

APPENDIX 8.5: LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1.1 The landscape can be affected by the proposed development in two principal ways: directly and indirectly. Direct effects occur where the proposed development would result in a physical change to the existing landscape elements features and key characteristics, whilst indirect change may occur where the proposed development would result in secondary changes affecting another landscape component or area.

1.2 Potential Landscape Effects

1.2.1 Potential effects on landscape character can result from either the introduction of new features, or the loss of existing features, and the changes to the characteristics and experience of a landscape which can result. These changes can be long term, where new permanent features are introduced (assumed to be present for a period of over ten years) or existing features are permanently lost, or temporary, where features would be present for a short time or the landscape fabric would be expected to recover.

1.2.2 The following section outlines the key changes which would occur to the landscape fabric of the study area as a result of the proposed development and which have been taken into account in the assessment of effects on landscape character.

Sources of Potential Effects- Physical Changes to the Landscape

1.2.3 The key physical change to the landscape resource would be the removal of the existing 22 turbines of 75 m in height (and associated transformers), and replacement with six turbines (and associated transformers) up to 149.9 m in height across the existing site and a further ten turbines (and associated transformers) of up to 149.9 m to the north and east of the existing site. The proposed development would therefore comprise a smaller number of turbines than currently exist, but occupy a greater area than the existing development, with increased scale of turbines.

1.2.4 The proposed development would also involve the widening and use of existing access tracks, creation of new access tracks and reinstatement of some existing access tracks which would result in further long term changes to the landscape composition and fabric. It would also require the clear felling of an area of coniferous forest plantation with replanting in a keyhole design (see 1.2.7 below).

1.2.5 In addition, the permanent introduction of three new met masts (replacing two existing temporary met masts), a new operations building and substation along with possible retention of the existing substation, and temporary presence of borrow pits, site laydown and compound areas, would result in further changes to the fabric of the landscape in the short and long term.

Changes during Construction

1.2.6 The effects associated with the construction activities are likely to vary over time during the construction phase with the periods of greatest activity likely to be associated with tree felling, the on-site presence of large cranes, decommissioning of 22 existing 75 m tall wind turbines and progressive erection of 16, 149.9 m tall wind turbines and potential associated transformers and other associated works. At the end of the construction phase the temporary site compound(s), borrow pits and peat storage areas would be reinstated, thus rendering these effects theoretically reversible.

- 1.2.7 The assessment has therefore considered, in addition to the temporary and permanent constructed elements of the proposed development, the following anticipated physical changes to the landscape fabric and components when analysing the degree of landscape change:

Coniferous Forest Plantation

- 1.2.8 Prior to construction, an area of coniferous forest plantation located across the northern part of the site would be clear-felled and timber removed from site. This forest removal would appear consistent with existing on-going forest management activities which already occur within this area. Once constructed, the coniferous forest would be replanted with a key-hole design which would grow to a maximum height of 10 m and would therefore not reach the full maturity which other nearby coniferous forest areas might. Overall, there would be a reduction in the area of forest as two areas within the footprint of the wind farm would be retained as open ground and to allow peatland restoration (see Chapter 16: Land-use, Socioeconomics and Recreation). There would also be a small reduction in forest cover due to the requirement for key-holes for the new turbines, associated transformers and substation and access track wayleaves. However, these open areas would be very small in the context of the overall forest coverage. These physical changes to the balance and appearance of existing coniferous forest plantation have been considered in the assessment of landscape character.

Rough Heath / Moorland Cover

- 1.2.9 This landcover is generally found within the existing Tangy I and II Wind Farm site and open areas to the east (towards Tangy Loch). Works to remove existing turbines and install new infrastructure would result in disturbance to the landscape fabric in some of these areas. In most cases this would be temporary disturbance with peat/soils and vegetation retained to reinstate working areas. Whilst new and widened tracks through these areas would be constructed, this would be largely offset in terms of landscape change by the existing tracks and turbine bases which would be restored as described in the Appendix 5.1: CEMP.

