

6 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

6.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) evaluates the effects of the proposed Freasdail Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as "the Development") on the landscape and visual amenity of the Site (as shown in Figure 4.1 of this ES and hereafter referred to as 'the Site') and surrounding area. This chapter has been prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd.
2. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) takes account of the effect of the Development on the landscape both within and beyond the Site since the landscape character and visual amenity effects are likely to occur at locations at a considerable distance beyond the Site boundary. In consultation with Argyll & Bute Council (ABC) a Study Area of 35km radius from the outer turbines of the Development was selected. This was agreed in consultation with statutory and non-statutory agencies during an initial Scoping exercise held in November 2011.
3. The assessment considers the entire period of the Development, including construction, operation and decommissioning of the Development.
4. The assessment is described in the following sections:
 - **Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria** - A brief explanation of the assessment criteria is provided together with the means by which the assessment has been carried out with reference to consultations undertaken and standard methodologies and guidelines.
 - **Baseline Conditions** - This section comprises a description, classification and evaluation of the existing landscape and visual characteristics of the Study Area and establishes the baseline against which the effects of the Development are assessed.
 - **Project Description and Development Design Mitigation** - This section comprises a description of the key aspects of the Development which have potential to cause landscape and/or visual effect, as well as measures that have been incorporated into the project design to mitigate these effects.
 - **Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects** - This section comprises a description of the predicted visibility of the Development from key receptor locations, the effects of the Development taking into account embedded mitigation measures, and an assessment of the magnitude of change arising from the Development and the significance of effects. The assessment is accompanied by a series of illustrative figures comprising plans, wirelines and photomontages, contained in Volume II of this ES. This section also presents an assessment of cumulative effects.
 - **Summary of Landscape and Visual Effects and Their Significance** - The final sections comprises a summary of the assessment results and their significance and is accompanied by conclusions on the effect of the Development in landscape and visual terms.
5. This Chapter is supported by the following Technical Appendices:
 - A6.1 - A Glossary;
 - A6.2 - Viewpoint selection and alteration;
 - A6.3 - Methodology for visualisations and zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) drawings;
 - A6.4 - Route Analysis Tables; and
 - A6.5 - Effects on landscape character types.

6.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

6.2.1 Methodology

6. The LVIA has been based on guidelines provided in:
 - A guide to the assessment of cumulative effect of wind farm developments (ETSU/DTI, 2000)¹;
 - Guidelines on the Environmental Effect of Wind Farms and Small Hydroelectric schemes (Scottish Natural Heritage 2001)- (GLVIA)²;
 - Landscape Character Assessment (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage 2002)³;
 - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Effect Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Second Edition, 2002)⁴; and
 - Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, (Scottish Natural Heritage, March, 2012)⁵.
7. The landscape and visual assessment has involved a desk study, field work, data processing and analysis, as well as interpretation using professional judgement.

6.2.2 Consultation

8. An initial Scoping request was submitted to ABC in November 2011. Responses relevant to the LVIA are listed below in Table 6.1 along with details of how these have been addressed.

Table 6.1: Consultation Responses

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) Scoping response dated the 5 th December 2011	<p>Cumulative impact: ABC requested that the cumulative impact assessment consider not only the intervisibility and visibility of the multiple wind farms, but also the consequences of travelling through the landscape and sequential views.</p> <p>ABC asked for detailed consideration of cumulative developments up to 30km.</p> <p>ABC also requested ZTVs for the Development and also for cumulative sites based on a 30 km radius.</p>	<p>Initially, wind farms at distances of up to 60 km were considered. However, those with potential to contribute to significant cumulative effects were judged to be located within 35 km of the Development. These schemes were included in the detailed LVIA.</p> <p>Effects on receptors travelling through the landscape have been assessed in terms of effects at representative viewpoints, but also through sequential analysis.</p> <p>The LVIA is accompanied by a blade tip ZTV and blade tip/hub height comparison drawing and cumulative ZTVs for all of the existing, consented and proposed wind farms within 35km of the Development.</p>

