# Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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# 5. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

## 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This chapter presents the findings of the assessment of likely significant effects of the proposed Glenouther Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) and the Likely Grid Connection Route (as defined in **Chapter 4: Development Description**) on:

- Landscape character and resources, including effects upon the physical elements, character and/or qualities of the landscape during construction, operation and decommissioning; and,
- Visual amenity, including effects upon potential receptors (people) and viewing groups caused by change in the appearance of the landscape during construction, operation and decommissioning.

5.1.2 Landscape character and resources are considered to be of importance in their own right and are valued regardless of whether they are seen by people. Effects on views and visual amenity as perceived by people are clearly distinguished from, although closely linked to, effects on landscape character and resources. Landscape and visual assessments are therefore separate, although linked, processes. This chapter deals with landscape and visual effects separately, including assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects.

5.1.3 The assessment methodology for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was developed in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) 2013, and is detailed in **Technical Appendix 5.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**. The assessment was undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at LUC. Further details are provided **Technical Appendix 1.1: Statement of Expertise**.

5.1.4 The chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters:

- **Chapter 3: Site Selection and Design Strategy**;
- **Chapter 4: Development Description**; and
- **Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage**.

5.1.5 This chapter is supported by **Figures 5.1.1 to 5.1.10** in **Volume 3a: Figures** of this Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. **Figures 5.2.1 and 5.2.19** (which provide viewpoint visualisations) are split between **Volume 3b: Landscape and Visual Amenity Visualisations (Part 1)** (viewpoints 1-9) and **Volume 3c: Landscape and Visual Amenity Visualisations (Part 2) and Cultural Heritage Visualisations** (viewpoints 10-18 and additional wireline to support sequential route assessment) of the EIA Report. This includes night time assessment viewpoints from two locations, as described in **Technical Appendix 5.3: Aviation Lighting Night-Time Impact Assessment**. All figures are referenced throughout the text where necessary.

5.1.6 The following technical appendices, found in **Volume 4: Technical Appendices**, accompany this chapter and are referred to throughout:

- **Technical Appendix 5.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**;
- **Technical Appendix 5.2: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)**; and
- **Technical Appendix 5.3: Aviation Lighting Night-Time Impact Assessment**.

5.1.7 The following technical appendices (**Volume 4**) have also informed the LVIA:

- **Technical Appendix 4.1: Wind Farm Forestry Plan**; and
- **Technical Appendix 7.6: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (OBEMP)**.

5.1.8 The Proposed Development comprises up to five turbines, each with a maximum tip height of 200 metres (m) (and a candidate hub height of 119 m, used for assessment purposes). The Proposed Development includes access tracks and associated ancillary development, as detailed further in **Chapter 4: Development Description**. The Likely Grid Connection Route comprises an 11.6 kilometres (km) underground cable which will run from the onsite substation to the existing Crookston substation to the north of the Site. The Likely Grid Connection Route is shown on **Figure 4.8a** in **Volume 3a**.

## 5.2 Assessment Methodology

### Methodological Overview

5.2.1 The LVIA methodology was prepared in accordance with the principles contained within GLVIA3 and the Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the GLVIA3. It is described in detail in **Technical Appendix 5.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**. The methodology should be referred to whilst reviewing the findings of this assessment to gain a clear understanding of how findings of significance were informed.

5.2.2 The key steps in the methodology for assessing landscape and visual effects are as follows:

- The area from which the Proposed Development may theoretically be visible was established through mapping a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) covering a distance of up to 45 km from the outermost wind turbines of the Proposed Development (see **Figures 5.1.2a - c** for blade tip ZTVs).
- The landscape of the study area was analysed and landscape receptors identified.
- The visual baseline was recorded, focusing on the places where people will be affected by views of the Proposed Development as well as the nature of views and visual amenity as seen by different groups of people.
- Viewpoints were selected (including representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints, and illustrative viewpoints).
- Likely effects, including cumulative effects, on landscape and visual resources were identified.

### Legislation, Policy and Guidance

#### Legislation, Policy and Guidance

5.2.3 This assessment is carried out in accordance with the principles contained within the following legislation, policy and guidance:

**Legislation and Assessment Guidance**

- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 – the EIA Regulations;
- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) and associated clarification notes;
- Landscape institute (2021) Technical Guidance Note 02-21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations;
- NatureScot (2021) Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments;
- SNH (2018) A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5;
- SNH (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2.
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals;
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment;
- NatureScot (2024) Pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms; and
- NatureScot (2024) Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.

**Planning Policy, Local Development Plans and SPG**

- Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4; and
- East Ayrshire Council (EAC) (2024) Local Development Plan 2.

**Design and Locational Guidance**

- NatureScot (2024) Good Practice During Windfarm Construction, Version 3;

- SNH (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3; and
- SNH (2015) Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands, 2nd Edition.

**Landscape Character, Landscape Capacity and Designated Landscapes**

- NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment;
- EAC (2024) East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study (EALWCS); and
- EAC (2024) Local Landscape Areas.

## Consultation

5.2.4 In undertaking the assessment, consideration was given to the EIA Scoping responses and other consultation which was undertaken as detailed in **Table 5.1**.

**Table 5.1 Consultation responses**

| Consultee and Date | Scoping/Other Consultation | Issue Raised | Response/Action Taken |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Ayrshire Council (EAC) | Scoping (11/12/2025) | ■ Methodology deemed appropriate. | ■ Noted. |
| | | ■ Wirelines for certain views (Viewpoints 13, 14 and 17) acceptable. | ■ Noted. |
| | | ■ Cumulative night time aviation assessment to be undertaken. | ■ Noted – where interaction with aviation lighting on operational, consented or proposed wind farms is likely this is discussed. Refer to Technical **Appendix 5.3** for potential cumulative night time effects. |
| | | ■ 45 km study area deemed appropriate. | ■ Noted. |
| | | ■ Aviation lighting mitigation should be detailed. | ■ Aviation lighting mitigation described in **Technical Appendix 5.3**. |
| | | ■ Night time views should be focused on locations more likely to be frequented at night time. | ■ Night time views have been selected as VP1 which is close to the M77 and residential properties to the east of the Site, and Stewarton (VP7) the largest settlement relatively close to the Proposed Development. Scope agreed through post scoping consultation, see below. |
| | | ■ Approach to cumulative assessment deemed appropriate. Applicant to keep abreast of any changes to the cumulative situation. | ■ Cumulative assessment scope consultation carried out post scoping, see below. |
| | | ■ 2 km study area for Residential Visual Amenity (RVA) deemed appropriate. | ■ RVA assessment scope refined and confirmed through post scoping consultation. See below. |
| NatureScot | Scoping (31/10/2025) | ■ No landscape comments raised. | ■ N/a |
| | Post Scoping - RVA and | ■ Night time viewpoints. | ■ Night time viewpoint proposed for VP1 and VP7. 23/02/26 (consultation |

| Consultee and Date | Scoping/Other Consultation | Issue Raised | Response/Action Taken |
|---|---|---|---|
| East Ayrshire Council (EAC) | Aviation Lighting Scope (18/12/2025) | | email response) confirmed scope is acceptable. |
| | | ■ Detailed scope of RVA | ■ RVA will be supported with context photography, a 53.5 degree wireline showing the Proposed Development, a 90 degree wireline showing the cumulative context and a photomontage for any properties subject to a breach of the RVA threshold. 2 km lighting ZTV and wirelines with lit turbines annotated will also be provided. 23/02/26 – confirmed scope is acceptable |
| | | ■ Night time photomontages from all properties requested (note this requested through the scoping response with approach agreed through post scoping consultation) | ■ Not practical to provide this (properties would have to be visited at a very specific time, in the evening and during good weather). Night time photomontage to be provided from VP1, which represents properties to the east of the Site and some of the closest views from properties. 23/02/26 – confirmed scope is acceptable. |
| East Ayrshire Council (EAC) | Post Scoping - Cumulative Scope (29/01/2026) | ■ Detail of cumulative LVIA Scope. | ■ Updated wind farm plan and list provided. Cumulative assessment to be split into two scenarios (1 - operational and consented and 2 – operational, consented and proposed). 23/02/26 – confirmed scope is acceptable. |
| East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) | Post Scoping - Cumulative Scope (29/01/2026) | ■ Detail of cumulative LVIA Scope. As above. | ■ Set out as noted above. No response from ERC received. |
| Fenwick Community Council | Formal Scoping Consultation (15/11/2025) | ■ Cumulative effects must be assessed alongside the following consented or proposed major developments, reference numbers: NOD-190-001, CIN-190-001, ECU00002198, 23/0398/HS, 25/0022/PP and repowering Whitlee Wind Farm. | ■ The cumulative assessment scope consultation was carried out post scoping and agreed with EAC.<br>■ Wind farm developments within 45 km from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development have been considered. See **Figure 5.1.7, Volume 3a** of the EIA Report. |
| | | ■ The EIA should fully address the East Ayrshire Council Local Development Plan 2 and the East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study. | ■ The LDP2 and EAC Landscape Wind Capacity Study have been considered. |
| | | ■ Visual effects: It is unacceptable to use outdated consultation information, as the countryside surrounding the development has developed significantly since application 15/0584/PP was refused in October 2018. | ■ The primary assessments below consider the current landscape at the time of writing, while scenarios 1 and 2 consider the potential for future cumulative effects. |

## Study Area

5.2.5 The study area for a LVIA is determined by the nature and scale of the Proposed Development and the nature of the study area. The study area for the assessment was defined as 45 km from the outermost turbines that form part of the Proposed Development, in all directions (refer to **Figure 5.1.1**). This is recommended in current NatureScot guidance for turbines over 150 m to blade tip. However, to help focus on likely significant effects the assessment tends to consider a more detailed study area of approximately 20 km radius.

5.2.6 To consider cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in relation to cumulative developments in the wider area, wind farms within 45 km of the Proposed Development are included for the purposes of modelling and assessment. As recommended in relevant NatureScot cumulative guidance (2021), a review of patterns of wind farm development across the study area is also provided (see **Figure 5.1.7a)** and is used to determine the area over which key cumulative interactions may occur.

5.2.7 A ZTV map to blade tip height (200 m) was generated, illustrating areas from where the Proposed Development may be theoretically visible. The ZTV is based on bare earth topography and therefore does not take account of potential screening by vegetation or buildings. The ZTV is used as a tool for understanding where views of the wind farm may occur, and is therefore used to refine the study area for landscape and visual receptors in order to identify likely significant effects.

5.2.8 Receptors which are outside the ZTV will not have any visibility of the Proposed Development and are not considered further in this LVIA.

5.2.9 The ZTV to blade tip height (200 m) is shown in **Figure 5.1.2**, and the ZTV to candidate hub height (119 m) is shown in **Figure 5.1.3**. A large A1 format tip height ZTV is also provided (**Figure 5.1.2c**).

## Desk Based Research and Data Sources

5.2.10 The following data sources informed the assessment:

- Ordnance Survey (OS) Landranger 1:50,000 scale and Pathfinder 1:25,000 scale maps; and
- Online map search engines.
- OS Terrain® 5 height data (DTM) to 20 km radius;
- OS Terrain® 50 height data (DTM) across the full 45 km study area;
- Raster Data at 1:50,000 (to show surface details such as roads, forest and settlement detail equivalent to the 1:50,000 scale Landranger maps);
- Raster Data at 1:250,000 (to provide a more general location map); and
- Data from other wind farm applications, based on a cut-off date of 28th January 2026 for the inclusion of developments within the cumulative assessment.

## Field Survey

5.2.11 Field survey was generally undertaken in good weather conditions, between summer 2025 and spring 2026. Field survey work included a visit to the Site, visits to viewpoints and designated landscapes, and extensive travel around the study area to consider potential effects on landscape character and on experiences of views seen from specific viewpoints, settlements and routes. Records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. No site visit was undertaken for the Likely Grid Connection route.

## Assessing Significance

### Sensitivity Criteria

5.2.12 Judgements regarding the sensitivity of landscape or visual receptors require consideration of both the susceptibility of the landscape or visual receptor to the type of development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or visual resource. Judgements are recorded as high, medium or low. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of sensitivity is provided in **Technical Appendix 5.1.**

#### Magnitude of Change

**5.2.13** Judgements regarding the magnitude of landscape or visual change are recorded as high, medium or low and combine an assessment of the scale of the landscape or visual change, its duration and reversibility. The geographical extent of the change is also described. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of magnitude is provided in **Technical Appendix 5.1.**

#### Significance Criteria

5.2.14 The predicted significance of the effect is determined through a standard method of assessment based on professional judgement and guidance, considering both sensitivity and magnitude of change. Levels of effect are described as negligible, minor, moderate or major, where **moderate** and **major** effects are considered to be **significant** in the context of the EIA Regulations.

#### Direction of Effects

5.2.15 As required by the EIA Regulations and GLVIA3, the assessment must identify the direction of effect as either being beneficial, adverse or neutral.

5.2.16 The direction of landscape and visual effects is determined in relation to the degree to which the proposal fits with the existing landscape character or views, and the contribution to the landscape or views that the Proposed Development makes, even if it is in contrast to the existing character of the landscape or views.

5.2.17 With regard to wind energy development, whilst there is a broad spectrum of response from the strongly positive to the strongly negative, an assessment is required to take an objective approach. Therefore, to cover the 'worst case' situation, likely landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects, relating to commercial scale wind farms are generally assumed to be adverse.

### Assessment Assumptions

5.2.18 The following assumptions have been made when undertaking the assessment of effects:

- 20-month construction period;
- 35-year operational lifespan;
- Woodland removal is undertaken as proposed in Technical **Appendix 4.1: Forestry**;
- Biodiversity enhancement proposals are undertaken as proposed in Technical **Appendix 7.6: Outline Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan**;
- A cumulative assessment cut-off date of 28th January 2026 was applied for the inclusion of cumulative developments within the cumulative assessment; and
- Aviation lighting is installed only on T1, T3, T4 and T5.

### Assessment Limitations

5.2.19 It is considered that there is sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be taken in relation to the identification and assessment of likely significant environmental effects on the landscape and visual resource. Fieldwork for the RVAA was undertaken from the closest public area to a private property where access was not available (details included in the **Technical Appendix 5.2**). The assessment for the Likely Grid Connection Route was undertaken largely as a desk-based exercise.

## 5.3 Existing Conditions

### Landscape Baseline

5.3.1 This section provides an overview of the landscape baseline, including current landscape character, condition, and any designated landscapes within the study area. It draws on published studies, supplemented with project specific research and field work where relevant.

### The Site and Context

5.3.2 The Proposed Development site (the Site) is located within the EAC area, approximately 4.8 km to the north-east of Stewarton. The Site is located within an area of privately owned coniferous forest, the boundary of which is broadly contained by the M77 to the east and Swinzie Burn to the south. To the north and west there are further areas of privately owned coniferous forest, then Corsehouse Reservoir to the north and open, gently sloping moorland to the west.

5.3.3 The Site broadly slopes from north to south from approximately 230 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to 210 m AOD. The Site has a simple landscape pattern, as it consists mainly of mature coniferous forest plantation, with some small areas of open moorland and bog. The coniferous forestry, split into geometric coupes presents a landscape clearly influenced by humans. Furthermore, the presence of the busy M77 and scattered farmsteads and properties to all sides further increases the human influence over the Site. The operational Whitelee Wind Farm and its Extension to the west, as well as Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms to the north/north-west, all lie within 5 km of the Site (refer to **Figures 5.1.7a** and **5.1.7b**).

5.3.4 Given the large-scale nature of the landscape in this area and the gently undulating landform, the Site does not contribute to any distinctive skylines or form an important part of the view from the surrounding landscape. Visibility of the Site is more widespread from the south, but views from this direction are often large scale and characterised by a relatively flat horizon, above which the large operational Whitelee Wind Farm and its Extension are often visible.

### The Likely Grid Connection Route and Context

5.3.5 The Likely Grid Connection Route passes through the following Landscape Character Types (LCTs):

- Landscape Character Type (LCT) 79 and 214: Plateau Moorland with Windfarms (Ayrshire and Glasgow and Clyde Valley respectively) - characterised by a gently undulating plateau of moorland, areas of forestry and wind farms;
- LCT 201: Plateau Farmland (Glasgow and Clyde Valley) – characterised by gently undulating pastoral farmland and settlements; and,
- LCT 202 Rugged Upland Farmland – which has a varied and rugged terrain, pastoral farming and a low density settlement pattern.

5.3.6 The northern part of the Likely Grid Connection Route enters urban areas on the outskirts of Glasgow, and for which there are no defined LCT/ key characteristics.

5.3.7 The Likely Grid Connection Route does not pass through any local or national level landscape designations. A small section of the Likely Grid Connection Route passes through the Dams to Darnley Regional Park.

### Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Areas

5.3.8 The landscape character of the study area is described in the online Landscape Character Assessment for Scotland, published by NatureScot in 2019. LCTs across the study area are shown in **Figure 5.1.5a** and are shown overlaid with the ZTV in **Figure 5.1.5b**. The Site is located in the Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (79) LCT. The key characteristics of this LCT, and other LCT which are carried forward for detailed assessment, are provided in the landscape character assessment section of this chapter.