Improved Grazing Land

- 1.2.10 Improved grazing land is present on the southern fringes of the proposed development site. There would be some disturbance to small areas of agricultural land during construction including one borrow pit, removal of existing turbines and construction of new turbines and erection of a met mast. There would also be some reinstatement of existing tracks and construction of short new access spurs. The construction of the new wind farm and different locations of a small number of turbines in this area may result in alterations to a small number of field boundaries. However, areas disturbed would be reinstated after completion and the landscape fabric of these areas is unlikely to appear noticeably changed.

Roads and Access Tracks

- 1.2.11 There would be some small scale improvements to an existing minor road between the site entrance and the A83 at Drum Farm and changes to existing on-site access tracks as described in paragraph 1.2.3. This would result in a greater length of new access track overall, compared to the existing situation, across the larger development site. This would be a noticeable change, but would not necessarily be a negative change to the landscape, given the sections of existing access track which would be removed. Details of access track lengths are provided in Chapter 5: Description of Development.

1.3 Assessment of Effects on Landscape Designations

1.3.1 This section describes the Special Qualities (SNH 2010) or key characteristics of the landscape designations identified for inclusion in the assessment (See Appendix 8.3), considers the potential for these to be affected by the proposed development, and assesses sensitivity, likely magnitude of change and likelihood for significant effects to occur in the context of the EIA Regulations. All designated landscapes are shown on Figure 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 and the baseline is described in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual.

North Arran National Scenic Area

1.3.2 Potential landscape effects on this designation may result from:

- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development across the Kilbrannan Sound at a distance of over 20 km.

Table 1.3.1 North Arran NSA – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: NSA Special Qualities	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effect	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
A mountain presence that dominates the Firth of Clyde.	The presence of large scale wind turbines would have the potential to distract from the dominance of other features and diminish the sense of scale of the mountainous landscape.	It is unlikely that the appearance of the proposed development on the western horizon would influence the dominance of the mountain presence within the Firth of Clyde as it would be seldom seen within this context, and generally only as a very distant feature in a distinctly different landscape.	Very unlikely
The contrast between the wild highland interior and the populated coastal strip.	The distinction between upland and lowland areas has the potential to be blurred by the introduction of large scale wind turbines which could both reduce perceptions of wildness within the upland areas and distract from the small scale intricacy of the lowland coastal strip.	The appearance of the proposed development in vistas obtained from the upland interior could affect the wild character of the highland interior and the contrast between highland interior and coastal strip could be reduced.	Possible

Potential Landscape Receptors: NSA Special Qualities	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effect	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
The historical landscape in miniature: Different periods of historic land use appear as different layers in the landscape and can often be seen in one view.	The balance of historic layers is susceptible to changes brought about by large scale contemporary development which could overwhelm more historic features.	There is the potential for indirect effect from the appearance of wind turbines on the far western horizon to add an additional layer of contemporary development to the historic landscape.	Possible
A dramatic, compact mountain area.	This dramatic mountainous topography is very susceptible to the introduction of large scale man-made structures such as wind turbines which could distract, reduce perceptions of wildness or act to diminish perceived scale.	At over 20 km from the proposed development, potential effects on the scale and drama of these mountains are considered very unlikely.	Very unlikely
A distinctive coastline with a rich variety of forms.	The diversity and small scale intricacy of the coastal landscape is very susceptible to change of the type proposed.	The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.5.2) indicates that there would be no intervisibility with this coastal area of the NSA.	None
One of the most important geological areas in Britain.	The geological fabric has some susceptibility to development of the type proposed where this would result in direct excavation, for turbine foundations for example.	There would be no direct effect on the NSA and therefore is no potential for this Special Quality to be affected.	None
An exceptional area for outdoor recreation.	The value of the landscape recreationally has some susceptibility to change of the type proposed where access routes or visual effects could disrupt valued aspects of the landscape.	The appearance of the proposed development within western vistas may potentially reduce the perceived value of the landscape to recreational users.	Possible
The experience of highland and island wildlife at close hand.	Any effects of a development of the type proposed on ecological or ornithological species has some potential to influence the ability of people to appreciate this quality.	At over 20 km from the proposed development this is unlikely to result in any effects which would affect perception of the NSA.	None

Table 1.3.2: North Arran NSA – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
As a nationally important, designated landscape, the NSA is considered to be of high landscape value.	The mountainous terrain and wild land qualities, in association with valued coastal landscapes and views is considered to be very susceptible to changes of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high .	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. Magnitude of change is anticipated to be negligible .	During construction: Negligible During operation: Negligible

1.3.3 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the Special Qualities of the North Arran NSA has concluded that effects would be **negligible** and **not significant** in the short and longer term.

