary of the Viewpoint Assessment Findings

VP No.	Viewpoint Name	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint	Residual Cumulative Effect on Visual Receptor at Viewpoint
18	Auchindoun Castle (on approach)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Moderate/ Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Moderate/ Major** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
19	A941 Upper Howbog near Cabrach	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* - Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* - **Major** (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* • Local road users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) • Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Local road users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) • Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Local road users: Minor (Not significant) • Tourists on the road network: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* • Local road users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) • Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* • Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) • Tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant)

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
1	Minor Road, Deveron Valley	1.53 km south west	High: Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (NS 32)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The view extends west along a local road which links the A920 with the A941. Mature forestry plantations are present in the centre of the view, running across the hillsides and skyline in the direction of the Site, extending to the roadside west of the viewer. A house and associated farm buildings is glimpsed through the roadside trees. The distinctive peak of Craig Dorney creates a form of local interest on the skyline. It is a highly modified rural landscape typified by improved pasture and forestry plantations. The landscape is of a small to medium scale, containing elements of a human scale such as electricity, phone and road infrastructure, buildings and trees. Views are channelled along the valley, often contained by topography and/ or vegetation. Key aspects of the view from this location compromise undulating, often forested valley sides and medium range views connecting to adjoining moorland hills which form the edges of the valley landscape. In distant views to the south, the hubs/ blades of three wind turbines at Clashindarroch Wind Farm are visible above the skyline.	Figures 5.9a – 5.9f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The Proposed Development would form a prominent element in views to the west from this local road. Towers, hubs and blades of all 11 wind turbines would be visible from this location and would extend across the full view. The turbines would be arrayed across the skyline, set back slightly from the intervening ridge linking Craig Dorney Hill and Chapel Hill. The Proposed Development would appear out of scale with other elements within the landscape and would introduce constant movement into a landscape which is, currently, largely still.	The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development would form a considerable alteration to the skyline to the west of this part of the Deveron Valley. It would introduce large, moving structures to the edge of a landscape where elements of this size and scale are not a feature. The Proposed Development would notably alter the composition of the view from the minor road.	The residual effect on the character of the Farmed and Wooded River Valleys LCT at this viewpoint would be **Major** (Significant).	The residual effect on scattered settlement at this viewpoint would be **Major** (Significant) The residual effect on local road users at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).
2	Haugh of Glass	3.80 km south west	High: • Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (NS 32) • Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The view to the Site from the local road at Haugh of Glass extends southwest. The rural landscape is enclosed and small-medium in scale, contained by topography and vegetation. Improved pasture is present on the valley floor and at lower elevations across the hillsides. Small fields are demarcated by post and wire fences and shelterbelts. A mature shelterbelt is a notable element in the view to the southwest and screens/ filters longer distance views to the farmland and moorland which form the background to the view. A residential property and associated farm buildings is glimpsed behind these trees in the middle ground of the view. The hills which form the skyline to the view are characterised by a combination of open moorland and commercial forestry. Native woodland trees are scattered across the landscape at lower elevations. In the wider view, occasional buildings are visible, and areas of broadleaved woodland lie along the banks of the River Deveron and on the lower reaches of larger hills to the south. While the	Figures 5.10a – 5.10f illustrate the proposed view from this location. Towers, hubs and blades of all 11 wind turbines would be visible from this location, extending across part of the skyline in views to the southwest, and descending into the upper valley fringes. The turbines would be largely screened by the mature shelterbelt which is present in the foreground of the development. Blade tips would be visible above the treetops, adding an element of movement into the landscape and into the view. Where visible, the turbines would form large elements in the landscape. A number of turbines would overlap, creating a stacking of hubs and blades in the view.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would result in a partial alteration to the skyline and edges of the valley landscape, filtered in views from the edge of the settlement by an (evergreen) shelterbelt in the intervening landscape. This would form discernible, localised change, broadly consistent with the baseline context.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant)	The residual effect on scattered settlement at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant) The residual effect on local road users at this viewpoint would be Moderate/ Minor (Not significant)

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
					wireline shows a single turbine at Cairnborrow is visible above the skyline to the north east, dense woodland vegetation in the intervening landscape effectively screens this structure. No wind energy development is actually visible from this location.				
3	Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown	7.28 km south east	High: • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS 289) • Narrow Farmed Valley (MWELCS 13) • Ben Rinnes SLA	High: Settlement	The elevated view extends south east across the valley at the confluence of the Dullan Water and the River Fiddich, towards open moorland hills which form the background to the view. Modern housing is present in the foreground of the view, forming part of the south eastern edge of Dufftown. Broadleaved and mixed woodland aligns the edges of the River Fiddich and the Dullan Water, set low in the view. Beyond this, rolling hills of improved pasture form the middle ground to the view. Medium sized fields are separated by a mix of post and wire fencing, hedgerows, and mature shelterbelts. Vegetation across these hills is a mix of broadleaved woodland and forestry. Settlement is sparse. Where present, farmsteads and farm buildings are located within copses of mature trees. High voltage transmission lines are visible extending across the farmland, skylined in part. Distribution lines are also a notable element in the view.	Figures 5.11a – 5.11f illustrate the proposed view from this location. Blades/ tips of up to five wind turbines, and the hub and blades of one turbine, would be visible across the skyline, largely screened by woodland hills in the intervening landscape. The Proposed Development would form a notable change in the view and would also introduce an element of movement across the skyline.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would alter a small proportion of the skyline in the view to the south east. The Proposed Development would be set back from the valley landscape, and largely screened by topography. Moving blades would form new elements in the view. The change arising from the alteration would be discernible but underlying landscape character and composition of the view would be broadly consistent with the baseline.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on the settlement of Dufftown at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).
4	A941 North of Dufftown	10.36 km south east	High: • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS 289) • Narrow Farmed Valley (MWELCS 13)	• High: Tourists on road network • Medium: Local road users	The view extends south east along the A941 as the road descends into the River Fiddich valley. Medium scale rolling hills in the middle ground are characterised by a mosaic of improved pasture, woodland and forestry. Land use comprises a mixture of pastoral farming, forestry, electricity transmission and generation, industry, settlement and transportation. Industrial development is glimpsed behind the woodland which aligns the River Fiddich, evidenced by plumes of steam which rise above the canopy cover. Dufftown is visible to the south, settled amongst mature woodland. A transmission line passes across open fields to the south of the view. Hill of Towie Wind Farm (operational) and Hill of Towie II Wind Farm (consented) form notable developments to the east, seen at an oblique angle from the road. Farmhouses and associated farm buildings are scattered across the farmland in all directions. In the background of the view, upland moorland hills form the distant skyline.	Figures 5.12a – 5.12f illustrate the proposed view from this location. Theoretically, hubs and blades of up to eight wind turbines would be visible from this location, above the skyline in the direct view from the A941. Woodland and forestry would screen up to four of the turbines. Turbines 1 and 2 would be the most prominent structures on the skyline. The turbines would form a new and notable element in the view from the road, however would not appear out of scale in the landscape nor would they form dominant features. Given the presence of Hill of Towie and (consented) Hill of Towie II Wind Farms to the east of the road, and the industrial character of the landscape in the middle ground of the view it is considered that the Proposed Development would not be out of character with the baseline view.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would alter a section of skyline in direct views from the road for south east bound travellers. Views would be sustained as the road user descends into the River Fiddich valley. The Proposed Development would be set back from the valley landscape and would be largely screened by topography, however the tower, hub and blades of Turbine 1 would be prominent in the view. Moving blades would form new elements in the view. Changes arising from the alteration would be prominent but localised.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on tourists using the road network would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). The residual effect on the local road users at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
					The skyline is generally free of structures however turbines at Dorenell Wind Farm, and a transmission line adjacent, are notable across the skyline to the south. It is a settled view, rural in character but influenced by industrial, agricultural and wind energy development.				
5	Ben Aigan	14.66 km south east	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Rolling Forested Hills (MWELCS 9) • Spey Valley SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	The expansive, panoramic view from Ben Aigan is characterised by several land uses including settlement, farming, forestry, wind energy and electricity transmission development as well as views to the coast and sea. In the direction of the Site, the view extends south east across the moorland summit towards areas of mature forestry which are present on the lower slopes of the hill. Beyond this, the topography descends into the valley of the Burn of Aldernie. Improved pasture characterises the valley landscape, with shelterbelts and post and wire fences creating medium sized fields across the hillside. Broadleaved woodlands highlight water courses while the upper edges of the valley are characterised by plantation forestry at varying stages of the felling cycle. Farmhouses and associated buildings are scattered across the landscape. In the middle distance, Hill of Towie Wind Farm forms a notable feature across the valley ridge. Beyond this, other operational wind farms such as Cairnborrow and Glens of Foudland are visible in the distance. Forestry is the predominant land cover here, and a high voltage transmission line forms a linear element in the landscape. Further to the south, the view extends along the River Fiddich valley, with the town of Dufftown visible. Areas of improved pasture surround the town. The background of the view is comprised of upland hills, with the distinctive peak of The Buck creating a point of interest on the skyline. The skyline is occasionally interrupted by wind turbines, such as those at Clashindarroch and Dorenell.	Figures 5.13a – 5.13f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The Proposed Development would introduce 11 wind turbines across a minor ridgeline in the middle ground of the view. Turbine bases and ground-based infrastructure such as access tracks and the substation etc. would be screened in view by topography, however turbine towers, hubs and blades would be visible of all turbines. The wind farm would extend above the skyline. From this location, the Proposed Development would not appear out of character of context with the baseline. The Proposed Development sits comfortably across the larger scale landscapes in the middle and background of the view, away from the smaller scale and intimate valley landscapes in the foreground.	The Magnitude of Impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would result in the alteration of a minor ridgeline in the middle ground of the view which is currently undeveloped. It would also introduce large new, moving elements above the skyline. The change would be prominent but localised within a broader, unaltered context.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape as experienced from the summit of Ben Aigan would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers at the summit of Ben Aigan would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).
6	Ben Rinnes	13.28 km east	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Steep Slopes (MWELCS 12a)	High: Recreation	The view from the summit of Ben Rinnes offers an expansive 360-degree panorama across the surrounding moorland, farmland and Aberdeenshire/ Moray coastline. Views extend across open upland moorland hills towards the large Ladder Hills in the south east.	Figures 5.14a – 5.14j illustrate the proposed view from this location. The Proposed Development would be located across a ridgeline in the middle ground of the view to the east. All 11 wind turbines would be visible, with varying levels of	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would introduce a cluster of large-scale wind turbines across the ridgeline of an otherwise undeveloped upland hill,	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of Ben Rinnes would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
			• Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)		Improved farmland lies between the coast and the upland moorland hills, creating a mosaic of land uses across this smaller scale landscape. Larger rolling moorland hills are more simple, open in character with large swathes of commercial forestry creating a patchwork of landcover. Wind farms are a common landscape element in most directions, seen at varying distances and particularly associated with the open and simple forms of the moorland landscapes. Clashindarroch, Dorenell and Cairnborrow forming notable wind farm development in the wider landscape surrounding the Site.	topographic screening of turbine bases. In some instances, where the forestry will be removed, the full turbine structure would be visible including the ground-based infrastructure associated with Turbines 1, 3, 4 and 5 (tracks, laydown areas, external transformers etc.). This would be a temporary effect until replacement forestry has been planted and has begun to establish, resulting in screening of the ground-based equipment and access tracks. The Proposed Development appears well balanced across the ridge, aside from stacking at Turbines 1 and 3. The wind farm appears as a single cluster of development, reflecting the pattern of operational development in the wider landscape. It is wholly backclothed by topography and would not break the skyline. The Proposed Development would impact upon a small proportion of an otherwise expansive, panoramic view within which wind farms are a notable characteristic in the landscape.	introducing new moving structures into the landscape. There are a number of size indicators within the intervening landscape, which assist in understanding the size and scale of the proposed turbines in the landscape. Almost full turbines would be visible across the ridgeline (not skylined) of an undulating ridge in the middle ground. Turbines would be in closer proximity to the viewer than other developments present in views in this direction. The change would be prominent but localised within the expansive and panoramic view from the summit.		
7	Corryhabbie Hill	12.25 km north east	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Steep Slopes (MWELCS 12a) • Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	The view extends across the broad summit of Corryhabbie Hill, which forms the foreground of the view. The majority of the middle ground comprises open upland moorland hills interspersed with areas of commercial forestry. To the north, lower lying areas of farmland extend to the coast. Settlement is frequent in views to the north. Properties are dispersed across lower hillsides and areas of farmland. Wind energy development is present throughout the view, with larger developments predominantly associated with the more simple upland landscapes. Developments are clustered, and are separated by valleys which intersect the hill ranges. Dorenell Wind Farm forms a prominent feature in close proximity to the viewer in the north east, with Clashindarroch Wind Farm visible at distance behind. Berry Burn and Pauls Hill Wind Farms are notable developments to the north west of the view.	Figures 5.15a – 5.15h illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 turbines would be visible from this location. The bases (and associated ground infrastructure, including tracks) of many of the turbines would be screened by topography however forestry felling associated with construction of Turbines 3, 5 and 7 as well as non-project related felling to the east of Turbine 2 would reveal the bases and ground infrastructure associated with these structures. These impacts would be temporary until replacement planting establishes. The Proposed Development would be located behind turbines at Dorenell Wind Farm, however would appear as a separate development at a greater distance from the viewer. The difference in turbine size would not be notable. It would be largely skylined, with only blade tips of a small number of turbines occasionally breaking the horizon. The Proposed Development would fit comfortably across the gentle ridgeline of the Site and the clustered development is reflective of other developments in the wider	The Magnitude of Impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would introduce a discrete cluster of wind turbines across the ridgeline of an upland hill in the middle ground of the view. The Proposed Development would relate to existing development in the landscape/ view and, while the change arising from the alteration would be discernible, the underlying landscape character and view composition would be broadly consistent with the baseline.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of Corryhabbie Hill would be Moderate (Not significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
						view/ landscape. It would be visually separate from the smaller scale farmland landscapes further to the north.			
8	Little Geal Charn	16.47 km north north east	High: • Smooth Rounded Hills (NS 123) • Cairngorms National Park	High: Recreation	The elevated, panoramic view extends across moorland hill tops with interlinking ridges, set in layers which recede into the distance. Large areas of commercial forestry and areas of improved pasture create a mosaic of landcover at lower elevations. Tracks and fire breaks create linear patterns. Wind energy development is a notable infrastructural element in the north easterly view towards the Site, with clusters of wind turbines frequently visible at varying distances – from Dorenell Wind Farm in close proximity to the north, to Kildrummy Wind Farm in the distance to the south east. In other directions, such as to the west and south west, wind energy development is not a feature in the landscape.	Figures 5.16a – 5.16h illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible in the north west of the view, along the ridgeline of an upland moorland hill which forms part of a wider set of ridgelines in the middle ground of the view. The Proposed Development would appear as a discrete cluster of turbines, separated from other operational (and consented) development in the wider view. It would be viewed in the context of wind energy development present across the wider landscape, including the larger wind farm at Dorenell which is located in closer proximity to the viewpoint, and Clashindarroch Wind Farm which is located at a similar distance as the Proposed Development. Large areas of forestry removal to facilitate the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Access tracks and other ground based infrastructure would be visible for the medium term, until replacement planting establishes.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would result in the alteration of a section of a ridgeline in the middle ground of a small part of the panoramic view, introducing new and moving structures into the landscape which extend above the skyline. Removal of commercial forestry would alter the landcover within the Site. The proposed turbines would be large but would not appear incongruent with existing and consented development within the wider landscape view in this direction. The change would be discernible, however the underlying landscape character and composition of the panoramic view from the summit of Little Geal Charn would remain broadly consistent with the baseline.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of Little Geal Charn would be Moderate (Not significant).
9	The Buck	11.14 km north north west	High: On the boundary of - • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28); & • Open Upland (NS292); • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	High: Recreation	The large scale and panoramic view from the summit of The Buck extends north across the valley of the headwaters of the River Deveron, and the landscape of Cabrach. At lower elevations, large areas of improved pasture are interspersed with commercial forestry plantations. Scattered properties are dispersed across the valley landscape. Fields are large and irregular, separated by stone walls. The A941 is visible winding along the valley floor. In the middle ground, the topography rises to open upland hills. Moorland vegetation is often interrupted by areas of commercial forestry at varying stages of the forestry life cycle, creating a varied mosaic of land cover. Layers of upland hill ridgelines extend north to form the background to the view. The summit of Ben Rinnes is a prominent landform to the north west. Wind energy development is visible across the summits and ridges of the surrounding upland hills at varying distances. Dorenell Wind Farm and	Figures 5.17a – 5.17f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 wind turbines would be visible from The Buck. The Proposed Development would be located across a minor ridge within the middle ground of the view, largely backclothed by topography however a number of blades and blade tips would extend above the skyline. Forestry felling undertaken to facilitate the development would be a notable alteration to the baseline landscape. This would be a medium term impact, and would result in the majority of ground based infrastructure being visible until replacement plant establishes. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of existing development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch wind farms and would sit in front of development at Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. While the Proposed Development would be located at a greater distance from the viewer, the proposed turbines would appear of a larger size and scale than those at Clashindarroch and Dorenell wind farms. The Proposed Development would extend across a small proportion of the panoramic and expansive view from The Buck. It would alter a minor ridgeline in the middle distance, and would partially extend into the skyline. The turbines would appear as a discrete cluster of wind energy development, reflective of the pattern of development already exhibited in the view.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of The Buck would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
					Clashindarroch Wind Farm form notable areas of development in the north in relatively close proximity to the viewpoint, while clusters of development are scattered across the landscape in longer distance views, such as at Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II and Edintore.				
10	Tap o'Noth	10.86 km north west	High: Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28)	High: Recreation	The view to the Site extends north west from the summit of Tap o'Noth, across undulating upland hills in the middle ground of the view. These hills are characterised by large scale forestry plantations at varying stages of the growing/ felling cycle. Areas of larch create golden swatches amongst the dark green of the spruce trees. Some areas of improved pasture are visible in the west and in lower lying topography to the east, as the landscape extends to the coast. In the direction of the Site, settlement is infrequent, limited to a small number of scattered properties dispersed on the forested edge. In the wider view, scattered properties are located across low lying agricultural farmland. Wind turbines are present across the landscape, most notably in views to the north west. Dorenell Wind Farm is located to the west of the view, with turbines at Clashindarroch overlapping and extending this area of development to the north. Hill of Towie and Edintore are present along the skyline in the distance. In the wider view from the summit, turbines are less evident in the landscape, with small clusters viewed at long distances in the background, such as Cairnborrow, Dummuie and Glens of Foudland to the north east, Cairnmore Farm to the south east and Kildrummy to the south west.	Figures 5.18a – 5.18f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 wind turbines would be visible to varying degrees from the summit of Tap o'Noth. Topography in the foreground of the view would screen all ground based infrastructure, and the bases of all wind turbines. The upper towers, hubs and blades would extend above the skyline and become new features across the horizon of the view. When viewed in combination with the development at Dorenell and Clashindarroch, the Proposed Development would extend the presence of wind energy development across two thirds of the view.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The proposed turbines would be of a notably different size and scale to those at Clashindarroch Wind Farm, creating a slight discord between developments. The Proposed Development would be well balanced across the ridgeline, with turbines set back in the view and no stacking of hubs and blades. The Proposed Development would alter the skyline of the baseline view, introducing additional structures and their associated movement into the landscape. The Proposed Development would not be introducing a new land use into the view, however it would extend the presence of wind energy development further across the landscape and across a wider proportion of the view. The change would be prominent but localised within a panoramic and expansive view from the summit of Tap o'Noth. The broader view would remain unaltered.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of Tap o'Noth would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).
11	Meikle Balloch Hill	15.02 km south west	Medium: • Farmed Moorland Edge (NS 27) • Broad Forested Hills within Upland Farmland (MWELCS 8a)	High: Recreation	From the summit of Meikle Balloch Hill the panoramic view extends south west towards the Site. The open summit comprises heathland which extends down to an area of forestry which covers the lower slopes of the hillside. Beyond the forestry, rolling upland hills comprise areas of farmland with large improved fields used for grazing and crops evident in the middle ground. The top of the upland landscape is covered by a mosaic of forestry cover. While land use is predominantly farming and forestry, other land uses are evident such as quarrying and electricity infrastructure, with a large substation present to the west, on the edge of Keith. Transmission lines pass across the landscape in the west and	Figures 5.19a – 5.19f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 wind turbines would be visible in the view to the south west from Meikle Balloch Hill. The turbines would appear as a single cluster across a ridgeline in the middle ground of the view. The development would be skylined. The majority of ground based infrastructure, including turbine bases would be screened by intervening topography, however the forestry removal associated with Turbines 10 and 11 would allow clear views towards the proposed access tracks, turbine crane pads, turbine bases and external transformer and	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The proposed turbines would introduce wind turbines into the middle ground of the view from Meikle Balloch Hill, more distant than those turbines at Edintore, and in front of existing development at Dorenell which extends across the landscape in the background of the view. The Proposed Development would be of a larger size and scale than existing development. The Proposed Development would introduce new structures and associated movement across the skyline of the view. The	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers to the summit of Meikle Balloch Hill would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
					south west to connect with this development. Operational wind farm development is present in the view. Turbines at Cairnborrow, Edintore and Hill of Towie are visible across the middle of the view, screened to varying extents by intervening forestry and topography. Other clusters of development are also visible at greater distances and are minor elements in the panoramic view. In the distance, larger hills rise to form the background and skyline of the view, including the distinctive summit of Ben Rinnes in the south west.	the borrow pit. There would be a medium term impact until the forestry has been replanted and established.	change would be prominent but localised within a broader unaltered context. The Proposed Development would not impact upon the overall character of the landscape or the composition of the panoramic view from the hilltop.		
12	B9016 at Aultmore	16.75 km south	Medium • Upland Farmland (NS 288) • Upland Farmland (MWELCS 8)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The view from the southern edge of Aultmore extends south across an area of relatively low lying rural landscape. Medium sized fields are divided by post and wire fencing, stone walls and hedgerows. Linear infrastructure such as electricity transmission and distribution lines pass across the view in the middle ground. Wind turbines are visible across the skyline at Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II (consented) and Edintore. Settlement is scattered and frequent, set amongst associated farm buildings and within copses of mature trees. Broadleaved woodland is present in linear patterns, associated with water courses which pass through the landscape. Forestry occupies the low rising hillsides and tops in the background of the view.	Figures 5.20a – 5.20f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The Proposed Development would appear as a single cluster along the skyline of the view from the B9016. The turbines would be located behind the ridgeline, set back from the farmland landscape, and all ground based infrastructure would be screened in the view. The proposed turbines would occupy an area of the landscape in the background of the view which is currently void of development. It would be viewed in the context of existing wind farm development to the south east and south west which sits above the skyline.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would increase the presence of wind energy development across the background of the view, but would not introduce a new or unfamiliar feature into the landscape. The Proposed Development would result in an alteration to the background of the view, introducing additional structures and movement along the skyline. The proposed turbines would be prominent on the skyline, reducing the spacing between existing wind energy development visible. The change would be prominent but localised within a broader, unaltered context.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on the settlement of Aultmore would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant). The residual effect on users of the B9016 would be Moderate (Not significant).
13	A920 near Wester Bodylair	4.25 km south south west	High: • Farmed Moorland Edge (NS 27) • Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	• High: Scattered settlement • Medium: Local road users • High: Tourists on road network	The south westerly view from the A920 extends across an area of roadside vegetation and juvenile woodland towards rolling agricultural fields in the middle ground of the view. Topography descends into the minor valley of the Markie Water. To the south of the Water, topography rises steeply to form broad, open upland hills which form the background to the view. The peak of The Buck is visible across the skyline in the distance. Small areas of coniferous woodland are visible across some of the hill tops, however the majority of the minor summits are covered with heather moorland. Across the skyline two clusters of wind turbines are present, with turbines at Clashindarroch and Dorenell wind farms visible in the background of the view.	Figures 5.21a – 5.21h illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 turbines would be visible from this location across the skyline. Most towers and all hubs and blades would be visible. Topography in the intervening landscape would provide screening of ground-based infrastructure and the majority of the towers of Turbines 2 and 7. The proposed turbines would be viewed in the context of wind energy development at Clashindarroch and Dorenell.	The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development would introduce a new cluster of wind turbines across a prominent skyline, at closer proximity to the viewer than existing development visible in the landscape. Turbines would appear prominent in the view, and while set back from the edge of the valley would affect the form and scale of the valley landscape below. The view is influenced by existing wind farm development and therefore the Proposed Development would not introduce a new or unfamiliar feature into the landscape. However, due to the size and scale of the development and its proximity to the viewpoint, the	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major** (Significant).	The residual effect on scattered settlement at Wester Bodylair, and on tourists using the road network would be **Major** (Significant). The residual effect on local users of the A920 would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