5.3.9 The theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development (as indicated by the ZTV coverage) is used as a means of identifying which LCTs within the study area require further assessment, and which LCTs can be scoped out because they are unlikely to experience significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

5.3.10 For LCT beyond 20 km from the proposed turbines and given the nature of the Proposed Development (which will typically be seen in the context of other operational wind farms, including the extensive Whitelee Wind Farm to the east) effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant, and these are scoped out. Other LCT with limited theoretical visibility and/ or where the key characteristics are unlikely to be significantly altered by wind farm development at the Site, are also not considered further within the assessment, as shown in **Table 5.2**. LCTs included within the assessment are highlighted in **bold** in **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.2 Landscape Character Types (within 20 km)**

| Issue | Commentary |
|---|---|
| **79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire** | The Proposed Development is located in this LCT (the 'host' LCT). Considered further. |
| **214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley** | Adjacent to north of host LCT, with similar character. Consider effects alongside effects on host LCT. |
| **66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire** | Widespread visibility to the north-east of this LCT and within 5 km. Considered further. |
| 202 - Rugged Upland Farmland | Three areas of this LCT to south and north of Neilston and to the west of Johnstone. Visibility, within 20 km, is intermittent in nature due to the varied nature of the terrain. Parts of this LCT are altered by wind farm development, including areas in closest proximity to the Site (within 5 km) through wind farm development associated with Neilston Community Wind Farm, and smaller scale surrounding turbines. From higher ground and in outward views to the south/ south-east, large scale wind farm development through the operational Whitelee Wind Farm has altered views.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 207 - Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Two areas of this LCT within 20 km. From LCT to south-west (Avon Water) very limited theoretical visibility within 20 km.<br><br>From LCT to north (upper tributaries of Levern Water) limited visibility focused to the northern fringes of this LCT. Furthermore, key views up and down the valley are not focused towards the Site/host LCT. Furthermore, the host LCT does not form the defining ridge in views to either side of this valley.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 68 - Lowland River Valleys - Ayrshire | Five areas of this LCT, within 20 km.<br><br>There is more widespread theoretical visibility/ potential for direct views to Site from the Lugton and Annick Water Valleys.<br><br>Woodland, which is characteristic of the valleys will limit actual visibility. Furthermore, settlement at the head of the Annick Water Valley (Stewarton) will limit actual visibility from the most north-easterly extents of this closer proximity valley.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 67 - Broad Valley Lowlands - Ayrshire/<br><br>205 - Broad Valley Lowland - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | More widespread visibility from higher ground to east and west of these adjacent LCTs. However, viewing distance (over 10 km distant) and nature of outward views from open higher ground - with extensive wind farm development seen to the east through the operational Whitelee Wind Farm - effects on landscape character not likely to be significant.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 198 - Agricultural Plain - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Limited theoretical visibility within 20 km.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 69 - Upland River Valleys - Ayrshire | Limited visibility from southern valley side beyond 10 km and key direction of views up and down the valley (to east and west) not focused towards the Site/ host LCT.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 199 - Urban Greenspace | Three areas to north-east within greater Glasgow. Limited visibility beyond 10 km distance. Characteristic mature woodland cover will also further limit actual visibility.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 216 - Rugged Moorland Hills/ | Large upland LCTs to north-west with areas just within 20 km distance. Theoretical visibility from open south-eastern facing slopes. However, viewing distance (over 15 |

| Issue | Commentary |
|---|---|
| 80 - Rugged Moorland Hills and Valleys | km distant) and nature of outward views from open higher ground - with extensive wind farm development seen to the south-east through the operational Whitelee Wind Farm - effects on landscape character not likely to be significant.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 60 - Low-Lying Coast | Some areas just within 20 km to south-west. However, viewing distance and coastal nature of key views (oriented to south-west) effects on landscape character not likely to be significant.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 75 - Lowland Hills - Ayrshire | Area within 20 km to south-west with theoretical visibility from open north-eastern facing slopes. However, viewing distance (over 15 km distant) and nature of outward views from open higher ground - with extensive wind farm development seen to the north-east through the operational Whitelee Wind Farm - effects on landscape character not likely to be significant.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 201 - Plateau Farmland - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Two areas of this LCT to north-east of Site, on south-western edges of greater Glasgow. The ZTV highlights the limited nature of theoretical visibility, with any wind farm development at the Site seen beyond closer proximity views of operational wind farms at Whitelee, Middleton and Neilston.<br><br>Not considered further. |
| 78 - Plateau Moorland - Ayrshire/<br><br>213 - Plateau Moorlands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Adjacent and large scale LCTs to south-east with intermittent pattern of theoretical visibility between 12 km and 20 km distance. The area is altered by coniferous forestry and wind farms. Effects on landscape character are not likely to be significant.<br><br>Not considered further. |

### Landscape Sensitivity Studies

5.3.11 The East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study was carried out in 2018 and adopted in 2024. The study sets out sensitivity appraisals for the LCTs within East Ayrshire, including the LCT in which the Site is contained (NatureScot LCT 79, renamed in the study as Character Type 18b – East Ayrshire Plateau moorlands + Forestry + Wind Farms).

5.3.12 For this area the study outlines the following constraints and opportunities:

**Constraints**

- *"The extensiveness of operational and consented wind farm development which occupies much of the simpler moorland and forested core of this landscape.*
- *The outer edges of this upland plateau which form the immediate skyline to the Irvine valley and where larger typologies would dominate adjacent settlement and affect the setting of Galston, Newmilns and Darvel and the designed landscape of Loudoun Castle.*
- *More settled valleys and lower hill slopes within this character type where small farms and houses, woodlands and enclosed pastures provide ready scale references and where larger typologies could also result in significant intrusion on the adjacent well-settled smaller scale East Ayrshire Lowlands (7c). Lighting of turbines >150m would extend effects particularly in areas where existing sources of light are relatively low."*

**Opportunities**

- *"Sparsely settled areas of moorland and forestry within the upland core of this character type where very limited numbers of the large typology could be sited to minimise effects on adjacent settled lower hill slopes."*

**5.3.13** In the Wind Capacity Study**, the area is judged to be of high-medium sensitivity for wind turbines greater than 70m in height.**

## Designated Landscapes

### Nationally Designated Landscapes and Wild Land

5.3.14 National and local level landscape designations are mapped on **Figures 5.1.6a** and **5.1.6b.** The Site is not within a designated landscape.

5.3.15 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and the Loch Lomond National Scenic Area (NSA) are located to the far north of the study area (beyond 30 km). North Arran NSA is also on the western edge of the study area (beyond 40 km). The Proposed Development will be distant from both areas, and will only be visible from Site-facing slopes (refer to **Figure 5.1.2a**). Effects on these designated landscapes are unlikely to be significant and are not considered further.

5.3.16 Waterhead Moor – Muirsheil Wild Land Area is located in the north-west of the study area. The ZTV indicates visibility from south-eastern facing slopes. However, given the viewing distance (approximately 20 km distance) and nature of views to the south-east (which are altered by a number of wind farms) effects on Wild Land are unlikely to be significant. Effects on Wild Land have not been considered further.

### Locally Designated Landscapes

5.3.17 In terms of local level landscape designations, with theoretical visibility and within 20 km, these include:

- Mainland LLA in North Ayrshire to the north-west (including a small area around Kilbirnie Loch just beyond 15 km, and a larger area in the Clyde Muirshiel hills further away;
- Uplands and Moorlands LLA in East Ayrshire beyond 15 km to the south-east; and,
- Lower Clyde and Calderglen LLA in South Lanarkshire beyond 15 km to the east

5.3.18 From all these areas visibility will be intermittent and distant (beyond 15 km). Where long range views are available any wind farm development at the Site is likely to be seen as part of/ in the context of large-scale wind farm development at Whitelee. Therefore, significant landscape effects on local level landscape designations are not considered likely and have not been considered further in this assessment.

5.3.19 There are also a number of Regional Parks (Clyde Muirshiel to the north-west) and Country Parks focused to the fringes of Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Stevenson. Those within 20 km and with theoretical visibility include Gleniffer Braes, Dams to Darnley, Pollok and Cathkin Braes to the north/north-east; Dean Castle and Eglinton to the south-west; and Lochwinnoch to the north-west. Theoretical visibility from all but Pollok, Cathkin Braes and Eglinton is limited. Furthermore, field work has confirmed that actual visibility from Pollock and Eglinton is also limited owing to screening by nearby built development and/or tree cover. From Cathkin Braes visibility will be from an area just under 15 km distance from the Site. Long distance key views from this park tend to be focused towards Glasgow. Therefore, Regional and Country Parks have not been considered further within this assessment.

## Visual Baseline

5.3.20 This section describes the extent of theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the study area and identifies the visual receptors that were assessed. This section also introduces the representative viewpoints that are used to assess effects on visual receptors, including the reasons for their selection.

### Analysis of Visibility of the Proposed Development

5.3.21 **Figures 5.1.2 and 5.1.3** show the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development to maximum blade tip height (200 m) and candidate hub height (119 m) respectively.

5.3.22 Within a 5 km radius of the proposed turbines, there will be fairly widespread theoretical visibility. The pattern of visibility becomes slightly more fragmented to the north, within 5 km, due to the rugged and more varied nature of the terrain to the north of Gabroc Hill. To the east and south-east, extensive areas of coniferous forest, such as those near Highfield, Kingswell and Windy Hill, will limit actual visibility from some locations nearby.

5.3.23 Within 5 km to 10 km radius theoretical visibility is more widespread to the south, as the terrain here gently slopes away from the Site towards the Ayrshire lowlands. There are some larger areas of coniferous forest in the south-eastern quadrant of this area, around Whitelee Wind Farm, which will limit actual visibility. To the north, within 5 to

10 km, visibility will be far more intermittent, as the ground slopes away more steeply towards the broad Clyde Valley.

5.3.24 Beyond 10 km, the pattern of visibility will be more intermittent. Visibility will be more widespread to the south-west, in the Ayrshire basin. There are also more notable areas of theoretical visibility from more distant areas of high ground to the north of Glasgow, and far south and west of the study area.

### Key Visual Receptors

5.3.25 Potential visual receptors include:

- Residents at their homes or in their communities, including views from isolated properties, scattered communities or defined settlements;
- Those engaged in recreational activities (e.g. hill walkers and cyclists);
- Road users (including those travelling on recognised tourist routes); and,
- People at their place of work, including agricultural workers.

5.3.26 Residents, recreational users and road users are regarded to be of medium or high sensitivity to changes in their view, and as such they are considered in the assessments below. However, people at work are generally regarded to be of lower sensitivity to changes in their view, and as such they are not considered further in this LVIA.

### Selection of Viewpoints for Assessment

5.3.27 This section sets out the viewpoints within the 45 km study area which were selected to represent and assess the visual effects of the Proposed Development. The viewpoint list is a representative selection of locations agreed with consultees (see **Table 5.1**). It is not an exhaustive list of locations from where the Proposed Development will be visible.

5.3.28 A total of 18 LVIA assessment viewpoints were selected through desk study, site work and consultation with statutory consultees. The assessment viewpoint locations were refined from the list used for the previous Glenouther Renewable Energy Park LVIA, which were agreed through consultation at the time.

5.3.29 The viewpoints are all publicly accessible as advocated by GLVIA3 [1] and include:

- Locations selected to represent the experience of different types of receptors;
- Locations at different distances to provide a representative range of viewing angles and distances (i.e. short, medium and long-distance views);
- Locations which illustrate key cumulative interactions with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms (i.e. either in combined or successive views );[2]
- Locations which represent a range of viewing experiences (i.e. static views and points along sequential routes);
- Specific viewpoints selected because they represent promoted views or viewpoints within the landscape; and,
- Illustrative viewpoints chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular visual effect or specific issue (which could include restricted visibility in particular locations).

5.3.30 The viewpoints used to assess the visual effects are listed in **Table 5.3** below and their locations are shown on **Figure 5.1.2.**

[1] The selection of viewpoints for LVIA should take account of the factors listed in Paragraph 6.20 of GLVIA3.
[2] Combined effects occur where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint and successive views occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments.

**Table 5.3 Viewpoint Locations**

| No. | Location/ (Grid Ref) | Direction and (approximate) distance | LCT/ Designation | Reason for Selection |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A77 near Drumboy (249341, 648952) | East 1.1 km | Plateau Moorland with Windfarms – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in nearby properties to the east. |
| 2 | Glassock Bridge - A77/A719 (247762, 645511) | South 2.9 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users on the M77/A77 motorway and crossing the A719 bridge. |
| 3 | Harelaw Road (246459, 652073) | North-west 3.4 km | Rugged Upland Farmland/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in scattered properties to the north-west. |
| 4 | Kingsford B769 (244019, 647946) | West 3.7 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in properties around Kingsford. |
| 5 | Queenseat B764 (252532, 649126) | East 4.2 km | Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users near the entrance to Whitelee Wind Farm Visitor Centre. |
| 6 | Neilston Pad (247558, 654935) | North 5.9 km | Rugged Upland Farmland/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by recreational receptors from a high point on a footpath on the escarpment looking south. |
| 7 | Dunlop Road (A735), Stewarton (241645, 646478) | South-west 6.4 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in properties on the north side of Stewarton. |
| 8 | Berryhill Moscow A719 (248561, 640996) | South 7.4 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in nearby properties north of Moscow. |
| 9 | Buiston A735 (241138, 642612) | South-west 8.8 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents in nearby properties south of Stewarton. |
| 10 | Foreside (245748, 657222) | North 8.5 km | Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by residents in properties on higher ground north-west of Neilston (and road users from the minor road north of the A736). |
| 11 | Standing Stones, north of Irvine (233983, 641484) | South-west 15.5 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ | Representative of experienced by recreational receptors on the footpath network to north of Irvine. |

| No. | Location/ (Grid Ref) | Direction and (approximate) distance | LCT/ Designation | Reason for Selection |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Edge of Eglinton Park | |
| 12 | B7038 Ditton south of Kilmarnock (241235, 634094) | South-west 15.7 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users travelling north on the A77, and residents in elevated properties in the area. |
| 13 | Loudon Hill A71 (260874, 637893) | South-east 16.4 km | Upland River Valleys – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and recreational receptors on Loudon Hill nearby. As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA. |
| 14 | Kilbirnie Connelston A760 (229608, 654212) | North-west 18.8 km | Broad Valley Lowlands – Ayrshire/ Edge of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Local Landscape Area | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents west of Kilbirnie. As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA. |
| 15 | Mauchline A76 (249198, 628815) | South 19.6 km | Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire/ N/a | Representative of views experienced by road users and residents of elevated properties north of Mauchline. |
| 16 | Glasgow Necropolis (260403, 665541) | North-east 20.4 km | Urban/ Garden and Designed Landscape | Representative of elevated views from Glasgow city centre. |
| 17 | Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Visitor Centre (231549, 663197) | North-west 21.5 km | Rugged Moorland Hills/ Regional Park | Representative of views experienced by recreational receptors in the Regional Park. As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA. |
| 18 | Wright's Well, Campsie Fells (261537, 680053) | North-east 33.6 km | Rugged Moorland Hills/ Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area | Representative of distant views experienced by recreational receptors in the Campsie Fells. |

### Settlements

5.3.31 Settlements considered in the assessment are detailed in **Table 5.4** below. Settlements are those defined as such within the EAC and ERC LDP's. To focus on potentially significant visual effects, settlements from which there is no theoretical visibility are not considered further in this assessment. In addition, settlements with limited visibility over a longer distance; where views of the surrounding landscape (including the Site) are not important to setting (based on professional judgement); and / or where it is unlikely that significant effects could occur are not considered further in the assessment.

5.3.32 The ZTV does not take account of any screening or filtering of views by buildings or vegetation, which will substantially reduce visibility from the majority of settlements. The following table focuses on settlements (as defined in the LDP) within 10 km of the Site, within EAC and ERC areas. When visible from wider settlements, in distances beyond 10 km and given the nature and context of the Proposed Development (five turbine wind farm seen in context of large-scale wind farm development at Whitelee) significant visual effects are considered unlikely.

**Table 5.4 Settlements**

| Settlement | Commentary |
|---|---|
| *East Ayrshire* | |
| Lugton | Very limited visibility – not considered further. |
| Dunlop | Limited visibility, the village sits in a slight depression with rising ground and woodland to the east likely to screen views for the majority of residents – not considered further. |
| Stewarton | Widespread theoretical visibility – however, fieldwork has confirmed that buildings will largely screen outward views. Visibility available from higher ground on northern edge of settlement, as represented by Viewpoint 7.<br>Not considered further. |
| Kilmaurs | Longer distance views may be available from limited properties on the northern fringes of this settlement, however the host LCT (Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire) is not considered to be important in the setting of these views. Viewpoint 9 is similar in viewing distance and direction to these views.<br>Not considered further. |
| Fenwick | Widespread theoretical visibility. Fieldwork has confirmed that actual visibility for the majority of residents is likely to be screened by buildings and vegetation/ undulating terrain to the north of the settlement. Wider views of the surrounding landscape are generally not available from within the core of this settlement – not considered further. |
| Waterside | On edge of ZTV, so theoretical visibility limited to upper blades. Buildings and vegetation in the settlement screen majority of views - not considered further. |
| Kilmarnock | Theoretical visibility from the north-eastern fringes of this settlement within 10 km. Actual visibility will be limited by buildings and areas of woodland to the north-east of the settlement - not considered further. |
| Moscow | Rising ground and buildings to the north screening views for the majority of residents. Viewpoint 8 is located on the crest of the hill to the north of Moscow, and represents views form northern edge of settlement.<br>Not considered further. |
| *East Renfrewshire* | |
| Uplawmoor | Very limited visibility – not considered further. |
| Neilston | Very limited visibility – not considered further. |
| Barrhead | Very limited visibility – not considered further. |
| Newton Mearns | Limited visibility with buildings further limiting actual visibility - not considered further. |
| Eaglesham | Very limited visibility – not considered further. |

### Residential Visual Amenity

5.3.33 Views from residential properties within 2 km of the nearest wind turbines of the Proposed Development are assessed as part of the RVAA. The RVAA is presented in **Technical Appendix 5.2**.