East Kintyre Coast APQ

1.3.4 Potential Effects on this designation include:

- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development through Glen Lussa approximately 7.5km away to the west.

Table 1.3.3: East Kintyre Coast APQ – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Long sections of narrow and rugged coastline.	The small scale and intricate nature of the coast is susceptible to the introduction of large scale wind turbine structures which could form dominant new features and disrupt the sense of scale.	The presence of wind turbines within the upland landscapes to the west could present a distraction to small parts of the intimate coastal landscape.	Possible

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Strong visual connection with Arran / open sea vistas.	Seaward vistas have limited susceptibility to change to on-shore wind turbines.	The location of the proposed development with the upland landscape to the west is such that it would not affect views to Arran from this APQ.	None
Clustered lowland settlement with dispersed homes occupying east facing slopes.	The small scale settled landscapes are susceptible to the introduction of large scale wind turbine structures which could form dominant new features.	Potential indirect effect of larger turbines in the western landscape may present a distraction within the small scale settled landscapes.	Possible
Pronounced and broad valleys which open out, punctuating and adding interest and context to the coast.	Whilst some existing vertical structures are present within the broad valley mouths such as overhead power lines, the proposed scale of wind turbines are much greater than this and therefore have potential to dominate the scale of these landscapes.	Potential for indirect effects due to the presence of the proposed development within inland valley views.	Possible

Table 1.3.4: East Kintyre Coast APQ – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
As this landscape has been identified as a regionally designated landscape, it is considered to be of high value.	The small scale intricacy of this landscape which is very susceptible to change of the type proposed, in combination with its high value, makes this it very sensitive to change. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high .	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. Magnitude of change is therefore anticipated to be negligible .	During construction: Negligible During operation: Negligible

1.3.5 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the East Kintyre Coast APQ. Has concluded that effects would be **negligible** and **not significant**.

Mull of Kintyre APQ

1.3.6 Potential Effects on this designation include:

- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development on the hills approximately 11km to the north.

Table 1.3.5: Mull of Kintyre APQ – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
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).	The hills form a diverse landscape of elevated slopes and summits and smaller glens and provide a backdrop to the low lying coastal landscapes of the APQ and Aros Moss to the north. The larger scale elevated landscape with expansive vistas has some ability to accommodate development of the type proposed without being dominated or altered.	The large scale of the proposed turbines in relation to the existing turbines around 11 km to the north could affect the perceived scale of the intervening hills.	Possible
Enclosed and sometimes settled valleys, with rounded hilltops above (e.g. Glen Breackerie, Strone Glen and Conie Glen).	The small scale of these enclosed valleys would be very susceptible to the introduction of large scale wind turbines.	ZTV analysis suggests that there would be no intervisibility between the valleys and glens and the proposed development (refer to Figure 8.5.2).	None
Accessible, diverse eastern and southern coastline of contrasting cliffs and coastal plain, raised beach, rock-bound bays and scattered settlement.	Whilst the open landscapes of the plains and hills may have theoretical ability to accommodate some small scale wind energy, the generally low topographical relief has greater susceptibility to larger turbines and the small scale landscapes around the coastline are particularly susceptible to dominating large structures.	ZTV analysis shows that there would be very limited intervisibility with the coastline, affecting only a few eastern coastal fringes. From these areas there is the potential for indirect effects on the distant backdrop of inland hills/	Possible

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Exposed and rugged western cliffs.	The simple structure and wild coast characteristics of the western cliffs are highly susceptible to change of the type proposed.	ZTV analysis shows that there would be no intervisibility between the western coast and the proposed development (refer to Figure 8.5.2).	None
Moorland hills with qualities of wildness in the south-western part of the APQ.	The general lack of existing human access and structures within this area makes it very susceptible to the introduction of new, largescale structures.	Indirect effects of the proposed development within the surrounding landscape context around 18 km to the north could result in reduced perceptions of wildness.	Possible