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Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
							Proposed Development would have more influence on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view from this viewpoint. The alteration to the skyline would result in a substantial change to the character of the landscape and the nature of the view from this location. Views from the road would be oblique and intermittent as well as of a short duration.		
14	Mither Tap Viewpoint	31.6 km north west	High: • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28) • Bennachie SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High: Recreation	The view from the summit of Mither Tap extends northwest towards the Site. The summit provides expansive and panoramic 360 degree views across Aberdeenshire, extending across lowland farmland, upland farmland, moorland upland hills, and south west towards the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains. In the direction of the Site, the elevated view extends across an area of open moorland which comprises the foreground of the view. Tracks and drains form linear features across the landscape and the rocky peaks of Cairn Craigshannoch and Oxen Craig forming landmark features in the foreground. Beyond this, the view extends across low lying agricultural landscapes. Areas of settlement, such as Insch in the north north west are located amongst broadleaved woodland with scattered properties frequently dispersed across the wider agricultural landscape. Small areas of forestry are present between field systems, while mature shelter belts, hedgerows and small copses and woodlands species are characteristic within this broad and expansive agricultural basin landscape. In the background of the view, the topography rises to form gentle hills and ridges with larger upland hills in the distance. The conical Tap o'Noth forms a notable peak in the middle ground of the view, while the profile of Ben Rinnes is prominent on the skyline. Wind energy development is present across the landscape in the background of the view. They form minor elements in the landscape, appearing along the skyline and across distant ridges.	Figures 5.22a – 5.22f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The Proposed Development would be located across a small part of the skyline in the background of the view. All 11 wind turbines would be visible to varying degrees, however the majority of all the towers would be screened by topography. Hubs of seven structures, and the blades/ blade tips of the remaining four structures, would be visible. The Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of a high level of operational and consented wind energy development which extends across the skyline, including Dorenell, Clashindarroch, Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie II (consented), Cairnborrow, Edintore, Aultmore (consented) and Glens of Foudland.	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would increase the level of wind energy development present in the landscape in the background of the view when experienced from the summit of Mither Tap. Given the panoramic views from this location, the Proposed Development would occupy a small proportion of the overall view and would form a minor, moving element. The change in composition of the view, and to the skyline would be discernible but limited. The change would not be out of character with the landscape baseline.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Moderate (Not significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers at the summit of Mither Tap would be Moderate (Not significant).
15	Clashmach Hill	10.22 km west south west	High: • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28) • Edge of the Deveron Valley	High: Recreation	The west facing view, from the summit of Clashmach Hill extends across a medium scale agricultural landscape comprised of rolling, gentle topography. Rounded hills and hilltops are characterised by large areas of	Figures 5.23a – 5.23f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 turbines would be visible along the skyline of the west facing view, to varying degrees. Blades, hubs and parts of the tower of Turbines 6,	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. A large degree of the Proposed Development would be screened by topography, with towers, hubs	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on hill walkers at the summit of Clashmach Hill would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

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Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
			SLA (Aberdeenshire)		forestry, with some plots of recent felling evident. Other landcover is varied, with medium fields of improved pasture adjacent to areas of rough grazing or moorland landscapes. There is evidence of settlement, such as farm tracks, remnants of crofting houses, and the occasional farmstead across hillsides in the middle distance. Views towards the Site are truncated by the topography which contain the view, however some larger hills in the distance extend into the skyline to form the background of the view, including the peak of Ben Rinnes. Wind energy development is present in the background of the view towards the Site. Turbines at Clashindarroch Wind Farm extend above the skyline to the south west and development at Dorenell Wind Farm is visible at a greater distance. Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II is present to the north west in the background of the view. Within the wider view, development at Cairnborrow and Edintore is located closer to the viewer to the north, and farm scale turbines are also present. In the east, turbines are scattered in the far distance, and most are almost indiscernible, with the exception of development at Glens of Foudland and Dummuie.	8, 10 and 11 would be visible across the horizon, while only the blades/ blade tips of Turbines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 would extend above the skyline. The Proposed Development would be viewed adjacent to the more distant development at Dorenell. Given this difference in distance from the viewpoint, the difference in size and scale of the structures would not be apparent.	and blades visible for four structures. The most visible turbines would extend high above the skyline, and the tips of the blades would be in line with the peak of Ben Rinnes in the distance. The Proposed Development would be located within the context of other wind energy development which is present in the landscape in distant views towards the Site, and in the wider panoramic view from the summit of Clashmach Hill. They would be viewed at a similar distance to those turbines at Cairnborrow, however due to their large size would appear more notable and prominent in the view. Given the panoramic views from this location, the Proposed Development would occupy a small proportion of the overall 360-degree view. The change in composition of the view, and to the skyline would be prominent but localised.		
16	A941 near The Grouse Inn Public House	3.55 km north	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Upland Valleys (NS 294) • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	Medium: • Public House users • Local road users	The view from the A941 near the Grouse Inn extends north across undulating farmland and the headwaters of the River Deveron towards gently rounded upland hills. It is a settled landscape, with scattered properties, electricity distribution infrastructure, improved pasture, telephone lines and transportation corridors influencing the character of the small to medium scale landscape. Areas of woodland are present within the landscape, largely associated with the upper reaches of the River Deveron (and associated tributaries). The river is visible to the north east of the view. Small areas of coniferous woodland are visible across the hill sides and tops, however larger plantations which are present across the upland hills in this area are screened from view by intervening topography. Glimpsed views of broader, more elevated open moorland hills are present in the background of the view.	Figures 5.24a – 5.24f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 turbines would be visible from this location, to varying degrees. Kelman Hill provides a high level of screening for the majority of the Proposed Development. Hubs and blades of seven turbines would extend above the skyline, while the blades of the remaining four turbines would be visible. The proposed access track would also be visible in the distance to the north west of the view, across the distant moorland hill. This track would create a linear feature across the landscape in the background of the view. Some minor elements of the substation may also be visible, although will likely be screened by intervening topography. No other wind energy development is visible in the view from this location.	The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development would form a prominent feature in the view from the A941 in this location. While topography would reduce the perceived size and scale of the development, the proximity of the development to the viewer, the introduction of movement across the skyline and the construction of a new access track across an open moorland hillside would considerably alter the character of the landscape and the composition of the view. The change to the baseline condition would be substantial. Given there are no other discernible views to wind energy developments from this location, the Proposed Development would introduce a new, large scale land use into a small to medium scale landscape which is currently void of structures of this size.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major** (Significant).	The residual effect on views from the public house and on users of the A941 would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

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Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
17	Cromdale Hills	24.44 km east north east	High: • Smooth Rounded Hills (NS 123) • Cairngorms National Park	High: Recreation	The view from Carn Eachie in the Cromdale Hills provides an approximately 180-degree view to the east and south. Views to the west and north are largely obscured by landform. To the east, in the direction of the Site, the elevated view extends across Strath Avon and the surrounding lower lying farmed straths and glens, towards the upland valley of the Dullan Water. Ben Rinnes forms a notable landmark feature to the northwest of the view, above the valley landscape. Agricultural farmland and forestry plantations form the predominant landcover within the middle ground of the view. Open, broad moorland hills extend across the background, providing a simple skyline which is largely featureless with the exception of small clusters of wind turbines at Hill of Towie, Cairnborrow, Dorenell and Kildrummy. These do not form prominent or notable elements in the view.	Figures 5.25a – 5.25f illustrate the proposed view from this location. All 11 wind turbines would be visible across a minor ridgeline in the background of the view. Ground based infrastructure, and the bases of all turbines would be screened by intervening topography. The Proposed Development would form a notable element on the skyline, across a small proportion of the view. While it would not introduce a new land use into the landscape, or into the view, the Proposed Development would be the most prominent wind farm in the view.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would result in the alteration to the skyline of the view, introducing an array of large and moving structures across a currently simple skyline which is largely void of development. The change would be prominent, but the impact would be localised and the underlying character of the landscape would remain broadly unaltered. The broader view would remain unchanged.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on views from Carn Eachie in the Cromdale Hills would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).
18	Auchindoun Castle	4.05 km south east	High: • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS289) • Rolling Forested Hills (MWELCS 9) • Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	This viewpoint is situated on an access track leading to Parkhead Farm and Auchindoun Castle and is utilised by visitors to the farm and the castle. Auchindoun Castle and associated earthworks form a notable feature in the middle ground and is emphasised by its moorland backdrop and the openness and simplicity of the foreground of improved pasture. To the south west, the view extends over a larger area of smaller scale rolling agricultural farmland, intersected by areas of forestry, woodland and shelter belts. In the distance, upland hills form the background to the view. Areas of forestry form dark shapes across part of the hill side. Turbines at Dorenell Wind Farm are visible, set behind the ridge which forms the skyline to the view. Forestry contains the view to the north west and north east.	Figures 5.26a – 5.26f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The viewpoint is located upon an access track which provides walkers accessing the castle with direct views to the southeast, towards the Proposed Development. Whilst six of the Proposed Development's turbines would be theoretically visible from this location, the most prominent turbines (Turbines 1 and 2) would be screened from view by intervening buildings. Of the remaining four turbines (Turbines 3, 4, 5 and 6) Turbine 3 would be partly screened by an intervening deciduous tree, and Turbines 5 and 6 would be barely discernible as they would appear as blade tip ends intermittently crossing the horizon.	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would form a notable new feature on a prominent skyline in the direct view from the path. The turbines would be largely screened by topography and intervening landscape elements, but where visible would introduce a large scale engineered feature into the view in relatively close proximity to the viewer. The introduction of movement of the turbines blades would also contrast with the 'still' nature of the baseline view and distract receptors from views towards the castle. The change would be prominent but localised. The view to the castle would remain unchanged – turbines would not sit behind the castle, and therefore views of this Scheduled Monument would not be considerably altered.	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on views from the path on approach to Auchindoun Castle would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).
19	A941 near Cabrach	7.98 km north north west	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	• Medium: Local road users • High: Tourists on road network	The view north from the A941 extends along the road towards sweeping open upland hills, which create a simple and smooth skyline. Moorland vegetation is present across the hill tops and sides, with some areas of rough grazing at lower elevations. Areas of forestry are visible in the middle ground of the view, set low in the view. The open view from the road extends to the west, where	Figures 5.27a – 5.27f illustrate the proposed view from this location. The blade tips of seven turbines and the hub and blades on one turbines would be theoretically visible, in the direct view from the road. The Proposed Development would form a new, moving element on the skyline. Whilst it would be set back	The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would form a notable new element on the skyline in the direct view from the road. While largely screened by topography, the extent of the development visible would introduce movement in to a largely still landscape	The residual effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).	The residual effect on views from A941 near Carbach would be **Major/ Moderate** (Significant).

Table 5.6.2: Detailed Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character and Visual Amenity at Viewpoints

Vpt No.	Name	Distance and Direction to the Proposed Development	Landscape Sensitivity at Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Visual Receptors at Viewpoint	Existing View	Predicted View	Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect on Landscape Character at Viewpoint	Residual Effect on Visual Amenity at Viewpoint
					Dorenell Wind Farm forms an element on the skyline in the distance. The view to the north and west is of medium scale, open and expansive. There are few built elements, limited to scatter rural homesteads, tracks, post and wire fencing and turbines. There is a sense of remoteness.	from the ridgeline, separated from the viewer by topography in the intervening landscape, it would be emphasised by the alignment of the road.	contrasting with the baseline condition. The Proposed Development would occupy a prominent skyline which is a key feature in the view.		

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
1	Minor Road, Deveron Valley	High: Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (NS 32)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. Currently, operational and consented development form a minor, almost indiscernible, element within the landscape in the view from this viewpoint. The blades of two turbines at Clashindarroch are visible at distance above the skyline in views to the south east, set back from the valley and predominantly screened by topography. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view from the local road. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The blades of proposed turbines at Garbet Wind Farm would increase the influence of wind energy development in the landscape when viewed from this location. However, the addition of the Proposed Development would introduce wind turbines in close proximity to the viewer, appearing to extend into the valley landscape. They would form a prominent element on the skyline in views to the west, resulting in a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The scoping scheme Clashindarroch Extension would be prominent across the edge of the Deveron Valley in views to the south south east of the road from this viewpoint, considerably increasing the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. The addition of the Proposed Development would be in closer proximity to the viewer, however would be viewed within an emerging pattern of development of wind turbines across the edge of the upper valley and the skyline. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Seen together with the existing Clashindarroch turbines the magnitude of in-combination impacts at this viewpoint would be Moderate. Wind energy development would be visible at varying distances on both sides of the valley when viewed from this location, but existing/ consented turbines would represent relatively minor features in the view. The Proposed Development would, however, represent a prominent new development above the northern (opposing) side of the valley from existing/ consented turbines. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The proposed Clashindarroch II turbines would be substantially screened by intervening topography and so would not add significantly to the impact of existing/ consented wind farms. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination impacts arising from existing, consented and proposed wind farms would remain Moderate.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Settlement: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
				Clashindarroch	Operational	4.6 km south south east			
				Garbet	In Planning	2.7 km west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	3.77 km south east			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	3.3 km south			

[2] Note: To keep the table of a reasonable length, only those wind farms which have been considered critical to the cumulative assessment have been included here. Visualisations presented for each viewpoint (see Figures 5.9a to 5.27f) include wirelines which illustrate all wind farms located within the LVIA study area.

