



# Aultmore Wind Farm Redesign

## Technical Appendix 6.3: Viewpoint Analysis

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## Appendix 6.3 Viewpoint Analysis

### A.1 Introduction

A viewpoint assessment has been carried out from a selection of key representative viewpoint locations to inform the assessment of the likely magnitude and significance of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the proposed development.

Viewpoints were identified, in consultation with Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot, as part of the scoping process as set out within Table 6.1 of the EIA Report. Following desk-top analysis, consultation and site survey work, a total of 23 viewpoint locations were selected to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area.

The locations of the selected viewpoints are shown on Figures 6.1 – 6.17. Details for each viewpoint are provided below. Panoramic photographs, wireline diagrams and photomontages are provided to illustrate the existing view at each viewpoint location and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view (see Viewpoints 1-23). A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in Table 6.5 in the main LVIA (see Chapter 6 of the EIA Report). Illustrative viewpoints A to C are provided as wirelines only and are not included as representative viewpoints in the analysis below.

This viewpoint assessment considers the nature of the predicted view and the scale of change. The wider extent of the effect (beyond the individual viewpoint considered), and its duration, are not captured in the viewpoint analysis (as a single viewpoint cannot capture extent or duration), and are considered in the main body of the assessment (see Chapter 6). Extent and duration are factors in the overall judgement on magnitude of change, therefore judgements on magnitude of change and overall level of effect and significance are also provided in the main assessment.

The method of assessment used for the viewpoint analysis, which is described in Appendix 6.1, accords with current best-practice guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, 2013). Observations are made of the baseline landscape and visual characteristics at each of the representative viewpoints. Observations, computer modelling and professional judgement are applied to determine the scale of change attributable to the Proposed Development (Large, Medium, Small and Negligible) upon landscape character and visual amenity at each individual viewpoint in order to determine the scale of effect.

The visual assessment takes into account the screening effect of intervening landform, vegetation and built form and the potential for changes to those baseline features. It assumes excellent clear weather conditions; although the influence of different seasons, weather, sunlight and visibility conditions have been considered, where relevant.



**Table 1: Viewpoint Analysis**

| VP | Location                          | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1  | Core Path KT01 - Burn of Aultmore | The core path route follows a track which accesses nearby homes and views are mostly confined by rising ground and vegetation. A more open view is available looking north, where the skyline is formed by hills in the middle ground, beyond which forestry can be seen. Existing and consented wind farms are screened by nearby terrain and vegetation.  | <p>The western group of 5 turbines will be largely screened by the nearby embankment although blades may be seen just above through nearby vegetation – particularly in winter. The closer group of 11 turbines to the north and north-east will be seen above the nearby skyline with the turbine towers partly screened by forestry and/or trees, but with T6 seen on the more open section of skyline.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> lights on the western group of turbines are likely to be screened by the intervening embankment and vegetation. Around 3 lights on turbines in the eastern group will be visible just above the treeline.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>  | <p>The turbines will be very nearby, becoming a key characteristic of the locality, albeit clearly associated with the forestry seen along the skyline rather than the farmed landscape seen in the foreground.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   |
| 2  | Glen of Newmill                   | The view from this local road offers open vistas to the east and south with long range views to hills. Views to the west and north are contained by local topography, forestry and nearby vegetation and homes set among pasture. Turbines at Lurg Hill and nearby are and will be visible beyond the forestry to the north-east. Larger groups of wind farms are visible along the skyline to the south. | <p>The containment of views in this settlement means that, as illustrated at this viewpoint, visibility towards both turbine groups does not arise, and typically only the larger but more distant eastern group will be seen. This group of turbines will be seen set amongst the forestry (which will mostly screen the turbine towers) on the skyline beyond the nearby pasture and small valley.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> One light in the eastern group, on T6, will be clearly visible above the intervening forestry and one further light, on T16, may be seen filtered through treetop vegetation. The remainder of the lights will be screened by the forestry.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Clashindarroch Extension, Craig Watch, Garbet and Glenfiddich wind farms would be seen as distant features on the skyline to the south and south-west, adding to existing groups of turbines seen here. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>The turbines will be clearly associated with the forested landscape to the north rather than the pastoral landscape seen in the foreground, with a sense of separation provided by the intervening valley and forestry.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Windfarms in planning or scoping would be distant and seen as part of a group with existing and consented schemes. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |



| VP | Location                | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| 3  | B9018 Grange Crossroads | Views from the small settlement at the crossroads look out beyond nearby pasture, trees and buildings higher ground in all directions. The skyline is formed by undulating farmland with occasional larger hills beyond and forestry on some of those hills and along the skyline looking towards the Site. A nearby single turbine at Balnamoon is seen in the foreground along with a mix of overhead lines. A group of turbines is also seen looking north-east towards Lurg Hill.  | <p>The proposed development will be seen beyond the nearby single turbine and various overhead lines. Forestry and terrain will partly screen the bases of the turbines and all of the western group of turbines will be screened by the intervening landform. The largest and closest of the proposed turbines will have a similar visual scale to the pylon and single turbine seen in the foreground.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Three of the lights on the eastern group will be seen above rising ground and forestry to the north-west. These will be seen in the context of the existing aviation lights on the nearby group of turbines to the north-east, located south of Lurg Hill.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   | <p>Relatively nearby turbines are an existing feature in this location. The proposed development will intensify that presence, being a larger development than the nearby single turbine and noticeably closer than the group to the north-east.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>  |
| 4  | Aultmore                | This part of the village has open views to the north-east towards the site, looking across nearby gently rising fields traversed by overhead lines. Looking in this direction, the skyline is formed by forestry, the sparse hedge on the far side of the field and individual trees, beyond which the single turbine at Followsters can be seen. In other directions views are enclosed by nearby housing and vegetation, beyond which existing wind farms can be seen in places along the skyline to the south and south-west. | <p>The five nearest turbines forming the western group within proposed development will be seen above the skyline with some of the turbine towers and hubs screened by forestry and two more openly visible to the right of the nearby forestry. They will be markedly smaller in vertical scale than the nearby pylons.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Two of the lights on the western group will be clearly visible above the skyline with a further light filtered through tree tops of intervening forestry. One light will be entirely screened. The streetlighting along the road adjacent to the viewpoint will be the most notable source of light at this location and the proposed aviation lights may not be particularly noticeable in this illuminated location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>Turbines are an existing feature of views from this location, but the proposed development will intensify this presence being a larger development than Followsters and considerably closer than the distant windfarms to the south-west. The sense of proximity would be exacerbated by the foreshortening of this view across rising ground, which makes it appear as though the turbines will be just beyond the nearby forestry.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> |



| VP | Location                     | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 5  | Local road near Hill of Maud | <p>There are elevated open views from this local road to the north-west out towards and along the coast. In other directions views are more contained by woodland, forestry and/or nearby hills. Looking south towards the site, pasture, farms and forestry are seen on rising ground beyond an intervening valley.</p> <p>Existing and consented windfarms are not visible from this location.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines along the skyline to the south, with the nearer group presenting a marked scale contrast with the other features seen on the rising ground seen below the turbines. Forestry will partly screen some of the turbine bases, and nearby vegetation will partly screen some of the nearer turbine group. Moving a short distance along the road in either direction will result in notable changes to the degree of visibility given the variable screening of localised vegetation in this area.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> One light on the eastern group of turbines will be visible along with all four on the more distant western group. As noted above, this will vary as one travels along the road.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>The proposed development will represent a marked change to the character in this location given the current absence of visible wind turbines. Scale contrasts with the existing features will make their size very apparent and give rise to a sense of proximity.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   |
| 6  | Kirktown of Deskford         | <p>Views from the edge of the village are contained by nearby rising ground, trees and forestry. Houses in the village can be seen to the north-east and a church to the south-west. Nearby woodland will mostly screen the turbines on Lurg Hill, although one will be seen to the right of the trees. Operational turbines can be seen near the foot of Lurg Hill to the south.</p>                | <p>The proposed development will be seen to the left of the church with some of the turbines partly screened by trees beyond the church, but more openly visible in winter. The bases of the towers will be set within forestry and the scale of the turbines will contrast with the buildings and trees seen in the foreground.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Three lights on the southern side of the eastern group will be visible to the left of the church and just to the right of existing aviation lights on the turbines south of Lurg Hill. One further light may also be visible through trees in winter.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   | <p>The proposed development will represent a marked change to the character in this location given the limited presence of existing and consented wind turbines. Scale contrasts with the existing features will make their size very apparent, but they will also be clearly associated with the forestry seen on the skyline.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> |