Table 1.3.6: : Mull of Kintyre APQ – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
As this landscape has been identified as a regionally designated landscape, it is considered to be of high value.	Whilst some parts of this landscape may have potential to accommodate some development similar to that proposed, coastal and smaller scale settled landscapes are considered very susceptible to large scale wind energy development. This is considered to lead to a high sensitivity overall when taking account of the high value of the landscape. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high .	Small parts of this APQ would theoretically obtain intervisibility with the proposed development, mostly 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, in itself 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. Further, at least 18 km distant, it is not considered that there would be any effect on the wildness values of the south-western hills. Magnitude of change would be low	During construction: Minor During operation: Minor

1.3.7 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Mull of Kintyre Coast APQ. Has concluded that effects would be **minor** and **not significant** in the short and longer term.

West Kintyre Coast APQ

1.3.8 Potential Effects on this designation include:

- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development in landscape context to south and east at approximately 1.3km (to nearest point).

Table 1.3.7: West Kintyre Coast APQ – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
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.	The small scale linear landscape with its close association with the coast and enclosing steep, bluff slopes is highly susceptible to change of the type proposed which could dominate and distract.	Intermittent theoretical visibility of turbine blades above the steep bluff slope where existing turbines are not visible could be distracting from the gentle seaward views and out of scale with this contained landscape. Visibility of the turbines may affect the perception of the area, connecting built elements from the interior upland to the coastal area, above the bluff slopes which result in the current degree of separation.	Possible
Contrast of exposed, and at times rocky, character of the coastal strip and pastoral areas nearby.	The coastal and rock areas attract the eye when travelling and allow a close association with the sea and unusual experience of nature despite their closeness to a busy road. This small scale intricacy could be overwhelmed by the introduction of large scale structures such as those proposed and is therefore very susceptible to change	There would be no direct effect to the narrow coastal strip, but, as above, the appearance of turbine blades above the steep bluff slope could be distracting and out of scale with this intricate landscape / seascape.	Possible
Distinct pockets of secluded settlement in the south where space permits, such as at Bellochantuy	The balance and focus of small coastal settlements is very susceptible to development of the type proposed.	Indirect effects resulting in changes to the balance and experience of small settlements are considered unlikely.	Unlikely

Potential Landscape Receptors: APQ Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
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.	The wide horizons and expansive vistas of this area are susceptible to large scale vertical focus such as development of the type proposed.	The appearance of the proposed development, larger than the existing Tangy I and II wind farm, on the horizon approximately 17 km distant, may form increased focus within the expansive horizon and distract from other valued views.	Possible

Table 1.3.8: West Kintyre Coast APQ – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
As this landscape has been identified as a regionally designated landscape, it is considered to be of high value.	This is a highly valued landscape. The small scale coastal landscapes which are experienced at close proximity, intimate sense of enclosure formed by the steep bluff slope separating it from the upland interior, and expansive coastal vistas are considered to be highly susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high .	The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.5.2) 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. 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 TA8.7: Visual Assessment Tables) but the wider coastal experience and	During construction: Minor - Moderate During operation: Minor - Moderate

		<p>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.</p> <p>Magnitude of change would range between low to medium up to around 8 km from the proposed development and negligible beyond that distance.</p>	
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1.3.9 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the West Kintyre Coast APQ has concluded that effect would be **minor - moderate** and **not significant** both in the short and longer term. Whilst individual significant visual effects may be experienced from this area, given the infrequent nature of these views, these are not considered sufficient to lead to a significant effect on the value and integrity of the APQ designation.

1.4 Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

1.4.1 This section considers the key characteristics of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) identified for inclusion in the assessment (See Appendix 8.3), as described in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual, and the potential for these to be affected by the proposed development, and assesses likely magnitude of landscape change and likelihood for significant effects to occur in the context of the EIA Regulations. LCTs are shown on Figure 8.6.1 and 8.6.2)

Bay Farmland

1.4.2 This LCT occurs in one location within the detailed study area, to the south of the proposed development site with the main access route falling partially within it.

1.4.3 Potential Effects on this landscape character type:

- Indirect effects relating to the removal of 22 wind turbines up to 75 m in height within the upland landscape context immediately to the north and construction of 16 wind turbines up to 150 m in height; and
- Direct impacts from site access located within the LCT.

