

8. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Executive Summary

This chapter provides an assessment of the potential impacts on the landscape character and visual amenity of the area resulting from the introduction of the proposed development. The assessment has been prepared in line with current guidance.

Desk and field based appraisals of the landscape and visual context of the study area established a 40 km study area and an 11 km detailed study area.

Part of the site is an operational wind farm (Tangy I and II) which has an existing landscape and visual impact on the area. This wind farm would be removed as part of the proposed development and replaced with a reduced number of turbines (16 compared to 22 in the existing scheme) which would occupy a larger footprint and, from some locations, result in an improved visual composition.

Throughout the previously consented Tangy III Wind Farm and proposed Tangy IV Wind Farm (i.e. the proposed development) design process, various turbine sizes and layout designs were considered, as detailed in the Design Statement. As a result, reductions in potential landscape and visual effects have been achieved, particularly through increasing the distance between the western extent of the proposed development and the west coast of Kintyre, thereby better associating the site with the upland interior of Kintyre and minimising potential impacts on this sensitive, locally designated coastline (West Coast of Kintyre Area of Panoramic Quality).

The landscape character assessment has concluded that the majority of landscape effects in relation to the proposed development are anticipated to be **not significant**. No significant effects are anticipated for any of the landscape designations assessed. **Potential significant effects** have been identified for two of the six Landscape Character Types (LCTs) which make up the 11 km detailed study area: Bay Farmland and Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic. The proposed development is anticipated to be noticeable and locally intrusive, rather than a dominating feature, as such these effects are considered to be **moderate**. These effects would be limited to an area of around 8 km from the proposed development, and are mostly within 6 km. Beyond this distance, all effects are anticipated to be **not significant**.

An assessment of cumulative landscape effects took into account the potential addition of the proposed development to a baseline scenario which includes all operational and consented wind development projects within 60 km of the proposed development and those either at application or appeal stage within the planning process. This assessment concluded that there would be **no significant cumulative effects** to designated landscapes. **Potential significant cumulative effects** were identified for two LCTs: Rocky Mosaic and Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic. These effects relate to a potential increase in prominence and frequency of wind farm development when moving through the landscape and potential surrounding effect in some locations. However, the effect is assessed as **moderate**. **No significant cumulative effect** is predicted for any other LCT within the detailed study area.

The visual assessment has identified that during construction and operation, potential effects would be **significant** at 16 of the 27 viewpoints, at 3 of the 10 settlements and 4 of the 17 routes included in the assessment. In the settlements of Machrihanish, Drumlemble and Glenbarr, the proposed development would result in **significant** visual effects but would be unlikely to affect receptors in properties or outdoor receptors which are not currently affected by existing Tangy I and II development. Similarly, for receptors on the A83, including Core Path C304; and B843 and Core Path C085, the stretches of road potentially affected by the proposed development are similar to those affected by the existing Tangy I and II development. For receptors on other routes

assessed to receive significant visual effects, the proposed development would introduce areas of new or notably increased visibility.

The cumulative visual assessment has identified that potential cumulative visual effects would be **significant** at 5 of the 11 viewpoints and on 1 of the 11 routes included in the cumulative assessment.

In summary the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has confirmed that the proposed development would result in significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity, limited to Rocky Mosaic and Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape character types within 8 km of the proposed development, and significant effects on visual amenity at 16 of the 27 viewpoints, at 3 of the 10 settlements and 4 of the 17 routes. The majority of the study area would not experience significant landscape and visual effects.

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This chapter describes the key components, features and characteristics that contribute to the quality and perception of the landscape character and visual amenity within the appropriate study areas, as defined in Section 8.2, and assesses the potential effects that the introduction of the proposed development may have on them.
- 8.1.2 Although closely related, assessments on landscape character and visual effects have been considered separately for reasons of clarity. The following distinction is quoted from Page 21 of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (GLVIA3):
- *“assessment of landscape effects: assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right;*
 - *“assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people”.*
- 8.1.3 The assessment on landscape character evaluates the implications of the proposed development in terms of direct effects on key landscape components and features. It also considers the extent to which loss of features and the introduction of the project would influence perception of local character within the study area and its implications for wider regional landscape character. The character of the landscape relates to the natural process and human activities that have been at work for a long time and which have shaped the land to its present form.
- 8.1.4 The assessment of visual effects describes and evaluates the potential change in views of the existing landscape during construction and once in operation, and the extent to which these could affect residents, visitors and users of the landscape.
- 8.1.5 Many of the aspects which contribute to the landscape character and visual amenity (e.g. cultural heritage, land use and ecology) are the subject of separate chapters and assessments in this EIA Report. However, their contribution to, and influence on, landscape and visual considerations have been addressed within this assessment.
- 8.1.6 The landscape and visual assessment has been undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at ASH design+assessment Ltd.

8.2 Scope of Assessment

- 8.2.1 The aim of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is to identify, predict and evaluate potential key effects arising as a result of the proposed development. In line with the scoping and subsequent consultee responses, the following potential issues have been assessed:
- The direct and indirect effect of the proposed wind turbines, associated structures (see Chapter 5: Description of Development for a full description of the proposed development) and required access tracks on the baseline landscape of the site and the wider landscape resource.
 - The cumulative effects of the proposed development in relation to other operational, consented and proposed wind farms identified within a 60 km radius of the site.
- 8.2.2 Advice on landscape and visual issues has been core to the design process, as described in the Design Statement. This advice included turbine scale and geometry, turbine and site layouts and reinstatement measures. Because of this, there is no separate landscape and visual mitigation proposed. The assessed effects therefore represent ‘residual effects’, i.e. with mitigation measures in place.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

8.2.3 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was generated to illustrate areas where the proposed development would theoretically be visible, see Figures 8.1.1 (at A3) and 8.1.2 (at A1). This ZTV was overlaid with a ZTV of the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farms (see Figure 8.2) to identify areas of new theoretical visibility. The ZTV has been produced using ArcGIS software. Detailed technical information on the methods for production of ZTVs is included in Appendix 8.1. Analysis of the ZTV, appraisal of the site and potential receptors, and reference to best practice guidance has informed the definition of the study area and identification of potential receptors for inclusion in the assessment.

Study Areas and Receptors

8.2.4 The study area defined for the landscape character and visual impact assessments extends 40 km from the outermost proposed turbines and is shown on Figure 8.3. This follows good practice guidance set out on Page 12 of Visual Representation of Windfarms Good Practice Guidance (SNH 2017) and allows for assessment of the relationship between the project and the wider area in terms of potential significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The study area is not intended to suggest a limit beyond which the wind farm would not be visible; rather it is the most likely limit of any potential significant effects.

8.2.5 Following an initial site appraisal and review of early design information, it was considered that the majority of potential significant effects on landscape character would be likely to occur within 11 km of the project periphery. This was informed by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis (see Figures 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.3) and review of draft wirelines. For this reason the detailed assessment of landscape character and visual effects concentrates on this area (referred to hereafter as ‘the detailed study area’). However, due to their heightened sensitivity and value, all nationally important or designated areas, such as National Scenic Areas, located within the overall 40 km study area were considered within the assessment.

8.2.6 The following table provides an indicative breakdown of potential landscape and visual receptors across the two study areas described above.

Table 8.1: Study Area per Assessment			
Assessment	Category	Wider Study Area (0-40 km)	Detailed Study Area (0-11 km)
Landscape Assessment	Landscape Designations	●	
	Landscape Character Types		●
Visual Assessment	Receptors in Settlements	●	
	Receptors on Routes (A and B roads, ferry routes, long distance recreational routes, e.g. National Cycle Route and Kintyre Way)	●	
	Receptors on Core Paths		●

Existing Wind Farms within the Baseline

8.2.7 A number of existing wind farms are currently operational within the study area. It should be noted that the baseline for the LVIA considers all existing operational wind farms, as identified on Figure 8.4, but does not include consented or application sites, as these are considered within the baseline for the cumulative assessment, in line with best practice.

Scope of Cumulative Assessment

- 8.2.8 As part of landscape character and visual assessments it is also important to consider potential cumulative effects. In line with Figure 1 of Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (SNH, 2012) a search area 60 km radius from the proposed site has been used to identify sites which may contribute to potential cumulative effects. Within this area, 28 other operational, consented and wind development application or appeal sites have been identified for inclusion in the cumulative assessment, see Figure 8.4. This is representative of the cumulative baseline scenario between the 12th and 14th February 2018. The effects within the 40 km study area have been assessed, in line with SNH cumulative assessment guidance (SNH 2012).
- 8.2.9 It should be noted that the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm forms part of the cumulative baseline, as agreed in consultation with Energy Consents Unit (ECU) and detailed in their Scoping Opinion (see Appendix 8.2), and the removal of these turbines as part of the proposed development is considered within the cumulative landscape and visual assessment (CLVIA).

Scoping and Consultation

- 8.2.10 As described in Chapter 7 (Scoping and Consultation) of this EIA Report, an extensive consultation exercise, including scoping, has been undertaken pre-application for the proposed development. The pre-application consultation responses relevant to the landscape and visual assessments are contained in Appendix 8.2. The key points raised can be summarised as follows:
- The baseline for the LVIA should contain the existing operational Tangy I and II Wind Farm as confirmed by ECU in their Scoping Opinion;
 - The visual assessment should include receptors at viewpoints agreed with consultees;
 - Single frame photographs used for Tangy III ES (2014) can be re-used, to illustrate context;
 - Viewpoint photography used for Tangy III ES (2014), can be reused where relevant, detailed in Appendix 8.1;
 - The Assessment of Potential Lighting Effects should be scoped out;
 - Consideration of the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (2017) should be made;
 - Main alternatives and the design process should be detailed;
 - The assessment should include consideration of potential cumulative landscape and visual effects;
 - The technical output informing the assessments (e.g. photography, visualisations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility drawings) should be prepared to the appropriate standards;
 - The landscape assessment should include consideration of the landscape character of designated and non-designated landscapes;
 - All aspects of the proposed development should be assessed in the LVIA, including forest felling and planting; and
 - Consultation advice for Tangy III (March 2015) should be referred to.
- 8.2.11 The landscape and visual assessments have been carried out in line with these points and landscape and visual matters have been a key consideration in the development of the wind farm design. For further details of the evolution of the design during the EIA process refer to Chapter 4 (Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives) and the Design Statement which accompanies this EIA Report as a supporting document.

Effects Scoped Out of the Assessment

- 8.2.12 Effects arising from the process of decommissioning the existing Tangy I and Tangy II Wind Farms have been scoped out since they are likely to be of a similar nature to construction issues but of a

smaller scale and shorter duration. Where the assessment refers to potential construction impacts, these are also considered representative of predicted decommissioning effects.

- 8.2.13 In June 2014, SNH published a map of 'Wild Land Areas' (WLAs) which shows an area of North Arran, similar in location but smaller in area than the North Arran NSA, identified as having potential wild land characteristics.
- 8.2.14 When the area was visited, it was noted that several existing wind farms, e.g. Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phases 1 and 2), already have an effect on its character. It is not considered that the proposed development, at a similar angle of view and greater distance than Beinn an Tuirc, would alter this. A wild land assessment has therefore been scoped out of the assessment, in consultation with SNH.
- 8.2.15 For the assessment of potential cumulative effects, and in accordance with best practice, no sites at Scoping stage have been included, nor have those with turbines with a blade tip of less than 30m above ground level.
- 8.2.16 Following consultation with SNH and ECU, an assessment of visible turbine lighting effects has been scoped out as the potential for significant effects is considered very unlikely.

8.3 Policy and Legislation

- 8.3.1 The assessment has taken account of international, national, regional and local statutory designations, regulations, strategies, national planning policies and the relevant policies from the statutory development plans for the area in which the proposed development would be located. A detailed review of planning policy has been undertaken and is presented in Chapter 6 (Planning Policy Context). The main legislative framework and policies of relevance to the subjects of landscape character and visual amenity are outlined below.

Legislation

- 8.3.2 The following pieces of primary legislation relate to landscape as a specific interest and to the broader biological and cultural aspects of the natural heritage:
- Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967;
 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981;
 - Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991;
 - Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997;
 - Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;
 - Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006; and
 - Historic Environment (Amendment) Scotland Act 2014.

National Policy and Guidance

- 8.3.3 National planning policy and guidance relevant to landscape and renewable energy includes:
- National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3);
 - Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), 2014;
 - Scottish Government Online Planning Guidance for Onshore Wind Turbines (last updated May 2014);
 - Planning Advice Note 60 – Planning for Natural Heritage (PAN 60), 2000; and
 - Scottish Energy Strategy: The future of energy in Scotland (2017).

Regional Policy

- 8.3.4 The proposed development site falls within Argyll and Bute Council Planning Authority area. Current development management policy within this area is covered by the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan, 2015.

Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan, 2015

- 8.3.5 Key policy in relation to landscape and visual amenity comprises the following:
- Policy LDP STRAT 1 - Sustainable Development;
 - Policy LDP 3 – Supporting the Protection, Conservation and Enhancement of our Environment; and
 - Policy LDP 6 – Supporting the Sustainable Growth of Renewables.

- 8.3.6 In addition, the following Supplementary Guidance documents contain policy of relevance to Landscape and Visual Amenity:

- SG LDP ENV 9 – Development Impact on Areas of Wild Land;
- SG LDP ENV 12 – Development Impact on National Scenic Areas;
- SG LDP ENV 13 – Development Impact on Areas of Panoramic Quality; and
- SG LDP ENV 14 – Landscape.

Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, 2017 (ABLWECS)

- 8.3.7 The ABLWECS assesses the sensitivity of landscape character types and National Scenic Areas to different sizes of wind turbine development. The aim of the study is to inform strategic planning for wind energy development and to provide guidance to be used when considering specific development proposals. The study was originally undertaken in 2012 but updated in 2017.
- 8.3.8 The ABLWECS uses the landscape character types and units identified in the Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde (Environmental Resources Management (ERM) SNH Review no 78 (1996)) and considers the potential capacity to accommodate wind turbine developments of different heights. However, it notes that *“some flexibility of turbine heights may need to be applied when considering individual applications”*. It should be noted that the ABLWECS considers a baseline which includes existing operational and consented wind farm developments. It therefore considers the Consented Tangy III Wind Farm as part of the baseline.
- 8.3.9 The proposed development would fall within the typology ‘Very Large Turbines’, defined as those over 130 m tall. The ABLWECS identifies Upland Forest Moor Mosaic unit 6 (within which the proposed development would be located) as having a high-medium sensitivity to Very Large Turbines. This therefore comprises the area shown to have greatest opportunity for this turbine typology as all other areas considered have been identified as high sensitivity. High-medium sensitivity is described as:
- *“A number of key landscape characteristics are vulnerable to change. Development would undermine some important defining aspects of landscape character and/or visual amenity and/or may result in significant cumulative effects with other wind farm developments. A limited amount of development may be able to be accommodated in very small parts of some landscape character types/areas however.”*
- 8.3.10 The ABLWECS also gives consideration to opportunities for repowering existing wind farm developments. In this respect it notes, *“There may be some very limited opportunities to accommodate wind turbines between 130 m and 150 m high as part of repowering of existing wind farms sited within the central part of the Kintyre peninsula. However, more detailed assessment would be needed to fully consider potential effects on key sensitivities including cumulative effects with other wind farms. Any increases in the size of turbines should not result in considerably more*

widespread and significant effects arising on coastal fringes on the east and west sides of the peninsula and on Gigha and/or Arran.”

- 8.3.11 It also notes that, “Redesign of wind farm developments as part of the repowering process, including altering the layout/number of turbines, may offer opportunities to avoid exacerbating effects on adjacent more sensitive landscapes and on views and reduce cumulative effects.”
- 8.3.12 The ABLWECS identifies a number of sites which are considered as unsuitable for repowering due to their location. These sites do not include Tangy, although it should be noted that the ABLWECS baseline included Tangy as a repowered site (consented Tangy III).

8.4 Principles of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Assessment Guidance

- 8.4.1 The LVIA has been prepared with reference to GLVIA3. Reference has also been made to relevant guidelines and reports issued by national and local bodies. These include assessment methodology guidance, local and regional planning documents and capacity studies. A full list is contained in Section 8.14 (References) at the end of this chapter.

Professional Judgement

- 8.4.2 GLVIA3 places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of landscape and visual effects. As part of this assessment, professional judgement has been used in combination with structured methods and criteria to evaluate value, sensitivity, and magnitude and significance of effect. The assessment has been undertaken and verified by two Chartered Landscape Professionals to provide a robust and consistent approach.

Key Stages of Assessment

- 8.4.3 Methods promoted by GLVIA3 require an appreciation of the existing environment and the ability of its key components to accept the change proposed, an understanding of the potential effects which could occur and how these could affect the key components and the potential to mitigate adverse effects. There are five key stages to the assessment:
- Establishment of the baseline;
 - Appreciation of the proposed development;
 - Identification of key landscape and visual receptors;
 - Identification of potential effects; and
 - Assessment of effect significance.
- 8.4.4 Although separated out above for the purpose of explanation, this is rarely a step-by-step process and so stages will often overlap, restart and recur as the design develops and consultation proceeds.
- 8.4.5 While the process for understanding the development is similar for both the landscape and visual assessments, the methodologies for each are distinct and are therefore described separately in Sections 8.6 and 8.10 respectively.