¹ ETSU/DTI 2000. A guide to assessing the cumulative effects of wind energy development, W/14/000538/REP, ETSU 2000.
² SNH 2001. Guidelines on the Environmental Effect of Wind Farms and Small Hydroelectric schemes . Available online at: <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/Guidelines%20Windfarms%20Hydroelectric%20Schemes.pdf>
³ Countryside Agency and SNH 2002. Landscape Character Assessment. Guidance for England and Scotland. Available online at: <http://www.snh.org.uk/ww/sharinggoodpractice/CCI/cci/guidance/Downloads/LCAfull.pdf>
⁴ LI/IEEMA 2002. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Effect Assessment. Second Edition. Taylor and Francis Group.
⁵ SNH 2012. Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. Available online at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A675503.pdf>

Consultee	Comment	LVIA Response
	<p>ABC set out their required standards in respect of the assessment of impacts on landscape character.</p> <p>In their scoping response ABC also required that a series of representative viewpoints would be selected in consultation with ABC and SNH.</p> <p>ABC also requested that potential visual and landscape impacts arising from any borrow pits at the site be addressed in the LVIA.</p>	<p>The LVIA is consistent with these standards.</p> <p>Subsequent to the initial scoping report submitted by the applicant a description of the detailed methodology was circulated to A&B and SNH by SLR Consulting Ltd (who produced the LVIA) in April 2011 - no comment or revisions to the stated methodology were requested.</p> <p>The viewpoints in the LVIA were selected in consultation with ABC and SNH. However, during the design optimisation process some reduction in visibility of the Development occurred and so a number of viewpoints needed to be relocated and some omitted. Details of these changes are given in Appendix A6.2.</p> <p>There is no intention to win aggregate at the Site, and so there is no assessment of borrow pits in the LVIA.</p>

9. Subsequent consultations were made with SNH and ABC concerning the viewpoints to be utilised in the assessment and the outcomes incorporated into the LVIA. It should be noted that a small number of viewpoints were altered in response to actual visibility on the ground and in the case of the Port Ellen to Kennacraig Ferry route, omitted altogether as the ferry route and port were not operational at time of the assessment.

6.2.3 Assessment Process: Landscape and Visual Baseline

10. Initially, the existing landscape and visual context of the Study Area was assessed in order to establish a baseline against which to judge the effects of the Development (see section 6.3). This baseline was based on an analysis of available geographical and topographical information, Ordnance Survey data/aerial photography, and existing landscape character studies, and the findings verified by field reconnaissance. Designated landscapes in the Study Area were also identified, including those of international, national, regional and local status. Non-designated areas such as Historic Gardens & Designed Landscapes (GDLs) which are listed in the Historic Scotland Inventory and Wild Land Search Areas as identified by SNH (2003) and the more recent Wildness Mapping exercise have been included in the assessment. A summary of relevant landscape planning policies, including those pertaining to these designations/landscapes is provided in Chapter 2: *Planning Policy Context* of this ES.

6.2.4 Assessment Process: Evaluation of Landscape and Visual Effects

11. The assessment of potential landscape and visual effects was based on a combination of desktop study, computer analysis and field work. The assessment considers effects on the fabric of the landscape, its character and the visual amenity of the Study Area.

12. Key sensitive receptors in the Study Area comprise designated landscapes, residential settlement, recreational users of the landscape including walkers, and users of the road network, and receptors present on the sea such as sea kayakers and ferry passengers.

13. The findings of the assessment at each of these receptor locations was verified and extrapolated from a viewpoint analysis undertaken in respect of a series of representative viewpoints. The viewpoints were chosen in consultation with SNH and ABC and were selected to indicate the effect of the Development upon receptors at different distances and directions from the Site and also different elevations.

14. This analysis has involved the production of computer generated wireframes and photomontages to assist in the prediction of views of the proposed turbines from each of the agreed viewpoints. The existing and predicted views from each of these viewpoints have been analysed to identify the magnitude of the effect on the landscape and visual amenity at each viewpoint location. It should be noted that although the viewpoint assessment includes an assessment of predicted effect on landscape character, this relates to the effect predicted at the viewpoint itself and does not necessarily relate to the whole of the landscape character type in which the viewpoint is located.