Table 1.4.1: Bay Farmland LCT – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Distinctive agricultural plain contrasted by the enclosing rounded hills to the north and south.	The enclosing hills which define this flat agricultural plain are susceptible to the type of large scale development proposed as they are relatively low, and their perceived height could be diminished by large scale development.	Potential for the larger sized wind turbines on the northern hills to alter the perceived scale of the backdrop, altering the perception of this contrast and appearing prominent across the open agricultural plain.	Possible
Historic pattern of roadside settlement with scattered farmsteads. RAF Machrihanish and airport conflict with this.	The scattered patterns of development have some susceptibility to the imposition of large scale structures and patterns which may distract from localised features.	The introduction of the proposed development in place of the existing Tangy I and II wind farm on the northern hills containing this LCT could form an increased large scale focus distracting from the intimate settlement patterns.	Possible
Expansive vistas across the flat, open farmland.	These open vistas already feature the existing Tangy I and II wind farm but may be susceptible to increased wind farm development.	Introduction of larger turbines within the existing vistas could be more prominent and create a more distracting feature than the existing wind farm.	Possible

Table 1.4.2: Bay Farmland LCT – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
<p>This is a settled LCT, and its flat terrain is unusual on the Kintyre peninsula but relatively common and unremarkable in a broader context.</p> <p>Landscape value is considered to be medium.</p>	<p>This LCT is already affected to some degree by the existing Tangy I and II wind farm within the northern surrounding hills and a few small scale turbines on the fringes. It is an actively managed landscape with existing features associated with the Campbeltown Airport also present. Nevertheless, its open character and small scale settlement and the relatively low of containing hills are vulnerable to change.</p> <p>Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be medium.</p>	<p>Changes 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A medium magnitude of change is anticipated.</p>	<p>During construction: Moderate</p> <p>During operation: Moderate</p>

1.4.4 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Bay Farmland LCT has concluded that the effect on landscape character is likely to be **moderate** and **significant**.

Low Coastal Hills

1.4.5 This LCT occurs in two locations within the detailed study area on the eastern coast.

1.4.6 Potential Effects on this landscape character type include:

- Indirect impacts from visibility of turbines located approximately within the upland context approximately 7 km to the west.

Table 1.4.3: Low Coastal Hills LCT – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Diverse combination of pasture with broadleaf and mixed woodland groups in lower lying areas.	The small scale diverse qualities of this landscape is very susceptible to change of the type proposed.	The possible appearance of wind turbines where they are not currently visible within the western context could lead to a distraction from the smaller scale landscapes within this LCT.	Possible
Strong visual connection with nearby Rocky Mosaic LCT and Arran.	Seaward vistas have limited susceptibility to change to on-shore wind turbines.	Seaward vistas along the coast and across to Arran would not be affected by the proposed development.	None
More open than adjacent Rocky Mosaic, allowing greater space and opportunity to connect with surroundings.	The open character and low hills are susceptible to change of the type proposed.	The presence of the proposed development within the western context where wind turbines are not currently visible could affect the perceived scale of the landscape.	Possible
Plantation on upper slopes is a characteristic of adjoining LCTs and more of a detracting feature.	The context and backdrop of coniferous forest plantation is less susceptibility to change due to its larger scale, more uniform appearance and active management.	The appearance of the proposed development within this coniferous forest plantation context to the west could create new focus but is unlikely to lead to any negative effect on coniferous forest as component of the landscape.	Unlikely
Framed views up through glens into the upland interior.	proposed development of the type proposed has the potential to form a new or distracting focus in inland views.	Potential for indirect effects due to the presence of proposed development within inland valley views where existing turbines are not currently visible.	Possible

Table 1.4.4: Low Coastal Hills LCT – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
This landscape forms a part of the east Kintyre Coast APQ and is valued for its gentle coastal character and vistas up and down the coast and towards the Kilbrannan Sound and Arran.	This is a highly valued landscape with small scale components which are very susceptible to change. Landscape sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high .	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	During construction: Minor During operation: Minor

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
Landscape value is considered to be high .		therefore changes would be localised. Magnitude of change is therefore anticipated to be low .	