### Routes

5.3.34 Visibility from a route is not uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change as one moves along the route depending on the direction of travel, surrounding topography, buildings, structures, tree cover and vegetation pattern alongside the route. Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from key routes across the 45 km study area is illustrated in **Figure 5.1.2b**. They include a hierarchy of roads, railways and recreational routes (promoted long distance footpaths, Core Paths and cycle routes). Road and rail routes tend to use low lying areas or valleys and passes, but walking routes are more variable and can pass over hills and along ridges.

5.3.35 Based on an analysis of theoretical visibility and potential views, **Table 5.5** below provides information on which routes were carried forward for detailed assessment. Where there is limited theoretical visibility; or where actual visibility from a route is likely to be limited due to localised screening, these routes are not considered further in this LVIA, as the likelihood for significant sequential effects is limited. Beyond 20 km, and due to viewing distance, visual effects from routes are unlikely to be significant.

**Table 5.5 Routes**

| Route | Commentary |
|---|---|
| *Main Roads (within 10 km)* | |
| **M77/A77** | Widespread theoretical visibility including sections within 5 km – considered in assessment. |
| A736 | More widespread visibility beyond 10 km. Proposed Development will typically be seen in oblique views beyond 10 km – not considered further. |
| **A735**<br>**(Glasgow to Kilmarnock Railway follows similar route)** | Widespread theoretical visibility within 10 km - considered in assessment. |
| **A719** | Widespread theoretical visibility within 10 km north of Moscow - considered in assessment. |
| A726 | Majority of route outside ZTV due to screening provided by rising ground of the plateau moorlands to the south. Limited theoretical visibility around M77 junction but this is unlikely to translate into significant sequential effects on the route as a whole - not considered further. |
| *Recreational Routes* | |
| **Local Cycle Route on A77** | Widespread theoretical visibility – considered in assessment. |
| National Cycle Network (within 15 km) | Sections within ZTV through and to the west of Kilmarnock. Given viewing distance (over 10 km)/ screening by roadside buildings and vegetation/ oblique nature of view, effects unlikely to be significant. Not considered further. |
| **Core Paths (within 5 km)** | Widespread theoretical visibility – considered in assessment. |

### Identification of Developments to be included in the Cumulative Assessment

5.3.36 The assessment of cumulative effects focuses on developments that are likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects and concentrates on the relationship between the Proposed Development and other operational [3], under construction, consented and proposed developments (i.e. developments with a valid application or awaiting determination following appeal/public inquiry).

[3] Operational wind farms are part of the current baseline, and are considered in the primary assessment as well.

5.3.37 Wind farms within 45 km are listed in **Table 5.6** below and shown on **Figure 5.1.7a** and the wirelines (refer to **Figures 5.2.1 to 5.2.18)** to illustrate the wider cumulative context. **Figure 5.1.7b** provides a more focused cumulative baseplan, to 20 km radius, and from where significant cumulative interactions are more likely to occur.

5.3.38 Wind energy developments included in the cumulative assessment were selected as follows:

- single wind turbines of ≥50 m blade tip height within a 5 km radius of the proposed turbines; and
- wind farms (e.g. clusters of 2 or more wind turbines) with wind turbines of ≥50 m blade tip height within a 45 km radius of the proposed turbines.

5.3.39 Cumulative developments that had not yet progressed beyond scoping stage are mapped for context, though were not considered within the assessment. This is because of the level of uncertainty associated with projects at this stage.

5.3.40 A cut-off date of 28th January 2026 was applied for the inclusion of cumulative developments within the cumulative assessment. These cumulative developments are listed in **Table 5.6** below and shown on **Figure 5.7a and Figure 5.7b**.

**Table 5.6 Cumulative Wind Farms Included in the Assessment[4]**

| Wind Farm | Status | Blade tip height (m) | No. of turbines | Approximate Distance[5] (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afton | Operational | 120 | 27 | 46.6 |
| Andershaw | Operational | 140 | 11 | 43.0 |
| Ardeer | Appeal/Public Inquiry | 149.9 | 2 | 20.7 |
| Ardrossan - Phase1 | Operational | 100 | 12 | 24.4 |
| Ardrossan - Phase2 | Operational | 100 | 3 | 24.0 |
| Auchrobert | Operational | 132 | 12 | 28.3 |
| Bankend Rig | Operational | 76 | 11 | 22.6 |
| Bankend Rig Extension | Consented | 250 | 3 | 21.6 |
| Bankend Rig III | Consented | 250 | 10 | 25.0 |
| Birkhill | Consented | 99.9 | 2 | 37.4 |
| Black Hill Lesmahagow | Design/Scoping | 180 | 3 | 31.7 |
| Black Law | Operational | 115.1 | 54 | 41.6 |
| Black Law Extension Phase 1 | Operational | 126.5 | 23 | 43.5 |
| Black Law Extension Phase 2 | Operational | 126.5 | 11 | 41.4 |
| Blacklaw Hill | Consented | 67 | 1 | 2.0 |
| Blackridge Farm, Newhouse | Design/Scoping | 51 | 2 | 36.1 |
| Blackwood (East Ayrshire) | Design/Scoping | 200 | 7 | 39.9 |

[4] Scoping stage schemes are mapped, but are not considered in the detail of the cumulative assessment.
[5] From nearest turbine to nearest turbine of Proposed Development

| Wind Farm | Status | Blade tip height (m) | No. of turbines | Approximate Distance[5] (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blantyre Muir | Operational | 115 | 6 | 19.3 |
| Bodinglee | Application Submitted | 250 | 35 | 43.3 |
| Brae | Design/Scoping | 200 | 3 | 38.3 |
| Breezy Hill | Application Submitted | 149.9 | 20 | 35.6 |
| Broken Cross | Operational | 149.9 | 10 | 38.0 |
| Broken Cross surface mine | Consented | 55.7 | 2 | 38.8 |
| Brownhill Farm | Consented | 150 | 2 | 42.5 |
| Burnhead | Operational | 127 | 13 | 45.4 |
| Calder Water | Operational | 145 | 13 | 14.5 |
| Carswell Hill | Operational | 80 | 1 | 4.8 |
| Clonherb | Operational | 60.7 | 1 | 2.6 |
| Craigengelt | Operational | 125 | 8 | 44.3 |
| Crosbie | Appeal/Public Inquiry | 200 | 14 | 24.3 |
| Cumberhead | Operational | 180 | 14 | 32.4 |
| Cumberhead West | Under Construction | 200 | 21 | 30.4 |
| Dalquhandy | Operational | 149.9 | 10 | 34.5 |
| Dareduff Hill | Operational | 68 | 1 | 4.6 |
| Dersalloch | Operational | 125 | 23 | 44.5 |
| Dewshill | Consented | 200 | 2 | 39.6 |
| Douglas West | Operational | 149.9 | 13 | 37.0 |
| Douglas West Extension | Under Construction | 200 | 13 | 36.0 |
| Dungavel | Operational | 120 | 13 | 23.0 |
| Earlsburn | Operational | 110 | 15 | 44.8 |
| Easter Drumclair Wood | Operational | 149.5 | 2 | 44.7 |
| Enoch Hill | Under Construction | 149.9 | 16 | 41.8 |
| Enoch Hill 2 | Consented | 149.9 | 2 | 43.4 |
| Forrestfield | Consented | 125 | 4 | 41.5 |
| Galawhistle | Operational | 121 | 22 | 34.0 |
| Giant's Burn | Application Submitted | 200 | 7 | 44.7 |
| Gladsmuir | Consented | 220 | 6 | 45.6 |

| Wind Farm | Status | Blade tip height (m) | No. of turbines | Approximate Distance[5] (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GlaxoSmithKline (Irvine) | Operational | 110 | 2 | 17.7 |
| GlaxoSmithKline2 | Operational | 149 | 2 | 18.1 |
| Glen Water (formerly Airds Hill) | Design/Scoping | 250 | 8 | 33.7 |
| Greendykeside | Operational | 100 | 2 | 39.2 |
| Greengairs | Consented | 125 | 9 | 36.8 |
| Greengairs East | Operational | 149.9 | 8 | 38.1 |
| Gryffe Wind Farm | Design/Scoping | 99.7 | 7 | 27.7 |
| Hagshaw Energy Cluster Western Expansion | Application Submitted | 230 | 18 | 24.5 |
| Hagshaw Hill Extension | Operational | 80 | 20 | 35.9 |
| Hagshaw Hill III Energy Project | Design/Scoping | 200 | 8 | 37.2 |
| Hagshaw Hill Repowering | Operational | 200 | 14 | 35.9 |
| Hallsburn | Design/Scoping | 149.9 | 3 | 21.5 |
| Hare Craig | Consented | 230 | 8 | 30.7 |
| Hare Hill Phase 1 | Operational | 63.5 | 20 | 42.1 |
| Hare Hill Phase 2 | Operational | 91 | 35 | 43.6 |
| Hare Hill Repowering | Application Submitted | 200 | 23 | 43.9 |
| Hartwood | Consented | 126.5 | 7 | 37.2 |
| High Knoweglass Farm | Design/Scoping | 150 | 2 | 16.5 |
| Inverchaolain | Design/Scoping | 200 | 13 | 44.9 |
| Inverclyde | Operational | 110 | 8 | 29.8 |
| Kelburn Estate | Operational | 100 | 14 | 23.5 |
| Kennoxhead | Operational | 180 | 19 | 36.9 |
| Kennoxhead Extension | Consented | 180 | 8 | 36.8 |
| Kennoxhead Extension II | Consented | 220 | 8 | 37.0 |
| Kingsburn | Operational | 115 | 9 | 45.1 |
| Kittymuir | Consented | 77 | 2 | 27.7 |
| Knockkippen | Consented | 180 | 12 | 37.9 |
| Knockshinnoch | Consented | 126.5 | 2 | 35.3 |

| Wind Farm | Status | Blade tip height (m) | No. of turbines | Approximate Distance[5] (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kype Muir | Operational | 132 | 26 | 25.2 |
| Kype Muir Extension | Operational | 200 | 15 | 25.1 |
| Ladehead Farm | Operational | 74 | 3 | 31.2 |
| Lethans | Consented | 220 | 22 | 38.2 |
| Lethans Extension | Consented | 251 | 10 | 38.4 |
| Linburn Farm | Operational | 67 | 2 | 28.0 |
| Lochhead | Operational | 100 | 3 | 29.7 |
| M74 West Renewable Energy Park | Application Submitted | 200 | 22 | 46.5 |
| Middle Muir | Operational | 149.9 | 15 | 44.0 |
| Middleton | Operational | 105 | 6 | 4.2 |
| Mill Rig | Under Construction | 250[6] | 6 | 20.1 |
| Millour Hill | Operational | 125 | 6 | 22.0 |
| Millour Hill Extension | Operational | 125 | 2 | 22.3 |
| Moorshield | Consented | 149.9 | 3 | 3.5 |
| Mossmulloch | Application Submitted | 200 | 5 | 16.6 |
| Mountcow Farm | Design/Scoping | 125 | 3 | 36.3 |
| Muirhouse and Auchtygemmel Repowering | Consented | 54 | 2 | 34.1 |
| Myres Hill | Operational | 87 | 2 | 8.9 |
| Neilston Community | Operational | 120.5 | 4 | 5.6 |
| Nether Carswell III | Consented | 124.75 | 1 | 4.5 |
| North Kyle Energy Project | Under Construction | 149.9 | 49 | 36.3 |
| Nutberry | Operational | 115 | 6 | 32.9 |
| Over Enoch and Ardoch | Operational | 110 | 5 | 9.7 |
| Overhill | Appeal/Public Inquiry | 200 | 10 | 36.1 |
| Pappert Hill | Design/Scoping | 76.5 | 4 | 31.3 |
| Patna | Design/Scoping | 200 | 8 | 40.0 |
| Pencloe | Under Construction | 149.9 | 19 | 43.9 |

[6] Note: construction underway with turbines at 200m to tip.

| Wind Farm | Status | Blade tip height (m) | No. of turbines | Approximate Distance[5] (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pencloe Extension | Application Submitted | 149.9 | 5 | 42.0 |
| Priestside Farm | Operational | 67 | 2 | 27.4 |
| Rigmuir | Consented | 149.9 | 3 | 34.5 |
| Sandy Knowe | Operational | 125 | 24 | 43.5 |
| Sandy Knowe Extension | Consented | 149.9 | 6 | 42.7 |
| Sauchrie Burn | Design/Scoping | 200 | 9 | 38.8 |
| Sclenteuch | Consented | 200 | 9 | 41.6 |
| Shelloch | Consented | 180 | 5 | 43.2 |
| Sneddon Law | Operational | 130 | 15 | 7.3 |
| Sorbie Farm | Operational | 125 | 3 | 23.2 |
| South Kyle | Operational | 149.5 | 50 | 44.5 |
| South Kyle 2 | Application Submitted | 200 | 11 | 42.2 |
| Swinlees (Formerly South Hourat) | Consented | 150 | 6 | 20.0 |
| Treesbank Farm | Design/Scoping | 90 | 3 | 42.2 |
| Vale of Leven | Appeal/Public Inquiry | 220 | 10 | 31.0 |
| Wardlaw Wood | Operational | 125 | 6 | 22.6 |
| Watsonhead Farm | Operational | 150 | 2 | 37.5 |
| West Andershaw | Design/Scoping | 250 | 11 | 42.6 |
| West Benhar | Operational | 149.9 | 8 | 43.6 |
| West Browncastle | Operational | 126.5 | 12 | 14.0 |
| Whitelee | Operational | 110 | 140 | 9.5 |
| Whitelee Extension Phase 1 | Operational | 140 | 36 | 7.7 |
| Whitelee Extension Phase 2 | Operational | 140 | 39 | 8.3 |

### Current and Future Baseline

5.3.41 There are a number of operational wind farms located across the study area, as listed in **Table 5.6** and shown on **Figure 5.7a and Figure 5.7b**. Operational wind farms are part of the current baseline, and cumulative interactions with these wind farms are therefore considered as part of the 'primary' assessment as described in the methodology (**Technical Appendix 5.1**).

5.3.42 To consider potential future cumulative effects, it is also necessary to assess the effects of the addition of the Proposed Development into a speculative future baseline. Given the varied status, and therefore certainty, associated with un-built wind farms across the study area, the LVIA also reports on two future baseline scenarios:

- **Scenario 1**: higher level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction and consented wind farms; and
- **Scenario 2**: lower level of certainty: the addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape with operational, under construction, consented, undetermined valid planning applications and appeal stage cumulative developments.

5.3.43 **It should be noted that this baseline situation is constantly changing, and there may be changes to the wind energy developments listed in Table 5.6 between carrying out the assessment, the submission and determination of the application. Unless there are substantial changes to proposals that will materially alter the pattern of cumulative development, it is considered that the cumulative assessment undertaken will remain relevant.**

5.3.44 Although all these wind farms are considered in the cumulative assessment, the assessment focuses on the relationship of the Proposed Development with the closest wind farms or groups of wind farms. For the cumulative assessment, these include:

- North-west Wind Farm Group – refer to **Figure 5.1.8** for scenario 1 comparative ZTV;
- South-east Wind Farm Group – refer to **Figure 5.1.9** for scenario 1 comparative ZTV; and
- Clonherb Wind Farm – refer to **Figure 5.1.10** for scenario 1 comparative ZTV.

5.3.45 In addition to wind farms, there is also a proposal for a whisky maturation facility, covering an area of 34 ha, to the east of the Site on the other side of the M77/A77[7] (to the south of South Drumboy Farm). Whilst this proposal is relatively large in scale, it is very horizontal in nature. As such, any potential cumulative interactions are likely to be very localised. These potential interactions are described, where applicable, throughout this assessment. The in combination effects of the Proposed Development with the Likely Grid Connection Route are also considered.

## 5.4 Implications of Climate Change for Existing Conditions

5.4.1 The summary of the relevant climate change projections using the UK Climate Change Projections 2018 (UKCP18) are:

- temperatures are projected to increase, particularly in summer;
- winter rainfall is projected to increase and summer rainfall is most likely to decrease;
- heavy rain days (rainfall greater than 25 mm) are projected to increase, particularly in winter;
- near surface wind speeds are expected to increase in the second half of the 21st century with winter months experiencing more significant effects of winds; however, the increase in wind speeds is projected to be modest; and,
- an increase in frequency of winter storms over the UK.