| VP | Location      | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|---------------|--|--|--|
| 7  | Bin of Cullen | This hill summit offers panoramic views in all directions, both inland to the south and out to sea to the north. Inland views look out over undulating farmland and forestry to a backdrop of successive layers of distant hills and northward views over coastal farmland and mostly deciduous woodland towards larger settlements and the sea beyond. Existing and consented turbines are seen at Lurg Hill to the south and on the distant backdrop of hills to the south-west. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines set on the low forested hills in the middle ground and extending well above the skyline of distant hills.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible from this elevated hilltop location. They will be seen just to the right of the lower intensity aviation lights on turbines to the south of Lurg Hill, in the context of occasional other aviation lights in the wider landscape and prominent settlement lighting at Buckie and other settlements along the coast.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Clashindarroch Extension, Craig Watch, Garbet and Glenfiddich wind farms would be seen as distant features on the skyline to the south and south-west, adding to existing groups of turbines seen here. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p>  | <p>Seen from this angle, the similarity of character between the Bin of Cullen (which is in a separate unit of the same LCT) and the site is readily apparent, although the separation by the valley between is also clear. The proposed development will affect the sense of scale of the inland views.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Windfarms in planning or scoping would be distant and seen as part of groups with existing and consented schemes. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |
| 8  | Broadley      | Views from this location are largely contained by nearby homes and vegetation, with more open views to the south-east and south towards the site. The hills and forestry of the site form the skyline looking in this direction. No existing or consented turbines are visible from this location.   | <p>The five nearest turbines forming the western group within proposed development will be seen along the skyline with the bases of the turbine towers screened by forestry. The more distant group of turbines will be more screened and mostly seen as blades above trees. In summer, nearby trees will also partly screen some of the turbines.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Lights on the eastern group of turbines will be largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation although one or two may be visible filtered through trees. The four lights on the western group will be more openly visible, one seen filtered through vegetation at this location but in open view from nearby locations. They will be seen in the context of brighter settlement and streetlighting nearby at Broadly and may not be particularly noticeable in this context.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>The nearer group of 5 turbines will be a prominent feature on the skyline in this location where turbines are not currently seen, but clearly associated with the forestry on the hillside rather than the nearby settled farmland.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   |



| VP | Location              | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 9  | Keith, Broomhill Road | The view from the northern edge of Keith looks out over the nearby valley to gently undulating hills beyond, with forestry seen on more distant areas of higher ground. The village of Newmill can be seen looking north towards the site and distillery warehouses set within the valley to the west. Existing and consented turbines are seen looking towards Lurg Hill and along the skyline to the south-west at Hill of Towie. The single turbine at Followsters is seen on the skyline looking towards the site. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups on the hills to either side of Newmill within the view, with the eastern group appearing considerably more distant than the west. Both groups will be seen as set within forestry and beyond the rising ground which forms the backdrop to Newmill.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be seen on the skyline to the north. They will be seen as two groups above and to either side of the brighter street and settlement lighting at Newmill and just to the left of existing aviation lights on the group of turbines to the south of Lurg Hill.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning would be visible from this location. Teindland wind farm would be seen in the distance on the skyline to the right of the forested hill to the southwest beyond the distillery warehouses. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>Existing and consented windfarms are distant features as seen from this location. The existing character is influenced by the settlement edge and the proposed development will be clearly seen as set on forested hills beyond the intervening farmed and settled landscape around Newmill.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |





| VP | Location      | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|---------------|---|---|---|
| 10 | A98, Arradoul | Nearby houses screen views eastwards from this location, and views out to sea are available looking north across the A98, though these are increasingly screened by the roadside embankment and vegetation looking north-west. To the west nearby hills and woodland form the skyline with slightly more distant hills and forestry within the site forming the skyline to the south and southeast. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines set within the forestry on the skyline. The lower towers of both groups will be screened by terrain and forestry, with most of the turbines visible from the hub upwards and some with upper parts of the turbine towers also visible.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> All the proposed aviation lights will be visible from here, aside from one within the eastern group of turbines. They will be seen as two groups just above the skyline with the eastern group of lights seen directly beyond or adjacent and subordinate to the bright street lighting of Arradoul.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in scoping at Teindland and Kellas may be glimpsed in winter through roadside vegetation and seen alongside existing and consented wind farms at Pauls Hill. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>Existing and consented windfarms have no influence on the character of this location and the proposed development will be a new, albeit relatively distant feature, clearly associated with the forestry on the skyline.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |



| VP | Location | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|----------|---|---|---|
| 11 | Buckie   | The view from this location looks out from the urban edge of Buckie towards a skyline to the south-east and south formed by overlapping forested hills seen beyond farmland. No existing or consented wind farms are visible from this viewpoint. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines along the skyline. The lower parts of the towers will be screened by terrain and forestry within the site and part of the larger eastern group would be screened by forestry on a nearby hill. In summer, trees around the nearby supermarket carpark will also partly screen the western group, but views will be more open in winter.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> one of the lights on the eastern group of turbines will be visible while the rest will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. All four lights on the western group will be visible, some filtered through vegetation at the viewpoint location but in more open view nearby. They will be seen in the context of streetlighting in the foreground and bright lights at the nearby petrol stations and supermarket. They will not be particularly notable in night-time views here.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be a noticeable change to the view southwards, but clearly associated with the forested hills. The urban edge will remain the predominant influence on character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> |



| VP | Location   | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|------------|--|---|---|
| 12 | Knock Hill | <p>This hill summit offers elevated panoramic views in all directions. Inland views look out over undulating farmland and forestry to a backdrop of successive layers of distant hills and northward views over coastal farmland and mostly deciduous woodland towards the sea beyond. Existing and consented turbines are seen at various distances and directions, with the most noticeable being at Lurg Hill and on the lower slopes of Lurg Hill to the north-west, and the nearby blades of the two turbines at Muirake to the north-east.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines. The larger eastern group will be seen within the forestry on the hill above the existing turbines that sit on the southern slopes of Lurg Hill and would be notably larger in scale. The smaller western group would be seen more distantly to the left, set within forestry on the low hills above the settled farmland below. Both groups of turbines would extend clear above the skyline.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible from this elevated hilltop location. Those on the eastern group of turbines will be seen directly above the lower intensity aviation lights on turbines to the south of Lurg Hill, in the context of occasional other aviation lights in the wider landscape and prominent settlement lighting at Keith.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Clashindarroch Extension, Craig Watch, Garbet and Glenfiddich wind farms would be seen as distant features on the skyline to the south-west, adding to existing groups of turbines seen here. Teindland and Kellas would be seen extending groups of existing and consented turbines to the west. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>The proposed development will slightly intensify the effects which already arise from the nearby group of turbines at Lurg Hill, increasing the degree to which the hill summit is perceived as being close to wind farms, whilst clearly being associated with low forested hills of the site.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would be distant and would not influence character in this location. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |



| VP | Location                          | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 13 | Speyside Way, west of Port Gordon | The view from this long distance walking route looks out over coastal farmland to the sea to the north. Views along the coast and inland are contained by nearby woodland to the west and by low banks formed by the nearby burns. Looking south along the valley formed by the burns, forested hills form the skyline beyond nearby houses and trees. Existing and consented wind farms are not visible from this location. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines. Some of the turbines in the larger eastern group will be seen as hubs and blades above the skyline through a gap between the nearby bank and a group of trees. The eastern group will be more openly visible above the forestry on the skyline to the right.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Around three lights on the eastern group of turbines will be visible, albeit heavily filtered through intervening groups of mature trees. All four lights on the western group will be seen openly above the skyline as a distinct group at slightly closer proximity.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be a noticeable change to the views inland, but will be perceived as relatively distant and clearly associated with the forested hills. It will not alter the coastal character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> |



| VP | Location        | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 14 | Meikle Balloch  | This hill summit offers elevated panoramic views in all directions, looking out over undulating farmland, woodland and forestry to a backdrop of successive layers of distant hills. The town of Keith is seen nearby to the west, and Knock Hill forms a particularly prominent landmark to the north-east. Existing and consented turbines are seen at various distances and directions, with the most noticeable being at Lurg Hill and on the lower slopes of Lurg Hill to the north, and at Edintore to the south-west. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines on the skyline to the north. The bases of the turbines will be set within forestry and the eastern group will be seen partly in front of the hill summit of Bin of Cullen. The turbines will be perceived as larger and closer than existing and consented wind farms.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible from this elevated hilltop location. They will be seen as two distinct groups and seen just to the left of the lower intensity aviation lights on turbines to the south of Lurg Hill, in the context of occasional other aviation lights in the wider landscape and settlement lighting at Newmill.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Clashindarroch Extension, Craig Watch, Garbet and Glenfiddich wind farms would be seen as distant features on the skyline to the south and south-west, adding to existing groups of turbines seen here. Teindland and Kellas would be seen extending groups of existing and consented turbines to the west. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be a noticeable change to the views to the north, but will be perceived as relatively distant and clearly associated with the forested hills beyond intervening farmland. It will not alter the character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> |
| 15 | NCR1, Durn Hill | The views from the local road and cycle route in this location is contained by the slopes of Durn Hill and Fordyce Hill to the east and south. Views to the north look out over sloping farmland to the sea and views to the southwest and west look out over farmland to skyline of overlapping forested hills beyond which Bin of Cullen can be seen. Existing single turbines can be seen nearby and Lurg Hill Wind Farm will be visible as blade tips above forestry to the south-west.                                  | <p>The eastern group of turbines within the proposed development will be seen above the forested skyline to the southwest. Most of the turbines will be screened or seen only as blade tips, but hubs and part of the towers will be visible for the nearest turbines.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Three of the lights on the eastern group of turbines will be visible just above and to the right of nearby street and settlement lighting at Fordyce.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>   | <p>The proposed development will be a minor change to the views inland, seen as an addition to the existing more openly seen turbines rather than a new feature. It will not affect character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p>  |



