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Chapter 5.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Environmental Impact Assessment	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of carrying out, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects from a development.
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations)
Environmental Impact Assessment Report	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations
Proposed Development	The South Kyle II Wind Farm development
Proposed Development Area	The area within the “Site boundary” as illustrated on EIAR Volume 2a, Figure 1.1 which the Proposed Development will be located
Aesthetic Aspects	The key aspects of the landscape which contribute to its appearance (previously composition), such as: • Scale; • Enclosure; • Diversity; • Texture; • Form; • Line;
	• Contour; • Balance; • Movement; and • Pattern.
Angle Intensity Mitigation	Also described as ‘vertical directional intensity’ or ‘narrow vertical beam spread’. Refers to the specification of aviation warning light design that allows for reduction in brightness when viewed from certain elevations above and below the horizontal plane of the nacelle.
Automatic dimming	Sensor controlled lighting that allows for a reduction in brightness, from 2000 cd to 200 cd, in conditions of good meteorological visibility.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape, and visual quality. Also includes the impacts of noise and disturbance, for example, on the natural environment experienced
Backclothing	Where elements (such as a proposed development) are seen below the skyline/horizon, and against a backdrop, thereby making them less prominent (potentially).
Baseline	The character of the study area as it exists at the commencement of the assessment process – i.e. prior to the development proposal under consideration.
Cumulative Effects	Effects arising from the additional or combination of developments which are in construction, have been consented or or subject to a planning application. May be experienced in combination, concurrently or sequentially.
Designated Landscape	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Diversity	Where a variety of qualities or characteristics occur.
Effect	The result of an impact on an environmental receptor.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Field Pattern	The pattern of hedges and walls that define fields in farmed landscapes.
Indirect Impacts	Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the development but are often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway. Sometimes referred to as secondary impacts.
Key Characteristics	The elements of the landscape and/or their inter relationship which form the defining components of the landscape.
Landscape	Human perception of the land conditioned by knowledge and identity with a place.
Landscape Capacity	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of the changes being proposed. The

Term	Definition
	capacity of the landscape is derived from a combination of Landscape Character Sensitivity, Visual Sensitivity and Landscape Value.
Landscape Character	The distinctive and recognisable pattern of the key constituent elements and features of a landscape that makes it distinct from other landscapes and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place in different areas of the landscape.
Landscape Character Type (LCT)	A landscape type will have broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation land use, settlement and field pattern discernible in maps and field survey records.
Landscape Classification	A process of sorting the landscape into different types using selected criteria, but without attaching relative values to the different types of landscape.
Landscape Fabric	Physical elements of the landscape or development site.
Landscape Factor	A circumstance or influence contributing to the impression of the landscape (e.g. scale, enclosure, elevation).
Landscape Feature	A prominent eye-catching element or landmark (e.g. church spire, wooded hilltop).
Landscape Impact	The change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development.
Landscape Effect	The consequence of change in the elements, characteristics, qualities and overall character of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be beneficial, neutral or adverse.
Landscape Evaluation	The process of attaching value (non-monetary) to a particular landscape, usually by the application of previously agreed criteria, including consultation and third-party documents, for a particular purpose (for example, designation or in the context of an assessment).
Landscape Quality (or Condition)	Based on judgments about the physical state and condition of the landscape and about its intactness. Also relates to the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up character in any one place.
Landscape Resource	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character and value.
Landscape Sensitivity (to a specific type of change)	The extent to which a landscape can accept change of a particular type and scale.
Landscape Value	The relative value or importance attached to a landscape (often as a basis for designation or recognition), which expresses commonly held national or local perception of its quality, special qualities and/or scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness and cultural associations.
Magnitude (of change)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
Methodology	The specific approach and techniques used for a given study.
Micrositing	The process of positioning individual structures to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints

Term	Definition
Mitigation Measures	Measures including any process, activity or design process to avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate for adverse impacts of a development.
Natural Factors	Elements of the landscape that have not been altered by human activity, e.g. • Geology; • Landform; and • River and drainage pattern.
Perception (of Landscape)	The psychology of seeing and possibly attaching value or meaning to the landscape.
Receptor	Physical landscape resource, special interest or individual or group experiencing view liable to change as a result of the Proposed Development.
Receptor Location	Location occupied by identified receptors.
Residual Effects	Effect of development after mitigation/embedded mitigation or design proposals are taken into account.
Scoping	The process of identifying likely significant effects of a development on the environment and establishing the environmental topics to be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, via the scoping process as defined within regulation 182 of the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regs 2017EIA Regulations.
Significance	A measure of importance or gravity of the environmental effect defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Significant Effect	An effect which is considered by the assessor to be “significant” in terms of the EIA Regulations which require the identification of significant effects.
Skylining	The proposed development (or aspects of it) would be seen on the skyline. The contrast between the proposed development and the sky would generally render the proposed development more visible/ prominent in views than if it were backclothed by topography.
Transient View	A view which obtained momentarily, as part of a sequence of views, e.g. from a car travelling along a road.
Viewpoint Sensitivity	The extent to which a view would be altered by change of a particular type and scale, assessed in relation to the following: • Location and land use (receptor activity) at the viewpoint or context of the view; • Landscape character and quality at the viewpoint; • Landscape character and quality of the intervening landscape; and • Importance of the view (which may be determined with respect to its popularity or number of affected people, its appearance in guidebooks, on tourist maps and the facilities provided for its enjoyment and references to it in literature and/or art.
Viewshadow	An area affording no visibility of the development due to the screening effect of intervening structures, topography or vegetation.
Viewshed	The extent of potential visibility to or from a specific area or feature.
Visibility Analysis	The process of identifying theoretical (based on digital modelling) and/or actual predicted areas from where any given development may be seen.

Term	Definition
Visual Amenity	A particular composition of landscape elements that contribute to a view, or views.
Visual Effect	The consequence of change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development, which may be beneficial or adverse.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other techniques illustrating the predicted appearance of a development from a known location. Presented either as a wireline image (outline of the development) or as a photomontage which merges a rendered version of the development into a photograph of the view/landscape.
Wireline	A computer-generated line drawing of the DTM (digital terrain model) and the Proposed Development from a known location.
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility. The area predicted to have views of a proposed development on the basis of a digital terrain model or digital surface model, which may/may not take account of landcover features. Also known as a Viewshed.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
Cd	candela
DGLCS	Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study, Carol Anderson in association with Alison Grant Landscape Architects, (June 2017).
DTM	Digital Terrain Model. Computer generated 3-dimensional model based on aerial survey of ground surface (e.g. Ordnance Survey Profile data). Often utilised as a basis for visibility modelling over large areas.
EALCS	East Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study, Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, (June 2018).
EA LDP2	East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (2024)
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, published jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.
LLA	Local Landscape Area
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LDP	Local Development Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
m	Metre(s)
m^2	Square Metres
Km	Kilometres
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NCN	National Cycle Network
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NS	NatureScot - Formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage, is the public body responsible for Scotland's natural heritage, especially its natural, genetic, and scenic diversity. It advises the Scottish Government and acts as a government agent in the delivery of conservation designations, i.e. national nature reserves, local nature reserves, national parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and the national scenic areas
NSA	National Scenic Area
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
OS	Ordnance Survey
RSA	Regional Scenic Area
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SALCS	South Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study (SALCS), Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, (August 2018).
SLLCS	South Lanarkshire Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy (SLLCS), IronsideFarrar, (February 2016).
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
TA	Technical Appendix
VP	Viewpoint (relating to Landscape and Visual)
WLA	Wild Land Area - Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland, as classified by SNH (2014)
WLIA	Wild Land Impact Assessment

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is one of the key components of the EIA for wind farms due to the introduction of tall elements into the landscape. The Proposed Development has been considered against the requirements of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. In addition, reference has been made to relevant planning policy as discussed in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 4: Climate Change, Legislative and Policy Context, noting the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and East Ayrshire Council's (EAC) Local Development Plan 2 (2024) (EA LDP2).

5.1.2 The objective of this assessment has been to determine the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development on the existing landscape resource and visual amenity. The following landscape and visual receptors have been assessed:

- Landscape character, key characteristics, and elements;
- Designated landscapes and Wild Land Areas; and
- Views and visual amenity experienced by residents, tourists, visitors, recreational and transport users.

5.1.3 The Site is located in an undesignated, upland area, approximately 3km to the northeast of Dalmellington, within an area of *Southern Uplands with Forestry* landscape character type (LCT).

5.1.4 In summary, the Proposed Development (Figure 3.1) comprises up to 11 wind turbines up to a maximum blade tip height of up to 200 m and associated infrastructure, including aviation warning lighting. Infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development includes the site entrances (via the existing substation off the B714 and via the existing South Kyle site entrance off the A713), internal access tracks and hardstanding areas, one borrow pit, and a compound comprising: the on-site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); and a temporary construction compound.

5.1.5 The project has been through an iterative design process and the assessment takes account of mitigation measures which have been designed to reduce effects where possible. These measures have subsequently been embedded into the Proposed Development.

5.1.6 In summary, the Proposed Development would significantly affect the host landscape of *Southern Uplands with Forestry,* although this has been identified within the *East Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study* (EALCS)[1], as generally amongst those landscapes most able to accommodate wind energy development.. Significant effects on landscape character would extend to approximately 2-3km and affect part of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry,* the adjacent *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* and also part of the *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* near Bogton Loch.

5.1.7 There would be no significant effects on any landscape planning designations including the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, the Doon Valley Local Landscape Area, or the Merrick Wild Land Area.

5.1.8 There would be significant visual effects on the views experienced by people within approximately 7.2km, mainly to the east of the Proposed Development. This includes residents on the outer edges of Burnton and on the northern edges of Dalmellington and some individual residents and road users along the B741. There would be significant visual effects on some views from parts of the A713 Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington and parts of Craigengillan Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) including Bogton Loch, Berbeth and Auchenroy Hill and associated local footpaths, although there would be no significant effects on the views from the main house associated gardens and stables. There would be no significant effects on the views from long-distance recreational routes including Scotland's Great Trails and Sustrans Cycle Routes.

5.1.9 The approved Lighting Strategy for the aviation warning lights includes mitigation to ensure there would be no significant night-time effects.

5.1.10 The assessment process has encompassed time-limited periods for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, the latter of which entails a reversal of many of the landscape and visual effects. Although the operation period for the Proposed Development is for the duration of 40 years (described in the assessment as 'long-term' and reversible), it has been assessed in the same manner as permanent development.

5.1.11 Other key relevant chapters (EIAR Volume 1) include Chapter 3: Description of Development, Chapter 4: Climate Change, Legislative and Policy Context, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage, Chapter 13: Aviation and Other Effects and Chapter 14: Socioeconomics. This Chapter should be read with reference to the following figures, visualisations and:

- Volume 2b: Figures:
  - Figure 5.1 – LVIA Study Area;
  - Figure 5.2a – ZTV to Tip Height;
  - Figure 5.2b – ZTV to Tip Height (10 km extract);
  - Figure 5.2c – ZTV to Tip Height (Size A0);
  - Figure 5.3 – ZTV to Hub Height;
  - Figure 5.4a – Aviation Lighting Strategy;
  - Figure 5.4b – Baseline Satellite Imagery (15 km);
  - Figure 5.4c – Aviation Lighting Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) with Viewpoints;
  - Figure 5.4d – ZTV of Aviation Lighting Intensity;
  - Figure 5.4e – Cumulative Night-time ZTVs;
  - Figure 5.5 – Landscape Character Types (10 km);
  - Figure 5.6 – Protected and Designated Landscapes;
  - Figure 5.7a – Sequential receptors - Key Routes;
  - Figure 5.7b – Local Routes & Recreational Receptors;
  - Figure 5.8 – Cumulative Sites within 60 km;
  - Figure 5.9 – Cumulative Sites considered within Cumulative Assessment;
  - Figure 5.10 – Cumulative ZTV (South Kyle WF and South Kyle II WF);
  - Figure 5.11 – Cumulative ZTV (Scenario 1: South Kyle II & Operational / Under Construction Sites);
  - Figure 5.12 – Cumulative ZTV (Scenario 2: South Kyle II & Operational / Consented Sites);
  - Figure 5.13 – Cumulative ZTV (Scenario 3: South Kyle II & Operational / Consented / Application Sites);
- Volume 2c: Visualisations
  - Figures 5.14a – f – Viewpoint 1: Picnic area off the A713
  - Figures 5.15a – f – Viewpoint 2: Bellsbank
  - Figures 5.16a – f – Viewpoint 3: Dalmellington Church
  - Figures 5.17a – f – Viewpoint 4: A713 West of Dalmellington
  - Figures 5.18a – f – Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch

[1] East Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study, Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, June 2018.

- Figures 5.19a – f – Viewpoint 6: Craigengillan House (Front Door)
- Figures 5.20a – f – Viewpoint 7: Craigengillan Estate (former Dark Sky Observatory)
- Figures 5.21a – f – Viewpoint 8: Berbeth
- Figures 5.22a – f – Viewpoint 9: South of Beoch House Loch Doon
- Figures 5.23a – f – Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill
- Figures 5.24a – f – Viewpoint 11: B741 West of Dalmellington
- Figures 5.25a – f – Viewpoint 12: B741 Bankglen
- Figures 5.26a – f – Viewpoint 13: Cairnsmore of Carsphairn
- Figures 5.27a – f – Viewpoint 14: Blackcraig Hill
- Figures 5.28a – f – Viewpoint 15: New Cumnock
- Figures 5.29a – f – Viewpoint 16: Patna Memorial
- Figures 5.30a – f – Viewpoint 17: A76 South of Mauchline
- Figures 5.31a – f – Viewpoint 18: Merrick Summit
- Figures 5.32a – f – Viewpoint 19: Carrick Hills
- Figures 5.33a – f – Viewpoint 20: B741 East of Dalmellington
- Figure 5.34 – Residential Receptors; and
- Figure 5.35a-j – Residential Visualisations.
- Figures 5.36a – f – Viewpoint N7: Craigengillan Estate (former Dark Sky Observatory)
- Figures 5.37a – f – Viewpoint N13: Cairnsmore of Carsphairn
- Figures 5.38a – f – Viewpoint N14: Blackcraig Hill

- Volume 3: Technical Appendices:
  - Technical Appendix 5.1 – Methodology;
  - Technical Appendix 5.2 – Viewpoint Assessment;
  - Technical Appendix 5.3 – Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA);
  - Technical Appendix 5.4 – Wild Land Impact Assessment; and
  - Technical Appendix 5.5 – Night-time Lighting Assessment.

Statement of Competence

5.1.12 The LVIA and associated specialist sub-topics has been undertaken by a team of Chartered Members (CMLI / FLI[2]) of the Landscape Institute (LI) at WSP UK Limited (WSP). The LVIA team includes a technical reviewer and lead author with all members of the team holding relevant undergraduate / post graduate degrees as set out in Table 5.1. The team has considerable experience in undertaking LVIAs of wind farms throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland. WSP is a register practice of the LI and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management (IEMA) and is a Registrant of IEMA's EIA Quality Mark Scheme. This scheme allows organisations in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in EIA activities, and to have this commitment independently reviewed on a regular basis.

5.1.13 Photography has been undertaken by a professional photographer experienced in undertaking specialist day and night-time viewpoint photography to NatureScot (NS) and Landscape Institute standards for LVIAs. Visualisations and supporting LVIA figures have been produced by Natural Power experienced in the provision of GIS mapping, visualisation, and analytical services to all stages of the renewable energy project life cycle.

[2] Chartered member of the Landscape Institute / Fellow of the Landscape Institute.

Table 5.5.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Statement of Competency

Company	Responsibility	Qualifications / competencies of team member
WSP	Technical Reviewer	FLI with 28 years LVIA experience including design of wind farms / renewable energy. BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture and Registered Practitioner of Urban Design.
WSP	Lead and support authors	CMLI with seven to 19 years LVIA experience of renewable energy assessment. BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture.
Natural Power	GIS Specialists	Visualisations and supporting LVIA figures have been produced by Natural Power experienced in the provision of GIS mapping, visualisation, and analytical services to all stages of the renewable energy project life cycle.
	Photographer	Photography has been undertaken by a professional photographer experienced in undertaking specialist day and night-time viewpoint photography to NatureScot and Landscape Institute standards for LVIAs and to support evidence at PLI.

5.2. Relevant Legislation and Planning Policy

5.2.1 The LVIA process has taken account of relevant legislation, national and local planning requirements in relation to wind farm development, as described in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 4: Climate Change, Legislative and Policy Context, and the Planning Statement which accompanies this Section 36 Application. This includes NPF4 (Scottish Government, 2023) and the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (2024) (EA LDP2 - adopted on 8 April 2024).

Legislation and National Planning Policy

5.2.2 The Proposed Development being greater than 50MW, falls within Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and the Schedule 9 duty placed on licence holders as follows:

- *"(a) shall have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and*
- *(b) shall do what they reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."*

5.2.3 The Applicant is not a licence holder. However, the LVIA contains the topic specific information necessary to enable the Scottish Ministers to discharge their duty in respect of this legislation.

National Planning Framework 4

5.2.4 NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13 February 2023, following approval by the Scottish Parliament in January 2023. NPF4 now forms part of the statutory development plan for all areas in Scotland.

5.2.5 NPF4 Annex B sets out statements of need for national development and provides that onshore electricity generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) capacity is strategically important, accordingly

classifying it as a national development (category 3: Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure). Inclusion as a national development establishes the general need for renewable projects of strategic scale across Scotland.

5.2.6 NPF4 supports development which helps to meet Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions targets and states "*The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment*" (p. 8).

5.2.7 Relevant policies in NPF4 include:

- Policy 1 Tacking the Climate and Nature crisis;
- Policy 3 Biodiversity;
- Policy 4 Natural places;
- Policy 5 Soils;
- Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees;
- Policy 11 Energy;

5.2.8 In relation to the project design and LVIA, Policy 11, 'e' advises that

"In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:

…ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;

iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes; …

x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;

xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration; … and

xiii. cumulative impacts."

East Ayrshire Local Development Plan

5.2.9 The LVIA has taken account of the relevant landscape related policy and local landscape designations within the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (2024). In addition, the LVIA has taken account of EAC's Supplementary Guidance: *Planning for Wind Energy,* December 2017 and the *East Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study* (EALCS), Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, (June 2018).

Other Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance

5.2.10 The LVIA Study Area extends over an additional three local authority areas and reference has been made to the local development plans and supplementary guidance for each of these areas as far as this relates to the landscape and visual baseline as follows:

- Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan (October 2019) and Supplementary Guidance: Part 1, Appendix 'C', *Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study*, Carol Anderson in association with Alison Grant Landscape Architects, (June 2017) (DGLCS);
- South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (August 2022) and Supplementary Guidance: *South Ayrshire Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study* (SALCS), Carol Anderson Landscape Associates, (August 2018); and
- South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (April 2021) and Supplementary Guidance: *South Lanarkshire Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy* (SLLCS), IronsideFarrar, (February 2016);

Wind Farm Sensitivity Studies

5.2.11 The EALCS, SALCS, SLLCS and DGLCS are wind farm 'sensitivity studies' that provide broad, strategic landscape character advice and assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind farm development within their respective local authority areas which are overlapped by the LVIA Study Area.

5.2.12 The guidance set out in these documents should be considered against a number of caveats and the advice of NS, *Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance (Methodology)*, (2022) as follows:

- Many of these reports were originally written as 'capacity studies' and attempted to define the landscape capacity for wind farm development within each landscape unit. NS advise that these studies should not be referred to as 'capacity studies' as no local or regional targets are available on which to determine the 'capacity' for development. Landscape Sensitivity Assessments should reflect their purpose, which is to provide a strategic assessment of relative landscape and visual sensitivity to certain defined forms of development.
- The capacity studies should not replace the need for individual landscape and visual impact assessments and/or Environmental Assessments for individual wind energy developments, which provide detailed and specific assessment of the likely landscape, visual and cumulative effects.
- The EALCS is not an up-to-date document, noting the consented Enoch Hill Wind Farm (16 turbines at 149.9 m to blade tip) and the consented Pencloe Wind Farm (19 turbines, 149.9 m to blade tip, now under construction) are not included in the baseline. The existing South Kyle wind farm (50 turbines, 149.5 m to blade tip) and the recently constructed Benbrack wind farm (18 turbines up to 149.9 m to blade tip) are recognised as consented development, although the latter included a variation prior to construction. The inclusion of these may have altered the EALCS assessment of 'very large' turbines (over 130 m high) and the judgements made about the landscape capacity to accept further development.
- The EALCS provides a broad assessment with judgements on sensitivity representing an average across a whole LCT, within which considerable variation can occur.

5.2.13 The Proposed Development would be located within the *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT (20c), as identified in the EALCS, which extends over a large area of East Ayrshire to the south and west and extends further south into Dumfries and Galloway where it is classified as *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT (19a).

Southern Uplands with Forestry (20c)

5.2.14 The EALCS judges the sensitivity of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT to 'very large' typologies (defined as wind turbines over 130m to blade tip in EALCS) and 'large' turbines (defined as wind turbines 70-130m to blade tip in EALCS) to be 'High'.

5.2.15 The constraints for this form of development within the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT outlined within the EALCS are considered in the design evolution of the Proposed Development which takes account of the relevant guidance, constraints and opportunities contained within the EALCS and in particular, the landscape, visual and cumulative effects on the Loch Doon area and the Upland Basin LCT.

5.2.16 Annex D of the EALCS uses viewpoints at Loch Doon and the A713 near Dalmellington, to assess the potential effects of repowering Dersalloch or South Kyle with very large turbines and concludes that Loch Doon, the Doon

Valley and the Girvan valley would be more sensitive to increases in height. Comparative ZTV analysis was also used in the EALCS which concluded that *"the extent of increased visibility … is not dramatic in most cases*". It is worth noting that from Loch Doon the Proposed Development would appear as partial blades and blade tips. The full height of the turbines would not be visible due to screening from intervening landform. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would be adjacent to South Kyle and Benbrack (both visible as hubs and some upper towers). The Proposed Development would be visible from the A713 near Dalmellington and several assessment viewpoints have been included in this area.

5.3. Assessment Methodology

5.3.1 The assessment methodology is set out in Appendix 5.1, which includes a glossary of terms and methodology for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), Night-time Assessment and the Wild Land Assessment reported separately in the Technical Appendices.

5.3.2 The methodology for the LVIA and CLVIA has been undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute and IEMA *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition (GLVIA 3). In addition to planning policy documents previously referenced, the main supporting technical guidance to the LVIA methodology includes, but is not limited to the following:

- NS (2021). Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments[i];
- NS (September 2020) Technical Guidance: Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas[ii].
- Landscape Institute (15 March 2019). *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment* (RVAA): Technical Guidance Note[iii];
- SNH[3] (SNH), (August 2017). *Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape*, Version 3a[iv];
- SNH (February 2017). *Visual Representation of Windfarms*, Version 2.2[v]; and
- SNH (June 2015). Guidance: Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – natural heritage considerations[vi].

Defining the LVIA Study Area

5.3.3 The SNH guidance *Visual Representation of Windfarms*, Version 2.2 advises that the LVIA Study Area for wind turbines of this height should be based on an area 45km minimum distance from each of the proposed turbine locations as illustrated in Figure 5.1. The same 45km LVIA study area also applies to the cumulative assessment.

5.3.4 It is important to note that the boundary of the LVIA study area is not the limit of potential visibility. Rather, it is an area defined by NS, on the basis of research, to determine a suitable LVIA study area for the assessment of wind farms which will contain all likely significant landscape and visual effects.

Baseline Characterisation of the Study Area

Desk Study

5.3.5 Initially, a desk study was undertaken to establish the baseline context of the Proposed Development. This considered physical components of the landscape (i.e. landscape fabric), distinctive and recognisable landscape elements, patterns and key characteristics (including documented perceptual and / or special qualities) that form the landscape character classification and designation. Visual receptors were identified and mapped from a range of documented sources and included settlement, transport and recreational routes, hill walking summits and outdoor tourist attractions / facilities and visitor / recreational destinations where an appreciation of the landscape is a key component of the activity.

5.3.6 LCTs considered in the baseline and subsequent assessment are derived from the Landscape Character Assessments contained within the relevant landscape sensitivity studies (EALCS, DGLCS, SALCS, and the SLLCS). Additional reference has also been made to the NS *Scotland Landscape Character Assessment*[4]; (2019).

5.3.7 The description of landscape designations and classifications contained within the LVIA are derived from the relevant local development plans and the following publications:

- EAC Local Development Plan 2, Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance, 2024;
- South Ayrshire Council Local Landscape Designation Review, Fiona Fyfe Ass. Ltd., 2018;
- NS (2019) Landscape Character Assessment, Ayrshire Landscape Evolution and Influences;
- Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan 2, Regional Scenic Areas Technical Paper, 2018;
- South Lanarkshire Local Landscape Designations Review, IronsideFarrar, 2010;
- Historic Environment Scotland Gardens and Designed Landscape Inventory;
- NS (2010) NS Commissioned Report 374 – The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas; and
- NS Wild Land descriptions.

5.3.8 Other datasets utilised in the preparation of the LVIA include:

- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 mapping;
- Ordnance Survey 5 m and 50 m Digital Terrain Model (DTM);
- National Scenic Areas – Scottish Government data sets;
- Wild Land Area – NS data sets;
- Road network – Meridian 2 data; and
- Cumulative data (Natural Power's own dataset).

Field Survey

5.3.9 Desktop findings were verified by targeted field surveys and reconnaissance during which time key sensitive receptor locations were visited. During the field surveys draft wirelines, mapping, data collection systems and augmented reality tools were utilised to verify theoretical visibility (including cumulative visibility).

Illustrative Materials

5.3.10 The LVIA is illustrated by a range of mapping including Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plans, photographs, wirelines, and photomontages. All outputs have been prepared in accordance with current best practice including:

- NS (2017) *Visual Representation of Wind Farm – Guidance Version 2.2*; and
- Landscape Institute (2019) *Technical Guidance Note 06/19 – Visual Representation of Development Proposals*.

5.3.11 ZTVs have been prepared to assist in the identification of areas from where there is potential visibility of the Proposed Development, illustrated in Figures 5.2a – c (calculated to turbine blade tip at highest point) and 5.3 (calculated to turbine hub height). ZTVs are based on Ordnance Survey (OS) digital terrain data supplied as gridded height data at 5 m and / or 50 m intervals resolution. This data does not take into consideration the

[3] Scottish Natural Heritage have been renamed 'NatureScot'.

[4] NatureScot (2019) Scotland Landscape Character Assessment – Online map and datasheets - https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions [accessed 23/04/2024]

screening effect of intervening vegetation or the built environment, thus any visibility shown within the ZTVs is more extensive than actual visibility would be on the ground.

5.3.12 The accompanying visibility analysis provides details of the number of visible turbines and which aspects of the turbines would be visible (i.e. tower, hub, blades). Cumulative ZTVs are also provided and illustrate the cumulative theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and other wind farm developments within the Study Area.

Assessment of Landscape Effects

5.3.13 Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as follows:

"An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. ... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the development may influence in a significant manner."

5.3.14 The potential landscape effects, occurring during the construction, operation and decommissioning period may therefore include, but are not restricted to the following:

- Changes to landscape elements: the addition of new elements (wind turbines) or the removal of existing elements such as trees, vegetation and buildings and other characteristic elements of the landscape character type;
- Changes to landscape qualities: degradation or erosion of landscape elements and patterns and perceptual characteristics, particularly those that form key characteristic elements of landscape character types/areas or contribute to the landscape value;
- Changes to landscape character: landscape character may be affected through the incremental effect on characteristic elements, landscape patterns and qualities (including perceptual characteristics) and the addition of new features, the magnitude of which is sufficient to alter the overall landscape character within a particular area; and
- Cumulative landscape effects: where more than one wind farm may lead to a potential landscape effect.

Assessment of Visual Effects

5.3.15 Visual Effects are concerned wholly with the effect of the development on views, and the general visual amenity and are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 6.1 as follows:

"An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern ... is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the context and character of views."

5.3.16 Visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view(s) at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:

- Visual effect: a change to an existing static view, sequential views, or wider visual amenity as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view(s); and
- Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

5.3.17 The landscape and visual effects (and whether they are significant) are determined by an assessment of the nature or 'sensitivity' of each receptor or group of receptors and the nature of the effect or 'magnitude of change' that would result from the Proposed Development. The evaluation of sensitivity takes account of the value and susceptibility of the receptor to the Proposed Development. This is combined with an assessment of the magnitude of change which takes account of factors such as the size and scale of the proposed change and the geographical extent. Other factors regarding the nature of the effect such as the duration of change and whether the effect is cumulative are also noted. By combining assessments of sensitivity and magnitude of change, a level of landscape or visual effect as well as the nature of that effect can be evaluated, and the significance of the effect determined.

5.3.18 The resulting level of effect is described in terms of whether it is significant or not significant and the type or nature of effect is described as either direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and beneficial, neutral or adverse. The assessment has also considered the cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Development in combination with other existing and consented wind farms, and wind farms at the planning application stage.

5.3.19 The time period for the assessment covers phases of development related to the construction of the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure, its operation for a period of 40 years, and decommissioning.

5.3.20 LVIA unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and subjective assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

5.3.21 The assessment of cumulative effects is essentially the same as the LVIA of the individual Proposed Development assessed on a solus basis, in that the level of landscape and visual effect is determined by assessing the sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor and the magnitude of change. Cumulative assessment however considers the magnitude of change posed by multiple developments.

5.3.22 The cumulative assessment accords with NS guidance (2021) and has been prepared to ensure that, as well as the effects of the Proposed Development (LVIA), the 'additional' cumulative effects and the 'combined' cumulative effects are also reported to account for two cumulative scenarios as follows:

- Scenario 1: Existing + Consented + the Proposed Development:

  The additional and combined cumulative effects of the Proposed Development and existing and consented wind energy developments are assessed.
- Scenario 2: Existing + Consented + Applications + the Proposed Development:

  The additional and combined cumulative effects of the Proposed Development and existing and consented wind energy developments and live applications (including schemes at planning appeal) are assessed.

5.3.23 In addition, the cumulative assessment takes account of the timescales or consented periods of operation for the existing and consented developments within 10 km of the Proposed Development.

Evaluation of Significance and Nature of Effect

5.3.24 In accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations, it is important to determine whether the effects, assessed as a result of the Proposed Development, are likely to be significant. Significant landscape and visual effects will be

highlighted in bold in the text and in most cases, relate to effects that result in a '**Substantial'**, '**Major'** or a '**Major - Moderate**' effect as indicated in Table 5.2 (and shaded dark grey).

5.3.25 'Moderate' levels of effect (shaded grey) can also be assessed as significant, subject to the assessor's professional opinion, which should be clearly explained as part of the assessment. White or un-shaded boxes in Table 5.2 indicate a non-significant effect.