5.4.2 In summary, the projections highlight that summer and winter temperatures are likely to be greater than the current baseline (greater for summer), with winter rainfall increasing and summer rainfall decreasing. The Landscape Institute's Position Statement on Climate Change acknowledges that changes in average temperatures, precipitation and extreme weather events will have an effect on the landscape. However, whilst a change in rainfall and rising temperatures are anticipated, it is not considered that this will appreciably change the baseline landscape conditions. Mitigation associated with reducing climate change is likely to be a more noticeable change in the landscape.

## 5.5 Future Baseline in the Absence of the Proposed Development and Likely Grid Connection Route

5.5.1 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is likely that the land will continue under the same land use, and the character of the Site is unlikely to significantly change. However, the landscape and visual amenity of the study area is likely to be influenced by a number of 'forces for change' including further wind energy development in the surrounding context.

[7] https://eplanning.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/online/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RXMGZGGFMY300

5.5.2 Forces for change are those factors affecting the evolution of the landscape which may affect the perception of the study area in the near or distant future. Although prediction of these is necessarily speculative, those of particular relevance are discussed below.

5.5.3 Wind farm development (including the repowering of existing schemes) is a clear force for change and is likely to continue. **Figure 5.7a** illustrates the location and extent of operational, consented and proposed wind farms within the study area. In addition, there are an increasing number of operational, consented and proposed domestic wind turbines of varying heights and rotor diameters, located within the surrounding landscape. As farmers and landowners diversify income and seek opportunities to generate energy for domestic and commercial use, interest in this type of development may continue.

5.5.4 Agriculture and forestry within the study area, including land management practices, pastoral grazing and commercial forestry are likely to remain important land uses. Other land uses may include settlement expansion and reinforcements and additions to the electricity grid.

## 5.6 Embedded Design Mitigation

5.6.1 During operation, landscape and visual mitigation measures are largely embedded in the design process, as described in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Design Evolution**. All effects in the following operational landscape and visual assessment are therefore considered to be residual.

5.6.2 In addition to the embedded mitigation, the proposals include some landscape and enhancement measures. These include 'forest to bog' and forest edge riparian planting, as detailed on **Figure 4.1.6** of **Technical Appendix 4.1**. As these measures establish, they will offer some localised beneficial effects, which are discussed in the following assessment.

5.6.3 Areas of forestry in the Site boundary, and surrounding the Site to the immediate north and west, will also be managed in the long term. These areas of forestry will offer some screening of low-level features in the Site (such as ancillary infrastructure) whilst they remain in place. This is discussed in the following assessment.

## 5.7 Good Practice Measures

5.7.1 During construction of the Proposed Development and Likely Grid Connection Route, good practice construction measures such as arrangements for vegetation and soil removal, storage and replacement and the restoration of disturbed areas after construction will be detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will be required by way of a planning condition. An Outline Construction Environmental Management (OCEMP) has also been prepared and is included in **Technical Appendix 4.2.**

## 5.8 Micrositing

5.8.1 The principles of micrositing are described in **Chapter 4**. In summary, a micrositing tolerance of 50 m will be requested as part of the planning application, required in the event of unforeseen ground conditions being identified.

5.8.2 Should any turbines move 50 m in any direction, this is unlikely to alter the levels of effect as identified in this LVIA. Micrositing infrastructure within the tolerance is also unlikely to change the significance of effects identified in the assessment.

## 5.9 Scope of the Assessment

### Effects Assessed in Full

5.9.1 The EIA Scoping process, baseline conditions and professional judgement have identified the following effects for detailed assessment:

- Construction landscape and visual effects associated with the Proposed Development and Likely Grid Connection Route (including in-combination with the Proposed Development);
- LCTs upon which there may be potential for significant landscape effects of the Proposed Development during operation (including cumulatively), focusing on those within a 20 km radius including LCT across and surrounding the Site);

- Effects from representative viewpoints up to 45 km during operation of the Proposed Development (including cumulatively) (as proposed in **Table 5.3**).
- Sequential effects from key main roads and recreational routes during operation of the Proposed Development (including cumulatively) (refer to **Table 5.5**);
- Residential receptors living nearby (2 km RVAA study area proposed – refer to **Technical Appendix 5.2**); and
- Landscape and visual effects associated with aviation lighting during the hours of darkness (refer to **Technical Appendix 5.3)** (including cumulatively).

### Effects Scoped Out

5.9.2 On the basis of the desk based and field survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the EIA team, experience from other relevant projects and policy guidance or standards, and feedback received from consultees, the following effects were 'scoped out' of detailed assessment, as proposed in the EIA Scoping Report:

- Landscape character areas with limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and/or where distance will limit the potential for significant effects on landscape character;
- Indirect effects on all landscape designations and WLA as the Proposed Development is unlikely to result in effects (due to distance/ limited visibility and/or the existing pattern of wind farm development) which would significantly alter the special qualities for which landscapes are designated and their overall integrity;
- Effects on viewpoints beyond 45 km where visual effects are unlikely to be significant;
- Settlements, major transport routes, long distance trails and national cycle routes with limited theoretical visibility and/or where distance will limit the potential for significant visual and sequential effects;
- Effects on residential receptors beyond 2 km where impacts are unlikely to result in a 'breach' of the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold (see **Technical Appendix 5.2**);
- Operational landscape and visual effects associated with the Likely Grid Connection Route given the absence of any overground lines. The implementation of post construction restoration measures will mean the Likely Grid Connection Route will be generally imperceptible in the landscape during operation. No significant landscape or visual operational effects (including in-combination with the Proposed Development) are expected; and
- Effects arising from decommissioning of the Proposed Development and Likely Grid Connection Route (including in-combination with the Proposed Development), given that construction related effects will generally be similar to decommissioning activities, and will be managed through a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP).

## 5.10 Assessment of Effects

5.10.1 The assessment of effects identified above is based on the project description as outlined in **Chapter 4**. Unless otherwise stated, potential effects identified are considered to be adverse.

### Construction Effects

#### The Proposed Development

**Predicted Construction Effects**

**Sources of Effects during Construction**

5.10.2 During the estimated 20-month construction phase, there will be short-term landscape and visual effects arising from forest felling to accommodate construction; the presence of partially constructed infrastructure; and the undertaking of construction activities on the Site, including the establishment of the Site access track. Effects occurring during the construction phase are reversible unless otherwise stated, as construction works will cease on completion.

5.10.3 The changes arising from the construction of the Proposed Development will be primarily associated with:

- Approximately 105 hectares (ha) of forest felling across certain coupes (refer to **Figure 4.1.3** in **Technical Appendix 4.1: Wind Farm Forestry Plan**) to accommodate construction and wider forestry management requirements;
- the introduction of construction activity and vehicular/personnel movements around the Site, the Site access tracks and local roads;
- the potential need for lighting during construction if work extends into hours of darkness;
- subtle changes to the landform and disturbance to surface vegetation (including areas of forestry felling) at construction compound, substation, turbine bases, and along new access tracks;
- the excavation of trenches for cables adjacent to Site tracks;
- the construction and use of the construction compound;
- the construction of the substation; and
- the introduction of tall structures including turbines, and the use of cranes.

5.10.4 Most of the effects which will occur during the construction phase will be short-term and largely reversible, limited to the Site, along the Site access track and the immediate surroundings from which construction activity may be perceptible. The main exceptions to this are the permanent changes to landform, for example through creation of tracks and turbine hard standings, and the construction and erection of the turbines. The landscape and visual effects arising from the presence of partially constructed turbines, and the cranes used to do this, will be comparable to the operational effects.

**Potential Landscape Effects during Construction**

5.10.5 Potential effects on the landscape character and resources of the Site are considered in **Table 5.7** below. Landscape effects during construction will be largely limited to the host LCT (79: Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire and adjacent Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley) in which the proposed turbines and all associated Site infrastructure (including tracks) are located.

5.10.6 Effects beyond the extents of the Site will be indirect and largely related to the construction of the partially erected turbines. Areas within the Site to the east/north-east of turbines and within the wider Glenouther Forest to the north and west of turbines (see **Figures 4.1.3** and **4.1.8** of **Technical Appendix 4.1**) will help to screen views of low-level construction activity. As such, effects on the wider LCT are not considered to be any greater than operational effects and therefore have not been assessed here.

**Table 5.7 Construction Effects on the Site**

| Construction Effects on the Site | |
|---|---|
| **Baseline and Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity** | The Site extends across gently undulating large scale plateau moorland which broadly slopes from north to south from approximately 235 m AOD to 210 m AOD. Land cover across the Site mainly consists of coniferous forest with some small areas of open moorland and bog. The forest is split into geometric coupes and the separating corridors provide access. The Swinzie Burn flows from east to west along the southern extent of the Site. Corsehouse Reservoir is located to the north and the land to the north falls away towards the upper Annick Water Valley. The B769 is located within 1 km to the north-west of the Site and the M77 passes in close proximity to the east. The Site is also surrounded by a number of scattered farmsteads. The operational Whitelee (to the east) and Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms (to the north-west) all lie within approximately 5 km.<br><br>In terms of value, there are no landscape designations across the Site or Core Paths to provide promoted access.<br><br>Moorland plateaux sites which are altered by coniferous forest are of lower susceptibility to wind farm development. However, the proximity of surrounding farmsteads indicates some sensitivity. On balance, the sensitivity of this Site is judged to be **Medium**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change** | During construction, the main activities with the potential for landscape effects on the Site include: felling of approximately 105 ha of existing coniferous forest in the eastern and southern parts of the Site for construction and wider forestry management; disturbance of land and vegetation and the introduction of access tracks, turbine hard standings and temporary compound; the construction of |

| Construction Effects on the Site | |
|---|---|
| (Primary assessment) | turbines and substation; a perceived increase in activity on the Site with vehicular/personnel movements and the presence of tall cranes.<br><br>Construction activities will result in a large scale change experienced at the Site level. The majority of construction activities will be short term and reversible. The removal of certain areas of forestry will have effects that will be reduced by mitigation in the longer term (landscape and habitat enhancement proposals, as outlined on **Figure 4.1.3** of **Technical Appendix 4.1: Wind Farm Forestry Plan**).<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be **high**. |
| **Overall Level of Landscape Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the effect of construction will be **Major (significant).** However, these effects will be temporary and reversible. These effects will be experienced at the Site level. |
| **Cumulative Effects** | There are currently no other consented or proposed wind farm developments located or proposed within the Site therefore no significant cumulative landscape effects are predicted under any of the cumulative assessment scenarios. The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment. |

**Potential Visual Effects during Construction**

5.10.7 In terms of visual effects during the construction phase, beyond those experienced at the Site level where low-level construction activity will be apparent in certain views, these will largely relate to views of tall cranes (potentially with lights if present at night) and turbine construction experienced from the wider study area. These effects will be transient and change throughout the construction period as wind turbines are gradually constructed in sections. As such, visual effects during the construction phase are unlikely to exceed the level of effect associated with operational visual effects and are not assessed separately.

**Residual Construction Landscape Effects**

5.10.8 The assessment of effects above assumes all construction-related, best practice measures are implemented, therefore the residual effects arising from construction will remain as identified in the section above, a temporary **Major** (**significant**) effect on landscape.

5.10.9 The re-establishment of ground level vegetation will take approximately three to five years, depending on the vegetation and soils, and levels of effect will decline over this period.

5.10.10 There will be **no significant** landscape effects associated with temporary ground disturbance after restoration works have been completed, and vegetation has regenerated. The effects of the permanent changes to landform are considered as operational effects. Wider landscape effects associated with the construction phase will not exceed operational effects.

**Residual Construction Visual Effects**

5.10.11 Visual effects associated with the construction phase will not exceed operational effects.

### The Likely Grid Connection Route

**Sources of Effects during Construction**

5.10.12 The construction of the Likely Grid Connection Route will involve the following:

- Movement of construction vehicles and plant, and temporary construction compounds; and
- Temporary disturbance to roads and verges, as the underground cable is laid.

**Potential Landscape Effects during Construction (including in-combination with the Proposed Development)**

5.10.13 The Likely Grid Connection Route passes along road corridors. Roadside verges, typically characterised by grassland and hedgerows, will experience temporary disturbance during construction. Verges with hedgerows will be avoided where the hedgerows would be at risk of damage by excavation works.

5.10.14 Given the small footprint of construction works, which would affect only a small proportion of this relatively widespread and lower sensitivity landscape element, and the relative ease with which this vegetation (grassland verges) can re-colonise, the magnitude of change resulting from direct effects on landscape features will be **low**.

5.10.15 As such, there will be no significant direct effects on the character of the landscape during construction of the Likely Grid Connection route.

5.10.16 Indirect effects upon the character of the surrounding landscape will also be short-term and temporary in nature. They will affect a relatively narrow corridor along the Likely Grid Connection Route, with some enclosure provided along sections of the route by roadside woodland and field boundaries.

5.10.17 As such, there will be no significant indirect effects on the character of the landscape during construction of the Likely Grid Connection Route (including in-combination with the Proposed Development)

**Potential Visual Effects during Construction** (including in-combination with the Proposed Development)

5.10.18 Any visual effects associated with the construction of the Likely Grid Connection Route will be short-term and temporary in nature, experienced by local road users and a few residents situated close to the construction works. Furthermore, the Likely Grid Connection Route does not follow any key routes or Core Paths that contribute to the visual amenity experienced by recreational users of the local landscape.

5.10.19 There are therefore not expected to be any visual effects of greater than short duration and they will only be experienced from localised areas during construction.

5.10.20 As such, there will be no significant visual effects during construction of the Likely Grid Connection Route (including in-combination with the Proposed Development).

## Operational Effects (including Cumulative Effects)

### The Proposed Development

5.10.21 The main likely effects of the operational Proposed Development on the landscape will be the permanent changes to the landform/ landcover, and those associated with the presence of the wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks.

**Operational Effects on the Fabric of the Site**

5.10.22 This section describes the operational effects resulting from the Proposed Development on the landscape fabric of the Site and the LCTs which were identified as requiring detailed consideration in **Table 5.2**. Further information on key characteristics is provided in the tables below.

5.10.23 All operational effects are considered to be long-term, reversible, adverse and residual unless stated otherwise.

**Table 5.8 Operational Effects on the Site**

| Operational Effects on the Site | |
|---|---|
| **Baseline and Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity** | The Site is described above in **Table 5.7**.<br>The overall sensitivity of the Site is judged to be **medium**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change**<br>(Primary assessment) | Direct operational effects on the landscape fabric of the Site will arise through the introduction of five turbines and associated infrastructure (including access tracks, hard standings and a substation) and the removal of approximately 47 ha of forestry (approximately 41 ha for forest-to-bog restoration and 6 ha for infrastructure) which will not be restocked within the Site (see **Technical Appendix 4.1**).<br>The removal of coniferous forest and introduction of turbines will alter the character of the Site from single species coniferous forest to a more open in character moorland with a wind farm. Forestry to the east, north and west of the Site within the wider Glenouther Forest will be retained initially and 59 ha of restocking will take place within the Site, but will be subject to a future Long-Term Forestry Plan (LTFP). **Figure 4.1.6 of Technical Appendix 4.1** highlights the forest re-stocking proposals and landscape and habitat enhancement measures. Landscape and habitat enhancements |

| Operational Effects on the Site | |
|---|---|
| | measures include 'forest to bog' areas (41.5 ha) and riparian edge planting (8 ha). As these areas establish they will provide some localised positive landscape effects on landscape fabric of the Site.<br><br>The scale of change is large and the magnitude of change is judged to be **high**. |
| **Overall Level of Landscape Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the landscape effect on the Site is judged to be **Major (significant)**. These effects will be experienced at the Site level. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1) – see Figures 5.1.8 to 5.1.10** | Under this scenario a single consented turbine to the north-east (Blacklaw Hill) and Moorshield to the east, will slightly increase the influence of wind farms in the more immediate Site context.<br><br>The consented maturation warehousing facility at South Drumboy, to the east of the M77 near the Site, will also increase the influence of development, in the more immediate context.<br><br>Under this scenario, and at the Site level, the Proposed Development will continue to result in a **high** magnitude of change and **Major (significant)** effects, as identified in the primary assessment. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | There are no application stage schemes, in the more immediate context, likely to influence the level of operational effects on the Site. Effects will therefore remain as identified under scenario 1. |

**Operational Effects on Landscape Character**

5.10.24 LCTs within 45 km of the Proposed Development are illustrated on **Figure 5.1.5a,** with theoretical visibility from those LCTs illustrated on **Figure 5.1.5b**. The tables below describe the potential effects on landscape character resulting from the Proposed Development during the operational phase. Consideration is also given to potential cumulative effects on the landscape, arising in conjunction with other existing, consented, and/or proposed wind farms.

5.10.25 The assessments set out below are focussed on those LCTs where potentially significant effects are considered likely, as detailed in **Table 5.2**. Operational effects are considered long-term, reversible, adverse and residual unless otherwise stated.