8.5 Landscape Assessment Methodology

- 8.5.1 As mentioned above, the landscape character and visual assessments are separate components of an LVIA. The following sections relate to the methodology for landscape character assessment only. The methodology for the visual assessment is provided in Section 8.10.

Establishment of the Landscape Baseline

8.5.2 Determining the landscape baseline condition is necessary in order to understand the landscape and how sensitive it is to the proposed change. The landscape character baseline has been defined through a combination of desk study, site appraisal and consultation (see Appendix 8.2 and Section 8.7). Detailed consultation regarding the baseline (which includes the existing Tangy I and II) was conducted with ECU, see Appendix 8.2.

Desk Study

8.5.3 The assessment has taken account of national, regional and local policy and guidance relating to landscape character and relevant to the proposed development. A full list of sources is provided at in Section 8.15 (References) at the end of this chapter.

Field Survey

8.5.4 Site visits took place between March and April 2018 in order to confirm and augment the understanding of the baseline gained through desk study, including the identification of landscape value and sensitivity to change. This involved photography, note taking and drafting of landscape character assessment tables.

Relative Landscape Value

8.5.5 The relative value of the landscape is an important consideration in informing judgement of the significance of effects. Value concerns the perceived importance of the landscape, when considered as a whole and within the context of the study area. Landscape Value is established through consideration of the following factors:

- presence of landscape designations, other inventory or registered landscapes/landscape features or identified planning constraints;
- the scenic quality of the landscape;
- perceptual aspects such as wildness or tranquillity;
- conservation interests such as cultural heritage features or associations, or if the landscape supports notable habitats or species;
- recreational value; and
- rarity, either in the national or local context, or if it is considered to be a particularly important example of a specific landscape type.

8.5.6 It should be noted that absence of a designation does not necessarily mean that a landscape or component is not highly valued as factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality highly valuable as a local resource. Criteria for the allocation of perceived Landscape Value are outlined in Table 8.2 below:

Landscape Value	Criteria
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the landscape is closely associated with features of international or national importance which are rare within the wider context; • the landscape is of high scenic quality and forms a key part of an important designated landscape or planning constraint; and/or • the landscape is an example of a scarce resource within the local context and is of considerable local importance for its scenic quality, recreational opportunities or cultural heritage associations.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the landscape is associated with features of national or regional importance which are relatively common in the wider context;

Table 8.2: Landscape Value	
Landscape Value	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the landscape forms part of a designated landscape or is associated with other features of importance but is not rare or distinctive within the local context; and/or the landscape is one of a number within the local context appreciated for its scenic quality, recreational opportunities or cultural heritage associations.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landscape characteristics are common within the local and regional context and the landscape is not associated with any particular features or attributes considered to be important; The landscape is of poor scenic quality and is not appreciated for any recreational or cultural associations.

Appreciation of the Proposed Development

- 8.5.7 Appreciation of the proposed development involves the accumulation of a thorough knowledge of the proposed development, its nature, scale and location within the baseline landscape, and any peripheral or ancillary features proposed. Analysis of the proposed activities and changes which would take place leads to an understanding of the potential effects that may occur on the landscape resource.
- 8.5.8 As part of this process, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram (refer to Figures 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.3), has been consulted to inform the potential range of effects.

Identification of Key Landscape Receptors

- 8.5.9 The identification of landscape receptors is the first step in the analysis of the potential for significant landscape effects to occur. Landscape receptors comprise key characteristics or individual features which contribute to the value of the landscape and have the potential to be affected by the proposed development. Landscape receptors are identified through analysis of baseline characteristics when considered in relation to the effects which could result from development of the type proposed and may include Special Qualities (SNH 2010) or key characteristics of designated landscapes or landscape character types.

Landscape Sensitivity to Change

- 8.5.10 Sensitivity to change considers the nature of the landscape and its ability to accommodate development of the type proposed without compromising its key characteristics and components. There are two aspects which are considered when establishing the sensitivity:
- Value: the baseline value of the landscape and the contributory value of individual landscape receptors to the landscape as a whole; and
 - Susceptibility to Change: the ability of landscape receptors to accommodate development of the type proposed without changing the intrinsic qualities of the landscape as a whole.
- 8.5.11 Landscape sensitivity to change has been evaluated with reference to the subject areas above and using a three-point scale, detailed in Table 8.3 below.

Table 8.3: Landscape Sensitivity	
Landscape Sensitivity	Criteria
High	A highly valued landscape of particularly distinctive character susceptible to relatively small changes of the type proposed.
Medium	A reasonably valued landscape with a composition and characteristics tolerant of some degree of change of the type proposed.

Table 8.3: Landscape Sensitivity	
Landscape Sensitivity	Criteria
Low	A relatively unimportant landscape which is potentially tolerant of a large degree of change of the type proposed.

Identification of Potential Landscape Effects

8.5.12 The second step in the assessment process involves the identification of potential effects which may occur as a result of the interaction of the proposed development with the identified landscape receptors. The assessment takes into account direct effects upon existing landscape elements, feature and key characteristics and also indirect effects which may occur secondary to changes affecting another landscape component or area. The ZTV is used as a tool to gauge the extent of potential indirect change, supported by targeted field surveys. For more information on the use and limitations of ZTV diagrams refer to Section 8.2.3 and Appendix 8.1.

Magnitude of Change

8.5.13 Magnitude of change concerns the degree to which the proposed development would alter the existing elements and characteristics of the landscape. The appraisal of magnitude involves consideration of the nature and scale of the change which would occur in relation to the identified potential effects and also the duration and potential reversibility of the effect. These changes are then considered to evaluate a magnitude rating for the LCT as a whole. Magnitude of change has been evaluated using a four-point scale, detailed in Table 8.4 below.

Table 8.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change	
Magnitude of Landscape Change	Criteria
High	Notable change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area ranging to a very intensive change over a more limited area.
Medium	Perceptible change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area ranging to notable change in a localised area.
Low	Virtually imperceptible change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area or perceptible change in a localised area.
Negligible	No discernible change in any landscape characteristics or components

8.5.14 Consideration is given to the potential for change to vary over time by describing the magnitude of change during both the construction and operational phases.

Assessment of Significance of Landscape Effect

8.5.15 Evaluation of the predicted level of significance of effect has been carried out through analysis of the magnitude of change in relation to the identified sensitivity and using a degree of professional judgement. The assessment takes into account effects upon existing landscape elements, features and key characteristics and assesses the extent to which these would be lost or modified, in the context of their importance in determining the existing baseline character.

8.5.16 The prominence of the proposed development in the landscape will vary according to the prevailing weather conditions. The assessment has been carried out, as is recommended good practice, by assuming the ‘worst case’ scenario, i.e. on a clear bright day in winter, when neither foreground deciduous foliage nor haze can interfere with the clarity of the view obtained.

8.5.17 Significance of effect has been evaluated using the scale detailed in Table 8.5 below.

Table 8.5: Landscape Effect	
Landscape Effect	Criteria
Major	The proposed development is at considerable variance with the landform, scale and pattern of the landscape and would be a dominant feature, resulting in considerable reduction in scenic quality and large scale change to the intrinsic landscape character of the area.
Moderate	The proposed development is out of scale with the landscape, or inconsistent with the local pattern and landform and may be locally dominant and/or result in a noticeable reduction in scenic quality and a degree of change to the intrinsic landscape character of the area.
Minor	The proposed development does not quite fit with the scale, landform or local pattern of the landscape and may be locally intrusive but would result in an inappreciable reduction in scenic quality or change to the intrinsic landscape character of the area.
Negligible	The proposed development sits well within the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape and/or would not result in any discernible reduction in scenic quality or change to the intrinsic landscape character of the area.

- 8.5.18 The above criteria and levels of significance represent points on a continuum. Where required, interim ratings, such as minor-moderate, have been used to indicate the anticipated significance of effect.
- 8.5.19 For the purposes of the assessment effects with a rating of moderate or above are significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Limitations of the Landscape Assessment

- 8.5.20 A blade-tip ZTV has been prepared and is shown on Figure 8.1.1 and 8.1.2. It indicates those parts of the study area from which there may be views of the proposed development. The use and limitations of ZTVs is described in Appendix 8.1. The scope of assessment is based on the assumptions laid out in Section 8.2.

8.6 Baseline Landscape Conditions

Site Description and Context

- 8.6.1 Refer to Figure 8.3 for a plan showing the site location and surrounding area.
- 8.6.2 Currently, part of the site is in use as an operational wind farm. Tangy I began generating electricity in 2003 with 15 turbines and following an extension of 7 turbines in 2007, Tangy II, the site currently comprises 22 turbines. The remainder of the site comprises farmland and coniferous plantation. It is located approximately 9 km north-west of Campbeltown on the Kintyre peninsula, in Argyll & Bute.
- 8.6.3 The site covers a height range of approximately 150m to 190m AOD, separated from the peninsula's west coast by a bluff slope. Slopes below the site are noticeably steeper than the site itself and incised by small burns, largely fed by the nearby Tangy Loch. The aspect of the site is generally south to south-west.
- 8.6.4 Land to the north rises towards a local high point known as Cnoc Buidhe (NGR NR 695 308, 312m AOD) and is in use for commercial coniferous forest plantation. To the south is Aros Moss: an area of low-lying, largely flat and agricultural land occupied by a number of farmsteads, Campbeltown Airport and CSWind UK manufacturing facility site. A ribbon of beaches, small bays and rocky outcrops and raised beach is located along the coast to the west.

- 8.6.5 The Kintyre peninsula is approximately 60 km long, from Tarbert to Southend, and 14 km wide. It includes an undulating, upland spine featuring several small lochs and with landcover dominated by moorland and coniferous plantation. Where topography allows, the uplands are bordered by a pastoral fringe and there is a thin coastal strip of rocky outcrops, headlands and sandy bays. In places, glens stretch inland, punctuating the coastline. Immediately south of this upland area is Aros Moss, a pronounced area of flat, fertile land, and, further south, another area of undulating upland forest-moorland.
- 8.6.6 Approximately 4 km off the west coast of Kintyre is the small island of Gigha. Also to the west of Kintyre, the study area includes the south-eastern edge of Islay; this is a rocky coastline with several whisky distilleries fed by the peat moorland lochs inland.
- 8.6.7 East of Kintyre, in the Firth of Clyde, is Arran: an island which straddles the Highland Boundary Fault resulting in pronounced granite mountains in the north and rolling moorland in the south. Similar to Kintyre, it includes a settled, pastoral coastal fringe with several bays, rocky outcrops and steep coastal slopes. It is smaller in overall size than Islay and entirely within the study area.
- 8.6.8 Arran is part of the North Ayrshire local authority area while the rest of the study area is in Argyll & Bute.
- 8.6.9 Existing wind farms are present within the existing landscape, mostly concentrated within the upland interior of the Kintyre peninsula. Smaller developments are scattered around more coastal areas including turbines associated with farm properties and a four turbine development on Gigha.

Landscape Designations

- 8.6.10 Landscapes can be ascribed an international, national, regional or local designation which recognises the importance of the landscape for its outstanding scenic interest or attractiveness. These designations include National Parks (NPs), National Scenic Areas (NSAs), areas on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) and local designations such as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQ). All areas within the overall study area which are so designated are shown on Figures 8.5.1 and 8.5.2.
- 8.6.11 Initial review of designated landscapes within the study area has identified the following for inclusion within the assessment, being those where it is considered there may be potential for landscape effect. The rationale for this selection is detailed in Appendix 8.3.
- National Context:
 - North Arran NSA.
 - Regional Context:
 - East Kintyre Coast APQ;
 - Mull of Kintyre APQ;
 - West Kintyre Coast APQ
- 8.6.12 In addition to the above, the regionally designated North Arran SLA covers a similar area to the North Arran NSA. This area has therefore not been considered separately but effects relating to the NSA can also be considered to refer to the SLA.

National Context

- 8.6.13 National Scenic Area (NSA) is a national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of outstanding scenic value and requiring protection in the national interest. There are 40 NSAs in Scotland and they comprise approximately 13% of its land area. NSAs are defined by their 'Special Qualities' which have been documented by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in their Commissioned Report No. 374: The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas (SNH, 2010). One NSA has been identified for inclusion in the assessment.

North Arran NSA

- 8.6.14 Within the study area the North Arran NSA is approximately 19 km to the east of the proposed development at its closest point. This is a large area (approximately 305 km²), covering in excess of half of the island and its surrounding coastal waters and falls entirely within the 40 km study area (see Figure 8.5.1).
- 8.6.15 The Special Qualities of the North Arran NSA are given (Pages 59-62 of SNH, 2010) as:
- A mountain presence that dominates the Firth of Clyde;
 - The contrast between the wild highland interior and the populated coastal strip;
 - The historical landscape in miniature;
 - A dramatic, compact mountain area;
 - A distinctive coastline with a rich variety of forms;
 - One of the most important geological areas in Britain;
 - An exceptional area for outdoor recreation; and
 - The experience of highland and island wildlife at close hand.

Regional Context

- 8.6.16 Local authorities have the power to designate landscapes which they feel are worthy of protection at a regional or local level within their planning documents. These regionally identified areas comprise a non-statutory designation. The nomenclature of these regional level designations differs between Local Authority. Within the study area, the term Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) has been used within Argyll and Bute, whilst Special Landscape Area (SLA) is used within North Arran. However, only APQs have been identified for inclusion within this assessment (see Appendix 8.3)
- 8.6.17 There are no published designation descriptions or defined special qualities for the APQs. The key characteristics which are considered to contribute to the importance of these areas have therefore been identified by ASH.
- 8.6.18 Three APQs have been identified as potentially experiencing effects relating to the proposed development (see Appendix 8.3) and have therefore been included in the assessment. The location of these areas is shown on Figure 8.5.1.

East Kintyre Coast APQ

- 8.6.19 This APQ follows the east coast of Kintyre, from an area north of Macrangan's Point to the settlement of Carradale. It covers an area of approximately 12 km² and, at its closest point, would be located approximately 7.5 km from the proposed development.
- 8.6.20 The east coast of the peninsula is rougher and more varied in character than the west coast and the changing topography, occasional woodland enclosure, settlement and pronounced glen mouths leading inland combine to create an interesting landscape.
- 8.6.21 This APQ features long, narrow sections of rugged coastline, often with a strong visual connection with Arran, and punctuated by broad valleys.
- 8.6.22 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this APQ comprise:
- Long sections of narrow and rugged coastline;
 - Strong visual connection with Arran / open sea vistas;
 - Clustered lowland settlement with dispersed homes occupying east facing slopes; and
 - Pronounced and broad valleys which open out, punctuating and adding interest and context to the coast.

Mull of Kintyre APQ

- 8.6.23 The Mull of Kintyre APQ covers the width of the peninsula and extends from the southern coast as far north as the summits of the hills which mark the southern extent of Aros Moss. It covers an area of approximately 155 km². At its closest point, the designated area would be approximately 11 km from the proposed development.
- 8.6.24 Within this designated area, there are several rounded hills bordered by steep and rocky slopes which lead down to the coast, with sharp cliffs in places. Land use is a mixture of plantation, agriculture and open moorland.
- 8.6.25 In the north, the APQ features a series of large, dominant hills which separate the south of the APQ (i.e. the Mull) from Aros Moss to the north, separated by a series of enclosed and sometimes settled valleys, with the rounded hilltops above (e.g. Glen Breackerie, Strone Glen and Conie Glen).
- 8.6.26 In the south, the Mull of Kintyre features an accessible coastline stretching between Carskey and Brunerican Bay, Southend and Mill Park. This is a rare landscape of contrasting cliffs and coastal plain. Elsewhere, the coastline of the APQ often comprises exposed and rugged cliffs with moorland above.

Settlement is generally focussed on the sheltered areas of the south coast and sections of the east coast.

- 8.6.27 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this APQ comprise:
- Dominant series of large hills separating Aros Moss to the north from the southern coastal edge and providing a backdrop to both landscapes (e.g. The Slate, Tirfergus Hill and Kerran Hill);
 - Enclosed and sometimes settled valleys, with rounded hilltops above (e.g. Glen Breackerie, Strone Glen and Conie Glen);
 - Accessible, diverse eastern and southern coastline of contrasting cliffs and coastal plain, raised beach, rock-bound bays and scattered settlement;
 - Exposed and rugged western cliffs; and
 - Moorland hills with qualities of wildness in the south-western part of the APQ.

West Kintyre Coast APQ

- 8.6.28 This designation marks a ribbon along the west coast of Kintyre, stretching from north of Clachan to Westport Beach. It covers an area of approximately 21 km² and includes rocky slopes and outcrops, raised beach agricultural land, mixed woodland and dispersed settlement to either side of the A83 route. At its closest point, the designated area is located approximately 1.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine.
- 8.6.29 Slopes, steep in places (particularly the south), separate this area from the upland interior of Kintyre and so focus tends to be directed either along the coast or out to sea and the nearby islands of Gigha, Islay and Jura.
- 8.6.30 Throughout the APQ, there is a strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, with views directed in some areas by the distinctive landform; steep, bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the raised beach and rocky coast.
- 8.6.31 In the south, there is a pronounced contrast between the exposed, and at times rocky, character of the coastal strip and pastoral areas nearby. However, in the vicinity of Rhunahaorine Point, there is an almost level landscape, where the sky opens up to match the scale of the sea and the scale of the nearby uplands stands out.
- 8.6.32 While the coast follows quite a straight line, the bluff slope is relatively sinuous and this provides space for distinct pockets of secluded development.
- 8.6.33 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this APQ comprise:

- Strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by distinctive landform. Steep, bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the rocky coast;
- Contrast of exposed, and at times rocky, character of the coastal strip and pastoral areas nearby;
- Distinct pockets of secluded settlement in the south where space permits, such as at Bellochantuy; and
- Contrasting expansive and almost level landscape in the vicinity of Rhunahaorine Point, where the sky opens up to match the scale of the sea and scale of the nearby uplands stands out.