6.2.5 Cumulative Assessment

15. An assessment of the potential cumulative landscape and visual effect of the Development in conjunction with the other operational, consented and/or in planning (with the exception of Blary Hill, which is in scoping) wind farms within 35 km has also been undertaken. Data in respect of the other wind farms are based on available information which is listed in Table 6.2, below. It is considered important to distinguish the status of the different wind farm projects included in the cumulative assessment in relation to the degree of certainty about their contribution to any cumulative scenario.

16. The location of each of the cumulative developments is shown in Figure 6.6. It is apparent from this image that there is a concentration of existing and consented wind farms in the central region of the Kintyre peninsula, between Campbeltown and Deucheran Hill. Whilst Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran turbines are positioned towards the central ‘spine’ of the peninsula, Tangy is located close to the western edge of the peninsula. Outwith the peninsula there are a small number of wind farm developments present, one of the most conspicuous of which is the Isle of Gigha development which contrasts with the peninsula developments in scale and its low lying position. Current proposals for wind farms (e.g. Blary Hill and Auchadaduie) are largely focused on the peninsula and centre on existing/consented development. The proposed Cour scheme would be positioned to the northeast of the Deucheran turbines, on the eastern side of the peninsula.

17. In assessing the potential cumulative landscape and visual effect, consideration has been given to cumulative effect arising from Combined and/ or Consecutive Visibility (consecutive visibility concerning where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one Viewpoint location, but in different directions), and Sequential Effect (where a number of similar developments would be visible individually or simultaneously over a sequence of connected Viewpoints, such as would be found along a road or footpath)⁶.

Table 6.2: Cumulative Wind Farms within 35 km of the Development

Wind Farm	Description	Location ⁷
Freasdail	Candidate site comprising 11 No. turbines (60 hub and 80m rotor diameter, 100m to maximum blade tip height).	Situated approximately 2.8km south of the settlement of Whitehouse and centred on co-ordinates 183063E, 658460N.

⁶ Definitions based upon the Guidelines on ‘Cumulative Effect of Wind Farms’ (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2005).

⁷ Based on distance from nearest outermost turbine.

Wind Farm	Description	Location ⁷
Tangy by Kilkenzie ⁸	22 no. Operational turbines (49m hub height and 52m rotor diameter - 75m blade tip height).	Situated to the north of Kilkenzie, approximately 34km southwest of the Site (172880E, 626700N).
Beinn an Tuirc	46 No. Operational turbines (45m hub height and 42m rotor diameter - 66m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 24km south of the Site (173950E, 636900N).
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	Approved Site comprising 19 no. turbines (60m hub height and 80m rotor diameter - 100m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 24km south of the Site (173950E, 636900N).
Deucheran Hill	9 No. Operational turbines (60m hub height and 32m rotor diameter- 76m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 16km southwest of the Site (177000E, 643000N).
Isle of Gigha	3 No. Operational turbines (31.5m hub height and 27m rotor diameter - 45m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 22km southwest of the Site (163756E, 647054N).
Allt Dearg	Operational Site comprising 12 no. turbines (55m hub height and 52m rotor diameter - 71m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 18km north of the Site (183256E, 678053N).
Cruach Mhor, Glendaruel	35 No. Operational turbines (45m hub height and 52m rotor diameter - 71m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 33km northeast of the Site (203338E, 686762N).
Cour	Decision Pending on 10 No. turbines (70m hub height and 84m rotor diameter - 112m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 10km north of the Site (182120E, 647240N).
Isle of Gigha extension	1 No. consented turbine yet to be constructed (37m hub height and 33.4m rotor diameter - 53.7m blade tip height).	Situated approximately 22km southwest of the Site (164036E, 647590N).
Laggan	Proposed single turbine (32.4m hub and 29m diameter rotor).	Situated (172656, 625230)
Auchadaduie	Proposed 3 turbine wind farm (64m hub and 71m rotor diameter - 99.5m blade tip height).	Situated south of Glenbarr at 169498, 635907.
Blary Hill	Proposed wind farm (pre-application) comprising 14 No. turbines (110m to maximum blade tip).	Situated on Blary Hill, 5km to the east of Glenbarr (E501100, N417700).