**Table 5.9 Operational Effects on host LCT**

| Host LCT – 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (also includes assessment from adjacent 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley) | |
|---|---|
| **Baseline and Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity** | The following assessment considers the 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (the LCT in which the Proposed Development is proposed) and contiguous 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley (LCT to the north) given the similarities between these two areas.<br><br>Key characteristics of the 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire, are as follows:<br><br>■ *"Comparatively level topography with extensive plateau rising to soft contoured ridges and flatter basins.*<br><br>■ *Heather and grass moorland, with moss and lochs.*<br><br>■ *Extensive areas of conifer forest.*<br><br>■ *Sparse network of minor roads.*<br><br>■ *Infrequent farms and houses in valleys and on lower hill slopes on outer fringes.*<br><br>■ *Extensive operational wind farm development, with associated infrastructure, reducing wild character and sense of remoteness.*<br><br>■ *Visible as largely horizontal backdrop skyline with wind turbines from the Ayrshire Basin, parts of the Irvine Valley and Glasgow."*<br><br>The EALWCS (2024) states:<br><br>*"This landscape forms an expansive upland plateau with a generally simple landform of broad rounded hills and flatter basins. Land cover within the upland core of this landscape is also simple, dominated by coniferous forestry and grass moorland although occasional areas of moss and lochs also occur. This landscape is very sparsely settled at its core although farms and houses are sited* |

| Host LCT – 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (also includes assessment from adjacent 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley) | |
|---|---|
| | *within valleys and lower hill slopes on outer fringes where small enclosed pastures, broadleaved woodlands and some policy features occur. Wind farm development is a key feature of this landscape.*<br><br>*While the large scale, simple landform and land cover of these uplands could relate to larger turbine typologies, most of the less sensitive interior of this landscape is already occupied by extensive wind farm development. This limits scope for additional development to be accommodated. A key constraint is the need to limit the exacerbation of existing visual intrusion of large wind turbines on smaller scale lower hill slopes and valleys within this character type and in the adjacent East Ayrshire Lowlands (7c) and Upland River Valley (10) character types. There would be a High-medium sensitivity to the very large and large typologies (turbines >70m)."*<br><br>In terms of value there are no landscape designations across these LCT.<br><br>Given the susceptibility and value attached to the LCTs, the sensitivity is judged to be **medium**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | Direct operational effects on landscape fabric will arise through the introduction of five turbines and associated infrastructure and the removal of approximately 105 Ha of coniferous forest in the north-west of LCT 79. The removal of coniferous forest and introduction of turbines will alter the character of the area around Glenouther Moor. However, the coniferous forest in this area is of low landscape quality and areas to the east, north and west of the proposed turbines will be retained (and managed as commercial forestry or, where appropriate revert to bog, in the long term as part of a LTFP for Glenouther Forest). Replacement planting will include re-stocking of 58 ha of coniferous species and 7.96 ha of additional riparian edge planting, which will provide greater landscape and habitat diversity. Furthermore, for areas in the western part of the Site where forestry is not to be replanted (up to 41 ha) the land is to be returned to moorland bog ('forest-to-bog' enhancement). This will have localised beneficial effects in terms of habitat creation and returning the area to its previous land cover.<br><br>The Proposed Development will increase the area within LCTs 79 and 214 over which wind energy development exerts an influence. However, turbines have already altered the landscape, which is recognised in the key characteristics. In terms of wider effects on landscape character, effects will also arise due to longer distance views of the Proposed Development within these LCTs. Theoretical visibility is widespread through the host LCT (refer to **Figure 5.1.5b**) and from northern and western central parts of the adjacent Plateau Moorlands with Windfarms LCT. However, actual visibility will be greatly reduced by coniferous forest (which is characteristic of the LCT), especially within the southern and eastern parts of these LCTs. Depending on the vantage point and where open views towards the Proposed Development are available, it will generally be seen either:<br><br>■ as a separate wind farm, west of the M77 (views will be similar to Viewpoint 5) in a landscape which is influenced by wind farms; or<br><br>■ as additional turbines in the distance beyond closer proximity views of turbines (i.e. for recreational walkers in Whitelee Wind Farm).<br><br>The scale and magnitude of change is judged to be **medium** in the immediate surroundings of the Site and a localised surrounding area of LCTs 79 and 214 approximately 6-8 km in diameter between Neilston Community Wind Farm to the north; Whitelee Wind Farm to the east; Glassock Bridge to the south; and (east of) Kingsford to the west. In the remainder of LCTs 79 and 214, the scale of change is small and the magnitude of change is judged to be **low**. |
| **Overall Level of Landscape Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **medium** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be **Moderate (significant)** across the Site and surrounding localised area of LCTs 79 and 214 described above.<br><br>Taking into consideration the **low** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the effect of the Proposed Development is judged to **Minor (not significant) i**n the remainder of LCTs 79 and 214. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1) – refer to Figure 5.1.8 to 5.1.10** | Under this scenario a single consented turbine to the north-east (Blacklaw Hill) and Moorshield to the east (and immediately west of the operational Whitelee), will slightly increase the influence of wind farms in the more immediate context. Nether Carsewell 3 will also add a turbine to the east of Neilson Community Wind Farm, to the north of LCTs 79 and 214. Beyond this, changes to the cumulative baseline, under this scenario, will be more distant. |

| Host LCT – 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (also includes assessment from adjacent 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley) | |
|---|---|
| | The consented maturation warehousing facility at South Drumboy, to the east of the M77 near the Site, will also increase the influence of development, in the more immediate context.<br><br>The proposed Development will continue to extend the influence of wind farms, to the west of the M77 and into the north-western reaches of these LCTs. Effects on these LCTs will continue to reflect those as identified under the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)** across the Site and surrounding localised area described above, and **Minor (not significant)** elsewhere. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Application stage schemes are more distant (over 15 km) and generally behind existing wind farm clusters. As such, effects on these LCTs will continue to reflect those, as identified under the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)** across the Site and surrounding localised area described above, and **Minor (not significant)** elsewhere. |

**Table 5.10 Operational Effects on adjacent LCT**

| **66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire** | |
|---|---|
| **Baseline and Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity** | This LCT is located to the west of the host LCT. The key characteristics are as follows:<br><br>■ *"Complex landform, gently increasing in height from the coastal fringe, dissected by many burns and streams draining to incised main river valleys to create an undulating lowland landscape.*<br><br>■ *Geology dominated by coal measures, though basalt, sandstones, limestones, millstone grit and volcanic intrusions are also present.*<br><br>■ *Generally small to medium scale landscape.*<br><br>■ *Landcover is predominantly pastoral, with some arable on lower and better soils.*<br><br>■ *Fields often regular in shape and enclosed by beech or hawthorn hedges, with mature hedgerow trees giving the landscape a surprisingly wooded character.*<br><br>■ *Settlement pattern historic in origin based upon larger, more self-contained farmsteads set in a hinterland of fields.*<br><br>■ *Number of larger towns and villages with historic cores surrounded by more modern development.*<br><br>■ *Several major road corridors creating a degree of conflict between the rural character and presence of heavy traffic.*<br><br>■ *Dense network of often very rural minor roads.*<br><br>■ *Varying landscape character which ranges from very rural to more fragmented and developed landscapes on urban fringes.*<br><br>■ *Views tend to be dictated by the local topography and landcover."*<br><br>In terms of value there are no landscape designations on this LCT. However, there are a number of GDL and Country Parks which represent smaller features in this large scale LCT.<br><br>Given the susceptibility and value attached to this LCT, the sensitivity is judged to be **high**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | Indirect operational landscape effects will arise mainly through the introduction of five turbines in the neighbouring 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire LCT, located at a distance of approximately 2 km at its closest point.<br><br>Theoretical visibility is widespread through this LCT, to the north between Kilmarnock and Dunlop, and from areas of higher ground further west and south (refer to **Figure 5.1.5b**). Actual visibility will be reduced by hedgerows, woodland and areas of settlement, which are features characteristic of this LCT. Where open views towards the Proposed Development are available, these tend to be wide angle and longer distance with the Proposed Development typically forming a smaller element in the wider view and seen on gently undulating horizons in the context/ as part of the operational Whitelee Wind Farm and its Extensions (refer to Viewpoints 4, 7 and 9) – **Figure 5.2.4, 7 and 9**). |

| 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | |
|---|---|
| | The scale of change and overall magnitude of change is judged to be **medium** from the eastern edge of the LCT, to the north-east of Stewarton. From the remainder of the LCT the scale of change will be no greater than small (with a low magnitude of change). |
| **Overall Level of Landscape Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the medium magnitude of change and the high sensitivity, the effect of the Proposed Development on this LCT is judged to be **Moderate (significant)** from a localised area to the north-east of the LCT, to the north-east of Stewarton and contained within approximately 5 km of the Proposed Development. Beyond this, effects will fall below the threshold of significance. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Under both scenarios, changes to the cumulative context, within this LCT, are limited. A single consented turbine to the north-east (Blacklaw Hill) of the Site and Moorshield to the east (and immediately west of the operational Whitelee) will slightly increase the influence of wind farms in the adjacent LCT, in certain views looking north-east. Changes to the baseline under Scenario 2, within this LCT, are limited.<br><br>Effects on this LCT will reflect those as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)** from a localised area to the north-east of the LCT, to the north-east of Stewarton and contained within approximately 5 km of the Proposed Development |

### Operational Visual Effects

5.10.26 The assessment of visual effects from the 18 viewpoints selected to represent views of the Proposed Development (as listed in **Table 5.3** and shown on **Figures 5.1.2 and 5.1.3**) are set out below. This assessment assumes that all effects are long-term, during the proposed 35-year operational lifespan of the Proposed Development, and reversible, unless stated otherwise. A summary of effects on visual receptors is provided in **Table 5.31.**

5.10.27 Accompanying visualisations for each assessment viewpoint are contained in **Volumes 3b and 3c of the EIA Report**. The visualisations were prepared in accordance with the methodology set out in **Technical Appendix 5.1**.

**Table 5.11 Viewpoint 1**

| Viewpoint 1 – A77 near Drumboy[8] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 249341, 648952 | Figure Number | 5.2.1 |
| LCT | 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | West | Distance to nearest turbine | 1.06 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on the A77, to the east of the M77 and to the east of the Site. The viewpoint is representative of views from the properties at Drumboy, which face in a western direction towards the Site. The view is also representative of oblique views for road users and cyclists on the A77/ local cycle route as they pass the Site.<br><br>From this location open, wide angle, close proximity views looking over the motorway towards the coniferous forest on Glenouther Moor are available. The tops of the forest form the near horizon with areas of open moorland visible beyond the motorway to the south of the Site.<br><br>Residential receptors are of high susceptibility. Road users/cyclists on this local route are of medium susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape or of recognised importance, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>Nevertheless, the sensitivity of the view is judged to be **high** given that it represents direct, primary views from residential properties nearest the Site. | | |

[8] A night time assessment has also been undertaken from this viewpoint, refer to Technical Appendix 5.3.

| Viewpoint 1 – A77 near Drumboy[8] | |
|---|---|
| | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in close proximity open views to the west at a distance of 1.06 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The layout will present a simple and coherent group with little overlapping between wind turbines. T1 to T4 will be seen behind some retained forestry to the east of the Site. The Site access track, to the far east of the Site will be apparent, with T5 seen to the south of this. The proposed substation is also apparent, seen in front of T5. Beyond this, access tracks connecting the turbines and other low level ancillary elements will be screened by retained forestry to the east of the Site (whilst this remains in place). As forest re-stocking proposals in the eastern part of the Site mature (see **Figure 4.1.6** of **Technical Appendix 4.1**), they will also provide low level screening in the future.<br>The scale of change is large. The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**.<br>Views of this type will be experienced from a short section of the road (under 2 km in length as the road passes to the east of the Site) and are therefore considered to be small in geographical extent. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **high** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Major (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | Some limited visibility he consented Moorshield Wind Farm, in successive views to the east.<br>Slightly south of this viewpoint location, the consented maturation warehousing facility at South Drumboy, to the east of the M77 near the Site, will also increase the influence of development, in the more immediate context.<br>The Proposed Development will be seen in close proximity views to the west, resulting in a large scale of visual change.<br>The level of effect will remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Major (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Views of application stage wind farms are limited/ screened by vegetation.<br>The level of effect will remain as identified in the primary and Scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Major** (**significant**). |

**Table 5.12 Viewpoint 2**

| Viewpoint 2 – Glassock Bridge (A77/A719) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 247762, 645511 | Figure Number | 5.2.2 |
| LCT | 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North | Distance to nearest turbine | 2.85 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on the A719, near its junction with the A77, to the south of the Site. The view is mainly experienced by road users and representative of slightly oblique views from Glassock Bridge and oblique views for road users travelling in a northern direction on the M77.<br>From this location open, wide angle, shorter distance views looking over the motorway and rising, gently undulating farmland are available. The rising terrain forms the horizon with trees and shelter belts breaking the skyline to the north of view. Open moorland and | | |

| Viewpoint 2 – Glassock Bridge (A77/A719) | |
|---|---|
| | coniferous forest form simple skylines visible in the longer distance to the north-east of view. Turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm are also apparent in this direction.<br><br>Road users on these major roads are of lower susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape or otherwise of recognised importance, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is judged to be **low**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the north at a distance of 2.85 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The Proposed Development will appear as a coherent, single group of turbines, partially screened by woodland/ mature trees on the horizon. The access tracks connecting the turbines and other low level ancillary elements will be screened by the rising landform.<br><br>The proposed turbines will be seen in combined views with Whitelee Wind Farm, which is visible to the north-east of view.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in short distance, slightly oblique views for road users crossing Glassock Bridge.<br><br>The scale of change is large. The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**.<br><br>This view will be experienced from the bridge and is also representative of views for road users travelling in a northern direction on the M77 for a short section of the road (approximately 2 km in length between Glassock Bridge and Junction 6) and is therefore considered to have a medium geographical extent. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **low** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | Moorshield Wind Farm seen in combined views, to the north-east, with the Proposed Development. There is a gap between the schemes, with Moorshield seen to the east of the M77, nearer turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in short distance, slightly oblique views to north for road users crossing Glassock Bridge resulting in a large scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant).** |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Views of application stage wind farms are limited.<br><br>Effects under this scenario will reflect the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Moderate** (**significant**). |

**Table 5.13 Viewpoint 3**

| Viewpoint 3 – Harelaw Road, near Neilston | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 246459, 652073 | Figure Number | 5.2.3 |
| LCT | 202 - Rugged Upland Farmland | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | South-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 3.4 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on the Harelaw Road and representative of scattered residential properties to the north-west of the Site. Similar, oblique views will also be available from the minor road. | | |

| Viewpoint 3 – Harelaw Road, near Neilston | |
|---|---|
| | From this location open, wide angle, short distance views looking over gently rising moorland are available. The rising ground forms the horizon and there are blocks of coniferous forest visible. Turbines including those in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm are apparent to the south-east, with Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms visible in wider successive views (with clear separation between all wind farms).<br><br>Residential receptors are of high susceptibility and road users on slower moving minor roads are of medium susceptibility. Most will experience the view as road users. The view is not within a designated landscape and the value is considered to be low.<br><br>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the south-east at a distance of 3.4 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The turbines will read as a compact and coherent group. Coniferous forest on the horizon will help to partially screen views of T2, T3 and T5. The access tracks connecting the turbines and other low level ancillary elements will be screened by the landform.<br><br>The proposed turbines will be seen in combined views with Whitelee and successive views with Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms. Coniferous forest on the horizon will help to further obscure any visual coalescence between the Proposed Development and Whitelee Wind Farm. Furthermore, the scale of the Whitelee turbines visible to the left of the coniferous forest will allow this scheme to be read as a distinct and separate scheme in the longer distance with a limited number of turbines within this large wind farm actually being visible.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in short distance, oblique views for road users (and direct views for a limited number of residential properties).<br><br>The scale of change is large. The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**.<br><br>Theoretical visibility is available from most of the Harelaw Road, although localised vegetation and built form may limit visibility from certain sections of the road. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Major (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | In combined views to south-east, there will be some limited visibility of turbine blades in Moorshield Wind Farm, seen beyond coniferous forest and in the context of turbine blades in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm.<br><br>The small, consented turbine at Blacklaw Hill will also be visible on the horizon, in views to the south-east.<br><br>The single turbine at Nether Carsewell will be visible in successive views to the north-west.<br><br>The Proposed Development will continue to read as a distinct wind farm, seen in short distance, oblique views to south-east for road users (and direct views for a limited number of residential properties) resulting in a large scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Major (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Views of application stage wind farms are limited, or successive and long distance (Crosbie Wind Farm) and do not notably change the cumulative baseline.<br><br>Effects under this scenario will reflect the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Major** (**significant**). |