Landscape Character

8.6.34 The Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde (Environmental Resources Management, 1996), part of the SNH suite of national landscape character assessment documents, identify six landscape character types within the detailed study area. Initial review has identified five of these for inclusion within the assessment as potentially being affected by the proposed development (see Appendix 8.3) as follows:

- Bay Farmland;
- Low Coastal Hills;
- Rocky Mosaic;
- Sand Dunes and Machair; and
- Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic.

8.6.35 Locations of the above LCTs are shown on Figure 8.6.1 and 8.6.2.

Bay Farmland

8.6.36 Part of the site access route would occur within this landscape character type (using existing roads in the vicinity of Drum Farm). It is found in one location within the detailed study area (see Figure 8.6.1) and it is the only example contained in the Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde.

8.6.37 The LCT comprises a distinctive agricultural plain stretching from east to west across the Kintyre peninsula, contrasted by enclosing rounded hills to the north and south. There is an obvious historic pattern of roadside settlement (e.g. Stewarton & Kilchenzie) and scattered farmsteads throughout. RAF Machrihanish (so named in the Argyll and Bute LDP) and Campbeltown Airport create a prominent area of focus within the open agricultural plain which contrast with the rural character.

8.6.38 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this LCT comprise:

- Distinctive agricultural plain contrasted by the enclosing rounded hills to the north and south;
- Historic pattern of roadside settlement with scattered farmsteads contrasting with RAF Machrihanish and Campbeltown airport; and
- Expansive vistas across the flat, open farmland.

Low Coastal Hills

8.6.39 This landscape character type occurs in two locations in the detailed study area to the east of the proposed development (see Figure 8.6.1). It is also found on the south coast of Kintyre and at Sanda Island.

8.6.40 The LCT comprises an uneven landform of broad undulating values and rounded hills with rocky outcrops. Within the study area, there is a strong visual connection with the adjacent Rocky Mosaic LCT and with Arran. However, it is more open than Rocky Mosaic, allowing greater space and

opportunity to connect with surroundings, and features an attractive combination of pasture with broadleaf and mixed woodland groups in lower lying areas.

8.6.41 Commercial plantation can be found on upper slopes and is a characteristic of adjoining LCTs and may be considered distracting.

8.6.42 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this LCT comprise:

- Diverse combination of pasture with broadleaf and mixed woodland groups in lower lying areas;
- Strong visual connection with nearby Rocky Mosaic LCT and Arran;
- More open than adjacent Rocky Mosaic, allowing greater space and opportunity to connect with surroundings;
- Plantation on upper slopes is a characteristic of adjoining LCTs and more of a detracting feature; and
- Framed views up through glens into the upland interior.

Rocky Mosaic

8.6.43 This landscape character type is found in six separate locations within the detailed study area (see Figure 8.6.1) and is also found in several other coastal areas of Kintyre, Knapdale and Loch Fyne.

8.6.44 This LCT is a relatively small scale landscape comprised of areas of uneven, hummocky landform with rocky outcrops and narrow glens. It features a rocky, indented coastline with offshore islands and small sandy bays and occasional cliffs, in places backed by areas of raised beach which are contained by steep bluff slopes, and occasional distinctive rounded knolls.

8.6.45 Throughout this LCT there is a strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by the distinctive landform of steep bluff slopes. On areas of raised beach or undulating ground available above and below the slopes, pasture and rough grazing can be found.

8.6.46 Despite their rough character, these areas are often relatively easily accessible and so have developed as important transportation routes, e.g. A83 and B842. Along these routes, there is a pattern of scattered/dispersed roadside settlement.

8.6.47 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this LCT comprise:

- Exposed coastal locations with steep sea cliffs or bluff slopes adjacent to the coastal shelf;
- Undulating pasture and rough grazing within raised beach areas or above cliff tops;
- Scattered / dispersed settlement pattern;
- Important transportation route in places, e.g. A83 and B842 with valued seaward views;
- Dramatic topography often leads to a distinct separation from adjacent landscape character types both in terms of visibility and accessibility; and
- Strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by distinctive landform. Raised beach and steep, bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the rocky coast.

Sand Dunes and Machair

8.6.48 This LCT is located in one location within the detailed study area and covers the wide beach and dunes of Machrihanish Bay to the south-south-west of the proposed development (see Figure 8.6.1).

8.6.49 The LCT is comprised of an expansive linear stretch of sandy beach, backed by a rolling stretch of dunes inhabited by marram grasses with grassy stretches of grassy links areas beyond. Parts of this LCT are maintained as a golf course and stretches of mown and maintained fairways and greens

contrast with the rougher dune areas. This is a low lying, open and exposed coastal landscape with expansive seaward vistas and a close relationship with the sea.

8.6.50 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this LCT comprise:

- Sandy beach with undulating dunes and grassy links beyond;
- Mown and maintained golf course fairways and greens contrast with rough coastal grasslands;
- Expansive seaward and coastal vistas; and
- Sense of openness and exposure but with small scale intimacy within dune slacks.

Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

8.6.51 This is the LCT within which the proposed development would be located and covers the majority of the inland uplands within the study area. It also covers two smaller upland areas in the south of the detailed study area (see Figure 8.6.1) and can be found extensively within Kintyre, Knapdale, the slopes above Loch Fyne and the Isles of Colonsay, Coll and Tiree.

8.6.52 This is a large scale LCT comprised of rounded hills and undulating plateau areas overlaid with a distinctive pattern of coniferous forest plantation mixed with moorland on high ground and marked regularly by a series of upland lochs of varying scale. Within the forest plantation, there is often greater space between coupes, meaning that the forest is more open than is typically encountered within commercial forest plantation. Distinctive rounded hills around the southern fringes of the LCT bordering the Bay Farmland LCT accommodate scattered settlement served by rural roads. However, topography has resulted in some areas of sharp transition between upland and coastal areas and so, in places, there is quite a remote upland character, despite close proximity to the settled fringes and transport routes. In addition to the interior uplands within this LCT, there are several secluded, pastoral valleys (usually settled) running east to west or vice versa.

8.6.53 Within the study area, commercial wind energy development is a notable existing feature of this LCT.

8.6.54 Key characteristics and potential landscape receptors identified for this LCT comprise:

- Dispersed or scattered settlement pattern resulting in secluded homes;
- Remote upland character, despite close proximity to settled fringes and transport routes;
- Secluded, pastoral valleys (usually settled) running east to west or vice versa;
- Series of upland lochs of varying scale;
- Distinctive pattern of coniferous plantation mixed with moorland on high ground;
- Series of rounded hills (e.g. Ranachan Hill) which are distinct from the main upland 'spine' of Kintyre in their open outlook and cultural heritage importance; and
- Existing pattern of commercial wind energy development.

8.7 Landscape Effects Evaluation

8.7.1 The extent to which the proposed development would affect the existing landscape varies depending on the individual components of the project and the ability of the existing landscape to accommodate these various components.

8.7.2 The following section describes the assessment of the effects that the proposed development would have on landscape designations and landscape character identified within the baseline. The detailed assessment is provided in Appendix 8.5 with the key points being outlined in the following paragraphs. The assessment considers impacts during construction and also in the longer term during the operational phase, in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 8.6.

Landscape Designations

- 8.7.3 The assessment of effects on landscape designations included one NSA and three APQs as shown on Figures 8.5.1 and 8.5.2. The assessment concluded that no significant effects were likely to occur to any of the designated landscapes assessed. A summary of the results is provided below:

National Context

North Arran NSA

(This assessment should also be considered relevant to the North Arran SLA).

- 8.7.4 The boundary of the NSA lies at around 19 km from the closest structure part of the proposed development with areas sharing potential intervisibility of the proposed development being at least 20 km distant. Potential effects would be limited to the appearance of turbines on the far western and south-western horizon in expansive sea vistas from elevated areas. Existing wind turbines are already present within these views at Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill and it is unlikely that the distant appearance of additional turbines at Tangy would result in any discernible reduction in the Special Qualities and value of the NSA.
- 8.7.5 The effect is therefore anticipated to be **negligible** during both construction and operation and **not significant** in term of the EIA Regulations.

Regional Context

East Kintyre Coast APQ

- 8.7.6 The existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm is not visible from this APQ. Only a very small part of the APQ would be potentially indirectly affected by the proposed development near Peninver at the mouth of the Glen Lussa broad valley. The turbines would appear in inland views, framed within this valley. This would be a minimal, very localised change. Whilst it may affect the visual appeal of this particular inland valley view, it would not alter the most valued aspects of the coastal landscape and is considered unlikely to lead to any noticeable reduction in the landscape qualities of the APQ as a whole.
- 8.7.7 The effect is therefore anticipated to be **negligible** during both construction and operation and **not significant** in term of the EIA Regulations.

Mull of Kintyre APQ

- 8.7.8 Small parts of this APQ would theoretically obtain intervisibility with the proposed development, mostly from elevated ground in the central hills. These areas are already affected to some degree by the existing Tangy I and II turbines and small single turbines south of Campbeltown. The turbines associated with the proposed development would be noticeably larger, and may have an effect of appearing to bring the northern Kintyre Hills closer. Whilst this is not necessarily negative, it would potentially increase the prominence of wind turbines along parts of the northern boundary of the APQ. However, this would be a very localised effect and valued coastal aspects of this landscape would be unaffected.
- 8.7.9 A **minor** effect is anticipated for this APQ during both construction and operation, which is considered **not significant** in term of the EIA Regulations.

West Kintyre Coast APQ

- 8.7.10 The ZTV indicates that there may be small areas of intervisibility of the proposed development within this APQ with turbine blades and tips appearing intermittently above the bluff slopes which enclose the narrow coastal strip. There is relatively limited visibility of existing Tangy I and II turbines in this area, mostly comprising the appearance of blade tips only above bluff slopes. The proposed development would affect a greater area of the APQ with larger sections of turbine blades and sometimes hubs appearing skylined (seen above the skyline). Wider but more distant

intervisibility would be theoretically shared with the more open landscapes further north towards Rhunahaorine Point. However, the proposed development would appear distant and barely perceptible from this distance. The appearance of moving blades above the bluff slope would be infrequent but large and locally distracting where they are experienced, interrupting the skyline of the inland backdrop. This would lead to a noticeable change to views in these small areas resulting in a range of isolated significant visual effects (see Appendix 8.7: Visual Assessment Tables) but the wider coastal experience and valued coastal aspect of the APQ would remain largely unaffected. The contribution of a small number of infrequently obtained significant visual effects from individual viewpoints is considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect on the integrity and value of the APQ overall.

- 8.7.11 The effect on the APQ is therefore anticipated to be **minor-moderate** during both construction and operation which is considered to be **not significant** in term of the EIA Regulations.

Landscape Character Types

- 8.7.12 Five LCTs within the 11 km study area have been included in this assessment. Of these, three were assessed as likely to experience only non-significant effects. Two LCTs were identified as potentially receiving significant effects to some parts of their area within the 11 km detailed study area. Detailed assessment for these LCTs is contained in Appendix 8.5 and is summarised below.

Bay Farmland

- 8.7.13 Potential effects to this landscape would be indirect, affecting the context of containing hills to the north. The proposed development would comprise a replacement to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm which is present within this context but would be noticeably larger and affecting a larger part of the containing horizon when seen from southern and western parts of the LCT, bringing its influence closer to this LCT. The increase in scale of the turbines and occupied area of the context is likely to appear a more prominent feature where visible and would affect a slightly larger part of the LCT.
- 8.7.14 In some locations, the proposed development would appear larger on the enclosing hills and turbine tips would more frequently form the highest part of the horizon when compared to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm, potentially diminishing the height of the enclosing hills. Whilst this may affect the perception of these hills, it would not necessarily affect the sense of containment and would result in a change to only one part of the wider context.
- 8.7.15 The landscape effect is anticipated to be **moderate** during construction and operation of the proposed development and therefore **significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Low Coastal Hills

- 8.7.16 Potential effects on this LCT would be very limited with only one small area near the mouth of Glen Lussa potentially sharing intervisibility with the proposed development. The proposed development would appear within framed views inland along Glen Lussa which currently do not feature any wind turbines. Whilst it may become a noticeable focus within these views, it would not affect the generally seaward valued aspects of this LCT nor its perceived scale. The area potentially affected comprises a relatively small part of the LCT and therefore changes would be localised.
- 8.7.17 The landscape effect is anticipated to be **minor** during both construction and operation which is considered to be **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Rocky Mosaic

- 8.7.18 This LCT comprises six different units within the detailed study area. Potential for effects is indicated by the ZTV within four of these which cover the west coast and rocky coastline and hills

around Machrihanish and Campbeltown. These four areas would potentially be affected in different ways.

- 8.7.19 From LCT units further from the proposed development including those to the south around Machrihanish and Campbeltown, the larger scale turbines and greater area of the landscape backdrop occupied by turbines would be evident in some parts of the context. This may affect a slightly larger area than is affected by the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm leading to a perceptible degree of change within this backdrop, but is considered unlikely to result in a noticeable change to the valued characteristics of these areas.
- 8.7.20 Landscape effect within these units is anticipated to be **minor** during construction and operation which is considered **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 8.7.21 For the western shoreline LCT unit between Glenbarr and Westport, there would intermittently be the appearance of noticeably larger wind turbines on the skyline. In the north of this area around Glenbarr, this increase in height would result in the wind farm becoming a more prominent feature on the skyline and greater focal point, appearing closer and potentially diminishing the perceived scale of the landform. Further south, along the coast there would be the intermittent appearance of larger turbine blades above the skyline within the elevated agricultural areas above the raised beach and infrequently above the enclosing bluff slopes from areas of raised beach. These areas currently have only limited effect or more localised effect from the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. Turbines would be likely to appear large and may disrupt the sense of perceived separation between the interior uplands and the coastal rocky mosaic area. Whilst this change would be noticeable, it would be localised and would not affect the more valued coastal aspects of the LCT unit.
- 8.7.22 The combined influence of the larger turbines on the elevated coastal farmland areas and periodically from areas of raised beach within the western coastal LCT unit, is anticipated to lead to a **minor-moderate** effect during construction and operation between Glenbarr and Westport (up to around 8 km from the proposed development) which is considered **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 8.7.23 For this LCT resource as a whole within the study area, the combined effects on all areas is considered to be **minor** and **not significant**.

Sand Dunes and Machair

- 8.7.24 The existing Tangy I and II wind turbines are prominent within the landscape context and coastal vistas on the hills to the north. The proposed development would appear noticeably larger and more imposing within this context with the turbines potentially appearing greater in height than the hills on which they are situated. This may form a distracting feature when looking north along the beach or create a greater focus in views across the beach from areas such as Machrihanish. However, given the prominence of the existing Tangy I and II turbines, it would not result in a very noticeable change to landscape characteristics. The effect would be limited in its extent, affecting only a small part of the surrounding context and not affecting the more valued seaward aspect.
- 8.7.25 Landscape effect on the Sand Dunes and Machair LCT is considered **minor** and **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

- 8.7.26 The proposed development would be located within this LCT and the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm is currently present within this LCT.
- 8.7.27 Wind turbines are already a feature of this LCT so would not become a new characteristic. The proposed development would involve removal of some existing turbines and replacement with fewer turbines of larger scale and across a greater footprint. The ZTV suggests nearby intervisibility within around 2 km of the proposed development and intermittent visibility within glens up to

around 5 km away, and across higher hills and ridges beyond, up to around 9 km. Most of these areas already have intervisibility with the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm but new areas would be affected including around Lussa Loch and Glen Lussa, although parts of the existing Beinn and Tuirc 1 and 2 Wind Farm are already visible around parts of Lussa Loch. The coniferous forest plantation character would often limit the influence and prominence of wind turbines in these areas (although this is a changing situation due to forestry operations). Where present as a feature in the landscape, the proposed development would appear larger than the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm and would be more prominent in some areas, particularly from open areas and when seen in relation to existing hills. In the latter case the larger turbines may sometimes appear to diminish the height and distinction of hills. This effect would occur in close proximity, in relation to hills such as Ranachan Hill on the southern fringes of the LCT, and also when seen more distantly on the horizon from the north. In some locations, in the core of the LCT where other existing turbines are present, the greater size and footprint of the proposed development may contribute to an encircling impression with gaps and distance between Tangy and other developments being less noticeable due to the larger scale and footprint. In these areas wind turbines may be seen as a more continuous and defining feature of the landscape.