5.3.26 In those instances where there would be no effect, the magnitude has been recorded as 'Zero' and the level of effect as 'None' or 'No View'. Intermediate levels of magnitude and levels of effect are also used in the LVIA and are shown in Table 5.2.

5.3.27 In accordance with the EIA Regulations the type or nature of effect is also described in terms of whether it is direct or indirect; its duration (temporary / permanent or reversible) cumulative; and whether the effect is positive, neutral or negative.

Table 5..2: Evaluation of Landscape and Visual Effects

		Landscape and Visual Sensitivity			
		High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Very Low**
Magnitude of Change	**High**	**Substantial**	**Major**	Moderate	Not Used
	High-Medium	**Substantial to Major**	**Major to Moderate**	Moderate to Minor	
	Medium	**Major**	Moderate	Minor	
	Medium-Low	**Major to Moderate**	Moderate to Minor	Minor	
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	
	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Negligible	Negligible	
	Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	
	Zero	None / No View			

Specialist LVIA Assessment

5.3.28 In addition to the LVIA, three areas of specialist landscape related assessment have been undertaken to assess the effects of the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity; Wild Land Areas (WLA) and the effects resulting from aviation warning lights visible between the hours of dusk and dawn. An outline of the methodology for these assessments is provided in Appendix 5.1 with further detailed methodology provided in the relevant Appendices. A brief summary is provided below.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

5.3.29 The RVAA is provided in Appendix 5.3. It has been based on the methodology described in Appendix 5.1 which advises that the properties included in the RVAA are limited to those which can be identified on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map and are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV shown in Figure 5.34. The assessment has been informed by site visits, observing the properties from public locations and through the examination of publicly available aerial and ground level photography as well as map-based data, the production of ZTV plots and visualisations such as wirelines. As such the assessment represents an informed judgement of the likely visual effects and the consequential effects on residential visual amenity.

Night-time Assessment

5.3.30 The Aviation Lighting Strategy is detailed in the Visibility of Aviation Warning Lights, Report (2024), prepared by Dr Stuart Lumsden (EIAR Volume 3, Technical Appendix 5.6) and illustrated in Figure 5.4.a.

5.3.31 The assessment accords with the NS *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*, November 2024 and follows the same LVIA methodology used for the assessment of day-time landscape, visual and cumulative effects, set out in Appendix 5.1. The main difference being that it is conducted between the periods of dusk and dawn and assesses the baseline night-time environment against the Aviation Lighting Strategy for the Proposed Development. Importantly, the Night-time Assessment is not a technical lighting impact assessment based on quantitative measurement of light levels. Rather, the assessment relies on professional judgement and combines both qualitative analysis of what the human eye can reasonably perceive and quantitative analysis of the proposed light intensity at different distances and angles of elevation relative to the source, taking into account a range of factors such as meteorological conditions and the perception of darkness at the viewpoint or receptor location.

Wild Land Assessment

5.3.32 A Wild Land assessment is provided in Appendix 5.4. The assessment methodology is based on NS's *Technical Guidance: Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas* (September 2020). The method and general approach to the wild land assessment is described in paragraphs 4 and 12 and is based on GLVIA 3 methodology as follows:

"*The method described employs the general approach and principles set out within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA)5. The assessment of effects of a proposal on a WLA is an exercise distinct from landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) that can draw on but should not duplicate its information. The assessment should consider effects on the physical attributes and perceptual responses that contribute to the WLA qualities identified in the WLA descriptions*."

5.3.33 The assessment of night-time effects on Wild Land Areas is also reported in Appendix 5.4 and is based on a combination the Wild Land assessment methodology and the night-time assessment methodology.

Assumptions and Limitations

5.3.34 The LVIA has assessed the 'candidate turbine' described in Chapter 3: Project Description. The turbine dimensions are therefore assessed as 115 m to hub height, 170 m rotor diameter, and 200 m to blade tip.

Variations and Micro-siting

5.3.35 Post consent, the location of the proposed 11 turbines would be subject to micro-siting of up to +/- 100m. Viewpoint analysis confirms that a micro-siting allowance of up to 100m is unlikely to significantly alter the ZTV pattern or change the overall results of the LVIA with the exception of the outer turbines. Any micro-siting allowance of up to 100 m remains subject to the existing site constraints which, in practice, would limit this movement within the site area.

5.3.36 Variations to the turbine dimensions, within the overall maximum blade tip heights, could affect the overall appearance and proportion of the turbines and each option would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

[5] Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and IEMA (May 2013), hereafter referred to as' GLVIA 3'.

Although unlikely, increases to the turbine hub height (smaller rotor diameter) within the overall blade tip height and micro-siting may alter the number of aviation warning lights that are visible from some locations and consequently alter the night-time assessment.

Aviation Lighting Strategy

5.3.37 The Night-time Assessment of the aviation warning lights is based on light specification CEL MI-2KR in Table 4 of the NS *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*, Appendix 3, November 2024. However, this model has since been superseded, and equivalent or improved lights would be specified post application.

Cumulative Wind Energy Development

5.3.38 Drawing from NS guidance[5] a baseline of all other cumulative wind energy development within the LVIA study area has been collated. This includes all existing and consented wind energy development, and planning applications for other wind energy development. In accordance with the NS guidance[5], projects at scoping stage have been excluded, along with micro-generation turbines less than 50m to blade tip height.

5.3.39 In total, there are 100 other wind energy developments within the Study Area as illustrated in Figure 5.9. Those wind energy developments most relevant to the cumulative LVIA include five within approximately 10km of the Proposed Development, including the closest existing wind farms at South Kyle I, Enoch Hill, Benbrack, Dersalloch, and North Kyle.

5.3.40 The baseline of other wind energy development within the LVIA study area has been revised to accord with the latest council wind farm databases and advice, including the East Ayrshire Council's Onshore Wind Planning Application Visual Register[vii]; and other wind energy developer sources.

5.3.41 Other wind farm development within 20km of the Proposed Development, including the most relevant to the cumulative assessment are described further in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Wind Energy Development within 30 km of the Proposed Development

Wind Farm Name	Distance from the Proposed Development	No. of turbines	Tip height (m)
South Kyle I	<10 km	50	149.5
Enoch Hill	<10 km	16	149.9
North Kyle	<10 km	54	149.9
Benbrack	<10 km	18	132 / 135 / 149.9
Windy Standard	<10 km	36	52
Windy Standard II	<10 km	30	120
Dersalloch	<10 km	23	125
Afton	<10 km	25	100/120
Windy Rig	<10 km	12	125
Hare Hill	10-20 km	20	63.5
Hare Hill Extension	10-20 km	35	70 / 75 / 81 / 86 / 91
Sandy Knowe I	10-20 km	24	125
Hadyard Hill	20-30 km	52	110
Blackcraig	20-30 km	23	110
Twentyshilling Hill	20-30 km	9	125
Sunnyside	20-30 km	2	62
Kennoxhead I	20-30 km	19	180
Bankend Rig I	20-30 km	11	76
Kirk Hill	20-30 km	8	115.5
Consented Wind Energy Developments			
Overhill	<10 km	10	180
Windy Standard III	<10 km	20	125 / 177.5
Pencloe (under construction)	<10 km	19	149.9
Polquhairn	<10 km	9	100 / 110 / 119 / 125 / 145
Shepherd's Rig	10-20 km	15	149.9 / 125
Manquhill	10-20 km	8	200
Sanquhar II	10-20 km	44	200 / 149
Lorg	10-20 km	9	130 / 149.9
Lethans	10-20 km	22	176 / 200 / 220
Glenmuckloch	10-20 km	8	149.9
Knockshinnoch	10-20 km	2	126.5
Torrs Hill	10-20 km	2	100
Troston Loch	20-30 km	14	149.9
Glenshimmeroch	20-30 km	10	180 / 200
Margree	20-30 km	9	200
Fell	20-30 km	9	180 / 200
Knockman Hill	20-30 km	5	81
Lethams II	20-30 km	22	176 / 200
Kennoxhead II	20-30 km	8	180

Wind Farm Name	Distance from the Proposed Development	No. of turbines	Tip height (m)
Mill Rig	20-30 km	6	250 / 209
Bankend Rig II	20-30 km	3	126.5
Wind Energy Development Applications			
Enoch Hill II (now consented)	<10 km	2	149.9
Windy Standard Repower	<10 km	8	200
Knockkippen	<10 km	12	149.9 / 180
Sclenteuch	<10 km	9	180 / 200
Euchanhead	10-20 km	21	230
Quantans	10-20 km	14	200
Lorg Variation	10-20 km	10	200
Craiginmoddie	10-20 km	14	200
Carrick	10-20 km	13	200
Knockcronal	10-20 km	9	180 / 200
Cloud Hill	10-20 km	10	180
Herds Hill	10-20 km	3	149.9
Sandy Knowe II	10-20 km	6	149.9
The Drum	10-20 km	8	185
Knochodhar	20-30 km	16	149.9 / 200

Cumulative Baseline Update

5.3.42 Since the cumulative LVIA some new applications, not previously considered, to vary two of the consented wind farms which are included in the baseline:

- Shepherds Rig – variation submitted in Nov 2024 to reduce the number for turbines from 15 to 13 and increase the tip height to 200m.
- Bankend Rig II – variation submitted to increase the tip height to 200m.

5.3.43 Shepherds Rig is located approximately 13km to the south, beyond the Southern Uplands landmass and the South Kyle I and Windy Standard wind farm clusters and Bankend Rig II is located beyond 25km distance from the Proposed Development. Neither of these developments are relevant to the cumulative assessment and neither would contribute to significant cumulative effects when combined with the Proposed Development.

5.4. Consultation

5.4.1 The EIA scoping exercise resulted in agreement on the methodology and scope of the LVIA, including the agreement of viewpoints (including day and night viewpoint locations) and other wind energy development to be included in the cumulative LVIA.

5.4.2 Table 5.4 summarises the consultation responses relevant to the LVIA assessment and provides information on where and / or how they have been addressed in this assessment.

Table 5.4: Consultation Responses

Consultee and Date	Scoping/ Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/ Action Taken
South Ayrshire Council (SAC) 21/04/2022	Scoping	Requested an additional viewpoint location from the Colonel Hunter Blair Monument (239157, 603962).	The Proposed Colonel Hunter Blair Monument viewpoint was discounted due the intervening topography to the east (Kildoach Hill) which prevent intervisibility with the Proposed Development, refer to Figure5.2a.
NatureScot (NC) 03/05/2022	Scoping	NS advised of a "*complex scenario emerging around the Merrick WLA with proposals for very tall turbines currently in the planning* system. Accordingly, for turbines of this height and at this distance (15 km) we would expect to see a Wild Land Impact Assessment included within the EIAR. This WLIA should also include an assessment of the effect of turbine lighting on the SQs of the WLA."	A Wild Land Impact Assessment covering the effects of the Proposed Development during both the day and night (in respect of aviation warning lights) has been provided in Technical Appendix 5.4.
East Ayrshire Council (EAC) 14/06/2022	Scoping	EAC agrees with the 45 km study area, given the size and scale of the proposed turbines.	Noted.
		EAC suggested a 60 km cumulative search area should be provided (based on NS guidance).	A cumulative search area for other wind farm development is illustrated in Figure 5.8 and Figure 5.9 illustrates cumulative development within 45 km. Considering both of these figures, the overall extent of theoretical visibility and the concentration of other wind farm development a cumulative study area of 45 km is considered proportionate and will be sufficient to include all significant cumulative effects.
		EAC advises the use of LCTs within the Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study 2018 (EALCS), as the most accurate record of LCTs locally within East Ayrshire.	The EALCS has been used as the baseline document for landscape character assessment. This approach also accords with NS guidance.
		The application site extends into the Council's Sensitive Landscape Area and impacts on this sensitive landscape will need to be assessed as part of the LVIA.	The Sensitive Landscape Areas have been re-named Local Landscape Areas (LLA) to accord with NS guidance and the EAC Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance, 2024. No turbines or associated infrastructure are located within the Doon Valley LLA. The Uplands and Moorlands LLA has been reviewed and a new boundary established further to the east, away from the proposed Development and beyond the Enoch Hill Wind Farm.
		EAC suggest contacting other local authorities within the study area to obtain up to date information relating to wind energy developments in their respective authority areas. Section 36 wind farm applications will also need to be kept under review to ensure they are accurately reflected in the assessment.	Noted. A list of cumulative wind farm development most relevant to the cumulative assessment is set out in Table 5.3 and Figure 5.9 illustrates cumulative development within 45 km. This information has been provided from a variety of sources including local planning authorities, developers and the Government's Energy Consents Unit.
		The applicant should consider the potential effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other tall structures such as electricity pylons and nearby mineral extraction sites (or former sites yet to be restored) which could contribute to cumulative landscape and visual impacts.	Noted. Where these features are included in the existing baseline landscape character and views they will be included as part of the LVIA.
		Lighting impacts on the Dark Sky Park will also need to be assessed. Indirect lighting impacts as well as directly visible lighting impacts should be assessed given the close proximity to the Dark Sky Park.	Noted. A Night-time Assessment of the effects of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.
		The council would expect wirelines from each viewpoint location to show whether hub lighting would be visible and with respect to selected viewpoints, photomontages are to be produced in addition to wirelines, to show effects of hub lighting as well as the three tower lights where required for each turbine.	Noted. All wirelines include numbered turbines that can be used to identify the lit turbines (Nos. T1, T4, T5, T9 and T10). Figures 5.36-38 illustrate night-time views and photomontages of the Proposed Development. The CAA approved Lighting Strategy includes a range of embedded mitigation and has removed the need for mid-tower lights.

Consultee and Date	Scoping/ Other Consultation	Issue Raised	Response/ Action Taken
		Photomontages should be produced to show a worst-case scenario without the effects of any proposed mitigation. Full details of any proposed mitigation will need to be detailed within the EIA Report alongside what effects this will have on lighting impacts.	Noted. The Night-time Assessment provided in Technical Appendix 5.5 and accompanying visualisations (Figures 5.36-38) have been produced to accord with the NS *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*, November 2024.
		Night-time impacts will require consideration of both the landscape and visual impacts.	Noted. The Night-time Assessment as been produced to accord with the NS *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*, November 2024.
		Night-time lighting assessment shall also include a cumulative night-time assessment taking into account other wind farms / turbines which have / will require visible aviation lighting and any other tall structures which have visible aviation lighting on them.	Noted. A cumulative night-time assessment has been included in Technical Appendix 5.5.
		EAC welcomes the addition of a RVAA assessment out to 3 km and would request that cumulative schemes are shown on separate wirelines to the project-alone wirelines. RVAA properties will also require night-time wirelines and photomontages to enable full consideration of night-time impacts from aviation lighting on residential receptors.	Noted. The RVAA is reported in Technical Appendix 5.3 and accompanied by Figures 5.34 and 5.35. It includes a night-time assessment for each property with reference made to the wirelines, baseline photos and where appropriate daytime photomontages. No night-time photomontages have been produced. The NS guidance advises on the proportionate production of a small number, drawn from the representative viewpoints.
		EAC agrees with the list of viewpoint locations within the local authority area, however, they have requested the following additional viewpoint locations:	Noted.
		• A viewpoint on the B741 immediately north of the application site where clear views would be available and from where cumulative impacts are also likely with other consented development on the northern edge of the B741;	A viewpoint immediate north of the Proposed Development along the B741 has been included and illustrated in Figure 5.33: Viewpoint 20 – B741 East of Dalmellington.
		• A viewpoint from Ochiltree and Mauchline.	Viewpoints from Ochiltree and Mauchline were considered and subsequently discounted as the Proposed Development would be located beyond the existing North Kyle Wind Farm and would only slightly add to the concentration of wind farm development. Both proposed viewpoints are covered by the adjacent Viewpoint 17 at Mauchline, illustrated in Figure 5.30.
		• A viewpoint located within the Sensitive Landscape Area.	Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 16 are located with LLAs (previously Sensitive Landscape Areas).
		The planning authority would welcome the opportunity to further consider any viewpoints as the list is finalised to agree these. The planning authority would also expect to have the opportunity to consider night-time viewpoint locations in due course to agree appropriate viewpoints.	Noted. Viewpoint Nos 7, 13 and 14 (Figures 5.36-38) have since been agreed as night-time viewpoints.
		EAC would expect the LVIA and RVAA to be undertaken in full accordance with the most up to date guidance and publications at the time of preparing the EIA report.	Noted. Both the LVIA and RVAA have been undertaken in accordance with relevant up to date guidance including the Landscape Institute and IEMA *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition (GLVIA 3) and the Landscape Institute *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment* (RVAA): Technical Guidance Note (15 March 2019).

5.5. ZTV and Cumulative ZTV Analysis

5.5.1 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis is used to assist the design and further define the scope of the assessment process. The ZTVs have been calculated using ReSoft © WindFarm computer software to produce an area of potential visibility of any part of the proposed turbines, calculated to turbine blade-tip and hub-height, or selected infrastructure. The ZTV does not however take account of built development and vegetation, which can significantly reduce the area and extent of actual visibility in the field and as such provides the limits of the visual assessment Study Area. As a result, there may be roads, tracks and footpaths in the wider setting which, although shown as falling within the ZTV, have restricted viewing opportunities since they are heavily screened or filtered by banks, walls and vegetation. The ZTVs therefore provide a starting point in the assessment process and accordingly tend towards giving a 'worst-case' or over-estimated scenario of the potential visibility of the turbines.

5.5.2 A number of ZTV maps have been provided as follows:

- Figure 5.2a illustrates the ZTV calculated to blade tip at 1:350,000 scale across the 45km Landscape and Visual Study Area and provides an overview of the theoretical extent of visibility with viewpoints;
- Figure 5.2b illustrates the Detailed ZTV to blade tip (10km) with viewpoints;
- Figure 5.2c (A0 fold-out) illustrates the ZTV calculated to blade tip at 1:120,000 scale across the Landscape and Visual Study Area. This figure also illustrates the viewpoint locations;
- Figure 5.3 illustrates the Detailed ZTV calculated to hub height at 1:350,000 scale across the 45 km Landscape and Visual Study Area and provides an overview of the theoretical extent of visibility with viewpoints;

5.5.3 Further cumulative ZTV maps are illustrated in Figures 10-13 as follows:

- Figure 5.10: illustrates a comparative ZTV of the existing South Kyle Wind Farm and the Proposed Development calculated to blade tip at 1:350,000 scale across the Landscape and Visual Study Area and provides an overview of the theoretical extent of visibility;
- Figure 5.11: illustrates a cumulative ZTV of the Proposed Development and other operational and under construction sites;
- Figure 5.12: illustrates a cumulative ZTV of the Proposed Development and other operational and under construction, and consented sites;
- Figure 5.13: illustrates a cumulative ZTV of the Proposed Development and other operational, under construction, consented and application sites.

5.5.4 Further cumulative ZTV maps are also illustrated in Figures 5.4e, indicating the extent of theoretical aviation lighting intensity.

ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development

5.5.5 The ZTV pattern for the Proposed Development reflects the underlying landform within the 45km Study Area. Within 10 km the ZTV coverage is largely focused to the north and west of the Proposed Development (as illustrated in Figure 5.2b). To the north, much of this theoretical visibility is within the Foothills with Forest and Opencast Mining LCT and the Upland Basin landscape character types and includes some large areas of active open-cast mining. To the west ZTV coverage is present along the Doon Valley and the containing hills to the west of the valley (within the Upper River Valley, and Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley LCTs). Further ZTV coverage is present to the northeast in elevated areas to the south and west of New Cumnock and eastern edge and containing hills of the River Nith valley. There is no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the Glen Afton Valley. Although theoretical visibility is present on the western facing slopes of elevated ground to the east of the Glen Afton Valley LLA; this is an area affected by the existing Afton Wind Farm. Fragmentary theoretical visibility is present to the south of the Proposed Development across elevated summits within the Carsphairn Forest and Southern Uplands with Forest LCT.

5.5.6 Within 10-20 km fragmented theoretical visibility is present on elevated ground to the northeast of New Cumnock and along the Nith Valley and on the elevated plateau moorlands to the east and north of Cumnock. Further fragmented coverage is indicated in the lower lying agricultural landscape to the north-northwest of the study area, and in scattered, elevated forested areas to the west and southwest of the study area including Carrick Forest and Galloway Forest Park. There is very limited fragmented theoretical visibility to the southeast and east of the Proposed Development. Theoretical visibility is more widespread to the north towards the settlements of Cumnock and Mauchline.

5.5.7 Within 20-45km there is little or no theoretical visibility in the east, southeast and southwest. Theoretical visibility is mostly indicated to the west along elevated ground to the north, west and south of Maybole, along the coastline north of Prestwick and in scattered bands in the agricultural landscape east of Prestwick and northwest of Kilmarnock, transitioning to forested uplands further east at Whitelee and the plateau moorlands north of Muirkirk, although in reality visibility from these areas would tend to be restricted by higher levels of intervening vegetation and built form.

5.5.8 The hub height ZTV (Figure 5.3) covers a similar, although slightly reduced area.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development and South Kyle I

5.5.9 Figure 5.10 illustrates a cumulative ZTV of the Proposed Development and the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm at blade tip height. It may be noted that there would be limited additional theoretical visibility (shown in light blue), the main areas being along the B741 and close to Dalmellington and Bellsbank, and on the hills to the south of Loch Doon. Further additional areas of ZTV coverage are very fragmented and limited in extent. The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development would most likely be viewed in combination with the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm. Notably this is the case for areas in the Doon Valley, along the B741 and at Loch Doon.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development + Operational / Under Construction Wind Farms

5.5.10 The cumulative ZTV is illustrated in Figure 5.11. There is little or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development on its own (areas shown in light blue). The ZTV indicates that in most cases it would be seen in combination with other existing, under construction wind farms of Enoch Hill, South Kyle I, Benbrack and Windy Standard within 10km. There is widespread theoretical visibility indicated to the north and northeast over Airds Moss at 10 – 30 km distance. Elsewhere the ZTV pattern is more fragmented and covers an area to the north and along the Ayrshire coastline north of Ary, the Carrick Hills to the south of Ary and west of the proposed Development and fragmented ZTV coverage around the area of Loch Don and Glen Kens to the south.

5.5.11 Areas of the Doon Valley and Loch Doon (shown in light green) indicate that the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible in combination with other existing and / or consented wind farm developments. This accords with the viewpoint analysis and relates mostly to the existing wind farms at South Kyle I, Enoch Hill, Benbrack and Dersalloch.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Wind Farms

5.5.12 The cumulative ZTV pattern for the Proposed Development with existing and consented wind farms is illustrated in Figure 5.12. Within 10 km there are several existing / under construction wind farms within 10 km of the Proposed Development, located to the north, east, southeast and west, and four consented wind farms situated to the north and southeast of the Proposed Development. There is little or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development on its own (areas shown in light blue), with the ZTV indicating that in most cases it would be seen in combination with other existing or consented developments, although these may be visible in different directions and/ or screened by vegetation or buildings. Areas of the Doon Valley and Loch Doon (shown in light green) indicate that the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible in combination with other existing and / or consented wind farm developments. This accords with the viewpoint analysis and relates mostly to the existing wind farms at South Kyle I, Enoch Hill, Benbrack and Dersalloch. Areas coloured yellow and orange relate to the theoretical visibility of other wind farm development and not the Proposed Development. Areas of dark green relate to the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development with existing and consented wind farm development and other wind farm applications. These areas are mainly hill summits / plateaus and hill slopes facing the Proposed Development notably within the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* which hosts much of the wind farm development in this area and the *Foothills with Forest and Opencast Mining* to the north, and *Foothills with Forest west of the Doon Valley*.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Proposed Development + Existing, Consented + Application Wind Farms

5.5.13 Cumulative ZTV coverage of the Proposed Development with existing and consented wind farm development and other wind farm applications is illustrated in Figure 5.13. There is little or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development on its own (areas shown in light blue), with the ZTV indicating that in most cases it would be seen in combination with other developments, although these may be visible in different directions and or screened by vegetation or buildings. Areas of the Doon Valley and Loch Doon (shown in light green) indicate that the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible in combination with other existing and / or consented wind farm developments. This accords with the viewpoint analysis whilst areas coloured yellow and orange relate to the theoretical visibility of other wind farm development and not the Proposed Development. Areas of dark green relate to the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development with existing and consented wind farm development and other wind farm applications. The ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development tend to be less often viewed in combination with other wind farm applications. The areas of combined visibility relate mainly to hill summits / plateaus and hill slopes facing the Proposed Development as noted previously.

5.6. Viewpoint and Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis

5.6.1 The viewpoint analysis has been conducted from 20 viewpoint locations as illustrated in Figures 5.2a-c, and 5.3a. Each of these viewpoints are illustrated as baseline photographs and visualisations (wirelines and / or photomontages) in Figures 5.14 - 5.35. Three of these viewpoints were identified for the night-time assessment and the views from these locations are illustrated in Figures 5.36 – 5.38 and assessed in separate appendix (Technical Appendix 5.5). A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in Table 5.5.

5.6.2 Cumulative wind farm development, included within the LVIA Study Area, that would be theoretically visible from each viewpoint has been illustrated in the wirelines.

Potential for significant effects: Proposed Development

5.6.3 The viewpoint analysis indicates that significant visual effects are likely to affect the views from areas within approximately 7.2 km distance from the Proposed Development (subject to a clear view of the proposed turbines and screening by landform and / or vegetation), as indicated by viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 20 (Figures 5.14, 5.17, 5.18, 5.20, 5.21, 5.23, 5.24, and 5.35). These viewpoints are spread along the B741 between Maneight and Dalmellington and across the Doon valley between Burnton, Bogton Loch, Auchenroy Hill and Craigengillan to the west of Dalmellington, affecting a concentrated area within the Doon Valley including the western facing valley sides / summits and the valley floor. Part of this area is overlapped by Craigengillan GDL which includes the site of the Former Dark Sky Observatory.

5.6.4 The significantly affected viewpoints are:

- Viewpoint 1: Picnic are of the A713;
- Viewpoint 4: A713 West of Dalmellington;
- Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch;
- Viewpoint 7: Craigengillan Estate (Dark Sky Observatory);
- Viewpoint 8: Berbeth;
- Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill;
- Viewpoint 11: B741 West of Dalmellington; and
- Viewpoint 20: B741 East of Dalmellington.

Potential for significant cumulative effects

5.6.5 With the exception of Viewpoint 6 at Craigengillan House, all of the viewpoints are cumulative, and, in most cases, the Proposed Development (South Kyle II) would be viewed cumulatively with the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm and other wind farm development visible in different directions at approximately 10km distance. Other wind farms beyond 10km are also frequently visible from some of the assessment viewpoints, although often to a non-significant degree.

5.6.6 The Proposed Development would contribute to a significant, cumulative visual effect at seven of the assessment viewpoints (Viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11, Figures 5.14, 5.17, 5.18, 5.20, 5.21, 5.23, 5.24, and 5.33 respectively). There would be no significant cumulative visual effects as a result of the Proposed Development from viewpoints 2, 3, 6, 9, and 12-20 (inclusive) as the Proposed Development would be seen as a minor part of a larger cluster of wind farm development with the combined cumulative significant effects generated by other existing, consented, or other application wind farms within the LVIA Study Area.

5.6.7 As a precaution, the visual assessment in Chapter 5 has considered all of those receptors within 10km of the Proposed Development and national level receptors within 45km.

Potential for Significant Night-time Visual Effects

5.6.8 A night-time assessment of the effects of the visible aviation warning lights is provided in Appendix 5.5 and supported by three night-time viewpoints: Viewpoint 7: Craigengillan Estate (site of the former Dark Sky Observatory); 13: Cairnsmore of Cairsphain: and 14: Blackcraig Hill. For the remaining 17 viewpoints, the viewpoint analysis confirms which of the visible aviation warning lights would be theoretically visible from each viewpoint, although in reality these may be screened by intervening buildings or vegetation.

5.6.9 The night-time viewpoint analysis in Technical Appendix 5.5, concludes that allowing for the embedded mitigation, none of the viewpoints would be significantly affected by the proposed visible aviation warning lights.

Interpretation of Viewpoint Analysis Summary Tables

5.6.10 The information set out in Table 5.5 (Technical Appendix 5.2: Viewpoint Analysis) provides a summary of the viewpoint analysis of the effects of the Proposed Development on an independent or 'standalone' basis. This table also provides a summary of the cumulative viewpoint analysis and sets out the effects of Proposed Development 'in addition' to and 'in combination' with other existing, consented and application wind energy developments in accordance with the methodology in Technical Appendix 5.1. This analysis helps to define the contribution the Proposed Development would make to any cumulative effects as well as the overall or 'total' cumulative effect considering all other wind farms and the proposed development together. It is also relevant to the latter half of the operational period for the Proposed Development, when the consented periods of operation for other wind farms would expire and they would be decommissioned, assuming no extensions to the operating periods or re-powering schemes are granted.

5.6.11 The information set out in Table 5.5 (Technical Appendix 5.2: Viewpoint Analysis) lists the names of the viewpoints and includes the following information:

- Proposed Development: Assessed on an individual basis (the LVIA)

  This part of the assessment takes account of other existing forms of wind farm development that may be present in the landscape, whilst recognising that their influence on landscape character is likely to be time limited. It does not consider the additional or combined cumulative effects and only reports on the effect of the Proposed Development alone.

- Scenario 1: Existing + Consented + the Proposed Development

  The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including the existing and consented wind energy developments with the Proposed Development are reported.

- Scenario 2: Existing + Consented + Applications + the Proposed Development

  The additional and combined cumulative effects of the baseline, including existing and consented wind energy developments and applications with the Proposed Development are reported.

5.6.12 Further information on Table 5.5 is provided in Technical Appendix 5.2.

Sunlight and Weather Conditions

5.6.13 Challenging weather patterns and local climatic conditions would influence the visibility of the Proposed Development. These would vary from periods of low visibility (fog, low cloud, to bright sunny conditions that are accompanied by haze generated by temperature inversions) as well as periods of high visibility in clear weather. In some instances, the Proposed Development may appear 'back-lit' (e.g. appearing darker in colour during sunset/sunrise and periods of pale or white blanket cloud) and in other circumstances may appear to be 'up-lit' (e.g. during stormy periods that combine dark clouds and bright sunshine).