**Table 5.14 Viewpoint 4**

| Viewpoint 4 – Kingsford (B769) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 244019, 647946 | Figure Number | 5.2.4 |
| LCT | 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | East | Distance to nearest turbine | 3.68 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on the B769, west of the small community of Kingsford. The view is representative of slightly oblique views for road users travelling in an eastern direction of the B769. The view is also representative of residential receptors in Kingsford. Whilst the principal views from properties in this linear settlement are orientated to the north-west, similar oblique views from rear external areas (and the gable end of the most easterly property) may be available.<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle, short-distance views looking over gently undulating farmland towards the forested Glenouther Moor are available. Rooftops of the properties in Kingsford are visible in the foreground nestled between woodland. Trees, shelter belts and dark swathes of coniferous forest on the undulating terrain form the horizon. Whilst this presents quite a simple skyline, a large steel tower overhead line crosses the view and operational turbines including those in Middleton (to the north-east), Whitelee and the single turbine at Clonherb (to the east of view) are also apparent.<br><br>Road users on this slower moving minor road, which is how the view will be experienced by most, are of medium susceptibility. Residential receptors are of high susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape and is considered to be of low value.<br><br>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the north-east at a distance of 3.68 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The Proposed development will read as a coherent group of turbines, though noting a slight gap between T2 and T4. The arrangement of the layout will change as road users move along this route. Coniferous forest being retained to west of the Site will also help to screen the lower sections of the turbine towers, the access tracks and other low level ancillary elements (whilst this remains in place).<br><br>The proposed turbines will be seen in combined views with Middleton and Whitelee Wind Farm, and is likely to read as a distinct scheme seen in the foreground.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in shorter distance, slightly oblique views for road users (and secondary views from a limited number of properties in Kingsford). It will bring further wind turbines in closer proximity to the viewpoint resulting in a large scale of change..<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from the B769 west of Kingsford and when passing the Site (approximately 3 km). | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Major (significant)**. | | |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | Moorshield and the smaller consented turbine at Blacklaw Hill will both be visible in combined views to the east. Forestry will partially screen lower parts of Moorshield. The Proposed Development will be seen in front of this cumulative development and read as a larger wind farm in the foreground. This will result in a large magnitude of visual change compared to the scenario 1 baseline. | | |

| Viewpoint 4 – Kingsford (B769) | |
|---|---|
| | Views of other consented wind farm will be successive, limited or very long distance, and will not notably further change the baseline view.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Major (significant).** |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Views of application stage wind farms are successive, limited and long distance and do not notably change the cumulative baseline.<br><br>Effects under this scenario will reflect the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Major** (**significant**). |

**Table 5.15 Viewpoint 5**

| Viewpoint 5 – Queenseat (B764) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 252532, 649126 | Figure Number | 5.2.5 |
| LCT | 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | West | Distance to nearest turbine | 4.24 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on a minor road to the north-west of the visitor centre at Whitelee Wind Farm. Due to the rising terrain to the north-west of the visitor centre, views from the centre itself will be limited. The view is representative of road users travelling in a western direction (a route which visitors to the wind farm, driving back to the M77, are likely to take).<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle, long-distance views looking over gently undulating moorland broken up with dark swathes of coniferous forest are available. Pockets of lusher farmland, in lower lying land off the moorland plateau are also visible. Distant hills to the west and the isle of Arran form the more dramatic horizon. Combined views of the single turbine at Clonherb and more distant wind farms to the west and north-west (including Ardrossan Phase 1 and 2, Sorbie Farm, Millour Hill and Neilston) are available. Successive, close proximity views of turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm to the east are also available.<br><br>Given that this road is used by tourists to visit Whitelee Farm (now a popular tourist attraction which includes a visitor centre and mountain bike tracks) the susceptibility is somewhat raised. The view is not within a designated landscape and the value is considered to be low.<br><br>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the west at a distance of 4.24 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky (with the turbine towers partially back dropped by the landscape behind) and seen within the context of retained coniferous forest in Glenouther Moor. The Proposed Development will appear as a coherent, single group of turbines. There is a slight gap between T2 and T4, however, the arrangement of the layout will change as road users move along this route. The undulating terrain between the viewpoint and the Site will largely screen views of forest removal and new access tracks to the east of the Site. Forest removal within the core of the Site will be apparent, but the change associated with this will be very subtle.<br><br>The proposed turbines will be seen in combined views with the small single operational turbine at Clonherb and operational wind farms further north and west. There will be a degree of visual coalescence between the Proposed Development and the distant Ardrossan Wind Farm (Phase1 and 2). However, Ardrossan Wind Farm will clearly read as a distinct and separate wind farm in longer distance, wide angle views from this location. | | |

| Viewpoint 5 – Queenseat (B764) | |
|---|---|
| | Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in short distance, slightly oblique views for road users resulting in a medium scale of change.<br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **medium**.<br>Views of this nature will be experienced from approximately 1 km of the B764. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **medium** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | In combined views to the west, Moorshield will introduce wind turbines into the foreground of the view. Views of other consented wind farms (in combined views to the west) will be partially screened by forestry or seen in the context of longer distance operational wind farms.<br>Views of other consented wind farms, in successive views to the east, will be difficult to discern as they will be seen beyond the large number of wind turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm.<br>The Proposed Development will read as a distinct wind farm seen beyond the consented Moorshield (and in front of longer distance operational wind farms near Ardrossan). It will be seen in short distance, slightly oblique views to the west for road users resulting in a medium scale of visual change.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Crosbie and Ardeer Wind Farms will increase the influence of wind farms in combined views to the west. Crosbie will extend the influence of wind turbines seen on distant horizons in the context of operational wind farms including Millour Hill.<br>Views of further distant application stage wind farms will generally be difficult to decipher from the large number of turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm, seen in successive views to the east.<br>The Proposed Development will read as a distinct wind farm seen beyond the consented Moorshield (and in front of longer distance operational and consented wind farms to the west). The scale of change will be medium.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Moderate (significant).** |

**Table 5.16 Viewpoint 6**

| Viewpoint 6 – Neilston Pad | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 247558, 654935 | Figure Number | 5.2.6 |
| LCT | Rugged Upland Farmlands | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | South | Distance to nearest turbine | 5.86 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on a footpath on high ground on the escarpment of Neilston Pad. This summit can be accessed via footpaths from the south.<br>From this location open, wide angle, medium distance views looking over Harelaw Dam, which is enclosed by the surrounding higher ground to the south including Lochend Hill, are available. Land cover is characterised by a mixture of coniferous forest and moorland on the higher ground (and forming the horizon) and improved and rough grazing on the lower lying ground around the water body. Wind farms including the operational Middleton Wind Farm is visible in close proximity to the south-east of the view, with turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm seen behind. Neilston Community Wind Farm is also visible in successive views. | | |

| Viewpoint 6 – Neilston Pad | |
|---|---|
| | Recreational receptors are of medium susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape, however given that it forms the high point on a locally popular walk the value of the view is considered to be medium.<br><br>Accordingly, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the south at a distance of 5.86 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The Proposed Development will appear as a coherent, single group.<br><br>The proposed turbines will be seen in combined views to the south-west of the operational Middleton Wind Farm. The two schemes will appear as distinct and separate wind farms with the proposed turbines clearly reading as a more distant wind farm. The Proposed Development will also be seen in front of more distant wind farms including South Kyle, with these distant turbines being harder to perceive.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance views for recreational users on the footpath on Neilston Pad.<br><br>The overall scale and magnitude of change is judged to be **medium**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from a short section of the footpath as it rises above coniferous forest on the approach to Neilston Pad summit. Views from the summit area will be filtered by broadleaf woodland. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **medium** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | The single consented turbine at Nether Carswell II will be visible in shorter distance, combined views to the south. Due to the elevated nature of the viewpoint, a number of other consented wind farms will increase the influence of wind farms in combined and successive views, generally seen in the context of longer distance operational wind farm clusters.<br><br>The Proposed Development will continue to read as a distinct wind farm, seen in front of a now slightly larger distant wind farm group, including the consented Rigmuir.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance views to the south for recreational users on the footpath on Neilston Pad resulting in a medium scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant).** |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | A number of application stage wind farms will increase the influence of wind farms in combined and successive views, generally seen in the context of longer distance wind farm clusters.<br><br>The Proposed Development will continue to read as a distinct wind farm, seen in front of a now slightly larger distant wind farm group, including the application stage South Kyle 2 and Breezy Hill.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance views to the south for recreational users on the footpath on Neilston Pad resulting in a medium scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e **Moderate (significant).** |

**Table 5.17 Viewpoint 7**

| Viewpoint 7 – Dunlop Road (A735), Stewarton[9] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 241645, 646478 | Figure Number | 5.2.7 |
| LCT | 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 6.4 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on a small area of open, recreational ground to the west of Dunlop Road on the northern outskirts of Stewarton. The view is representative of residential views from certain properties on rising ground to the north of Stewarton. Similar views may also be experienced from certain properties with open views, on the eastern edge of the settlement. Visibility from the centre of this settlement (the Main Street) and the majority of properties within the settlement is limited, owing to screening by nearby buildings.<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle views looking over a field towards properties on rising ground to the north-east of Stewarton are available. Glimpses of more distant farmland, woodland and moorland contribute to the horizon too. A ruined monument and distant overhead line add vertical elements to the skyline. Blades within Whitelee Wind Farm and the single turbine at Clonherb are also apparent to the centre and east of the view. Other operational schemes are visible in wider views, though don't really form a notable component of the view.<br><br>The viewpoint is representative of views, where available, from a settlement. Residential receptors are of high susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape and is considered to be of lower value.<br><br>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views seen beyond the houses and woodland in views to the north-east at a distance of 6.4 km. The hubs of two and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The houses and woodland on the horizon will help to screen lower parts of the proposed turbine towers and hubs of T1, T2 and T3.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views with Whitelee Wind Farm and the single turbine at Clonherb, adding further turbine blades onto the horizon. It will still read as a distinct wind farm, however.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance views for residential receptors on a horizon which has already been altered by turbines. The Proposed Development will also be partially screened by intervening buildings and vegetation.<br><br>The overall scale and magnitude of change is judged to be **medium**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from a limited number of properties to the north of Stewarton. This view is not representative of views from the centre of or the wider settlement. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking a precautionary approach to the assessment, and the **medium** magnitude of change and the **high** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant)**. These effects are contained to a localised area to the north of Stewarton (similar views may also be experienced from certain properties with open views, on the eastern edge of the settlement). Views for the majority of residents in the settlement will, however, be screened by intervening features and will not be significant. | | |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | The consented Moorshield will add some further, albeit limited, visibility of turbine blades onto the horizon in views to the north-east. Views of other consented wind farms, including Blacklaw Hill, will be very limited, owing to screening by intervening features in Stewarton. | | |

[9] A night time assessment has also been undertaken from this viewpoint, refer to Technical Appendix 5.3.

| Viewpoint 7 – Dunlop Road (A735), Stewarton[9] | |
|---|---|
| | The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views in front of Moorshield Wind Farm. It will read as a distinct wind farm in medium distant views to the north-east. This is judged to result in a medium scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Views of application stage wind farms will be limited by intervening features, or seen in successive and long-distance views in the context of operational wind farms (South Kyle 2 and Overhill application stage wind farms). As such, the baseline view will not notably change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Moderate (significant).** |

**Table 5.18 Viewpoint 8**

| Viewpoint 8 – Berryhill, near Moscow (A719) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 248561, 640996 | Figure Number | 5.2.8 |
| LCT | 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North | Distance to nearest turbine | 7.37 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on a minor road, immediately west of the A719 near Berryhill. The view is representative of direct views for road users travelling in a northern direction of the A719. Views from within the settlement of Moscow (to the south of this viewpoint) are typically screened due to the rising ground/ buildings to the north of this community.<br><br>From this location open, wide angle, medium distance views looking over gently undulating farmland composed mainly of pasture, shelter belts and deciduous woodland are available. This land cover stretches into the middle distance to form the relatively flat horizon. Distant views of the small operational turbine at Clonherb, a limited number of turbines within the operational Whitelee Wind Farm (to the far north-east of view) and a wood pole pylon break the skyline and add vertical elements to the view. The operational Middleton Wind Farm is also theoretically visible, however woodland on the horizon largely obscures views of this scheme. Further operational wind farms are apparent in distant successive views to the west.<br><br>Road users on the faster moving road are of low susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is judged to be **low**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The Proposed Development will be visible in open views looking north at a distance of 7.4 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible seen against the sky. The Proposed Development will be read as a single group of turbines with some overlapping between T3 and T5.<br><br>The Development will be seen as a separate and distinct wind farm in combined views to the west of turbines within the operational Whitelee Wind Farm (which are in closer proximity to the viewer in successive views) and to the east of the small turbine at Clonherb.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance, direct views for road users resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from a short section of the A719 as it crests the hill to the north of Moscow. The geographical extent of effects is considered to be small. | | |

| Viewpoint 8 – Berryhill, near Moscow (A719) | |
|---|---|
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **low** magnitude of change and the **low** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Consented and proposed schemes will increase the influence of wind farms in multiple viewing directions. Under both scenarios, the Proposed Development will read as a distinct wind farm seen on the horizon in middle distance views to the north, which are altered by wind turbines. Small scale of visual change and low magnitude of change.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant).** |

**Table 5.19 Viewpoint 9**

| Viewpoint 9 – Buiston (A735) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 241138, 642612 | Figure Number | 5.2.9 |
| LCT | 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 8.84 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on the A735, between Kilmaurs and Stewarton. The viewpoint is representative of oblique views for road users travelling in a northern direction. Similar views may also be available for scattered residential properties in the area to the south of Stewarton. However, for most the view will be experienced from the road.<br>From this location open views looking over the surrounding undulating and gently rising farmland are available. The view is composed of pasture, hedgerows and farmsteads and the horizon is formed by open undulating farmland and blocks of mixed woodland. A few operational wind arms are theoretically visible but they are almost imperceptible, appearing very close to the horizon and largely screened by hedgerows and other vegetation.<br>Road users on this faster moving road are of low susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is **low**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views looking north-east at a distance of 8.84 km. The blades of five turbines will be theoretically visible, seen behind the horizon. Woodland on the horizon will screen much of the Proposed Development.<br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance, oblique views for road users resulting in a small scale of change<br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br>Views of this nature will be experienced from numerous locations along the A735 between Stewarton and Kilmaurs. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the low magnitude of change and the low sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. | | |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Views of consented and proposed wind farms are very limited. The Proposed Development will be seen in medium distance, oblique views for road users resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant).** | | |

**Table 5.20 Viewpoint 10**

| Viewpoint 10 – Foreside | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 245748, 657222 | Figure Number | 5.2.10 |
| LCT | 207 - Upland River Valley - Glasgow & Clyde Valley | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | South | Distance to nearest turbine | 8.5 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on rising ground on a minor road to the north-west of Neilston. The view is representative of views from scattered, elevated residential properties on the southern facing slopes on the Lochliboside Hills with views looking south over the upper extents of the Levern Burn valley.<br><br>From this location open, wide angle, medium to longer distance views looking over rolling farmland are available. Woodland copses, shelter belts and hedgerow form the field boundaries and there are larger areas of coniferous forest on the hills which form the horizon. Isolated scattered farmsteads are visible in views to the south-east, with a denser pattern of urban development in views to the east (the settlement of Neilston). There are also a number of vertical elements within the view including overhead lines, smaller single turbines in the foreground, larger wind farms including Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms. Longer distance views of wind farms including Whitelee Wind Farm are also available.<br><br>Residential receptors are of high susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views to the south-east at a distance of 8.5 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible, seen against the sky. The Proposed Development will appear as a single coherent group of turbines.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views between the operational Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms (and smaller single turbines near both these schemes). Due to separation distances and the difference in scale between turbines in the view, the Proposed Development will read as a separate wind farm in the longer distance but will contribute to the number of wind farms in the view.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen by residential receptors in medium distance views, which have already been notably altered by wind energy development, resulting in a medium-small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low-medium**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from a limited number of residential properties on the high ground to the north-west of Neilston. As such the geographical extent of effects is considered to be small. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the low-medium magnitude of change and the high sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant). This judgement is just on the edge of the significance threshold and will apply to residential receptors on the southern facing slopes on the Lochliboside Hills with open primary views towards the Proposed Development. For road users, effects will fall below the threshold of significance.** | | |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | The single consented turbine at Nether Carsewell II will be visible on the horizon to the south. Turbine blades in Moorshield will also just be apparent beyond Middleton Wind Farm. Views of other consented wind farms will be longer distance and successive.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen in combined views between the operational Middleton and Neilston Community Wind Farms (and smaller single turbines near both these schemes | | |

| Viewpoint 10 – Foreside | |
|---|---|
| | including the consented Nether Carsewell II). Due to separation distances and the difference in scale between turbines in the view, the Proposed Development will read as a separate wind farm in the longer distance, resulting in a low-medium scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)** for residential receptors. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Application stage wind farms will slightly increase the influence of distant wind farm groups, but the baseline view will not notably change under this scenario.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Moderate (significant)** for residential receptors. |