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
							Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational, consented, in planning and Scoping schemes would contribute to a pattern of development where wind energy development is a defining characteristic of the upper Deveron Valley landscape. Turbines across the skyline would substantially alter the composition of the view from this viewpoint.		
2	Haugh of Glass	High: • Farmed and Wooded River Valleys (NS 32) • Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be None. A single blade tip of a turbine at Cairnborrow is theoretically visible to the north east from this viewpoint. Dense mixed woodland across the middle ground and skyline of the view effectively screens views of this structure. As there is no cumulative context, there is no in combination impact. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. No operational or consented development is visible from this location due to screening by woodland. Proposed turbines at Garbet and Clashindarroch II are partially visible above the skyline in views to the south east and south west, screened to a high degree by topography and intervening woodland/ forestry. Due to the size and scale of the proposed turbines, and the proximity of the development to the viewpoint, the Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and/ or the composition of views. This would form a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The presence of Clashindarroch Extension across the skyline to the south would only marginally increase the influence of wind energy development in the view. The Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views. Consequently the magnitude of in-combination effects would remain Moderate. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be None. A single blade tip of a turbine at Cairnborrow is theoretically visible to the north east from this viewpoint. Dense mixed woodland across the middle ground and skyline of the view effectively screens views of this structure. As there is no cumulative context, there is no in combination impact. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational, consented and in planning wind energy development, would result in wind energy development becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape. Wind turbines would be visible on either side of the valley at varying sizes, scales and extents.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* None *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant)
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	5.7 km south south east			
				Garbet	In Planning	4.24 km west south west			
				Cairnborrow	Operational	4.74 km north east			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	6.3 km south			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
							Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping Clashindarroch Extension would form a minor increase in the influence of wind energy development on the composition of the view from this location. Consequently, the magnitude of in-combination effects would remain Moderate.		
3	Corsemaul Drive, Dufftown	High • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS 289) • Narrow Farmed Valley (MWELCS 13) • Ben Rinnes SLA	High: Settlement	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	A single blade tip at both Garbet Wind Farm (in planning) and Hill of Towie II Wind Farm (consented) would theoretically be visible from this viewpoint. However, it is considered unlikely that these blade tips would be actually discernible in the view due to the presence of intervening vegetation cover and/ or distance from developments. Therefore, there would be no cumulative in-addition or in-combination impacts as a result of the Proposed Development in conjunction with operational, consented or in planning schemes, as it would be the only wind farm visible in these scenarios. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* <u>In Addition</u> Should the scoping scheme Clashindarroch Extension be taken forward, the hubs and blades of up to four turbines would be visible across the skyline from this viewpoint. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a discernible increase in the presence of wind turbines across the view. The magnitude of impact would be Slight. <u>In Combination</u> In combination with other operational, consented, in planning and Scoping wind energy developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines becoming a characteristic in the background of the view, across the skyline. The magnitude of impact would be Slight.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* None. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* None. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	4.64 km north north east			
				Garbet	In Planning	6 km south east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	5.1 km south			
4	A941 North of Dufftown	High: • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS 289) • Narrow Farmed Valley (MWELCS 13)	• High: Tourists on road network • Medium: Local road users	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Dorenell Wind Farm is partially visible across the skyline in the direct view from the A941. Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II Wind Farms are prominent features in the oblique view to the east from the road. The addition of the Proposed Development would notably increase the influence of wind energy development in the view, increasing the level of development along the skyline. The Proposed Development would be a prominent element, set back from the ridgeline and partially screened by topography, and would fit with the existing pattern of development within the full view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The proposed Garbet Wind Farm would be partially visible above the skyline in the direct view from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development would be located in front of Garbet Wind Farm, appearing as a single development. The addition of the Proposed Development would notably increase the influence of wind energy development in the view, increasing the level of development along the skyline and intensifying the presence of turbines in this location. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping*	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Tourists on the road network: Moderate (Not significant)
				Dorenell	Operational	10.7 km south			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	4.5 km north east			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	3.1 km north east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Garbet	In Planning	8.7 km south east	The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The proposed Scoping scheme at Glenfiddich would form a prominent wind farm across the background of the view, extending above the skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development would be a discernible addition to the influence of wind energy on the composition of the view. In-Combination *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. In combination with other operational and consented wind farm developments, the Proposed Development would result in discrete clusters of wind turbines present across the skyline of the view to the south and east, separated by broad extents of undeveloped skylines. Turbines would be located behind the ridgelines which form the horizon, set back in the view and seen at distance. Wind turbines would be a notable characteristic of the landscape, but not a prominent or defining characteristic. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The inclusion of Garbet Wind Farm would not alter the above assessment. The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. In combination with other operational, consented, in planning and scoping schemes, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind energy development being a key characteristic along the skyline of the view, in both oblique and direct views from the road and at varying distances. Turbines would be seen across the skyline, and across the hills which form the background to the view.	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	Local road users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Not significant)
				Rothes III	In Planning	10.2 km north west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	14.1 km south east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	8 km south south east			
5	Ben Aigan	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Rolling Forested Hills (MWELCS 9) • Spey Valley SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. In views to the east from Ben Aigan (including north east and south east), operational and consented wind energy developments form a notable characteristic of the landscape. Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II Wind Farms are the most prominent in the view, extending across a ridge line in the middle ground to the east. Beyond this, other operational wind farms such as Cairnborrow and Glens of Foudland are visible in the distance. Discrete clusters of wind farms punctuate the more distant upland landscapes, some extending above the skyline such as Clashindarroch and Dorenell, Aultmore and Lurg Hill. The Proposed Development would represent a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views. The addition of the Proposed Development would contribute to the spread of wind farm development across the landscape. The change would be localised, within a broader, unaltered context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Proposed Development at Garbet and Clashindarroch II would	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning*
				Berry Burn	Operational	21.2 km west south west			
				Cairnborrow	Operational	16 km south east			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	20 km south south east			
				Dorenell	Operational	16.2 km south			
				Edintore	Operational	11 km east			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	4.2 km south east			
				Pauls Hill	Operational	19.4 km west south west			
				Rothes I	Operational	12.2 km west north west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Rothes II	Operational	12.8 km west north west	increase the influence of wind farm development across a larger extent of the skyline, and in the foreground of, operational development at Clashindarroch Wind Farm. Clashindarroch II would visually link with the southernmost turbines at Hill of Towie II, at a greater distance. The Proposed Development would represent a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the view composition, intensifying the number of turbines in this part of the view. The change would be localised within a broader unaltered context. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would overlap with turbines at Garbet (in planning) and Clashindarroch Extension (Scoping), intensifying the presence of turbines in the view but not notably extending this cluster of development further across the view. The addition of the Proposed Development would be a discernible but minor addition to the assemblage of wind turbines in this part of the view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would contribute to a high level of wind energy development present (or consented) within the landscape in the view from Ben Aigan. Wind farms are spread along ridgelines and the skyline in both small and large clusters, separated by valleys. Seen at varying distances to the north east, east and south east, wind energy development is a notable characteristic of the landscape, but not the defining one. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The context of operational, consented and in planning wind farm developments, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development would be a notable characteristic of the landscape or views to the north east, east, south east and west. Areas of intensive wind farm development would be layered across a number of ridges extending into the distant views. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational, consented, in planning and scoping wind energy developments would result in wind turbines forming a key characteristic of the landscape in views to the north east, east, south east and west. Located across upland landscapes in the middle and background of the view, wind turbines would extend across a high proportion of the full view to the south east from this viewpoint.	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	**Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)
				Berry Burn Extension	Consented	21 km west south west			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	4.4 km south east			
				Hunthill and Extension	Consented	7.3 km west			
				Pauls Hill Extension	Consented	18 km west south west			
				Cairn Duhie	In Planning	33 km west south west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	19.5 km south east			
				Clash Gour	In Planning	18.1 km west			
				Garbet	In Planning	13.4 km south south east			
				Rothes III	In Planning	8.7 km west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	18.7 km south east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	13.4 km south			
6	Ben Rinnes	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Steep Slopes (MWELCS 12a)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Wind farms are a frequent element in the landscape, viewed in most directions and seen at varying distances. Operational and consented developments are particularly associated with the open and simple forms of the moorland landscapes, with	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Major/ Moderate (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning*
				Clashindarroch	Operational	16.5 km east south east			
				Dorenell	Operational	7.6 km south east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
		• Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)		Edintore	Operational	20 km north east	Clashindarroch, Dorenell and Cairnborrow Wind Farms forming notable wind farm development in the wider landscape surrounding the Site. The addition of the Proposed Development would reinforce this frequency, adding another single cluster of development across a ridgeline in the middle ground of the view. The influence of wind energy development would notably increase as a result of the Proposed Development; however impacts would be localised and the wider landscape view would remain unchanged. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The introduction of Garbet and Clashindarroch Extension to the above context would increase the level of wind farm development in the middle ground of the view. The addition of the Proposed Development would visually link these two in-planning developments and would form a large spread of wind turbines across the landscape, notably increasing in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view in the direction of the Site. The impact would result in a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The scoping schemes Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension would link development at Dorenell, Clashindarroch and Clashindarroch II forming a large spread of wind energy development across the upland landscapes in the middle ground of the view. The Proposed Development would fill an area of undeveloped upland, visually linking this large spread of development with Garbet Wind Farm. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a discernible alteration to the view but would sit amongst an established cumulative context. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. In combination with other operational and consented development, the Proposed Development would contribute to an extensive level of wind energy development set out in discrete clusters across the landscape within the expansive view from Ben Rinnes summit. Wind turbines would be a notable characteristic of the landscape from this location. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. In combination with other operational, consented and proposed wind energy developments the Proposed Development would contribute to a high level of wind energy development present in the wider landscape to the east of Ben Rinnes. Large areas of development would be surrounded by smaller clusters of development at greater distances. Wind energy development would become a key characteristic of the landscape surrounding Ben Rinnes, and in views to the north east, east and south east from the summit of the hill. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. In combination with other operational, consented, in planning	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	**Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)
				Hill of Towie	Operational	14.1 km north east			
				Pauls Hill	Operational	13.8 km west north west			
				Berry Burn	Operational	17.2 km north west			
				Rothes I	Operational	15.7 km north north west			
				Rothes II	Operational	15.4 km north north west			
				Kellas	Operational	17.8 km north north west			
				Berry Burn Extension	Consented	17.2 km north west			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	12.7 km north east			
				Hunthill and Extension	Consented	11.4 km north north west			
				Pauls Hill Extension	Consented	13.1 km west north west			
				Cairn Duhie	In Planning	28 km west north west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	17.8 km east south east			
				Clash Gour	In Planning	16 km north west			
				Garbet	In Planning	12.3 km east			
				Meikle Hill	In Planning	17.6 km north west			
				Rothes III	In Planning	11.6 km north north west			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	7.4 km east south east			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	15.1 km east south east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
							and scoping schemes, the Proposed Development would result in wind energy development occupying a large area of upland landscape in the middle distance to the east and north/ north west of the view, forming a key characteristic in the landscape. At greater distances, smaller clusters of development form less prominent elements in the background of the view.		
7	Corryhabbie Hill	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Steep Slopes (MWELCS 12a) • Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Dorenell Wind Farm forms the prominent wind energy development in the view to the north east from Corryhabbie Hill. Clusters of operational and consented development are visible in the distance, separated by areas of moorland or by valleys. They are located in the background to the view, appearing as points of interest within an expansive landscape view. The addition of the Proposed Development would contribute to this existing pattern, introducing another cluster of development closer to the viewer, behind development at Dorenell. The change resulting from the Proposed Development would be localised and would reinforce the existing pattern of development across the wider landscape view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development, in addition to proposed developments at Garbet and Clashindarroch II would increase the presence of wind turbines within the middle ground of the view, behind Dorenell but in front of the scattered clusters of wind turbines in the distance, including Hill of Towie, Edintore, Cairnborrow, Clashindarroch and Cairnmore Farm. The Proposed Development would form a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development would infill an area of undeveloped upland landscape, amongst an established pattern of development. The Proposed Development would form a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. Wind farm development would extend from Hill of Towie and Hill of Towie II in the north east to Dorenell in the south east, and would extend (in clusters) to the skyline in some instances. To the north west, a further cluster of development would be visible at Pauls Hill and Pauls Hill Extension, and Berry Burn. In combination with other existing and consented developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to a considerable number of clusters of wind turbines spread across the surrounding landscape. Wind energy development would become a key characteristic of the landscape and in the view.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)
				Berry Burn	Operational	23 km north west			
				Cairnborrow	Operational	22.2 km north east			
				Dorenell	Operational	2.8 km east			
				Edintore	Operational	22.4 km north east			
				Hill of Glaschyle	Operational	30.6 km north west			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	18.1 km north north east			
				Pauls Hill	Operational	19.3 km west			
				Berry Burn Extension	Consented	23.2 km north west			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	16.6 km north north east			
				Pauls Hill Extension	Consented	18.9 km north west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	15.1 km west south west			
				Clash Gour	In Planning	22.3 km north west			
				Garbet	In Planning	11.9 km north east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	6 km north east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	11.6 km east	*Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The inclusion of developments at Garbet, Clashindarroch II, Dummuie, Clash Gour and Berry Burn Extension would further increase this pattern of clustered development, extending existing clusters and introducing new areas of development. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. In views to the north east, wind turbines would be present across the majority of upland summits visible. Wind energy development would be one of 'the' defining characteristics of the landscape, present across the full view to the north east, and seen at varying distances from the viewer.		
8	Little Geal Charn	High: • Smooth Rounded Hills (NS 123) • Cairngorms National Park	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development would result in a minor increase in the influence of wind energy development in the view from this location, and would consolidate the existing pattern of development. The Proposed Development would be located in a discrete cluster across a ridgeline in the middle ground of the view. Existing clusters of operational and consented development are present across the view to the north east and are a characteristic of the more settled landscapes which extend towards the coast. The change arising from the Proposed Development would be discernible, but the baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Taking account other operational, consented and in-planning developments, it is considered that the location, size and scale Proposed Development would reflect the existing and emerging pattern of development within the landscape to the north east of the viewpoint. The Proposed Development would sit in the foreground of an area of existing/ proposed development and would represent a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. The change would be discernible, but the baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* Following the inclusion of scoping schemes in the above assessment, the magnitude of in addition cumulative effects would remain Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development would be a discernible change to the view, however when viewed in the context of scoping development at Clashindarroch Extension, and operational development at Dorenell, the Proposed Development would	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)
				Clashindarroch	Operational	15.5 km north east			
				Dorenell	Operational	6.1 km north			
				Kildrummy	Operational	11.7 km east			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	18.1 km north east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Garbet	In Planning	18.2 km north north east	represent a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. The change would be discernible, but the baseline conditions would be largely unaltered <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. When viewed in combination with other existing and consented developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to a considerable spread of wind turbines across the landscape and the skyline of the view to the north east. Wind farm development would extend from Dorenell Wind Farm in the north to Kildrummy in the south east. Wind energy development would become a key characteristic of the landscape and in the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. In combination with other existing, consented and proposed developments, the Proposed Development would assist in consolidating the existing and emerging pattern of development across the landscape to the north west of the viewpoint. Large clusters of development viewed at varying distances, set across the ridgelines of upland moorland hills and separated by valley systems. Wind energy development would become a key characteristic of the landscape and in the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* Following the inclusion of Scoping schemes to the above assessment, the magnitude of impact would remain Substantial. Wind energy development would be a key characteristic of the landscape in views to the north east from this viewpoint.		
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	13.5 km north north east			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	13.1 km north east			
9	The Buck	High: On the boundary of - • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28); & • Open Upland (NS292); • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning		<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The addition of the Proposed Development would reflect the existing pattern of development already exhibited in the view. The turbines would appear as a discrete cluster of wind energy development. Given the size and scale of the proposed turbines, the addition of the Proposed Development would represent a discernible addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the direct view from this location. Overall, and given the expansive and panoramic nature of views from The Buck, the change would be minor and the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Similarly, the addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and in planning wind energy developments would be in keeping with the existing and emerging pattern of development across the landscape in the view from The Buck. The Proposed Development would form a single cluster development, in the foreground of other wind farms which are present in the landscape at greater distances. The addition of the Proposed Development would intensify the level of wind turbines	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*
				Cairnmore Farm	Operational	9.1 km north north east			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	6.3 km north			
				Dorenell	Operational	9.7 km north west			
				Edintore	Operational	23 km north			
				Kildrummy	Operational	2.5 km south south east			
				Rothes I	Operational	34.5 km north west			
				Rothes II	Operational	34.6 km north west			
				Upper Wheedlemont Farm	Operational	6.4 km north east			
				Garbet	In Planning	12.8 km north north west			
				Rothes III	In Planning	30 km north west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	4.1 km north			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
							within the landscape. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. The magnitude of impact would be Slight. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would be located behind turbines at Clashindarroch Extension, appearing as a separate development but viewed through an established pattern of development in the foreground. The addition of the Proposed Development would therefore intensify the level of wind turbines in this part of the landscape. However, while the change would be discernible, the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. When viewed in combination with other operational or consented wind farm developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to a pattern of development where wind turbines would become a notable characteristic of the landscape and in views, particularly those to the north and east. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. When viewed in combination with other operational, consented or in planning wind farm developments, the Proposed Development would contribute to a pattern of development where wind turbines would become a notable characteristic of the landscape and in views, particularly those views to the north and east. Large clusters would be present across upland ridgelines in the middle ground of the view, and in overlapping groups further into the distance. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational, consented, in planning and scoping wind farm developments would result in wind turbines of varying sizes and scales present across the majority of the view to the north. Turbines would be located at varying distances across upland and agricultural landscapes extending to the coast. Wind energy development would form a key defining characteristic of the landscape in the view.		**Major** (Significant)
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	12 km north north west			
10	Tap o'Noth	High: Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view to the north west from the summit of Tap o'Noth. Given the expansive and panoramic views from this summit, the change caused by the addition of the Proposed Development would be localised within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning*	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major / Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major / Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)
				Cairnborrow	Operational	12.8 km north north west			
				Cairnmore Farm	Operational	5 km south south east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	12 km west	The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational, consented and in planning wind energy developments would result in a Slight magnitude of impact. The Proposed Development would be visible across the skyline, viewed behind development at Clashindarroch II (which would sit in the foreground of the view) and in front of the proposed development at Garbet. The Proposed Development would be located between two areas of wind farm development and would represent a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view to the northwest. Views in other directions from the summit would remain unchanged. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of cumulative impact would be Slight. Due to the size and scale of the Proposed Development, it would form a discernible addition to the skyline in the view, however as it would be viewed behind prominent development at Clashindarroch II, and directly adjacent to Clashindarroch Extension (scoping), the Proposed Development would form a minor addition to the establishing context of development in the view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. When viewed in combination with the development at Clashindarroch and Dorenell, the Proposed Development would extend the presence of wind energy development, across two thirds of the view to the north west. Other operational development such as Hill of Towie, Edintore and Berry Burn form more minor elements in the distant view. Wind energy development would become a notable characteristic of the landscape in views to the north west. In other directions, wind energy development would remain a discernible but minor element in the landscape. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The emerging pattern of operational, consented and in planning development, coupled with the Proposed Development, would be such that wind energy development would become a key, if not 'the', defining characteristic of the landscape and in views. Wind turbines would extend across a large proportion of the view, with Clashindarroch II in the foreground. Dorenell, Clashindarroch, Craig Watch would be spread across middle ground of the view, occupying a large extent of the open upland hills. In the background, development at Clash Gour, Garbet, Rothes III and Hill of Towie would form elements across the skyline in the distance. It should be noted that this is only applicable in views to the north west. In other directions, wind farm development would remain a discernible but minor element in the landscape, and in the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. Wind energy development, alongside forestry, would be the key characteristic of the view to the north west. This influence would reduce in views to the north east, south west and	<u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)
				Dorenell	Operational	14.5 km west			
				Dummuie	Operational	10 km north east			
				Edintore	Operational	18.1 km north north west			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	20.2 km north west			
				Upper Wheedlemont Farm	Operational	3.7 km south south west			
				Meikleton of Arnold	Consented	14 km north north west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	4.8 km north west			
				Garbet	In Planning	12 km west north west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	6.8 km west			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	14.1 km west north west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
							south east however wind farms would remain a notable element in the landscape across the wider view.		
11	Meikle Balloch Hill	Medium: • Farmed Moorland Edge (NS 27) • Broad Forested Hills within Upland Farmland (MWELCS 8a)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The addition of the Proposed Development to other operational and consented developments would notably increase the influence of wind energy development across the landscape, by introducing a cluster of wind turbines into the middle ground of the view. The proposed turbines would be more distant from the viewpoint than the development at Edintore, and would be located in front of existing development at Dorenell which extends across the landscape in the background of the view. The change would be localised and the current baseline condition would be largely unaltered across the full 360 degree view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The Proposed Development would appear as an extension to Garbet Wind Farm, introducing additional turbines in the middle ground of the view, across the skyline. The Proposed Development would be located within an area of wind energy development of a similar scale. It would contribute to the existing and emerging pattern of development visible across the landscape in views to the south west from Meikle Balloch Hill, representing a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The change would be notable, but localised and the baseline conditions would be largely unaltered, particularly across the wider 360 degree view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would remain Moderate. Developments at Scoping would increase the development envelope of existing clusters of development in the area surrounding the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development forms a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development in the view, extending to the east of Garbet Wind Farm, and resulting in a broader spread of turbines across the skyline in the middle distance. It would contribute to the existing and emerging pattern of development visible across the landscape in views to the south west from Meikle Balloch Hill. In-Combination *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The existing cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element in the landscape or views. Clusters of development would be located across the landscape at varying distances in most directions, separated by large areas of upland landscapes. Turbines would be a	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) In-Combination *Operational and Consented* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)	In-Addition *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** In-Combination *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**
				Cairnborrow	Operational	6.8 km south			
				Dorenell	Operational	22.6 km south west			
				Edintore	Operational	5 km west south west			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	9.3 km south west			
				Myreton Crossroads 1 and 2	Operational	7.91 km north north east			
				Netherton of Windyhills	Operational	7.89 km north north east			
				Pauls Hill	Operational	35.2 km south west			
				Rothes I	Operational	28 km west			
				Rothes II	Operational	28.7 km west			
				Berry Burn Extension	Consented	37 km west south west			
				Aultmore	Consented	8.9 km north			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	11.4 km south west			
				Lurg Hill	Consented	9.4 km north north east			
				Pauls Hill Extension	Consented	34 km south west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	16.1 km south	feature on parts of the skyline, however long sections of the skyline across the full 360 degree view would remain undeveloped. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The emerging cumulative pattern operational, consented and in planning development, in combination with the Proposed Development, would result in wind energy development becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape and in the view. Clusters of development would be linked to form larger groups of turbines which extend across the skyline and across increased areas of landscape in the middle and background of the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would remain Moderate. The inclusion of proposals at scoping would increase the size of the clusters which form the emergent cumulative pattern of wind energy development, resulting in wind energy development being a notable characteristic of the landscape in the view.		
				Glash Gour	In Planning	34.2 km west south west			
				Garbet	In Planning	15 km south south west			
				Rothes III	In Planning	24.8 km west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	17.4 km south south west			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	19.7 km south west			
12	B9016 at Aultmore	Medium • Upland Farmland (NS 288) • Upland Farmland (MWELCS 8)	• High: Settlement • Medium: Local road users	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce further wind energy development across the skyline of the view, set back from the ridge line. It would form a discrete cluster of development which would reflect the pattern of development created by operational turbines at Hill of Towie and Edintore, and consented development at Hill of Towie II. The Proposed Development would represent a notable increase to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the upland farmland landscape, and on the composition of the view from the road and the settlement edge. Wind farm development would remain an element in the background of the view. The change would be localised within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Operational, consented and in planning wind energy development would be spread in clusters across the skyline of the view, set back from the upland valley landscape. The Proposed Development would be located in front of development at Garbet, but would appear as a single development. It would reflect the existing pattern of development across the skyline, increasing the level of development. The change would be prominent and would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The addition of the Proposed Development would visually connect turbines at Garbet and Clashindarroch Extension, forming a continuous array of large scale turbines across the skyline	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
				Cairnborrow	Operational	12 km south east			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	21.5 km south			
				Edintore	Operational	6.3 km south south east			
				Followsters	Operational	2.3 km north east			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	6.3 km south south west			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	8.5 km south south west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	19.8 km south south east	in the background of the view which would notably increase the influence of wind energy development in the view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in wind turbines becoming a notable element across the background of the view. Wind turbines would be a characteristic on the skyline, set back from the upland farming landscape in the foreground and middle ground. Wind energy development would not be a defining characteristic of the landscape or the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. In combination with other operational, consented and in planning wind farm schemes, the Proposed Development would contribute to the presence of wind energy development across a large proportion of the skyline in the view. However, turbines would be largely set back from the ridgelines, and would form notable elements in the background of the view. The foreground of the view would remain largely unchanged. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would remain Moderate. In combination with other operational, consented, in planning and scoping wind farm schemes, the Proposed Development would contribute a pattern of large scale wind energy development which characterises the skyline in the background of the view. However, turbines would be largely set back from the ridgelines, and would not significantly influence the character or composition in the foreground or middle ground of the view.		Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant)
				Garbet	In Planning	16.1 km south			
				Rothes III	In Planning	18.8 km west south west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	20.2 km south			
13	A920 near Wester Bodylair	High: • Farmed Moorland Edge (NS 27) • Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	• High: Scattered settlement • High: Tourists on road network • Medium: Local road users	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce a prominent new cluster of wind turbines across the skyline of the view, at closer proximity to the viewer than other operational and consented development visible as minor features in the background of the view. Due to the size and scale of the development and its proximity to the viewpoint, the Proposed Development would result in a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view from this viewpoint. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would sit adjacent to large scale proposed wind turbines at Garbet, extending commercial wind energy development across a prominent skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development would relate to that at Garbet, and would notably extend the influence of large scale development across the landscape and the view.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
				Cairnborrow	Operational	5.4 km north east			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	8.9 km south			
				Dorenell	Operational	11.8 km south west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	7.5 km south south east	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. While scoping development at Clashindarroch Extension and Glenfiddich would increase the spread of turbines across the skyline in the background of the view, the addition of the Proposed Development would sit adjacent to development at Garbet, increasing the influence of commercial wind energy development across a prominent skyline and notably impacting upon the perceived size and scale of the valley landscape in this view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The Proposed Development, viewed in conjunction with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in turbines becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape in views from this viewpoint. The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* When considered in conjunction with other operational, proposed and in planning development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines being a key characteristic of the landscape from this viewpoint. Turbines would be viewed across the skyline in the distance, and across prominent ridges in the middle ground of the view at varying sizes and scales. The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. Wind energy development would be a key characteristic of the upland landscapes which are present behind the Deveron Valley, extending across the skyline in a high proportion of the view.	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* *Settlement and tourists on the road network:* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Local road users: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Settlement and tourists on the road network: **Major** (Significant) Local road users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant)
				Garbet	In Planning	4.1 km south south west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	7.6 km south			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	8.9 km south west			
14	Mither Tap Viewpoint	High: • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28) • Bennachie SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The Magnitude of Impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views. The Proposed Development would appear as another discrete cluster of development forming minor elements on the distant skyline of this expansive view. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The Magnitude of Impact would be Negligible. The Proposed Development would be located behind in-planning development at Garbet. The addition of the Proposed Development would intensify the level of wind turbines along the distant skyline in this location. However, given the level of development along the skyline, and presence of turbines in front of the Site, the proposed turbines would represent a barely discernible addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of views. The baseline condition of	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant)
				Cairnborrow	Operational	29.3 km north west			
				Clashindarroch4	Operational	26.4 km west north west			
				Dorenell	Operational	35.2 km west			
				Edintore	Operational	35 km north west			
				Glens of Foudland	Operational	14.7 km north north west			
				Hill of Towie	Operational	38.9 km north west			
				Kildrummy	Operational	25.7 km west			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Cornabo	Consented	6.3 km south west	the landscape or view would, for all intents and purposes, be unaffected. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* Schemes at Scoping would further increase the level of development viewed across the distant skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development would form a barely perceptible addition to this assemblage of development in the background of the view. The magnitude of impact would remain Negligible. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. In views to the northwest, the Proposed Development in combination with other operational and consented wind energy development would result in wind turbines becoming a characteristic element in the background of the expansive, panoramic view from the summit of Mither Tap. Wind farms would constitute a minor element in a diverse landscape. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. When viewed in conjunction with other operational, consented and in planning wind energy development, the Proposed Development would contribute to wind turbines becoming a characteristic element in the landscape, largely located at distance and forming a minor feature within an expansive view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would remain Slight. Following the inclusion of schemes at Scoping, wind energy development would remain a characteristic element along the skyline, largely located at distance and forming a minor feature within an expansive view.		*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant)
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	39.3 km north west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	25.6 km west north west			
				Garbet	In Planning	32.8 km west north west			
				Rothes III	In Planning	52 km north west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	27.3 km west north west			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	35.1 km west north west			
15	Clashmach Hill	High: • Outlying Hills and Ridges (NS 28) • Edge of the Deveron Valley SLA (Aberdeenshire)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Set along the skyline of the long distance view from the summit of Clashmach Hill, the Proposed Development would represent a notable addition to the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the view's composition. Operational and consented wind energy development form a characteristic but minor element within the landscape in views to the north, east and west. The change would be prominent, but localised and the broader baseline conditions would be largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development would appear as an extension to Garbet Wind Farm, extending wind turbines across the skyline within a small proportion of the overall, expansive view from this summit. The Proposed Development would represent a minor addition to the influence of operational, consented and in planning wind energy development which extends across a high degree of the distant skyline in views to the east and north. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered.	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**
				Cairnborrow	Operational	4.8 km north west			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	9.8 km south west			
				Dorenell	Operational	17.9 km south west			
				Dummuie	Operational	6.9 km south east			
				Edintore	Operational	10.6 km north west			
				Glens of Foudland	Operational	10.7 km east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
16	A941 near the Grouse Inn Public House	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Upland Valleys (NS 294) • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	Medium: • Public House users • Local road users	Hill of Tillymorgan	Operational	15.6 km east south east	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* Schemes at Scoping would overlap with operational/ consented/ in planning development, intensifying the level of development within parts of the view but would not reduce the influence or impact of the addition of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact would remain Slight. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The baseline cumulative context, coupled with the Proposed Development, is such that wind energy development is becoming a characteristic element in the landscape or views to the north, east and west, particularly across the landscape in the distant view, and along the skyline. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development, in combination with other operational, consented and in planning wind energy developments would become a notable characteristic of the landscape. Frequent wind energy development would be located in the background of the view to the north, east and west, and along a high degree of the skyline. The foreground of the view would remain largely unaltered. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Inclusion of schemes at Scoping to other operational/ consented/ in planning development, and in conjunction with the Proposed Development would result in wind energy developments becoming a notable characteristic of the landscape. Frequent wind energy development would be located in the background of the view to the north, east and west, and along a high degree of the skyline. The foreground of the view would remain largely unaltered.	**Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**
				Hill of Towie	Operational	14.5 km north west			
				Bailiesward Farm	Consented	2.8 km south west			
				Hill of Towie II	Consented	15.2 km north west			
				Meikleton of Ardonald	Consented	6.2 km north west			
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	7.2 km south west			
				Garbet	In Planning	11.2 km west south west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	9.8 km south west			
				The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact is Substantial. A small number of operational turbines at Cairnborrow Wind Farm are theoretically visible along the skyline. In reality, these structures form barely discernible elements in the landscape, which has very little influence on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint. Therefore, the addition of the Proposed Development would represent a considerable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the settled glen landscape and on the composition of the background and skyline of the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* There are no developments in planning visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u>
				Cairnborrow	Operational	14.1 km north east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Dorenell	Operational	4 km west	remain Substantial, as per the operational and consented development assessment, above. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Inclusion of scoping schemes would reduce the additional impact of the Proposed Development, by introducing large scale wind energy development in views along the skyline to the east (Clashindarroch Extension) and to the west (Glenfiddich). The addition of the Proposed Development would notably increase the influence of wind energy development across the skyline in the view to the north. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. The Proposed Development would form a key element in the landscape in the view from this location. In combination with other operational and consented development, which form very minor elements in the baseline context, wind energy development would become a notable characteristic of the landscape and in the view. However, it would not be the defining characteristic. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* There are no developments in planning visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would be Moderate, as per the operational and consented development assessment, above. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would remain Moderate. While schemes at Scoping would increase the influence of wind energy development in the view, these developments – like the Proposed Development – would be set back from the valley landscape and largely screened by topography. Wind energy development would be a notable characteristic of the landscape in the view, but not a defining one.	*Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	*Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not Significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate (Not Significant)
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	2 km east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	4.3 km north west			
17	Cromdale Hills	High: • Smooth Rounded Hills (NS 123) • Cairngorms National Park	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Operational and consented wind energy development forms a very minor element in parts of the skyline in views to the east from the Cromdale Hills. Turbines at Hill of Towie and blades and blade tips of Dorenell and Kildrummy turbines are visible above the skyline in small extents of the expansive view. No turbines are visible to the south, west and north. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. The change would be localised within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Operational, consented and in-planning wind energy development forms a minor element in parts of the skyline in views to the east from the Cromdale Hills. The most notable development is at Garbet Wind Farm (in planning). The addition of the Proposed Development visually extends the development at	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning*	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant)
				Clashindarroch II	In Planning	29.3 km east north east			