| VP | Location              | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change  | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 16 | B9131 east of Portsoy | This local road offers elevated views to the west and north as it descends towards Portsoy, which can be seen to the west and north-west. Views to the north look out to sea, whilst those to the south and east are contained by nearby higher ground. Looking west, three prominent hilltops can be seen forming the skyline above gently undulating farmland, forestry and woodland. A single turbine is seen between these summits on the skyline to the west. One of the turbines at Lurg Hill wind farm will be visible to the left of Durn Hill and the blade of the turbine at Edingight is visible above the lower slopes of Durn Hill. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as a single tight cluster of turbines beyond forestry to the right of Durn Hill. More distant turbines will be seen as blade tips, with closer turbines seen with parts of towers, hubs and blades above the forestry.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Around three of the proposed aviation lights will be visible as distant features seen just to the right of the dark mass of Lurg Hill. The remaining lights will be screened by landform and forestry.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be distant and not affect character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> No wind farms in planning or scoping would be visible from this location.</p> |



| VP | Location           | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|--------------------|---|---|--|
| 17 | Hill of Maunderlea | This panoramic viewpoint has views which are contained by woodland to the south, but open and elevated views in all other directions. Views to the north look out to the sea beyond undulating farmland, woodland and small forestry blocks. Brydock and Boyndle Airfield wind farms are seen in this direction. Views to the east also look out across a similar landscape of undulating farmland and woodland with occasional and mostly more distant wind turbines. Views to the west look across undulating farmland towards a series of prominent hills including Bin of Cullen and Knock Hill. Edintore wind farm and the Muirake turbines are seen nearby in this direction, and Lurg Hill windfarms will be seen on the skyline to the right of Knock Hill. | The proposed development will be seen on the skyline beyond existing and consented turbines at Lurg Hill and on the lower slopes of Lurg Hill, appearing of a similar scale to the consented wind turbines.<br><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible, seen as very distant features to the right of Lurg Hill.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would be seen in the distance to the south. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios. | The proposed development will be distant and will not affect character in this location.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios. |



| VP | Location                   | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character  |
|----|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| 18 | Ben Aigan                  | This hill summit offers elevated panoramic views in all directions, looking out over undulating farmland, woodland and forestry to a backdrop of successive layers of distant hills inland and the sea to the north. A nearby communications mast and bonded warehouses are noticeable features in views to the north-east towards the site and a number of wind farms can be seen at various distances in all directions, with Hill of Towie to the east being the most noticeable of the operational developments. Rothes III will be equally prominent to the west once constructed. | The proposed development will be seen in the distance to the north-east, set along and slightly in front of the skyline beyond the bonded warehouses.<br><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible from this elevated hilltop location. They will be seen to the right of nearby aviation lights on the Knock More mast and above bright floodlighting at the Malcolmburn Bonds.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would be seen to the south, west and north. Those proposals would mostly be closer to the viewpoint than the proposed development with Teindland being the closest. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios. | The proposed development will be distant and will not affect character in this location.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.   |
| 19 | Speyside Way near Garmouth | The view from this long-distance walking route looks out over nearby coastal farmland to the north-east and south-west, with views in other directions contained by nearby woodland. Houses at Spey Bay and woodland form the nearby skyline to the north-east. To the south-west, houses, farms and woodland are seen set among the farmland in front of low forested hills which form the skyline. Existing and consented wind farms are not visible from this location.  | The proposed development will be seen as two separate clusters of turbines set among forestry on the skyline. The larger eastern group will appear relatively distant, and the closer western group will be more prominent and create scale contrasts with foreground features.<br><b>Night-time:</b> All of the proposed aviation lights will be visible although one or two on the eastern group of turbines may be filtered through distant forestry. They will be seen as two distinct groups low on the skyline and in the context of nearby street and settlement lights at Nether Dallachy.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would not be visible from this location.                                       | The proposed development will be a noticeable change to the views inland, but will be perceived as relatively distant and clearly associated with the forested hills. It will not alter the coastal character in this location.<br><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would not be visible from this location. |