5.6.14 All of the viewpoint analysis and assessment has assumed conditions of good weather and clear visibility.

Table 5.5: Summary of Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint No. and Title	FoV	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
						Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
1. Picnic area off the A713	23°	3.2	High	Medium-Low	**Major to Moderate**	No Cumulative effect			Low	**Major to Moderate**	**Major to Moderate** (PD)
2. Bellsbank	18°	3.9	High (Residents) Medium (Road users)	Very Low	Minor (Residents) Negligible (Road users)	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor to Negligible	Very Low	Minor to Negligible	Minor to Negligible
3. Dalmellington Church	6°	3.6	High	Very Low	Minor	No Cumulative effect			Medium	Minor	**Major** (Knockkippen)
4. A713 West of Dalmellington	19°	4.9	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Low-Very Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD)	Medium	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (Knockkippen + PD)
5. Bogton Loch	17°	5.2	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD)	Very Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD)
6. Craigengillan House (Front Door)	20°	5.5	High	Very Low (Low if forestry felled)	Minor (Moderate if forestry felled)	No Cumulative effect			No Cumulative effect		
7. Craigengillan Estate (Former Dark Sky Observatory)	20°	5.9	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Medium	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD + Dersalloch)	Very Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Dersalloch + Knockkippen)
8. Berbeth	19°	5.4	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Medium	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD + Dersalloch)	Medium - Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Dersalloch + Knockkippen)
9. South of Beoch House Loch Doon	17°	8.3	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium	Minor	**Major** (Benbrack)	Low	Minor	**Major (**Benbrack)
10. Auchenroy Hill	14°	6.7	High	Medium	**Major**	High-Medium	**Major to Moderate**	**Substantial** (Dersalloch + PD)	High-Medium	**Major to Moderate**	**Substantial to Major** (Dersalloch, Sclenteuch, Knockkippen + PD)
11. B741 West of Dalmellington	14°	7.2	Medium	Medium	**Moderate**	Low	**Moderate**	**Moderate** (PD)	Medium	**Moderate**	**Moderate** (Knockkippen + PD)
12. B741 Bankglen	16°	7.8	Medium	Low	Minor	High - Medium	Minor	**Major to Moderate** (Enoch Hill, North Kyle and Greenburn)	Low	Minor	**Major to Moderate** (Enoch Hill, North Kyle and Greenburn)

Viewpoint No. and Title	FoV	Distance to nearest turbine (km)	Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Viewpoint Analysis: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
						Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
			Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
13. Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	13°	9.2	High	Low	Moderate	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)
14. Blackcraig Hill	9°	10.7	High	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)
15. New Cumnock	12°	10.8	High	Low	Moderate	Medium	Moderate to Minor	**Major** (Enoch Hill)	Low	Moderate to Minor	**Major** (Enoch Hill + Pencloe)
16. Patna Memorial	9°	11.6	High	Low	Moderate	Medium	Moderate	**Major** (Dersalloch + Knockshinnoch)	High	Moderate to Minor	**Substantial** (Knockkippen, Schlenteuch, Dersalloch + Knockshinnoch
17. A76 South of Mauchline	8°	19.7	High	Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate	Low	Minor	Moderate
18. Marrick Summit	7°	22.2	High	Very Low	Minor	Low - Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor	Low - Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor
19. Carrick Hills	5°	23.8	High	Very Low	Minor	Very Low	Minor	Minor	Low - Very Low	Minor	Moderate to Minor
20. B741 East of Dalmellington	68°	1.3	Medium	High	**Major**	Medium-Low	**Major**	**Major** (PD + North Kyle)	No Cumulative effect		

5.7. Baseline of Landscape Receptors

5.7.1 Information on the existing landscape resource or baseline conditions included in this assessment has been collected from local development plans, OS maps, and relevant literature, as well as information gathered from field surveys. This baseline information is set out as an inventory of the existing landscape resource and focuses on those landscape receptors with most potential to be significantly affected.

5.7.2 The baseline inventory includes the following landscape receptors:

- Landscape Character; and
- Landscape Planning Designations and WLAs.

5.7.3 The viewpoint analysis indicates that significant daytime visual effects are likely to affect limited receptors within approximately 7.2 km distance from the Proposed Development (subject to a clear view of the proposed turbines and screening by landform and / or vegetation), as indicated by viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 20. Taking a precautionary approach, the assessment has focused on those local landscape receptors, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV within 10km of the Proposed Development and nationally important landscape planning designations within the wider 45 km Study Area. Receptors that would not be significantly affected have been excluded from the assessment with appropriate reasoning provided as part of the baseline analysis.

5.7.4 Site survey and viewpoint analysis also indicates that landscape effects, likely to result from other activities and infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development during its construction and decommissioning would be largely limited to the host *Southern Uplands with Forest LCT*.

Landscape Character Types

5.7.5 The landscape character of the 10 km Study Area is classified in three separate studies reflecting the three local planning authorities within 10 km and their respective wind farm capacity studies (EALCS, DGLCS, and SALCS).

5.7.6 Each of the landscape studies divides the landscape into broad Landscape Character Types (LCT) and / or more localised and area specific Landscape Character Areas (LCA) or units. Although the landscape character is assessed in three separate studies, some of the adjoining LCTs generally share the same landscape classifications. Drawing from these studies, and site visits, the landscape character of the 10 km Study Area is illustrated in Figure 5.5. A summary of those landscape character units included in the LVIA is provided in Table 5.5.6.

Landscape Character of the Development Site: Southern Uplands with Forestry LCT

5.7.7 The proposed turbines are located within the East Ayrshire (EAC 20c) *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT. The Site is overlapped by extensive coniferous forestry including the Carsphairn Forest to the south, east and west, with further forestry extending north to the B741. The characteristics of the 'host' landscape of the East Ayrshire *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT cover an extensive area and extend south into Dumfries and Galloway where they are also identified as *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT (DGC 19a) and the corresponding LCA is referred to as the *Carsphairn* LCA.

5.7.8 Collectively the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT is already characterised by wind farm development. In particular, the existing South Kyle I, Windy Standard and Extension, Afton, and Windy Rig wind farms. This area would be further characterised by wind farm development with the construction of the consented Benbrack (under construction), Pencloe (under construction) Enoch Hill (under construction) and the Windy Standard Phase III wind farms.

5.7.9 The *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT is noted in both the EALCS and the DGLCS to be amongst those landscape character types, generally most able to accommodate large scale wind energy development.

Landscape Character of the Surrounding Area

5.7.10 Beyond the host landscape, the Proposed Development would not have a direct effect on any other LCTs. Rather the landscape effects would be indirect and relate to views and visual or perceptual characteristics which are noted to be a key characteristic of the surrounding landscape character.

5.7.11 The landscape units (LCT and LCA) within the central 10 km Study Area as illustrated in Figure 5.5 and described in the EALCS, DGLCS, and SALCS. Each of these are listed in Table 5.6. The following eight landscape units (some of which are grouped together as they straddle a local authority boundary) are included in the assessment:

- EAC 10 Upland River Valley: Doon Valley LCA;
- EAC 15 Upland Basin: New Cumnock LCA;
- EAC 17a Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining LCT;
- EAC17b / SAC 17b Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley LCT;
- DGC 19a Southern Uplands with Forest: Carsphairn LCA; and
- EAC 21 Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest LCT.
- DGC 19 Southern Uplands: Carsphain LCA;

5.7.12 The remaining eight landscape units have been excluded from the assessment as follows:

- EAC 7c East Ayrshire Lowlands – This LCT is located at the northern extents of the 10 km Study Area and has very limited ZTV coverage and consequently the effects would not be significant.
- EAC 14 Upland Glen: Glen Afton LCA – This LCT is located along the eastern edge of the 10 km Study Area and has very limited ZTV coverage, such that the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character would not be significant.
- EAC 20a Southern Uplands: Benty Cowan LCA – This LCT has limited ZTV coverage and is influenced by the intervening South Kyle and Enoch Hill wind farms, the latter of which is located within this LCT. Consequently, the Proposed Development would have a lesser influence and the effects would not be significant.
- EAC 20a Southern Uplands: Blackcraig LCA – This LCT is located to the east and west of Glen Afton and skirts the fringes of the 10 km Study Area with limited ZTV coverage. The Proposed Development would be viewed at over 10 km distance, beyond Pencloe, South Kyle and Enoch Hill wind farms and consequently it would have a reduced influence on the LCT and the effects would not be significant. This is illustrated in Viewpoint 14 (Figure 5.27).
- DGC 9 Upper Dale: Upper Glenkens LCA – This LCT is located along the southern part of the 10 km Study Area and has very limited ZTV coverage, much of which overlaps with forestry and consequently the effects of the Proposed Development would not be significant.
- DGC 21 Rugged Granite Upland: Merrick LCA – As above this LCT is also located along the southern edge of the 10 km Study Area with ZTV coverage overlapping areas of forestry. Consequently, the effects of the Proposed Development would not be significant.
- SAC 13 Intimate Pastoral Valley: Water of Girvan LCA - located along the western edge of the 10 km Study Area with limited ZTV coverage, whilst the main part of this valley landscape extends further west beyond the

10 km Study Area and intervening forestry and wind farm development at Dersalloch, Consequently the effects of the Proposed Development would not be significant.

- SAC 21 Rugged Granite Upland LCT - This LCT is located along the southwestern edge of the 10 km Study Area with very limited ZTV coverage and the effects of the Proposed Development would not be significant.

Table 5.6: Landscape Character within 10 km

Landscape Character Type (LCT)	Landscape Character Area	Included in Assessment
East Ayrshire		
EAC 7c East Ayrshire Lowlands	N/A	X
EAC 10 Upland River Valley	Doon Valey LCA	✓
EAC 14 Upland Glen	Glen Afton LCA	X
EAC 15 Upland Basin:	New Cumnock LCA	✓
EAC 17a Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining	N/A	✓
EAC 17b Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley (combined with SAC 17b)	N/A	✓
EAC 20a Southern Uplands:	Blackcraig LCA;	X
EAC 20a Southern Uplands:	Benty Cowan LCA	X
EAC 20c Southern Uplands with Forestry (host landscape, combined with DGC 19a)	N/A	✓
EAC 21 Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest	N/A	✓
Dumfries and Galloway		
DGC 9 Upper Dale	Upper Glenkens LCA	X
DGC 19 Southern Uplands:	Carsphain LCA	✓
DGC 19a Southern Uplands with Forest (combined with EAC 20c)	Carsphairn LCA	✓
DGC 21 Rugged Granite Upland	Merrick LCA	X
South Ayrshire		
SAC 13 Intimate Pastoral Valley	Water of Girvan LCA	X
SAC 17b Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley (combined with EAC 17b)	N/A	✓
SAC 21 Rugged Granite Upland LCT	N/A	X

Baseline Pattern of Wind Farm Development

5.7.13 Wind farm development is a recognised landscape characteristic of many areas of Scotland including Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. Wind farms are an existing feature of the host LCT (EAC 20c Southern Uplands with Forestry) as referenced in the EALCS / DGLCS.

5.7.14 The current pattern of wind energy development within 45 km of the Proposed Development is illustrated in Figure 5.9. The most relevant wind farm developments within 10 km are also shown in Figure 5.5 and form three clusters of wind farm development as follows:

- The South Kyle / Windy Standard Group

  The Proposed Development would form part of this cluster which includes the existing / under construction developments of South Kyle I, Enoch Hill, Windy Standard I and II, Benbrack, Afton and Windy Rig, and the consented wind farms of Pencloe and Windy Standard III.

- The North Kyle Group

  This cluster is located to the north of the Proposed Development and includes the existing North Kyle Wind Farm and the consented wind farms of Overhill, Greenburn and Polquhian. The wind farm application of Knockkippen is also loosely connected to this cluster being located to the northwest of the Proposed Development and north of the Doon Valley.

- The Dersalloch Group

  This cluster is located to the west of the Proposed Development and includes the existing Dersalloch Wind Farm and to the north of that, the Sclenteuch application.

5.7.15 Currently it is considered that the existing / under construction and consented wind farms are perceived as key characteristic of this area.

Baseline Planning Designations

5.7.16 Landscape planning designations and WLAs within the 45km Study Area are illustrated in Figure 5.6. They include 18 local and one national level landscape planning designations (Fleet Valley National Scenic Area (NSA)) and one WLA.

5.7.17 The Proposed Development is not located within any landscape planning designations or WLAs and there would be no direct effects. Although the Site boundary does extend into the EAC Doon Valley Local Landscape Area (LLA) no part of the development is located within this western, forested area that overlaps with the LLA.

5.7.18 Landscape designations may also be indirectly affected by development beyond their boundaries that may otherwise affect the designation's Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs), including the views and perceptual qualities for which they are valued and designated. The following local landscape designations within 10 km are included in the assessment:

- Doon Valley LLA in East Ayrshire: The boundary and SLQs of this area are set out in the East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review, June 2021.
- Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park – This designation has been included within Technical Appendix 5.4 as part of the night-time LVIA of Aviation Warning Lights. It is also reported in the daytime LVIA under visitor or tourist attractions.

5.7.19 The other designated landscapes illustrated in Figure 5.6 are excluded from the assessment due limited ZTV coverage within these areas in combination with distance and the presence of existing wind farm development, and the likelihood that the SLQs of these designations would not be significantly affected by views of the Proposed

Development. The reasons for excluding these areas from further assessment are explained in more detail as follows:

- National Landscape Designations within the 45 km Study Area:
  - Fleet Valley NSA – The Fleet Valley NSA is located in the southern edge of the 45 km Study Area and is not overlapped by the ZTV. It would have no view of the Proposed Development and there would be no effect on this designation.
- Local Landscape Designations in East Ayrshire within the 10 km Study Area (as set out in the *Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review*, June 2021):
  - Uplands and Moorlands LLA – The western part of this LLA has been omitted as part of the review, mainly as a result of wind farm development and forestry. The remaining section within 10 km is focused on Glen Afton and the area west of this glen and further north, beyond the 10 km Study Area. All of the LLA is located beyond the existing wind farms of Afton, Enoch Hill. and South Kyle I and the consented Pencloe Wind Farm. Within 10 km the LLA has limited ZTV coverage and is also located towards the western edges of the 10 km Study Area. Consequently, there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of this designation.
  - River Ayr Valley LLA – Although overlapped by the ZTV this LLA is located beyond 15km distance from the Proposed Development and focused on the River Ayr. There are also a number of intervening wind farms existing at North Kyle and consented at Overhill and Greenburn such that there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of this designation.
  - River Ayr Valley LLA Extension – This southern extension (proposed as part of the Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review, June 2021) is focused on Dumfries House and due to the lack of ZTV coverage, distance and intervening windfarm development, there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of this designation.
- Local Landscape Designations in South Ayrshire within the 10 km Study Area (as set out in the *South Ayrshire Local Landscape Designations Review*, December 2018):
  - High Carrick Hills LLA – The LLA is located along the western edge of the 10 km Study Area, beyond the Doon Valley. Although there is some ZTV coverage across these hills, much of this overlaps with the existing Dersalloch Wind Farm. The LLA extends further west beyond the 10 km Study Area with fragmented ZTV coverage and as a result there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of this designation.
  - Other LLAs within South Ayrshire are located at further distance and are focused on the valley landscapes of the River Stinchar, the River Ayr and the Water of Girvan. There is limited ZTV coverage and there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of these LLA designations.
  - Similarly, the more distant LLAs (including the Turnberry Coast LLA, Culzean LLA and Brown Carrick Hills & Coast LLA, which are all beyond 20 km distance from the Proposed Development) also have limited or no ZTV coverage. The visual effect is illustrated by Viewpoint 19: Carrick Hills (Figure 5.32) and would not be significant. Consequently, there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of these designations.
- Local Landscape Designations in Dumfries and Galloway within the 10 km Study Area (as set out in the Dumfries and Galloway, Local Development Plan 2, *Regional Scenic Areas Technical Paper* 2018):
  - Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area (RSA) – The RSA is located along the southern edge of the 10 km Study Area, extending across a wide area beyond the 45 km Study Area. The ZTV coverage is fragmented and largely overlaps with forested areas and other wind farm development. Notably the existing South Kyle I and Benbrack wind farms are intervening. Consequently, there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of this designation.
  - Other RSAs including the Thornhill Uplands and Terregles Ridge are located beyond 20km distance from the Proposed Development with either no or very little ZTV coverage such that there would be no significant effects.
- Other local landscape designations within South Lanarkshire are located beyond 30km distance, also with very limited ZTV coverage such that there would be no significant effects on the underlying landscape character, the SLQs or the integrity of these designations.

UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

5.7.20 The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a non-statutory designation that includes three zones (a large 'Transition Zone', 'Buffer Zone' and a 'Core Area' which includes the Merrick Kells Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Merrick WLA). The SAC Local Development Plan advises that the Biosphere was designated because of its "*unique combination of special landscapes and wildlife areas, rich cultural heritage and communities that care about the environment and culture and want to develop it sustainably*." The SAC Local Development Plan policy "*supports development that promotes the goals of the biosphere and shows an innovative approach to sustainable living and the economy and supports improving understanding and enjoying the area as a world class environment. Development must be appropriate to the role of the different zones within the Biosphere*."

5.7.21 The Proposed Development is located within the transition zone and beyond the buffer zone which is designed to protect the conservation objectives of the core area. The Biosphere has therefore been excluded from the LVIA.

5.7.22 The Proposed Development is also beyond the approximate boundary of the area proposed in the nomination for a new National Park in Galloway.

Wild Land Areas (WLA)

5.7.23 WLA 1: Merrick is the only WLA within the study area and an assessment of the WLA and its Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) is reported in Technical Appendix 5.4.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

5.7.24 The LVIA considers potential effects on GDLs in terms of their contribution to the landscape character, often indicating landscapes of 'high' value. The effects on the archaeological or cultural heritage resource of GDLs, including the setting of artefacts / features within the GDLs are considered in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage.

5.7.25 The LVIA also considers GDLs in terms of their visual amenity and this is assessed under visitor or tourist attractions in Section 5.11.

5.8. Baseline of Visual Receptors

5.8.1 The visual assessment draws upon the ZTV, site visits and viewpoint analysis and assesses the potential visual effects on views and visual amenity likely to be experienced by receptors (people) within the landscape as follows:

- Views from residential properties and settlements;
- Views experienced whilst travelling through the landscape (road / rail, walkers, horse riders and cyclists for example); and
- Views from tourist and recreational destinations.

5.8.2 The viewpoint analysis indicates that significant daytime visual effects are likely to affect limited receptors within approximately 7km distance from the Proposed Development (subject to a clear view of the proposed turbines and screening by landform and / or vegetation), as indicated by viewpoints 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 20. These viewpoints relate to the views from the A713, B741, and areas within the Craigingillan GDL including Bogton Loch, Berbeth, and Auchenroy Hill. Taking a precautionary approach, the assessment has focused on those visual receptors, overlapped by the blade tip ZTV within 10 km of the Proposed Development.

5.8.3 Within the wider Study Area, the assessment has considered receptors of national importance such as Scotland's Great Trails, Sustrans Cycle Routes and popular hill walking summits (Munros / Corbetts), also overlapped by the blade tip ZTV.

5.8.4 Receptors that would not be significantly affected have been excluded from the assessment with appropriate reasoning provided as part of the baseline analysis.

Settlement

5.8.5 The assessment of visual effects likely to be experienced from settlements includes consideration of residential areas, the public realm, and public open spaces within the settlement boundaries that would be frequented by people. Settlements included in the assessment are those defined in the Local Development Plans for East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway.

5.8.6 Settlements within 10 km, which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV and included in the assessment, are illustrated in Figure 5.7b and listed as follows:

- Bankglen, Connel Park and Leggate;
- Bellsbank;
- Burnside;
- Burnton;
- Dalmellington; and
- New Cumnock.

5.8.7 Waterside is outwith the ZTV coverage and is therefore not included in the assessment.

5.8.8 Other settlements beyond 10 km, including Patna, Drongan, Cumnock, Auchinlech, Skares, Sinclairston, Carsphairn, Straiton, and Rankinston are either outwith the ZTV or have very limited visibility of the Proposed Development and are therefore excluded from the assessment.

5.8.9 Settlements at Ochiltree and Logan are both well beyond 10 km distance from the Proposed Development and although there are both overlapped by the ZTV any theoretical visibility from these locations would be viewed with the Proposed Development beyond the existing / under construction wind farms of North Kyle and Enoch Hill, and the consented wind farms at Greenbank. Overhill and Polquhain. As such there would be no significant visual effects from either of these settlements.

5.8.10 A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to assess the effects on residential visual amenity likely to arise as a result of the Proposed Development. Residential properties within 3 km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV and shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map have been considered in the assessment. The RVAA is reported in Technical Appendix 5.3 and is illustrated in Figures 5.34 -5.35

Transport Routes

5.8.11 Transport routes within 10km of the Proposed Development that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are listed as follows and included in the assessment:

- A and B Class Roads:
  - A713 / Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington (the road is outwith ZTV further south); and
  - B741 between Gass and New Cumnock.
- Minor roads:
  - West of Loch Doon (Assessed as a Recreational Route - Heritage Path – Loch Doon Road / Scottish Hill Tracks 77a/78a).

5.8.12 The following routes have been excluded from the assessment

- A76 / Burns Heritage Trail between Cumnock and Burnton east of New Cumnock – this is beyond 10 km and although partly overlapped by the ZTV, viewpoint analysis from Cumnock / additional wirelines indicate that there would be no significant effects.
- Glasgow to Carlisle railway line near New Cumnock – this is also beyond 10 km and viewpoint analysis from New Cumnock / additional wirelines indicate that there would be no significant effects.

Recreational Routes

5.8.13 The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people (walkers, cyclists, and others) on recreational routes within the Study Area. The recreational routes include Core Paths, Heritage Paths and Scottish Hill Tracks which have been assessed within 10 km of the Proposed Development and Sustrans Cycle routes. National level long distance routes such as Scotland's Great Trails are assessed within the wider 45 km Study Area.

National Recreational Routes within 45 km

5.8.14 National and other long-distance recreational routes (Scotland’s Great Trails and National Cycle and Tourist Routes) within 45km of the Proposed Development are illustrated in Figure 5.7a.

5.8.15 None of these have been included in the assessment due to either being outwith the ZTV or otherwise predicted to have very limited theoretical visibility as follows:

- The River Ayr Way is almost entirely outwith the ZTV and beyond 15 km distance from the Proposed Development. Any limited views would be screened by intervening buildings at Ary or by riverside woodland and trees elsewhere along the route to the extent that there would be no significant visual effects.

- The Ayrshire Coastal Path is routed along the coastline at beyond 20 km distance from the Proposed Development. Although it is overlapped by the ZTV, in reality views would be screened by intervening built development at Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Irvine and Saltcoats. Wireline analysis of views from the pier / beach at Troon illustrate that there would be no significant visual effects.
- Other routes including the Southern Upland Way, the Red Kite Trail near St John's Town of Dalry, the Robert the Bruce Trail and the Sustrans National Cycle Route 7 are all outwith the ZTV and would have No View of the Proposed Development.

Local Recreational Routes within 10 km

5.8.16 Core Paths (sourced from East Ayrshire Core Path Plan and Dumfries and Galloway Core Path Plan) within 10 km of the Proposed Development are illustrated in Figure 5.7b. Those which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV are included in the assessment as follows:

- Loch Doon Road - Core Path D11 overlapping with Heritage Path - Loch Doon Road, and Scottish Hill Track 77a – Bargrennan to Dalmellington, and Scottish Hill Track 78a / 79 – Glentrool Village to Dalmellington.
- Core Path C10 - Coalfield Cycle Route (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Track 84: New Cumnock to St Johns Town of Dalry by Glen Afton, and Heritage Path - Old Road from New Cumnock to Dalquhairn, and associated Rights of Way);
- Core Path C11 - Knockshinnoch Lagoons;
- Core Path C12 - New Cumnock Circular;
- Core Path D10 - Patna and Waterside Circular;
- Core Path D13 - Dalcairnie / Auchenroy Hill circuit (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Track 78b – Glentrool Village to Dalmellington / Scottish Hill Track 81 – Barr to Dalmellington and partly overlapping with Bogton Loch Circular Walk);
- Core Path D14 - Dalmellington to Loch Doon via Ness Glen (partly overlapping with Bogton Loch Circular Walk);
- Core Path D16 - Bellsbank to Barbeth and Little Shalloch (overlapping with Scottish hill track 78b – Glentrool Village to Dalmellington / Scottish Hill Track 81 – Barr to Dalmellington)
- Core Path D18- Carmlarg Plantation, northeast of Dalmellington and associated Rights of Way.

5.8.17 Other local recreational routes within 10km of the Proposed Development, which are overlapped by the ZTV and included in the assessment are listed as follows:

- Right of Way network accessing the Lethanhill and Benwhat former mining villages, between Patna and Burnton;
- Rights of Way north of the B741 near Nith Lodge.

5.8.18 The following Core Paths have either very little to no ZTV coverage and / or are routed through forest which would further restrict potential views. They are therefore excluded from further assessment and there would be no significant visual effects.

- Core Path C13 and C14 – partly overlapping with the New Cumnock Path Network;
- Core Path D12 – Dalmellington to Bellsbank (overlapping with northern part of Loch Doon Road Heritage Path and Scottish hill track 77a / 78a / 79);
- Core Path D15: Bellsbank and associated Rights of Way;
- Core Path D17: Craigengillan to Eriff and associated Rights of Way; and
- Core Paths 16, 487, 594, and 667 and associated Rights of Way in Dumfries and Galloway.

5.8.19 There are no Core Paths within South Ayrshire that are within 10 km of the proposed turbines.

5.8.20 Overlapping road, walking and cycling routes have not been 'double counted' and are assessed as one receptor where they occur with the national level or recreational receptor taking precedence over a transport route / local receptor in the assessment.

Recreational and Visitor / Tourist Attractions

5.8.21 Recreational and visitor / tourist attractions relevant to the LVIA include those features that appear as prominent landmarks or landscape features, and locations associated with passive recreation such as walking, where there is a clear relationship between the feature / destination and an appreciation of the landscape. Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) are included where these are open to the public, as well as National Trust gardens / land and Historic Environment Scotland visitor sites which are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. Some of these locations are also referred to in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage and Chapter 14: Socioeconomics. The assessment excludes settlements and locations for team sports and other recreational / tourist destinations where the focus of activity is not on the landscape or is indoors - for example museums, libraries, and gift shops.

5.8.22 Recreational and tourist / visitor attractions that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV (Figure 5.7b) within 10 km of the Proposed Development and included in the assessment are listed in Table 5.7.

5.8.23 There is no ZTV coverage overlapping the Afton Glen Car Park, Afton Glen Camp Site, Loch Doon Castle, Dumfries House, Barony A Frame, Ochiltree, Doon Valley Golf Club at Patna or the Roodlea Golf Club at Coylton. There would be No View from the Dalcairnie Waterfall and Ness Glen both of which are located within narrow gorges surrounded by woodland. As a result, these recreation destinations are not considered further in the assessment.

5.8.24 The hill walking summits Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, Awful Hand Ridge, Wardlaw Hill, and the Carrick Hills have also all been excluded from further assessment as explained in Table 5.7.

5.8.25 The Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park is included as a receptor and assessed in the night-time assessment in Technical Appendix 5.4.

Table 5.7: Recreational and Visitor / Tourist Attractions

Visual Receptors	Comments	Included in Assessment
Visitor Attractions within 10km		
1. Craigengillan GDL	Open to the public and comprising parkland, woodland, moorland and water features with recreational routes open to the public. Notable landscape attractions include:	✓
2a. Craigengillian House and Stables – Viewpoint 6 (Figure 5.19) indicates no significant effects from that location.		✓
Other notable buildings include Home Farm and the Gatehouse. The main gardens are well wooded with subterranean features (the Ice House and Tunnel) and Pine Cottage consequently excluded from the assessment.		✗
2b. Dalcairnie Waterfall is set within a deep gorge and well wooded, excluding it from further assessment.		✗
2c. Ness Glen is also deeply incised and well wooded, excluding it from further assessment.		✗
2d. Bogton Loch – assessed under recreational routes, Viewpoint 5 (Figure 5.18).		✓
2e. Auchenroy Hill – assessed under recreational routes, Viewpoint 10 (Figure 5.23).		✓
2. Galloway Forest and Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park	Covers a wide area of forestry beyond the 10 km study area which has been excluded from the assessment as significant daytime effects would be unlikely.	✗
	The Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park and associated buffers are included and assessed in the night-time assessment in Technical Appendix 5.4.	✓
3. Bellsbank Picnic Spot	Car-park and picnic spot at main entrance to Loch Doon – illustrated in Viewpoint 1 (Figure 5.14) .	✓
4. Dunaskin Open-Air Museum / Doon Valley Railway Museum	Includes outdoor railway attractions near Patna in the Doon Valley open during the day.	✓
5. Loch Doon Caravan Park	Located in the western shore of Loch Doon. Loch Doon itself is assessed under recreational routes along the shoreline.	✓
6. Glen Afton Caravan Park	Outwith the ZTV with no view pf the Proposed Development.	✗
7. Glen Afton Car Park	As above.	✗
8. Lochside Hotel, and the adjacent New Cumnock Golf Club.	Both are just beyond 10km. The hotel includes landscape grounds and terrace, used as a location in other wind farm assessments.	✓
Other Notable Visitor Attractions beyond 10km		
9. Loch Doon Castle	Outwith the ZTV with no view of the Proposed Development.	✗
10. Dumfries House	As above.	✗
11. Barony A Frame, Ochiltree	Mining monument with walks, views from this area would view the existing and consented North Kyle, Greenburn and Overhill wind farms which would appear in front of the Proposed Development at approximately 14km distance, such that there would be no significant visual effects.	✗
Recreational Locations within 10km		
12. Knockshinnock Lagoons	Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) nature reserve, near New Cumnock.	✓
Other Notable Recreational Locations beyond 10km		
13. Doon Valley Golf Club, Patna	Outwith the ZTV with no view of the Proposed Development.	✗
14. Roodlea Golf Club, Coylton	As above.	✗
Hill Walking Summits within 10km		
15. Auchenroy Hill	This is included as part of Craigengillan GDL and also assessed as Viewpoint 10 (Figure 5.23).	✓
16. Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	Viewpoint 13 (Figure 5.26) - indicates no significant effects with the main route to the summit located at further distance with limited theoretical visibility.	✓
Other Notable Hill Walking Summits beyond 10km		
17. Blackcraig Hill	Viewpoint 14 (Figure 5.27) - indicates no significant effects however it may also be walked as a circuit of sub-hills including Blacklorg Hill, Cannock Hill and Craigbraneoch Hill, the latter of which is closer (within 10km) and is therefore included in the assessment.	✓
18. Awful Hand Ridge	Range of hills through the Merrick WLA and UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. The closest main summit includes Shalloch on Minnoch (at over 15km distance). The view from the Merrick, the highest summit Viewpoint 18 (Figure 5.31) - indicates no significant effects.	✗
19. Wardlaw Hill	Local hill walk and cairn / memorial to Colonel Baird. At over 20km distance there would be no significant effects.	✗

Visual Receptors	Comments	Included in Assessment
20. Carrick Hills	Viewpoint 19 (Figure 5.32) - indicates no significant effects with the main route to the summit located well beyond 25km at a lower elevation.	✖

Gardens and Designed Landscape

5.8.26 Craigengillan GDL is located within the 10 km study area to the southwest of Dalmellington and is included in the assessment as noted in Table 5.7.