1.4.7 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Low Coastal Hills LCT has concluded that the effect on landscape character is likely to be **minor** and **not significant**.

Rocky Mosaic

1.4.8 This LCT occurs in six 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.

1.4.9 Potential Effects on this landscape character type:

- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development in landscape context to north, east and south at varying distances but approximately 1 km (to nearest point), depending on the particular landscape unit;
- Indirect impacts from ancillary elements within some landscape units to the south.

Table 1.4.5: Rocky Mosaic LCT – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Exposed coastal locations with steep sea cliffs or bluff slopes adjacent to the coastal shelf.	The small scale linear landscape with its close association with the coast and enclosing steep, bluff slopes is highly susceptible to change of the type proposed which could dominate and distract.	From the coastal area to the west of the proposed development, visibility of turbine blades above bluff slopes and on elevated agricultural areas above these, where existing turbines have lesser visibility may distract from the smaller scale elements of the coastal landscape. From more distant	Possible

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Undulating pasture and rough grazing within raised beach areas or above cliff tops.	These small scale areas with a strong coastal aspect and varying experiences of enclosure (within raised beach areas and small glens) and exposure from agricultural cliff top landscapes are very susceptible to introduction of large scale vertical structures.	areas, the appearance of the larger proposed development within the landscape context would have potential to form an increased focal point which may distract from the coastal aspects of the landscape.	
Scattered / dispersed settlement pattern.	The scattered patterns of development have some susceptibility to the imposition of large scale structures and patterns which may distract from localised features.	There is the potential for the appearance of the larger proposed development within the landscape context to form an increased focal point and distract from the appeal of settled areas but this effect would be limited.	Possible
Important transportation route in places, e.g. A83 and B842 with valued seaward views.	Accessibility and presence of roads is unlikely to be susceptible to change of the type proposed.	The accessible qualities of this LCT would be unlikely to be affected by the introduction of the proposed development.	Unlikely
Dramatic topography often leads to a distinct separation from adjacent landscape character types both in terms of visibility and accessibility.	There is some susceptibility of this feature to change of the type proposed where there may be an increased sense of accessibility or large structures may create a uniformity of character, reducing the sense of separation.	From the coastal area to the west of the proposed development, visibility of wind turbines may create greater connection with built elements from the interior upland to the coastal area, above the bluff slopes which result in the current degree of separation.	Possible
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.	In LCT units close to the coast, the small scale linear landscape with its close association with the coast and enclosing steep, bluff slopes is highly susceptible to change of the type proposed which could dominate and distract.	As the proposed development is within the inland context it would be unlikely to affect the seaward aspects of the landscape although the intermittent appearance of turbine blades above the steep bluff slopes from areas of raised beach where existing turbines have limited visibility may distract from the coastal aspects of the landscape.	Possible

Table 1.4.6: Rocky Mosaic LCT – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
This LCT includes a number of	This is a highly valued landscape. Although the existing	Different units of this LCT would experience change in	During

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
<p>coastal landscapes which are valued for their scenic and recreational opportunities with the eastern and western coasts also falling within areas recognised by Argyll and Bute Council as APQs. Consequently, landscape value is considered to be high.</p>	<p>Tangy I and II wind farm has some indirect influence in some localised areas, the small scale coastal landscapes which are experienced at close proximity, intimate sense of enclosure of raised beach areas, and expansive coastal vistas are considered to be highly susceptible to change of the type proposed.</p> <p>Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high.</p>	<p>different ways. 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.</p> <p>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 also 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.</p> <p>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 low - medium magnitude of change during construction and operation between Glenbarr and Westport (up to around 8 km from the proposed development).</p>	<p>construction: Locally Minor - Moderate within the western coastal unit (Glenbarr to Westport); and Minor for other LCT units.</p> <p>During operation: Locally Minor - Moderate within the western coastal unit (Glenbarr to Westport); and Minor for other LCT units.</p>

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
		Magnitude of change is anticipated to be low beyond this distance and for the eastern and southern LCT units. For the LCT resource as a whole within the detailed study area magnitude of change is anticipated to be low .	