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Garbet	In Planning	25.1 km north east	Garbet Wind Farm across a ridgeline in the background of the view, and would represent a notable increase in the influence of wind energy development on the character of the landscape and on the composition of the view. The change would be localised within an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. The Proposed Development would be located behind Glenfiddich Wind Farm (Scoping) and would appear as part of this development, intensifying the number of turbines in the view but not introducing a new or unfamiliar feature into the landscape, nor extending the presence of development further across the view. The addition would form a barely perceptible change. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Other operational and consented wind farm development in the landscape is not a notable or characterising feature of the landscape, appearing as very minor features in the view to the east. No turbines are present in views to the south, west and north. In combination with the Proposed Development, wind energy development would start to become a characteristic element in the landscape or views but would not notably alter the key qualities or defining characteristics of the landscape in the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. In combination with other operational, consented and in planning wind farm development in the landscape the Proposed Development would result in wind energy development becoming a characteristic element in the landscape or view. Wind energy development would not notably alter the key qualities or defining characteristics of the landscape in the view. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The inclusion of Scoping schemes would intensify the presence of wind turbines across the landscape in the background of the view, but would not notably extend development across a wider area. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would remain Moderate.	**Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**	*Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	26 km east			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	19.4 km east north east			
18	Auchindoun Castle	High: • Upland Farmed Valleys (NS289) • Rolling Forested Hills (MWELCS 9) • Ben Rinnes SLA (Moray)	High: Recreation	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Dorenell Wind Farm is visible to the south east, set back behind the ridgeline which forms the skyline in this part of the view. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce large scale wind energy development in the direct view of the viewpoint, increasing the influence of wind turbines across the undeveloped skyline in the view. While partially obscured by a property in the foreground, upon approach to the castle the turbines would be revealed over time. The	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping*

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Dorenell	Operational	5.7 km south south west	change would be localised amongst an otherwise unaltered context. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Proposed turbines at Garbet and Rothes III would not be discernible in the actual view from this location. Therefore the magnitude of impact following the addition of the Proposed Development would remain Moderate. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Scoping development at Glenfiddich would notably increase the influence of wind energy development in views to the south east from the path. Wind turbines would be of a larger scale and in closer proximity than those at Dorenell, which would sit behind Glenfiddich. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the influence of the large turbines across to the east, in the direct view from the path. The addition of the Proposed Development would represent a discernible increase in wind energy development in the view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Wind energy development would be present in two discrete areas in the view – at Dorenell to the south west, and the Proposed Development to the south east. Wind energy development would be a discernible element in the landscape, but would not notably alter the overall characteristics of the view from this location. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* No other proposed turbines would be discernible in the actual view from this location. Therefore, there would be no change to the above assessment. The magnitude of in combination impact of operational, consented and in planning development in combination with the Proposed Development would remain Slight. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Moderate. Wind energy development would occupy a larger proportion of the view to the south west following the introduction of Glenfiddich, increasing the influence of wind turbines across a greater proportion of the view. In combination with the Proposed Development, wind energy development would become a characteristic element in the view. Wind turbines would be located in relatively close proximity to the viewers in both oblique and direct views.	Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Moderate/ Major (Significant)** *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Moderate/ Major (Significant)**	Moderate (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major/ Moderate (Significant)**
				Hill of Towie	Operational	8.2 km north			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	2.9 km south			
19	A941 near Cabrach	High: • Open Upland (NS 292) • Open Uplands with Settled Glens (MWELCS 12b)	• Medium: Local road users • High: Tourists on road network	The Proposed Development	In Planning	-	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. Dorenell Wind Farm is visible across an elevated upland ridge, which forms the background to the view to the west, in slightly oblique views from the road. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the influence of wind energy	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant)	<u>In-Addition</u> *Operational and Consented* Local Road Users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant)

Table 5.6.3: Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

VP	VP Name	Landscape Sensitivity	Viewer Sensitivity	Predicted Cumulative View (360-degree)[2]			Magnitude of Impact	Residual Effect - Landscape	Residual Effect - Visual
				Wind Farm	Status	Approx. Distance and Direction to Cumulative Development			
				Clashindarroch	Operational	3.5 km north north east	development across the view to the north. As only blade tips of the Proposed Development would be visible, the change would be discernible but minor addition to the presence of wind energy development in the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* No developments in planning are visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the assessment would be the same as the above – the magnitude of impact would remain Slight. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Negligible. Due to the prominence of Clashindarroch Extension in the foreground of the view, the Proposed Development would form a barely discernible addition to the presence of wind energy development in the view. <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* The magnitude of impact would be Slight. The Proposed Development, in conjunction with other operational, consented and in planning wind energy development would result in wind energy development becoming a characteristic of the landscape in the view. Development would influence the character of the landscape but would not be a notable or defining characteristic of the view. *Operational, Consented and In Planning* No developments in planning are visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the assessment would be the same as the above – the magnitude of impact would remain Slight. *Operational, Consented, In Planning and in Scoping* The magnitude of impact would be Substantial. The Proposed Development in combination with other operational, consented, in planning and scoping schemes would contribute to wind energy development being the key defining characteristic of the landscape in the view. Impacts would be directly attributable to Clashindarroch Extension.	*Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* **Major** (Significant)	Tourists on the Road Network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Local Road Users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) Tourists on the Road Network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Local Road Users: Minor (Not significant) Tourists on the Road Network: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) <u>In-Combination</u> *Operational and Consented* Local Road Users: Moderate/ Minor (Not significant) Tourists on the Road Network: Moderate (Not significant) *Operational, Consented and In Planning* Local Road Users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) *Tourists on the Road Network:* ***Major*** *(Significant)* *Operational, Consented, In Planning and Scoping* Local Road Users: **Major/ Moderate** (Significant) Tourists on the Road Network: **Major** (Significant)
				Dorenell	Operational	7.4 km west			
				Clashindarroch Extension	Scoping	1.1 km north			
				Glenfiddich	Scoping	8.9 km north west			

TA 5.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

Technical Appendix 5.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The purpose of this Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is to identify potential effects of the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity. It is, however, important to note that the assessment of residential visual amenity is separate and distinct from the assessment of visual effects as covered in the assessment of landscape and visual effects contained in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Amenity.

1.2 Planning Context

1.2.1 The United Kingdom, and more specifically Scottish planning policy and legislation, does not provide for the protection of views from individual properties as this is deemed a matter of private rather than public interest, which is the province of the planning system. The planning system is intended to control development in the public interest, and not the private. The preservation of open views is a private interest, which the planning regime is not intended to protect. But public and private interests may overlap. The issue is whether the number, size, layout and proximity of wind turbines would have such an overwhelming and oppressive visual impact on a dwelling and its amenity space that they would result in unsatisfactory living conditions, and so unacceptably affect amenities and the use of land and buildings which ought to be protected in the public interest.

1.2.2 Practice in respect of the assessment of living conditions or effects on visual amenity of properties has evolved in response to planning decisions and public inquiries throughout the United Kingdom.

1.2.3 This Inspector Lavender in his Appeal Decision in respect of Enifer Downs[1] of 16 March 2009 stated that:

"when turbines are present in such number, size and proximity that they represent an unpleasantly overwhelming and unavoidable presence in the main views from a house or garden, there is every likelihood that the property concerned would come to be widely regarded as an unattractive and thus unsatisfactory (but not necessarily uninhabitable) place in which to live. It is not in the public interest to create such living conditions where they did not exist before.[2]"

1.2.4 In the subsequent Carland Cross Appeal Decision of 19 January 2010, there were 209 properties within 3 km of the proposed turbines. Twenty-three were identified as likely to experience *"high significance of visual impact"* which in each case the Council judged to be as *"overwhelmingly adverse."* However, Inspector Lavender stated that:

1.2.5 *"...those who face the prospect of living close to a wind farm may attach very different value judgements to their visual impact than the wider public, who stand to benefit from the energy produced without seeing the turbines from their homes. In impact, the former is primarily a private interest whereas the latter is a public one and, in the case of the former, few householders are able to exercise control over development by others that may do no more than impinge into the outlook from their property. The planning system is designed to protect the public rather than private interests, but both interests may coincide where, for example, visual intrusion is of such magnitude as to render a property an unattractive place in which to live. This is because it is not in the public interest to create such living conditions where they did not exist before. Thus, I do not consider that simply being able to see a turbine or turbines from a particular window or part of the garden of a house is sufficient reason to find the visual impact unacceptable (even though a particular occupier might find it objectionable).[3]" This has become known as the 'Lavender test'[4].*

1.2.6 This position is echoed in Reporters Dent and Jackman's more recent appeal decision in respect of Fauch Hill and Harburnhead Wind Farms[5] in which they stated that:

1.2.7 *"a significant change to a local resident's outlook from their property does not mean a wind farm proposal is necessarily unacceptable. Significant changes are likely to be inevitable for the closest properties. We agree that a 'higher' test is relevant." They concluded that they "agree with the conclusions from previous decisions that this means a wind farm would have to be overbearing or dominant."*

1.2.8 The preceding criteria adopted in consideration of residential visual amenity was reflected in the 2015 Afton Wind Farm appeal (PPA-190-2042) in which the Reporters recommended the test to be applied was whether the wind farm would have any overbearing visual effects on residential amenity to a degree that any property might be considered an unattractive place in which to live.

1.2.9 It is apparent from the foregoing discussion that residential receptors that are predicted to experience significant visual effects in EIA terms would not necessarily be subject to overbearing, oppressive[6] or unpleasantly overwhelming or unavoidable effects in main views and may therefore not represent an unacceptable effect on residential amenity of properties or the undermining of public interest. However, whilst the following assessment comments on the extent of impacts on the amenity of properties it does not draw conclusions regarding the acceptability of such impacts as this is a planning deliberation.

1.3 Methodology

Method of Assessment

1.3.1 The following study is based on the recently published guidance published by the Landscape Institute[7], as well as accepted methods that have been tested in planning and public examination previously.

Structure and Approach

1.3.2 The study comprises three stages:

- Stage One: Establishing the Scope of the RVAA;
- Stage Two: Survey of Properties; and
- Stage Three: Assessing Impacts on the Visual Amenity of Properties.

1.3.3 The assessment was conducted with reference to Ordnance Survey mapping at various scales, wireline visualisations, and aerial photography. Field reconnaissance was undertaken by members of the project

[1] North Dover (Enifer Downs) Public Inquiry, PINS Appeal Reference APP/X2220/A/08/2071880. Decision Letter, dated 16 March 2009 ('Lavender Test')

[2] Paragraph 66 Land west of Enifer Downs Farm and east of Archers Court Road and Little Pineham Farm, Langdon, Appeal decision APP/X2220/A/08/2071880. 28th April 2009 (SPR78).

[3] Paragraph 23, Carland Cross Appeal Decision (APP/D0840/A/09/2103026) 19 January 2010 (SPR82).

[4] North Dover (Enifer Downs) Public Inquiry, PINS Appeal Reference APP/X2220/A/08/2071880. Decision Letter, dated 16 March 2009 ('Lavender Test')

[5] Report to the Scottish Ministers, Fauch Hill Wind Farm and Harburnhead Wind Farm, Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals, January 2014

[6] From Land between Anderby, Anderby Creek, Chapel St Leonards and Langham. Appeal Decision APP/D2510/A/10/2130539, September 2011

[7] Landscape Institute (2019) Residential Visual amenity Assessment (RVAA) – Technical Guidance Note 2/19

team in November 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions surveys were undertaken from publicly accessible locations.

Stage One: Establishing the RVAA Scope

1.3.4 Stage One of the assessment comprised a desk study of mapping, aerial photography, address data, and a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) drawing (to blade tip) to identify residential properties within 5 km of the proposed turbines that would be subject to views of the Proposed Development, and where there would be potential for visual receptors to experience significant visual effects[8]. After careful analysis using detailed terrain data, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) and field work it was concluded that there would be no significant impacts outwith 3.5 km, therefore the study area was scoped down to 3.5 km. Stage One also considers the potential for significant cumulative effects in respect of other wind farms.

1.3.5 The study area was based upon extensive previous experience in respect of similar developments elsewhere and was agreed in consultation with Morayshire Council and Aberdeen Council.

1.3.6 Census data (OS Address Point Data) and 1:25,000 mapping data were utilised during this initial stage and findings verified during preliminary field reconnaissance using ReSoft WindFarm and Ventus AR software.

1.3.7 Figure 5.7.0 contains a map of properties within 3.5 km of the Proposed Development turbines with the blade tip Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) overlain.

1.3.8 Properties falling outwith 3.5 km of the proposed turbines or outwith the viewshed as depicted in the blade tip ZTV (Figure 5.7.0), were omitted from the RVAA.

Stage Two: Survey of Properties

1.3.9 Stage Two comprised a detailed investigation of properties identified for inclusion in Stage One. This entailed further desk study and field reconnaissance at publicly accessible locations given the COVID-19 restriction at the time of site reconnaissance (November 2021). The findings of the field reconnaissance were recorded in standardised survey forms, which include details of:

- each property's location, geographical extent and curtilage, and landscape and visual context;
- the type of property: whether detached, semi-detached or terraced; whether the property is single-storey or two-storey;
- the orientation of the property (i.e., its main entrance and its main façade);
- main external recreational and amenity spaces;
- secondary locations, including utilitarian spaces;
- main approaches that are of relevance to the amenity of the property;
- main views out (both internal and external), their character and scenic quality, and any specific qualities or elements that are key to the property's amenity; and
- details of any restrictions on views out, including buildings/ structures, topography and vegetation.

1.3.10 The survey also provides an indication of each property's susceptibility to the type of development proposed and potential for appropriate mitigation[9].

Stage Three: Assessment of Impacts on the Visual Amenity of Properties

1.3.11 Stage Three entailed the identification of likely impacts of the Proposed Development on the key views and defining aspects of the visual amenity at each property, as defined in Stage Two. This stage includes an assessment of the implications of the Proposed Development when considered in conjunction with the cumulative context described in Chapter 5 of the EIAR.

1.3.12 Key considerations in the assessment of impacts include:

- which aspects of the Proposed Development would be visible from each of the key viewpoints at the property, including number of turbines and how they appear (e.g. prominent skyline position or partially obscured behind intervening topography, vegetation or structures);
- the main and ancillary/ secondary locations at the property subject to views and the approximate distance between them and the nearest visible element of the Proposed Development;
- any approaches to the property that are adversely affected;
- height of the Proposed Development relative to each property;
- whether views are channelled/ focused, direct or oblique and whether they are open or partially constrained;
- the proportion of the view and skyline occupied by the Proposed Development in terms of horizontal and vertical angle, subtended, and a description of the resultant prominence or dominance of the Proposed Development;
- the degree of perceived proximity or separation of properties from the Proposed Development; and
- analysis of cumulative visibility, identifying:
  - the distance and direction to each cumulative development;
  - which aspect and views at each property would be affected; and
  - the cumulative effects attributable to the Proposed Development (i.e., both in terms of what additional effect the Proposed Development would represent, as well as its effect in respect of enclosure or encirclement of properties).

1.3.13 Specific terms used to describe the impact of the Proposed Development on the visual amenity of a property are listed below and a definition provided:

- **Overbearing**: Tending to overwhelm. Of such scale and dominance relative to the residential environment and views that the development can be said to be represent a significant detractor from views and the character of the environment of the property.
- **Overwhelming**: Impacts are of such scale and dominance relative to the residential environment and views that the development can be said to be 'overpowering and/ or oppressive'. Such effects are pervasive and largely unavoidable in main views and main/ principal locations in the property.
- **Oppressive**: Effects may be considered intolerable or of such an extent that they result in a sense of ill-ease and discomfort.
- **Pervasive**: Effects are ubiquitous or experienced widely throughout the property and associated accesses.

[8] For the purposes of this Stage significant visual effects will be determined based on criteria utilised in the completion of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment presented in the EIA Report. The criteria utilised in the RVAA are set out in Stage Three of the methodology in Table 5.4.1.