18. The pre-application Blary Hill scheme has been included despite not being subject to a formal planning application as it is due for submission in November of 2012 and there is some certainty regarding the proposals for this site.

6.2.6 Evaluation Criteria

19. The significance of a landscape or visual effect is a function of the sensitivity of the affected landscape or visual receptor, and the magnitude of change that would occur as a result of a proposed development. The evaluation criteria used in the assessment in respect of sensitivity and magnitude of change are described below.
20. The aim of the LVIA is to identify, predict and evaluate potential effects arising from the Development, and in particular, in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (The EIA Regulations) as amended (Scottish Government, 2011) to identify any likely significant effect. Wherever possible, identified effects are quantified, but the nature of landscape and visual impact assessment requires interpretation by professional judgment. In order to provide a level of consistency to the assessment, the magnitude of change and assessment of significance have been based on pre-defined criteria⁹.

6.2.7 Landscape Sensitivity

21. The sensitivity of the landscape to change is defined as High, Medium, Low based on professional interpretation of a combination of parameters¹⁰ including:
- The value placed on the landscape, landscape quality and condition;
 - Existing land-use;
 - The pattern and scale of the landscape;
 - Visual enclosure/openness of views, scale of views, and the distribution of visual receptors;
 - The scope for mitigation, which would be in character with the existing landscape; and
 - The degree to which the particular element or characteristic contribution to the landscape character and can be replaced or substituted.
22. A landscape considered to have a High sensitivity is one which has a limited ability to accommodate change of the type anticipated to occur as a result of a wind farm development. Such landscapes are typically of good quality and condition, highly valued (and possibly designated), are often of small to medium scale with characteristic elements or features that are susceptible to loss or erosion. Such landscapes may have a high number of receptors present or may be valued for their remoteness and/or their role in the broader landscape of an area.
23. Medium sensitivity landscapes are often of medium to large scale and have slightly reduced quality and condition (often typified by some evidence of fragmentation and/or erosion of landscape structure/elements), and offer some potential for mitigation.
24. Landscapes of Low sensitivity are generally those that can most readily accommodate the type of development proposed. Such landscapes are often typified by a substantially compromised condition, low value (perhaps due to existing/historic land-uses) or absence of receptors or receptor locations.

6.2.8 Viewpoint Sensitivity

25. Viewpoint sensitivity is defined as High, Medium, Low or Negligible based on an interpretation of a combination of parameters, as follows:

⁹ This is consistent with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Second Edition, 2002).

¹⁰ Based on criteria in paragraph 7.16 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Second Edition 2002).

⁸ Both Tangy schemes are dealt with as a single development for the purposes of the LVIA.

- Location and land use at the Viewpoint;
- Landscape character and quality in the immediate vicinity of the Viewpoint;
- Landscape character and quality of the intervening landscape and backdrop to the development;
- Frequency of use; and
- Whether the receptor is static or transitory.
- In relation to land use at the viewpoint, visual sensitivity is defined as follows:
- High: Users of outdoor recreational facilities including strategic recreational footpaths and locations/vantage points, cycle routes and rights of way, whose attention may be focused on the landscape; important landscape features with physical, cultural or historic attributes; principal views from residential buildings; beauty spots or picnic areas and tourist routes;
- Medium: Other footpaths, people travelling through the landscape on roads, trains or other transport routes, with the exception of tourist routes;
- Low: People engaged in outdoor sports or recreation (other than appreciation of the landscape), commercial buildings, and other locations where people’s attention may be focused on their work or activity.