- 8.7.28 During construction, felling and construction works would appear similar to existing forestry operations, but likely to be greater in intensity and area affected, forming a more noticeable area of activity.
- 8.7.29 The effect on this LCT is therefore anticipated to be **moderate** during construction and operation which is considered to be **significant** in term of the EIA Regulations. This effect is anticipated in relation to the increased effect in the glens and around the hills of the southern fringes of the LCT area and is expected to extend to around 6 km from the proposed development. Beyond this distance, the effect is predicted to be **minor** and **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Summary of Potential Effects on Landscape Designations and LCTs

- 8.7.30 The effects on designated landscapes and LCTs within the 40 and 11 km study areas is summarised in Table 8.6 below. As described in Section 8.5.19, those effects of a moderate level or greater are considered significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Table 8.6: Summary of Potential Effects on Landscape Designations and LCTs							
Landscape Designations	Potential Effect (Not Significant)				Potential Effect (Significant)		
	Scoped out	Negligible	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Jura NSA	X						
Knapdale NSA	X						
North Arran NSA		X					
North Arran WLA	X						
Achamore House - GDL	X						
Brodict Castle GDL	X						
East Kintyre Coast APQ		X					
Knapdale / Melfort APQ	X						
Mull of Kintyre APQ			X				
South and East Islay APQ	X						
South-west Islay APQ	X						

Table 8.6: Summary of Potential Effects on Landscape Designations and LCTs

Landscape Designations	Potential Effect (Not Significant)				Potential Effect (Significant)		
	Scoped out	Negligible	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
West Kintyre Coast APQ				X			
Holy Island Special Landscape Area (SLA)	X						
Pladda SLA	X						
North Arran SLA		X					
LCT							
Bay Farmland					X		
Hidden Glens	X						
Low Coastal Hills		X					
Rocky Mosaic			X(L)	X(L)			
Sand Dunes and Machair			X				
Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic					X(L)		

L – denotes that the effect would be localised to only part of the resource within the study area.

- 8.7.31 As can be noted from the summary table, the majority of landscape effects in relation to the proposed development are anticipated to be **not significant** and **no significant effects** are anticipated for any landscape designations. Potential **significant effects** have been identified for two of the six LCTs which make up the 11 km detailed study area: Bay Farmland and Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic. These effects are anticipated to result from the increased appearance of the larger turbines on the southern edge of the forested upland core of Kintyre which forms a context and backdrop to surrounding agricultural fringes, foothills and valleys, and the low-lying landscape of Aros Moss. However, effects are considered **moderate** and **significant** as the proposed development is anticipated to be noticeable and locally intrusive, rather than a dominating feature. These effects would be limited to an area of around 8 km from the proposed development, and are mostly within 6 km. Beyond this distance all effects are anticipated to be **minor or below** and would be **not significant**.

8.8 Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 8.8.1 Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of similar type within the landscape. In terms of landscape character, cumulative landscape effects may result where a number of wind energy developments combine, increasing the prevalence of wind turbines within a landscape to an extent where they may become a defining characteristic. The likely significance of these effects relates to the number of wind developments affecting the landscape, their scale, the inter-relationship between their respective visual envelopes and the sensitivity and capacity of the particular landscape to accommodate this type of development.

Cumulative Landscape Methodology

- 8.8.2 The methodology for the cumulative landscape assessment is based on that described in SNH guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy proposed development, SNH, March 2012. The assessment considers the potential for combined effects to designated

landscapes and LCTs relating to the addition of the proposed development to the baseline wind energy development scenario which may be experienced both from static locations and whilst moving through the landscape.

- 8.8.3 The cumulative assessment considers the landscape character of the LCTs and designated landscapes identified for inclusion in the landscape character assessment. However, areas identified as likely to have a negligible effect in the landscape assessment have not been included as a negligible effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. Areas are evaluated using a tabular format in accordance with the process outlined below.
- 8.8.4 The cumulative landscape assessment has involved five key stages:
- Evaluation of the capacity of the identified landscape to accommodate wind farm development;
 - Identification and analysis of the baseline wind energy development scenario;
 - Evaluation of the cumulative landscape sensitivity to change;
 - Evaluation of the potential magnitude of landscape change to the baseline scenario resulting from the proposed development;
 - Assessment of the potential cumulative landscape effects arising from the addition of the proposed development to the baseline scenario.

Evaluation of Landscape Capacity

- 8.8.5 SNH guidance on cumulative assessment describes the need for an understanding of whether the proposed wind farm crosses the threshold of acceptability for the total number of wind farms in an area. The capacity of the landscape to accommodate multiple wind farms has been evaluated using baseline data collected during the landscape assessment. Consideration has been given to the scenic quality, value and sensitivity to change of the relevant designated site or LCT. The Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study (Carol Anderson Landscape Architects, 2017) has also been consulted to inform the identification of the cumulative capacity value.
- 8.8.6 A cumulative capacity value has been attributed to each area based on a three point scale from High to Low as follows:

Table 8.7: Cumulative Capacity Value Criteria	
Cumulative Capacity Value	Criteria
High	The landscape has the potential to accommodate multiple wind farms/wind turbines without significant loss of key characteristics or features.
Medium	The landscape has the potential to accommodate some wind farms/wind turbines but there is the potential for key characteristics or features to be locally dominated or eroded by the presence of wind turbines.
Low	The landscape would have few opportunities for wind farm/wind turbine development which would not dominate or erode key characteristics or features.

Evaluation of the Baseline Wind Energy Development Scenario

- 8.8.7 Baseline information on operational, consented and proposed (application) wind developments within the 60 km cumulative search area has been collected and the baseline wind energy development scenario defined, as detailed in Section 8.2.

Evaluation of the Cumulative Landscape Sensitivity to Change

- 8.8.8 An evaluation of sensitivity to change has been attributed to each landscape designation and LCT based on analysis of the actual baseline scenario in relation to the identified capacity value of the

landscape to accommodate wind farm development. This is based on a three point scale from High to Low as detailed in Table 8.8 below.

Cumulative Landscape Sensitivity	Criteria
High	The baseline wind farm/wind turbine scenario is very close to or achieves the identified capacity of the area resulting in little opportunity for additional development without significant effects occurring.
Medium	The baseline wind farm/wind turbine scenario leaves some opportunity for additional development within the landscape without significant effects resulting.
Low	The baseline wind farm/wind turbine scenario leaves considerable opportunity for additional development within the landscape without significant effects resulting.

Evaluation of the Cumulative Magnitude of Landscape Change

- 8.8.9 Magnitude of change concerns the measurement of change which would occur due to the addition of the proposed development into the baseline wind development scenario. This is identified based on the consideration of the potential nature, size, scale and location of the proposed change within the context of the existing baseline scenario. The evaluation of the magnitude of change is based on the criteria outlined in the main landscape assessment methodology.

Assessment of Potential Cumulative Landscape Effects

- 8.8.10 Assessment of potential cumulative effects is based on analysis of the relationship between the cumulative sensitivity to change and the magnitude of change and is made using a degree of professional judgement. It should be noted that the cumulative effect assessed is the result of the addition of the proposed development to the existing baseline scenario. In this case, this also includes the removal of the existing Tangy I and II turbines, which would be replaced by the proposed development. Cumulative landscape effects are assessed against the scale detailed in Table 8.9 below.

Cumulative Landscape Effect	Criteria
Major	The addition of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline scenario would result in the capacity of the landscape to accommodate wind energy development being reached and the combined appearance of wind turbines in the landscape becoming a dominant and character defining feature.
Moderate	The addition of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline scenario would increase the appearance of wind turbines in the landscape to the extent that they may become locally dominant, but the proposed development would not exceed the overall capacity of the landscape to accommodate wind energy development.
Minor	The addition of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline scenario would add to the appearance of wind turbines in the landscape but would not result in a noticeable change to key landscape characteristics.
Negligible	The addition of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline scenario would not result in any discernible increase in the appearance or dominance of wind turbines in the landscape.

- 8.8.11 The above criteria and levels of significance represent points on a continuum. Where required, interim ratings, such as minor-moderate, have been used to indicate the anticipated significance of effect.
- 8.8.12 For the purposes of the assessment, effects with a rating of moderate or above are significant in the context of the EIA regulations.

Limitations of Cumulative Landscape Assessment

- 8.8.13 Due to the uncertainty of construction activity timing for the proposed development and other such activity, temporary structures, tracks and activity relating to construction have not been considered within the cumulative assessment. The cumulative assessment therefore focuses on the potential effects during operation relating to the main permanent structures (wind turbines).
- 8.8.14 Sites at Scoping stage have not been included within the assessment due to the uncertainty as to whether such proposals will continue through the planning process and the lack of certainty regarding the form such proposals would take (thereby preventing meaningful assessment).
- 8.8.15 Since the number of wind energy development applications made or withdrawn changes frequently, the cumulative baseline scenario is representative of the situation between 12th and 14th February 2018. All new applications, applications withdrawn and addendums to current projects taken place since this period have therefore not been considered in this assessment.
- 8.8.16 The cumulative assessment has considered only those wind turbine developments of 30 m tip height or greater as it is considered that smaller turbines would be unlikely to result in significant cumulative effects in association with the proposed development.

Cumulative Baseline Scenario

- 8.8.17 The cumulative baseline scenario comprises 28 operational, consented/under construction and proposed (application/appeal) wind developments within 60 km of the proposed development, as illustrated on Figure 8.4 and detailed in Appendix 8.7. As noted in limitations above, these developments have been identified following a review of data from Argyll and Bute Council, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council within the 60 km search area between 12th and 14th February 2018; only those developments with turbines of 30 m tip height and above are included; and sites at Scoping stage are excluded.
- 8.8.18 Due to the nature of the proposed development being the re-powering of an existing site, the following should be noted:
- The existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm forms part of the cumulative baseline scenario. The removal of these turbines forms part of the proposed development and is therefore considered as part of the cumulative landscape assessment; and
 - The consented Tangy III Wind Farm is excluded from the cumulative baseline scenario, as it would not be present in conjunction with the proposed development. Its inclusion would therefore be misleading.
- 8.8.19 Cumulative ZTVs showing the visual envelope of the proposed development and those of cumulative wind developments have been produced to identify areas of combined and sequential visibility (refer to Figures 8.10.1 to 8.10.4.13). These demonstrate that the cumulative baseline scenario is one of relatively widespread visibility of wind farms within the 40 km study area and the wider landscape beyond.

Cumulative Landscape Effects Evaluation

- 8.8.20 The detailed cumulative assessment of LCTs and landscape designations is presented in Appendix 8.8. The following section provides a summary of the results and key issues highlighted by the assessment. As detailed in paragraph 8.8.3, only those designated areas and LCTs identified as

having a minor effect or greater in the main landscape character assessment have been included in the cumulative assessment.

Landscape Designations

8.8.21 Two designated landscapes have been considered in the cumulative assessment:

- Mull of Kintyre APQ; and
- West Coast of Kintyre APQ.

8.8.22 The assessment has identified that the cumulative landscape effect on both areas would be **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations. The potential effects are summarised as follows:

Mull of Kintyre APQ

8.8.23 Under the cumulative baseline scenario, this APQ is predominantly influenced by a series of developments along the hills in the north which would be seen from high points and along the APQ's northern border including Tangy I and II, Beinn and Tuirc 1, 2 and 3 and, more distantly Achadaduie and Blary Hill. The proposed development would replace Tangy I and II within this context. The proposed development would appear larger and closer than the cumulative baseline sites and there would be small areas of new intervisibility with wind development. This may slightly increase the influence of wind energy development on the northern fringes of the APQ.

8.8.24 The effect is assessed as being **minor** on this APQ which is considered **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

West Coast of Kintyre APQ

8.8.25 This cumulative baseline scenario would result a variety of wind farm developments indirectly influencing this APQ. Gigha and Gigha Extension have the greatest influence, being seen within the coastal context. Other wind farms may appear within the inland context intermittently with the northern part of the APQ being most affected by Killean Estate and Clachaig Glen and the southern part being infrequently influenced by Tangy I and II and occasionally Beinn and Tuirc 1, 2 and 3 or Achadaduie seen through glens. The proposed development would replace Tangy I and II within this context but would be larger and more prominent. The appearance of the proposed development is limited to the southern part of the APQ whilst other sites are more prominent in the north. This would result in wind turbines within the inland landscape being a relatively frequent feature throughout the APQ but this would not be a notable change, as the existing Tangy I and II turbines are already present, although to a lesser degree.

8.8.26 The cumulative effect on this APQ has been assessed as being **minor-moderate** and **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Landscape Character

8.8.27 Four LCTs have been considered in the cumulative assessment as follows:

- Bay Farmland;
- Rocky Mosaic;
- Sand Dunes and Machair; and
- Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic.

8.8.28 Of these areas, two were assessed as having a potential cumulative landscape effect which would be potentially **significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations and two were assessed as having an effect would be **not significant**. These effects are summarised as follows:

Potential Significant Cumulative Effects to LCTs

Rocky Mosaic LCT

- 8.8.29 This LCT is in six separate units within the detailed study area. Effects to those units in the south and east of the detailed study area were found to be **not significant**. Effects on the western coastal unit have been assessed as potentially **significant**.
- 8.8.30 In the western coastal LCT unit an area around Glenbarr has the greatest influence from the cumulative baseline sites with Achadaduie and Blary Hill being prominent and close in the eastern context and Beinn and Tuirc 1 beyond them. Further influence is experienced by Killean Estate, Clachaig Glen and Airigh to the north, Gigha and Gigha Extension to the west and Tangy I and II to the south. Further down the coast, Tangy I and II continues to be occasionally evident to the south and Gigha within the coastal context to the north. The proposed development would replace Tangy I and II within this baseline context and would appear similar, but larger and more frequently seen from the raised beach and elevated farmland areas. This would result in turbines being more prominent in southerly views forming a greater impression of surrounding from the northern area around Glenbarr and resulting in turbines being a more frequent feature of the landscape when moving through the LCT unit.
- 8.8.31 The cumulative effect on this LCT has therefore been assessed as **moderate** and **significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations for the western coastal unit, and **minor** and **negligible** for southern and eastern units respectively, both considered to be **not significant**.

Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT

- 8.8.32 Most of the cumulative baseline sites are set within the northern unit of this LCT with Beinn an Tuirc 1, 2 and 3, Blary Hill, Achadaduie and Tangy I and II within the detailed study area and Clachaig Glen, Killean Estate and Deucharan Hill indirectly affecting it from outwith the detailed study area. These baseline sites have considerable influence on the character of the LCT, particularly its northern part although the southern part is often influence only by Tangy I and II and to some extent Beinn an Tuirc 3. The proposed development would replace Tangy I and II within this LCT. There would be a smaller number of turbines but these would be larger and cover a greater footprint. In the south part of the LCT unit this may give an impression of drawing wind energy development closer to the foothills and glens north of Campbeltown and would slightly increase the area within which wind turbines would be evident; into Glen Lussa for example. Further north the effect would be lesser due to reduced visibility of the proposed development and the greater influence of other sites. However, in some locations, the larger turbines would be more prominent and may give a greater sense of being surrounded.
- 8.8.33 From the southern LCT unit the proposed development would replace Tangy I and II but would appear closer, and larger, slightly increasing the perception of wind turbines on the northern hills. This may potentially contribute to a greater distinction between the two LCT units with one being defined by presence of wind energy development and the other by its absence.
- 8.8.34 The cumulative effect on this LCT has been assessed as **moderate** and **significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Cumulative Effects to LCTs considered to be Not Significant

- 8.8.35 For all remaining LCTs within the detailed study area (including the Bay Farmland, Sand Dunes and Machair and southern and eastern units of the Rocky Mosaic LCT), the cumulative effect has been assessed as between **negligible** and **minor-moderate**. These effects are **not significant** in terms of the EIA Regulations. Whilst there may be a perceptible increase in the influence of wind energy development within the surrounding context of these areas, this is considered unlikely to result in wind turbines becoming a greater character defining feature of these LCT areas.

Summary of Cumulative Landscape Effects

8.8.36 The cumulative landscapes effects identified for the proposed development are summarised in Table 8.10 below.

Landscape Designations	Potential Effect (Not Significant)			Potential Effect (Significant)		
	Negligible	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Mull of Kintyre APQ		X				
West Kintyre Coast APQ			X			
LCT						
Bay Farmland			X			
Rocky Mosaic	X(L)	X(L)		X(L)		
Sand Dunes and Machair		X				
Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic				X		

L – denotes that the effect would be localised to only part of the resource within the study area.

8.9 Visual Assessment Methodology

8.9.1 As previously noted, while following a similar process, the landscape character and visual impact assessments are separate components of an LVIA. The following sections relate to the methodology for visual assessment only.

Establishing the Visual Amenity Baseline

8.9.2 Determining the visual amenity baseline condition is necessary in order to understand the views available and experienced in the study area, as well as how sensitive these are to the proposed change. The baseline described has been determined through a combination of desk study, site appraisal and consultation (refer to Appendix 8.4 and Section 8.7).

Establishing the Zone of Theoretical Visibility

8.9.3 The ZTV defines the effective boundaries within which views of the proposed turbines could potentially be obtained. As detailed in Appendix 8.1 (Technical Methodologies), the ZTV has been prepared using ArcGIS (Version 10.3). This produces an analysis of a computer-based model that uses landform as the key determinant of availability or obstruction of view. The landform model is based on Ordnance Survey (OS) Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM).