1.4.10 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Rocky Mosaic LCT has concluded that the effect is likely to be **minor** and **not significant** for the majority of the LCT resource and locally **minor – moderate** and **not significant** within the western coastal LCT unit up to around 8 km from the proposed development. These effects are considered to be **Not Significant** in the context of the EIA Regulations.

Sand Dunes and Machair

1.4.11 This LCT occurs in one location within the detailed study area on the western coastline to the south of the proposed development.

1.4.12 Potential Effects on this landscape character type:

- Indirect effects from appearance of proposed turbines within the landscape context to the approximately 2.5km to the north (at the nearest point).

Table 1.4.7: Sand Dunes and Machair – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Sandy beach with undulating dunes and grassy links beyond.	The large scale openness of this landscape and presence of existing, smaller turbines within the surrounding context may theoretically be able to accommodate some elements of the type of development proposed although the smaller scale intricacy of the land cover and terrain could be more easily overwhelmed by the imposition of a larger scale development.	The proposed development would not have a direct effect on the experience of the beach and dunes although the appearance of the larger wind turbines has potential to become a more distracting or dominant feature in the landscape context to the north than the existing Tangy I and II wind farm.	Possible

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Mown and maintained golf course fairways and greens contrast with rough coastal grasslands	The dune systems are fragile, mobile landscape which are very vulnerable to development although the more recreational types of land cover may be less susceptible. The small scale landscape patterns are more susceptible to the imposition of large scale development.	The proposed development would not result in any changes to land cover within this LCT.	Very unlikely
Expansive seaward and coastal vistas	The expansive vistas experienced within this LCT are very susceptible to change of the type proposed.	The proposed development would not appear within seaward vistas but would be seen within views along the coast to the north. The larger turbines may appear more dominant within the context of these views.	Possible
Sense of openness and exposure but with small scale intimacy within dune slacks.	The sense of openness is susceptible to some degree of change of the type proposed as large scale structures could dominate and intrude into open vistas, although existing, smaller wind turbines are already present in some of these vistas.	The presence of the larger turbines within the landscape context to the north could be more imposing than the existing smaller wind turbines and affect a perceived sense of openness.	Possible

Table 1.4.8: Sand Dunes and Machair – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
<p>This LCT is valued for its recreational opportunities and as a relatively rare sandy beach on the Kintyre peninsula. It is also valued as a feature of the views obtained from outwith the LCT – e.g. from Machrihanish.</p> <p>Landscape value is considered to be high.</p>	<p>This is a highly valued landscape. Although its large scale openness and presence of existing, similar features, may theoretically be able to accommodate some level of development of the type proposed, its expansive sea and coastal vistas and fragile dune systems are considered to be highly susceptible whilst its small scale patterns are also vulnerable to the imposition of large scale patterns of development.</p> <p>Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high.</p>	<p>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 appearing potentially 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.</p> <p>Magnitude of change is anticipated to be low during construction and operation.</p>	<p>During construction: Minor</p> <p>During operation: Minor</p>

1.4.13 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Sand Dunes and Machair LCT has concluded that the effect on landscape character is likely to be **minor** and **not significant**.

Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

1.4.14 This LCT occurs in three locations within the detailed study area. Potential Effects on this landscape character type include:

- Temporary and permanent direct effects associated with the construction of 16 wind turbines up to 150 m in height with associated transformers, installation of three new met masts, construction of operations building and substation and works to upgrade and construct new access tracks;
- Temporary, reversible direct effects associated with up to four borrow pits, construction compound, and laydown and working areas;
- Temporary and permanent direct effects relating to the removal of 22 wind turbines up to 75 m in height, two existing met masts and reinstatement of existing access tracks; and
- Indirect impacts resulting from intervisibility with the proposed development within the landscape context from upland areas to north, east and south.