6.2.9 Magnitude of Change

26. The magnitude of change to landscape and visual amenity is determined by a combination of largely quantifiable parameters, as follows:
- The distance of the viewpoint from the Development;
 - The duration of predicted effect;
 - In the case of character areas and/or designated areas, the extent of the landscape affected;
 - In the case of roads, cycleways and footpaths, the length of the route affected by the Development;
 - The extent of the view affected by the Development (i.e. the horizontal angle subtended by the Development);
 - The elevation of the Development in relation to the receptor; and
 - The extent of other built development visible, particularly vertical elements.
27. Magnitude of change is described as Substantial, Moderate, Slight Negligible, or None. These terms are explained in Table 6.3, below.

Table 6.3: Magnitude of Change

Level of Magnitude	Definition
Substantial	Total loss or considerable alteration/interruption of key elements, features or characteristics of the landscape character and/or composition of views resulting in fundamental change to baseline conditions.
Moderate	Partial loss or modest alteration to one or more key features or characteristics of the baseline, resulting in localised change within a broader unaltered context.
Slight	Limited loss or small alteration to one or more key elements, features or characteristics of the baseline conditions. Change arising from the loss/alteration will be discernible but underlying landscape character

Level of Magnitude	Definition
	or view composition will be similar to baseline.
Negligible	Very limited or imperceptible loss or alteration to one or more key elements/characteristics of the baseline. Change may be barely discernible.
None	No aspect of the Development would be discernible. The Development would result in no appreciable change to the landscape resource or view.

6.2.10 Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effect

28. Cumulative effects on landscape and visual amenity arising from the Development, in conjunction with the agreed list of cumulative wind farms (see Table 6.2, above), have been assessed using the same methodology. The sensitivity of landscape and visual amenity receptors to cumulative change is considered to be the same as identified in the baseline for the assessment of effect arising from the Development on its own.
29. The parameters evaluated in relation to the magnitude of cumulative change include:
- The number of existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms visible;
 - The distance to each of the existing, consented, and/or proposed wind farms;
 - The direction of each wind farm in relation to the viewpoint;
 - The horizontal subtended angle occupied by each wind farm (i.e. the angle between the left hand visible turbine and right hand visible turbine in each wind farm); and
 - The cumulative effect of wind farm development upon the fabric or key landscape components; and
 - In the case of landscape character areas (LCAs) and transportation/recreational routes, the proportion of the area or route subject to cumulative views (i.e. combined, concurrent or sequential).
30. Indicative definitions of magnitude of cumulative change include:
- Substantial Change: The Development would represent a considerable addition to the proportion of the landscape or view affected by wind farm development.
 - Moderate Change: The Development would represent a noticeable addition to the proportion of the landscape or view affected by wind farm development. Moderate cumulative change equates to a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context.
 - Slight Change: The Development would represent a minor addition to the proportion of the landscape or view affected by wind farm development. The change would be discernible, but the original baseline conditions would be largely unaltered.
 - Negligible Change: The Development would represent a barely discernible addition to the proportion of the landscape or view affected by wind farm development. The baseline condition of the landscape or view would, for all intents and purposes, be unaffected.
 - None: where no change is anticipated.

6.2.11 Significance of Effect

31. Table 6.4 illustrates how effects are determined by comparison of the receptors’ sensitivity with the magnitude of predicted change. For the purposes of this assessment significant landscape or visual

effects, in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, are Major or Major/Moderate.

Table 6.4: Significance of Effects

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
High	Major	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Medium	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor
Low	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Minor/None

32. The matrix is not used as a prescriptive tool, and the methodology and analysis of potential effects at any particular location must allow for the exercise of professional judgement.
33. Landscape and visual effects (including those pertaining to landscape fabric or landscape character) can be negative (adverse), positive (beneficial) or neutral. For the purposes of this assessment predicted effects should be assumed to be adverse unless otherwise stated.
34. Effects may be short-term (i.e. lasting up to one year), medium-term (i.e. lasting between 1 and five years) or long-term (lasting in excess of five years), or may be permanent. For the purposes of this assessment construction and decommissioning activities are considered to pose short-term effects, whilst operational elements are considered to represent long term, but not permanent effects.
35. Landscape and visual effects (including those pertaining to landscape fabric or landscape character) can be negative (adverse), positive (beneficial) or neutral. For the purposes of this assessment predicted effects should be assumed to be adverse unless otherwise stated.