8.9.4 It should be noted that the computer model does not take into account features such as trees or woodland, buildings and other structures, or local landform which can vary the ZTV locally and therefore the ZTV is not representative of visual effect in itself. Nevertheless, the ZTV is a useful tool in assisting with the identification of areas of potential visual effect.

Identification of Visual Receptors

8.9.5 For there to be a visual effect, there needs to be a viewer. Individuals experiencing views from locations such as buildings, recognised routeways and popular viewpoints used by the public have been included in this assessment. Those experiencing views are referred to as receptors.

8.9.6 The ZTV for the proposed development was reviewed to aid identification of potential receptors likely to experience visual effects from the proposed development (the methodology and

limitations of the ZTV are discussed in Appendix 8.1). Visual receptors identified during the desk-based assessment were then validated by site survey.

- 8.9.7 Site recording involved the completion of standardised recording forms and annotation of 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey plans, supported by a photographic record of views from key receptor locations.

Visual Sensitivity to Change

- 8.9.8 Sensitivity to change considers the nature of the receptor and the viewing expectation of those using that receptor. The importance of the aspect of the view which would be changed contributes to the sensitivity evaluation.
- 8.9.9 Sensitivity to the change proposed has been evaluated using a three-point scale, detailed in Table 8.11 below.

Table 8.11: Visual Sensitivity	
Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Where the appearance of the proposed development would affect or alter an important part of a highly valued, impressive or well composed view with no detracting features.
Medium	Where the appearance of the proposed development would affect or alter a fairly important part of a valued or pleasing view or a notable part of a less well composed view with some detracting features
Low	Where the appearance of the proposed development would affect or alter an unimportant part of the overall view or would affect or alter a view which is of limited value or poorly composed, with numerous detracting features

- 8.9.10 The scale above does not apply an automatic sensitivity to each receptor type (e.g. all residents at home being of high sensitivity or all employees in the workplace being of medium sensitivity). Such an approach would not allow for consideration of a receptor's available outlook or expectation. As explained in GLVIA3 Paragraph 6.35 (P.114) when discussing sensitivity scales, *"division is not black and white and in reality, there will be a graduation in susceptibility to change. Each project needs to consider ... the extent to which (receptor's) attention is likely to be focused on views and visual amenity"*.

Magnitude of Change

- 8.9.11 Magnitude of change concerns the extent to which the existing view would be altered by the proposed development. Magnitude of change has been evaluated using a four-point scale, detailed in Table 8.12 below:

Table 8.12: Magnitude of Visual Change	
Magnitude of Visual Change	Criteria
High	Where the proposed development would cause a very noticeable change in the existing view
Medium	Where the proposed development would cause a noticeable change in the existing view
Low	Where the proposed development would cause a perceptible change in the existing view
Negligible	Where the proposed development would cause a largely imperceptible change in the existing view

Assessment of Significance of Visual Effects

- 8.9.12 The level of visual effect identified concerns the importance of changes resulting from the proposed development. Evaluation of the effect and determination of significance is based on consideration of the magnitude of change in relation to sensitivity, taking into account proposed mitigation measures, and is established using professional judgement. The assessment takes into account likely changes to the visual composition, including the extent to which new features would distract or screen existing elements in the view or disrupt the scale, structure or focus of the existing view.
- 8.9.13 The prominence of the proposed development in the view will vary according to the prevailing weather conditions. The assessment has been carried out, as is best practice, by assuming the 'worst case' scenario i.e. on a clear, bright day in winter, when neither foreground deciduous foliage nor haze can interfere with the clarity of the view obtained.
- 8.9.14 Although relatively common practice for some LVIA, the use of matrices in determining effect significance has not been promoted as recommended practice in GLVIA3 (nor the previous edition). As explained in Section 8.5.3, use of professional judgement is now promoted as a more appropriate means of determining significance. Significance has been evaluated using the scale detailed in Table 8.13 below.

Visual Effect	Criteria
Major	The proposed development would become a prominent and very detracting feature and would result in a very noticeable deterioration to an existing highly valued and well composed view.
Moderate	The proposed development would introduce some detracting features to an existing highly valued view or would be more prominent within a pleasing or less well composed view, resulting in a noticeable deterioration of the quality of view.
Minor	The proposed development would form a perceptible but not detracting feature within a pleasing or valued view or would be a prominent feature within a poorly composed view of limited value, resulting in a small deterioration to the existing view.
Negligible	The proposed development would form a barely perceptible feature within the existing view and would not result in any discernible deterioration to the view.

- 8.9.15 The above criteria and levels of significance represent points on a continuum. Where required, interim ratings, such as minor-moderate, have been used to indicate the anticipated significance of effect.
- 8.9.16 For the purposes of the assessment, effects with a rating of moderate or above are significant in the context of the EIA regulations.

Limitations of the Visual Assessment

- 8.9.17 The use and limitations of ZTV diagrams is explained in Appendix 8.1. The scope of assessment is defined in Section 8.2 where key assumptions for the LVIA are set out. Limitations of the cumulative visual assessment are noted in the cumulative visual methodology
- 8.9.18 During site visits, the assessment of visual effects has been undertaken from public roads, footpaths or open spaces for each receptor and assumptions have been made, in the case of settlements for example, about the types of rooms and about the types and importance of views from these rooms. For there to be a visual effect, there is the need for a viewer and therefore only buildings that are in use have been assessed. Derelict buildings or those considered to be unoccupied at the time of the survey were not assessed.

8.9.19 Wireline diagrams generated using the software ‘Resoft Windfarm’ (Version 4.2.5.2) and ‘True View Visuals’ have also been used as a tool to aid assessment, to illustrate potential views from receptors. However, as with ZTV diagrams, they represent a ‘bare ground’ model and do not show all intervening obstructions, surface features or context; hence the advantage of pairing them with baseline photography.

8.10 Baseline Visual Conditions

8.10.1 The baseline landscape and its broad visual context are described in the relevant sections above. Visual receptors included in this assessment are identified in this section. Appendix 8.3 details the scope of the visual assessment scope and contains an explanation of which receptors have been included and excluded from the assessment.

8.10.2 As described in paragraph 8.2.7, there are various operational wind farms in the study area. The visual assessment baseline therefore includes the operational wind farms illustrated on Figure 8.4 and listed in Appendix 8.4, but not consented or application sites.

Visual Receptors

8.10.3 As outlined in Appendix 8.1, a ZTV for the proposed development (calculated at maximum blade tip height of 150m) was established to identify areas of potential visibility. A review of the ZTV, in conjunction with an initial site appraisal led to the identification of visual receptors within the 40 km study area:

- at Viewpoints;
- in Settlements; and
- on Routes.

Receptors at Viewpoints

8.10.4 27 viewpoints within the 40 km study area have been identified in consultation with Argyll & Bute Council, SNH and ECU for inclusion in the visual assessment. These viewpoints are intended to be representative of the views obtained by visual receptors in the area within which they are located or illustrative of worst-case views from the locality. Refer to Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process and details on photography, and for reference, relevant Tangy III VP numbering. Details of the chosen viewpoints are provided in Table 8.14 below and the locations are shown on Figure 8.10.1 – 8.10.2.

8.10.5 For all land-based viewpoints, baseline panoramas, wirelines (including cumulative wirelines) and photomontages have been produced as per the current guidance, Visual Representation of Windfarms (SNH, 2017, Version 2.2). For water-based viewpoints (VPs 4, 16, 24), single frame baseline photographs and wirelines (including cumulative wirelines) have been produced for reference purposes, as agreed in consultation with SNH and as previously produced in Tangy III ES (2014). Details of visualisation production is included in Appendix 8.1 (Technical Methodologies). Visualisations are provided in Figures 8.9.1.1 to 8.9.27.5.

Viewpoint	OS Grid Reference	Reason for Inclusion
VP 1 A83 at Glenbarr Burial Ground	166435, 634642	To represent views from the A83 road in the APQ and illustrate views from burial ground. (See Figures 8.9.1.1-5)
VP 2 Glenbarr War Memorial	167006, 637068	To represent views from northern Glenbarr settlement and illustrate views from receptors visiting this memorial or travelling along the A83, to the north of the site. (See Figures 8.9.2.1-5)

Table 8.14: Viewpoints included in Visual Assessment

Viewpoint	OS Grid Reference	Reason for Inclusion
VP 3 Barr Glen	167811, 637021	To represent views from the public road and scattered properties in the western part of Glen Barr (but is not representative of views from Glenbarr settlement), to the north of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.3.1-5)
VP 4 Islay Ferry Route	157264, 651562 ¹	To illustrate views from a point on the ferry route between Kennacraig and Port Ellen (Islay), an important transport route for residents and tourists, to the north-west of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.4.1-4)
VP 5 Gigha (South Pier)	164358, 646336	To illustrate open views from the coast of southern Gigha, on the South Pier, to the north of the proposed development (but is not representative of views from Ardmish). (See Figures 8.9.5.1-5)
VP 6 Machrihanish (Little Scone)	163578, 620717	To represent views from Machrihanish settlement, taken from a coastal location by Little Scone and the B843, to the south-west of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.6.1-5)
VP 7 Stewarton	169658, 619904	To illustrate open views from Stewarton settlement, at the junction between the B842 and B843 roads, to the south of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.7.1-5)
VP 8 Southend Road	168430, 617436	To represent elevated views from the B842 approaching Stewarton, including some nearby scattered properties with similar views, to the south of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.8.1-5)
VP 9 Campbeltown (Ralston Road).	171240, 619830	To illustrate open views from south-western periphery of Campbeltown, to the south-east of the proposed development (but is not representative of views from most of Campbeltown). (See Figures 8.9.9.1-5)
VP 10 Beinn Ghuilean	172081, 618567	To illustrate elevated views from a hillside seating area south of Campbeltown and south-east of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.10.1-5)
VP 11 High Peninver	175049, 625512	To illustrate views from a rural glen and local road to the east of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.11.1-5)
VP 12 Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way)	172677, 631495	To illustrate views from an elevated point north-east of the proposed development on the Kintyre Way near Bord a Dubh, which include views of Lussa Loch (on the Carradale Campbeltown section). (See Figures 8.9.12.1-5)
VP 13 A' Cruach (Kintyre Way)	175480, 632209	To illustrate views from an elevated point north-east of the proposed development on the Kintyre Way near A'Chruach (on the Carradale to Campbeltown section), within coniferous plantation. (See Figures 8.9.13.1-5)

¹ Coordinate amended since Tangy III ES 2014 and Tangy IV Scoping (in line with ES 2014 Tangy III LVIA Figure 8.9.4a-b)

Table 8.14: Viewpoints included in Visual Assessment		
Viewpoint	OS Grid Reference	Reason for Inclusion
VP 14 Allt a Choire	172512, 627307	To illustrate a glimpsed view from an elevated point east of the proposed development within coniferous forest plantation on a forestry track, which was previously signposted as part of the Kintyre Way. (See Figures 8.9.14.1-5)
VP 15 Ballywilline (Kintyre Way)	171121, 623637	To illustrate views from a local road and the Kintyre Way to the south-east of the proposed development, including views from those properties at Calliburn with similar views. (See Figures 8.9.15.1-5)
VP 16 Kilbrannan Sound	182725, 620605 ²	To illustrate views from a point on the ferry route between Ardrossan and Campbeltown, an important transport route for residents and tourists, to the south-east of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.16.1-4)
VP 17 Breakachy	167131, 626896	To represent close-range elevated views from the south-west of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.17.1-5)
VP 18 Skeroblingarry (Kintyre Way)	170855, 626808	To represent views from a section of public road and the Kintyre Way near Skeroblin Cruach, to the south-east of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.18.1-5)
VP 19 Drumlemble	166311, 619742	To represent views from northern periphery of Drumlemble settlement on the A83 road, to the south of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.19.1-5)
VP 20 Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre Way)	169198, 648901 ³	To represent distant views from a beach on the west Kintyre coast to the north of proposed development on the Kintyre Way. (See Figures 8.9.20.1-5)
VP 21 B842 North of Peninver	176185, 625499	To illustrate views from a short section of the coastal B842 road to the east of the proposed development and views from some scattered properties to the north of Peninver settlement. (See Figures 8.9.21.1-5)
VP 22 Campbeltown Airport	168416, 622058	To illustrate views from a transport hub arrival/departure point, to the south of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.22.1-5)
VP 23 Beinn Bharrain	189510, 642235	To illustrate elevated views from a mountain summit on Arran, to the north-east of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.23.1-5)
VP 24 Sea near Machrihanish	164727, 625567 ⁴	To illustrate views from water-users in Machrihanish Bay, to the south-west of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.24.1-4)
VP 25 Ranachan Hill	168901, 624998	To illustrate elevated views from a nearby high point to the south of the proposed development. (See Figures 8.9.25.1-5)

² Coordinate amended since Tangy III ES 2014 and Tangy IV Scoping (in line with ES 2014 Tangy III LVIA Figure 8.9.19a-b)

³ Coordinate amended since Tangy III ES 2014 and Tangy IV Scoping (in line with ES 2014 Tangy III LVIA Figure 8.9.23a-c)

⁴ Coordinate amended since Tangy III ES 2014 and Tangy IV Scoping

Table 8.14: Viewpoints included in Visual Assessment

Viewpoint	OS Grid Reference	Reason for Inclusion
VP 26 Westport Beach	165467, 626294	To illustrate worst-case views from the north-eastern end of Westport Beach (but not representative of views from most of the beach). (See Figures 8.9.26.1-5)
VP 27 Machrihanish Dunes	165901, 624231	To represent views from Machrihanish Dunes golf course, taken from near clubhouse. (See Figures 8.9.27.1-5)

8.10.6 Wirelines for three additional viewpoints have been included in Figures 8.11.1.1 to 8.11.3.2. These three viewpoints (Ballygrogan Picnic Site, Goatfell and Kilberry Road) are not included in this visual assessment but have been included for reference purposes in agreement with consultees since they were assessed in the Tangy III ES (2014).

Receptors in Settlements

8.10.7 The visual assessment also considers receptors in settlements identified in the local authority development plans within the 40 km study area and, where applicable, comments have been made to include receptors in scattered properties near settlements. Settlement names reflect those in the local development plans. Receptors in the following settlements are included in the visual assessment (refer to Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process):

- Ardmish (Gigha);
- Campbeltown;
- Drumlemble;
- Glenbarr;
- Kilchenzie;
- Killeonan/Knocknaha;
- Machrihanish;
- Peninver;
- RAF Machrihanish; and
- Stewarton.

Receptors on Routes

8.10.8 The visual assessment considers receptors on major transport and recreational routes identified in within the 40 km study area; and core paths within the 11 km study area. Receptors on the following routes are included in the visual assessment (refer to Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process):

- A83, including Core Path C304;
- B842, including Core Path C084 and part of NCR78;
- B843 and Core Path C085;
- Kennacraig to Port Askaig (Islay) Ferry;
- Kennacraig to Port Ellen (Islay) Ferry;
- Ardrossan to Campbeltown Ferry;
- Tayinloan to Ardmish (Gigha) Ferry;
- Kintyre Way: Clachan to Tayinloan;
- Kintyre Way: Tayinloan to Carradale;

- Kintyre Way: Carradale to Campbeltown and Section of Core Path C088;
- Kintyre Way: Campbeltown to Dunaverty and Section of Core Path C081;
- Kintyre Way: Southend to Machrihanish and Section of Core Path C090;
- Core Path C089;
- Core Path C086;
- Core Paths C087, C447 & C448;
- Core Path C082; and
- Core Path C083.

8.10.9 Potential effects have been assessed for receptors on each of these routes (refer to Appendix 8.6) and a further description of the potential significant effects is provided in Section 8.12.

Modifying Influences

8.10.10 The prevalence of coniferous forest plantation in the study area will result in a landscape which is regularly changing. This has the potential to alter perception of the proposed development, particularly affecting visibility of turbine elements. Forestry plans and practices have been considered as part of the assessment process.

8.11 Visual Effects Evaluation

Receptors at Viewpoints

8.11.1 Receptors at 27 viewpoints within the 40 km study area have been included in this assessment. The locations for these are shown on Figure 8.7 and visualisations are shown on Figures 8.9.1 to 8.9.27. Assessment for receptors at these viewpoints is contained in Appendix 8.6 and is summarised below in Table 8.15.

Table 8.15: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment			
Viewpoint		Visual Effect (During Construction & Operation)	Visual Effect Significance (During Construction & Operation)
VP1	A83 at Glenbarr Burial Ground	Moderate-Major	Significant
VP2	Glenbarr War Memorial	Moderate	Significant
VP3	Barr Glen	Moderate	Significant
VP4	Islay Ferry Route	Negligible	Non-significant
VP5	Gigha (South Pier)	Minor –Moderate	Non-significant
VP6	Machrihanish (Little Scone)	Moderate	Significant
VP7	Stewarton	Moderate	Significant
VP8	Southend Road	Moderate	Significant
VP9	Campbeltown (Ralston Road)	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
VP10	Beinn Ghuilean	Moderate	Significant
VP11	High Peninver	Moderate-Major	Significant
VP12	Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way)	Moderate	Significant
VP13	A' Cruach (Kintyre Way)	Moderate	Significant
VP14	Allt a Choire	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
VP15	Ballywilline (Kintyre Way)	Moderate	Significant

Table 8.15: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint		Visual Effect (During Construction & Operation)	Visual Effect Significance (During Construction & Operation)
VP16	Kilbrannan Sound	Minor	Non-significant
VP17	Breakachy	Major (in construction); Moderate-Major (in operation)	Significant
VP18	Skeroblingarry (Kintyre Way)	Minor	Non-significant
VP19	Drumlemble	Moderate	Significant
VP20	Rhunahaorine Point (Kintyre Way)	Negligible	Non-significant
VP21	B842 North of Peninver	Minor	Non-significant
VP22	Campbeltown Airport	Minor	Non-significant
VP23	Beinn Bharrain	Negligible-Minor	Non-significant
VP24	Sea near Machrihanish	Moderate	Significant
VP25	Ranachan Hill	Major (in construction); Moderate-Major (in operation)	Significant
VP26	Westport Beach	Negligible	Non-significant
VP27	Machrihanish Dunes	Moderate	Significant

8.11.2 Receptors at viewpoints outside of the 11 km study area and at viewpoints more contained by landform and/or coniferous forest plantation (11 of 27 viewpoints) were identified as likely to receive **non-significant** visual effects.