5.8.27 There are no further GDLs within 10 km. Within the wider LVIA Study Area, there are several GDLs from the Historic Environment Scotland inventory including: Blairquhan, Kilkerran, Bargany, Culzean Castle, Skeldon House, Rozelle (La Rochelle), Dumfries House, Drumlanrig Castle, Maxwelton (Glencairn Castle), Crawick Multiverse, Lanfine and Loudoun Castle. These are all outwith the ZTV. The setting of GDLs is assessed separately under EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage of this EIA Report.

Hill Summits

5.8.28 The assessment recognises that a range of recreational / tourist activities may be undertaken within the hills and moorlands including but not limited to, stalking / hunting / fishing, climbing / mountaineering, paragliding, horse riding, and mountain biking. The assessment has focused on the walker as the main receptor activity whose attention is likely to be most focused on the landscape and an appreciation of their surroundings.

5.8.29 There are no Munros within 10 km of the Proposed Development. However, a number of hill summits which are walked within 10 km of the Proposed Development and overlapped by the ZTV are included in the assessment as set out in Table 5.7.

5.8.30 In the wider area, the main recreational hill destination is The Merrick (main summit in the Awful Hand Ridge) which is located to the southwest of the Proposed Development at over 20km and represented in Viewpoint 18 (Figure 5.31) and assessed in Technical Appendix 5.2.

Future Baseline

5.8.31 The Proposed Development would cover a period of approximately 42.5 years as follows:

- Construction: up to 24 months (short-term);
- Operation: up to 40 years (long-term and reversible); and
- Decommissioning: up to 6 months (short-term).

5.8.32 The LVIA also recognises that some elements of the Proposed Development such as borrow pits and access tracks will be permanent and remain beyond the construction and decommissioning period, although subject to mitigation in respect of the borrow pits, whilst access tracks may re-vegetate over time if left un-used. Although 'long-term', the operation period of up to 40 years is assessed as though it were permanent, whilst noting that the effects of the proposed turbines would be reversible once decommissioned.

5.8.33 The LVIA considers that during this period of 42.5 years, the predicted future baseline and evolution of landscape and visual receptors is unlikely to change, subject to the continuance of landscape and forestry management and maintenance. However, land management, and consequently landscape character, is dependent on a number of economic and environmental factors including the future effects of climate change and human adaptation which are difficult to predict at a local level and not a matter for this assessment. It is however likely that mitigation and adaptation in response to changing climate and biodiversity pressures will continue to have an influence on this area in the form of increased renewable energy and other environmental changes including the restoration of areas of open cast mining which are likely to alter the landscape baseline including increases to the current levels of forestry and woodland.

5.8.34 Change to the future baseline of other large scale wind energy development closest to the Proposed Development, that can be reasonably predicted, is set out in Table 5.8. Several wind farms would be decommissioned within approximately 15 years prior to the end of the Proposed Development including Windy Standard / Extension, Afton and Dersalloch. However, there are a number of wind farms that would be decommissioned around the same time as the Proposed Development including Benbrack (under construction), and several consented schemes including Pencloe, Overhill, Windy Standard III, and Greenburn. It is therefore unlikely that the Proposed Development would be seen in isolation throughout its operational lifespan. This information has been noted in addition to the baseline cumulative assessment where relevant.

Table 5.8 Future Baseline of Existing Wind Energy Development within 10km

Wind Farm Name	Year of Commissioning / Construction completed	Years 0-10	Years 10-20	Years 20-30	Years 30-40
South Kyle I	2023	Operating for 25 years			
Enoch Hill	2025	Operating for 30 years			
North Kyle	2025	Operating for 30 years			
Benbrack	2024	Operating for 30 years			
Windy Standard	1996 / 2021	Operating for 30 years (Repowering application to operate for 35 years)			
Windy Standard II	2017	Operating for 25 years			
Dersalloch	2016	Operating for 25 years			
Afton	2018	Operating for 25 years			
Windy Rig	2022	Operating for 25 years			

5.9. Assessment of Landscape Effects

5.9.1 Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as follows:

"An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern [...] is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. [...] The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the Proposed Development may influence in a significant manner."

5.9.2 These effects are assessed by considering the landscape sensitivity (value and susceptibility) against the magnitude of change. The type of effect is also be described in terms of its duration and whether it is temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, cumulative and positive, neutral, or negative.

5.9.3 The residual landscape effects account for those effects remaining after the embedded mitigation has been taken into account. An assessment of the cumulative landscape effects, taking account of other existing and consented wind farm development and any current wind farm applications, as set out in Table 5.3 has also been undertaken, according to the methodology detailed in Technical Appendix 5.1.

5.9.4 The landscape effects of the proposed aviation warning lights are reported in Technical Appendix 5.5 and a summary of that assessment is provided as part of this Chapter.

Effects on Landscape Character

5.9.5 The landscape assessment has taken account of all landscape character within 10 km of the Proposed Development and the Doon Valley LLA.

5.9.6 In summary, the landscape assessment has concluded that there would be significant effects on three landscape character units including the host *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT, extending north to also affect the southern edge of the *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA within approximately 2km of the Proposed Development, and part of the *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA bnear Bogton Loch.

5.9.7 Although the full height of the turbines would not tend to be visible from the *Doon Valley* LCA and would generally overlap with existing / under construction and consented wind farms the scale of the upper parts of the turbines would nonetheless introduce wind farm development as a more prominent characteristic,.

5.9.8 The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) is separate from the daytime assessment and receptors often have a different sensitivity at night (hours of darkness) when compared to the daytime hours. Whilst the LVIA is primarily concerned with the visibility of the Proposed Development during the daytime, the night-time assessment is focused on the effects of the proposed aviation warning lights mounted on five of the turbines hubs. Due to embedded mitigation which forms the Lighting Strategy there would be no significant night-time effects on the landscape resource.

5.9.9 A map of landscape character within 10 km of the Development Site is illustrated Figure 5.5.

Landscape Effects on Southern Upland with Forestry

5.9.10 The Development Site is located within an area of *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT which is bounded to the west, south and north by coniferous forestry which forms part of the extensive Carsphairn Forest. The *Southern Uplands with Forestry* generally and the Carsphairn Forest in particular are noted in both the EALCS and the DGLCS to be amongst those landscape character types most able to accommodate wind energy development in the form of large turbine development. Wind farm development in the form of the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm and the Enoch Hill Wind Farm (under construction) is present as a characterising influence immediately to the south and east of the Proposed Development. A large electricity substation and a number of overhead power lines also cross this landscape to the north, west and south of the Proposed Development.

5.9.11 The other key characteristics of this landscape include the topography which is made up of rounded hills including Prickney Hill (512m AOD), Benbrack Hill (495m AOD), Meikle Hill (418m AOD), Cockclay Hill (367m AOD) and Clawfin Hill (375m AOD), typical of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT and split by incised gullies at the River Nith, Mossdale Burn and Linn Water within the Development Site. There are less pronounced hills to the northwest of the Development Site (Figure 5.2a). The landcover of both the Site and the LCT is predominantly forestry with small areas of rough grassland on lower hill slopes to the northwest fringes of the Site and on elevated summits to the south of the Site. The western boundary of the Site forms a forested hill enclosing the adjacent settlement of Dalmellington and extends to meet the A713 to the immediate east and south of Dalmellington. The northern part of this LCT is bounded by the B741 corridor, which is sparsely settled with scattered properties, although there are no residential properties or settlements in the vicinity of the southern or eastern, or immediate western parts of the Development Site. There are no notable features of interest, core paths or other recreational routes within the Development Site, although Core Path D18 is located close to the western Site boundary.

5.9.12 The proposed turbines are located to the northwest of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT, at the northern edge of the uplands before the landform falls away north towards the B741. The partial 'containment' of the Development Site by landform and forestry to the south and east has contributed to the limited ZTV coverage of these areas as illustrated in the ZTVs, most noticeably in Figure 5.2b. Similarly, the steep landform to the west of Dalmellington has limited the ZTV coverage within the settlement. The most concentrated areas of ZTV are related to the site area and land to the north including the *Foothills with Forest and Opencast Mining* LCT, and to the west including the Doon Valley *Upper River Valley* LCT and *Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley* LCT.

Sensitivities identified in Capacity Studies: EALCS and DGLCS

5.9.13 Landscape susceptibility according to the GLVIA3, glossary means "*the ability of the landscape to accommodate the development without undue consequences for maintenance of the baseline situation and / or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*".

5.9.14 The EALCS states that *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT has almost reached capacity for additional new development and has concluded a High sensitivity for ‘very large’ (>130 m) turbines. The adjoining area of *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT in the DGLCS concluded a High-medium sensitivity for ‘very large’ (>150 m) turbines.

5.9.15 It may be noted that within the EALCS, of the 6 LCTs considered for the ‘very large’ turbine height, none of the LCTs are assessed as below High-Medium sensitivity, with three assessed as having High sensitivity to very large wind turbine development. This analysis is based on the assessment of repowering existing or consented turbines.

5.9.16 The EALCS describes the sensitivity and capacity of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* to large and very large turbine development as follows:

" *While the large scale and generally simple landform and land cover of these sparsely settled uplands reduce sensitivity to larger wind turbines, much of the less sensitive more gently rolling hills lying at the core of this landscape will be occupied by the consented South Kyle wind farm. Remaining areas of undeveloped ground are more sensitive as they either comprise more complex landform or lie closer to the Doon Valley and Dalmellington. Cumulative effects with other operational and consented wind farms could also be associated with additional development sited in the eastern parts of this landscape*."

5.9.17 It should be noted that the key constraints identified above, which serve to increase the sensitivity of this landscape, relate to Loch Doon, and the settlement of Dalmellington, which would not be significantly affected by the Proposed Development (see visual assessment in Section 5.11). There would be visibility from the Doon Valley *Upper River Valley* LCT, which is assessed in Table 5.10.

5.9.18 Further to this, the guidance for the development section of the EALCS (2018) considers the repowering of South Kyle I form the consented turbine height of 149.9m to 200m and states:

"*Increases in turbine height to 200m were concluded as being likely to significantly exacerbate effects on the setting and views from the Loch Doon area. Turbines of this height would also be likely to incur cumulative effects with the nearby consented Benbrack wind farm (assuming this retains consented turbines of 130m height)*."

5.9.19 Although the proposed turbines would be 200m to blade tip and located adjacent to the South Kyle I Wind Farm, much of this advice is focused on Loch Doon from which there would be limited visibility of partial blades and/or blade tips.

5.9.20 The Proposed Development would, be visible from the *Upland Basin* and *Foothills with Forestry and Opencast Mining* LCTs and cumulative effects are noted as a constraint in that respect. A further potential constraint is identified in the EALCS as the "*Potential 'encirclement' of the settled Upland Basin (15) where the operational Hare Hill wind farm and any other larger turbines sited in this character type and also in the Foothills with Forestry and Opencast Mining (17a) and East Ayrshire Plateau Moorland (18a) would be seen in close proximity on containing skylines*." The Proposed Development however, would not significantly contribute to 'encirclement' and the effects of the Proposed Development on the Upland Basin are assessed as negligible and not significant in Table 5.10.

Susceptibility of the proposed Site

5.9.21 In considering the landscape susceptibility for the Site this assessment has referred to a range of commonly accepted landscape criteria or indicators of susceptibility to wind energy development, as set out in Table 5.9. They indicate that the Development Site area has a Medium to Low susceptibility in respect of its physical and perceptual criteria and Medium sensitivity in respect of the visual criteria and landscape value. An overall sensitivity of Medium is concluded, due mainly to the following factors:

- The key characteristics of this LCA (large scale, gently undulating landform, the influence of coniferous forestry, other wind farm development and grid infrastructure, it's uninhabited nature and being visually remote from surrounding valleys, glens and basins) indicate a Medium to Low overall sensitivity and susceptibility to the Proposed Development.
- Although the Proposed Development is located between two LLAs (the Doon Valley LLA and the Uplands and Moorlands LLA) it would not directly affect these areas identified by EAC. The designation, however, does indicate a Medium landscape value.
- The condition and management of the landscape is considered to be reasonably good although the landscape quality of this area is considered to be Medium reflecting the cyclical and changing nature of the landscape through harvesting and forestry management.
- The main landscape element (commercial forestry) which covers the Site area within this LCA is considered to be of Low landscape sensitivity. The surrounding vegetation type, rough grassland, is also considered to be of Low landscape sensitivity as both are commonly occurring elements, easily reinstated.
- In terms of settlement, the LCA is largely uninhabited with the settlement of Dalmellington located just over 3km west of the nearest turbine. There are occasional scattered properties to the north along the B741 and there are no particular tourist or recreational receptors.
- In terms of the surrounding landscape context the Development Site is noted to be closely related as a 'backdrop' to the lowland settled landscape of the Doon Valley *Upper River Valley* LCT and associated receptors. In this respect, a High - Medium sensitivity is noted.

Landscape Value

5.9.22 The majority of the Site is not located within a designated landscape. However, an area to the northwest of the Site is located within the Doon Valley LLA. The Site has limited public access and recreational use. The landscape is in a reasonable condition in terms of its representativeness, landscape interest, perceptual and scenic quality, and is considered to be of Medium local value (with increased High to Medium value to the northwest and east of the Site closest to Dalmellington and Core Path D18).

Table 5.9 Landscape Susceptibility of the Southern Uplands with Forestry

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less **susceptible** to wind energy development			Characteristics that are more **susceptible** to wind energy development	
	Low	**Medium – Low**	**Medium**	**High - Medium**	**High**
Physical Characteristics:					
Scale	Larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale wind turbines			Smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or overwhelmed by wind turbines	
Landform and Topography	Simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes as the turbines may be less easily scaled against the landform			Complex landforms with well defined changes in level including ridges, steep sloping hillsides and narrow valleys.	
Land Cover	Large scale simple and homogenous land cover including moorland, grasslands, and large forestry plantations, where the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines			Complex and diverse land cover including a diversity of arable fields, grassland, trees / hedges / woodland, open water of a small scale that turbines may dominate.	
Pattern	Unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines.			Irregular small scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern.	
Settlement pattern	Sparse or no settlement with relatively few visual receptors and scale indicators.			Populated areas and lowlands with larger numbers of visual receptors and small scale indicators.	
Other Development	Large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses detracting from the overall landscape sensitivity and value. Landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines			Rural / traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value.	
Change and Movement	Busy major roads and other areas of significant mechanised movement where the movement of turbine blades may be in character			No roads or only quiet country lanes where turbine blade movement could be eye catching	

Landscape Attributes	Characteristics that are less **susceptible** to wind energy development			Characteristics that are more **susceptible** to wind energy development	
	Low	**Medium – Low**	**Medium**	**High - Medium**	**High**
Perceptual Characteristics:					
Wildness and Naturalness	Area not valued for wildness as a key characteristic or special quality.			Area valued for wildness as a key characteristic or special quality.	
Remoteness	Area that feels closer to people and human activities. Conversely, a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquility would have a lower number of visual receptors.			Area that feels remote from people and human activities. Conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors.	
Rational / Windswept	Open and exposed landscapes where turbines, though more visible, may be logically located on windswept locations.			Enclosed or sheltered landform likely to be of a smaller scale and limited rational for turbine locations.	
Visual Characteristics:					
Openness and Enclosure	Enclosed landscape with limited opportunities for long range views.			Open landscapes with opportunities for long range views.	
Skyline	Broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography.			Skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography.	
Landmarks	Landscapes with no sensitive landmark features where turbines might detract from settings			Landscapes with landmarks and features such as church spires and prominent listed buildings where turbines might compete as landscape foci and detract from settings	
Surrounding Context	Self-contained landscape with limited relationship with adjacent areas.			Landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop.	
				Upland River Valley	
Overall Susceptibility		**Medium to Low Susceptibility**			

Overall Sensitivity

5.9.23 Considering the assessment of Medium to Low susceptibility and Medium value the Site of the proposed turbines (noting High to Medium sensitivity to the west) the overall sensitivity of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT is assessed as Medium.

Magnitude and Level of Effect: during Construction

5.9.24 The construction phase would result in localised direct landscape effects on the Site area and its component landscape elements. None of these are particularly sensitive (coniferous forestry, rough grassland / hill pasture of Low sensitivity). It is noted that the Site would be accessed via existing access tracks with Site accesses off the B714 and the A714 (using the existing substation and South Kyle accesses), minimising the extent of landscape effects on the fabric of the LCT. The construction works would affect localised areas, progressing from Zero magnitude of change to High towards the completion of the Proposed Development, the likely landscape effects on the fabric and constituent elements of the landscape would range from Negligible to Moderate and would not be significant.

5.9.25 In terms of wider effects on landscape character, the magnitude of change and nature of effect would range progressively from Zero to High during the construction phase, primarily as a result of the turbines. Other components of the Proposed Development would have a lesser magnitude of change. For example the Site accesses and the use of existing forestry tracks would constitute a Negligible change to the existing baseline. New access tracks within the forest would have a low visibility and would be screened from surrounding receptors by the existing forestry (also Negligible magnitude). such that the magnitude of change to the existing baseline would be Low. The temporary construction site and the proposed substation and battery storage site are both located close to the existing substation and benefit from forestry screening although they would directly effect the landscape character and extend the area of development beyond the existing substation. Taking account of the Proposed Development as a whole, the landscape effects on the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT would range from None, increasing to Major and Significant upon completion. The geographical extent of the significant effects would be limited to the immediate areas of the proposed turbines within the Site itself, due to the containment of coniferous forestry landform and other wind farm development to the south and east at South Kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms. Landscape effects (None, increasing to Major) would also extend north, approximately 2km (affecting the *Foothills With Forest and Opencast Mining* LCT) due to the height of the northern most turbines and their location towards the edge of the upland plateau before it descends into the foothills. Although this area is considered to be more sensitive (High to Medium) the effects would be mitigated by the presence of forestry. To conclude, the effects on the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT would range from None, increasing to **Major** and Significant. The nature of these effects would be temporary to long-term (reversible) direct and negative, due primarily to the turbines.

Magnitude and Level of Effect: during Operation

5.9.26 During operation, the completed wind farm would gain a more 'settled' appearance when compared to the same area during the construction period. Significant landscape effects would continue throughout the operational period as a result of the proposed turbines and the change they would bring to the existing landscape character.

5.9.27 The landscape effects on the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT would be Major and Significant due to the height, scale and location of the proposed turbines. These effects would be unavoidable for the same reasons and would apply to large turbines in general. The geographical extent of the significant effects would be limited to the immediate areas of the proposed turbines, within the Site itself due to the containment of coniferous forestry, landform and other wind farm development to the south and east at South Kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms.

5.9.28 The magnitude of other associated infrastructure, including the substation and BESS, borrow pits and access tracks would range from High to Low with more limited geographical extent, contained within the Site by the surrounding forestry.

5.9.29 Significant landscape effects (Major) would also extend north, approximately 2km (affecting the *Foothills With Forest and Opencast Mining* LCT) due to the height of the northern most turbines and their location towards the edge of the upland plateau before it descends into the foothills. The nature of all of these effects would be long-term (reversible, excepting borrow pits and access tracks) direct and negative due primarily to the turbines.

5.9.30 This effect would not be significant in terms of the wider East Ayrshire Southern Uplands (with or without forestry) including the area of *Southern Uplands with Forests: Carsphairn*, which extends from the Site south into Dumfries and Galloway.

5.9.31 The effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant, extending up to approximately 2km from the Site, unless otherwise constrained by existing wind farm development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

5.9.32 The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) is separate from the daytime assessment and receptors often have a different sensitivity at night whilst the Proposed Development is focused on the effects of the proposed aviation warning lights mounted on five of the turbine's hubs. The night-time assessment concluded no significant effects due to embedded mitigation and in part forestry screening.

Cumulative Landscape Effects 1: Existing and Consented Wind Farms

5.9.33 There are several existing and consented wind farms within the host *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT (within both the East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway units): The existing South Kyle I Wind Farm is located directly to the east and south of the Site at ~0.7 km straddling the East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway boundaries and within both the EAC and DGC *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT units. The Enoch Hill Wind Farm (under construction) is located to the east at approximately 1.8 km distance. Beyond these, and in addition there is further wind farm development comprising the 'South Kyle' cluster. This includes the Benbrack Wind Farm (under construction at the time of the assessment) which is located further to the south of the Proposed Development, beyond the South Kyle I Wind Farm at approximately 3.6 km distance within Dumfries and Galloway. The consented Pencloe Wind Farm is also located to the east beyond South Kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms at approximately 5.1 km. Others include Windy Standard I and II, Afton Wind Farm and Windy Rig Wind Farm. These all have a strong characterising influence on the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCA (High magnitude within approximately 2km). Within 10 km there is also the North Kyle cluster (comprising the North Kyle Wind Farm and the consented Overhill and Greenburn wind farms) to the north and the existing Dersalloch Wind Farm to the west beyond the Doon Valley.

5.9.34 The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Major** and significant although these effects would be slightly reduced or mitigated by the continuing presence of the wider South Kyle cluster forming part of the baseline landscape.

5.9.35 The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster would also be **Major** and Significant, although it would collectively extend across a much wider area, approximately 2km distanced from the boundary of the South Kyle cluster and the Proposed Development as a whole. Notably, the location of the Proposed Development adjacent to this larger wind farm cluster is a mitigating factor with the proposed Development assimilating into this wider cluster where there are common and defining characteristics of a wind farm and forestry landscape. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

Cumulative Landscape Effects 2: Existing and Consented and Application wind farms

5.9.36 There are no other wind farms applications within the host *Southern Uplands With Forestry* LCT.

5.9.37 The nearest wind farm application is Knockkippen approximately 7.4 km to the northwest and within 10km there is a further application to the west at Sclenteuch and the Windy Standard Repower application to the southeast which is part of the South Kyle cluster.

5.9.38 Assuming these are present within the baseline, the additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain a **Major** and Significant addition although slightly reduced or mitigated by the continuing presence of the wider South Kyle cluster forming part of the baseline landscape.

5.9.39 The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and all of the other wind farms within 10km would also be **Major** and Significant, although it would collectively extend across a much wider area, approximately 2km distance from the boundary of the South Kyle cluster and the Proposed Development as a whole. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

Landscape Effects During Decommissioning

5.9.40 During decommissioning, the Site would return to a 'construction site' for a temporary period and the level of effect would be variable over the site and according to the phase of activity. In overall terms, the magnitude would reduce from operational levels to Very Low with the removal of the turbines and associated above ground infrastructure (excepting on-site access tracks). The residual landscape effect would be **Negligible** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be permanent, direct, and neutral when compared to the pre-existing landscape of the local area.

Indirect Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character

5.9.41 Each of the surrounding landscape character units located within 10 km of the Proposed Development has been assessed in Table 5.10. The assessment has included those wind farms illustrated on Figure 5.5.

5.9.42 In summary, this part of the assessment has concluded that there would be significant effects on part of the EAC *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA, near Bogton Loch, and part of the *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA within approximately 2km of the Proposed Development, subject to forestry screening. In respect of the Doon Valley although the Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development as a new and more prominent characteristic of this part of the Doon Valley, the proposed turbines would be partly screened by landform and forestry such that the full height of the turbines would not tend to be visible.

5.9.43 There would be no significant night-time effects, and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

Table 5.10: Indirect Effects on the Surrounding Landscape Character within 10 km

Landscape Character	Assessment
Landscape Character within East Ayrshire	
EAC 10 *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA	The *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA is located to the west and northwest of the Proposed Development. Within 10 km the valley connects between Patna and Dalmellington with the River Doon connection to Loch Doon via Ness Glen through the Craigengillan GDL. The EALCS does not consider the sensitivity to Very Large turbines but considers a High sensitivity to large turbines (>70m) within this LCT. In terms of value much of this landscape is locally designated Doon Valley LLA indicating High to Medium value, although there is evidence of past mineral extraction that detract from the scenic value, although they may be of heritage / cultural value indicating a lower value. Part of the valley west of Dalmellington falls within the Craigengillan GDL and the A713 Galloway Tourist Route is routed through the valley, collectively indicating High value. The form and character of the Doon Valley is more susceptible to wind farm development that could be

Landscape Character	Assessment
	visible from elevated land overlooking the valley where there is a higher degree of openness in comparison to areas that are more wooded as with parts of Craigengillan where vegetation proves some screening. The smaller to medium scale of the valley and associated settlement also indicate a higher susceptibility to large scale wind farm development. Considering both the value and susceptibility of the Doon Valley it is concluded that the sensitivity of this landscape to the Proposed Development is High to Medium. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 2.5 km west of the LCA at its closest point. The ZTV coverage of this area however is limited and the closest viewpoints (Viewpoint 2: Bellsbank and 3: Dalmellington) indicate very limited visibility. The Proposed Development is therefore more clearly visible within this landscape at approximately 4km distance. Although lower parts of the turbines would be screened by landform and forestry there would be widespread visibility from open areas of the valley to the west and northwest of Dalmellington. The landform also would also tend to channel views along the valley towards (or away from) the Proposed Development. The level of visibility from this part of the Doon Valley would introduce turbines as a key characteristic or prominent feature of the landscape that did not exist to this magnitude before (previously Low to Very Low magnitude, increasing to Medium to Low). The level of effect on this part of the Doon Valley LCT would be **Moderate** and Significant, extending approximately 1-2 km to the north and west of Bogton Loch. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral to negative. There is little ZTV coverage to the north of Waterside and the ZTV is also more fragmented to the south of Bogton Loch and Dalcairnie . Both extremes of the LCT also have increased vegetation cover so that the views of the Proposed Development would be less frequent and not characterising or significant in these and the other areas of the Doon Valley. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* There are no existing or consented wind farm developments located within the LCA. As noted above, the addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a **Moderate** and Significant effect. Although visible, other existing and consented wind farm development has a much-reduced influence on this landscape and is not a key characteristic of the Doon Valley (Very Low magnitude). The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would therefore also be **Moderate** and Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* There are no other application wind farms within this LCA, although the Knockkippen application would be located on the northeastern boundary of the LCA north of Waterside (High magnitude within 2km) and the Scienteuch application would be located

Landscape Character	Assessment
	approximately 1 km to the southwest of the LCA boundary (High-Medium magnitude within 2 km). As noted above, the addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a **Moderate** and Significant effect. Other wind farm applications would have a significant cumulative effect on the Doon Valley, appearing on either side of the valley as new characteristic features with the Proposed Development appearing to the southeast, along the valley above Dalmellington. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other wind farm applications (Knockkippen and Scienteuch) would be **Substantial** and Significant with wind farm development becoming a key characteristic of the Doon Valley. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative and negative.
EAC 15 *Upland Basin: New Cumnock* LCA	The *Upland Basin: New Cumnock* LCA forms a low-lying basin at the head of the upper Nith Valley, which is encircled by surrounding hills. The Southern Uplands are most prominent to the south and there are *Foothills with Forest and Opencast Mining* to the west, and the *East Ayrshire Plateau Moorlands* to the north. A large area to the west of the LCA contains substantial areas of on-going open-cast mining which has changed the topography and landscape character of this area. The landscape sensitivity of the Upland Basin to wind farm development located within it is considered to be High (turbines >70m) by the EALCS. In terms of value the western areas have been strongly influenced by open-cast mining and the area is undesignated indicating Medium value, reducing to Low in areas of mining. The Upland Basin is susceptible to wind farm development that would appear to overlook or encircle the basin from the surrounding hills. Wind Farm development however is also a strong characteristic feature of this landscape and the background views. Other areas of this landscape include areas of recovered mining with higher levels of vegetation screening as at Knockshinnock Lagoons or built-up areas (New Cumnock) and woodland in the form of roadside trees, shelter belts, riverside woodland and corpses that provide some screening of wider views from the lower lying areas of the Upland Basin. Wider and more open views are available from more elevated areas of the Upland Basin particularly along the edges, being viewed at longer distances, with wide panoramas across the Upland Basin towards the enclosing hills. Due to the nature of these larger scale views with greater intervening distances, the screening levels from more lowland areas, and the effects of existing and past open cast mining, the landscape sensitivity of the Upland Basin: New Cumnock to the Proposed Development is assessed as Medium. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 4-5 km to the southwest of this landscape with the most distant part of the Upland Basin extending beyond 10 km distance to the northeast. The ZTV coverage is widespread although there are a number of screening elements of trees, woodland and buildings within this area reducing and fragmenting the extend of theoretical visibility. Where visible the Proposed Development would appear beyond intervening hills and the Enoch Hill Wind Farm / South Kyle cluster, in a seemingly different part of the landscape. The magnitude of change would be Very

Landscape Character	Assessment
	Low and the Proposed Development would have a **Negligible** effect on the character of this LCT. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and neutral. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Variation Development + Existing + Consented Sites* There are no existing or consented wind farms within this LCT. The nearest include North Kyle cluster (comprising Green burn, Overhill and North Kyle) which are located along the northwestern boundary of this LCT, overlooking the River Nith (High magnitude). The South Kyle cluster (including Enoch Hill South Kyle, Pencloe and Afton) and Hare Hill Wind Farm are located to the south of the LCT with these wind farms appearing prominently on the skyline (Medium to Low magnitude). The Proposed Development would have a Very Low magnitude and the additional effect of the Proposed Development would not alter the character of this landscape and the level of effect would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the other existing and consented wind farm development would be **Substantial** and Significant due to the combined effect of other development (notably the North and South Kyle clusters) and *not* the Proposed Development, which would appear beyond the other developments. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing influence of the North and South Kyle clusters of wind farm development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other existing and consented development (High magnitude) would however be **Substantial** and Significant as a result of the other developments and *not* the Proposed Development, which would appear beyond existing development and 'remote' from this LCT.
EAC 17a *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA	The *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA is a large and gently undulating upland plateau mostly forested, with some open moorland areas of rough grassland and multiple areas of opencast works including areas of spoil, excavation and ponds. The North Kyle cluster of wind farm development is present within this area comprising the existing North Kyle and the consented Overhill and Greenburn wind farms. This landscape is located to the north and northwest of the Proposed Development, much of the landscape is at a notably lower elevation that the host *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT. The EALCS considers this area to have very limited scope for Very Large wind turbines within it and considers the sensitivity to Very Large wind turbines to be High-medium. In terms of landscape value there are no landscape designations for the majority of the LCA, although the Doon Valley LLA overlaps the southwestern edge of the LCA where it forms the northern edge of the Doon Valley. Most of this landscape is assessed as of Medium to Low value, accounting for areas of past mining, wind farm development and forestry, increasing to Medium along the edge of the Doon Valley. The susceptibility to the Proposed Development is Low due to the large scale and characterising influences of existing wind farm development (the North Kyle cluster), large areas of forestry and evidence of open-cast mining. Considering both the value and susceptibility, the sensitivity of this landscape to Proposed Development is assessed as Low, increasing to Medium along the edge of the Doon Valley. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 1 km to the southeast of the LCA with the most distant part of this LCA extending to approximately 9 km to the northeast. The ZTV coverage is extensive and covers much of the southern part of this area, much of which is forested and extending north to overlap with the North Kyle cluster. Views from the area are likely to be screened by the extensive forest cover within the LCA (subject to felling). The Proposed Development would extend a characterising influence north, across the B741 for approximately 2 km to join up with the characterising influence of the North Kyle cluster, reinforcing wind farm development as a key characteristic of this landscape. Allowing for the distance from the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change would be Medium within 2-3 km of the Proposed Development, subject to forestry screening, leading to a **Moderate** and Significant landscape effect within approximately 2 km, reducing to a **Minor** effect beyond, due mainly to the presence of the North Kyle cluster. More sensitive areas of this LCA (along the edge of the Doon valley) would be subject to greater intervening distance and landform / forestry screening, reducing the effects to non-significant levels. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) indirect and negative. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Variation Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The North Kyle cluster (including the consented Overhill and Greenburn wind farms, and at further distance north the consented Polquhairn Wind Farm) are located within this landscape (High magnitude). Within the wider area this landscape is partly influenced by the South Kyle cluster (Medium magnitude subject to forestry screening) and the Dersalloch Wind Farm beyond the Doon Valley to the southwest (Low to Very Low magnitude). The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and Significant due to the proximity of the Proposed Development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other existing and consented development (High magnitude) would also be **Moderate** and Significant with the Proposed Development reducing the separation between the North and South Kyle clusters. The combined effects would collectively extend across a much wider area, approximately 2km distance from the boundary of the South and the North Kyle clusters and the Proposed Development as a whole. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.