6.2.11.1 Effects Scoped out of the LVIA

36. With the exception of the Blary Hill wind farm proposal projects at scoping stage have been scoped out of the detailed cumulative assessment. Additionally, effects arising from the process of decommissioning the Development have been omitted because they would be of a similar nature to those occurring during construction operations, but of a smaller scale and shorter duration.

6.2.12 Illustrative Tools

37. As described above, ZTV studies have been prepared to assist in the identification of areas from where there is potential visibility of the Development. The ZTVs present the “worst case scenario” insofar as they are based on Ordnance Survey (OS) digital terrain data at 50 m horizontal interval resolution and therefore do not take account of local landforms and vegetation (e.g. trees, hedges and forestry), nor any built forms in the landscape. This means that the visibility shown on the ZTVs is predicted to be more extensive than actual visibility on the ground. Where the ZTVs show no visibility, it is generally predicted that no turbines would be seen. A series of cumulative ZTVs were prepared to ascertain the potential cumulative visibility of the Development in conjunction with the other wind farms considered in the cumulative assessment as listed in Table 6.2, above.
38. The viewpoint analysis is illustrated by a range of tools including photographs, wirelines and photomontages. The photographs used to construct the photomontages were taken by a professional photographer using a digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera with a 50 mm lens. This conforms to the

GLVIA because this lens size is considered to most closely represent the view obtained by the human eye. Wirelines were generated using the same OS digital data used to generate the ZTVs and therefore take no account of the screening effect of man-made structures, local landform or vegetation. For ease of reference, the wirelines show existing and consented turbines in green, in-planning turbines in red and the Development turbines in blue.

39. The photomontages have been prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in ‘Visual Representation of Wind farms, Good Practice Guidance (Scottish Natural Heritage, 29th March, 2006). The images were generated by combining a wireline of the Development with the photograph of the existing view and rendering the image using a model of the proposed wind turbines, also generated electronically. The resulting images should be viewed at a distance of 300 mm to most closely replicate the view which would be obtained from the Viewpoint.
40. It should be noted that photography is a tool to assist in the visualisation process, and cannot be expected to replicate the actual view or predicted view which would be attained on the ground. Moreover, weather and light conditions will vary greatly throughout each day and year, with consequent effect upon general visibility and the potential visibility of the proposed turbines.
41. A number of viewpoints on public ferry routes are included in this assessment at the request of SNH. Such viewpoint locations have inherent practical difficulties in respect of obtaining photography and matching photographed views with wireline images. However, such images, when coupled with field reconnaissance, are considered sufficient for the purposes of this assessment.
42. All of the visualisations should be viewed at a distance of 300mm. In addition, the images should be curved so that the distance from the eye to each part of the image is consistent.

6.3 BASELINE CONDITIONS

6.3.1 Topography

43. The islands and peninsulas of the Study Area possess their own individual character, yet they are linked by the topography, which has created a High level of intervisibility between the landforms and the extensive coastlines which have been critical to the development of settlement and infrastructure.
44. The landform of the Study Area is dramatic and varied, shaped by volcanic activity and the processes of glaciation. Topographic features include upland ridges and plateaux, forested ridges, lochs and glens as well as the many sea lochs (Tarbert Loch, Loch Fyne and the Kyles of Bute), rocky outcrops, sheltered bays and raised beaches which form the diverse coastlines. Topographical extremes within the Study Area vary between sea level and 825 m AOD (on the Isle of Arran).
45. The inland topography of Kintyre is dominated by upland plateaux with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile. Upland lochs, winding narrow glens and wider river valleys flow through the landscape. The Site itself is located on an undulating upland plateau on the Kintyre Peninsula at approximately 122 m AOD. The coastal regions of the peninsula are generally rock-indented, consisting of uneven, hummocky ground with small sandy bays and raised beaches.
46. The Isle of Gigha, the eastern coastal areas of Islay and Jura, the western coastal areas of Knapdale, and the southern region of Arran consist of narrow rocky ridges with a strong southwest-northeast alignment, extending out into the sea, horseshoe shaped narrow sandy bays, raised beaches and extensive mudflats. By contrast, the central parts of Islay and Jura consist of undulating moorland plateaux and the northern parts of Arran consist of a highly dissected landform with rugged glaciated