8.11.3 Receptors at viewpoints located within approximately 10.8 km (16 of 27 viewpoints) were identified as likely to receive **significant** visual effects during construction and operation. For receptors at these viewpoints, the proposed development would be noticeable in valued parts of the view, and from most locations would be seen where the existing Tangy I and II is currently visible. Whilst the proposed turbines would be larger in scale than the existing Tangy I and II turbines (where visible), they would frequently be perceived as a small part of the overall view. A summary of the assessment for receptors at these viewpoints are detailed in the following section.

VP1: A83 at Glenbarr Burial Ground

8.11.4 This VP represents views from the A83 in the APQ and illustrates views from the burial ground to the north of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.1.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 4.9 km.

8.11.5 The principal view for travellers is in the direction of travel (i.e. north or south). Main views for other receptors at this location are panoramic, towards the sea to the north, west and south, along the coast. The blades of existing Tangy I and II turbines are visible on the skyline to the south. The settlement of Bellochantuy is also visible to the south. The walled burial ground features in the foreground of westerly coastal views with a distinctive Victorian gothic style gate. Islay and Jura are visible on the horizon to the north-west and views to the east are contained by bluff slope. Given the existing visibility of wind turbine blade tips in main views towards Tangy, it is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

8.11.6 The number of turbines theoretically visible and the horizontal spread of the wind farm in southerly main views above bluff slopes would be unchanged when compared to the existing wind farm, although the increased scale of the turbines would result in blade hubs as well as blade tips being visible and they would appear noticeably larger and prominent in the view than existing

Tangy I and II turbines. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.

- 8.11.7 Therefore, there would be a medium-high magnitude of change and **moderate-major** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP2: Glenbarr War Memorial

- 8.11.8 This VP represents views from northern Glenbarr settlement and illustrates views from receptors visiting this memorial or travelling along the A83, to the north of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.2.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 7.2 km.
- 8.11.9 The principal view for travellers is in the direction of travel (i.e. north or south). Main views for other receptors at this location are panoramic, but focussed south and north. In main elevated views to the south, the road drops down towards the mouth of Glen Barr with rolling pasture and settlement visible either side of this and existing Tangy I and II turbines visible on the skyline above the coniferous plantation. In main elevated views to the north, the road slopes down and along the coast, through fields. In side views to the east, the monument is the primary focus in the foreground, and turbines at Beinn an Tuirc Phase 1 can be seen inland, on the skyline. In side views to the west, views are over fields towards the sea with Gigha, Jura and Islay visible in the distance, including existing turbines on Gigha. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.10 The number of turbine tips and hubs theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread of the wind farm in southerly main views would increase when compared to the existing wind farm. The increased scale of the turbines would result in blade hubs as well as blade tips being visible above plantation on the skyline. The proposed turbines would appear noticeably larger than the existing Tangy I and II turbines in main views but would be a small part of the overall panoramic view. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be perceptible.
- 8.11.11 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP3: Barr Glen

- 8.11.12 This VP represents views from the public road and scattered properties in the western part of Glen Barr (but is not representative of views from Glenbarr settlement), to the north of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.3.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 7.1 km.
- 8.11.13 Main views are channelled along the valley: north-east along the valley and south-west along the valley towards the sea. In views to the south-west, some existing Tangy I and II turbines are visible to the south as blade tips on the skyline, partially screened by coniferous forest plantation. In views to the north-east, wind turbines at Beinn an Tuirc Phase 1 are clearly visible on this skyline. Side views across the valley are of mixed woodlands, agricultural fields, scattered farmsteads, conifer plantations and open moorland. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.14 The proposed turbines would be visible as blades and some hubs above coniferous forest plantation on the skyline and would be noticeably larger than the existing turbines. The horizontal spread of the wind farm in southerly views would increase when compared to the existing wind farm. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.

8.11.15 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP6: Machrihanish (Little Scone)

8.11.16 This VP represents views from Machrihanish settlement, taken from a coastal location by Little Scone and the B843, to the south-west of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.6.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 8.3 km.

8.11.17 Main views are to the north across Machrihanish Bay along the sandy beach and west coastline of Kintyre. Views include scattered properties along the distant coast and more concentrated development visible at Campbeltown airport and RAF Machrihanish. The southern edge of Kintyre's interior upland forms the skyline beyond with large blocks of conifer woodland and the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm visible on the skyline. Oblique, side and rear views also include buildings of Machrihanish settlement and the B843 road. Side and oblique views to the north-west and west extend across the sea, including the islands of Gigha, Islay and Jura. It is considered that there would be a high sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

8.11.18 The proposed turbines would be visible in main northerly views on the skyline in front of coniferous forest plantation. The number of turbines theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase when compared with the existing wind farm. The composition of the wind farm would be an improvement to the existing turbines, however, they would appear noticeably larger in the view than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. Construction activities would be visible in main views and it is also likely that the removal and replanting of conifer plantation and some ancillary elements such as transformers may be perceptible. However, given the intervening distance it is not likely that access tracks would be seen, following ground reinstatement measures.

8.11.19 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP7: Stewarton

8.11.20 This VP illustrates open views from Stewarton settlement, at the junction between the B842 and B843 roads, to the south of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.7.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 8.5 km.

8.11.21 The main views from this VP are to north across Aros Moss, over pasture, scattered farms towards the distinct Ranachan Hill. Blades of an existing turbine at Tangy I and II can be seen on this skyline, above coniferous plantation. Two existing turbines are present in the foreground and Campbeltown airport and associated infrastructure are in the midground. Side and rear views to the east and south are largely contained by local topography and nearby housing. It is considered that sensitivity to change would be medium from this viewpoint.

8.11.22 The proposed turbines would be visible in main northerly views on the skyline. The number of turbine tips theoretically visible would increase, while the number of hubs theoretically visible would decrease when compared with the existing wind farm. The increased scale of the turbines would be more prominent on the skyline and would occupy a larger part of the view either side of Ranachan Hill. They would be seen above two existing domestic scale wind turbines in the foreground. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.

8.11.23 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP8: Southend Road

- 8.11.24 This VP represents elevated views from the B842 approaching Stewarton, including those nearby scattered properties with similar views, to the south of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.8.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 10.8 km.
- 8.11.25 From this location, the main views are elevated expansive northerly views across Aros Moss. Views are panoramic, but directed north along road and include scattered farmsteads and settlement amongst low flat fields with dry stone walls or post and wire fences. The upland skyline in the distance consists of conifer plantation and moorland. Existing Tangy I and II wind turbines are visible on the skyline to the north, above coniferous forest plantation. Oblique views south-east and north-west are of enclosing foreground hill sides with moorland and/ or enclosed fields. Rear views to south-west are of the elevated road with mature hedgerows and wooded hill skyline in background. It is considered that sensitivity to change would be medium from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.26 The proposed turbines would be visible in main northerly panoramic views on the skyline. The number of turbines theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase compared to the existing wind farm. The turbines would appear more prominent on the skyline. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting) and construction activity would be visible, but tracks would not be at this angle.
- 8.11.27 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP10: Beinn Ghulean

- 8.11.28 This VP illustrates elevated views from a hillside seating area south of Campbeltown and south-east of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.10.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 10.5 km.
- 8.11.29 Main panoramic views are north over Campbeltown, with Campbeltown Loch and Crosshill Loch prominent in views. Beyond this area, there is an attractive juxtaposition between Aros Moss and the upland interior of Kintyre beyond. Existing turbines at Tangy I and II are visible here along with several agricultural scale turbines. To the east, Arran is visible in some conditions but distant. Topography and coniferous plantation contains long range views to the east, south and west. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.30 The proposed turbines would be visible in main panoramic views. The number of turbine tips and hubs theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase compared to the existing wind farm. The turbines would appear larger and more prominent on the skyline than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. Construction activities would be visible in main views but at a distance. It is also likely that the removal of conifer plantation and some ancillary elements such as transformers may be perceptible. However, given the intervening distance it is not likely that access tracks would be seen following reinstatement measures.
- 8.11.31 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP11: High Peninver

- 8.11.32 This VP illustrates views from a rural glen and local road to the east of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.11.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 6.9 km.
- 8.11.33 Main views are channelled along the valley and local road to the east and west. Views to the east are towards the sea and Arran. Views to the west are up the valley towards higher hills, looking across fields of open pasture and woodland blocks near the Lussa Water and scattered farmsteads. The Glen Lussa power station and associated pipeline are visible on the valley floor, and wood pole

lines pass through the valley in a variety of directions. Coniferous plantation has been planted on the valley slopes and can be seen extending along the upland interior to the north. Existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm is not visible. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

- 8.11.34 There is currently no visibility of the existing Tangy I and II turbines from this view point, so all changes would represent an increase in visibility when compared with the existing view. The proposed turbine blades and hubs would be very noticeable along the horizon of main, framed westerly views (where existing Tangy I and II turbines are currently not visible). Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.
- 8.11.35 Therefore, there would be a medium-high magnitude of change and **moderate-major** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP12: Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way)

- 8.11.36 This VP illustrates views from an elevated point north-east of the proposed development on the Kintyre Way near Bord a Dubh, which include views of Lussa Loch (on the Carradale to Campbeltown section). Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.12.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 4.0 km.
- 8.11.37 Main elevated views are to the south-west along a forested valley, towards Lussa Loch and loch-side property with meandering river along valley floor. Rear and side views are contained by valley sides and mature plantation. Existing Tangy I and II turbines are not visible. It is considered that there would be a high sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.38 There is currently no visibility of the existing Tangy I and II turbines from this view point, so all changes would represent an increase in visibility when compared with the existing view. The proposed turbine blades and hubs would be noticeable on the horizon of main, framed views to the south-west above coniferous forest plantation and they would be relatively large in scale. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.
- 8.11.39 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP13: A' Cruach (Kintyre Way)

- 8.11.40 This VP illustrates views from an elevated point north-east of the proposed development on the Kintyre Way near A' Cruach (on the Carradale to Campbeltown section), within coniferous plantation. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.13.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 6.9 km.
- 8.11.41 Main elevated views are along a forested valley to the south-west, towards existing Tangy I and II turbines which are visible on the skyline in a dip in the landform and are the focus of the view. Forestry access tracks, blocks of mature trees, open moor and recently planted areas of conifers can be seen across a large area. In side views to the north-west, existing turbines at Beinn an Tuirc 2 are prominent on the skyline. Rear and side views are contained by valley sides and mature plantation. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.42 The proposed turbines would be seen in main views with existing turbines in side views in relatively close proximity (Beinn an Tuirc Phase 2). The number of turbine tips and hubs theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase compared to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. The proposed turbines would appear noticeably larger in the main view, on the skyline than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would be barely perceptible.

8.11.43 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP15: Ballywilline (Kintyre Way)

8.11.44 This VP illustrates views from a local road and the Kintyre Way, to the south-east of the proposed development including views from those properties at Calliburn with similar views. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.15.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 5.5 km.

8.11.45 Main views are along the road to the north and south. Main views north are open, over undulating moorland and pastureland to coniferous plantation, above which existing Tangy I and II turbine blades are visible on the horizon. They are small in relation to other landscape features and not a prominent feature within the view. Main views south are towards the intensive agriculture of the low-lying Aros Moss, the western extents of Campbeltown and wooded hills beyond. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

8.11.46 The proposed turbine blades and hubs would be visible in main views to the north on the skyline, above coniferous forest plantation. The number of turbine tips and hubs theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase compared to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. They would be more noticeable than the existing turbines and would occupy a larger part of the northerly view. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.

8.11.47 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP17: Breakachy

8.11.48 This VP represents close-range elevated views from the south-west of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.17.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 1.3 km.

8.11.49 Main views are to the north, towards the existing Tangy I and II turbines which are prominent and nearby in the view. To the north and east, the transition from pastoral fields to open moor and the characteristic plantation of the uplands can be seen clearly. This features a rolling topography with broadleaf woodland adjacent to valleys and scattered farmsteads. There is a narrow view to the nearby coast, channelled west along a valley. Nearby intervening topography prevents this visual connection elsewhere. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

8.11.50 The number of turbines theoretically visible and the horizontal spread would be unchanged when compared to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. However, the proposed turbines would be noticeably larger in main views to the north, in close proximity. Construction activity and removal of conifer plantation would be noticeable and some access tracks and ancillary elements such as transformers would be visible.

8.11.51 Therefore, during construction there would be a high magnitude of change and **major** and **significant** visual effect that would reduce in the long term to medium-high magnitude of change and **moderate-major** and **significant** visual effects during operation.

VP19: Drumlemble

8.11.52 This VP represents views from the northern periphery of Drumlemble settlement on the A83 road, to the south of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.19.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 8.5 km.

8.11.53 This viewpoint is at a roadside bus stop within a settlement south of the proposed development. Orientation of properties within the settlement is such that the main view is north across Aros

Moss. This includes flat, low-lying and open pastoral fields with occasional farmsteads and Kintyre's upland interior beyond the distinct hills which mark its southern extent. Campbeltown Airport and existing turbines at Tangy I and II are also in this view. The pattern of open farmland and rounded hills continues to the east. Nearby properties largely contain views to the south and west. It is considered that there would be a high sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

- 8.11.54 The proposed turbines would be visible in main northerly views on the skyline and would be noticeably larger in comparison with the existing Tangy I and II turbines. The change in visual composition would also be noticeable. These changes would be seen as part of a panoramic view. Construction activities and the removal of conifer plantation and some ancillary elements such as transformers may be perceptible. However, given the intervening distance it is not likely that access tracks would be seen following ground reinstatement measures.
- 8.11.55 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP24: Sea near Machrihanish

- 8.11.56 This VP illustrates views from water-users in Machrihanish Bay, to the south-west of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.24.1-4. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 7.2 km.
- 8.11.57 This is a viewpoint with 360° panoramic main views from open water representative of views for those aboard recreational watercrafts. The nearest view of land is to the west coast of the Kintyre, particularly the beach at Links of Machrihanish. To the north is a more rugged stretch of coastline and the island of Gigha is visible on the skyline. The settlement of Machrihanish is visible to the south and there are also views to the north coast of Ireland. Beyond the links there are views of Campbeltown Airport and associated infrastructure and, to the north, existing turbines at Tangy I and II can be seen. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.
- 8.11.58 The proposed turbines would be visible in northerly views on the skyline in front of coniferous forest plantation. They would appear noticeably larger and prominent in the view than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. Construction activities would be visible and it is also likely that the removal of conifer plantation and some ancillary elements such as transformers would be visible. However, given the intervening distance it is not likely that access tracks would be seen following ground reinstatement measures.
- 8.11.59 Therefore, there would be a medium magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

VP25: Ranachan Hill

- 8.11.60 This VP illustrates elevated views from a nearby high point to the south of the proposed development. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.25.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 3.4 km.
- 8.11.61 There are 360° panoramic views from this rounded hilltop and open views to the extensive upland interior of Kintyre nearby across a mosaic of moorland and plantation. In views to the north, wind turbines at Tangy I and II and Beinn an Tuirc Phases 1 & 2 are noticeable. In views to the east, a patchwork of undulating moor and improved pasture is visible with scattered farmsteads and a small area of west Arran in the distance. Campbeltown can be seen to the south-west. There are also extensive views across Aros Moss, the settled lowland farmland to the south, with Campbeltown Airport and nearby infrastructure and settlement prominent in views. To the west, the agricultural upland fringe can be seen adjacent to gentle slopes and Machrihanish Bay with Islay on the horizon. Agricultural scale wind turbines are visible here. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint.

- 8.11.62 The proposed turbines would be visible in close proximity and would appear noticeably larger in the scale than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. However, turbine composition would be improved with turbines better spaced and with reduced instances of turbine blades clashing or stacking. The proposed turbine at the left of view would be further inland than that of the existing wind farm, pulling back from the coast and improving the relationship with the upland interior. Removal of conifer plantation would be noticeable and access tracks and ancillary elements such as transformers may be visible.
- 8.11.63 Therefore, during construction there would be a high magnitude of change and **major** and **significant** visual effect that would reduce in the long term to medium-high magnitude of change and **moderate-major** and **significant** visual effects during operation.