Landscape Character	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Variation Development + Existing + Consented + Applications The Knockkippen application wind farm would be located in the west of this LCA (High magnitude within 2 km). The Sclenteuch wind farm would be located to the north of Dersalloch on the western side of the Doon Valley (Low to Very Low magnitude). Other wind farm applications are more distant and would not significantly influence this LCA. The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Moderate** and Significant due to the proximity of the Proposed Development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other existing, consented, and application development (High magnitude) would also be **Moderate** and Significant with the combined effects collectively extending across a much wider area, approximately 2km distance from the boundary of the South and the North Kyle clusters (including other applications) and the Proposed Development as a whole. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.
EAC/SAC 17b *Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley* LCT	The EAC *Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley* LCA is an upland landscape formed from a narrow band of low hills at the head of the Girvan Valley and on the west side of the Doon Valley. This LCT extends west into South Ayrshire where the landscape within 10 km of the Proposed Development is either covered by forestry or the Dersalloch Wind Farm. Both the North and South Kyle clusters are visible from this LCT. Both the EALCS and SALCS considered the sensitivity to wind farm development (Very Large turbines) within the LCA to be High. In terms of landscape value, the Doon Valley LLA covers all of this LCA within East Ayrshire indicating a High-Medium value. The South Ayrshire part is undesignated and of Low value due to the existing wind farm and forestry cover. The susceptibility to the Proposed Development is Medium due mainly to the area's elevation and open views across the Doon Valley towards the Proposed Development as indicated in Viewpoints 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23) and 11: B741 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.24) reducing to Low within the Dersalloch Wind Farm. The sensitivity of this LCA to the Proposed Development is therefore assessed as High to Medium. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 6 km west of the LCT at its closest point. There is widespread ZTV coverage of this area within East Ayrshire and more fragmented ZTV coverage (subject also to forestry) in South Ayrshire. The Proposed Development would be clearly visible to the east beyond the Doon Valley, although experienced in wider panoramic views and in the context of the existing Dersalloch Wind Farm which is close by. Although the Proposed Development would add a further wind farm to the view, overlapping with views of the South Kyle cluster, the existing character of this landscape would remain one that is already characterised by existing wind farm development (significant visual effects are noted). The magnitude of change would be Low to Very Low and the level of effect would be **Minor** and Not Significant, reducing to **Negligible** and Not Significant in South Ayrshire. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral to negative.

Landscape Character	Assessment
	The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The Dersalloch Wind Farm is located within this LCT (High magnitude) and both the North and South Kyle clusters are visible beyond the Doon Valley and also influence this landscape (Low magnitude). The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Minor** to **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing Dersalloch Wind Farm. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other existing and consented development (High magnitude) would also be **Substantial** on account of the Dersalloch Wind Farm and *not* the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Sclenteuch application would be located within this LCT to the north of Dersalloch straddling the South and East Ayrshire boundary (High magnitude). Other wind farm applications with an indirect effect include Knockkippen to the east of the Doon Valley at approximately 2 km distance (Medium magnitude). The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Minor** to **Negligible** and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and other existing, consented and application development (High magnitude) would however be **Substantial** on account of Dersalloch, Sclenteuch and Knickkippen and *not* the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), direct, cumulative and negative.
EAC 21 *Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest* LCT	The *Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest* LCT forms part of an extensive upland area which extends south into Dumfries and Galloway and South Ayrshire. Lower-lying hills to the north of the LCA form part of the setting for the Doon Valley, Higher hills at the core of the LCT rarely fall below 600m and comprise deeply gouged corries which are contained by craggy boulder-strewn slopes. Capacity studies (EALCS, SALCS and DGLCS) considered the sensitivity to wind farm development (Large turbines) within this LCA to be High. The capacity studies also considered constraints to include the complexity of the landform, sense of wildness and remoteness as well as the popularity of the area for recreational pursuits. The Doon Valley LLA covers this LCA within East Ayrshire, and the Galloway Hills RSA covers the LCA within Dumfries and Galloway. Consequently, the value of this landscape is assessed as High. The susceptibility of this landscape to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is High-Medium due to the complex landform and scenic / recreational value of the landscape which indicate high susceptibility, in combination with the large scale, sparse settlement and the presence of other wind farms that are all indicators of reduced susceptibility. The sensitivity of this landscape to the Proposed Development therefore is assessed as High to Medium.

Landscape Character	Assessment
	Assessment: Proposed Development The Proposed Development would be located approximately 3.3 km from the northern transitional edge of the LCT at its closest point. At its greatest extent, the LCT would extend approximately 35 km to the southwest of the turbines. The ZTV coverage closest to the Proposed Development is fragmented, and the main area of ZTV coverage is on the low summits and facing slopes to the west of Loch Doon. Views from this LCT are illustrated at Viewpoint 7 (Figure 5.20), Viewpoint 9 Loch Doon (Figure 5.22) and from the southern part of the LCT at Viewpoint 18 The Merrick (Figure 5.31). Where it is visible, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of existing wind farm development, in particular to the fore and overlapping with the South Kyle I Wind Farm. From some low-lying locations along the shore of Loch Doon, the proposed turbines would be screened or partially screened by intervening landform as illustrated at Viewpoint 9 (Figure 5.22). In most views, the turbines would relate to the forested upland landscape in an area already characterised by wind farm development. The magnitude of change therefore would be Low to Very Low leading to a **Minor** and Not Significant effect. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* There are no existing or consented wind farms within this LCT. The nearest include Dersalloch Wind Farm over 2 km to the northwest and Benbrack which is the westernmost part of the South Kyle cluster (all Low magnitude) The Proposed Development would have a Low to Very Low magnitude of change due mainly to the influence of the existing Benbrack and Dersalloch wind farms. The addition of the Proposed Development would not alter the character of this landscape which includes some visibility of wind farms, and the level of effect would be **Minor** and Not Significant. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster (all Low magnitude) would increase to **Moderate** accounting for all of the wind farm development, although the character of this landscape which includes some visibility of wind farms would be maintained and the effects would therefore not be Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* There are no other application wind farms within this LCT. The Scl enteuch application is located beyond Dersalloch to the north (Very Low magnitude) and would have an indirect effect on this landscape. The Windy Standard Repower is also remote and located beyond other wind farm development. There would therefore be little change to the previous assessment with the additional effect of the Proposed Development leading to a **Minor** effect that would not be Significant and the combined effect being **Moderate** and also not significant.
Landscape Character within Dumfries and Galloway	
DGC 19a *Southern Uplands with Forest: Carsphain* LCA	The *Southern Uplands with Forest: Carsphairn* LCA is an extensive area of uplands with commercial forestry and wind farm development, extending south form the host LCT (*Southern Uplands with Forest* in East Ayrshire). The DGLCS assesses the sensitivity to wind farm development within this LCT to be High-medium. Much of this landscape however is undesignated and clad in commercial forestry and wind farm development. A small part of the LCT to the southwest, along the A716 corridor is overlapped by the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area (RSA), although most of this is outwith the ZTV. The Proposed Development would not be located within this LCT, rather it would appear beyond the South Kyle cluster of existing wind farm development, indicating a Low sensitivity. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 2 km to the north of this LCT at its closest point and beyond the existing wind farm development at South Kyle I and Benbrack (part of the South Kyle cluster). The ZTV coverage of this area is fragmented and largely overlaps with areas of existing wind farm development such that the magnitude of change to the existing landscape character would be Very Low. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would significantly alter the perceptual characteristics of this landscape and the Proposed Development would lead to a **Negligible** and Not Significant effect. The nature of this effect would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing influence of the South Kyle cluster of wind farm development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster (High magnitude) would however be **Major** and Significant as a result of the South Kyle cluster and *not* the Proposed Development which is remote from this LCT. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Windy Standard Repower application is located within this LCT and would form part of the existing and consented South Kyle cluster. The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing influence of the South Kyle cluster of wind farm development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster (High magnitude) would however be **Major** and Significant as a result of the South Kyle cluster, including the Windy Standard Repower application and *not* the Proposed Development which is remote from this LCT.

Landscape Character	Assessment
DGC 19 *Southern Uplands: Carsphain* LCA	The *Southern Uplands: Carsphairn* LCA is an extensive area of upland moorland to the southeast of the Proposed Development, along the edge of the 10 km study area. The DGLCS considered the sensitivity to wind farm development within it to be High. The Cairnsmore of Carsphairn is a landmark hill within this landscape and the locally designated Galloway Hills RSA extends into the LCT to include it, denoting a High-Medium value. The Proposed Development, however, would not be located within this LCT, rather it would appear beyond the South Kyle cluster of existing wind farm development and the intervening *Southern Uplands with Forest: Carsphain* LCA indicating a Very Low susceptibility. Taking account of the value and susceptibility, it is considered that the sensitivity of the LCT to the Proposed Development is Medium to Low. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 7.2 km northwest of the LCT at its closest point, beyond the existing South Kyle cluster and the intervening *Southern Uplands with Forest: Carsphain* LCA. The ZTV coverage of this area is fragmented, present primarily on the northwest slopes of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and adjacent lower hills. Viewpoint 13 (Figure 5.26) illustrates the view from the summit of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. This viewpoint is not typical of the wider LCT which is characterised by an undulating landscape at a lower elevation than this location. It is not considered that the Proposed Development would significantly alter the perceptual characteristics of this landscape, which would remain an open, un-forested and remote landscape that is already strongly influenced by wind farm development. The magnitude of change would be Very Low and the addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a **Negligible** and Not Significant effect. The nature of this effect would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) reports no significant effects. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing influence of the South Kyle cluster of wind farm development. The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster (High magnitude) would however be **Major** and Significant as a result of the South Kyle cluster and *not* the Proposed Development which is remote from this LCT. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Windy Standard Repower application is partly located within this LCT and would form part of the existing and consented South Kyle cluster. The additional cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would remain **Negligible** and Not Significant due to the existing influence of the South Kyle cluster of wind farm development.

Landscape Character	Assessment
	The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development and the South Kyle cluster (High magnitude) would however be **Major** and Significant as a result of the South Kyle cluster, including the Windy Standard Repower application and *not* the Proposed Development which is remote from this LCT.

5.10. Landscape Designations

5.10.1 Although the Site boundary overlaps with the edge of the Doon Valley LLA, the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure are all outwith the LLA and separated from the LLA by forested slopes and low hills on the edge of the *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT.

5.10.2 In summary, there would be no significant effects on the integrity of the Doon Valley LLA and its overarching 'summary statement of character and qualities'. There would however be a significant effect on two of the 24 assumed SLQs that contribute to the Doon Valley LLA. Both of these relate to views from the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL and the perceived setting of Dalmellington viewed from the north and west.

5.10.3 Infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development is not located within the LLA and would not be visible due to the intervening forestry screening and its location remote from the LLA.

The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) also reports no significant effects.

5.10.4 The Merrick WLA is also located within the LVIA Study Area, and a wild land assessment is reported in Technical Appendix 5.4. In summary, the Proposed Development would not significantly affect the Merrick WLA or its wild land qualities and there would be no significant effects resulting from the proposed aviation warning lights.

The designated and protected landscapes are illustrated in Figure 5.6.

Methodology for Assessing Landscape Planning Designations

5.10.5 The assessment of landscape planning designations differs from landscape character or visual assessment in that it considers the effects of the Proposed Development on the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs), including views and perceptual qualities of the designation. These special qualities should encapsulate what is valued and provide the reasons for the designation as described in the Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas[6]. As a local designation the SLQs and value will be reflective or the local level designation and not a national level designation.

5.10.6 The effects of the Proposed Development on the SLQs have been assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in Technical Appendix 5.1 which accords with GLVIA 3. In addition, the assessment of landscape planning designations has also been guided by NS's *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*, January 2025. Although this guidance has been developed for landscape professionals undertaking LVIA for developments with the potential to impact on the SLQs of NSAs and National Parks, it has in this case been adopted as an approach to assessing local landscape designations. This guidance supersedes the earlier SNH guidance, *Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3a*, 2017 and does not require an assessment of 'integrity' as part of the LVIA.

5.10.7 One landscape planning designation (the Doon Valley LLA) has been identified for assessment. LLAs are non-statutory designations that represent landscapes and features of local importance and value within the EAC area.

5.10.8 It is important to note that wind farm development is not necessarily incompatible with the valued qualities of a landscape, this will depend on the nature and / or effects of the development and the nature of the SLQs. A visual

[6] NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland, Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas, October 2020.

effect on a view from the SLA for example, may or may not affect the SLQ. In particular, the Landscape Institute further advises:

- *"An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have high susceptibility to all types of change."*
- *"It is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally important landscape to have relatively low susceptibility to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal."*
- *"The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape."* (GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.46-47).

Consideration of Special Landscape Qualities

5.10.9 There are no explicit SLQ descriptions for the Doon Valley LLA. However, the LLA is documented in the EAC *Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance* 2024 (sourced from the *East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review*, June 2021) with further information provided in the EAC *Background Paper: Sensitive Landscape Areas*, March 2015. These reports describe the SLQs indirectly through the medium of landscape character, characteristics, features, views and design principals as they predate the most recent NS *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*, January 2025. The criteria and design principles have been included in the assessment as 'assumed SLQs' as they have relevance to the Doon Valley LLA and the special qualities and value that have warranted its protection. The assumed SLQ drawn from these documents are reported and considered in Table 5.11. The conclusions from this process, including those assumed SLQs where significant effects are considered as likely, have been drawn out for further assessment of the Doon Valley LLA overall.

Doon Valley SLA

5.10.10 The Doon Valley LLA (formally Doon Valley SLA) covers an extensive area along the River Doon and Loch Doon areas. The LLA partly overlaps with the Site boundary east of Dalmellington and extends along the Doon Valley approximately 17 km distance from the Proposed Development to the northwest. In the opposite direction the LLA extends south, beyond Loch Doon to the Mullwharchar summit (692 m AOD) within the Merrick WLA, approximately 20 km distance from the Proposed Development. A summary or overarching statement of the character and qualities of the Doon Valley LLA is provided in the EAC *Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance* 2024 (sourced from the *East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review*, June 2021). This statement encapsulates the essence of the LLA and the main qualities for which it is protected as follows:

"A grand and dramatic landscape of mountains and large water bodies, large-scale, and a sparsely settled landscape with a lack of woodland gives a strong sense of wildness and naturalness. This area is also important as it encompasses part of the Dark Sky Park and the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. The LLA boundary is distinct and does not bound either of the other two Local Landscape Areas."

5.10.11 The SLQs referenced in this 'overarching' statement are focused on the Loch Doon area of the LLA which this assessment regards as the main reason for the local designation as Loch Doon is clearly an attractive area, the focus of landscape orientated recreation and visitor / tourist attraction and also overlaps with the Craigengillan GDL, part of the Merrick WLA and falls within the buffer area of both the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere and the Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. The Loch Doon area is also within the approximate boundary of the area proposed in the nomination for a new National Park in Galloway.

5.10.12 However, much of the Doon Valley LLA north of Dalmellington and the Craigengillan GDL has a different baseline landscape character of lower foothills and upland river valley (*Upland River Valley*, *Foothills with Forest and Opencast Mining, and Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley* LCTs). These areas are characterised by past mining activities and include some windfarm development and forestry. They lack mountains or large water bodies and are not characterised by perceptions of wildness. The Doon Valley does however contain the A713 Galloway Tourist Route and provides a 'sequential introduction' or approach to the Loch Doon area further south. Considered as a whole the LLA includes the enclosing hills and valley side slopes of the Doon Valley between Dalrymple, Patna and Dalmellington, Loch Doon and enclosing hills, part of the Carrick Forest and the northeastern part of the Merrick WLA. As such the Doon Valley LLA covers an extensive range of landscape character that may be experienced in a relatively small area.

5.10.13 In terms of landscape value, the Doon Valley LLA is a local level designation, although it overlaps with part of the Merrick WLA in the south, and the Craigengillan GDL near Loch Doon and west of Bellsbank. The A713 Galloway Tourist Route passes through the Doon Valley and all of these protected and designated landscapes indicate High value. However, the area also includes remnants of past mining such as dismantled railways and spoil heaps with rough pasture and forestry which are of lower scenic value, although they may be of historical / cultural interest. Overall, the value of the Doon Valley LLA is therefore assessed as High to Medium value, noting that it is not designated at a national level. The susceptibility of the LLA to the Proposed Development is constrained by the form and character of the Doon Valley such that wind farm development adjacent to the valley could be visible from elevated land overlooking the valley where there is a higher degree of openness in comparison to areas that are more wooded as with parts of Craigengillan where vegetation provides some screening. The smaller scale of the valley and associated settlement also indicate a higher susceptibility to large scale wind farm development.

5.10.14 Considering both the value and susceptibility of the Doon Valley LLA it is concluded that the sensitivity of this landscape to the Proposed Development is High.

Table 5.11: SLQ Assessment for the Doon Valley SLA

Sourced from EAC Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance 2024 and the *East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review*, June 2021 *(Note text in italics is extracted from this document)*	**Consideration comments**
Summary of Character and Qualities:	
• *A grand and dramatic landscape of mountains and large water bodies, large-scale, and a sparsely settled landscape with a lack of woodland gives a strong sense of wildness and naturalness. This area is also important as it encompasses part of the Dark Sky Park and the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. The LLA boundary is distinct and does not bound either of the other two Local Landscape Areas.*	No Significant Effects: The Proposed Development is located within the transition zone of the *UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere* and beyond the buffer zone which is designed to protect the conservation objectives of the core area. Only the southern tip of the Biosphere (and the Merrick WLA) around the Mullwharchar summit is within the Doon Valley LLA located between 16-22 km distance. This area and including the Loch Doon (approximately 6 km to the southwest of the Proposed Development) is covered by the landscape assessment of *Rugged Uplands, Lochs, and Forest* LCT, the Merrick WLA assessment in Technical Appendix 5.4 and Viewpoints 9: South of Beoch House Loch Doon (Figure 5.22) and Viewpoints 18: Merrick Summit (Figure 5.31). The views from this area are primarily focused on Loch Doon and the mountains to the south, whereas the Proposed Development is located to the northeast, viewing out of the LLA towards undesignated landscape and the established South Kyle cluster of wind farm development. These factors along with the visual assessment indicate no significant effects on the views, landscape character and perceptual / scenic qualities of this area including its 'wildness'. Taking this 'summary of character and qualities' as an overview of the principal SLQs of the Doon Valley LLA there would be no significant effects on this local designation.
Key Design Principles for Development in the LLA:	
• *The rugged uplands, lochs and forest landscapes contained within this LLA comprise of a relatively wild and sparsely-settled landscape parcel, giving a sense of seclusion and naturalness; of particular value because these attributes are more notable here than anywhere else in East Ayrshire. Any development proposals should not impact on the overall integrity of these characteristics, outlined fully in Table 6 (pages 31-38).*	No Significant Effects: The *Rugged Uplands, Lochs, and Forest* LCT (assessed in Section 5.9) noted High to Medium susceptibility and sensitivity. As noted above, there would be no significant effects on this assumed SLQ.
• *To the very south of the LLA, the higher rugged hills provide for some dramatic mountainous scenery, more reminiscent of a typically highland landscape. There is relatively little scope for new development within this area; any development proposals must demonstrate how they can be accommodated within the landscape without undermining the overall integrity of the LLA and the Merrick Wild Land Area (see Local Development Plan 2 Policy NE2).*	No Significant Effects: The Merrick WLA Assessment in Technical Appendix 5.4 reports no significant effects on this assumed SLQ.
• *The Doon Valley offers a diverse mix of natural landcover and landform, which sit alongside more modified landscape elements; most notably, the eastern slopes are significantly modified by past mining activities. Development proposals within the valley should not exacerbate visual clutter and landscape fragmentation associated with past mining activity; instead, care should be taken to improve modified landscapes and provide environmental improvements.*	No Significant Effects: The *Upper River Valley* LCT: *River Doon* LCA (assessed in Section 5.9) noted High to Medium susceptibility and sensitivity. The modified landscape elements, and past mining actions would be unaffected by the Proposed Development which when viewed from the Doon Valley would be seen beyond a backdrop of forested *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT, avoiding visual clutter and landscape fragmentation such that there would be no significant effect on this assumed SLQ.
• *The landscape qualities of the LLA provide significant recreational opportunities (e.g. walking, cycling and kayaking) focussed on Loch Doon, surrounding hills, and upland Doon Valley. Development proposals should seek to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational enjoyment of the landscape*	No Significant Effects: There would be no effect on the recreational opportunities within the Doon Valley LLA. In terms of 'enjoyment' the visual effects experienced by walkers from the summit of Auchenroy Hill are assessed in Section 5.11, Technical Appendix 5.2 and illustrated in Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23). Although significant visual effects are noted, these would be experienced in the context of other large areas of wind farm development and the wider 360° views. It is considered therefore that the physical activity and enjoyment of hill walking in this area would not be significantly affected or prevented.
Table 5: Evaluation of Criteria for LLA: Doon Valley	
• *Identity and Sense of Place (High): The rich combination of hills (forested, open moorland), lochs, streams, wild land areas with extensive views is very scenic and attractive to visitors who come to enjoy nature. A pleasing balance of natural and managed landscapes.*	No Significant Effects: The Proposed Development would not alter the 'pleasing balance of natural and managed landscapes' or the 'rich' variety of landscape character types. Rather the Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development as a new characteristic to a localised part of the Doon Valley between Dalmellington and Waterside, with the turbines appearing more prominently alongside a combination of landscapes. The 'identity' of this wider area is already associated with windfarm development and the proposed turbines would be viewed against a forested backdrop and partly screened by landform and forestry such that the full height of the turbines would not tend to be visible in most cases. The turbines would be viewed in the context of a managed and contemporary rural landscape without significantly detracting from the variety of landscapes and the 'sense of place'.
• *Rarity (High): There is only one are of wild land within East Ayrshire (Merrick), located to the south of Loch Doon, which is a freshwater loch and is the largest inland loch in southern Scotland at around seven miles long.*	No Significant Effects: As noted previously there would be no significant effects on the Merrick WLA or Loch Doon.

Sourced from EAC Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance 2024 and the *East Ayrshire Local Landscape Area Boundary Review*, June 2021 *(Note text in italics is extracted from this document)*	**Consideration comments**
• *Intactness and Condition (High): The landscape and combinations of elements are generally in a good state of repair. Some damage to verges around Loch Doon, by cars, due to insufficient parking space / passing places. Some encroachment of wind turbines within some views detracts slightly from the natural landscape around Loch Doon. Changes will occur as part of forestry felling and restocking (over time) but the requirement to include greater mix of native, deciduous species will beneficial. Currently, no wind farms or other infrastructure projects within the planning system.*	No Significant Effects: Although some encroachment of wind farm development is noted in respect of Loch Doon, the Proposed Development would not significantly affect the views from Loch Doon or the surrounding landscape of *Rugged Uplands, Lochs, and Forest* LCT. Where visible the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of established areas of wind farm development.
• *Wildness (Medium): This LLA includes an area designated as wild land, where it borders Dumfries and Galloway / Galloway Dark Skies Park. Some encroachment of wind turbines within some views detracts slightly from the natural landscape around Loch Doon.*	No Significant Effects: As noted above the Merrick WLA Assessment in Technical Appendix 5.4 reports no significant effects on this assumed SLQ. Where visible the Proposed Development would be viewed over long distances and in the context of established areas of wind farm development.
• *Scenic Qualities (High): The rich combination of hills (forested, open moorland), lochs, streams, wild land areas with extensive views is very scenic and attractive to visitors who come to enjoy nature. Some encroachment of wind turbines within some views detracts slightly from the natural landscape.*	No Significant Effects: As noted above the Proposed Development would not alter the 'rich' variety of landscape character types. Rather the Proposed Development would introduce wind farm development as a new and more prominent characteristic to part of the Doon Valley between Dalmellington and Waterside, although this part of the LLA is more managed and settled in comparison to the more 'natural' landscapes further south.
• *Enjoyment (High): A landscape that is highly valued by locals and tourists for walking (a number of Core Paths), cycling, horse riding, fishing, bird watching, simply enjoying nature, including dark skies.*	No Significant Effects: As noted above there would be no effect on the recreational opportunities and no significant effects on the enjoyment of these activities, including star gazing which is assessed further in Technical Appendix 5.5.
• *Built Heritage Assets (Medium): Doon Castle, Dunaskin Heritage Centre, Craigengillan Estate. Attractions within the landscape but they do not significantly influence the character of the landscape. Views to and from are constrained by landform.*	No Significant Effects: These features are assed as part of the visual assessment in Section 5.11 as visitor / tourist attractions and where appropriate in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage. There would be no significant effects on the views and visual amenity experienced from Doon Castle (no view), Dunaskin Heritage Centre, or the built heritage assets within Craigengillan GDL, although it is acknowledged that there would be significant effects on the views form some landscape features within the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL as noted in respect of Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21) and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23).
• *Cultural Qualities (Low): Doon Castle, Dunaskin Heritage Centre, Craigengillan Estate. These places attract locals and tourists. These are built heritage assets rather than cultural associations.*	No Significant Effects: See above.
• *Naturalness and natural heritage assets (High): Loch Doon and other smaller lochs, River Doon valley, Dalcairnie Falls, proximity to Galloway Forest Park/Dark Skies park, Ness Glen, relationship of hills to lochs and rivers and 31 SSSIs. These all combine to create a rich and diverse landscape appreciated by locals and tourists.*	No Significant Effects: There would be no effects on the natural heritage assets and SSSIs. There would be no view of the Proposed Development from Dalcairnie Falls and Ness Glen and as noted previously there would be no significant visual effects on views from Loch Doon or the Galloway Forest and Dark Sky Park. When viewed from Bogton Loch and the River Doon Valley the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of a managed and contemporary rural landscape, not recognised for its naturalness.
• *Settlement Setting (High): Settlements nestle in the landscape and sit within the valley corridor. Rising higher ground provides enclosure and setting.*	**Significant Effects:** Dalmellington and Bellsbank are set within the Doon Valley and viewed from the main northern approach roads (including the A713) as backdropped and contained by partly forested hills (part of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT). Dalmellington Church tower is a local landmark that appears against this backdrop (Viewpoint 4: A713 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.17), Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21) and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23). The Proposed Development would increase the prominence of wind farm development in the 'setting' or views of these settlements to a significant degree as indicated by the viewpoint assessment, although it would not alter the 'sense of enclosure provided by the Doon Valley.
• *Views (Medium): Higher ground and wild land area provide panoramic viewpoints, but there are no specific/special viewpoints noted. Within the Doon Valley and around/across Loch Doon, views are contained by landform. Views of turbines encroach into some views.*	**Some Significant Effects:** No significant visual effects are noted from viewpoints within the Merrick WLA or Loch Doon. Some significant visual effects are noted from within the Doon Valley area near Dalmellington as noted Technical Appendix 5.2 and the summary of viewpoints in Table 5.5. The following viewpoints: Viewpoint 4: A713 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.17), Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 7: Site of former Observatory (Figure 5.19) Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21), Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23) and Viewpoint 11: B741 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.24) illustrate an increased prominence of wind farm development, although they affect a relatively small area of the Doon Valley LLA and viewed in the context of a managed and contemporary rural landscape in contrast to the main areas of Loch Doon and the Merrick WLA.

Sourced from the EAC's *Background Paper: Sensitive Landscape Areas*, March 2015 *(Note text in italics is extracted from this document)*	**Consideration comments**
Upland River Valley (LCT 10)	
• *The Doon Valley is an attractive upland valley, which provides a scenic entrance into East Ayrshire.*	No Significant Effects: The Proposed Development would not be visible from the '*scenic entrance into East Ayrshire'* between Dalrymple, Hollybush, Patna and Waterside, viewing from either the River Doon or the A713 Galloway Tourist Route / railway line and this assumed SLQ would not be affected.
• *It contains a wide range of landscape features including complex knolly hill patterns in its most upland section, several water bodies and wetlands, landmarks hills and Craigengillan Estate.*	**Some Significant Effects:** The Proposed Development would not affect these landscape features or compete with views of landmark hills such as the Carnsmore of Carsphain. The Proposed Development would significantly affect the views from some landscape features within the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL as noted in respect of Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21) and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23), often viewed in the context of a managed and contemporary rural landscape.
• *The east side of the Doon Valley has been affected by the coal industry, making the appropriate management of the remaining valley of significant importance.*	No Significant Effects: The proposed turbines would not be located in this area and there would be no direct effect on the management of this landscape.
Rugged Uplands with lochs and forestry LCT (LCT 21)	
• *The landscape is unique in East Ayrshire terms, due to its remote and little modified nature;* • *Loch Doon, East Ayrshire's largest water body, adds to the diversity and interest of the landscape;* • *The sparsely settled landscape gives a strong sense of seclusion and naturalness;* • *It has a high scenic value and for this reason is also important for recreation and tourism;*	No Significant Effects: As reported previously the *Rugged Uplands, Lochs, and Forest* LCT (assessed in Section 5.9) which includes Loch Doon would not be significantly affected in terms of its landscape character, and key characteristics including perceptual qualities. There would be no significant effects on the Merrick WLA reported in Technical Appendix 5.4. No significant visual effects are noted from viewpoints within the Merrick WLA or Loch Doon and there would be no effect on the recreational opportunities within the Doon Valley LLA.
Foothills West of the Doon Valley (LCT 17b)	
• *The relatively constrained band of upland landscape, forms an important role in providing the backdrop and setting for the Doon Valley and the Girvan Valley in South Ayrshire; and* • *The landmark hills in the southern part of the landscape form the backdrop to Dalmellington and Craigengillan Estate, whilst the more gentle northern section contributes positively to the setting of Patna and Waterside as well as the entrance into East Ayrshire on the A713.*	No Significant Effects: The western backdrop of the Doon Valley would be unaffected by the Proposed Development which would be located to the east of the Doon Valley. **Some Significant Effects:** The 'landmark hills' are not listed in this report and those forming the backdrop to Dalmellington relate to the *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT (Viewed from Viewpoints (Viewpoint 4: A713 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.17), Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21) and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23). The *Southern Uplands with Forestry* LCT do not appear as individual 'landmark hills' rather they are a hill range or plateau that feature as a backdrop to Dalmellington. Whilst there would be no effects on the 'landmark hills' there would be a significant effect on these views as noted in the response to 'settlement setting' previously. Hills forming the backdrop to Craigengillan tend to be those to the west (Dersalloch and Auchenroy Hill) and south towards Big Hill of Glenmount (382 m AOD) and the wild land uplands further south. Views to the west and south would not be affected by the Proposed Development. Equally views towards Patna and Waterside and their respective settings would not be affected.