[9] Deemed to be appropriate to the character of the property and adjoining landscape, and to not constitute, in itself, an adverse effect on the visual amenity of the property.

Table 5.7.1: Levels of Impact on Residential Visual Amenity

Level of Impact	Definition
High	The Proposed Development would form a dominant element in main views and in close proximity to key locations in and around the property, and would be considered oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. High impacts may also occur where the Proposed Development results in the physical of perceived encirclement or the completion of the encirclement of a property by similarly visually dominant developments, thereby making cumulative effects on the property truly unavoidable, oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming and therefore resulting in a situation where the properties concerned may be considered an 'unattractive place in which to live' which would fail the Lavender test.
High/ Moderate	The Proposed Development would form a prominent element in main views and seen in close proximity to key locations at the property, resulting in considerable change to the quality and character of views from the property, and a corresponding lessening of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. High/ Moderate impacts may also occur where the Proposed Development results in a partial encirclement or the completion of the encirclement of a property by similarly visually prominent developments. However, such a cumulative effect may be avoidable in some of the main views and may not be considered oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming.
Moderate	The Proposed Development would form a notable or even prominent element in views from a number of key locations at the property, resulting in notable change to the quality and character of a number of views from the property, and corresponding loss of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative developments would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to encirclement of the property by development.
Moderate/ Low	The Proposed Development would be appreciable in views from a small number of key locations but would not be prominent. Consequently, it would have little influence of the visual amenity of the property.
Low	The Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property.
None	Whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the property, field reconnaissance indicates that it would be screened by intervening structures, localised topographical features or permanent structural vegetation with the result that there would be no effects on the visual amenity of the property.

1.4 Findings

Stage One: Establishing the RVAA Scope

1.4.1 Preliminary desk study and field reconnaissance confirmed a high degree of intervisibility within the landscape within 3.5 km of the Proposed Development due to the size of the turbines and the nature of the topography not providing a high level of screening within the immediate area. Forestry would provide some screening or filtering of views to the Proposed Development. However, this is commercial forestry which would to be felled on a rotational cycle. Consequently, all of the properties within the 3.5 km study area for the RVAA were included in the assessment to establish whether any would be subject to impacts that might be considered as overbearing, overwhelming, oppressive or pervasive and therefore potentially material in determination of the application for the Proposed Development.

1.4.2 The properties and property groups included within the assessment are detailed below:

- RVA01 – South Badchier (Shown in figures 5.7.1a-f);
- RVA02 – Todholes (Shown in figures 5.7.2a-f);
- RVA03 – Rhinturk (Shown in figures 5.7.3a-f);
- Group01 – Ardluie and Ardluie Bungalow (Shown in figures 5.7.4a-f);
- RVA04 – Bruntredle (Shown in figures 5.7.5a-f);
- RVA05 – Bridgend (Shown in figures 5.7.6a-f);
- RVA06 – Bridgend Cottage (Shown in figures 5.7.7a-f);
- RVA07 – Shenval (Shown in figures 5.7.8a-f);
- RVA08 – Dalriach (Shown in figures 5.7.9a-f);
- RVA09 – Miltown House (Shown in figures 5.7.10a-f);
- RVA10 – Tombain (Shown in figures 5.7.11a-f);
- Group02 – Newton of Corinacy and Pyke Cottage (Shown in figures 5.7.12a-f);
- RVA11 – Mains of Lesmurdie (Shown in figures 5.7.13a-f);
- RVA12 – Oldtown of Corinacy (Shown in figures 5.7.14a-f);
- RVA13 – Hillock (Shown in figures 5.7.15a-f);
- RVA14 – Easterton (Shown in figures 5.7.16a-f);
- Group03 – Succoth and Craiglewie (Shown in figures 5.7.17a-f);
- RVA15 – Tomnaven (Shown in figures 5.7.18a-f);
- Group04 – Greenloan Farmhouse and Belcherrie (Shown in figures 5.7.19a-f);
- Group05 – Lynebain, Mill of Lynebain and Waterside (Shown in figures 5.7.20a-f);
- Group06 – Little Gouls, Meikle Gouls and Gouls Farm (Shown in figures 5.7.21a-f);
- Group07 – Backside Farmhouse and Craig Dorney Lodge (Shown in figures 5.7.22a-f);
- Group08 – Tighnaird and The Old School House (Shown in figures 5.7.23a-f);
- Group09 – Howemill Croft and Howemill (Shown in figures 5.7.24a-f);
- RVA16 – Auchinhandoch (Shown in figures 5.7.25a-f);
- Group10 – Beldorney Castle and Dumeath (Shown in figures 5.7.26a-f);
- Group11 – Easter Braetown and Wester Braetown (Shown in figures 5.7.27a-f); and
- RVA17 – Newton of Glenmarkie (Shown in figures 5.7.28a-f);

Stage Two: Survey of Properties

1.4.3 Findings of the survey of properties are set out in Table 5.7.2, below.

Stage Three: Assessment of Impacts on the Visual Amenity of Properties

1.4.4 The level of impacts on residential visual amenity are described in Table 5.7.2 which is intended to provide a considered professional judgement in respect of the criteria set out in the Lavender test, from which the competent authority may draw conclusions regarding the acceptability of the Proposed Development.

1.4.5 The assessment is based upon the definitions defined in Table 5.7.1 which are intended to provide a degree of transparency to the assessment. Stated levels of impact are described as High, High/ Moderate, Moderate, Moderate/ Low, Low and None in order to differentiate them from the main SLVIA levels of effect in Chapter 5 of the EIAR and reflecting the particularities of the RVAA methodology.

1.5 Summary and Conclusions

1.5.1 The purpose of this study was to identify potential effects of the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity.

1.5.2 The study comprised three stages:

- Stage One: Establishing the Scope of the RVAA;
- Stage Two: Surveying Properties; and
- Stage Three: Assessing Impacts on the Visual Amenity of Properties.

1.5.3 Initially the establishment of the RVAA scope was undertaken using computer modelling of theoretical visibility at recorded properties/ addresses as well as aerial photography analysis and survey at the application site to establish properties with potential views towards the Proposed Development. Based on this exercise, 41 properties within the 3.5 km study area with potential views of the Proposed Development (see Figure 5.7.0) were assessed using aerial photography, OS base mapping and verified by fieldwork.

1.5.4 The purpose of this fieldwork was to verify the availability of views towards the Proposed Development from key amenity spaces at properties and to assess the magnitude of impact and visual effect on views from properties based on the criteria set out in the RVAA methodology. Whilst it is undoubtable that the Proposed Development would result in significant visual effects at a number of the properties in SLVIA terms, such effects were not considered likely to prove "overbearing" or "overwhelming", having regard to the criteria examined to assess the nature of the predicted changes as a consequence of the Proposed Development. On this basis it is contended that the properties would not be affected by the Proposed Development to the extent that they would be considered unattractive places in which to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
RVA01: South Badchier (see Figures 5.7.1a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 3 km southwest of the nearest turbines (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: The property is located to the south of Burn of Badchier, contained by Little Balloch Hill to the north and Black Hill to the south, situated at an overall elevation of 367.4 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: South/ Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access is taken from a private access track, which extends from the A941 to the northeast, the overall length of the track is approximately 1.25 km. ▪ Related Buildings: To the north/ northwest of the property sits a stone-built barn, comprising a single storey structure. **Existing Views from Property** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property are heavily restricted by intervening dense coniferous boundary vegetation. Oblique views to the southeast extend through a small gap in the forestry, comprising open moorland and coniferous forestry, with the lower/ upper slopes of Kelman Hill forming the main element within the view. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across a small back garden, with views to the northwest being heavily restricted by the associated barn and mature coniferous boundary vegetation. Views directly north extend downhill, across Burn of Badchier, with longer range intervisibility being screened by Little Balloch Hill to the north. ▪ Principal Views: North ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the south, east and west are all heavily restricted by the surrounding mature coniferous forestry vegetation, preventing intervisibility with the wider landscape. Moreover, the associated outbuilding to the rear prevents views out towards to the northwest. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell, are situated 7.1 km east/ southeast and 5.1 km southwest respectively. The in-planning and scoping schemes of Glenfiddich, Garbet, Clashindarroch II and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 1.9 km northwest, 4.9 km north/ northeast, 8.6 km east/ northeast and 6.1 km east/ southeast respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: There are 7 turbines theoretically visible across the skyline to northeast. Views of the turbines are a mixture of blade tips, blade and hubs. Those turbines on elevated positions such as Turbines 1, 2 and 3 are most visible due to their size and scale in relatively short distance from the property. **Predicted Views from Properties** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible from the main elevation of the property, due to the main orientation of the property facing south/ southeast, away from the Proposed Development. Moreover, there are mature boundary trees to the southeast/ east reducing oblique intervisibility from the main elevation. ▪ Views from the rear of the property would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation (northwest) facing away from the development. ▪ From the main access track the Proposed Development would be highly visible in views to the northeast, due to the lack of any intervening vegetation or topography, therefore views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The two operational wind farms of Dorenell and Clashindarroch are theoretically visible to the southwest and east respectively, however, given the extent of surrounding boundary vegetation there would be no actual views of these developments. The Glenfiddich wind farm scoping scheme would be visible from the rear elevation of the property, however partially screened by the adjacent outbuilding. ▪ The Clashindarroch II wind farm would not be visible from the main elevation of the property due to its orientation facing away from the development. Views of the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be possible in oblique views to the southeast/ east, partially screened by a series of mature trees (coniferous). The Proposed Development would be seen in front of the in-planning Garbet Wind Farm, however, this intervisibility would only be possible when existing the property via the main access road, partially screened by Garbet Hill. Given the orientation and screening of the property, actual views of the in-scoping Glenfiddich Wind Farm and in oblique views from the main elevation (partially screened) of the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be possible. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main elevation and rear elevation alongside the main amenity spaces would not be affected by the Proposed Development, however, there may be some intervisibility with the side garden to the east of the property, where there are some gaps within the tree line. The Proposed Development would form a small part of the overall view and views would be glimpsed, with the Proposed Development being partially screened by the intervening topography of Garbet and Kelman Hill. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form a notable or even prominent element in views from a number of key locations at the property, resulting in notable change to the quality and character of a number of views from the property, and corresponding loss of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen alongside the in-planning Garbet Wind Farm, albeit it at a close proximity. ▪ Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Moderate**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA02: Todholes (see Figures 5.7.2a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.35 km southwest of the nearest turbines (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: The property is located on the lower easter slopes of Black Hill, to the west of Burn Treble, with Garbet Hill and Kelman Hill to the north and southeast/ east respectively. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: North ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from the A941 to the north, via a private access track extending southwards for approximately 600 m. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a series of outbuildings located to the east and south of the property. These buildings comprise a stone-build workshop to the south, and a steel corrugated structure directly eastwards. **Existing Views from Property** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation extend across a small front garden space, with oblique views to the northwest being restricted by surrounding coniferous forestry vegetation. Views northwards and north eastwards extend across semi-improved agricultural fields, sloping downhill towards the A941 and Burn of Treble watercourse. The middle ground view comprises topographical features such as Garbet Hill and Kelman Hill, forming a patch work of moorland interspersed by burn scars associated with shooting activities.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: There are 9 turbines visible across the ridgeline to the northeast from the property. Views tend to be a mixture of blade tips, blade, and hubs, with screening afforded by the intervening topography of Garbet and Kelman Hill, particularly on the lower extent of the turbines. Turbines 2, 3 and 1 are all highly visible immediately to the northeast, due to their size, scale and elevated position upon the hillside. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would be partially visible in oblique views from the main elevation of the property facing northeast. The principal view from the property is towards the north, away from the Proposed Development, however given the elevated position of the turbines and the lack of any intervening landscape elements such as woodland or coniferous forestry, the Proposed Development would be visible in oblique views, rising above the ridgeline to the northeast. ▪ Views from the rear of the property would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation (south) facing away from the development. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible when exiting/ entering the property via the private access track when looking northeast. The Proposed Development is located upon a topographical high point, therefore introducing man-made elements into the ridgeline, which is void of any such elements at present. When exiting the property towards the A941, the landscape slopes down into the valley, reducing intervisibility with the Proposed Development due to the intervening topography.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear extend across a small paddock/ riding arena, with any views outwith fully screened by the intervening coniferous forestry. The rear of the property is covered in dense shade, even during winter months. ▪ Principal Views: North/ northeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the northwest, west and southwest are all heavily restricted by the adjacent coniferous forestry plantation block. Moreover, to the south a number of sparsely planted trees provide some filtering/ screening of any intervisibility outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property:** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell, are situated 6.1 km east and 5.7 km southwest respectively. The in-planning and scoping schemes of Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 2.8 km northwest, 2.8 km east/ northeast and 5.1 km east/ southeast respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The Dorenell wind farm would be theoretically visible alongside the in-scoping Glenfiddich wind farm, however in actual views the schemes would not be visible due to the extensive coniferous forestry to the north, northwest, west and southwest, fulling screening these developments. The in-planning Clashindarroch II, operational Clashindarroch and in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would all be visible across the skyline to the east/ southeast, however would be seen in connection rather than three different wind farm schemes. Moreover, this intervisibility will only be possible to the east of the property and along the upper access track. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the property would be partially affected by the Proposed Development, however, this would be limited to oblique views to the northeast, with the principal view (north) being unaffected. Moreover, views from the rear of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation south, facing away from the development. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would be situated to the northeast of the property away from the cluster of wind farms to the east, and would not be seen in connection, rather it would be seen as a standalone development filling in a gap within the view to the northeast. ▪ Therefore, it has been predicted that the Proposed Development would be appreciable in views from a small number of key locations but would not be prominent. Consequently, it would have little influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Moderate/ Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA03: Rhinturk (see Figures 5.7.3a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 1.74 km southwest of the nearest turbines (Turbines 2) ▪ Location: Positioned on the lower southern slopes of Garbet Hill, situated above the A941 and Burn of Treble watercourse to the west, at an overall elevation of 366.1 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: South ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from a private driveway, which extent northwards from the A941. ▪ Related Buildings: There are three outbuildings associated with the property and include a workshop/ barn directly to the east, barn building in a state of ruin and a courtyard style building utilised as a barn. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property extends across a small front garden, descending downhill across semi-improved agricultural fields, over the A941 and Burn of Treble watercourse. Further to the south the landscape gains in elevation, with Meikle Firbriggs and Tornichelt Hill forming key features within the middle ground view. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across a small back garden, with longer range views being restricted by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation. The boundary vegetation comprises coniferous species, approximately three times the height of the property, preventing any intervisibility northwards. ▪ Principal Views: South ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the southeast are filtered/ screened by intervening boundary vegetation, limited longer range intervisibility. Moreover, views to the north and northeast are heavily restricted by coniferous boundary vegetation and several outbuildings providing some localised screening. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell, are situated 5.9 km east/ southeast and 6.3 km southwest respectively. The in-planning and scoping schemes of Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 2.9 km northwest and 5 km east respectively.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Six turbines would be theoretically visible, extending across the ridgeline to the northeast, partially screened by the intervening topography of Garbet Hill. Views are a series of blade tips, blade and hubs. Turbines 1, 2, and 3 are most prominent in the view, due to their size, scale and relatively close proximity to the property. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible from the main elevation, due to the orientation of the property facing south – north, away from the development. ▪ The proposed turbines would be partially visible in oblique views from the rear of the property and rear garden facing northeast. However, this would be further reduced due to the extent of intervening mature boundary vegetation, providing localised screening, reducing the full extent of the turbines visible. ▪ When entering and exiting the property via the private driveway the Proposed Development would be highly visible in views to the northeast, across the ridgeline of Garbet Hill. However, this intervisibility would be limited to the uppermost extent of the driveway in close proximity to the property, due to the screening afforded by the intervening topography and adjacent woodland/ coniferous vegetation. It must be noted, that if the upper section of the adjacent woodland/ coniferous forestry is removed then views would be similar to those theoretical views described above along the upper half of the driveway. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational Dorenell Wind Farm is visible in oblique views southwest/ west from the property. The operational Clashindarroch and the in-scoping developments of Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension would all be theatrically visible from the property, however given the extent of boundary vegetation to the east/ southeast and west/ northwest, preventing intervisibility. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the property would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Development due to the orientation of the property south – north, facing away from the development. Intervisibility with the Proposed Development would be limited to oblique views from the rear elevation and back garden, and along the upper third of the driveway. Moreover, the extent of mature boundary vegetation to the rear of the property would act to filter any intervisibility with the development, with exception to small gaps within the tree line, where the development would be visible. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would theoretically contribute to the partial encirclement of the property, however in actual views the Proposed Development would be seen to the northeast and the existing Dorenell to the southwest/ west, in two separate parts of the view and not seen in combination. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Group01: Ardluie & Ardluie Bungalow (see Figures 5.7.4a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: The properties within this group are located 1.84 km south of the nearest turbines (Turbines 2). ▪ Location: Both located on the lower slopes of Kelman Hill to the east and Garbet Hill to the north, above the A941 and Burn of Treble watercourse, at an overall elevation of 320.9 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Two storey detached farmhouse and single storey detached cottage. ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast and Southwest. ▪ Access to the Property: Access is taken from a private driveway, which extends north-eastwards from the main local road (A941). The track is approximately 300 m in length. ▪ Related Buildings: The properties within this group are located within a working farm, therefore there are a large number of agricultural buildings, with a large concentration to the north, northwest and west of the properties. Many of these buildings are reaching a height 2 x the height of the properties. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the properties extend southwards towards Lower Cabrach. These views extend over semi-improved grassland, Charach Water and the A941, with Black Hillock and Meikle Firbriggs forming the main topographical element within the longer ranged views southwards. Views tend to be of medium scale and are restricted in longer range views by intervening topography. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the properties are strongly restricted by the associated agricultural buildings that would prevent longer range views northwards. However, there may be some intervisibility north above the outbuildings from the upper level of the two-storey farmhouse. Views would comprise open grassland and moorland, with views being ultimately restricted by Garbet Hill to the north. ▪ Principal Views: South/ southwest ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest and west are all strongly restricted by the adjacent agricultural buildings, preventing intervisibility outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational scheme of Dorenell is situated 6.6 km east. The in-planning and scoping schemes of Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 3.9 km northwest and 4 km southeast respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Across the skyline north/ northeast 10 turbines would be theoretically visible. The view would consist of a mixture of full-length turbines, blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. Turbines 2, 3 and 5 would be most visible due to their size and scale. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible from the main elevation of the properties and the rear elevation of Ardluie, due to their orientation southeast and southwest, facing away from the development. ▪ The proposed turbines would be visible from the rear elevation of Ardluie Bungalow, views would be channelled by the adjacent access track towards the Proposed Development. However, screening afforded by the adjacent mature tree vegetation would reduce overall intervisibility. ▪ The Proposed Development would be visible when entering the private driveway from the southwest. The Proposed Development is located on a topographical highpoint behind Garbet Hill, an elevated position within the landscape, introducing man-made elements into the ridgeline, which is void of any such elements at present. As the driveway proceeds towards the property north eastwards, intervisibility would be reduced/ filtered by the surrounding boundary vegetation of Ardluie and Ardluie Bungalow. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational scheme of Dorenell would not be visible from the property, due to a combination of adjacent outbuildings and boundary vegetation. Moreover, the in-scoping Glenfiddich wind farm would also not be visible from the property due to constraints mentioned above. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be partially visible to the southeast, with the adjacent Ardluie Bungalow screening some of the more distant turbines. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the properties would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing southwest and southeast, away from the development. Moreover, any intervisibility from the rear elevation of Ardluie Bungalow and from the main driveway would be screened/ filtered by the surrounding mature boundary vegetation. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA04: Burntredle (see Figures 5.7.5a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.3 km southwest of the nearest turbines (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Located within a topographical low point within the Charach valley, in between two topographical high points, including Blackhill to the west and Kelman Hill to the east. The property sits directly opposite the A941 transport corridor and north of Garmuch Burn just as it outflows into Charach Water, at an overall elevation of 292.3 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: South ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from a private driveway which extends from the A941 at Bridgend. The overall length of the route is approximately 350 m. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a small barn located to the west of the property in close proximity. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property extend southwards across semi-improved grassland and moorland, with Tom na Vowin being the main feature within the view. Moreover, this feature prevents longer range views southwards. The A941 and the Charach watercourse are visible in oblique views to the southeast, towards Bridgend. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across a small back garden, flanked by large boundary vegetation, which screened/ filters views northwards. Views north consist of open grassland, moorland, the A941 and Burn Treble watercourse. Garbet Hill forms the main topographical feature within views to the north, preventing longer range intervisibility. ▪ Principal Views: South ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northeast, east and southeast are all heavily restricted/ filtered by intervening mature boundary vegetation. Moreover, the associated outbuilding to the west would provide some localised screening.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: 9 turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the northeast, behind the upper slopes of Garbet Hill and Kelman Hill, occupying elevated positions within the landscape. Views are a series of blades, blade tips and hubs. Turbines 1, 2, 3 and 5 are the most visible due to their size, scale and closer proximity to the property. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation southwards facing away from the development. Moreover, any possible intervisibility in oblique views east/ northeast would be heavily screened by the adjacent mature shelterbelt, preventing any longer-range views outwith. ▪ Similarly, views from the rear of the elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation north/ north westwards, away from the proposed turbines. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible from the private driveway when entering and exiting in views towards the northeast. The proposed turbines are located upon a topographical highpoint behind the upper slopes of Garbet and Kelman Hill, introducing man-made elements into a section of the view which is void of such elements at present. As the main driveway proceeds south eastwards towards the A941, intervisibility with the Proposed Development would reduce, due to the intervening woodland/ riparian vegetation surrounding Bridgend and Bridgend Cottage. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational Dorenell Wind Farm is visible in views to the west of the property, most notable when exiting the main access track to the west. The operational Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the in-scoping Glenfiddich wind farms are fully screened from the property by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be visible in oblique views from the main elevation, filtered and screened by the adjacent woodland and boundary vegetation, reducing intervisibility.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Existing Wind Farms visible from Property ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell, are situated 5 km east and 6.2 km west respectively. The scoping schemes of Glenfiddich and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 3.9 km northwest and 4 km southeast respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing south, away from the development. Moreover, any oblique intervisibility from the main elevation from the southeastern most extent of main driveway would be screened/ filtered by the surrounding mature boundary vegetation. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen in front/ alongside the in-planning Garbet wind farm, albeit it at a close proximity. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA05: Bridgend (see Figures 5.7.6a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.42 km south of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Situated within a low point within the Charach Water Valley, to the south of the Charach watercourse, to the west of the A941 as it traverses the river in Bridgend. Moreover, the property is flanked on either side by Blackhill to the west and Kelman Hill to the east. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: East/ southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the A941, as it traverses the Charach watercourse at Bridgend. ▪ Related Buildings: There are no outbuildings associated with these properties. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views extend across a small front garden, the A941 and the Charach watercourse, leading towards Lower Cabrach. The view is channelled southeast, by the adjacent topography of Kelman Hill and Tom na Vowin, with Black Hill forming the main topographical in the view directly southeast. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are small scale and extend across a small back garden, further west the adjacent boundary vegetation prevents longer range intervisibility, filtering/ screening views outwith. Oblique views to the northwest comprise open grassland and moorland with the Charach Water being the main feature within the view. ▪ Principal Views: East/ Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the south and southwest are strongly contained by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation, preventing large scale intervisibility. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and in-scoping schemes of Clashindarroch, Clashindarroch Extensions and Glenfiddich are situated 4.8 km east, 3.4 km southeast and 4.5 km northwest of the property, respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Four turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north of the property, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. Turbine 1 & 2 would be most visible due to their size, scale and elevated positions, with the remain turbines being afforded partial topographical screening by the upper and lower slopes of Kelman Hill, reducing overall intervisibility with the property. **Predicted Views from Properties** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation southeast/ east – northwest/ west facing away from the development. Moreover, any possible intervisibility in oblique views to the north would be partially screened by the adjacent riparian woodland/ boundary vegetation, preventing any full-scale views outwith. ▪ When exiting the property heading north on the A941, the Proposed Development would be visible, rising above the lower slopes of Kelman Hill. However, overall intervisibility would reduce when proceed northwest, reducing to none within a short distance from the property. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-scoping Glenfiddich Wind Farm, if consented would be theoretically visible to the northwest of the property, however, in actual views the scheme would be extensively screened/ filtered by the intervening mature boundary vegetation. The operational Clashindarroch Wind Farm and the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension Wind Farm are/ would be both visible if the later was consented in views to the southeast across the Cabrach valley. However, the operational Clashindarroch scheme is extensively screened by intervening topography and roadside vegetation, reducing intervisibility. Given the elevated and closer proximity of the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension, the scheme would be more visible, with around seven turbines being theoretically visible. However, given the distance and extent of the intervening topography, woodland and boundary vegetation, actual views would be reduced, with screening afforded for the lower extent of the turbines. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing away from the development. Although, some intervisibility would be possible from the A941 when exiting the property headlining north/ northwest, reducing to none within a short distance. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen totally separate to the proposed and operational schemes, occupying a small field of view to the north. Moreover, there are gaps to the northwest/ north, northeast and south of the property that would not contain any existing, in-planning or scoping wind energy development. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA06: Bridgend Cottage (see Figures 5.7.7a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.4 km south of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Situated within a low point within the Charach Water Valley, to the south of the Charach watercourse, to the west of the A941 as it traverses the river in Bridgend. Moreover, the property is flanked on either side by Blackhill to the west and Kelman Hill to the east. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: North/ northeast	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Six turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north/ northeast of the property, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. Turbine 1 & 2 would be most visible due to their size, scale and elevated positions, with the remaining turbines being afforded partial topographical screening by the upper and lower slopes of Kelman Hill, reducing overall intervisibility with the property. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due a combination of orientation (rear elevation) facing away from the development and dense mature boundary vegetation (main elevation). The mature vegetation to the northeast/ north of the property would restrict any possible inversibility with the