VP27: Machrihanish Dunes

- 8.11.64 This VP represents views from Machrihanish Dunes golf course, taken from near the clubhouse. Visualisations are presented in Figures 8.9.27.1-5. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible proposed turbine is 4.2 km.
- 8.11.65 There are wide panoramic main views from this VP across open dunes and coastal views to west and south. Northerly views are towards the Kintyre uplands. Existing Tangy I and II turbines are visible on the horizon, occupying a small part of the view. It is considered that there would be a medium sensitivity to change from this viewpoint. In northern views, proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline. The number of turbine tips and hubs theoretically visible would decrease while the horizontal spread would increase compared to the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. The proposed turbines would be noticeably larger than the existing turbines but they would take up a relatively small portion of the overall view. Other permanent elements of the proposed development (e.g. felling/replanting, new tracks or ancillary elements) and construction activity would not be visible.
- 8.11.66 Therefore, there would be a high magnitude of change and **moderate** and **significant** visual effect during construction and operation.

Receptors in Settlements

- 8.11.67 Receptors in 10 settlements within the 40 km study area have been included in this assessment. Receptors in 34 settlements within the 40 km study area were not included in the assessment, as described in Appendix 8.3. The locations for these are shown on Figures 8.8.1 and 8.8.2. Assessment for receptors in these settlements is contained in Appendix 8.7 and is summarised below in Table 8.16.
- 8.11.68 The assessment reflects the worst-case visual effect for receptors in each settlement. Details of those receptors affected are included in Appendix 8.7.

Table 8.16: Summary of Settlement Assessment		
Settlement	Visual Effect (During Construction & Operation)	Visual Effect Significance (During Construction & Operation)
Ardminish	Minor	Non-significant
Campbeltown	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Drumlemble	Moderate	Significant
Glenbarr	Moderate	Significant
Kilchenzie	Minor	Non-significant
Killeonan / Knocknaha	Minor	Non-significant
Machrihanish	Moderate	Significant

Table 8.16: Summary of Settlement Assessment

Settlement	Visual Effect (During Construction & Operation)	Visual Effect Significance (During Construction & Operation)
Peninver	Minor	Non-significant
RAF Machrihanish	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Stewarton	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant

8.11.69 Receptors in 7 of 10 settlements included in the assessment were identified as likely to receive **non-significant** visual effects due to the effects of distance, screening from landform and coniferous forest plantation, sensitivity and directions of main views and the visual context of the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm.

8.11.70 Receptors in 3 of 10 settlements included in the assessment were identified as likely to receive **significant** visual effects during both construction and operation. These settlements are all located within approximately 7-10 km of the proposed development, where it would be noticeable in some main views, on the skyline from the south (Drumlemble and Machrihanish) and north (Glenbarr), where existing Tangy I and II turbines are currently visible. A summary of the assessment for receptors in these settlements are detailed in the following section.

Drumlemble

8.11.71 This is a settlement which appears to have originally developed along the south side of the B843 as a row of semi-detached cottages, in close proximity to one another, oriented to the north. A former village hall and farm are positioned to the north of the road and partially restrict views from these cottages. There are now several rows of 20th Century cottages to the south of this originating group, set down from the road and with views to the plain blocked by the older properties.

8.11.72 Main views are north across Aros Moss towards Campbeltown Airport and existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm on the skyline. From properties south of the B843, views are across the B843 road, parking area with roadside properties in foreground. Similar views are obtained from some other scattered properties situated to the east and west of the main settlement core, along the B843.

8.11.73 The approximate distance between Drumlemble and the proposed development is 9.5 km. From properties potentially affected, the main views are towards the proposed development and the affected view is an important one. There is therefore a high visual sensitivity to change from these receptors.

8.11.74 The ZTV suggests that the proposed development would be visible from the whole of the settlement. In reality, the proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline (in a manner similar to that shown by VP19) principally from those properties adjacent to the B843. The change in scale and visual composition would be noticeable in comparison with the existing turbines. They would not be visible from the newer properties to the south, due to screening from other buildings.

8.11.75 This would be a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the highly valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Glenbarr

8.11.76 The settlement of Glenbarr is located to the east of the A83. It is divided into two distinct clusters. Northern Glenbarr features a row of semi-detached, 20th Century housing. Southern Glenbarr comprises a street of cottages, a local store and attached garden centre with frontages oriented to look east or west. Further south, in the valley base and close to the Barr Water, is Glenbarr Abbey (a large 18th Century property).

- 8.11.77 Main views from receptors in northern Glenbarr are elevated and to the south, across an adjacent field, to the forested ridge and slopes at Blary Hill, south of Barr Glen, with existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm seen above coniferous forest plantation. Main views from receptors in southern Glenbarr are more contained and are oriented east-west. There are some views of the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm in views from side windows and from public areas.
- 8.11.78 The approximate distance between Glenbarr and the proposed development is 7.5 km. The receptors in the northern Glenbarr would be affected in their main view, while receptors in southern Glenbarr would be affected in side views. There is therefore a medium-high visual sensitivity to change from these receptors.
- 8.11.79 The proposed development would not be visible from Glenbarr Abbey or southernmost properties in Glenbarr. From properties in the more elevated part of southern Glenbarr, the proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline as full turbines above coniferous forest plantation. They would be seen in side views from properties partially screened by neighbouring buildings and/or vegetation and in main views from the road. From northern Glenbarr, full turbines would be visible on the skyline, above coniferous forest plantation in a manner similar to that indicated by VP2. They would appear noticeably larger in the view than existing Tangy I and II and would create more of a focal point, but would be a small part of the overall view.
- 8.11.80 This would be a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Machrihanish

- 8.11.81 This is a linear coastal settlement, located on the B843, by Machrihanish Bay. The Ugdale Hotel and Machrihanish Golf Club are situated at the centre of the village while houses with large gardens, set back from the road, are located to their east. To their west, gardens are smaller or absent and with additional, more recent, building phases to the south of the historic properties. A small number of houses are positioned to the north of the B843 at this western extent.
- 8.11.82 Main open views are north along the coast, across the Links of Machrihanish, towards Aros Moss, the Kintyre Uplands and existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. Main views from properties to the south of the clubhouse and hotel are largely introverted views. These views are likely to be reflective of views from some other scattered properties around Machrihanish, along and near the B843.
- 8.11.83 The approximate distance between Machrihanish and the proposed development is 9.0 km. The affected view for receptors is important and so there is a high visual sensitivity to change.
- 8.11.84 The proposed turbines would be visible in main views on the skyline, above the coniferous forest plantation and would be noticeably larger in scale than the existing turbines. The proposed turbines would be screened by buildings from receptors in properties in southern Machrihanish.
- 8.11.85 This would be a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the highly valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Receptors on Routes

- 8.11.86 Receptors on 17 routes within the 40 km study area have been included in this assessment. Receptors on 12 routes within the 40 km study area were not included in the assessment, as described in Appendix 8.3. The locations for these are shown on Figures 8.7 and 8.8.1 and/or 8.8.2. Assessment for receptors on these routes is contained in Appendix 8.6 and is summarised below in Table 8.17.

Table 8.17: Summary of Route Assessment		
Route	Visual Effect (During Construction & Operation)	Visual Effect Significance (During Construction & Operation)
A83, including Core Path C304	Moderate	Significant
B842, including Core Path C084 and part of NCR78	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
B843 and Core Path C085	Moderate	Significant
Kennacraig to Port Askaig (Islay) Ferry	Negligible	Non-significant
Kennacraig to Port Ellen (Islay) Ferry	Negligible	Non-significant
Ardrossan to Campbeltown Ferry	Minor	Non-significant
Tayinloan to Ardmish (Gigha) Ferry	Minor	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Clachan to Tayinloan	Negligible	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Tayinloan to Carradale	Negligible	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Carradale to Campbeltown and Section of Core Path C088	Moderate	Significant
Kintyre Way: Campbeltown to Dunaverty and Section of Core Path C081	Negligible	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Southend to Machrihanish and Section of Core Path C090	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Core Path C089	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Core Path C086	Moderate	Significant
Core Path C087, C447, C448	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Core Path C082	Negligible	Non-significant
Core Path C083	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant

8.11.87 Receptors on the majority of routes within the study area (13 of 17 routes included in the assessment) would receive **non-significant** visual effects. This is due to screening from coniferous forest plantation.

8.11.88 Receptors on routes within approximately 11 km of the proposed development (4 of 17 routes included in the assessment) were identified as likely to receive **significant** visual effects during construction and operation. A summary of the assessment for receptors on these routes are detailed in the following section.

A83, including Core Path C304

8.11.89 This is the principal road north and south for those on the Kintyre Peninsula and within the study area, connects Campbeltown with Corranbuie, near West Tarbert. Outside the study area, it runs via Tarbert on the shores of Loch Fyne to Tarbet near Loch Lomond. Within the study area, the A83 carries traffic along (or close to) the west coast of Kintyre and, as such, views are often focussed

out to sea, where the islands of Gigha, Islay and Jura are prominent features. The road passes through an Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) between Clachan and Westport Beach, minus a section around Glenbarr. A short section of the A83 at Glenbarr is also Core Path C304 (Glenbarr School Route).

- 8.11.90 Figures 8.7 and 8.8.1/8.8.2 show the extent of the route potentially affected by the proposed development (5.1 km of a 51 km route). VP1 (A83 at Glenbarr Burial Ground) and VP2 (Glenbarr War Memorial) are located alongside the A83 and are illustrative representative of views which could be obtained at points along the route.
- 8.11.91 The ZTV suggests that the proposed turbines would potentially be visible from the relatively short section of the A83 between the area around Glenbarr War Memorial (also a Core Path) and south of Glenbarr Burial Ground and, intermittently, between the coastline south of Bellochantuy and Westport Beach. Turbines would appear on the skyline and would be noticeably larger in view than the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm. The extent would be similar to that currently affected by the existing wind farm. In addition, there is new visibility in the vicinity of Drum Farm and Kilchenzie (although assessment has found that from the A83 at Kilchenzie, potential visibility arising at these locations would be minimal, with some blade tips on the horizon).
- 8.11.92 Where views of the proposed development would occur, they are often channelled by adjacent topography and at close proximity. Although there are generally views of the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm at these locations, it is considered that there would be a high sensitivity to change here. At the affected points, the change described would result in a noticeable change in the existing view during construction and operation. There would be some new detracting features within the view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

B843 and Core Path C085

- 8.11.93 This is a short road and Core Path C085 (Stewarton to Machrihanish) connecting the settlements of Stewarton and Machrihanish, passing through the settlement of Drumlemble.
- 8.11.94 Figures 8.7 and 8.8.2 shows the extent of the route potentially affected by the proposed development (7.3 km of a 7.3 km route). VP6 (Machrihanish, Little Scone), VP7 (Stewarton) and VP19 (Drumlemble) are located alongside the B843 and are representative of side views which could be obtained from the route.
- 8.11.95 The ZTV suggests that the proposed turbines would be visible from the whole of this route. In the majority of areas, the proposed development is perpendicular to the direction of travel and proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline in mostly side/oblique views and some main views. Turbines would be noticeably larger than the existing Tangy I and II turbines, but would be a small part of the overall view. In places, construction activities would be visible and it is likely that the removal of conifer plantation and some ancillary elements would also be visible. However, given the intervening distance it is not likely that access tracks would be seen following ground reinstatement measures.

- 8.11.96 There would be a medium sensitivity to change. The proposed development would result in a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Kintyre Way: Carradale to Campbeltown and Section of Core Path C088

- 8.11.97 From Carradale, this section of the Kintyre Way follows minor roads and paths to rocky shore at Waterfoot and then passes Torrisdale Castle via access roads before joining forestry tracks and climbing out of Torrisdale Glen and crossing hills before dropping back down and into Saddell Glen. It then runs west through Saddell Glen before climbing once again along forestry access tracks to A' Cruach and joining Core Path C088 (Campbeltown to Claonaig). It then follows the line of the Bordadubh Water, a small watercourse which feeds Loch Lussa. At Loch Lussa, the route

joins a public road to the east of the proposed development, joins the A83 and passes into Campbeltown.

- 8.11.98 Figures 8.7 and 8.8.1/8.8.2 show the extent of the route potentially affected by the proposed development (7.7 km of a 32 km route). VP12 (Bord a Dubh), VP13 (A' Cruach), VP15 (Ballywilline) and VP18 (Skeroblingarry) are located alongside this section of the Kintyre Way and illustrate a variety of views experienced along this section.
- 8.11.99 ZTV analysis indicates that the proposed development would theoretically be visible along this route between A' Cruach and the north of Lussa Loch and the south of Lussa Loch and Ballywilline. In reality, turbines would be visible in intermittent views, but screened from views in other sections (for instance, near Lussa Loch) by coniferous forestry and landform. Where visible, turbines would appear large in scale, particularly at closest points (e.g. VP18) where receptors would feel very close to the wind farm. Turbines would therefore be glimpsed to varying degrees whilst travelling along this route, with the large turbines prominent at points.
- 8.11.100 Given existing wind turbines which affect the view from this route, there would be a medium sensitivity to change. The change described would result in a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the highly valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Core Path C086

- 8.11.101 Core Path C086 (Links of Machrihanish) is a coastal path that runs along the Links of Machrihanish where there are open, panoramic views along the beach, across the golf course and out to sea. The existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm is visible on the skyline to the north and Machrihanish settlement visible to the south. The buildings of Campbeltown Airport are visible from some sections of the path.
- 8.11.102 Figure 8.7 and 8.8.2 show the extent of the route potentially affected by the proposed development (6 km of a 6.2 km route). VP26 (Westport Beach) illustrates views from the northernmost end of this route, but does not represent views from the majority of the route.
- 8.11.103 ZTV analysis suggests that the proposed development would be theoretically visible along the majority of this route, in open, panoramic views. Receptors on the northernmost section of this route at Westport Beach would experience limited views of the proposed development (e.g. VP26) or no views. From the majority of the route, the proposed turbines would be seen in main views drawn along the coast, across Machrihanish Bay, appearing larger than the existing wind turbines at Tangy I and II, which are currently visible. New tracks, ancillary features, forest felling and replanting may be perceptible from some locations, as would construction activities, but in the distance.
- 8.11.104 There would be a medium sensitivity to change. The change described would result in a noticeable change in the existing view, both during and after construction, and so a medium magnitude of change. When compared to the existing view, there would be some new detracting features within the highly valued view and so a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 8.11.105 The findings of the visual assessment are summarised in Table 8.18 below. The assessment found that visual effects would be **significant** for receptors:
- at 16 of 27 viewpoints during both construction and operation, all located within the 11 km study area;
 - in 3 of 10 settlements during both construction and operation, all located within the 11 km study area; and

- on 4 of 17 routes during both construction and operation, for receptors located within the 11 km study area.

Table 8.18: Summary of Visual Assessment

Receptor Group	Scoped Out of LVIA	Visual Effects													
		During Construction							During Operation						
		Negligible	Negligible - Minor	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major	Negligible	Negligible - Minor	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Receptors at Viewpoints	-	3	1	4	3	11	3	2	3	1	4	3	12	4	
Receptors in Settlements	34			4	3	3					4	3	3		
Receptors on Routes	12	6		2	5	4			6		2	5	4		

8.12 Cumulative Visual Assessment

8.12.1 Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of similar type within the landscape. In terms of visual amenity, cumulative visual effects may result where a number of wind energy developments combine, to increase the appearance and prominence within a particular view. The likely significance of these effects relates to the number of wind developments visible and their scale, location and inter-relationship to each other within the view.

Cumulative Visual Assessment Methodology

8.12.2 The methodology for the cumulative visual assessment is based on that described in SNH guidance (SNH, 2012). The assessment considers the potential for combined views of wind developments from receptors at selected viewpoints and on routes. Combined views of wind energy development may be either ‘in combination’ (where turbines from different developments would be observable at the same time⁵) or ‘in succession’⁶ (where an observer would be required to turn to experience multiple developments). The assessment also considers the potential for sequential effects experienced from receptors on routes where different wind developments become visible whilst moving through the landscape. Sequential impacts may be occasional, frequent or constant.

8.12.3 The cumulative visual assessment has involved four key stages:

- Identification and analysis of the baseline wind energy development scenario from receptors at each viewpoint/ route;
- Evaluation of the cumulative visual sensitivity to change;
- Evaluation of the potential magnitude of visual change to the baseline scenario resulting from the proposed development; and

⁵ Sites visible **in combination** with the Development refer to those that are visible within the observer’s arc of vision with the Development. That is, within a 90° field of view of the Development, where the Development may be on the edge of the 90° field of view. Sites within 60-90° would be within the observer’s peripheral field of view and are marked accordingly.

⁶ Site visible **in succession** with the Development refer to those that are visible when the observer turns their head away from the Development.

- Assessment of the potential cumulative visual effects arising from the introduction of the proposed development to the baseline scenario.

Identification and Analysis of the Baseline Wind Energy Development Scenario

- 8.12.4 Analysis of the baseline involves an appreciation of the existing view within the context of the baseline wind development scenario, which assumes that all consented and proposed (application) wind developments have been constructed. Proposed sites are taken to be those for which planning applications have been submitted, or where the applications have gone to appeal.
- 8.12.5 Baseline information on operational, consented and proposed (application) wind developments within the 60 km cumulative search area has been collected and the baseline wind energy development scenario defined, as detailed in 8.8.17 to 8.8.18.
- 8.12.6 For visual receptors, identification of the baseline cumulative visual context involves consideration of the scale, location and nature of the baseline wind developments within the view, the proportion of the view which is occupied by wind turbines and the potential importance of this part of the view to the viewer.