**Table 5.21 Viewpoint 11**

| Viewpoint 11 – Standing Stones to north of Irvine | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 233983, 641484 | Figure Number | 5.2.11 |
| LCT | 066 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | On the southern edge of Eglinton Country Park |
| Direction of View | North-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 15.47 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is representative of recreational walkers on an area of high ground (with large stones which are not designated for cultural heritage) to the north of Irvine. The viewpoint is situated on a local path network which links the country park to the north-east of Irvine.<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle, long-distance views looking over undulating farmland/ woodland are available. Scattered farmsteads are located throughout the view. The horizon in views looking north-east is relatively flat and also characterised by areas of woodland. The views of operational wind farms are largely screened by intervening features or are longer distance and do not form a notable component of the view. Ardrossan Wind Farm is apparent on distant horizons to the north-west.<br><br>Recreational receptors on this local path network are of medium susceptibility. The view represents a high point on the edge of a country park and walkers are likely to stop and appreciate the wider views, therefore the value of the view is considered to be medium.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is **medium**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views looking north-east at a distance of 15.47 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be theoretically visible seen against the sky. Intervening woodland will partially screen the Proposed Development.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen to the north-west of the operational Whitelee Wind Farm (and noting views of this scheme are largely screened by vegetation), adding further turbines onto the horizon in long distance views.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in long distance views for recreational users of the footpath resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>Views of this nature are limited to the high ground around the standing stones (similar views may be experienced from high rise flats within Irvine with views orientated to the north-east). | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **low** magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. | | |

| Viewpoint 11 – Standing Stones to north of Irvine | |
|---|---|
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Consented and proposed schemes will theoretically increase the influence of wind farms in multiple viewing directions. However, intervening features will play a screening role (for example, the nearby consented Moorshield Wind Farm is screened by forestry, from this location).<br><br>Under both scenarios the Proposed Development will be seen to the north-west of the operational Whitelee Wind Farm, adding further turbines onto the horizon in long distance views. Small scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant).** |

**Table 5.22 Viewpoint 12**

| Viewpoint 12 – B7038 Ditton south of Kilmarnock | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 241235, 634094 | Figure Number | 5.2.12 |
| LCT | 066 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 15.73 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located on rising ground on a minor road between the B7038 (to the north) and the A77 (to the south). The view is representative of views from scattered, elevated residential properties looking across Kilmarnock. The view is also representative of road users travelling in a north-east direction on the approach to Kilmarnock.<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle, long-distance views looking over undulating farmland are available. Rooftops in the settlement of Kilmarnock are also apparent to the north-west of view. The long-distance horizon in views looking north-east is composed of the relatively flat plateau moorlands. Wind farms including Neilston, Whitelee, Middleton and further operational schemes in views to the north-west are also visible on the horizon.<br><br>Residential receptors are of high susceptibility. Road users, as this view will be experienced by most, are of low susceptibility. The view is not within a designated landscape, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views looking north-east at a distance of 15.73 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible on the horizon. The Proposed Development will be seen in long distance views looking north-east to the east of the operational Middleton Wind Farm and single turbine at Clonherb. The operational Whitelee Wind Farm will also be visible as a large cluster of turbines seen in long distance views on the horizon further east of the view.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in long distance views on the horizon in the context of other operational wind farms, for road users and scattered residential receptors resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>Views of this nature are limited to the higher ground to the south-west of Kilmarnock. Therefore, the geographical extent of effects is considered to be small. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the low magnitude of change and the **medium** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. | | |

| Viewpoint 12 – B7038 Ditton south of Kilmarnock | |
|---|---|
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | Moorshield, Blacklaw Hill and Nether Carswell II will add further turbines onto distant horizons to the north-east. Views of other consented wind farms will be longer distance and successive.<br>The Proposed Development will be seen between the operational Middleton Wind Farm and the consented Moorshield. It is likely to continue to read as a distinct wind farm in the distance. Small scale of visual change.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Application stage schemes will slightly increase the influence of wind farms, in long distance and successive views.<br>The Proposed Development will be seen between the operational Middleton Wind Farm and the consented Moorshield. It is likely to continue to read as a distinct wind farm in the distance. Small scale of visual change.<br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Minor (not significant)**. |

**Table 5.23 Viewpoint 13**

| Viewpoint 13 – Loudoun Hill | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 260874, 637893 | Figure Number | 5.2.13 |
| LCT | 069 - Upland River Valleys - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North-west | Distance to nearest turbine | 16.37 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| Commentary | As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA.<br>The wireline highlights that the Proposed Development will be seen behind turbines within the large scale operational Whitelee Wind Farm, in distant views. These five additional turbines will be difficult to discern from turbines in the operational wind farm.<br>**No significant effects (including cumulative).** | | |

**Table 5.24 Viewpoint 14**

| Viewpoint 14 – Kilbirnie Connelston, A760 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 229608, 654212 | Figure Number | 5.2.14 |
| LCT | 067 - Broad Valley Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | Edge of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Special Landscape Area |
| Direction of View | South-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 18.75 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| Commentary | As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA. | | |

| Viewpoint 14 – Kilbirnie Connelston, A760 | |
|---|---|
| | The wireline highlights that the Proposed Development will be seen in front of turbines within the large scale operational Whitelee Wind Farm, in distant views. In this context these five additional turbines will result in a very small scale of visual change.<br><br>**No significant effects (including cumulative).** |

**Table 5.25 Viewpoint 15**

| Viewpoint 15 – Mauchline, A76 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 249198, 628815 | Figure Number | 5.2.15 |
| LCT | 066 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | Landscape Designations | None |
| Direction of View | North | Distance to nearest turbine | 19.56 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is representative of direct views, for road users travelling in a northern direction on the A76. This viewpoint is also representative of scattered properties to the north of Mauchline. The majority of residents in the settlement of Mauchline are located outside the project ZTV, with rising ground to the north of the settlement providing screening.<br><br>From this location open, wide-angle, long-distance views looking over gently undulating farmland are available. The horizon is relatively flat, however the higher ground in Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park is visible to the far north-west of view. The wide horizontal angle occupied by turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm is apparent from this location. Other wind farms including Middleton and Neilston Wind Farms are also apparent in the distance to the west of Whitelee Wind Farm.<br><br>The majority of viewers will appreciate this view as road users, which are of lower sensitivity on this faster moving road. The view is not within a designated landscape, therefore the value of the view is considered to be low.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is **low**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views looking north at a distance of 19.56 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible on the distant horizon. The Proposed Development will be seen to the west, and from this distance may read as part of, the operational Middleton Wind Farm.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in long distance, direct views for road users. These views have already been altered by distant views of turbines on the horizon mainly through the operational Whitelee Wind Farm resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>Views of this nature will be experienced from a short section of the A76, to the north of Mauchline. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **low** magnitude of change and the **low** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. | | |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1)** | Moorshield, Blacklaw Hill, Nether Carswell II and Swinlees will add further turbines onto distant horizons to the north. Views of other consented wind farms will be long distance and successive.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen between the operational Middleton Wind Farm and the cluster including the consented Nether Carswell II, on horizons which are altered by wind farms. From this distance, it may continue to read as part of the operational Middleton Wind Farm. Small scale of visual change. | | |

| Viewpoint 15 – Mauchline, A76 | |
|---|---|
| | The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2)** | Application stage cumulative developments will slightly increase the influence of wind farms, in long distance views to the north-east and north-west.<br><br>The Proposed Development will continue to be seen between the operational Middleton Wind Farm and the cluster including the consented Nether Carswell II, on horizons which are altered by wind farms. From this distance, it may continue to read as part of the operational Middleton Wind Farm. Small scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Minor (not significant).** |

**Table 5.26 Viewpoint 16**

| Viewpoint 16 – Glasgow Necropolis | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 260403, 665541 | Figure Number | 5.2.16 |
| LCT | Urban | Landscape Designations | GDL |
| Direction of View | South-west | Distance to nearest turbine | 20.4 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is representative of recreational receptors at a high point in Glasgow Necropolis.<br><br>From this location open, panoramic, long-distance views looking over the graveyard towards urban development in Glasgow are available. The plateau moorlands to the south rise to form the gently undulating horizon. Turbines including those within the operational Middleton, Neilston Community and Whitelee Wind Farm are apparent on the horizon, plus other more distant cumulative developments. There are further, more prominent, vertical elements within the foreground and middle-distance view including monuments, chimneys, high rise buildings and cranes.<br><br>Recreational receptors/visitors to the Necropolis are of medium susceptibility. The view is located within a GDL and as it forms a high point in the area, people are likely to move towards this area to gain wider views of Glasgow and the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the value of the view is considered to be high.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is **medium-high**. | | |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open views looking south-west at a distance of 20.4 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible on the distant horizon. The Proposed Development will be seen between the operational Middleton and Whitelee Wind Farms, adding further turbines on to the distant horizon.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in long distance, panoramic views for visitors to the Necropolis. The proposed turbines will be seen on a horizon which has already been altered by distant views of turbines. The scale of change is judged to be small.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>The geographical extent of effects is considered to be small, as views of this nature are experienced from the higher ground within the graveyard. | | |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the low magnitude of change and the medium-high sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant).** | | |

| Viewpoint 16 – Glasgow Necropolis | |
|---|---|
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Under both scenarios, the key changes to the baseline relate to the consented Moorshield and Nether Carsewell II, seen on distant horizons to the south-west. Changes associated with other consented and proposed cumulative developments will be long distance and more subtle.<br><br>The Proposed Development will be seen between Moorshield and the operational Middleton. It will read as a distinct wind farm on distant horizons which are notably altered by wind farms. Small scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary and scenario 1 assessments, i.e. **Minor (not significant)**. |

**Table 5.27 Viewpoint 17**

| Viewpoint 17 – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 231549, 663197 | Figure Number | 5.2.17 |
| LCT | 216 - Rugged Moorland Hills | Landscape Designations | Regional Park/ Country Park |
| Direction of View | South-east | Distance to nearest turbine | 21.5 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| Commentary | As agreed through scoping, a wireline view is presented, with detailed assessment scoped out of this LVIA.<br><br>The wireline highlights that the Proposed Development will be seen in front of turbines within the large scale operational Whitelee Wind Farm, in distant views. In this context these five additional turbines will result in a very small scale of visual change.<br><br>**No significant effects (including cumulative).** | | |

**Table 5.28 Viewpoint 18**

| Viewpoint 18 – Wrights Well, Campsie Fells | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grid Ref | 261537, 680053 | Figure Number | 5.2.18 |
| LCT | 216 - Rugged Moorland Hills | Landscape Designations | East Dunbartonshire Local Landscape Area |
| Direction of View | South-west | Distance to nearest turbine | 33.65 km |
| Number of hubs theoretically visible | 5 | Number of turbine blade tips theoretically visible | 5 |
| **Viewpoint location, existing view and Judgement of Visual Sensitivity** | This viewpoint is located at Wrights Well, near a parking area on the B822, which is used by people walking in the Campsie Fells or stopping to appreciate the view.<br><br>From this location open, panoramic, long-distance views looking over the predominantly forested foothills to the south of the Campsite Fells are available. In the longer distance the urban mass of Glasgow is apparent and beyond this the plateau moorlands rise to form the horizon. Distant views of turbines in Whitelee, Middleton and further operational wind farms can also be seen on the horizon. | | |

| Viewpoint 18 – Wrights Well, Campsie Fells | |
|---|---|
| | Recreational receptors are of medium susceptibility. The view is within a local landscape area (LLA) and is also a popular stopping point for people to appreciate the view. Therefore, the value of the view is considered to be medium-high.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is **medium-high**. |
| **Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change**<br><br>(Primary assessment) | The proposed turbines will be visible in open, panoramic views looking south-west at a distance of 33.65 km. The hubs and blades of all five turbines will be visible on the distant horizon. The Proposed Development will be seen to the east, and is likely to read as part of, the operational Middleton Wind Farm, from this viewing distance.<br><br>Overall, the Proposed Development will be seen in long distance views for recreational users of the Campsie Fells. It is likely to read as a small extension to the operational Middleton Wind Farm, resulting in a small scale of visual change.<br><br>The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **low**.<br><br>The geographical extent of effects is considered to be large as views of this nature can be experienced from numerous places across the open southern facing flanks of the Campsie Fells. |
| **Overall Level of Effect and Significance** | Taking into consideration the **low** magnitude of change and the **medium-high** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. |
| **Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1 and 2)** | Under both scenarios, consented and proposed wind farms will increase the influence of wind turbines seen in distant views to the south. Under both scenarios, the Proposed Development will be seen to the east, and is likely to read as part of, the operational Middleton Wind Farm in distant views to the south. Small scale of visual change.<br><br>The level of effect will therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment, i.e. **Minor (not significant).** |

### Effects on Routes

5.10.28 Sequential visual effects are assessed through considering the likely effects of the Proposed Development both in isolation, and in the context of other existing, consented and proposed wind energy developments on key routes through the study area. The routes to be assessed were identified through analysis of the ZTVs shown on **Figures 5.1.2 and 5.1.3** and are described in **Table 5.5**. The assessment of likely effects on sequential views from these routes is detailed in the following table.

**Table 5.29 Sequential Assessment**

| Route | Baseline Description | Sensitivity (susceptibility and value) | Representative Viewpoints | Representative Viewpoint Findings (scale of change) | Conclusion (Note: cumulative sequential effects are considered following this assessment table). |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M77/ A77 (and Local Cycle Route on A77) | The M77/A77 crosses the study area from south-west to north-east linking Ayr to Glasgow. In the north-eastern half of the study area the A77 follows a similar alignment to the M77 (south of Newton Mearns) and the two roads combine at Junction 8, to the north of Kilmarnock. | Road users on the M77/A77 are of low susceptibility, as these are both fast moving routes where views are less likely to be focused on the surrounding landscape.<br><br>The value of views from the A77/M77 is low, as the road, whilst very busy, is not part of a recognised tourist route. Sections of the A77 are a local cycle route but this is not recognised as a National Cycle Route.<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is judged to be **low**. | ■ Viewpoint 1 (South Drumboy on the A77)<br>■ Viewpoint 2 (Glassock Bridge)<br>■ Viewpoint 12 (B7038 Ditton south of Kilmarnock) | ■ Large<br>■ Large<br>■ Small | When travelling south, the key section with actual visibility is within approximately 5 km as visibility further north is either not available or typically screened as the route passes through more urbanised areas. Within 5 km road users travelling in a southern direction will experience direct views of the turbine blades and hubs seen above the horizon (refer to indicative wireline **Figure 5.2.19**). Continuing south, views of the Proposed Development will become increasingly screened by the high ground around Floak before oblique, close proximity views of the Development open up (refer to Viewpoint 1 A77 near Drumboy). Views of the operational Whitelee Wind Farm (seen on the opposite side of the road in views looking south-east) and occasional views of the operational Middleton Wind Farm would also be available through this section. However, when passing to the immediate west of the Site views of Whitelee Wind Farm are screened by landform and woodland to the immediate east of the M77 (refer to Viewpoint 1) and at this stage Middleton Wind Farm is behind the road user.<br><br>In views for road users travelling in a northern direction, the key section with actual visibility is north of Junction 7. Further south occasional longer distance views are available (refer to Viewpoint 12, B7038 Ditton south of Kilmarnock) but roadside screening often limits available views. When visible the Proposed Development is seen in medium distance views, above a relatively flat horizon, which has already been altered by the operational Whitelee Wind Farm to the east of the view.<br><br>North of Junction 7, the Development is visible in slightly oblique views with the hubs just visible over the horizon (refer to Viewpoint 2 Glassock Bridge A77/A719). As road users travel in closer proximity to the Site, views become increasingly oblique. Whitelee Wind Farm is also very apparent from this stretch of road, especially near Junction 6 where the slightly elevated vantage point allows the scale of the wind farm to be understood. However, and as noted above, when passing to the immediate west of the Site views of Whitelee Wind Farm are screened by woodland and the landform to the immediate east around North Drumboy.<br><br>The scale of change will generally be large to medium in close proximity to the Site (within 5 km) and where clear views are available. From here road users will |

| Route | Baseline Description | Sensitivity (susceptibility and value) | Representative Viewpoints | Representative Viewpoint Findings (scale of change) | Conclusion (Note: cumulative sequential effects are considered following this assessment table). |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | also experience the short-lived effect of driving between two wind farms (the Proposed Development and the larger and more extensive Whitelee). However, Whitelee Wind Farm is screened by landform and woodland as road users pass to the immediate west of the Site, near North Drumboy. In distances beyond 5 km, and when visible, a smaller scale of change is anticipated.<br><br>The magnitude of change is judged to be **high** within approximately 5km of the Site, and **medium** or **low** beyond.<br><br>Taking into consideration the **high** magnitude of change and the **low** sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant**) within a localised area of approximately 5km.<br><br>Beyond this distance, effects will typically fall below the threshold of significance as views become more fleeting and longer distance. |
| A719 | The A719 passes through the south-west of the study area, terminating where it meets the M77 approximately 2.5km south of the Site. | Road users on the northern section of A719 approaching the Site are of low susceptibility, as this is quite a fast moving road. The value of views from this section of the A719 is low, as it is not recognised as a tourist route.<br><br>The section of the A719 south of Ayr is a more popular tourist route, but this section is distant from the Site (over 30km).<br><br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the | ■ Viewpoint 2 (Glassock Bridge)<br>■ Viewpoint 8 (Berryhill Moscow A719) | ■ High<br>■ Low | Theoretical visibility is widespread along the route within approximately 15 km of the Site, except between approximately 8.5-12 km where the route crosses the valley of the River Irvine. Roadside vegetation and development will screen views in some places, but open views will be available from many sections of the route. For northbound road users within approximately 7.5 km the Proposed Development will be visible ahead at a slightly oblique angle, above a relatively flat horizon. The Proposed Development will appear increasingly large in scale within 5km as road users approach the northern terminus of the route. The operational Whitelee Wind Farm will also be visible from this section of the route but at a much more oblique angle.<br><br>Beyond 15 km, theoretical visibility is more sporadic from the route until beyond 25km when it becomes more widespread. However, this section of the route passes through Ayr where built development will largely screen views, and the distance will also limit the visual effect of the Proposed Development (smaller scale of change).<br><br>The magnitude of change is judged to be **high** within approximately 5km of the Site, and **medium** or **low** beyond.<br><br>Taking into consideration the high magnitude of change and the low sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Moderate (significant**) within a localised area of approximately 5 km and when visible. |