Doon Valley LLA Assessment: Proposed Development

5.10.15 From the analysis of the three EAC reports documenting the Doon Valley LLA, including a designation review, it is notable that the Proposed Development would have no significant effects on the overarching summary of the character and qualities of the Doon Valley LLA as follows:

"A grand and dramatic landscape of mountains and large water bodies, large-scale, and a sparsely settled landscape with a lack of woodland gives a strong sense of wildness and naturalness. This area is also important as it encompasses part of the Dark Sky Park and the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere. The LLA boundary is distinct and does not bound either of the other two Local Landscape Areas."

5.10.16 There would be no significant effects on the factors that relate to the four Design Principles which seek to guide the management of the LLA as assessed in Table 5.11. Of the eleven criteria evaluated as part of the designation review in 2021 and the nine landscape character observations noted in the background report from 2015, the Proposed Development would significantly affect two of these:

- Setting / backdrop of views towards Dalmellington – viewing from the north and west the Proposed Development would increase the prominence of wind farm development in the 'setting' or views of these settlements (including Bellsbank) to a significant degree as indicated by the viewpoint assessment. The proposed turbines would be partly screened by landform and forestry as indicated in Viewpoint 4: A713 west of Dalmellington (Figure 5.17). Viewpoints 5, 8, 10 and 11 also illustrate this effect.
- Effects on views - although the reports do not refer to any specific locations, Craigengillan GDL is noted and there would be significant visual effects on viewpoints from within the wider estate including Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18), Viewpoint 7: Site of former Observatory (Figure 5.20), Viewpoint 8: Berbeth (Figure 5.21), and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23).

5.10.17 The overarching summary of the character and qualities of the Doon Valley LLA denotes the main reasons and SLQs of this LLA. Considering that the Proposed Development would not significantly affect the overarching summary, or the majority of the assumed SLQ's set out in the reports, and noting the significant effects on particular views, it is considered that the Proposed Development would not significantly affect the integrity of the Doon Valley LLA and the designation would remain viable as a local designation. It may be noted that wind farm development is not incompatible with LLAs and the Uplands and Moorlands LLA near New Cumnock contains the Hare Hill and part of the Afton wind farms within its boundary.

5.10.18 Although noted in the reports and considered as 'assumed SLQs' for the purpose of this assessment, the importance of these views towards Dalmellington are not considered as key SLQs and the affected views would constitute a Low magnitude of change to the SLQs and the integrity of the LLA. When combined with High to Medium sensitivity the level of effect on the Doon Valley LLA would be **Moderate to Minor** and not significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative and negative.

5.10.19 The landscape character assessment has concluded that there would be significant indirect effects on a small part of the Doon Valley within approximately 1-2 km to the north and west of Bogton Loch, due to the introduction of turbines as a key characteristic or prominent feature of the landscape that did not otherwise exist to this magnitude. Whilst a significant effect on part of this landscape character is noted, the assumed SLQs referred to in the reports relate to effects on 'views' in general, whilst other characteristics and assumed SLQs listed as contributing towards the Doon Valley LLA, would not be significantly affected.

5.10.20 Infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development is not located within the LLA and would not be visible due to the intervening forestry screening and its location remote from the LLA. The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) also reports no significant effects.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites

5.10.21 There are no existing or consented wind farm developments located within the Doon Valley LLA.

The addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant effect.

Although visible, other existing and consented wind farm development has a much-reduced influence on this landscape and is not a key characteristic of the Doon Valley LLA and its constituent landscape character (Low to Very Low magnitude). The combined cumulative effect of the Proposed Development would therefore also be **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative.

Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications

5.10.22 There are no other application wind farms within this LCA, although the Knockkippen application would be located on the northeastern boundary of the LCA north of Waterside and the Sclenteuch application would be located approximately 1 km to the southwest of the LCA boundary.

5.10.23 As noted above, the addition of the Proposed Development would lead to a **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant effect.

5.10.24 The Knockkippen and Sclenteuch applications would have a significant landscape and visual cumulative effect on the Doon Valley, appearing on either side of the valley as new characteristic features with the turbines visible to full height at Knockkippen. It is considered that the combined effects of these applications and the Proposed Development would affect the general views and setting of multiple settlements including Patna, and historic mineral works as well as introducing significant landscape and visual effects. Although the combined cumulative effects are unlikely to significantly affected the overarching summary of the character and qualities of the Doon Valley LLA (which is focused on the Loch Doon area) it is considered likely that the combined effects would lead to a Medium magnitude of change and a **Major** and Significant effect on the majority of views and an increased number of affected SLQs. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative and negative.

5.11. Assessment of Visual Effects

5.11.1 Visual effects are assessed by considering the sensitivity of the receptor (people in the landscape) and the magnitude of change that would affect the view or overall visual amenity. They are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 6.2 as follows:

"*An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.*"

5.11.2 The assessment has taken a precautionary approach and focused on visual receptors within 10 km of the Proposed Development, in order to assess the likely significant visual effects. This has been guided by the results of the viewpoint analysis (Technical Appendix 5.2) which indicated that significant visual effects would be limited to within approximately 7.2 km of the Proposed Development. Within the wider Study Area, the assessment has included receptors of national importance such as Scotland's Great Trails, Sustrans Cycle Routes and popular hill walking summits (Munros and Corbetts) that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV.

Visual Effects during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

5.11.3 The majority of the significant visual effects would be experienced as a result of views of the proposed turbines during the operational period and this forms the main focus of the assessment. However, the visual effects associated with the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development also have the potential to be significant and these have been included in the assessment where there is the potential for a significant visual effect.

5.11.4 An outline assessment of the visual effects associated with the construction and decommissioning phases is set out here.

Visual Effects during Construction

5.11.5 The assessed levels of effect will progressively increase from Zero at the start of construction to a maximum level of effect, equal to that occurring during operation, upon completion of the construction period. The construction effects, although temporary, are likely to involve greater movement of machinery and visibility of contrasting construction activity, background noise and associated lighting. The nature of these effects would be temporary, direct, and negative. Some construction activities may be remote from the turbine locations (access works) and / or temporary (temporary construction compounds) and subject to restoration on completion of the construction period.

5.11.6 A description of the component parts of the Proposed Development likely to be constructed during the construction period is provided in EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description. Drawing from this information there would be no significant visual effects resulting from the site infrastructure including the site access and internal access tracks, the temporary construction compound, borrow pits, substation and BESS compound, and on-site electrical cables. This is because the Proposed Development will utilise the existing site access and access tracks for the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm and the remaining components have been located in areas of forestry which is of lower sensitivity and already influenced by existing grid infrastructure, or with very limited visibility from the surrounding area.

Visual Effects during Operation

5.11.7 The assessed levels of effect are likely to be greatest during the period of operation (which is the focus of the main visual assessment) due to the visibility of the proposed turbines. However, in comparison to a busy construction site, the appearance of the Proposed Development would also recover a 'calmer' visual character with negligible levels of maintenance activity visible on Site.

Visual Effects during Decommissioning

5.11.8 During decommissioning, the wind farm would return to a ‘construction site’ for a temporary period and the level of visual effect would gradually reduce with the removal of the turbines and associated above-ground infrastructure. Therefore, the visual effects likely to be experienced during the decommissioning period would reduce from the operational levels and would not be significant on completion of the decommissioning. As with the construction period, although temporary, these works are likely to involve greater movement of machinery and visibility of contrasting construction activity, background noise and associated lighting. In overall terms, the level of visual effect would reduce to non-significant levels and the nature of these effects would be permanent, direct, and neutral when compared to the pre-existing baseline landscape of the local area.

Visual Effects on Views from Settlements and Residential Properties

5.11.9 The visual effects likely to be experienced from settlements include consideration of residential areas, the public realm and public open spaces within the settlement boundaries that would be frequented by people. The sensitivity of each of these receptors (people) has been assessed as High.

5.11.10 In summary there would be Significant visual effects on some views from the northern edge of Dalmellington on Gateside Road and intermittently along the B741 and from the southern edge of Burnton. The Proposed Development would be visible from both areas viewing obliquely east in the general direction of Pennyvenie Bing. No other settlements within the study area would be significantly affected as a result of the Proposed Development. The full assessment is set out in Table 5.12.

5.11.11 A residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) has been included for those properties within 3 km as illustrated in Figure 5.34 and this is detailed in Technical Appendix 5.3. The methodology for the RVAA accords with GLVIA 3 and the Landscape Institute’s *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment: Technical Guidance Note*, dated 15 March 2019.

5.11.12 The RVAA concluded that there would be no instances where the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold would be reached and no instances where the visual effects, (although significant in some cases) would be so severe as to be considered as “overwhelming views in all directions”; “unpleasantly encroaching” or being “inescapably dominant from the property” as exampled in the RVAA guidance. This is due largely to embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development which has ensured that no property is within 1.25km of the nearest turbine and combinations of partial screening, and use / orientation of the property, such that the living standards would not be affected, and the residential property would not be adversely affected to the extent that it would become an unattractive place to live when judged objectively and in the public interest, on an individual basis or cumulatively

5.11.13 There would also be no significant night-time effects and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

Table 5.12: Visual Effects on Settlements within 10 km

Settlement	Assessment
Bankglen, Connel Park and Leggate	Bankglen, Connel Park and Leggate are located along the B741 to the southwest of New Cumnock. The settlements are separated by Connelburn Bridge and together form a linear development along the roadside. Most of the views are oriented southeast or northwest across the B741 and views are screened and filtered by roadside trees, garden vegetation and field boundary trees and shelterbelts. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The nearest turbine would be located approximately 7.4 km to the southwest. The blade tip ZTV indicates that theoretical views of the Proposed Development would increase from 1-3 turbines visible to the west of Connel Park, to 10-11 turbines theoretically visible at Leggate. Wireline analysis indicates that up to three hubs would be visible with visibility of blades and blade tips increasing from west to east. In reality, views would be filtered by intervening vegetation from much of the settlement areas. The proposed turbines would be visible behind or alongside existing wind farm development, notably Enoch Hill (under construction) and South Kyle I. The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero (allowing for vegetation screening). The level of effect on the settlement would be **Minor to No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral.

Settlement	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites There would be several existing and consented wind farms visible from this group of settlement. The Proposed Development would be seen partially behind the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm which would be theoretically visible at a distance of approximately 8.8 km (Low magnitude), and the Enoch Hill Wind Farm theoretically visible at a distance of approximately 5 km (Low magnitude due to vegetation screening). Theoretically there would also be simultaneous views with the consented Pencloe Wind Farm at a distance of approximately 5km (Low magnitude) and the existing Afton Wind Farm (Low magnitude) at a distance of approximately 6.8km. The consented Overhill, North Kyle and Greenburn wind farms would be theoretically visible as a cluster to the west at distances of between 5 km (Medium magnitude) and 7.8 km (Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Minor to No View** and Not Significant, reduced slightly due to Enoch Hill and South Kyle I. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to the theoretical visibility of multiple wind farms, notably Greenburn and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The blade tips of Knockkippen application wind farms would not be perceptible beyond the North Kyle turbines (Zero magnitude). Enoch Hill II would be largely screed by vegetation, between Pencloe and Enoch Hill wind farms (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Minor to No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to the theoretical visibility of multiple wind farms, notably Greenburn and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Bellsbank	Bellsbank is a large housing estate to the south of Dalmellington. The built-up areas are almost entirely outwith the ZTV and there would be No View of the Proposed Development from within this area as illustrated by Viewpoint 2 (Figure 5.15).
Burnside	Burnside is located further west along the B741 from Bankglen, Connel Park and Leggate, to the southwest of New Cumnock. It is a small housing estate of mostly single-story properties in an open position with greater visibility of the surrounding landscape in all directions. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The nearest turbine would be located approximately 6.5 km to the southwest. Wireline analysis indicates that up to three blades / blade tips would be visible mostly overlapped with South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction). The magnitude of change would be Very Low. The level of effect on the settlement would be **Minor** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites*

Settlement	Assessment
	The Proposed Development would be visible beyond the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm (Low magnitude) and the Enoch Hill Wind Farm at approximately 5 km distance (under construction and Medium magnitude). Theoretically there would also be simultaneous views with the consented Pencloe Wind Farm at approximately 5km distance and the existing Afton Wind Farm (Low magnitude) at a distance of approximately 6.8km. The consented Overhill, North Kyle and Greenburn wind farms would be theoretically visible as a cluster to the west at distances of between 5 km and 7.8 km (Moderate magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Minor** and Not Significant, reduced slightly due to Enoch Hill and South Kyle I. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to the visibility of multiple wind farms and notably Enoch Hill and Greenburn and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The blade tips of Knockkippen application wind farms would not be perceptible beyond the North Kyle turbines (Zero magnitude). Enoch Hill II would be largely screed by vegetation, between Pencloe and Enoch Hill wind farms (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Minor** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to the theoretical visibility of multiple wind farms and notably Enoch Hill and Greenburn and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Burnton	Burnton is a small village located north of Dalmellington. Although close to Dalmellington, the settlement is located in a slightly elevated location affording open views across the Doon Valley to the south and southwest (the main orientation of the settlement) and secondary views east and southeast across the Cumnock Burn and the B741 towards the Proposed Development. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 3.8 km east of Burnton at its closest point. The blade tip ZTV indicates that views of the Proposed Development would be available across the settlement. Wireline analysis indicates that although all eleven turbines would be theoretically visible, the lower parts of the turbines would be partially screened by intervening landform such that the bases and/or lower towers of four turbines would be screened and the remaining seven turbines would be visible as hubs. The Proposed Development would be seen in part of the view already influenced by wind farm development to the fore of South Kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms. In reality the majority of buildings in the settlement are oriented south or southwest across the Doon Valley and views towards the proposed turbines would be partly screened by buildings from much of the settlement. Views towards the turbines would be from garden areas and properties to the east of the settlement. Where visible the magnitude of change would be Medium. The level of effect on the outer edges of the settlement would be **Major** and Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative.

Settlement	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites The Proposed Development would be seen to the fore of the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm which would be visible at a distance of approximately 7 km (Low magnitude of change), and Enoch Hill Wind Farm visible at a distance of approximately 8 km (Low-Very Low magnitude). There would be successive views with the consented Dersalloch Wind Farm to the west at a distance of approximately 4.2km (Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be slightly reduced due to the overlap with the existing South Kyle cluster. The additional effect would range from No View to **Major to Moderate** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would range up to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Knockkippen and Sclenteuch application wind farms would be visible as hubs and upper towers to the west and northwest of the settlement at 3.8 km and 4.8 km distance respectively subject to localised screening from buildings, and vegetation (Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be slightly reduced due to the overlap with the existing South Kyle cluster. The additional effect would range from No View to **Major to Moderate** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would range from No View to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement due to Knockkippen, Sclenteuch and the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Dalmellington	Dalmellington is East Ayrshire's southernmost town. It is located at the junction of the B741 and the A713 Galloway Tourist Route. The town is situated within the Doon Valley and is contained to the east by steeply rising landform which restricts views in this direction towards the Proposed Development. As a result, many views within the low-lying parts of the settlement are screened by surrounding buildings and further filtered by vegetation. Some views from the edges and open spaces tend to view either across the valley to the west or along the valley to the northwest and south. There are wider views from elevated areas to the north of the settlement and some open views at the northwestern edge of the settlement. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 1.3 km east of the settlement at its closest point. The blade tip ZTV indicates that views of the Proposed Development would only be available from the northern edges of the town, with the vast majority of the settlement outwith the ZTV. From the northern edges the majority of properties are oriented to the northeast or southwest away from the proposed turbines which would be visible to the east. Wireline analysis indicates that although all eleven turbines would be theoretically visible from these locations, many of the turbines would be partially screened by intervening landform such that blades or hubs would be visible, although the towers or upper towers of up to three turbines would be visible subject to screening from localised vegetation and buildings. The magnitude of change would range from Zero for most of the settlement to Medium in localised areas at the northern fringes of the settlement.

Settlement	Assessment
	The level of effect on the settlement would range from **No View** for most of the settlement to **Major** in the northern edge of the settlement. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms would be theoretically visible behind the proposed turbines as blades and hubs at a distance of approximately 5.5 km (Low magnitude). Blade tips from Dersalloch would be screened by intervening vegetation (Zero magnitude). The additional effect would range from No View to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would range up to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement (due to the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Sclenteuch and Knockkippen application wind farms would be visible to the west and northwest of the settlement at between 4 km and 4.8 km subject to screening from buildings, landform and vegetation (Medium magnitude). The additional effect would range from No View to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would range up to **Major** and Significant from the outer edge of the settlement (due to Sclenteuch, Knockkippen and the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
New Cumnock	New Cumnock is a small town located along the A76 trunk road south of Cumnock. The settlement is situated near the confluence of the Afton water and the River Nith. Much of the settlement is low-lying within the Nith Valley with areas to the north and south of the settlement situated on the valley slopes. Views are generally contained to the Upland Basin by the surrounding hills and uplands to the north and south of the settlement, although longer range views are available from the elevated areas to the north of the settlement as illustrated by Viewpoint 15 (Figure 5.28). *Assessment: Proposed Development* The nearest turbine would be located approximately 9.6 km southwest of New Cumnock. The blade tip ZTV indicates visibility of the Proposed Development from the northern half of the settlement and from elevated areas to the south of the settlement. Wireline analysis indicates that up to three hubs would be visible with the remaining turbines visible as blades and blade tips as illustrated in Viewpoint 15 (Figure 5.28). In other parts of the settlement to the south, views would be screened by buildings and landform although glimpsed views would be possible. The proposed turbines would be visible behind or alongside existing wind farm development. The magnitude of change would be Low to Zero. The level of effect on the settlement would be **Moderate to No View** and Not Significant. The effect would be Not Significant due to the limited visibility of the turbines and the location of the most visible turbines behind the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites*

Settlement	Assessment
	There would be several existing and consented wind farms visible from the settlement. These include the cluster of windfarms visible on the skyline beyond the hills to the south and southwest (Afton, Windy Standard / Extension / Phase III, South Kyle and Enoch Hill at distances of between approximately 5 km and 8 km collectively Medium magnitude). The Proposed Development would add to this cluster and would be seen partially behind the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm. The consented Overhill, North Kyle and Greenburn wind farms would be visible as a cluster to the west at distances of between 5.1 km (Greenburn - Medium magnitude) and 8.7 km (Low magnitude). Hare Hill is partially visible to the northeast (Medium magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate to No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to multiple wind farms and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Knockkippen application would not be visible. The Enoch Hill II application would be visible on the skyline to the south (Low-Very Low magnitude). Windy Standard Repowering would also be visible behind Pencloe (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate to No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Major** and Significant (due to multiple wind farms and not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes

5.11.14 This section of the assessment considers the sequential and cumulative visual effects on views of the Proposed Development from selected transport routes within 10 km of the Proposed Development.

5.11.15 The views from these routes would be experienced transiently by road users (mainly drivers / passengers and, where appropriate, cyclists) who would experience the wind farm as part of the changing sequence of views experienced from the route. Each of the roads were driven in both directions to assess the potential effects. All routes were assessed with the assistance of sequential wirelines and ZTV maps. The assessment has also taken account of other wind farms visible from these routes.

5.11.16 In summary, Significant effects would be limited to sections of the following transport routes:

- A713 between Waterside and Dalmellington:
  - Southbound: Of the 148 km of the total route, the views from up to approximately 2.5 km for southbound road users would be significantly affected between Laight and Dalmellington and at the road junction to Loch Doon, south of Dalmellington (Viewpoint 1).
- B741, between New Cumnock and Gass:
  - Westbound: Of the total 49 km of this route, the views from up to approximately 2.2 km between Maneight and Clawfin would be significantly affected. An additional 2.4 km of the route would experience Significant effects if the forestry were felled between Maneight and Miekle Hill east of New Cumnock Substation.
  - Eastbound: Of the total 49 km of this route, the views from up to 1.1 km between Pennyvenie Farm and Clawfin and a further 2 km experienced intermittently between Dalsalloch and Dalmellington would be significantly affected.

5.11.17 None of the remaining transport routes would be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.

5.11.18 There would be no significant night-time effects, and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

Table 5.13: Visual Effects on Transport Routes within 10 km

Transport Route	Assessment
A713 Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington	The A713 forms part of the Galloway Tourist Route (148km in length) which is routed between Ayr and Gretna. Within the 10 km study area, the A713 is routed between Burnfoot and Holm Hill north of Carsphairn, passing to the west of the Proposed Development. As a nationally promoted tourist route, that passes through the locally designated Doon Valley LLA and the Galloway Hills RSA, the value of the route is assessed as High. The susceptibility to change from the introduction of the Proposed Development is considered to be High to Medium due to the nature of the receptor driving at up to 60 mph and / or travelling along the route as a cyclist or passenger. The sensitivity of this route is therefore assessed as High. *Assessment: Proposed Development* The Proposed Development would be located approximately 3 km east of the A713 at its closest point. The blade tip ZTV indicates theoretical visibility between the northern edge of Dalmellington and Laight (approximately 2.5 km of the route), and as the route approaches Waterside from the south (approximately 1 km of the route). Theoretical visibility is also indicated at an elevated point in the road at Mossdale (~ 0.2 km of the route) (Viewpoint 1: Bellsbank Picnic Site and carpark). Wireline analysis and site visits indicate that the Proposed Development would be visible as hubs and some upper towers in the direction of travel (southbound) from between Laight and Dalmellington which would be occasionally filtered roadside scrub or field boundary trees as illustrated in Viewpoint 4, Figure 5.17 (Medium-magnitude). Views of hubs to the south of Waterside would be screened by landform and/or heavily filtered by vegetation (Zero to Vey Low magnitude). At Mossdale views would be oblique to the direction of travel. Hubs and blades would be visible on the skyline (as illustrated in Viewpoint 1, Figure 5.14). At this location, road users are likely to be focused on the road ahead or in the opposite direction due to the Loch Doon Road junction and road signage (Low magnitude). The magnitude of change would range from Zero to Low, although increasing to Medium at the road junction and Viewpoint 1. The Proposed Development may utilise the existing South Kyle Wind Farm Access off the A713 further to the south of Mossdale although there is no turbine visibility from this area and there would be no visual effects, beyond construction traffic at this point.

Transport Route	Assessment
	The level of effect would range from **Major** and Significant (for approximately 2.5km of the route and at the road junction to Loch Doon, south of Dalmellington (Viewpoint 1)) to **Moderate to Zero** and Not Significant for the remainder of the route. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The existing South Kyle I Wind Farm (Low magnitude) and Enoch Hill (Very Low magnitude) would be visible behind the proposed turbines between Laight and Dalmellington. Benbrack would also be partially visible along this section of the route (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and more prominently between Viewpoint 1 and Lamford Hill approximately 5-6 km (High magnitude). Dersalloch Wind Farm would be partially visible in sequential views to the west (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant (for approximately 2.5 km of the route) to **Moderate to Zero** and Not Significant for the remainder of the route. The combined effect of the Proposed Development and other existing and consented wind farms would range from **Substantial** and Significant (for approximately 8.5 km of the route) to **Moderate to Zero** and Not Significant for the remainder of the route (due to the Proposed Development and Benbrack). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Sclenteuch and Knockkippen application wind farms would be visible for northbound road users between Dalmellington and Patna, flanking the road to the west and east (High to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant (for approximately 2.5 km of the route) to **Moderate to Zero** and Not Significant for the remainder of the route The combined effect would range from **Substantial** and Significant (for approximately 15 km of the route) to **Moderate to Zero** and Not Significant (Due to the Proposed Development and sequentially, Benbrack, Knockkippen and Slenteuch). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
B741 between New Cumnock and Gass	The B741 is 49 km in length and is routed east-west from New Cumnock to Girvan in the wider study area. Within the 10 km study area, it is routed between the edge of New Cumnock in the northeast and Gass in the west. Part of this route passes through the Doon Valley LLA and the value is assessed as High to Medium, reducing to Medium in undesignated areas. Most road users would experience the landscape transiently whilst driving or cycling and experiencing a sequence of views, focused in one direction / the direction of travel and often experienced at speeds of up to 50 – 60 mph (Medium susceptibility). No walkers have been noted along this part of the route during site visits and there is no footpath provision. As a result, the overall sensitivity of road users on this route has been assessed as Medium. Viewpoints 11, 12 and 20 are located along the route.

Transport Route	Assessment
	Assessment: Proposed Development The Proposed Development would be located approximately 1 km southeast of the B741 at its closest point. The blade tip ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along the majority of the route within 10 km, with the exception of a section between Straid Farm and Maneight, and small areas as the route passes through Dalmellington and to the east of Gass. Wireline analysis and site visits indicate that the visual effect likely to be experienced along the route as follows. Between New Cumnock and Straid Farm. ZTV coverage indicates partial visibility of the proposed turbines from this section with full visibility of all 11 turbines indicated east of Connel Park and at an elevated section of the route to the west of Bankglen (Viewpoint 12, Figure 5.25). Wireline analysis indicates that up to three hubs and blades or blade tips would be visible along most of this section of the route. In reality, views would be filtered by intervening vegetation and built development as it passes through settlement areas. The proposed turbines would be visible behind or alongside existing wind farm development. The magnitude of change would be Very Low to Zero increasing to Low as it reaches the elevated point in the road at Viewpoint 12. This would result in a **Minor to No View** and Not Significant effect for this section of the route. Between Maneight and Clawfin: ZTV coverage indicates full visibility of all 11 of the proposed turbines from this section (Viewpoint 20, Figure 5.33). Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be partially screened by landform at Maneight such the hubs and blades would be visible (subject to additional screening from forestry) (Low magnitude, increasing to Medium magnitude if forestry is felled). The Site Access would correspond with the existing substation access off the B741 near Viewpoint 20 resulting in no change, beyond the movement of construction traffic during construction. As the route progresses southeast, visibility of the turbines would remain partially screened by landform (Meikle Hill) and filtered by roadside vegetation and forestry as the route dips to cross the River Nith (Medium-Low magnitude for approximately 1.4 km – Medium magnitude if forestry were felled). Existing forestry would screen the majority of the turbines (subject to felling) as the route passes to the north of Meikle Hill such that blades or tips may be visible (Low to Very Low magnitude – High-Medium Magnitude if forestry were felled for 1 km). As the route clears the forestry and approaches New Cumnock substation and Clawfin, proximity to the proposed turbines would increase and visibility of the turbines would also increase such that the closest turbines (T2 and T5) would be visible at full height and the upper towers of the remaining turbines would be visible as illustrated in Viewpoint 20, Figure 5.33 (High magnitude for 2.2 km). This would result in a **Major** and Significant level of effect for 2.2 km reducing to **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant for 1.4 km and **Minor to No View** for the remainder of this section of the route (there would be additional Major-Moderate, and Moderate and Significant effects for an additional 2.4 km if forestry were felled). Between Clawfin and Dalmellington: At Clawfin views of the Proposed Development would become oblique for westbound road users and views would be more visible to east bound road users. The road gains elevation and there are views across a valley

Transport Route	Assessment
	towards the Site. ZTV coverage indicates intermittent patches of full visibility of all 11 of the proposed turbines from this section of the route with very little visibility indicated as the route passes through Dalmellington. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be visible on the skyline across the valley between Clawfin and Pennyvenie Bing (disused tip) east of Pennyvenie Bridge. The closest turbines (T1, T2 and T5) would appear as towers and hubs, with the remaining turbines visible as hubs and increasingly blades with distance (High-Medium magnitude for 0.6 km). Local landform would screen the turbines for 0.3 km (Zero magnitude). Between Pennyvenie Bridge and Pennyvenie Farm, the proposed turbines would be partially screened by landform at Cockclay Hill such that up to seven turbines would be visible with the towers and hubs of T2 and T5 visible and hubs and/or blades of the remaining turbines visible in the direction of travel (eastbound) (Medium magnitude for 0.5 km). Between Pennyviene Farm and Dalmellington, wireline analysis indicates that the proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline in the direction of travel as blades, hubs and up to four upper towers (Viewpoint 3, **Figure 5.16**). The majority of views along this section of the route would be filtered by roadside trees such that views of the Proposed Development would be glimpsed or intermittent (Low to Zero magnitude for 2 km, increasing to Medium-Low magnitude in winter views). This would result in **Major-Moderate** and Significant level of effect for 0.6 km reducing to **Moderate** and Significant for 0.5 km and **Minor to No View** for the remainder of this section of the route (**Moderate-Minor** and Not Significant effects for approximately 2 km in winter views). Between Dalmellington and Auchenroy Farm: At Dalmellington, the route passes through the settlement and then joins the A731 before starting again at Buchan's Bridge, north of Dalmellington where it crosses the River Doon and the Doon Valley floor before heading up the east facing valley slopes towards Auchenroy. ZTV coverage indicates full visibility of all 11 of the proposed turbines between Buchan's Bridge and Auchenroy. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be visible as an evenly spaced array of hubs beyond intervening hills. Although to the left of the array, the towers of T2 and T5 would be visible. Views are generally open along this section of the route, although there would be some intermittent screening from roadside vegetation. The turbines would be visible on the skyline in the eastbound direction of travel. The magnitude of change would be Medium to Medium-Low for approximately 2 km. This would result in a **Moderate to Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant effect for this section of the route. Between Auchenroy Farm and Gass Farm: From Auchenroy Farm, the valley sides continue to rise and the road gains elevated views across Doon Valley towards the eastern hills forming the skyline for eastbound road users. ZTV coverage indicates full visibility of all 11 of the proposed turbines along the majority of this section of the route with small areas of no ZTV coverage as the road approaches Gass Farm. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be visible as an evenly spaced array on the skyline to the east of the route. Local landform and roadside vegetation along this section of the route would intermittently screen or partially views of the turbines east of Gass Farm. These views would be experienced in the direction of