peaks separated by plunging U-shaped valleys. The dramatic eastern peaks of Arran are linked by a heavily serrated and knife edge ridge, whereas the summits in the west are more rounded. The coastal regions of Arran consist of raised beach coast in the northern parts and coastal Lowland in the south. Parts of Knapdale that fall within the Study Area consist of upland moorland and plateaux and upland parallel ridges and glens.

47. The topography of Cowal consists of upland plateaux with rounded ridges rock-indented coastal regions, with hummocky ground, small sandy bays and raised beaches and is similar to Kintyre. The Isle of Bute consists of Lowland rolling farmland in the south, elevated open ridgeland in the central parts and rocky coastlines in the north.
48. The diverse nature of the topography creates a rugged skyline with a variety of different types of views, the pattern of which can be applied to each of the islands and peninsulas: there are panoramic, long distance views from elevated uplands across the seascape towards surrounding islands, yet intervisibility inland is often restricted locally by elevated, undulating landform. There are enclosed, channelled views along the U-shaped and hidden valleys, but in contrast, wide open views across the low-lying gentle topography of the bays and long, unimpeded views along coastal roads which are often elevated above the coastal plain. Views from the coastal regions further inland are often restricted by the surrounding rugged upland peaks and moorland slopes.

6.3.2 Landcover and Landuse

49. The broad pattern of landcover and landuse within the Study Area is heavily influenced by topography and can be roughly divided into accessible areas, which have been settled, cultivated or cleared for agricultural land or afforested with coniferous plantation, and topographically inaccessible areas which remain as broadleaf woodland (predominantly oak and birch), moorland or peat bog.
50. The predominant landuse on Kintyre is coniferous plantation, which forms a mosaic with small areas of moorland with no field boundaries. The Site itself is located within an extensive area of coniferous plantation. Wind farm development is largely concentrated in the central part of peninsula, but with other turbines present on Gigha, and on the Knapdale and Cowal peninsulas. The Development would be positioned north of the main cluster of wind farms on the peninsula.
51. Landcover on the upland areas located in the centre of the islands consists of stunted oak-birch woodland, coniferous plantation, heather or rough grassland, or moorland, sometimes with upland lochs and blanket bog such as occurs on Jura. The more accessible lowland areas tend to be used for farming, particularly on the raised beach coast of Arran where there are level terraces of productive land or in the south where settled pastoral fields are defined by regular hedgerows. In the lowland areas of Bute, groups of fairly large, rectangular fields are enclosed by linear shelterbelts and blocks of mixed woodland.
52. Settlement on Kintyre has developed along the coastal regions of the peninsula, in and around the main Highway that skirts the coastline, in the form of scattered isolated farm buildings and small villages in sheltered sites.
53. A similar settlement pattern exists for the Isle of Arran, Knapdale, Jura and Cowal, whereby the roads and settlements are confined to the coastal areas of the islands in the form of small estates occupying coastal bays and small settlements concentrated at sheltered coves, such as Lochranza on Arran. By contrast, landform on the Isle of Bute permits a network of roads which criss-cross the island and settlement comprises scattered large farmsteads in the countryside and urban development on the coastal plain and broader vales. The town of Rothesay has developed around Rothesay Bay.

54. On the Isle of Gigha, the western rocky ridges are the inaccessible parts, therefore settlement is scattered through the gentler eastern parts of the island, centred on the road which forms the central spine of the island, running from north to south.
55. There are camping, caravan and picnic sites scattered along the coastal areas throughout the Study Area, as well as a number of small ports/jetties in sheltered bays to serve the network of ferry crossings. Other land use features include a number of hill forts and castles on the raised beaches of the coastlines and a rich scattering of designed landscapes, such as Brodick Castle and Country Park on Arran and Mount Stewart on Bute.