| Route | Baseline Description | Sensitivity (susceptibility and value) | Representative Viewpoints | Representative Viewpoint Findings (scale of change) | Conclusion (Note: cumulative sequential effects are considered following this assessment table). |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | view is judged to be **low**. | | | Beyond this distance, effects will typically fall below the threshold of significance as views become longer distance. |
| A735 | The A735 passes just beyond 5 km to the west of the Proposed Development site between Lugton to the north, and Kilmarnock to the south. | Road users on the A735 are of low susceptibility, as this is quite a fast moving road.<br>The value of views from the A735 is low, as the road is not recognised as a tourist route.<br>Accordingly, the sensitivity of the view is judged to be **low**. | ■ Viewpoint 7 (Dunlop Road in Stewarton)<br>■ Viewpoint 9 (Buiston) | ■ Medium<br>■ Small | Theoretical visibility is quite widespread along the length of the route, however the pattern of visibility is more intermittent to the north between Dunlop and Lugton. In terms of actual visibility roadside vegetation, development and local variations in landform often screen views towards the Proposed Development. However, numerous viewing opportunities do exist and the Proposed Development is typically seen above a relatively flat horizon (not accounting for localised variations in topography) in oblique, medium distance to longer distance views to the east. Views of other operational wind farms (Whitelee, Middleton and Neilston Wind Farms) are also available from sections of this route.<br>Considering the viewing distance (6 km or longer), oblique viewing angle and nature of views (views to the east of the road are altered by operational wind farms) the scale and magnitude of change to the view is no greater than **medium**, but is typically **low (small scale of change)** from the majority of the route.<br>Taking into consideration the medium or lower magnitude of change and the low sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Minor (not significant)**. |
| Core Paths within 5 km | Core Paths within 5km are mapped on **Figure 5.1.2b**. Those with more widespread visibility include:<br>■ A path which follows the A77, to the east of the Site. | Recreational users of the Core Path network are considered to be of medium susceptibility.<br>Within 5km, there are no Core Paths which pass through designated landscapes. The value of views from | ■ Viewpoint 1 (South Drumboy on the A77)<br>■ Viewpoint 2 (Glassock Bridge)<br>■ Viewpoint 4 (Kingsford) | ■ Large<br>■ Large<br>■ Large | Theoretical visibility within 5 km of the Site is relatively widespread. Actual visibility from the Core Path network, within 5 km, will be dependent on local variations in screening. As much of the Core Path network within 5 km follows the road network roadside vegetation and buildings will play a screening role. Nevertheless, there will be numerous locations with more open views towards the Proposed Development, as represented by Viewpoints 1, 2 and 4. A large scale of change and **high** magnitude of change is predicted, from sections of the Core Path network within 5 km, with open views towards the Proposed Development.<br>Taking into consideration the high magnitude of change and the low-medium sensitivity, the visual effects of the Proposed Development are judged to be **Major (significant) from sections of the Core Path Network within a** |

| Route | Baseline Description | Sensitivity (susceptibility and value) | Representative Viewpoints | Representative Viewpoint Findings (scale of change) | Conclusion (Note: cumulative sequential effects are considered following this assessment table). |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ■ A loop between Stewarton and the Clunch Road, to the south-west of the Site.<br>■ A section of the B769, and minor road network to the north-west, to the west of the Site. | this part of the Core Path network is therefore lower.<br>Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **low-medium**. | | | **localised area of approximately 5km of the Site, and with the potential for more open views.** |

### Cumulative Sequential Effects from Routes

5.10.29 In terms of cumulative sequential effects, and in a theoretical future cumulative baseline which includes consented cumulative developments (scenario 1) and application stage cumulative developments (scenario 2). There are a small number of additional wind farms (mainly consented) across the study area, as shown on **Figure 5.1.7**, which will be theoretically visible from key routes. **Figures 5.1.8 to 5.1.10** highlight standalone and combined visibility of key wind farm groups with the Proposed Development, including from the routes considered in detail in the sequential assessment.

5.10.30 From the **M77/A77**, and under scenario 1, the key change will be the consented Moorshield Wind Farm, which will increase the influence of wind farms to the east of the route. It will bring wind turbines slightly closer to parts of the route to the north-east of the Site. When visible, it will typically be seen in the context of turbines in the operational Whitelee Wind Farm.

5.10.31 The consented single turbine at Blacklaw Hill and Nether Carswell III will largely be screened in views west from the route, due to the terrain and areas of forestry. Under scenario 2, changes to the cumulative baseline, in views form the M77/ A77, will be very limited.

5.10.32 As such, the experience of driving the route will not be notably different in a theoretical future cumulative baseline which includes consented cumulative developments. Visibility of the Proposed Development will largely be contained from the route to within 5 km. Through this section road users will drive between the Proposed Development, and a large wind farm group to the east. As road users directly pass the Site, forestry to the east of the road (and local undulations in the terrain) will screen views of the large wind farm group to the east, which includes the consented Moorshield Wind Farm. **Major to Moderate (significant) effects are predicted within a localised area of approximately 5 km.**

5.10.33 From the A719, and under scenario 1, the consented Middleton Wind Farm will be visible in views towards the Proposed Development. but at a greater distance and usually at a different viewing angle. Effects of the Proposed Development will remain as **Major (significant)** within a localised area of approximately 5 km.

5.10.34 From the **A735**, changes to the cumulative context, in the more immediate landscape, are very limited under both scenarios. Views of consented cumulative developments to the east of the road will be, in reality, very limited. When visible, consented cumulative developments will be seen in context of existing wind farm groups/ horizons which are influenced by wind turbines and views will be very fleeting. Views of consented and proposed cumulative developments to the west of the route are limited and longer distance. This, combined with the limited and fleeting nature of views of the Proposed Development, will result in effects remaining **Minor (not significant).**

5.10.35 Core Paths within 5 km are mapped on **Figure 5.1.2b.** Within the more immediate context, the key changes to the cumulative baseline will be under scenario 1. Moorshield Wind Farm will increase the influence of turbines to the north-east of the large operational Whitelee Wind Farm. Nether Carswell III will add a further turbine to the wind farm cluster around Neilston Community Wind Farm. The single consented turbine at Blacklaw Hill will introduce a smaller scale turbine to the north-west of the Site (north-west of the B796). When visible, from the Core Path network within 5 km, the Proposed Development will generally continue to read as a distinct wind farm on Glenouther Moor. As such, effects will reflect those as identified in the primary assessment. A **Major (significant)** effect is predicted, from sections of the Core Path network within 5 km, with open views towards the Proposed Development.

## Combined Cumulative Effects

5.10.36 With regard to combined (or 'total') cumulative effects, GLVIA3 states that this should include *"all past, present and future proposals together with the new project".* GLVIA3 (paragraph 7.13) acknowledges that *"assessing combined effects involving a range of different proposals at different stages in the planning process can be very complex".* The following assessment of combined effects provides a high-level appraisal of all built and unbuilt wind farms (as including Iin **Table 5.6**), including the Proposed Development.

5.10.37 As shown on **Figures 5.1.7a-b**, wind farms across the study area are focused within upland plateaus and hill areas, outside of the more settled valleys. They also generally avoid locally designated landscapes. Should all consented and proposed wind farms be constructed, wind farm development in the following areas would be extensive:

- Moorland plateau and uplands between Glasgow and Kilmarnock (including the Site);
- The hills between Largs and Ardrossan, to the west of the study area;

- Northern reaches of the Lowther Hills, and hills to the north-west, to the south-east of the study area;
- Northern reaches of the Southern Uplands, to the south of the study area; and
- Moorland areas in the central belt to the east of Glasgow, to the north-east of the study area.

5.10.38 When considering the total effects of operational, consented and proposed wind farms, the Proposed Development will intensify the combined landscape effects of wind turbines in the moorland plateau and uplands between Glasgow and Kilmarnock. This area has already been extensively altered by the large operational Whitelee Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will, along with other consented wind farms (Moorshield, Nether Carswell III and Blacklaw Hill) contribute to a consolidation of this emerging larger cluster. However, this is an area where wind farm development makes sense, being in a less populated upland plateau and near a very large area of demand.

5.10.39 As such, the Proposed Development will contribute to an intensification of combined cumulative effects on the landscape (and in views) across the study area. However, given that the Proposed Development will avoid the most sensitive, designated landscapes and generally read as part of a larger emerging group of wind farms in the moorland plateau and uplands between Glasgow and Kilmarnock, it will fit with the emerging broad pattern of wind farm development. The combined cumulative effects of wind farm development across the study area will be similar whether the Proposed Development is present or absent.

## 5.11 Interrelationship Between Effects

5.11.1 The chapter should be read in conjunction with:

- **Chapter 6: Cultural Heritage**; and
- **Chapter 7: Ecology**.

5.11.2 Visual effects will play a role in effects on the setting of cultural heritage features, as discussed in **Chapter 6**. Effects on landscape features such as woodland and peatland will play a role in effects on habitats, as discussed in **Chapter 7.** There will be no notable interrelationships between landscape and visual and other disciplines.

## 5.12 Further Survey Requirements and Monitoring

5.12.1 No further survey requirements or monitoring have been identified at this stage.

## 5.13 Summary of Likely Significant Effects

### Overview of Effects

**Landscape Effects**

5.13.1 No significant effects are predicted from any national or local landscape designations, or areas of Wild Land.

5.13.2 Significant effects are predicted on the landscape resource of the Site itself during construction (Major) and operation (Major).

5.13.3 Significant effects on landscape character are predicted for the host Landscape Character Type (LCT) Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (79) and the adjacent and contingent Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley (214) LCT. Moderate effects will be experienced at the level of the immediate surroundings of the Site and a localised surrounding area between Neilston Community Wind Farm to the north; Whitelee Wind Farm to the east; Glassock Bridge to the south; and (east of) Kingsford to the west.

5.13.4 Moderate and significant effects will also be experienced from the adjacent, to the south-west, Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire LCT (66). These effects will be experienced from a localised area to the north-east of the LCT, to the north-east of Stewarton and contained within approximately 5 km.

5.13.5 These landscape effects are considered to be localised. No significant effects on other LCTs across the 45 km study area are predicted.

**Visual Effects**

5.13.6 Visibility is variable across the study area with the landform providing screening from many locations. Major (significant) effects on views are predicted at three representative viewpoints and Moderate (significant) effects at a

further five representative viewpoints. All of these effects are within approximately 8.5 km of the Site. These effects are predicted for residential, recreational and transport receptors.

5.13.7 No significant visual effects are predicted from any settlements, as defined in the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (LDP). Significant sequential effects are predicted from a short section of the M77/A77 (within 5 km of the Site) and from the Core Path network within 5 km (and from sections of paths with open views towards the Proposed Development).

5.13.8 For most commercial wind farms, having some residual significant landscape and visual effects is unavoidable. The level and distribution of assessed significant landscape and visual effects for the Proposed Development are considered to be localised, and as would be expected for a larger commercial wind farm in this type of landscape.

**Cumulative Effects**

5.13.9 Additional cumulative effects associated with the Proposed Development, in a theoretical future baseline which includes consented and proposed wind farms, are not judged to be notably different to the effects associated with the Proposed Development in the current baseline. Consented cumulative developments will marginally increase the influence of existing wind farm groups in the more immediate context (Moorshield and Nether Carswell III), or in the case of Blacklaw Hill, introduce a further smaller single turbine. In the more local context, the Proposed Development will generally continue to read as a distinct wind farm, to the west of the M77.

**Residential Visual Amenity**

**5.13.10** An assessment of the effects in relation to residential visual amenity (RVA) is included in **Technical Appendix 5.2.**

**5.13.11** A number of properties, across the 2 km RVA study area will be subject to significant visual effects (refer to **Table 1.2** of **Technical Appendix 5.2 for details)**. However, the Proposed Development has not been found to breach the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold from any residential property or group of properties considered in the assessment. That is, the Proposed Development will not appear so overbearing, overwhelming, unpleasantly encroaching, inescapably dominant or detrimental to living conditions that the property would become widely regarded as an unpleasant place to live.

**Effects associated with aviation lighting**

5.13.12 An assessment of the effects in relation to permanent aviation lighting is included in **Technical Appendix 5.3.**

5.13.13 Four of the turbines are proposed to have permanent aviation lighting which consists of a medium intensity 2000 candela light mounted on the turbine hub (with the option to dim these lights to 200 candela in clear weather conditions).

5.13.14 Significant night time effects are predicted from:

- the host LCT '79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire' and the adjacent (and similar in character) LCT '214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley', within approximately 5 km;
- the adjacent LCT '66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire' to the south-west, within approximately 5 km;
- Viewpoint 1: A77 near Drumboy;
- Viewpoint 3: Harelaw Road; and
- Viewpoint 4: Kingsford B769.

5.13.15 **Table 5.30** below summarises the predicted significant effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape and visual amenity of the study area, as reported in this chapter. Where effects are significant this is highlighted in bold text.

5.13.16 It should be noted that wind turbines, as tall man-made structures, introduce features which are likely to bring about landscape and visual change. Measures to reduce effects upon the landscape resource and upon views and visual amenity are predominantly achieved through the design of the Proposed Development, as described in **Chapter 3.** As all mitigation for landscape and visual effects is embedded within the final design for the Proposed Development, all effects summarised in this section are effectively residual effects. Landscape and enhancement measures are proposed, and these include areas of 'forest-to-bog' restoration and riparian edge planting, as detailed on **Figure 1 of Technical Appendix 7.6**. Whilst these will result in some localised beneficial effects on the landscape fabric of

the Site, these are not judged to alter the scale of adverse landscape and visual effects associated with the proposed wind farm.

**Table 5.30 : Summary of Likely Significant Effects**

| Predicted Effects | Significance | Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1) | Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Construction | | | |
| The Site | **Major (significant)** | N/a | N/a |
| Operation | | | |
| The Site | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** |
| Host LCT – 79 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Ayrshire (also includes assessment from adjacent 214 - Plateau Moorland with Windfarms - Glasgow & Clyde Valley) | **Moderate (significant)** Experienced at the level of the immediate surroundings of the Site and a localised surrounding area between Neilston Community Wind Farm to the north; Whitelee Wind Farm to the east; Glassock Bridge to the south; and (east of) Kingsford to the west. | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| 66 - Agricultural Lowlands - Ayrshire | **Moderate (significant)** Experienced from a localised area to the north-east of the LCT, to the north-east of Stewarton and contained within approximately 5 km of the Proposed Development. | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 1 - A77 near Drumboy | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 2 - Glassock Bridge - A77/A719 | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 3 - Harelaw Road | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 4 - Kingsford B769 | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** | **Major (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 5 - Queenseat B764 | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 6 - Neilston Pad | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 7 - Dunlop Road (A735), Stewarton | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| Viewpoint 10 - Foreside | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |
| M77/ A77 | **Major to Moderate (Significant)** Predicted within a localised area of approximately 5 km | **Major to Moderate (Significant)** | **Major to Moderate (Significant)** |
| A719 | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** | **Moderate (significant)** |

| Predicted Effects | Significance | Cumulative Effect (Scenario 1) | Cumulative Effect (Scenario 2) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Predicted within approximately 5 km | | |
| Core Paths within 5 km | **Major (Significant)**<br>From sections of the Core Path network within 5 km and with open views towards the Proposed Development. | **Major (Significant)** | **Major (Significant)** |

## Glossary/Abbreviations

**Table 5.31 : Glossary**

| Term in Full | Abbreviation |
|---|---|
| Above Ordnance Datum | AOD |
| East Ayrshire Council | EAC |
| Environmental Impact Assessment | EIA |
| Garden and Designed Landscape | GDL |
| Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) | GLVIA3 |
| Landscape Character Assessment | LCA |
| Landscape Character Type | LCT |
| Local Landscape Area | LLA |
| Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment | LVIA |
| National Cycle Network | NCN |
| National Scenic Area | NSA |
| Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) | SNH |
| Zone of Theoretical Visibility | ZTV |

# References


- East Ayrshire Council (EAC) (2024) Local Development Plan 2
- EAC (2024) East Ayrshire Landscape Wind Capacity Study (EALWCS)
- EAC (2024) Local Landscape Areas
- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) and associated clarification notes
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals
- Landscape institute (2021) Technical Guidance Note 02-21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations
- NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment
- NatureScot (2021) Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments
- NatureScot (2024) Good Practice During Windfarm Construction, Version 3
- NatureScot (2024) Pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms
- NatureScot (2024) Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment
- NatureScot (2025) Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects
- Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4
- SNH (2015) Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands, 2nd Edition
- SNH (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2
- SNH (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3
- SNH (2018) A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5