Transport Route	Assessment
	travel (east bound). Viewpoint 11, Figure 5.24 illustrates views from this section of the route. The magnitude of change would range between Medium to Zero for approximately 4 km. This would result in a Moderate to No View level of effect that would be Significant for approximately 2km of the 4km section of this route. In summary, there would be visibility from the majority of the B741within the 10 km study area. The magnitude of change would range from High to Zero and Significant effects would affect the views as follows: – Westbound: Of the total 49 km of this route, the views from up to approximately 2.2 km between Maneight and Clawfin would be significantly affected. An additional 2.4 km of the route would experience Significant effects if the forestry were felled between Maneight and Miekle Hill east of New Cumnock Substation. – Eastbound: Of the total 49 km of this route, the views from up to 1.1 km between Pennyvenie Farm and Clawfin and a further 2 km experienced intermittently between Dalsalloch and Dalmellington would be significantly affected. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* Between New Cumnock and Straid Farm: The Proposed Development would be seen partially behind the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm and Enoch Hill Wind Farm (the latter Medium magnitude). There would also be simultaneous views with the consented Pencloe Wind farm (Medium to Low magnitude) and the existing Afton Wind Farm (Low magnitude). North Kyle (under construction) and the consented Overhill, (both Low magnitude), and Greenburn (Medium magnitude) wind farms would be visible as a cluster to the west. Between Maneight and Clawfin: The existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) would be partially visible alongside the Proposed Development with South Kyle I increasingly visible behind the proposed turbines as the route progresses west. Where visible Enoch Hill and South Kyle I would be seen as hubs and blades beyond intervening landform and forestry (both Low to Zero magnitude). North Kyle would be theoretically visible to the northwest but would be mostly screened by forestry (Very Low to Zero magnitude, Medium magnitude if forestry felled). Between Clawfin and Dalmellington: The existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) would be theoretically visible as blades or hubs behind the proposed turbines for much of this section of the route but would be mostly screened by landform and intervening forestry or roadside vegetation (Very low to Zero magnitude). North Kyle would be theoretically visible to the northwest as occasional blades or tips beyond intervening landform but would be screened by intervening vegetation (Zero magnitude). Dersalloch would be visible as a hub and blades in views west from this section of the route (Low-Very Low magnitude). Between Dalmellington and Auchenroy Farm: The existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) would be visible as blades or hubs behind the proposed

Transport Route	Assessment
	turbines for much of this section of the route mostly visible as hubs (Low magnitude). The existing Benbrack wind farm would be visible as a separate wind farm to the right of the proposed turbines, and blades of North Kyle would be visible to the left (both Very low magnitude). Between Auchenroy Farm and Gass Farm: From this elevated section, the proposed turbines would be seen against a backdrop of existing and consented wind farms including: the existing South Kyle I, and Enoch Hill (under construction) (both Low magnitude), Sanquhar II, Pencloe and Hare Hill wind farms (all Very Low magnitude). Benbrack (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and North Kyle (Low magnitude) would also be visible as separate developments on the same horizon. This part of the route also passes close to Dersalloch wind farm – although it is partly screened behind intervening landform (Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. Significant, sequential cumulative effects would affect the views from 7.7 km of the route where the Proposed Development would be visible, often to the fore of existing and consented wind farm development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* Between New Cumnock and Straid Farm: Enoch Hill II would be theoretically visible between Pencloe and Enoch Hill wind farms (Very Low magnitude). The blade tips of Knockkippen application wind farms would not be perceptible beyond the North Kyle turbines (Zero magnitude). Between Maneight and Clawfin: Knockcronal application wind farm would be theoretically visible in views southwest alongside Carrick and Craigenmoddie, although mostly screened by intervening vegetation (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). Between Clawfin and Dalmellington: Sclenteuch would be theoretically visible in views to the west subject to screening from intervening vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Between Dalmellington and Auchenroy Farm: Knockkippen and Sclenteuch would be visible flanking either side of the Doon Valley as the route crosses the valley floor with Sclenteuch becoming increasingly screened by landform as the route approaches Auchenroy Farm (both Medium magnitude). Between Auchenroy Farm and Gass Farm: The route would pass within close proximity (~0.7 km) of the Sclenteuth application wind farm (High magnitude) Knockkippen would be visible beyond, partially screened by intervening landform (Medium-low magnitude). Enoch Hill II and Windy Standard Repowering would not be discernible in views behind South Kyle (Zero magnitude). The additional and effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant.
	The combined and effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant (due to the proposed Development, and sequentially, Knockkippen and Sclenteuch) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

5.11.19 The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people (walkers / cyclists / horse riders / and others) on recreational routes overlapped by the blade tip ZTV. The recreational routes include Core Paths, heritage paths and Scottish hill tracks which have been assessed within 10 km of the Proposed Development. These routes are illustrated in Figure 5.7b.

5.11.20 Each of these routes were walked and / or visited and walked in sections according to the ZTV coverage and the assessment has been assisted on-site with the use of sequential wirelines and True View Visuals 3D software.

5.11.21 All the Core Paths and Heritage Paths have been assessed as of High sensitivity on account of their High to Medium value as recreational routes, some routed through designated landscapes, and the High susceptibility of the people using these routes, mostly walkers and cyclists, whose attention would be focused on the landscapes around them. Rights of Way have been assessed as of reduced value and susceptibility as they are not signposted or promoted and, in all cases, have been found to access or pass through areas of derelict / open cast mining leading to a more variable landscape and visual quality.

5.11.22 In summary, there would be significant visual effects from parts of the following recreational routes (three core paths and three rights of way):

- Core Path D13 – Dalcairnie / Auchenroy Hill circuit (but excluding Scottish Hill Tracks 78b, 81 and the Bogton Loch Circular Walk) - significant visual effects would be experienced for 4 km of the route on the elevated slopes and summit of Auchenroy Hill.
- Core Path D16 – Bellsbank to Barbeth and Little Shalloch (overlapping with Scottish hill track 78b and 81)- significant visual effects would be experienced for 1.5 km of the route as it approaches and passes Little Shalloch and a further, approximately 1 km near Berbeth Farm.
- Core Path D18 – Carmlarg Plantation and associated Rights of Way - significant visual effects would be experienced for 0.5km of the route in open areas at the northern extent of the route.
- Three Rights of Way would be significantly affected, including 1.5 km of the Lethanhill and Benwhat route near Burnton and 2 km in total of the two routes off the B741 near Nith Lodge.

5.11.23 There would be no significant night-time effects, and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

Table 5.14: Visual Effects on Recreational Routes within 10 km

Recreational Route	Assessment
Loch Doon Forest Road **(Overlapping with Core Path D11, Loch Doon Road Heritage**	Loch Doon Forest Road is routed between Bellsbank and the southern end of Loch Doon. The route is approximately 10 km in length and traverses the western edge of Loch Doon as a paved single-track road with passing places. Views east across the loch are generally open from the route. Viewpoint 9, South of Beoch House Loch Doon (Figure 5.22) is located along the route.

Recreational Route	Assessment
Path and Scottish hill tracks 77a / 78a / 79)	*Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates variable levels of theoretical visibility along the route ranging from between 1-3 turbines visible to the south of Beoch to all 11 turbines for short sections to the north of Beoch. There would be between 1 and 9 turbines theoretically visible for a large section of the route south of Beoch. No visibility is indicated for the southern tip of the route between Wee Hill of Craigmalloch and Carrick Lane. Wireline analysis and site visits indicate that the turbines would be seen mostly partial blades or blade tips along the route. Sections of the route to the north of Beoch would have slightly elevated views as they approach Loch Doon Caravan and Camping Park from the north and there would be theoretical visibility of up to three hubs on the horizon. Middle distance forest would screen the blades/hubs such that blades and partial blades would be visible at a minimum 6.7 km for northbound road users (Very Low magnitude for 1.3 km – Low to Very Low where partial hubs are visible or if intervening forest were felled). As the route passes Beoch, views of between two and four blade tips would be mostly screened by trees and middle-distance coniferous forest (Very Low to Zero magnitude for 1 km). Up to eight blade tips and partial blades would become visible between the fishing lodge and Wee Hill of Craigmulloch at between 8 km and 10 km distance subject to intermittent screening from roadside scrub as illustrated in Viewpoint 9, Figure 5.22 (Very Low to Zero magnitude for 4 km). The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Moderate-Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The existing South Kyle I Wind Farm would be visible (Low to Zero magnitude of change) with Benbrack more clearly visible across the loch (Medium magnitude). Several other wind farms would be visible or partially visible in the same view (notably Windy Rig and Windy Standard/Ext/III) (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate-Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Major** and Significant (due to South Kyle I and Benbrack) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* There would be intermittent views of Windy Standard Repowering (although mostly screened by intervening forest (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate-Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Major** and Significant (due to South Kyle I and Benbrack) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, indirect and negative to neutral.

Recreational Route	Assessment
Core Path C10 – Coalfield Cycle Route (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Track 84, Heritage Path and Rights of Way)	Core Path C10 is routed to the north and south of New Cumnock on the eastern edge of the 10 km study area. The route follows single track / minor roads linking between Knockshinnoch Lagoons and the Carsphairn Forest via Afton Glen. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates the greatest theoretical visibility along the route to the northeast of New Cumnock, along part of the B741 between Connel Park and New Cumnock and fragmented theoretical visibility near the cemetery / Knockshinnoch Castle Miners Memorial and at Afton Wind Farm in the south. In reality, much of the route to the north of New Cumnock would be limited to blade tip visibility with the greatest visibility near Hall of Auchincross similar to Viewpoint 12 (Figure 5.25) (Zero to Low magnitude). Where the route overlaps with the B741 (refer previous assessment in Table 5.14) there would be no significant effects. Low magnitude is predicted on Afton Road near the cemetery / Knockshinnoch Castle Miners Memorial and there would be no further visibility (along Afton Glen and through the Afton Wind Farm) until passing to the southwest of Afton Wind Farm and entering the Carsphairn Forest. The level of effect on the core path would range from Moderate to No View and Not Significant, with the only two areas of Moderate effect located near Hall of Auchincross and the cemetery. In both cases the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) wind farms, providing further mitigation. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. *Cumulative Assessment:* The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Core Path C11 – Knockshinnoch Lagoons SWT nature reserve	Core Path C11 forms a series of circular walks within the Knockshinnoch Lagoons SWT nature reserve is located to the west of New Cumnock at approximately 9 km distance from the Proposed Development. The ZTV indicates that all of the turbines would be visible, although in reality, they would be substantially screened by the native woodland within the nature reserve that provides dense screening even through the winter months (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Where visible the Proposed Development would also be seen beyond both Enoch Hill (under construction) and South Kyle I. The level of effect would by **Minor to No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. *Cumulative Assessment:* The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Core Path C12 – New Cumnock Circular	Core Path C12 is a circular route to the southwest of New Cumnock and forms a 6 km circuit to the west and south of Bankglen. The route starts at the B741 at Connel Park, follows an access track northwest at Bankglen and turns west /southwest after following a disused rail line. The route then turns southeast and follows field

Recreational Route	Assessment
	boundaries and a farm access track back to the B741 at Faulds Moss, crossing the road the route follows a substation access track south, and then turns northeast to follow a forest track and further field access tracks back to the B741 at Connel Park. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates the greatest theoretical visibility as the route heads northwest across open fields near Bankglen and loops back towards the B741 at Faulds Moss and as it follows the access track to the sub-station. Wireline analysis indicates that the proposed turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform such that up to four hubs and seven partial blades / tips would be theoretically visible. The turbines would be partially behind and adjacent to the existing South Kyle I turbines at between 7.2 km and 8.8 km. Elsewhere along the route, the proposed turbines would be screened by buildings, landform or vegetation. The magnitude of change would range from Zero to Low. The level of effect on the core path would range from **Moderate to No View** and Not Significant, noting that the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) wind farms, providing further mitigation. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* There would be several existing and consented wind farms visible from the Core Path. The Proposed Development would be seen partially behind the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm which would be visible at a distance of approximately 8.8 km (Low magnitude) and Enoch Hill Wind Farm (under construction) visible at a distance of approximately 5 km (Medium -Low magnitude). There would also be simultaneous views of the consented Pencloe Wind Farm at approximately 5km distance (Medium -Low magnitude) and the existing Afton Wind Farm (Low magnitude) at approximately 6km distance. In wider views, Sanquhar II would be partially visible to the southeast alongside Hare Hill (Low to Very Low magnitude). North Kyle and the consented Overhill, and Greenburn wind farms would be visible as a cluster to the west at distances of between 3 km (High magnitude due to Greenburn) and 7.4 km (Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Greenburn and Enoch Hill *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The blade tips of Knockkippen application wind farms would not be perceptible beyond the North Kyle turbines (Zero magnitude). Enoch Hill II would be partially visible in the same view as the proposed turbines (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Greenburn and Enoch Hill not the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Core Path D10 – Patna and Waterside Circular	Core Path D10 is a circular route to the north and east of waterside to the east of the Doon Valley. The route is 9 km in length and follows a dismantled railway to the west and east of Waterside and field and access tracks for the remainder of the route which explores the former mining villages of Lethanhill and Benquhat. Counterclockwise from Dunaskin the route passes to the south of Dunaskin Glen, turning northwest at Burnhead and passing to the north of Green Hill towards Knockkippen Hill and Lethanhill towards the Memorial and continuing along the track past The Schoolhouse (ruin) where it departs the track and continues along a field boundary towards the disused rail line which it follows southeast to Waterside. Views along the route are generally open across rough grassland with some screening from trees around Waterside. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of all 11 turbines to the southeast of Waterside, to the south of Dunaskin Glen and between Burnhead and Leathanhill Memorial. Wireline and site analysis indicates that the turbines would be partly screened by intervening landform such that up to seven hubs would be visible with the remainder of the turbines visible as blades or blade tips at between 6 km and 9 km distance. The turbines would overlap with existing windfarm development. Views along the disused railway line to the southeast of Waterside would be screened or heavily filtered by mature trees. There would be no views from western part of the route between the Memorial and Waterside. The magnitude of change would range from Zero to Low-Very Low. The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Moderate to Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The proposed turbines would be seen to the fore of the South Kyle cluster of windfarm development including South Kyle I Wind Farm (Low-Very Low magnitude), Enoch Hill and Benbrack (Low to Zero magnitude) and more distant wind farms (Windy Rig, Windy Standard / Extension – all Very Low to Zero magnitude). Dersalloch wind farm would be visible in views to the southwest (Low to Zero magnitude) at between 3 km and 5 km distance. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate to Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development with other wind farms would range from **Moderate** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant (due to Dersalloch and multiple wind farms). The effect would be significant due to Dersalloch appearing as an isolated wind farm on the skyline in views across the Doon Valley and the combined extent of the South Kyle cluster). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications The route would pass through the Knockkippen application wind farm (High magnitude). Sclenteuth would be visible across the Doon Valley to the southwest at a minimum distance of 2.4 km (High to Medium magnitude). Knockcronal would be partially visible behind Dersalloch at 10.5 km distance (Low-Very Low magnitude) with Carrick and Craigenmoddie visible in the same view at greater distances (both Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate to Minor** to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development with other wind farms would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Knockkippen and Sclenteuth and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Core Path D13 – Darcairnie / Auchenroy Hill circuit (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Tracks 78b, 81, and Bogton Loch Circular Walk)	Core Path D13 is located within Craigengillan GDL and comprises a circular route to Auchenroy Hill. The route is 5 km in length and connects the eastern slopes and summit of Auchenroy Hill with Dalcairnie Glen and Bogton Loch. Strating at the minor road near Bogton Loch the route ascends the summit of Auchenroy Hill the route heads southeast towards Auldcraigoch where it follows the farm track to Dalcairnie Glen. At this point the route turns north and overlaps with Scottish Hill Track 78b/81 as it follows the minor road to Bogton Loch near Doon Bridge on the B741. Viewpoint 5: Bogton Loch (Figure 5.18) and Viewpoint 10: Auchenroy Hill (Figure 5.23) are located along the route. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of all 11 turbines along the majority of the route. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be seen as a cohesive group on the skyline to the east. From elevated parts of the route (4 km of the route), most of the turbines would be visible at full height to the fore of existing wind farm development at approximately 6 km distance as illustrated in Viewpoint 10, Figure 5.23 (Medium magnitude). Whilst there would be a significant effect on the views from the summit of Auchenroy Hill, viewing towards the Proposed Development, the effects on the overall walking experience and summit / destination views include wide 360° panoramic views which include a number of existing windfarms and a wide variety of distinctive rural land use and character. In less elevated views the lower parts of the turbines would be screened or partially screened by intervening landform such that the hubs would be visible at a minimum distance of 5 km as illustrated in Viewpoint 5, Figure 5.18 – although it is noted that the viewpoint is located off the Core Path and on a knoll viewing over roadside hedgerows. Views from this section of the route would be largely screened by hedgerow and roadside vegetation even in winter (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites The existing South Kyle I Wind Farm, and Enoch Hill Wind Farm would be visible beyond the proposed turbines from elevated areas of the route (Low to Zero magnitude of change). Benbrack would also be visible as part of a cluster of wind farm development to the east and southeast (Low magnitude). Several other wind farms would be visible or partially visible in the same view (Windy Rig, Windy Standard / Extension / III, Afton, Pencloe, Sanquhar II - all Very Low to Zero magnitude). North Kyle would be visible in views to the northeast as hubs and / or blades at between 4.5 km and 6 km (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). Dersalloch wind farm would be visible in views west from Auchenroy summit at ~1.9 km distance but would be screened for the remainder of the route (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Dersalloch, North Kyle and the Proposed Development) and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* Sclenteuth would be screened or partly screened by landform from most of the route and visible as hubs from Auchenroy summit at 3 km (Medium to Zero magnitude). Knockkippen would be visible across Doon Valley to the northeast from the majority of the route (subject to screening from vegetation) at between 3.5 km and 5.5 km distance (Medium to Zero magnitude), Knockcronal would be visible from Auchenroy summit at 8.5 km (Low magnitude) with Carrick and Craigmoddie visible at greater distances in the same view (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Other application wind farms would be visible or partially visible at greater distance and the magnitude of change would be no greater than Very Low. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Dersalloch, North Kyle, Knockkippen and the Proposed Development) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Core Path D14 – Dalmellington to loch Doon via Ness Glen (overlapping with Bogton Loch Circular Walk)	The Core Path 14 follows the Muck Water (tributary of the River Doon) to the east of Bogton Lock and continues south through the Craigengillan GDL and woodland to the west of Bellsbank. The route continues south through Ness Glen to terminate at Loch Doon. The view from this route would be wholly or partly screened by riparian vegetation (Very Low to Zero magnitude) to the north of Bogton Loch with no ZTV coverage between Bogton Loch, woodland to the west of Bellsbank and Ness Glen (No View). Ness Glen is overlapped by the ZTV although in reality this section of the route is deeply incised and enclosed by dense woodland (No View). *Cumulative Assessment:*

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Core path D16 – Bellsbank to Barbeth and little Shalloch (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Tracks 78b – Glentrool Village to Dalmellington andScottish Hill Track 81 – Barr to Dalmellington)	Core Path D16 is mostly located within the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL and passes between Craigengillan Home Farm and the boundary with South Ayrshire to the west via Berbeth and Little Shalloch. The route is 4.5 km in length and gains elevation between the Doon Valley floor and the southeast facing valley sides at Little Shalloch. The route follows farm and forest tracks and views east are filtered in places by surrounding forestry and trees on the lower parts of the route. There are more open views from elevated areas in the western part of the route. Viewpoint 8, Berbeth (Figure 5.21) is located on the route at Craigengillan Home Farm. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of all 11 turbines for most of the route with the exception of approximately 0.7 km as the route passes south from Nether Berbeth where between Zero and five turbines would be theoretically visible. Wireline and site analysis indicates that the turbines would be seen as a cohesive group on the skyline to the east. In less elevated views between Craigengillan Home Farm and Nether Berbeth, the lower parts of the turbines would be screened or partially screened by intervening landform such that the hubs would be visible at a minimum distance of between 5 - 6 km as illustrated in Viewpoint 8, Figure 5.21 (High - Medium magnitude). The Core Path is partially routed through forest for this section of the route and views would be screened for ~0.7 km. As the route reaches Nether Berbeth, the proposed turbines would be increasingly screened by Shear Hill in the foreground. There would be no view for approximately 0.4 km as the route passes west of Shear Hill. As the route turns southwest towards Little Shalloch it gains elevation and the turbines would become increasingly visible above Shear Hill (Low magnitude for 0.4 km). For the remainder of the route there would be elevated views for 1.5 km as it approaches and passes Little Shalloch where most of the turbines would be visible at full height to the fore of existing wind farm development at approximately 7 - 8 km distance with exception of two turbines (T8 and T10) visible as hubs (Medium-Low magnitude). The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The existing South Kyle I Wind Farm, and Enoch Hill Wind Farm (under construction) would be visible beyond the proposed turbines from elevated areas of the route (Low to Zero magnitude of change). Benbrack would also be visible as part of a cluster of wind farm development to the east and southeast (Low magnitude). Several other wind farms would be visible or partially visible in the same view (Windy Rig, Windy Standard / Extension / III, Afton, Pencloe, Sanquhar II) (all Very Low to Zero magnitude). North Kyle would be partly visible in views to the northeast as hubs and/or blades at between 6 km and 8 km (Low to Zero magnitude). Dersalloch wind farm would be theoretically visible in views northwest from Little Shalloch at 2 km distance but would be partially screened by Galloway Forest Park (subject to felling) (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant (although slightly reduced by the overlap with other wind farms) to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Substantial to Major** and Significant (due to Dersalloch and the Proposed Development) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* Knockkippen application wind farm would be theoretically visible to the north at 6 – 8 km, subject to screening from forestry to the east of the route and becoming increasingly screened by landform as the route gains elevation to the west (Low to Zero magnitude). Sclenteuth would be visible as hubs and blades behind Dersalloch from the western extent of the route and Knockcronal would also be visible to the west (both Very Low to Zero magnitude) The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The combined effect would be **Substantial to Major** and Significant (due to Dersalloch and the Proposed Development) to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Core Path D18 – Carmlarg Plantation and associated Rights of Way	Core Path C18 is a circular route to the northeast of Dalmellington and forms a 2 km walk routed through Carnlarg Non-Inventory Historic Garden and Designed Landscape where it follows the contours of lower hill slopes to the south of Cumnock Burn. The route starts at the B741 at Knowehead within the settlement of Dalmellington (near Viewpoint 3) and follows a minor road northeast towards Dalmellington New Cemetery. The route passes through the cemetery and continues on a farm access track to the northeast and east before turning west and then southwest along a tree-lined access track parallel to Cumnock Burn back to the B741. The associated Rights of Way partly overlap and / or run parallel and close (within 100m) to the northern section of the route. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of between 1-3 turbines through the cemetery and northeast, visibility of all 11 turbines the northeastern extent of the route and visibility of between 1 and 9 turbines for the remainder of the route. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be partly screened by intervening landform such that the upper towers and hubs of T2 and T5 would be visible with the remainder of the turbines visible as hubs and blades. At the northern extent (0.5 km of the route) five hubs and six blades or blade tips would be theoretically visible in views to the east, with the nearest turbine at 2.8 km distance. Views would be further screened or heavily filtered by mature trees lining the route and, in the wider landscape, surrounding the route. The magnitude of change would range from Zero to Low during the winter months, although experienced at near distance.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Moderate** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* Blades of the existing South Kyle I Wind Farm and Enoch Hill Wind Farm (under construction) would be theoretically visible beyond the proposed turbines at the northeastern extent of the route (Very Low to Zero magnitude of change). Dersalloch wind farm would be theoretically visible in views to the southwest as blades and blade tips (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* Sclenteuth would be visible to the southwest at a 6 km distance subject to screening from intervening vegetation and buildings (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate** and Significant to **No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Right of Way network accessing the Lethanhill and Benwhat former mining villages, between Patna and Burnton	A section of Right of Way branches off the Core Path D10 (assessed previously) and forms a circular route between Dunaskin Glen to Caldwall's Glen north of Burnton, past Burnton and returning to the start, via Leight which is lower down the hillside. Former opencast / mining works and dismantled rail / haul roads are visible and as with Core Path D10 the views from this hillside are generally open and elevated. As a Right of Way, with limited signage / promotion the route has a slightly reduced value and susceptibility in comparison to the Core Path network and has been assessed as of High to Medium sensitivity. *Assessment: Proposed Development (add to earlier summary)* ZTV coverage indicates theoretical visibility of all 11 turbines from most of the route (approximately 4 km). However, wireline analysis shows limited visibility (blades and tips) from the highest part of the route with screen provided by the broad landform. The lowest sections of the route would have greater visibility, viewing the Proposed Development beyond Pennyvenie Bing and overlapping with the South kyle I and Enoch Hill wind farms. Some further screening from buildings and vegetation is likely along Caldwall's Glen and to the west of Burnton. Otherwise, the Proposed Development would be visible at between 4 – 6 km distance, and the magnitude of change would be range from Zero to Low, and in some localised places, approximately 1.5 km between Burnton, Sillyhole and Minnivey the magnitude would increase to Medium.

Recreational Route	Assessment
	The level of effect on the Core Path would range from **Major to Moderate** to **No View** and Significant, affecting 1.5 km of the route near Sillyhole. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The proposed turbines would be seen to the fore of the South Kyle cluster of wind farm development including South Kyle I, Enoch Hill and Benbrack (Low to Zero magnitude) and more distant wind farms (Windy Rig, Windy Standard / Extension – all Very Low to Zero magnitude). Dersalloch wind farm would be visible in views to the southwest (Low magnitude) at between 3 km and 5 km distance. The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate** to **No View** and Not Significant, due to the influence of the pre-existing wind farms. The combined effect of the Proposed Development with other wind farms would range from **Major to Moderate** and Significant to **No View** (due to Dersalloch and multiple wind farms). The effect would be significant due to Dersalloch and the combined extent of the South Kyle cluster). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The route would pass within 1 km of the Knockkippen application wind farm (High magnitude). Sclenteuth would be visible across the Doon Valley to the southwest at a minimum distance of 2.5 km (High to Medium magnitude). Knockcronal would be partially visible behind Dersalloch at 10.5 km distance (Low-Very Low magnitude) with Carrick and Craigenmoddie visible in the same view at greater distances (both Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate** to **No View** and Not Significant, due to the influence of the pre-existing wind farms. The combined effect of the Proposed Development with other wind farms would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Knockkippen and Sclenteuth and multiple other wind farms). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Rights of Way north of the B741 near Nith Lodge	There are two routes although they do not formally join up, both provide access via forest rides / tracks to an area of former mineral workings. The eastern most route extends north from the B741, through coniferous forestry to the mine workings. The second route extends northeast from the B741 (near to Viewpoint 20, Figure 5.33), approximately 1 km west of Nith Lodge to the summit of Rig Hill (347 m AOD) and then continues in this direction, also finishing up at the mine. The start of this route currently overlaps with the access to the North Kyle Wind Farm. As a Right of Way, with limited signage / promotion the route has a slightly reduced value and susceptibility in comparison to the Core Path network and has been assessed as of High to Medium sensitivity. *Assessment: Proposed Development*

Recreational Route	Assessment
	ZTV coverage is continuous across all but the northern sections of these two routes and therefore approximately 3.5 km of the combined routes are overlapped by the ZTV. The Proposed Development would ordinarily be screened by the forestry (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and the level of effect would range from **Negligible to No View** and Not Significant. Assuming the forestry is felled, the magnitude of change would be High (Viewpoint 20, Figure 5.33) for at least 1 km of the route between the B741 and Rig Hill, reducing to Medium for much to the eastern most route and Low for that part of the route viewing in the lee of Rig Hill. The level of effect would range from **Major to Moderate** and Significant (affecting a combined total of 2 km of the routes). For the remainder of the routes (assuming an absence of forestry) the level of effect would reduce due to partial land form screening to **Moderate to Minor** and not Significant, with the Proposed Development seen beyond / adjacent to the existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) wind farms. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* Not allowing for forestry, the Proposed Development would be seen partially behind. adjacent to the existing South Kyle I and Enoch Hill (under construction) wind farms which would be visible at approximately 3 km distance (Medium magnitude). There would also be simultaneous views of the consented Pencloe Wind Farm at approximately 5km distance (Low magnitude) and the existing Afton Wind Farm (Low magnitude) in the distance. North Kyle and the consented Overhill and Greenburn wind farms would be visible as a cluster to the west at 1.5 km distance (High magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be **Moderate to No View** and Not Significant, due to its partial overlap and integration with the South Kyle cluster. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Substantial to Major** and Significant (due to North Kyle and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The blade tips of Knockkippen application wind farms would not be perceptible beyond the North Kyle turbines (Zero magnitude). Not allowing for forestry, Enoch Hill II would be partially visible in the same view as the proposed turbines (Very Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would be Moderate to No View and Not Significant. The combined effect of the Proposed Development would be **Substantial to Major** and Significant (due to North Kyle and *not* the Proposed Development). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational and Tourist Destinations

5.11.24 The visual assessment has considered the potential visual effects likely to be experienced by people at recreational / visitor or tourist destinations or attractions, which are overlapped by the ZTV, within the LVIA Study Area. Each of these locations were visited and / or assessed with the use of ZTVs and wirelines. All the destinations have been assessed as of High sensitivity on account of their High to Medium value as recreational and tourist destinations, some located within designated and protected landscapes and the High susceptibility of the people visiting these destinations, whose attention would be focused on the landscape around them.

5.11.25 In summary, there would be a significant effect on views from the Craigengillan GDL. Although the main house, stables, and gardens would not be significantly affected, there would be significant effects on the views from the western and northern parts of the wider estate, all previously assessed as viewpoints (Technical Appendix 5.2) and recreational routes (Table 5.15):

- Bogton Loch (Viewpoint 5, Figure 5.18);
- Berbeth (Viewpoint 8, Figure 5.21); and
- Auchenroy Hill (Viewpoint 10, Figure 5.23).

5.11.26 The Proposed Development would often appear as a prominent addition to views from the northern and western part of the wider estate but overlapping with existing development when viewed from higher elevations or juxtaposed with contemporary views out of the GDL. The combined cumulative effects introduce further wind farm development, notably the North Kyle, Knochkippen and Dersalloch wind farms create separate developments, whereas the Proposed Development is part of an existing wind farm cluster.

5.11.27 There would be no significant night-time effects, and a full night-time assessment of the aviation warning lights is provided in Technical Appendix 5.5.