Table 1.4.9: Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT – Identification of Potential Effects

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
Dispersed or scattered settlement pattern resulting in secluded homes.	The pattern of scattered settlement is susceptible to being dominated by the presence of large wind turbines.	Although largely affected by the existing Tangy I and II wind farm, scattered settlement close to the proposed development site has the potential to be dominated in scale by the larger pattern of the proposed development and the increase scale of individual turbines.	Possible
Remote upland character, despite close proximity to settled fringes and transport routes.	Although affected by the presence of nearby coniferous forest plantation and forestry activities and sometimes other existing wind turbines, the remote upland character is considered susceptible to the introduction of new large scale development and features such as those of the type proposed.	The larger footprint of the proposed development and greater size of turbines may increase the areas from which theoretical visibility would be obtained and alter the perceived qualities and remote character of the landscape.	Possible
Secluded, pastoral valleys (usually settled) running east to west or vice versa.	These smaller scale intimate areas, are very susceptible to the introduction of new large scale development of the type proposed.	The larger scale turbines may be more likely to share intervisibility with these more secluded areas than the existing Tangy I and II turbines. Wind turbines on the skyline above these valleys may become a dominant characteristic for them and diminish the sense of seclusion.	Possible
Series of upland lochs of varying scale.	The character of upland lochs is considered to be less susceptible to changes of the type proposed, although the presence of large scale development has potential to overwhelm small scale landscapes which may be associated with loch shorelines.	The ZTV indicates a theoretical increase in intervisibility around Loch Lussa which could become more dominated by the presence of wind turbines.	Possible
Distinctive pattern of coniferous plantation mixed with moorland on high ground.	This is an actively managed landscape with ongoing felling and replanting which is already affected by wind turbine development. Its susceptibility to change of the type proposed is therefore reduced.	The proposed development is unlikely to greatly alter the current forest moorland mosaic as the felled coniferous forest plantation would be replanted with keyholes to accommodate the new turbines. .	Unlikely

Potential Landscape Receptors: LCT Key Characteristics	Susceptibility to Change of the Type Proposed	Potential Landscape Effects	Potential to be Affected by the proposed development
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.	These open hills are distinct and relatively low, thereby being susceptible to the introduction of large infrastructural features which could blur their distinction.	The distinction of these hills could be blurred by the addition of large wind turbines. As they are relatively low, and their sense of scale could be reduced. The open and panoramic vistas which are experienced from the summit of these hills could be disrupted by the larger wind turbines which could be more prominent.	Possible
Existing pattern of commercial wind energy development.	Existing wind turbines including the existing Tangy I and II wind farm are a common feature associated with this LCT and reduce the susceptibility of the landscape character to similar change of this type.	The removal of existing Tangy I and II wind turbines and introduction of the proposed development may alter the balance and pattern or increase the prominence of turbines within some parts of the landscape.	Possible

Table 1.4.10: Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT – Assessment of Potential Effects

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
This is a relatively common landscape type throughout the majority of the inland parts of the Kintyre peninsula. Whilst it provides an important backdrop to coastal and low lying areas and is provides recreational opportunities, it is considered to be of generally reduced value within the context. It is not covered by any designations within the 11 km study area. Landscape value is considered to be medium .	This is an actively managed landscape which is already influenced to some degree by existing wind energy development, including the existing Tangy I and II wind farm. Whilst the remote, moorland areas may be more susceptible to change, the actively managed areas of coniferous forest plantation and those areas affected by existing wind turbines are less susceptible. However, the relatively low relief of the hills has greater susceptibility to larger turbine types. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be medium .	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 Loch Lussa and Glen Lussa, although parts of the existing Beinn and Tuirc wind farm are already visible around parts of Lussa Loch. The forested character would often limit the influence and prominence of wind turbines in these areas	During construction: Moderate During operation: Moderate (affecting the low lying glen areas, open moorland and small hills within around 6 km of the proposed development)

Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity to Change	Nature of Effect and Magnitude of Landscape Change	Significance of Effect
		<p>(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 I and II 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Magnitude of Change would be medium during construction and medium during operation up to around 5 km from the proposed development. The magnitude of change on the LCT resource beyond this distance to the north, would reduce to Low as the proposed development would be seen at greater distance and other wind farms have a similar influence on these areas.</p>	<p>Minor beyond these areas.</p>

1.4.15 Statement of Significance: Assessment of the proposed development in relation to the key characteristics of the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT has concluded that the effect on landscape character is likely to be **Moderate** and **significant** during construction and operation within around 6 km of the proposed development due to the increased prominence of wind turbines on glens and low hills in the south of this LCT. The effect on the resource of the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT beyond this distance is anticipated to be **minor** and **not significant**.