| VP | Location             | Key features of existing view  | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|----------------------|--|---|---|
| 20 | A96 south of Keith   | Views from this main road route are contained by higher ground, trees and forestry in most directions at this location. A more open view over the nearby undulating farmland is available looking north, offering a window beyond the nearby pylons and large barns towards Lurg Hill (and the nearby turbines) and the eastern part of the site. Nearby turbines at Edintore are prominent on the skyline to the west.                          | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines beyond the pylons, with both groups partly screened by nearby higher ground. The proposed development will be visually larger in scale than the existing and consented wind farms seen in this direction, but notably smaller than the pylons, and would not alter the nature of the views given the nearby Edintore turbines.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Two aviation lights on the western turbines will be seen just above the skyline formed by nearby rising ground and four on the eastern turbines will be visible more distantly, looking more along the valley and to the left of existing aviation lights seen on the group of turbines to the south of Lurg Hill.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would not be visible from this location.</p>  | <p>The character in this location is already affected by the nearby presence of Edintore wind farm and will not be further affected by views of the proposed development in the distance.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning or scoping would not be visible from this location.</p>              |
| 21 | B9015 near Fochabers | Nearby woodland to the west focusses views along the curving line of the road and out to the east towards the site. Nearby rising ground and a line of trees screen views eastwards towards Fochabers and beyond these a skyline of forested hills can be seen. Existing and consented wind farms are mostly not visible from this location, though Hill of Towie can be partly seen in the distance above forestry on the skyline to the south. | <p>The proposed development will be seen as two separate groups of turbines from this location. The more distant eastern group will be barely visible as blade tips seen between vegetation on the skyline. The western group will be seen set within forestry on the hills beyond the nearby higher ground. In summer trees will partly screen the turbines, and they will be seen partly through the trees in winter.</p> <p><b>Night-time:</b> Three of the lights on the western group of will be seen just above the skyline with two filtered through intervening vegetation. The remaining lights will be screened by intervening landform and forestry.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Wind farms in planning would not be visible from this location. Teindland wind farm would be seen along for forested skyline looking along the road to the southwest. Changes to views arising from the proposed development would be the same in all cumulative scenarios.</p> | <p>The proposed development will be seen as a limited change to the views and associated with the forested hills. It will not alter the character in this location.</p> <p><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will be slightly reduced in the context of Teindland wind farm.</p> |



| VP | Location                     | Key features of existing view   | Predicted Visual Change   | Predicted Change to Landscape Character   |
|----|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 22 | Gordon Castle, walled garden | Views from this location at the western edge of the walled garden take in the formal gardens in the foreground with evergreen trees and nearby forested hills beyond. Existing and consented wind farms are not visible from this location.   | As shown by the wireline, the blades of some of the turbines may be theoretically visible but would in practice be largely or entirely screened both by the nearby trees and substantial forest on the hills to the east of the castle.<br><br><b>Night-time:</b> As shown by the wireline, the aviation lights will not be visible from this location.<br><br><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.   | The proposed development will have no effect on character in this location.<br><br><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios.   |
| 23 | Castle Hill at Cullen        | The view from the castle mound looks out over Cullen to the east and the sea to the north. Views west look along the curving sandy beach in the bay towards Portknockie on the skyline. Inland views are dominated by Bin of Cullen and Little Bin which create a focal point among the gently undulating farmland and woodland. Consented turbines will be seen on Lurg Hill to the south, but otherwise consented and existing wind turbines are screened and/or barely noticeable. | The proposed development will be seen as a single group of turbines beyond the forestry to the left of the lower slopes of Little Bin. The western group of turbines will be screened by the hills. The hills will remain the focus of the views, with the turbines being a smaller feature of views in this direction.<br><br><b>Night-time:</b> As shown by the wireline, the aviation lights will not be visible from this location.<br><br><b>Cumulative:</b> wind farms in planning and/or scoping would be distant and barely visible from this location. Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios. | Views of Bin of Cullen form part of the character of this area of rolling coastal farmland. The proposed development would be seen close to the hill in all such views.<br><br><b>Cumulative:</b> Effects arising from the proposed development will remain the same in all cumulative scenarios. |