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the A941, as it traverses the Charach watercourse at Bridgend. ▪ Related Buildings: There are no outbuildings associated with these properties. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property facing northeast comprise a small front garden, strongly contained by mature boundary vegetation, preventing longer range views across the valley, A941 or Crurach Water. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extends across the main access track, gaining in elevation on the lower slopes of Tom na Vowin, which ultimately restricts any longer range intervisibility. ▪ Principal Views: Southwest ▪ Restricted Views: The property is surrounded by mature boundary vegetation to the north, west and east, preventing longer range views outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and in-scoping schemes of Clashindarroch, Clashindarroch Extensions and Glenfiddich are situated 4.8 km east, 3.42 km southeast and 4.51 km northwest of the property, respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	Proposed Development, however if this vegetation is removed, views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. ▪ When exiting the property heading north on the A941, the Proposed Development would be visible, rising above the lower slopes of Kelman Hill. However, overall intervisibility would reduce when proceed northwest, reducing to none within a short distance from the property. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: From the property, the existing Clashindarroch wind farm and the two in-scoping development of Clashindarroch Extensions and Glenfiddich are all heavily screened by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation, preventing any intervisibility. However, if this vegetation is removed, views would to the southeast/ east would comprise Clashindarroch and Clashindarroch Extension extending above the ridgeline, with an array of turbines being skylined, adding to the visual complexity of the view, with the two developments being viewed as one. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due a combination of orientation (rear elevation) facing away from the development and dense mature boundary vegetation (main elevation). ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being fully screened from the property due to the extensive mature boundary vegetation, preventing long range intervisibility outwith. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low** (**Moderate/Low** if the surrounding boundary vegetation is removed/ felled). Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA07: Shenval (see Figures 5.7.8a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 3.4 km south/ southwest of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: The property is located upon a topographical plateau to the west of Tom na Vowin, above the Black Water Valley landscape, at an overall elevation of 348.4 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached property, within a courtyard of barns ▪ Main Elevation: South/ southwest ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from a series of dirt track roads, extending from Bridgend. ▪ Related Buildings: To the north, northwest and northeast of the property there are a series of barn buildings forming a courtyard to the rear of the property. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property are open and expansive, extending across rough grassland, the Black Water valley, with Meikle Firbriggs and Black Hillock being the main topographical features within the landscape to the south/ southwest. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are strongly contained by the associated barns/ outbuildings to the rear. These buildings would provide screening and prevent intervisibility to the north/ northeast of the property. ▪ Principal Views: South/ southwest ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest and northeast are strongly contained by the adjacent outbuildings associated with the property. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing and operational schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell, are situated 5.2 km east/ southeast and 5.4 km west/ northwest respectively. The in-planning and scoping schemes of Glenfiddich, Garbet, Clashindarroch II and Clashindarroch Extension are situated 4.3 km northwest, 5.8 km north/ northeast, 7.3 km east/ northeast and 4 km east/ southeast respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north/ northeast, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. The view would consist of a mixture of full-length turbines, blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The proposed Development would not be visible in views from the main elevation of the property, due to its orientation south/ southwest and north/ northeast, away from the development. ▪ The Proposed Development would be heavily screened from the rear elevation, due to the associated outbuildings to the north, in close proximity preventing longer range views outwith. It must be noted that if these outbuildings are removed/ demolished then views would be similar to those theoretical views describe above. ▪ From the main access track the Proposed Development would be highly visible when exiting heading northwards towards the development. However, partial screening would be afforded along the northernmost extent of the track, in close proximity to Bridgend Cottage, due to the extent of surrounding riparian and boundary vegetation. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing, in-planning and scoping schemes would all be extensively screened from the property, due to its size (single storey) and the adjacent outbuildings to the north, northwest and northeast/ east all preventing intervisibility with the above-named developments. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing away from the development. However, intervisibility would be possible from the access track heading north, reducing to none within a short distance, in the Cabrach valley. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to the existing, scoping and in-planning developments, with exceptions to Garbet which is situated behind the Proposed Development and would be seen as one cluster. Moreover, intervisibility with these schemes would be restricted to the main access track when exiting/ entering, reducing to none within the Cabrach valley landscape. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
RVA08: Dalriach (see Figures 5.7.9a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 3.35 km south of the nearest turbines (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Located within a topographical low point within the Lower Cabrach Valley, to the east of Allt Deveron and south of Dalriah Pot, both of which surround the property to the north, west and east. The property sits between four topographical highpoints, with Kelman Hill to the north, Black Hill to the east, Meikle Firbriggs to the west and Tom na Vowin to the west, at an overall elevation of 267.5 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: West ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from a small access track that extends from the A941, as it traverses Black watercourse. The track extends eastwards for approximately 250 m. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a small barn/ livestock building to the east/ northeast of the property. Based on aerial photography (shadows), the building extends to a height of one storey, in line with the property. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation agricultural fields and semi-improved grassland, across the Allt Deveron watercourse and the A941 transport corridor. Views tend to be small scale, strongly enclosed to the west/ northwest by the lower/ upper slopes of Tom na Vowin and Meikle Firbriggs. A series of OHL poles traverse the lower slopes of Meikle Firbriggs and are visible within the skyline to the west. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extends across a small back garden, livestock pen, leading to a dense shelterbelt then onto the lower and upper slopes of Black Hill to the east. Views are small scale and are heavily restricted eastwards by intervening topography. ▪ Principal Views: West ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the east are strongly contained by the adjacent shelterbelt vegetation and the lower/ upper slopes of Black Hill, preventing longer range views outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Doreness is located 6.6 km west. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.8 km east of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the A941.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north/ northeast, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. Due to the intervening topography of Kelman Hill, views would consist of a mixture of blades and blade tips. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation west - east facing away from the development. Moreover, any possible intervisibility in oblique views to the northwest would be partially screened by the adjacent riparian woodland on the banks of the Allt Deveron, preventing any full-scale views outwith. ▪ When exiting the property heading west/ northwest via the access track towards the A941, the Proposed Development would be visible, rising above the lower slopes of Kelman Hill. However, overall intervisibility would reduce when proceed northwest, reducing to none within a short distance from the property. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing Dorenell Wind Farm is visible in views to the west from the main elevation of the property, with turbines afforded partial screening on their lower extremities by the intervening coniferous forestry vegetation. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be extensively screened from the property by the intervening slopes of Greystone How. Moreover, there are a number of intervening elements within close proximity to the property in views to the west that would provide localised screening, reducing any possible intervisibility with the Clashindarroch Extension, these include an outbuilding to the northeast/ east and adjacent woodland vegetation. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing away from the development. Although, some intervisibility would be possible from the access track when exiting the property heading northwest/ west, reducing to none within a short distance. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA09: Miltown House (see Figures 5.7.10a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.68 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Located within Lower Cabrach, adjacent the local access road, to the west of the River of Deveron, at an overall elevation 264.4 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 detached cottage (Velux windows) ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access is taken from the unclassified road which routes through Lower Cabrach, via a small private driveway. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a small garden shed located to the south of the property, approximately 2.5-3 m in height. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation are small scale, and extend across a front garden, marginal boundary vegetation then downhill across agricultural fields towards the River Deveron. Thereafter, the landscape gains in elevation forming the lower/ upper slopes of Black Hill towards the east, restricted any longer-range views outwith. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are strongly contained by the intervening retaining wall of the unclassified road in Lower Cabrach, leading to the lower slopes of Kelman Hill. However, there are a number of angled Velux windows located on the upper floor of the property that would increase intervisibility towards the summit of Kelman Hill. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest, southwest, south and northeast are all strongly contained/ filtered by intervening mature boundary vegetation. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: There is no visibility of other wind farm development from this property.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Two turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north of the property, extending slightly above the summit of Kelman Hill. Views would be limited to the upper blade tips of Turbines 3 and 5. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing southeast – northwest, away from the development. Moreover, views from the rear elevation are extensively screened by the adjacent boundary vegetation and the lower slopes of Kelman Hill. It must be noted that if this boundary vegetation is removed, then views from the rear would be similar to those theoretical views described above. ▪ When entering and exiting the property via the driveway, the Proposed Development would be fully screened by the intervening topography of Kelman Hill. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: There is no visibility of other wind farm development from this property. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation alongside the private driveway would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation and intervening topography of Kelman Hill. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development. ▪ Therefore, Whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the property, field reconnaissance indicates that it would be screened by intervening structures, localised topographical features or permanent structural vegetation with the result that there would be no effects on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **None**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Field Survey Assessment Location ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	
RVA10: Tombain (see Figures 5.7.11a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.4 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbines 2) ▪ Location: Located on the mid upper southern slopes of Kelman Hill, above the unclassified road at Cabrach, at an overall elevation of 309.5 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast/ east ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the unclassified road routing thorough Cabrach near The Old Kirk via a private access track heading north-eastwards towards the property. ▪ Related Buildings: There are no fully intact buildings associated with this property, however there is a sizeable ruin of a building to the north of the property, extending to an overall height of 1.5 m at maximum. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation are of medium scale and extend across rough grassland, downhill over the unclassified Cabrach road, towards the River Deveron. Then as the landscape gains in elevation it forms the lower and upper slopes of Black Hill, which forms the main element within the view, restricted longer-range views to the southeast. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across a small garden, rough grassland, with the upper slopes of Kelman Hill restricted views further and forming the main element within the view. Oblique views to the west would be attainable and descend downhill towards Bridgend. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the east/ northeast are partially filtered by a series of isolated boundary trees. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is located 3.9 km east. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.9 km east/ southeast of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Five turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north of the property, rising above the summit of Kelman Hill. Given the extent of intervening topography views are restricted to the upper turbine blades of Turbines 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible in views from the main elevation and front garden, due to the orientation of the property facing southeast/ east, away from the development. ▪ From the rear elevation of the property the Proposed Development would be visible emerging from the summit of Kelman Hill, adding man-made elements to a section of the view, which is currently void of such elements. Moreover, given the lack of any intervening elements such as woodland or coniferous forestry vegetation, views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. ▪ The Proposed Development would be partially visible from the upper extent of the access track leading to the property, however, would form an inconspicuous element in views north/ northwest, reducing to none on the lower extent of the track to the southwest. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The Clashindarroch Wind Farm is visible across the ridgeline to the east of the property from the main elevation and across the main access track. The in-scoping development of Clashindarroch Extension would extend the development further northeast along the ridgeline and be seen in front of the existing Clashindarroch development. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing away from the development. The Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element within views to the north. There would be some intervisibility would be possible from the access track when exiting the property heading northwest/ west, reducing to none within a short distance. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm, that due to their size, scale and positioning within the landscape be prominent. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen to the north, away from the operational and in-scoping developments, with a gap to the northeast in-between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group02: Newton of Corinacy & Pyke Cottage (see Figures 5.7.12a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.49 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Situated on the lower slopes of Black Hill, to the north of the unclassified road in Cabrach, to the south of the River Deveron at an overall elevation of 268 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage and a 1.5 storey farmhouse ▪ Main Elevation: North east and south west ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small private driveway. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a series of outbuildings/ agricultural buildings located to the northwest/ west of Newton of Corinacy and two small garages to the southeast of Pyke Cottage. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation are small scale, extending across a small front garden, heavily filtered by boundary vegetation, leading to the lower and upper slopes of Black Hill. Preventing longer range views outwith. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the properties are of medium scale and extend across agricultural fields, the River Deveron, Cabrach unclassified road and towards the lower and upper hills of Kelman Hill. ▪ Principal Views: southeast and southwest	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. The view would consist of a mixture of blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible from the main elevation of both properties within this group, due to a combination of orientation (Pyke Cottage), facing away from the development and the extensive screening afforded by the adjacent outbuildings to the northwest/ north of Newton of Corinacy. It must be noted that if these outbuildings are removed/ demolished then views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. ▪ Similarly, views of the Proposed Development from the rear elevations of the properties would not be affected, due to the orientation of the properties facing away from the development. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible when entering or exiting the property heading northeast or southwest of the unclassified road. However, overall intervisibility would reduce when proceeding further to the northeast or southwest, reducing to none within a short distance from the properties. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational Dorenell and Clashindarroch Wind Farms would be fully screened from the properties looking west and east, due to the extent of surrounding boundary vegetation and adjacent outbuildings. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be situated to the east of the properties across the skyline, given their elevation,

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north of Newton of Corniacy are extensively contained by the surrounding outbuildings preventing wider scale intervisibility north-westwards. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Dorenell and Clashindarroch are situated 3.9 km west/ southwest and 3.3 km east. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.9 km east/ southeast of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	size and scale they would form a new prominent element within the view's eastwards. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing away from the development. Although, some intervisibility would be possible from the unclassified Cabrach road when entering/ exiting the property headlining northeast or southwest, reducing to none within a short distance. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA11: Mains of Lesmurdie (see Figures 5.7.13a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.17 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Located to the southeast of the Cabrach unclassified road, north of the River Deveron on the lower slopes of Kelman Hill, at an overall elevation of 262.7 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access is taken directly from the Cabrach unclassified road, via a private access track routing southeast towards the property. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a number of large-scale agricultural buildings directly to the north of the property, however they are in a state of dis-repair with section of the buildings having collapsed. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property extends southeast across a small back garden, agricultural fields towards the River Deveron. Further to the southeast the landscape gains in elevation forming the lower and upper slopes of Black Hill, restricted any longer-range views outwith. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are extensively screened/ filtered by a combination of mature boundary vegetation and the associated agricultural outbuildings, that would prevent longer range intervisibility to the northwest. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the south, southwest, west, northwest and north are all heavily restricted/ filtered by a combination of dense boundary, riparian vegetation and the associated outbuildings. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is situated 3.3 km west. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.95 km east/ southeast of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Five turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north of the property, extending slightly above the summit of Kelman Hill. Views would be limited to the upper blade tips of Turbines 2, 3, 5, 7, 9. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing southeast – northwest, away from the development. Moreover, views from the rear elevation are extensively screened by the adjacent boundary vegetation. Moreover, there are a number of agricultural buildings located to the north of the property in close proximity, further screening any possible intervisibility. It must be noted that if this boundary vegetation and associated outbuildings are removed, then views from the rear would be similar to those theoretical views described above. ▪ When entering and exiting the property via the driveway, the Proposed Development would be partially visible across the ridgeline of Kelman Hill, however it would form an inconspicuous element in views to the north. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing and operation Clashindarroch wind farm would be fully screened from the property, due to the extent of intervening topography, hillside vegetation and the mature boundary vegetation, all preventing intervisibility. However, the in-scoping Clashindarroch wind farm would be highly visible across the skyline to the east, due to its size, scale and positioning upon a topographical highpoint, extending the influence of wind energy along views to the east. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation and intervening topography of Kelman Hill. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views eastwards towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north/ northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, Whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the property, field reconnaissance indicates that it would be screened by intervening structures, localised topographical features or permanent structural vegetation with the result that there would be no effects on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **None**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA12: Oldtown of Corinacy (see Figures 5.7.14a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.64 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 2) ▪ Location: Located on the lower slopes of Black Hill, to the north of the unclassified road in Cabrach, to the southeast of the River Deveron at an overall elevation of 277.2 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Northwest ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small private driveway.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the northwest, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. Due to the intervening topography of Kelman Hill, views would consist of a mixture of blades and blade tips. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would be extensively screened from the main elevation by the intervening mature front garden/ boundary vegetation, preventing intervisibility with the development. However, it must be noted that if this vegetation is removed, then views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. Moreover, given these trees comprise a