Table 5.15: Visual Effects on Recreational and Tourist Destinations within 10 km

Destination	Assessment
Craigengillan GDL	Craigengillan GDL is recorded in the Scottish Inventory for Gardens and Designed Landscapes as 'outstanding'. The estate extends over 3,000 acres and is set amidst the hills of the Southern Uplands and comprises a Designed Landscape, woodlands, wetlands, pasture, rugged hills and heath, lochs, glens and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Gardens with herbaceous borders, specimen trees, a Japanese water garden and a walled garden surround the main mansion house and adjacent stable block. There are also two holiday cottages and Craigengillan Home Farm also set within the estate boundary. It was first established as an estate in 1580 and was owned for 400 years by the McAdam family. The current owner embarked on a restoration programme to encourage public access and to protect and enhance the landscape and the nature conservation interest. Viewpoints 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are located within the GDL boundary and detailed assessment of these is provided in Technical Appendix 5.2. The sensitivity of the GDL is assessed as High due to the High value of the GDL and the High susceptibility of visitors, whose attention is focused on the landscape. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates full visibility of all 11 turbines across the majority of the GDL with the exception of the eastern edge of the GDL and between Nether Barbeth and Glessel Burn where no ZTV coverage is indicated. The eastern half of the GDL is low down within the Doon Valley at between approximately 5 km and 6 km distance from the Proposed Development. Within this area, wireline analysis indicates that the proposed turbines would be partially

Destination	Assessment
	screened by intervening landform. In addition, this part of the GDL contains areas of forestry, woodland, trees and shrubs which would further filter views of the wider landscape as illustrated in Viewpoint 6, Figure 5.19 (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Views from the edges of Bogton Loch at between 4-5 km distance from the Proposed Development are largely screened by roadside and native vegetation and Viewpoint 5 (Figure 5.18) illustrates a 'worst case' through a gap in this vegetation. Although significant, most of the proposed turbines are partly screened by landform . From the western half of the GDL and the wider estate, the landform gently rises to a shoulder at Dalnean Hill (242 m AOD) and then more steeply, culminating in the summit of Auchenroy (367 m AOD) on the western boundary of the GDL. Landcover is mostly open grassland with some young woodland planting on the slopes of Auchenroy. Consequently, there are open, elevated views towards the proposed turbines from almost all of the western half of the wider estate with the exception of visual shadows or breaks in the ZTV coverage created by the crags at Shear Hill and Carwaur. Viewing from Berbeth at approximately 6 - 7 km distance as illustrated in Viewpoint 8, Figure 5.21 (High - Medium magnitude) the turbines appear partly screened by landform and appear juxtaposed above the Bellsbank housing estate with intervening fields and forestry, creating a contemporary scene. Whilst there would be significant effects on the views from the western part of the estate at Dalnean Hill and Auchenroy Hill (Viewpoint 10, Figure 5.23) the Proposed Development overlaps with existing wind farms in the view. The effects on the overall walking experience and summit views include wide 360° or 180° panoramic views which include a number of existing windfarms and a wide variety of distinctive rural land use, settlement and landscape character, viewing well beyond the GDL and into the wider landscape. A summary of the viewpoint assessment is provided below: House and Stables — Viewpoint 6 (Figure 5.19) — Very Low magnitude — Minor not Significant Bogton Loch — Viewpoint 5 (Figure 5.18) — High-Medium — **Substantial to Major** and Significant Berbeth — Viewpoint 8 (Figure 5.21) — As above — As above Auchenroy Hill — Viewpoint 10 (Figure 5.23) — Medium — **Major** and Significant The level of effect on views from the GDL would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant to **No View**. Significant visual effects however, would be widespread across much of the wider estate in the north and western half of the GDL. Views form the main house, gardens and places of interest including Dalcairnie Falls and Ness Glen would not be significantly affected, with little or no view from these areas. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and negative to neutral. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* The existing South Kyle and Enoch Hill wind farms would be visible behind the proposed turbines from elevated areas to the west of the GDL (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude of change). Benbrack would also be visible as part of a cluster of wind

Destination	Assessment
	farm development in views east and southeast (Low magnitude). Several other wind farms would be visible at greater distance (Windy Rig, Windy Standard / Extension / III, Afton, Pencloe, and Sanquhar II) all Very Low to Zero magnitude. North Kyle would be visible in views to the northeast as hubs and / or blades at between 4.5 km and 6 km (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). Dersalloch wind farm would be visible in views west from Auchenroy summit at 2 km distance but would be screened for the majority of the GDL (High-Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant to **No View**, often appearing as a prominent addition to views from the northern and western part of the wider estate but overlapping with existing development when viewed from high elevations or juxtaposed with contemporary views out of the GDL. The combined effect would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Dersalloch, the South Kyle cluster, North Kyle and the Proposed Development) to **No View** and Not Significant. Both the North Kyle and Dersalloch would appear as separate wind farms, not overlapping with others. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* The Sclenteuth application would be screened or partly screened by landform from most of the GDL and visible as hubs from Auchenroy summit at 3 km (Medium to Zero magnitude). Knockkippen would be visible across the Doon Valley to the northeast, theoretically visible from much of the north and western part of the estate at between 3.5 km and 5.5 km distance (Medium to Zero magnitude), Knockcronal would be visible from Auchenroy summit at 8.5 km (Low magnitude). The additional effect of the Proposed Development would range from **Substantial to Major** and Significant to **No View**, often appearing as a prominent addition to views from the northern and western part of the wider estate but overlapping with existing development when viewed from high elevations or juxtaposed with contemporary views out of the GDL. The combined effect would be **Substantial** and Significant (due to Knockkippen, Dersalloch, North Kyle and the Proposed Development) to **No View** and Not Significant. The Knockkippen, North Kyle and Dersalloch wind farms would appear as separate developments, not overlapping with others. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative.
Bellsbank Picnic Spot and Car-park	The views from the A713 road junction to the car-park are assessed in Appendix 5.2, Viewpoint 1 (Medium-Low magnitude with a **Major to Moderate** and significant effect). However, views from the picnic tables are further back and lower down beyond roadside trees with greater landform screening such that the magnitude would be Low-Very Low and the level of effect **Moderate to Minor** and not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative to neutral.

Destination	Assessment
	Cumulative Assessment: The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Dunaskin Open-Air Museum / Doon Valley Railway Museum	The Dunaskin Open-Air Museum (renamed the Doon Valley Railway Museum) is located off the A713 to the southeast of Waterside. The museum incorporates open air facilities and provides a venue for other events. The area is assessed as High-Medium sensitivity due to the medium susceptibility of the visitors who will be focused on the exhibits, and the value of the landscape which is overlapped by the Doon Valley LLA. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates that all 11 proposed turbines would be theoretically visible from the museum. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be partly screened by intervening landform such that hubs and blades would be theoretically visible along the valley to the southeast. In reality the museum is surrounded by scattered industrial buildings, mature trees and scrub and most of the views from the museum would be screened or partly screened. The magnitude of change would be Low to Zero. The level of effect would range from **Moderate to Minor, to No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. *Cumulative Assessment:* The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects and there would be similar non-significant levels of effect associated with the South Kyle cluster with which the Proposed Development would overlap.
Loch Doon Caravan Park	Loch Doon Camping and Caravan Park is located adjacent to Loch Doon Road at the northern end of Loch Doon. The camping and caravan park is located on slightly elevated landform comprising a gently terraced layout with open views-oriented east across the loch to the rising landform beyond. The camping and caravan park is assessed as High sensitivity due to the High susceptibility of the visitors who will be focused on the views, and the value of the landscape which is overlapped by the Doon Valley LLA. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates that between 8 and 11 proposed turbines would be theoretically visible. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be partly screened by intervening landform such that only hubs and blades would be theoretically visible along the skyline to the east at approximately 7 km distance. There would be further screening from mature deciduous trees and forestry on the hills 'containing' Loch Doon to the east (Muckle Eriff Hill and Black Burn Knowes). This would further screen views of the blades and hubs such that mostly blades and blade tips would be theoretically visible. The magnitude of change would be (Very Low to Low magnitude if intervening forest were felled). The level of effect would range from **Minor to No View** and Not Significant (Moderate and Not Significant if forestry were felled). The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral to negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented Sites* There would be simultaneous views of the existing Benbrack Wind Farm (Medium-Low magnitude). The North Kyle Wind Farm would be visible to the north (Low-Very Low magnitude) and the tips of South Kyle I (Very Low magnitude) with further wind farm development visible at greater distance (including Windy Standard / Extension / III) all Very Low to Zero magnitude. The additional level of effect from the Proposed Development would range from **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant (Moderate and Not Significant if forestry were felled). The combined level of effect would be **Major to Moderate** and Significant due to the Benbrack Wind Farm and *not* the Proposed Development. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, and negative. *Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Existing + Consented + Applications* There would be no application wind farms visible.
Lochside Hotel and New Cumnock Golf Club	New Cumnock Golf Club is located to the northwest of New Cumnock, between the A76 and the railway line, and adjacent to the Lochside Hotel. Both receptors are just beyond the 10 km study area but has been included as a previous assessment viewpoint for other wind fam development in the area. The landform gently slopes between the A76 and the rail line and there are views from open areas of the golf course and hotel terrace across the broad River Nith valley towards the rising hills to the south and southwest which form the skyline in this direction. Views are filtered in places due to mixed deciduous and coniferous trees that define the structure of the course. The golf course is assessed as Medium sensitivity due to the medium susceptibility of the visitors who will be focused on the golfing activity and the value of the landscape which is not overlapped by any areas designated for their scenic value. Guests at the hotel, on the terrace / garden areas have been assessed as High sensitivity. *Assessment: Proposed Development* ZTV coverage indicates that all 11 proposed turbines would be theoretically visible across the golf course. Wireline analysis indicates that the turbines would be partly screened by intervening landform such that up to five hubs and six partial blades would be theoretically visible. The turbines would be visible in part of the view already influenced by wind farm development. Views would be filtered in some locations within the golf course by near distance vegetation. There would be less visibility from the hotel terrace due to intervening landform. The magnitude of change would be Low to Zero. The level of effect would be **Moderate to Minor** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral to negative. *Cumulative Assessment:*

Destination	Assessment
	The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Knockshinnock Lagoons – SWT Nature Reserve	Knockshinnoch Lagoons SWT nature reserve is located to the west of New Cumnock at approximately 9 km distance from the Proposed Development. The ZTV indicates that all of the turbines would be visible, although in reality, they would be substantially screened by the native woodland within the nature reserve that provides dense screening even through the winter months (Very Low to Zero magnitude). Where visible the Proposed Development would also be seen beyond both Enoch Hill (under construction) and South Kyle I. The level of effect would by **Minor to No View** and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), indirect and neutral. *Cumulative Assessment:* The Proposed Development would not significantly contribute to additional or combined cumulative effects.
Hills and Mountains within 10 km	
Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	Views from the summit of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn are assessed in Technical Appendix 5.2, Viewpoint 13 and illustrated in Figure 5.26. In summary, the Proposed Development would be seen within and beyond a large area of existing wind farm development including the South Kyle cluster with further development beyond. The visual effects would not be significant.
Blackcraig Hill (Graham)	Views from Blackcraig Hill are assessed in Technical Appendix 5.2, Viewpoint 14 and illustrated in Figure 5.27. In summary, the Proposed Development would be seen beyond a large area of existing and consented wind farm development including the South Kyle cluster. The visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development would not be significant. A similar effect would also apply to the views from Craigbraneoch Rig, Blacklorg Hill, and Cannock Hill which can be walked as a circuit with Blackcraig Hill.

5.12. Summary and Conclusions

5.12.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and the design of the South Kyle II Wind Farm has taken account of relevant legislation, consultation and national and local planning requirements in relation to wind farm development. The LVIA accords with best practice and has been undertaken by chartered landscape architects at WSP.

5.12.2 This chapter assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. It should be read with reference to EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description. All additional material relating to this chapter can be found in Volumes 3a, 3b and 4 which includes the figures, visualisations and appendices respectively.

Effects on Landscape Character

5.12.3 The landscape assessment has taken account of all landscape character within 10 km of the Proposed Development and the Doon Valley LLA.

5.12.4 At a local level, the South Kyle II Wind Farm is located within the *Southern Uplands with Forestry*, in an area already influenced by wind farm development. Although significant landscape effects are to be expected, the extent of these is not unusual for wind farm development and the large scale and simple characteristics of this landscape reduce the susceptibility of this landscape to the Proposed Development.

5.12.5 There would be significant effects on three landscape character units including the host *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT, extending north to also affect the southern edge of the *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA within approximately 2km of the Proposed Development, and part of the *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA near Bogton Loch.

5.12.6 Although the full height of the turbines would not tend to be visible from the *Doon Valley* LCA the Proposed Development would appear more prominently than other existing / consented developments in this area and therefore introduce wind farm development as a new characteristic. The proposed turbines would however also generally overlap with existing / under construction and consented wind farms.

Landscape Designations

5.12.7 Although the Site boundary overlaps with the edge of the Doon Valley LLA, the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure are all outwith the LLA and separated from the LLA by forested slopes and low hills on the edge of the *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT.

5.12.8 There would be no significant effects on the integrity of the Doon Valley LLA and its overarching 'summary statement of character and qualities'. There would however be a significant effect on two of the 24 assumed SLQs that contribute to the Doon Valley LLA. Both of these relate to views from the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL and the perceived setting of Dalmellington viewed from the north and west.

The Proposed Development would not significantly affect the Merrick WLA or its wild land qualities and there would be no significant effects resulting from the proposed aviation warning lights.

Assessment of Visual Effects

5.12.9 The visual assessment has taken a precautionary approach and focused on visual receptors within 10 km of the Proposed Development extending to the wider Study Area for receptors of national importance that are overlapped by the blade tip ZTV.

Visual Effects on Views from Settlements and Residential Properties

5.12.10 There would be Significant visual effects on some views from the northern edge of Dalmellington on Gateside Road and intermittently along the B741 and from the outer edges of Burnton. The Proposed Development would be visible from both areas viewing obliquely east in the general direction of Pennyvenie Bing. No other settlements within the study area would be significantly affected as a result of the Proposed Development.

5.12.11 A residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA) has been included for those properties within 3 km and reported in Technical Appendix 5.3. The RVAA concluded that there would be no instances where the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold would be reached. This is due largely to embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development which has ensured that no property is within 1.25km of the nearest turbine and combinations of partial screening, and use / orientation of the property.

Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes

5.12.12 Views from transport routes would be significantly affected from short sections of the A713 Galloway Tourist Route and part of the B741 passing the Site as follows:

- A713 between Waterside and Dalmellington:
  - Southbound: Up to approximately 2.5 km for southbound road users would be significantly affected between Laight and Dalmellington and at the road junction to Loch Doon, south of Dalmellington (Viewpoint 1).
- B741, between New Cumnock and Gass:
  - Westbound: Up to approximately 2.2 km between Maneight and Clawfin would be significantly affected. An additional 2.4 km of the route would experience Significant effects if the forestry were felled between Maneight and Miekle Hill east of New Cumnock Substation.
  - Eastbound: Up to 1.1 km between Clawfin and Pennyvenie Farm and a further 2 km experienced intermittently between Dalmellington and Dalsalloch would be significantly affected.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

5.12.13 There would be significant visual effects on the views from parts of three Core Paths and three Rights of Way:

- Core Path D13 – Dalcairnie / Auchenroy Hill circuit (but excluding Scottish Hill Tracks 78b, 81 and the Bogton Loch Circular Walk) - significant visual effects would be experienced for 4 km of the route on the elevated slopes and summit of Auchenroy Hill.
- Core Path D16 – Bellsbank to Barbeth and Little Shalloch (overlapping with Scottish hill track 78b and 81)- significant visual effects would be experienced for 1.5 km of the route as it approaches and passes Little Shalloch and a further, approximately 1 km near Berbeth Farm.
- Core Path D18 – Carmlarg Plantation and associated Rights of Way - significant visual effects would be experienced for 0.5km of the route in open areas at the northern extent of the route.
- Three Rights of Way would be significantly affected, including 1.5 km of the Lethanhill and Benwhat route near Burnton and 2 km in total of the two routes off the B741 near Nith Lodge.

Visual Effects on Views from Recreational and Tourist Destinations

5.12.14 There would be a significant effect on views from the Craigengillan GDL. Although the main house, stables, and gardens would not be significantly affected, there would be significant effects on the views from the western and northern parts of the wider estate which are accessed by recreational routes and include views from Bogton Loch, Beberth and Auchenroy Hill.

5.12.15 The Proposed Development would often appear as a prominent addition to views from the northern and western part of the wider estate but overlapping with existing development when viewed from higher elevations or juxtaposed with contemporary views out of the GDL. The combined cumulative effects introduce further wind farm development, notably the North Kyle, Knochkippen and Dersalloch wind farms create separate developments, whereas the Proposed Development is part of an existing wind farm cluster.

Landscape and Visal effect of Aviation Warning Lights

5.12.16 The night-time assessment (Technical Appendix 5.5) is separate from the daytime assessment and receptors often have a different sensitivity at night whilst the Proposed Development is focused on the effects of the proposed aviation warning lights mounted on five of the turbines hubs. Due to embedded mitigation which forms the Lighting Strategy there would be no significant night-time effects on the landscape or visual resource as a result of the proposed aviation warning lights.

Summary and Conclusion

5.12.17 A summary of the LVIA is provided in Table 5.16.

5.12.18 To conclude the Proposed Development would significantly affect parts of three landscape character units including the host *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT, extending north to also affect the southern edge of the *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCA within approximately 2km of the Proposed Development, and part of the *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA near Bogton Loch.

5.12.19 Whilst it would not significantly affect the integrity of the Doon Valley LLA and its overarching 'summary statement of character and qualities', there would be a significant effect on two of the 24 SLQs that contribute to the Doon Valley LLA. Both of these relate to views from the wider estate of Craigengillan GDL and the perceived setting of Dalmellington viewed from the north and west.

5.12.20 There would be significant visual effects on the views experienced by people within a localised area within approximately 7.2km, mainly to the east of the Proposed Development. This includes residents on the outer edges of Burnton and on the northern edges of Dalmellington and some individual residents and road users along the B741. There would be significant visual effects from parts of the A713 Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington and parts of Craigengillan GDL including Bogton Loch, Berbeth and Auchenroy Hill and associated local footpaths, although there would be no significant effects on the views from the main house associated gardens and stables. There would be no significant effects on the views from long-distance recreational routes including Scotland's Great Trails and Sustrans Cycle Routes.

5.12.21 The approved Lighting Strategy for the aviation warning lights includes mitigation to ensure there would be no significant night-time effects.

Table 5.16: Summary of Landscape and Visual Effects of the Proposed Development

Landscape / Visual Receptor	Individual Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
				Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Level of Effect	Magnitude (Existing and Consented)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect	Magnitude (Applications)	Additional Level of Effect (PD)	Combined Level of Effect
Landscape Assessment: Southern Uplands with Forest LCT (Host landscape)									
ECA 20c: Southern Uplands with Forest LCT: During Construction	Medium	Zero to High	None to **Major**	Not assessed cumulatively due to short term duration of effect.					
ECA 20c: Southern Uplands with Forest LCT: During Operation	Medium	High	**Major**	High	**Major** (due to the PD)	**Major** (due to the PD)	High	**Major** (due to the PD)	**Major** (due to the PD)
ECA 20c: Southern Uplands with Forest LCT: During Decommissioning	Medium	High to Very Low	**Major** to Negligible	Not assessed cumulatively due to short term duration of effect.					
Landscape Assessment: other landscape character units									
ECA 10: *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* LCA	High to Medium	Low	**Moderate**	Very Low	**Moderate**	**Moderate**	High	**Substantial** (due to the PD and Knockkippen and ScIenteuch)	**Substantial** (due to the PD and Knockkippen and ScIenteuch)
EAC 15: *Upland Basin: New Cumnock* LCA	Medium	Very Low	Negligible	High	Negligible	**Substantial** (due to North + South Kyle clusters)	Very Low	Negligible	**Substantial** (due to North + South Kyle clusters)
EAC 17a: *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* LCT increasing to Medium along the edge of the Doon Valley?	Low	High	**Moderate**	High	**Moderate**	**Moderate** (due to North Kyle)	High	**Moderate**	**Moderate** (due to North Kyle cluster and Knickkippen)
EAC17b / SAC 17b: *Foothills with Forest west of Doon Valley* LCT	High to Medium	Low to Very Low	Minor	High	Minor	**Substantial** (due to Dersalloch)	High	Minor	**Substantial** (due to Dersalloch and ScIenteuch and Knockkippen)
EAC 21: *Rugged Uplands, Lochs & Forest* LCT	High to Medium	Low to Very Low	Minor	Low	Minor	Moderate	Very Low	Minor	Moderate
DGC 19a: *Southern Uplands with Forest* LCT	Low	Very Low	Negligible	High	Negligible	**Major** (due to South Kyle cluster)	High	Negligible	**Major** (due to South Kyle cluster)

Landscape / Visual Receptor	Individual Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
				Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude**	**Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Existing and Consented)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Applications)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**
DGC 19: *Southern Uplands: Carsphain* LCA	Medium to Low	Very Low	Negligible	High	Negligible	**Major** (due to South Kyle cluster)	High	Negligible	**Major** (due to South Kyle cluster)
Landscape Assessment: Doon Valley Local landscape Area									
Doon Valley LLA	High to Medium	Low	Moderate to Minor (Significant effect on 2 of 24 SLQs)	Very Low	Moderate to Minor	Moderate to Minor	Medium	Moderate to Minor	Major (due to the PD, Sclenteuch and Knockkippen)
Visual Assessment: Settlements									
Bankglen, Connel Park and Leggate	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	Medium	Minor to No View	**Major** (Greenburn)	Very Low	Minor to No View	**Major** (Greenburn)
Bellsbank	High	Zero	No View	N/A			N/A		
Burnside	High	Very Low	Minor	Medium	Minor	**Major** (Enoch Hill + Greenburn)	No cumulative effect		
Burnton	High	Medium	**Major** (outer edge of settlement)	Low	**Major to Moderate** (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Major**	Medium	**Major to Moderate** (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Major** (due to the PD, Sclenteuch and Knockkippen)
Dalmellington	High	Medium to Zero	**Major** (northern edge of settlement) to No View (most of settlement)	Low	**Major to Moderate** to No View (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Major** to No View	Medium	**Major to Moderate** to No View (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Major** (due to the PD, Sclenteuch and Knockkippen)
New Cumnock	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	Medium	Moderate to Minor	**Major** (multiple wind farms)	Low	Moderate to Minor	**Major** (multiple wind farms)
Visual Assessment: Transport Routes									
A713 / Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington	High	Low	**Major** to Zero (significantly affecting 2.5 km)	High	**Major** to Zero	**Substantial** (due to the PD and Benbrack)	High	**Major** to Zero	**Substantial** (due to the PD and Benbrack, Sclenteuch and Knockkippen)
B741 between Gass and New Cumnock	Medium	High	**Major** to Zero (significantly affecting 4.6 km)	Medium	**Major** to Zero	**Major** to Zero(due to the PD, Greenburn and Enoch Hill)	Medium	**Major** to Zero	**Major** to Zero (due to the PD, Greenburn, Enoch Hill,

Landscape / Visual Receptor	Individual Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
				Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude**	**Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Existing and Consented)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Applications)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**
									ScIenteuch and Knockkippen)
Visual Assessment: Recreational Routes									
Loch Doon Road: Core Path D11, Heritage Path and Scottish Hill Tracks 77a/78a/79	High	Low – Very Low	Moderate-Minor to No View	Medium	Moderate-Minor to No View	**Major** (Due to Benbrack)	Very Low	Moderate-Minor to No View	**Major** (Due to Benbrack)
Core Path C10 – Coalfield Cycle Route (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Track 84, Heritage Path and Rights of Way)	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Core Path C11 – Knockshinnoch Lagoons	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Core Path C12 – New Cumnock Circular	High	Low to Zero	Moderate to No View	High	Moderate to No View	**Substantial** (due to Greenburn and Enoch Hill)	Very Low	Moderate to No View	**Substantial** (due to Greenburn and Enoch Hill)
Core Path D10 – Patna and Waterside Circular	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor – No View	Low	Moderate to Minor – No View	**Moderate** (due to multiple wind farms)	High	Moderate to Minor – No View	**Substantial** (due to ScIenteuch and Knockkippen)
Core Path D13: Dalcairnie / Auchenroy Hill circuit (Overlapping with Scottish Hill Tracks 78b, 81 and Bogton Loch Circular Walk)	High	Medum to Zero	**Major** to No View (significantly affecting 4 km)	High	**Major** to No View	**Substantial** (due to the PD, Dersalloch and North Kyle)		**Major** to No View	**Substantial** (due to the PD, Dersalloch, North Kyle, and Knockkippe)
Core Path D14: Dalmellington to Loch Doon via Ness Glen (overlapping with Bogton Loch Circular Walk	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Core Path D16: Bellsbank to Barbeth and Little Shalloch (overlapping with Scottish hill track 78b and 81)	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major** (significantly affecting 2.5 km)	Medium-Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (due to the PD and Dersalloch)		**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (due to the PD and Dersalloch)
Core Path D18: Carmlarg Plantation and associated Rights of Way	High	Low to Zero	**Moderate** to No View (significantly affecting 0.5 km)	Very Low to Zero	**Moderate** to No View	**Moderate** to No View	Low to Zero	**Moderate** to No View	**Moderate** to No View
Right of Way network accessing the Lethanhill and Benwhat former mining villages, between Patna and Burnton	High to Medium	Medium to Zero	**Major to Moderate** – No View	Low	Moderate – No View (reduced due	**Major to Moderate** (due to the PD and		Moderate – No View (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Substantial** (due mostly to ScIenteuch and Knockkippen)

Landscape / Visual Receptor	Individual Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
				Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude**	**Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Existing and Consented)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Applications)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**
			(significantly affecting 1.5 km)		to other wind farms)	multiple wind farms)			
Rights of Way north of the B741 near Nith Lodge	High to Medium	High to Zero	**Major to Moderate**, to No View (significantly affecting 2 km)	High	Moderate, to No View (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Substantial to Major**, to No View (due to North Kyle)	Very Low to Zero	Moderate, to No View (reduced due to other wind farms)	**Substantial to Major**, to No View (due to North Kyle)
Visual Assessment: Craigengillan Garden and Designed Landscape									
Craigengillan:	High	High – Medium to Zero	**Substantial to Major – to No View**	Medium	**Substantial to Major – to No View**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Dersalloch and North Kyle)	Medium - Low	**Substantial to Major – to No View**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Knockkippen, Dersalloch and North Kyle)
House and Stables (Viewpoint 6)	High	Very Low (Low if forestry felled)	Minor (Moderate if forestry felled)	No Cumulative effect	No Cumulative effect	High	Very Low (Low if forestry felled)	Minor (Moderate if forestry felled)	No Cumulative effect
Bogton Loch (Viewpoint 5)	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD)	Very Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD)
Berbeth (Viewpoint 8)	High	High - Medium	**Substantial to Major**	Medium	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD and Dersalloch)	Medium - Low	**Substantial to Major**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Dersalloch and Knockkippen)
Auchenroy Hill (Viewpoint 10)	High	Medium	**Major**	High-Medium	**Major to Moderate**	**Substantial** (PD and Dersalloch)	High-Medium	**Major to Moderate**	**Substantial to Major** (PD, Dersalloch, Sclenteuch, and Knockkippen)
Note: there would be no view from Dalcairnie Waterfall and Ness Glen.									
Visual Assessment: Tourist / Visitor Attractions									
Bellsbank Picnic Spot (Viewpoint 1)	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Dunaskin Open-Air Museum / Doon Valley Railway Museum	High to Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Loch Doon Caravan Park	High	Low to Very Low	Moderate to No View	Medium to Low	**Moderate to Minor**	**Major to Moderate** (Benbrack)	N/A		
Lochside Hotel, and the adjacent New Cumnock Golf Club	High (Medium – golfers)	Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor, to No View	No significant cumulative effects					
Knockshinnock Lagoons	High	Very Low to Zero	Minor to No View	No significant cumulative effects					

Landscape / Visual Receptor	Individual Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) – 11 turbines at 200 m to blade tip			Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development (PD) and other wind farms					
				Cumulative Scenario 1:			Cumulative Scenario 2:		
	Sensitivity	**Magnitude**	**Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Existing and Consented)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**	**Magnitude** (Applications)	**Additional Level of Effect (PD)**	**Combined Level of Effect**
Visual Assessment: Hill Walking Hill Summits									
Cairnsmore of Carsphairn (Viewpoint 13)	High	Low	Moderate	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)
Blackcraig Hill (Viewpoint 14)	High	Low-Very Low	Moderate to Minor	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)	High	Minor	**Substantial** (multiple wind farms)

5.13. Executive Summary / Non-technical summary

5.13.1 This chapter assesses the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. All additional material relating to this chapter can be found in Volumes 2b, 2c and 3 which includes the figures, visualisations and appendices respectively.

5.13.2 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and the design of the South Kyle II Wind Farm has taken account of relevant legislation, consultation and national and local planning requirements in relation to wind farm development. The LVIA accords with best practice and has been undertaken by chartered landscape architects at WSP.

5.13.3 At a local level, the South Kyle II Wind Farm is located within the *Southern Uplands with Forestry*, in an area already influenced by wind farm development. Although significant landscape effects are to be expected, the extent of these is not unusual for wind farm development and the large scale and simple characteristics of this landscape reduce the susceptibility of this landscape to the Proposed Development. Significant effects on landscape character would extend to approximately 2-3km and affect part of the *Southern Uplands with Forestry,* the adjacent *Foothills with Forest & Opencast Mining* and also part of the *Upland River Valley: Doon Valley* near Bogton Loch.

5.13.4 There would be no significant effects on any landscape planning designations including the UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere, the Doon Valley Local Landscape Area, or the Merrick Wild Land Area.

5.13.5 There would be significant visual effects on the views experienced by people within a localised area within approximately 7.2km, mainly to the east of the Proposed Development. This includes residents on the outer edges of Burnton and on the northern edges of Dalmellington and some individual residents and road users along the B741. There would be significant visual effects from parts of the A713 Galloway Tourist Route between Waterside and Dalmellington and parts of Craigengillan GDL including Bogton Loch, Berbeth and Auchenroy Hill and associated local footpaths, although there would be no significant effects on the views from the main house associated gardens and stables. There would be no significant effects on the views from long-distance recreational routes including Scotland's Great Trails and Sustrans Cycle Routes.

5.13.6 The approved Lighting Strategy for the aviation warning lights includes mitigation to ensure there would be no significant night-time effects.

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[i] NatureScot (2021). *Guidance: Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments*.

[ii] NatureScot (September 2020) technical guidance *Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas.*

[iii] Landscape Institute (15 March 2019). *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA): Technical Guidance Note*.

[iv] Scottish Natural Heritageiv (SNH), (August 2017). *Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape*, Version 3a.

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