Evaluation of the Cumulative Visual Sensitivity to Change

- 8.12.7 The evaluation of sensitivity to change concerns the nature of the existing view in the context of the baseline wind development scenario, and the potential for further wind turbines to be accommodated within that view without significantly altering, obstructing or dominating the view. An evaluation of sensitivity to change has been attributed to each receptor based on a three-point scale, detailed in Table 8.19. Where a view would fall into two different categories a degree of professional judgement is employed.

Cumulative Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
High	Where wind energy developments within the cumulative baseline scenario are well accommodated within a valued or well composed view and/or the proposed changed landscape forms an important part of the view.
Medium	Where wind energy developments within the cumulative baseline scenario are present but not prominent in the existing view, and/or the proposed changed landscape forms a less important part of the view.
Low	Where wind energy developments within the cumulative baseline scenario are prominent in an existing view and/or the changed landscape forms an unimportant part of the view

Evaluation of the Cumulative Magnitude of Visual Change

- 8.12.8 Magnitude of change concerns the measurement of change which would occur as a result of the introduction of the proposed development into the baseline wind development scenario. This is identified based on the consideration of the potential nature, size, scale and location of the proposed change within the existing view, and in relation to the existing wind farms/turbines within the view. The evaluation of the magnitude of change is based on the criteria outlined in the main visual assessment methodology.

Assessment of Potential Cumulative Visual Effects

- 8.12.9 Assessment of potential cumulative effects is based on analysis of the relationship between the cumulative sensitivity to change and the magnitude of change and is made using a degree of professional judgement. It should be noted that the cumulative effect assessed is the result of the addition of the proposed development to the existing baseline scenario. In this case, this also

includes the removal of Tangy I and II turbines, which would be replaced by the proposed development. Cumulative visual effects are assessed against the scale detailed in Table 8.20 below.

Cumulative Visual Effect	Criteria
Major	The addition of the proposed development to views of the baseline cumulative scenario would result in a very noticeable increase in wind turbines to the extent whereby they would become a dominating or obstructive feature within the view.
Moderate	The addition of the proposed development to views of the baseline cumulative scenario would result in a noticeable increase in wind turbines to the extent whereby they would become prominent but would not dominate or obstruct the view.
Minor	The addition of the proposed development to views of the baseline cumulative scenario would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines but would not increase the prominence of wind farms/turbines as a feature in the view.
Negligible	The addition of the proposed development to views of the baseline cumulative scenario would not result in any discernible increase in the appearance of wind turbines in the view.

8.12.10 The above criteria and levels of significance represent points on a continuum. Where required, interim ratings, such as minor-moderate, have been used to indicate the anticipated significance of effect.

8.12.11 For the purposes of the assessment effects with a rating of moderate or above are significant in the context of the EIA regulations.

Limitations of Cumulative Visual Assessment

8.12.12 The limitations of the cumulative visual assessment are consistent with those described in 8.8.13 to 8.8.16 for the cumulative landscape assessment.

Cumulative Baseline Scenario

8.12.13 The cumulative baseline scenario is defined in 8.8.17 to 8.8.19 and detailed in Appendix 8.4.

Receptors at Viewpoints

8.12.14 11 viewpoints within the 40 km study area have been identified for inclusion in the cumulative visual assessment. Analysis of the cumulative ZTVs led to the identification of cumulative viewpoints, selected from those used for the visual impact assessment. These viewpoints have been selected to give a representational overview of potential cumulative effects from different directions and locations within the overall study area. See Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process. Only viewpoints with potential combined visibility have been selected as only these have the potential to experience cumulative impacts.

8.12.15 These viewpoints include a cross section of distant and close proximity views from most directions and are representative of the range of cumulative impacts expected from the introduction of the proposed development (which includes removal of the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm) within the cumulative baseline scenario. A list of viewpoints included in the CLVIA are provided below (refer to Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process; and Table 8.14 in the LVIA section for descriptions and OS grid references):

- VP2: Glenbarr War Memorial;
- VP3: Barr Glen;
- VP5: Gigha (South Pier);

- VP6: Machrihanish (Little Scone);
- VP8: Southend Road;
- VP10: Beinn Ghuilean;
- VP12: Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way);
- VP13: A’Cruach (Kintyre Way);
- VP16: Kilbrannan Sound;
- VP17: Breakachy; and
- VP25: Ranachan Hill.

Receptors on Routes

8.12.16 In addition to receptors at viewpoints, receptors on 11 routes within the 40 km study area with potential visibility of the proposed development and at least one other wind development have been identified and assessed for sequential cumulative impacts. Only those routes identified as having a minor effect or greater in the main visual assessment have been included in the cumulative assessment, as it is considered that a negligible effect could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. Receptors on the following routes are included in the cumulative visual assessment (refer to Appendix 8.3 for details of the selection process):

- A83, including Core Path C304;
- B842, including Core Path C084 and part of NCR78;
- B843 and Core Path C085;
- Ardrossan to Campbeltown Ferry;
- Tayinloan to Ardmish (Gigha) Ferry;
- Kintyre Way: Carradale to Campbeltown and Section of Core Path C088;
- Kintyre Way: Southend to Machrihanish and Section of Core Path C090;
- Core Path C089;
- Core Path C086;
- Core Paths C087, C447, C448; and
- Core Path C083.

Cumulative Visual Effects Evaluation

8.12.17 A cumulative assessment of receptors at viewpoints and on routes within the 40 km study area is presented in Appendix 8.8. The following section provides an overview of cumulative visual effects, focusing on those assessed to be significant.

Receptors at Viewpoints

8.12.18 Receptors at 11 viewpoints within the 40 km study area have been included in this assessment. The locations for these are shown on Figure 8.10.1 – 8.10.3 and visualisations are shown on Figures 8.9.1.1 to 8.9.27.5. Cumulative assessment for receptors at these viewpoints is contained in Appendix 8.7 and is summarised below in Table 8.21.

Viewpoint	Cumulative Visual Effect	Cumulative Visual Effect Significance
VP2 Glenbarr War Memorial	Moderate	Significant
VP3 Barr Glen	Minor	Non-significant
VP5 Gigha (South Pier)	Minor	Non-significant

Table 8.21: Summary of Cumulative Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint	Cumulative Visual Effect	Cumulative Visual Effect Significance
VP6 Machrihanish (Little Scone)	Moderate	Significant
VP8 Southend Road	Moderate	Significant
VP10 Beinn Ghuilean	Minor	Non-significant
VP12 Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way)	Moderate	Significant
VP13 A' Cruach (Kintyre Way)	Minor	Non-significant
VP16 Kilbrannan Sound	Minor	Non-significant
VP17 Breakachy	Minor	Non-significant
VP25 Ranachan Hill	Moderate	Significant

8.12.19 Receptors at 5 of the 11 viewpoints within the cumulative assessment were identified as likely to receive **significant** cumulative visual effects. A summary of the assessment for receptors at these viewpoints are detailed in the following section.

VP2: Glenbarr War Memorial

8.12.20 Cumulative wirelines illustrating the views from VP2 are shown in Figure 8.9.2.3a-c. Some cumulative turbines shown in this visualisation would be visible 'in combination' with the proposed development and some 'in succession' (i.e. by the viewer turning to a different direction). The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible turbine from the proposed development is 7.2 km.

8.12.21 Main views are north or south along the road with side views west out to sea and east towards the Glenbarr War Memorial. In views south, existing Tangy I and II tips are visible on the skyline above coniferous forest plantation. Side views up Glen Barr to the east also include turbines of Blary Hill, Auchadaduie and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 1). Side views east over the sea also include Gigha and Gigha Extension. Sensitivity to additional change would be medium.

8.12.22 In main views to the south, turbines at the proposed development would be seen above the coniferous forest plantation in place of existing Tangy I and II but would be larger. When seen in combination with the cluster of wind developments at Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 1), Blary Hill and Auchadaduie, the proposed development would result in a noticeable increase in wind turbines in southerly views whereby they would become prominent but would not dominate or obstruct the view.

8.12.23 The proposed development would therefore result in a **moderate** and **significant** cumulative visual effect.

VP6: Machrihanish (Little Scone)

8.12.24 A cumulative wireline illustrating the view from VP6 is shown in Figure 8.9.6.3. All cumulative turbines shown in this visualisation would be visible 'in combination' with the proposed development and there would be no further turbines visible 'in succession' (i.e. by the viewer turning to a different direction). The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible turbine from the proposed development is 8.3 km.

8.12.25 Main views are to the north across Machrihanish Bay along the sandy beach and west coastline of Kintyre with Tangy I and II Wind Farm visible on the skyline. In addition, some blades and hubs of turbines at Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) would be visible on the skyline above/between coniferous forest plantations. Beinn and Tuirc (Phases 1 and 2) are largely screened by coniferous forest plantation. Turbines of Gigha and Gigha Extension may be perceptible in the distance in certain

weather conditions. The prominence, positioning and scale of wind turbines within the baseline cumulative scenario has resulted in sensitivity to additional change being low.

- 8.12.26 Turbines at the proposed development would be noticeable above the upland interior and set back from the coastal slopes and rounded hills. They would be larger and more prominent in the cumulative scenario than the existing Tangy I and II. They would be closer than other developments, and therefore of greater perceived scale.
- 8.12.27 The proposed development would therefore result in a **moderate** and **significant** cumulative visual effect.

VP8: Southend Road

- 8.12.28 Cumulative wirelines illustrating the views from VP8 are shown in Figures 8.9.8.3a-d. Cumulative turbines shown in these visualisations would be visible 'in combination' with the proposed development. The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible turbine from the proposed development is 10.8 km.
- 8.12.29 Main elevated expansive northerly views across Aros Moss. Views are panoramic, but directed north along road and include scattered farmsteads and settlement amongst low flat fields with dry stone walls or post and wire fences. The upland skyline in the distance consists of conifer plantation and moorland. Wind turbines at Tangy I and II and Beinn an Tuirc (Phases 1 and 2) are visible on the skyline to the north. Turbines of Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) would also be visible on the skyline, and some tips of Blary Hill and Killean Estate may be visible above coniferous forest plantation. Sensitivity to additional change would be low-medium.
- 8.12.30 Turbines at the proposed development would be noticeable along the interior upland skyline (in place of existing Tangy I and II), beyond rounded hills and set back from the western Kintyre coast to the west of the other cumulative baseline sites. The proposed development would be larger and appear closer than other wind farms and occupy a slightly larger portion of the view than the existing Tangy I and II turbines leading to a slightly increased presence of wind turbines in the view.
- 8.12.31 The proposed development would therefore result in a **moderate** and **significant** cumulative visual effect.

VP12: Bord a Dubh (Kintyre Way)

- 8.12.32 Cumulative wirelines illustrating the views from VP12 are shown in Figures 8.9.12.3a-d. The one other wind farm shown in these visualisations would be visible 'in succession' (i.e. by the viewer turning to a different direction). The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible turbine from the proposed development is 4 km.
- 8.12.33 Main elevated views are to the south-west along a forested valley, towards Lussa Loch and loch-side property with meandering river along river floor. Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) would be visible in rear views in relatively close proximity, above valley sides and mature plantation, partially screened/filtered by some foreground trees. Sensitivity to additional change would be medium.
- 8.12.34 Turbines at the proposed development would be noticeable on the horizon of main, framed views to the south-west above coniferous forest plantation (where existing Tangy I and II is not currently visible). With Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) prominent in rear views, the proposed development would introduce turbines to a new part of the view and may create more of a surrounding impression. However, wind turbines would not become a newly dominating feature of the view.
- 8.12.35 The proposed development would therefore result in a **moderate** and **significant** cumulative visual effect.

VP25: Ranachan Hill

- 8.12.36 Cumulative wirelines illustrating the views from VP25 are shown in Figures 8.9.25.3a-c. The majority of turbines shown in these visualisations would be visible 'in combination' with the

proposed development. Two single turbines would be visible ‘in succession’ (i.e. by the viewer turning to a different direction). The approximate distance between the viewpoint and the nearest visible turbine from the proposed development is 3.4 km.

- 8.12.37 From this viewpoint, turbines from operational, consented and application sites would be visible above the uplands in clusters in the long distance (Deucheran Hill) and the middle distance (Beinn an Tuirc Phases 1, 2 and 3). The importance of view and the prominence, positioning and scale of wind turbines within the baseline cumulative scenario has resulted in sensitivity to additional change being medium.
- 8.12.38 Turbines at the proposed development would replace existing Tangy I and II within the view. Due to their increased scale, they would increase the prominence of wind turbines within this part of the view but this would not result in wind turbines becoming newly prominent in this view as a whole. The proposed development would result in turbines being visible in another part of the upland interior, continuing the pattern of distinct development clusters. They would be closer than other developments and of greater perceived scale. They would therefore result in a **moderate** and **significant** cumulative effect.

Receptors on Routes

- 8.12.39 Receptors on 11 routes within the 40 km study area have been included in this assessment. The locations for these are shown on Figures 8.8.1 and 8.8.2. Assessment for receptors on these routes is contained in Appendix 8.6 and is summarised below in Table 8.22.

Route	Cumulative Visual Effect	Cumulative Visual Effect Significance
A83, including Core Path C304	Minor	Non-significant
B842, including Core Path C084 and part of NCR78	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
B843 and Core Path C085	Moderate	Significant
Ardrossan to Campbeltown Ferry	Negligible	Non-significant
Tayinloan to Ardminish (Gigha) Ferry	Minor	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Carradale to Campbeltown and Section of Core Path C088	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Kintyre Way: Southend to Machrihanish and Section of Core Path C090	Minor	Non-significant
Core Path C089	Minor	Non-significant
Core Path C086	Minor-Moderate	Non-significant
Core Path C087, C447, C448	Minor	Non-significant
Core Path C083	Minor	Non-significant

- 8.12.40 Receptors on one of the 11 routes included in the assessment were identified as likely to receive **significant** cumulative visual effects. A summary is detailed in the following section.

B843 and Core Path C085

- 8.12.41 This is a short, public road and Core Path connecting the settlements of Stewarton and Machrihanish, via Drumlemble.
- 8.12.42 Various wind energy developments included in the cumulative baseline scenario, including Tangy I and II, are visible from this route on the northern skyline at varying distances. Sensitivity to additional change is medium.

- 8.12.43 Turbines at the proposed development would replace Tangy I and II to the north, in a similar direction to other wind developments, but would be closer, larger and more prominent. The increased scale of the proposed development would be noticeable for receptors on this road (in place of existing Tangy I and II), and would increase the prominence of wind developments within the cumulative baseline scenario although wind turbines would not become a dominant or obstructive feature of the view.
- 8.12.44 The resulting magnitude of change would be medium and the cumulative visual effect would be a **moderate** and **significant** visual effect.

Summary of Cumulative Visual Effects

- 8.12.45 The findings of the cumulative visual assessment are summarised in Table 8.23 below. The assessment found that cumulative visual effects for receptors at 5 of 11 viewpoints and on 1 of 11 routes included in the cumulative visual assessment would be **significant**.

Table 8.23: Summary of Cumulative Visual Assessment								
Receptor Group	Scoped Out of CLVIA (from LVIA)	Cumulative Visual Effects During Operation						
		Negligible	Negligible - Minor	Minor	Minor - Moderate	Moderate	Moderate - Major	Major
Receptors at Viewpoints	16			6		5		
Receptors on Routes	6	1		6	3	1		

8.13 Summary

- 8.13.1 The landscape character assessment has identified that the majority of landscape effects in relation to the proposed development would be **not significant**. **No significant effects** are anticipated in relation to landscape designations. Potential **significant effects** have been identified for two of the six LCTs which make up the 11 km detailed study area: Bay Farmland and Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic. These effects are anticipated to result from the increased appearance of the larger turbines on the southern edge of the forested upland core of Kintyre which forms a context and backdrop to surrounding agricultural fringes, foothills and valleys, and the low-lying landscape of Aros Moss. However, effects are considered to be **Moderate and Significant** as the proposed development is anticipated to be noticeable and locally intrusive, rather than a dominating feature. These effects would be limited to a radius of around 8 km from the proposed development, and are mostly within a 6 km radius. Beyond this distance all effects are anticipated to be **minor or below** and would be **not significant**.
- 8.13.2 The cumulative landscape character assessment, has found that there would be a potential **significant** cumulative effect on one designated landscape: West Coast of Kintyre APQ and parts of two LCTs: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic; and Rocky Mosaic. These effects relate to a potential increase in prominence and frequency of wind farm development when moving through the landscape and potential surrounding effect in some locations, and in the case of Rocky Mosaic which is found in several locations within the detailed study area, would affect only the western, coastal unit of the LCT. The effect in both cases is assessed as **moderate and significant**. **No significant** cumulative effect is predicted for any other LCT within the detailed study area.

- 8.13.3 The visual assessment has identified that, during construction and operation, potential effects would be **significant** for receptors at 16 of the 27 viewpoints, at 3 of the 10 settlements and on 4 of the 17 routes included in the assessment.
- 8.13.4 The cumulative visual assessment has found that potential effects would be **significant** for receptors at 5 of the 11 viewpoints and on 1 of the 11 routes included in the assessment.

8.14 References

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