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Related Buildings: There is a series of outbuildings to the north, northeast and southeast of the property, comprising barns, garages and agricultural buildings. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation extend across a small front garden, with dense boundary vegetation restricting views outwith into the Deveron Valley landscape. Oblique views to the west comprise semi-improved grassland and agricultural fields, the River Deveron, with the lower and upper slopes of Kelman Hill forming the main element within views. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property looking southeast comprise a large back garden, marginal boundary vegetation, semi-improved grassland, with the lower and upper slopes of Black Hill forming the main element within the view, restricting longer range views. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the northeast and northwest are strongly contained by a combination of mature boundary vegetation and the associated outbuildings, preventing longer range intervisibility. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is situated 2.6 km east/ southeast. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.95 km east/ southeast of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	majority of deciduous species, filtered views of the development would be possible during the winter months, however, would not be expansive. ▪ Views from the rear of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation southeast, facing away from the development. ▪ The development would be visible when exiting the driveway and when heading southwest and northeast along the unclassified Cabrach road, however, views would be glimpsed and reduce to none within short distance. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing and operation Clashindarroch wind farm would be fully screened from the property, due to the extent of intervening topography, hillside vegetation and the mature boundary vegetation, all preventing intervisibility. However, the in-scoping Clashindarroch wind farm would be highly visible across the skyline to the east, due to its size, scale and positioning upon a topographical highpoint, extending the influence of wind energy along views to the east. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation and intervening topography of Kelman Hill. However, intervisibility may increase during winter months when deciduous trees are void of their leaves. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views eastwards towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north/ northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **None** (increasing to **Moderate/ Low** during winter months when filtered views through intervening vegetation would be possible). Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA13: Hillock (see Figures 5.7.15a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.43 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 5) ▪ Location: The property is situated on the lower slopes of Black Hill and Grumack Hill, surrounded on three sides by a series of water courses that include, Burn of Hillock, Burn of Oldtown and the River Deveron, at an overall elevation of 257.3 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small private driveway. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a barn complex situated around a central courtyard to the south of the property. The barn extends to a maximum height of 3 m. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property extend across a large front garden, the Cabrach unclassified road, rough moorland, to the lower and upper slopes of Back Hill to the south and Grumack Hill to the east, both forming key elements within the view. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are heavily restricted/ filtered by a mature boundary vegetation to the northwest, preventing longer range views outwith towards the Cabrach Valley. However, views from the first storey of the property would extend across the canopy with views across the River Deveron, with the lower and upper slopes of Kelman Hill being the main topographical element within views. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northeast, northwest, west and south are all restricted/ filtered by a combination of mature boundary vegetation and the associated barn complex, restricting overall intervisibility. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell are situated 2.9 km southeast and 8.8 km west/ southwest, respectively. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 2.5 km northeast, east and southeast of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the north/ northwest, extending above the ridgeline of Kelman Hill. The view would consist of a mixture of full-length turbines, blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible in actual views from the main elevation of the property, due to its orientation facing southeast, away from the development, towards the upper slopes of Black Hill and Grumack Hill. ▪ From the rear elevation, views of the Proposed Development would be extensively screened from the lower levels of the property, due to the extensive boundary vegetation to the northwest. However, from the upper level of the property, views would extend across the boundary vegetation, towards the development. The development would form a prominent man-made element within the view, upon a topographical high point, further increasing its intervisibility with the property. ▪ The Proposed Development would be extensively screened from the small private driveway by the surrounding mature boundary vegetation, with some glimpsed views attainable from a small section of the unclassified Cabrach road to the southwest of the property, however, intervisibility would reduce within a short distance heading southwest. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing and operational Dorenell Wind Farm would be fully screened from the property, due to a combination of intervening topography, woodland and mature boundary vegetation, preventing long range intervisibility. The Clashindarroch Wind Farm is partially visible along the ridgeline to the southeast of the property, limited to the upper turbine blade of a handful of turbines. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm would be highly visible across the skyline to the east, northeast and southeast, due to their size, scale and elevated potions within the landscape they would form new prominent focal points within views eastwards. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to their orientation facing away from the development, with exception to the upper rear level of the property, that would have filtered/ open intervisibility with the Proposed Development. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views eastwards towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north/ northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
	impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low** (but increasing to **Moderate** if the associated boundary vegetation is removed/ felled). Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA14: Easteron (see Figures 5.7.16a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 1.79 km south/ southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 5) ▪ Location: Located on the lower easter slopes of Kelman Hill, slightly elevated above the unclassified Cabrach road, overlooking the River Deveron Valley, situated at an overall elevation of 307.1 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: East ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small private driveway. ▪ Related Buildings: To the north of the property there is a concentration of agricultural buildings, comprising a steel framed building and a series of barn structures. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation extend across a small front garden, views tend to be medium in scale. As the view then descends downhill towards the River Deveron Valley, with Grumack Hill forming the main element within the view, restricting longer range views to the east. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extends across a small back garden, boundary vegetation (newly planted), uphill across grassland towards the summit of Kelman Hill. Views are small scale. ▪ Principal Views: East ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest and south are all screened/ filtered by a combination of mature/ newly planted boundary vegetation and a concentration of agricultural buildings, preventing longer range inversibility. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is situated 3.5 km southeast. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension and Garbet wind farms are situated 3.1 km northeast, east and southeast and 3.7 km north/ northwest of the property, respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible above the skyline to the north/ northwest, extending above the open moorland and upper slopes/ summit of Kelman Hill. Given the lack of any notable intervening elements such as woodland or coniferous forestry, all of the proposed turbines would be prominent in the view to the north/ northwest. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The main elevation of the property would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to its principal orientation facing east, away from the development and down into the River Deveron valley landscape. ▪ Views from the rear elevation of the property would be greatly affected by the Proposed Development, due to the relatively close proximity of the turbines and lack of any notable screening elements such as woodland or coniferous forestry. However, it must be noted to the west of the property there is a small shelterbelt which is semi-mature, and in time would increase in height to fully screen the development from the rear of the property. Moreover, views would be restricted to the lower extent of the property, further adding to the screening effect of the adjacent semi-mature shelterbelt. ▪ Those turbines located further north would be partially screened in oblique views to the north from the property, due to the screening afforded by the adjacent outbuildings. ▪ Views of the Proposed Development from the private driveway would be limited to a small section when approaching the main elevation of the property, where a handful of turbines would be visible, albeit it at a distance and partially screened on the lower one third by topography and semi-mature boundary vegetation. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm is visible across the skyline to the southeast in oblique views, with some intervening woodland and boundary vegetation, reducing the number of turbines theoretically visible. The in-planning Garbet scheme is partially visible in views to the northwest, with a number of turbine blades visible behind the Proposed Development, partially screening by intervening topography. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible across the skyline to the northeast, east and southwest of the property, occupying prominent elevated potions within the landscape. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation away from the development. However, it is predicted the Proposed Development would form a notable new element within views from the rear elevation of the property facing west. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views to the northeast, east and south east towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north/ northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, it has been deemed the Development would form a prominent element within views to the southwest, which would result in considerable changes to the quality and character of the view from the main elevation of the property, and a corresponding lessening of visual amenity. Although, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Moderate** (reducing to **Moderate/ Low**, once the semi-mature boundary vegetation reaches maturity). Consequently, there would be no effects that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group03: Succoth & Craiglewie (see Figures 5.7.17a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 1.57 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 5) ▪ Location: Located on the lower slopes of Brown Hill, within the River Deveron Valley, to the northwest of the Cabrach unclassified road, at an overall elevation of 302.3 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.75 storey detached farmhouse ▪ Main Elevation: Northeast/ east ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small private access track. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a large agricultural building directly north from the properties, reaching a maximum height of 5 metres.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Ten turbines are theoretically visible from the property, extending across the skyline to the north and northwest, occupying elevated positions on the summit and surrounding slopes of Brown Hill. Given the size, scale and relatively close promise of the turbines, and lack of any notable intervening screening, full extent views are available, with exception to Turbine 11, which is fully screened by the summit of Brown Hill. Given the lack of any intervening elements and their prominent view within the skyline, all ten of the turbines would be prominent across the ridgeline of Brown Hill. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible from the main elevations of the properties, due to their orientation facing northeast/ southeast, away from the development. ▪ In views from the rear of the properties the Proposed Development would be partially screened from Succoth, in part by the adjacent block of coniferous forestry, that would filter/ screen views of a handful of turbines. However, if this vegetation is felled/ removed, views would be similar to those theoretical views described above. The Proposed Development would

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Existing Views from Property: ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation extend to the northeast across a small front garden, access track and out towards the River Deveron Valley. Views are largescale and comprise a patchwork of agricultural fields, shelterbelts and open moorland. The lower and upper slopes of Grumack Hill and Red Hill form the main topographical element within the view, restricting any longer-range views outwith. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across agricultural fields, the Burn of Succoth valley, uphill towards the upper slopes/ summit of Kelman Hill. In oblique views to the west, the forested summit of Craig Luie is visible, preventing longer range views outwith. ▪ Principal Views: Northeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north of the properties are heavily screened/ filtered by a combination of the large agricultural buildings and a pocket of mature coniferous tree vegetation. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is situated 3.7 km southeast. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension and Glenfiddich wind farms are situated 3.4 km northeast, east and southeast and 5.8 km west of the property, respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	not be visible in rear elevation views from Craiglewie. Moreover, in oblique views to the north, the Proposed Development would be afforded screening by the adjacent agricultural outbuildings. ▪ From the main access road to the properties, the Proposed Development would be extensively screened by intervening topography and mature boundary vegetation. However, there are a number of locations when approaching the property where the Proposed Development would form a new feature within views to the north/ northwest. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational and existing Clashindarroch Wind Farm is partially visible across the skyline to the east of the properties, partially screened by the intervening topography and hillside vegetation. The in-scoping Glenfiddich Wind Farm would be fully screened in actual views from the property due to the intervening woodland and boundary vegetation, preventing long range intervisibility. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm would be highly visible across the skyline to the northeast, east and southeast of the property, due to its size, scale and elevated position. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ The Proposed Development would form a notable or even prominent element in views from a number of key locations at the property, resulting in notable change to the quality and character of a number of views from the property, and corresponding loss of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views northeast, east and south east towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the properties is considered **Moderate/ Low** but increasing to **Moderate** if the surrounding coniferous forestry is removed/ felled. Consequently, there would be no effects that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
RVA15: Tomnaven (see Figures 5.7.18a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2 km southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 5) ▪ Location: Situated upon the lower easter slopes of Kelman Hill, slightly below the unclassified Cabrach road, overlooking the River Deveron Valley to the north, located at an overall elevation of 264.5 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.75 storey detached farmhouse ▪ Main Elevation: Southwest ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, via a small access track. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a concentration of outbuildings located to the east of the property, compromising a series of barns orientated inwards forming a central courtyard. Moreover, there is a building ruin further to the east. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property are heavily restricted by the dense boundary vegetation. However, this vegetation is primarily comprising of deciduous species, as such winter views would be filtered and extend across a patchwork of agricultural fields, shelterbelts and riparian woodland towards the River Deveron Valley. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property extend across a small back garden towards mature boundary vegetation, heavily restricting views northeast. Oblique views to the north would be possible from a small section of the property, this view comprises open agricultural fields, the River Deveron towards the lower eastern slopes of Brown Hill and Craig Dorney, both of which form the key topographical element within the middle/ skyline view. ▪ Principal Views: Southwest/ Northwest ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the northeast, east, south, southwest and west are all heavily restricted by a combination of outbuildings and mature boundary vegetation, screening/ filtering views outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm schemes of Clashindarroch and Dorenell are situated 3.3 km southeast and 9.8 km southwest. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 3.3 km southeast/ south of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines are theoretically visible to the west and northwest of the property, extending across the ridgeline of Brown Hill, occupying topographical highpoints within the view. The view would consist of a mixture of full-length turbines, blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible in actual views from the main elevation due to the main elevation facing southwest, away from the development. ▪ Similarly, the rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation facing northeast, away from the development. However, some oblique views would occur in views to the north/ northwest of the property, with some adjacent boundary vegetation providing some localised screening/ filtering of views. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible when exiting and entering the property via the private access track, in views to the northwest/ west, however actual views would reduce in close promise to the property, with screening being afforded by the adjacent dense boundary vegetation. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The operational Dorenell and Clashindarroch wind farms would be fully screened from the property due to the extensive boundary vegetation surrounding the property, preventing longer range views outwith. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible from the main access track in views to the southeast/ east along the ridgeline, due to their size, scale and elevated position within the valley landscape. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation. Moreover, views of the Proposed Development from the main access track would be glimpsed/ transitory in nature and quick reduce to none in close proximity to the property and when heading south/ southwest. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south and southeast towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the north, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the property, field reconnaissance indicates that it would be screened by intervening structures, localised topographical features or permanent structural vegetation with the result that there would be no effects on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **None**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Group04: Greenloan Farmhouse & Belcherrie (see Figures 5.7.19a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: Situated 1.32 km and 1.45 km east/ southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 5), respectively. ▪ Location: Both properties are located on the lower slopes of Brown Hill, south of Craig Dorney, slightly elevated above the River Deveron to the east at an overall elevation of between 292.7 mAOD and 298.3 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Greenloan Farmhouse forms a 1.5 storey detached property, with Belcherrie consisting of a 1.75 detached traditional farmhouse. ▪ Main Elevation: Greenloan Farmhouse – Southeast and Belcherrie – Southwest ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, which traverses the landscape to the east of the properties. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a series of agricultural buildings located to the southwest, west and northwest of Greenloan Farmhouse, which have been cut into the surrounding slopes of Brown Hill. Large arterial buildings are located to the north/ northeast of Belcherrie, approximately two storey in height. All of these buildings mentioned above are used in the daily farming operations of both farm holdings. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of Greenloan Farmhouse, consist of a small front garden, across the unclassified Cabrach road, downhill towards the River Deveron across a patchwork of agricultural fields, riparian vegetation and open moorland, towards the gently undulating topographical points of Red Hill, Grumack Hill and Black Hill, which form a largely featureless ridgeline in views. ▪ Views from the main elevation of Belcherrie are heavily restricted/ filtered by a thick mature belt of boundary vegetation to the southwest, however there are a handful of small gaps within the vegetation allowing for some intervisibility outwith. These views extend across several agricultural fields, the unclassified Cabrach road towards Greenloan Farmhouse and associated farm buildings backclothed by the upper slopes of Brown Hill. It must be noted this mature boundary vegetation is deciduous in nature, and as such intervisibility would increase during the winter months. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of Greenloan Farmhouse are heavily restricted by the adjacent agricultural buildings, preventing any longer-range views northwest. Moreover, there are no upper storey windows such as dormers that would have any possible intervisibility outwith. ▪ Views from the rear elevation of Belcherrie extend across a small back garden, with the associated agricultural buildings preventing any longer-range views to the northeast. Moreover, oblique views to the north or east are heavily screened/ filtered by a combination of outbuildings or mature boundary vegetation. ▪ Principal Views: Greenloan Farmhouse – Southeast and Belcherrie – Southwest ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the northwest, west and southwest from Greenloan Farmhouse are heavily restricted by the associated outbuildings, preventing intervisibility outwith. Similarly, for Belcherrie, views to the north, south, southwest and southeast are screened/ filtered by a combination of outbuildings and mature boundary vegetation. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Clashindarroch is situated 4 km southeast. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 3.8 km southeast/ south of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines are theoretically visible to the north, west and northwest of the property, extending across the ridgeline of Brown Hill, occupying topographical highpoints within the view. The view would consist of a mixture of full-length turbines, blades, blade tips and hubs. Moreover, the turbines would be situated upon a topographical high point within the landscape, increasing overall intervisibility. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation would be relatively unaffected by the Proposed Development, with the main elevation of Greenloan Farmhouse facing to the southeast away from the development. Similarly, Belcherrie, facing southwest, away from the development, with any possible intervisibility west being screened/ filtered by the surrounding mature boundary vegetation. It must be noted that if this vegetation is removed/ felled then greater intervisibility in oblique views west. ▪ The Proposed Development would be extensively screened from Greenloan Farmhouse, by the adjacent large agricultural building, preventing longer range views towards the development. The rear elevation of Belcherrie is orientated northeast, away from the development, with the adjacent outbuilding to the north, prevent any intervisibility in oblique views towards the development. ▪ From both of the private access track leading to the property from the unclassified Cabrach road, the Proposed Development would be screened/ filtered by a combination of topography, mature boundary vegetation and adjacent outbuildings. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing Clashindarroch wind farm is visible across the valley landscape to the southeast, partially screened by the intervening topography. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension, if consented highly visible across the ridgeline to the south/ southeast, due to its size, scale and elevated position. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation. Moreover, views of the Proposed Development from the main access track would be extensively screened/ filtered when exiting and entering the properties via their private access tracks. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south and southeast towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group05: Lynebain, Mill of Lynebain and Waterside (see Figures 5.7.20a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: Located 1.85 km, 1.9 km and 1.95 km east of the nearest turbine (Turbine 9), respectively. ▪ Location: The Lynebain and Mill of Lynebain properties are located on the lower eastern/ south eastern slopes of Craig Dorney, slightly below the unclassified Cabrach road, above the River Deveron Valley at an overall elevation of 250.2 mAOD and 252 mAOD, respectively. Waterside is situated on a lower elevation of 232 mAOD to the south of the River Deveron watercourse, in the middle of the River Deveron valley landscape contained topography, particularly to the south/ southwest and north/ northwest. ▪ Property Types: Lynebain consists of a 1.5 storey detached cottage, with Mill of Lynebain and Waterside consisting single story detached cottages. ▪ Main Elevation: Lynebain – Northwest, Mill of Lynebain – Northwest and Waterside – Northwest/ North ▪ Access to the Properties: Access to the properties is taken from the unclassified Cabrach road to the north, all of the properties share this access road with Little Gouls to the southeast/ east. ▪ Related Buildings: To the northwest of Lynebain, there is a small garage/ outbuilding which extends to a single storey in height. There are no associated outbuildings with Mill of Lynebain.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Five turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the northwest, west and southwest. Views would be restricted to the upper blade tips of the turbines, due to the intervening topography of Craig Dorney. Theoretically, Turbines 2, 3 and 5 would be most visible in views to the southwest, due to their location on a topographical high point. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevations of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to the extent of topographical screening and the adjacent coniferous forestry, riparian and woodland vegetation. As indicated in the theoretical views, five turbines would be visible, however, in actual views these turbines would be fully screened/ filtered by vegetation. ▪ Similarly, the rear elevations of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development due to a combination of orientation, facing away from the development or the extent of intervening vegetation, that would screen/ filter any intervisibility, particularly from Lynebain. ▪ From the main shared access track, the Proposed Development would be extensively screened/ filtered by roadside vegetation, coniferous forestry and woodland, with some small gaps allowing for glimpsed views of a handful of blade tips, albeit it at a distance, with the majority of turbines screened by Craig Dorney.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ There are a number of agricultural buildings located to the west/ northwest of the Waterside property, extending to a height of 3 metres at the ridge point. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of Lynebain consists of a small front garden, driveway towards the lower slopes of Craig Dorney. However, these views further northwest are heavily contained by a combination of intervening topography and woodland vegetation, preventing longer-range views outwith. ▪ Views from the main elevation of the Mill of Lynebain property are small scale, and extend across a small agricultural field, the River Deveron towards Waterside. Views are contained within the valley landscape with the lower slopes of Grumack Hill forming the main topographical ridgeline within the view, preventing longer range views outwith. ▪ Views from the main elevation from Waterside, extend across a small front open garden, towards riparian vegetation, filtering views of the River Deveron. Proceeding uphill to the lower eastern slopes of Craig Dorney, which forms the main topographical feature within the view. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the main elevation of Lynebain extends across a small side garden, across the local access road downhill towards the River Deveron, with views southeast dominated by the ridgeline of Red Hill and Grumack Hill. ▪ Views from the rear of the Mill of Lynebain property are extensively screened by the adjacent access road, mature roadside vegetation and the upper slopes of Craig Dorney. ▪ Views from the rear of Waterside extend across a large rear garden, interspersed by mature trees, filtering/ screening views outwith, towards the southeast which is dominated by the ridgeline of Red Hill and Grumack Hill. ▪ Principal Views: Lynebain and Mill of Lynebain – Southeast, Waterside – Northwest/ North ▪ Restricted Views: In general views towards to north, northwest, west and southwest are all screened/ filtered by a combination of coniferous vegetation and intervening topography. Moreover, there are a number of outbuildings which are situated in close proximity to properties, such as Lynebain (northwest) and Waterside (west). **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operational and existing wind farm scheme of Doreness is situated 11.4 km southwest. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension wind farm is situated 5.1 km south of the property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The existing Dorenell wind farm would not be visible from the property, due to the intervening topography and extensive woodland vegetation surrounding the property. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible along the ridgeline to the south of the property, due to its elevated position, size and scale. However, some screening/ filtering of views would occur to the south, due to a series of mature trees, reducing intervisibility. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ As stated above, views from the main and rear elevations of the properties would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to a combination of orientation, facing away from the development and the extensive surrounding screening/ filtering of views afforded by woodland, roadside and coniferous forestry vegetation. From the main access road, views would be extensively screened, with small gaps providing some glimpsed views of a handful of turbines, albeit it at a distance. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, whilst the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible from the property, field reconnaissance indicates that it would be screened by intervening structures, localised topographical features or permanent structural vegetation with the result that there would be no effects on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **None**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group06: Little Gouls, Meikle Gouls & Gouls Farm (see Figures 5.7.21a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: between 2.54 km – 2.57 km east of the nearest turbine (Turbine 9) ▪ Location: Located within a topographical low point within the Burn of Gouls valley, on the lower slopes of Red Hill, at an overall elevation varying between 248.9 mAOD and 265.1 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: All of the properties within this group comprise a single story detached cottage dwelling. ▪ Main Elevation: Little Gouls and Gouls Farm – Southwest, Meikle Gouls – North ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken from the unclassified Cabrach road to the northwest across the River Deveron, all of the properties share this access road with Lynebain to the southeast/ east. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a number of outbuildings located to the southeast and east/ northeast of Little Gouls, comprising a small barn structure (southeast) and a larger agricultural steel shed (northeast/ east). Directly to the north of Meikle Gouls there is a small single storey barn, in a semi abandoned state. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of Little Gouls and Gouls Farm, extend across a small front garden, across the Burn of Gouls towards the north western slopes of the Burn of Gouls topographical valley. From there views comprise agricultural fields and semi-mature coniferous vegetation, with views being small in scale. ▪ Views from the main elevation of Meikle Gouls extend across the small access track leading to the property towards the single storey outbuilding to the north, screening views northwards, with the upper valley slopes of the Burn of Gouls valley being visible above and behind the structure. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of Little Gouls is heavily restricted by the adjacent large agricultural steel outbuilding, with exception to the south eastern extent of the rear, which allows for oblique views outwith, towards the upper topographical slopes of the Burn of Gouls valley. Similarly, views from Gouls Farm are small in scale extending across a small back garden, across the access track towards the upper slopes of the Burn of Gouls valley. ▪ From the rear elevation of Meikle Gouls views extend across a small rear garden, across agricultural fields towards the forested upper slopes of Grumack Hill, preventing longer range views outwith. ▪ Principal Views: Little Gouls and Gouls Farm – Southwest/ west, Meikle Gouls – South ▪ Restricted Views: Medium – high scale views from the properties are largely restricted due to the position of the properties within a topographical valley, preventing large scale intervisibility northwards towards the River Deveron valley. Moreover,	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: Eight turbines are theoretically visible in views to the northwest, west and southwest, extending across the ridgeline of Brown Hill, with Turbines 8 and 9 partially screened by the upper slopes and summit of Craig Dorney. Due to the size and scale of the turbines, there are full extent views available. Given their elevated position within the landscape all of the turbines are highly visible across the ridgeline and skyline to the southwest. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of Little Gouls and Meikle Gouls would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to their orientation facing southwest and south respectively, away from the development. However, the development would be highly visible from the main elation of Gouls Farm, with the Proposed Development being seen in skyline views directly west, behind Craig Donrey and situated upon the upper slopes and summit of Brown Hill. All eight turbines would be skylined, with partial screen being afforded to Turbines 8, 9 and 10, by Craig Dorney. ▪ From the rear elevations of all of the properties, the Proposed Development would not be visible, due to their orientation facing away from the development site, therefore views would be unaffected. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible from the majority of the main access track leading to the properties, particularly when exiting heading northwest/ west. However, some variations in the local topography would provide some localised screened/ filtering of views. Moreover, these views would be transitory/ glimpsed and would reduce to none within a short distance, when heading downhill into the Deveron valley landscape. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-planning Garbet wind farm would be seen behind the Proposed Development, however, given the extent of intervening topography this would be limited to a handful of blade tips, with the scheme being seen as one development. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible across the skyline to the south of the properties, across the ridgeline, given their size, scale and elevate position within the landscape, they would form prominent elements within the view. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation of Little Gouls and Meikle Gouls would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to orientation, facing away from the development. However, from the main elevation of Gouls Farm, the Proposed Development would form a highly visible element within views to the west, which would result in considerable changes to the quality and character of the view from the main elevation of the property, and a corresponding lessening of visual

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
there are a series of outbuildings affording some screening/ filtering of views outwith, particularly from Gouls Farm and Little Gouls. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The in-planning Garbet Wind Farm is located 4 km northwest/ west of the property. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 4.2 km south of this group of properties. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	amenity. Although, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of Little Gouls and Meikle Gouls is considered **None**, with Gouls Farm considered to experience a **Moderate** impact on visual amenity. Consequently, there would be no effects that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group07: Backside farmhouse & Craig Dorney Lodge (see Figures 5.7.22a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 1.36 km east of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Situated within a topographical low point, in between Craig Dorney to the southwest and Gallows Hill to the northeast, adjacent the unclassified Cabrach road, at an overall elevation of 295.1 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: The properties comprise a single detached dwelling (Craig Dorney Lodge) and a 1.5 storey house (Backside Farmhouse) ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, which traverses the landscape to the east of the properties. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a number of single storey outbuildings to the north/ northwest of the properties, this includes a large barn and various small garages/ workshops. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevations of the properties extend across a small front garden. Courtyard across the small access track and unclassified Cabrach road, downhill across a patchwork of agricultural fields interspersed by coniferous/ woodland vegetation towards the River Deveron and the topographical ridgeline of Red Hill and Grumack Hill, which encloses the views to the southeast. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the properties are small in scale, heavily enclosed by the adjacent upper slopes of Gallows Hill and the surrounding boundary mature shelterbelt, all of which prevent long range intervisibility north/ northwest and northeast. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northeast, northwest, west and southwest are all heavily restricted/ filtered by the adjacent and surrounding woodland/ coniferous forestry vegetation. Moreover, there are a small number of outbuildings located to the rear of the properties that would prevent longer range views, if in the event the shelterbelt vegetation is removed at a later date. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 6 km south of this group of properties. The in-planning Garbet development is 2.9 km west of the properties. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the west and southwest of the property. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation of the main elevation facing southeast, away from the development. Moreover, any oblique views to the southwest would be fully screened by the adjacent coniferous forestry vegetation, however when/ if this forestry vegetation is removed/ felled there may be some intervisibility in oblique views southwest. ▪ The rear elevations of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation facing northwest, away from the development. Moreover, there is extensive screening surrounding the properties, that includes a shelterbelt to the north and a large block of coniferous forestry to the west. The development would be partially visible from the side rear garden, with those closest turbines to the west being skylined with some blade tips emerging over the coniferous forestry. ▪ When entering the property via the small driveway facing west, the Proposed Development would be highly screened by the adjacent coniferous forestry, however, given the size and scale of the turbines, some intervisibility would be possible with those turbines in close proximity. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-planning Garbet would be extensively screened by the adjacent coniferous woodland, that would full restrict intervisibility with the blade tips of a handful of turbines. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible across the skyline to the south, with open views available due to the lack of any intervening landscape elements such as topography or woodland vegetation. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding shelterbelt and coniferous forestry vegetation. Moreover, views of the Proposed Development from the main access track would be extensively screened/ filtered when exiting and entering the properties via their private access tracks, with exception to small blades/ blade tips emerging over the coniferous forestry canopy. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group08: Tighnaird & The Old School House (see Figures 5.7.23a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 1.82 km east/ southeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Both properties are located on the lower eastern slopes of Gallows Hill, slightly elevated above the unclassified Cabrach road, at an overall elevation of 295.9 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: The properties comprise a 1.5 storey and a 1.75 storey semi-detached dwelling ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken directly from the unclassified Cabrach road, which traverses the landscape to the southeast of the properties.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the west and southwest of the property. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to their main orientation facing southeast, away from the development. ▪ Similarly, views from the rear of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing northwest, away from the development. However, there may be some intervisibility from the rear garden in views

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Related Buildings: There are a small number of outbuildings associated with this property group and include a small garage to the northeast, an outhouse to the north and a log shed/ workshop to the west. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the properties extend across a small front garden, across the unclassified Cabrach road, over a patchwork of agricultural fields, interspersed by blocks of coniferous forestry, with the more distant ridgeline of Red Hill and Grumack Hill forming the main topographical element within the skyline view. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the properties extend across a back garden towards a row of mature boundary vegetation, filtering/ screening views to the northwest. However, there are a number of gaps within the tree line which allows intervisibility outwith. This view comprises open agricultural fields, dry stone dyke walling and in the distance coniferous forestry vegetation, preventing longer range views towards the summit of Gallows Hill. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest, west and southwest are all screened/ filtered by a series of intervening mature boundary trees, providing some localised screening and preventing extensive intervisibility. Moreover, there are numerous outbuildings to the north, west and east of the property adding to the screening/ filtering effect of views outwith. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 6 km south of this group of properties. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	southwest, however, views would be filtered/ screened by the intervening boundary vegetation, that would provide some localised screening, reducing intervisibility. ▪ The Proposed Development would not be visible when entering/ exiting the property via the small private driveway, due to a combination of screening provided by topography, surrounding boundary vegetation and the adjacent property. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible across the skyline to the south, with open views available due to the lack of any intervening landscape elements such as topography or woodland vegetation. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation. There would be some intervisibility with the Proposed Development in oblique views southwest from the rear garden, however views would be screened/ filtered by the surrounding boundary vegetation. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group09: Howemill Croft & Howemill (see Figures 5.7.24a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.91 km east of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Situated to the lower slopes of Brown Hill, slightly elevated above the River Deveron watercourse, at an overall elevation between 228.3 mAOD and 256.5 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: The properties within the group comprise a 1.5 detached cottage (Howemill Coft) and a single storey detached cottage (Howemill) ▪ Main Elevation: Howemill Croft – west/ southwest and Howemill – south ▪ Access to the Property: Access to this group of properties is taken from a shared access road which routes southwards from the unclassified road towards Huntly. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a number of outbuildings associated with this property group and include two agricultural buildings to the north and a small barn to the north of Howemill. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of Howemill Croft extend across a small front garden, across the main access track downhill across a patchwork of agricultural fields towards the River Deveron, with the forested slopes of Gallows Hill preventing longer range views northwest/ westwards. However, in oblique views southwest, along the River Deveron valley, the topographical highpoint of Craig Dorney is clearly visible and forms a key element within the view. ▪ Views from the main elevation of Howemill extend across a small front garden, a patchwork of agricultural fields, towards the forested slopes of Red Hill and Grumack Hill. Both of which form key elements within the middle/ skyline view from this property. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of Howemill Coft are heavily restricted by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation and the upper slopes of Craigs of Succoth, all of which filters/ screens any intervisibility outwith. ▪ From the rear of Howemill views extends across a patchwork of agricultural fields, riparian woodland, coniferous forestry across the Deveron Valley landscape. However, the adjacent outbuilding would filter/ restricted intervisibility from the rear, due to its close proximity. ▪ Principal Views: Howemill Croft – west/ southwest and Howemill – south ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northeast, east and southeast are all heavily filtered/ screened by a combination of mature boundary vegetation, woodland and associated outbuildings. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 6.8 km south of this group of properties.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the west and southwest of the property. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. However, some topographical screening would be afforded by Craig Dorney for those turbines located to the southwest. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of Howemill would be uneffaced by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation facing south, away from the development. However, Howemill Croft, faces directly west/ southwest towards the development. Views would be open across the valley landscape, with the development being highly visible across the ridgeline to the west/ southwest. However, there are a number of small and medium trees situated in the front garden that would provide some localised screening/ filtering of views outwith. ▪ For both properties, their main elevations face away from the Proposed Development, as such views from the rear of the properties would be unaffected by the development. However, there would be some intervisibility from the front garden of Howemill, with views being similar to those main elevation views described for Howemill Croft above. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible when entering Howemill facing west and when exiting Howemill Croft facing west via the private driveway. Views would be open, with the development being highly visible across the ridgeline to the southwest/ west. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension would be highly visible across the skyline to the south, with some screening being afforded by the more distance forested slopes, reducing intervisibility. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ The Proposed Development would form a notable or even prominent element in views from a number of key locations at the property, resulting in notable change to the quality and character of a number of views from the property, and corresponding loss of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Moderate.** Consequently, there would be no effects that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
Field Survey Assessment Location ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	
RVA16: Auchinhandoch (see Figures 5.7.25a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.80 km east/ northeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Situated on the lower valley slopes of Brown Hill, to the east of the River Deveron on the valley flood plain, at an overall elevation of 250.9 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: 1.5 storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: West ▪ Access to the Property: Access to this property is taken from a shared access road which routes southwards from the unclassified road towards Huntly. ▪ Related Buildings: The property is flanked to the northeast, east and southeast by a series of outbuildings that include greenhouses, workshops and barns. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation are small in scale and extend across a small front garden, a patchwork of agricultural fields, riparian vegetation towards the River Deveron, where the landscape starts to gain in elevation towards the forestry slopes and summit of Gallows Hill. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are heavily contained within a courtyard shape, with the associated outbuildings preventing views outwith, particularly from the lower level of the property. However, there are a number of small gaps between the building providing channelled/ glimpsed views outwith. These views consist open agricultural fields and coniferous forestry, with the summit and upper slopes of Brown Hill clearly visible. ▪ Principal Views: West ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northeast, east, southeast, south and southwest are all heavily filtered/ screened by a combination of mature boundary vegetation, woodland vegetation and associated outbuildings. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing Dorenell Wind Farm is located 13.1 km to the southwest of the property. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 6.2 km south of this property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the west and southwest of the property. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. However, some topographical screening would be afforded by Craig Dorney for those turbines located to the southwest. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would be partially visible from oblique views southwest from the main elevation, however, given the extent of surrounding boundary and woodland vegetation these views would be screened/ filtered. Key views from the main elevation are towards the River Deveron and Beldorney Castle, which would be unaffected by the development. ▪ Views from the rear of the property would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to its elevation facing east, away from the development. Moreover, there is extensive screening to the south of the property, limiting any intervisibility from the rear garden in oblique views southwest. ▪ The Proposed Development would be heavily screened/ filtered when entering the property by the adjacent woodland vegetation, however some intervisibility would be possible where the track is slightly more elevated with extensive views across the River Deveron valley landscape. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: Actual views of the existing Dorenell and the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farms would be extensively screened from this property, due to the extent of boundary and woodland vegetation to the southwest, south and southeast, restricting intervisibility. The upper extent of Clashindarroch Extension would be partially visible in views southwards. The Proposed Development would not be seen alongside these wind energy schemes. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation. There would be some intervisibility with the Proposed Development in oblique views southwest from the front elevation rear garden, however views would be heavily screened/ filtered by the surrounding boundary vegetation, but intervisibility would still be possible. ▪ Whilst cumulative visibility may be possible, cumulative development would not form dominant visual elements, with exception to views south towards the in-scoping Clashindarroch Wind Farm, albeit it partially screened by woodland/ boundary vegetation. The Proposed Development would not contribute to the encirclement of the property by wind energy development, rather being seen separate to and situated to the northwest, with a large gap to the northeast between the developments. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group10: Beldorney Castle & Dumeath (see Figures 5.7.26a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.55 km northeast of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Located on the lower south-eastern slopes of Hill of Dumeath and the easter slopes of Gallows Hill, west of the River Deveron, slightly elevated above the flood plain, at an overall elevation of 230 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Beldorney Castle – 2.5 storey baronial detached castle and Dumeath – single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Beldorney Castle – southeast and Dumeath – southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken from the unclassified Cabrach road to the north/ northwest, with a private driveway that leads to Beldorney Castle. ▪ Related Buildings: There is a small U shape collection of outbuildings immediately to the north of Dumeath, comprising barns. There are very little outbuildings associated with Beldorney Castle, with exception to a small barn to the south of the property comprising a single storey structure. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the properties extend across their front garden towards, open grassland, riparian vegetation and to the River Deveron. However, these views would be heavily screened/ filtered by the adjacent mature boundary vegetation, particularly for Dumeath. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: From the rear elevation of the properties, views tend to be small in scale, and in the case of Beldorney Castle, heavily restricted/ filtered by the surrounding mature vegetation, however, views outwith	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: There are four turbines that would be theoretically visible in views to the southwest, however views would be of blade tips only, as the majority of the turbines are heavily screened by the topography of Chapel Hill and Gallows Hill. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ Views from the main elevation of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to a combination of orientation, away from the development and the extensive surrounding mature woodland vegetation that would screen the development in oblique views to the southwest of Dumeath in particular. ▪ Views from the rear elevation of Dumeath would be unaffected by the Proposed Development due to its orientation facing northwest, away from the development. Views from the rear elevation of Beldorney Castle would be heavily screened by the surrounding mature woodland, however there would be some intervisibility with the Proposed Development from the upper most levels of the property, albeit it at distance and extensively screened by the upper slopes/ summits of Chapel and Gallows Hill. ▪ Views from the driveways of both properties would be heavily screened by the adjacent mature woodland vegetation, preventing long range intervisibility with the development, however if this vegetation was to be removed/ felled then views would be similar to those theoretical views described above.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
to the northwest would be attainable from the upper most level of the property. These views would consist open agricultural fields, with the forested slopes and summit of Gallows Hill being the key feature within the view. ▪ Views from the rear of Dumeath are heavily screened by the adjacent outbuildings which prevent longer range views to the northwest. ▪ Principal Views: Beldorney Castle – southeast and Dumeath – southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north, northwest, west, southwest, south, southeast, east and northeast are all heavily screened/ filtered by mature boundary vegetation. Moreover, there are a number of outbuildings that prevent intervisibility northwards at Dumeath. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: There is no visibility of other wind farm development from this property. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: There is no visibility of other wind farm development from this property group. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation, with exception to the upper most level of the rear of Beldorney Castle. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form an inconspicuous element in views from a small number of key locations and would have a negligible influence on the visual amenity of the property. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **Low**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live.
Group11: Easter Braetown & Wester Braetown (see Figures 5.7.27a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.53 km north of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Situated on the lower slopes of Tips of Corsemaul, on a topographical low point within the Ravock Brun valley, slightly elevated above the local access road, at an overall elevation of 299.2 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Both properties consist of a single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the properties is taken from the unclassified road to the south, via a small private access track, both properties share this access track. ▪ Related Buildings: There are a handful of small outbuildings associated with the properties and include a small barn and shed to the north of Wester Braetown and a small workshop building to the northeast of Easter Braetown. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation are medium in scale and extend across the Ravock Burn valley from an elevated position and extend across a patchwork of agricultural fields, shelterbelts riparian woodland and open moorland, with the upper slopes and summit of Tom Mor being the key element within the view, preventing longer range views south-eastwards. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of Easter Braetown are extensively screened and small scale consisting of a small rear back garden, with views northwest restricted by adjacent intervening boundary vegetation. From Western Braetown, views are channelled north-westwards by the adjacent coniferous woodland, across a large rear garden, open moorland towards the upper slopes and summit of Tips of Corsemaul. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: From Wester Braetown, views to the northeast and northwest are restricted by the adjacent coniferous forestry vegetation. Similarly, from Eastern Braetown views to the north and northwest are screened by the adjacent coniferous woodland. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The existing Dorenell and Clashindarroch Wind Farms are located 12.8 km to the southwest and 8.8 km southeast of the properties. The in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension is situated 8.9 km southwest of this property. The in-planning Garbet Wind Farm is situated 2.9 km to the southwest of the properties **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the south and southwest of the properties. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. **Predicted Views from Properties:** ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible in oblique views to the south/ southwest from the main elevations of the properties, however there would be some localised screening afforded by the adjacent boundary vegetation, particularly at Easter Braetown. The Development would be highly visible in views from the front garden when facing south/ southwest, adding a new human-made element into the where at present no such development exists. ▪ Views from the rear elevations of the properties would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to their orientation facing northwest away from the development site. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible when exiting the properties via the shared access drive in views to the south, however screening would be afforded on the southernmost extent of the driveway when it drops in elevation. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: Views to the south, southwest and southeast would all be occupied by either existing, in-scoping or in-planning wind farm development, extending wind energy development across the entire extent of the main elevations of the properties. However, there are a number of mature trees that would provide some localised screening to the south/ southwest. The Proposed Development would be seen in the centre point of the view to the south, behind Garbet Wind Farm and in between Dorenell and Clashindarroch Extension. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the main and rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation, with exception to oblique views south. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form a prominent element in main views and seen in close proximity to key locations at the property, resulting in considerable change to the quality and character of views from the property, and a corresponding lessening of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **High/ Moderate**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live. ▪ High/ Moderate impacts may also occur where the Proposed Development results in a partial encirclement or the completion of the encirclement of a property by similarly visually prominent developments. However, such a cumulative effect may be avoidable in some of the main views and may not be considered oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming.
RVA17: Newton of Glenmarkie (see Figures 5.7.28a-f)	
Location ▪ Distance: 2.09 km north/ northwest of the nearest turbine (Turbine 11) ▪ Location: Situated within a topographical low point within the landscape, surrounded by the slopes and summits of Tom Mor to the east, Tips of Corsemaul to the north, Hill of Machalea to the west and Craig Watch to the south, at an overall elevation of 313.6 mAOD. ▪ Property Types: Single storey detached cottage ▪ Main Elevation: Southeast ▪ Access to the Property: Access to the property is taken from the unclassified road to the east/ northeast, via a small private access track.	**Visibility of Proposed Development** ▪ Theoretical Visibility According to ZTV and Wirelines: All eleven turbines would be theoretically visible across the skyline to the south, southeast and southwest of the properties. Views of the turbines are a mixture of full-length turbines, blade tips, full blades and hubs. Those turbines to the west would be the most visible given their size, scale and close proximity, and lack of any notable intervening topography that would provide screening. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ The Proposed Development would be visible in oblique views from the main elevation facing south, with Turbines 10 & 11 being most prominent, however, some boundary vegetation to the south would filter/ screen some of the more distant turbines to the south/ southwest. Views from the front garden are open and would be similar to those views described above for the main elevation.

Table 5.7.2: Survey of Properties and Assessment of Impacts on Residential Visual Amenity

Stage 2: Survey of Property	Stage 3: Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity of Properties
▪ Related Buildings: There is a collection of outbuilds to the northwest/ north and southwest of the property, these buildings comprise single storey barns. **Existing Views from Property:** ▪ Views from the Main Elevation(s): Views from the main elevation of the property extend across a front garden, a patchwork of agricultural fields, riparian vegetation, open moorland towards the lower and upper slopes of White Hillock and Chapel Hill, both of which form the key topographical element within the view southeast. ▪ Views from the Rear Garden/ Rear Windows: Views from the rear of the property are heavily screened by the adjacent outbuildings, preventing longer range views outwith. ▪ Principal Views: Southeast ▪ Restricted Views: Views to the north/ northwest and southwest are all heavily restricted by the adjacent outbuildings associated with the property. **Existing Wind Farms visible from Property:** ▪ Operational and Consented Development: The operation Clashindarroch Wind Farm is located 8.3 km southeast of the property. The in-scoping development of Clashindarroch Extension and the in-planning Garbet Wind Farms are situated 8.2 km southeast and 1.8 km south, respectively. **Field Survey Assessment Location** ▪ Aerial photography, OS mapping and a series of locations in close proximity to the property and from the main access driveway on the unclassified Cabrach road.	▪ Views from the rear of the proposed would be unaffected by the Proposed Development, due to its orientation northwest, away from the development site. ▪ The Proposed Development would be highly visible in views from the main access road when entering facing southwest, directly towards the site. Some screening would be afforded by isolated vegetation along the track and in close proximity to the property. **Predicted Cumulative Visibility:** ▪ Other Proposed Development: The in-planning Garbet would be highly visible in views to the south from the property, in front of the Proposed Development, with some localised screen afforded by the adjacent outbuildings to the southwest of the property, restricting intervisibility with the lower extremifies of a handful of turbines. Clashindarroch Wind Farm would form a small element to the view southeast of the property and be seen part of the in-scoping Clashindarroch Extension development, which forms a focal point in views southeast. The Proposed Development would be seen in behind the in-planning Garbet Wind Farm. **Assessment of Impact on Visual Amenity** ▪ Views from the rear elevation would not be affected by the Proposed Development, due to the orientation and surrounding boundary vegetation. The development would be visible in oblique views to the south/ southwest, however some boundary vegetation would provide some screening. ▪ Therefore, the Proposed Development would form a prominent element in main views and seen in close proximity to key locations at the property, resulting in considerable change to the quality and character of views from the property, and a corresponding lessening of visual amenity. However, such impacts would not be oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming. Based on the preceding analysis the level of impact on the visual amenity of the property is considered **High/ Moderate**. Consequently, there would be no effect that could be described as overbearing such as to render the property an unattractive place to live. ▪ High/ Moderate impacts may also occur where the Proposed Development results in a partial encirclement or the completion of the encirclement of a property by similarly visually prominent developments. However, such a cumulative effect may be avoidable in some of the main views and may not be considered oppressive, overbearing or overwhelming.