6.3.3 Cultural and Historical Elements

56. Details of cultural elements and historic development of the landscape are outlined in Chapter 9: *Historic Environment* of this ES.

6.3.4 Transportation

6.3.4.1 Road Network

57. The road network within the Study Area (Ref. Figure 6.14a) is generally confined to the coastlines and loch edges. Where landform permits some minor routes may wind inland along valleys as narrow tracks, passing through farms, small settlements and towns. The main roads with predicted visibility according to the ZTV in Figure 6.4 include:
 - A83: The main road on Kintyre splits from the A82 at Loch Lomond and follows the east coast of Argyll and Knapdale, along the edges of Loch Fyne, in a southwest direction before it reaches Kintyre. From Tarbert in the north of Kintyre it follows the west coast in a southerly direction to Campbeltown.
 - B842: The B842 follows the east coast of Kintyre from Campbeltown to Claonaig in the north.
 - B8001: From Claonaig the B8001 continues to Skipness Bay and traverses the peninsula to Whitehouse on the west coast, where it re-joins the A83.
 - A841: The A841 is the main road on Arran which is a circular route connecting the ports of Lochranza in the north of the island with Largymore in the south.
 - B880: This route traverses Arran from east to west, connecting Brodick with Drumadoon Bay.
 - The A846: This route extends along the eastern coast of Jura between Cabrach to Ardlussa. From Ardlussa the route becomes a minor road into the remote northern parts of the island outside the Study Area.
 - B8024: A minor coastal route around Knapdale links in to A83 at Inverneill in the north.

6.3.4.2 Ferry Crossings

58. Due to the large number of islands and peninsulas in the Study Area, ferry travel is an important part of the transport network, particularly for tourism. There is a network of ferry crossings which connect the islands to each other and those that fall within the ZTV are listed below:
 - Kennacraig on the northwest coast of Kintyre, across the Sound of Jura, to Port Askaig and Port Ellen on Islay;
 - Claonaig on the northeast coast of Kintyre, across the Kilbrannan Sound, to Lochranza on the north coast of Arran; and
 - Tayinloan on the west coast of Kintyre, across the Sound of Gigha, to Ardmish Bay on the east coast of the Isle of Gigha.

6.3.4.3 Recreation and Tourism

59. Tourism is a growing part of the economy within the Study Area. Tourists are attracted to the area for a number of reasons including:
- High visual quality based on distant and short range views, particularly those views adjacent to lochs and the sea;
 - A network of routes which enable visitors to access the best views and to experience different scales and types of landscape;
 - The tranquility associated with remote countryside;
 - The experience of short distance ferry travel across the many sea lochs and from the mainland to the islands;
 - The wider distribution of Historic Scotland monuments, National Trust and other heritage properties; and
 - A range of designed landscapes and gardens.
60. The views from some of the key tourist routes are therefore particularly important and sensitive.

6.3.4.4 Walking

61. The Study Area contains three regionally important long distance routes (Ref. Figure 6.14b) with potential views of the Development as follows:
- Kintyre Way: A 142 km route which starts at Tarbert Harbour in the north and finishes at Dunaverty Bay in the south, criss-crossing the peninsula as it goes. At its closest this route passes within approximately 2.95 km of the Site;
 - Isle of Arran Coastal Way: A 104 km circular route around the coastal regions of the island, starting and finishing in Brodick. At its closest this route passes within approximately 12 km of the Site;
 - West Island Way: 46 km route on the Isle of Bute. The route begins at Kilchattan Bay in the south of the island and finishes near Port Bannatyne just north of the island's main town of Rothesay. At its closest this route passes within approximately 25 km of the Site; and
 - Strategic/long range recreational footpaths/trails are generally assumed to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed due to the nature of their use, the often scenic quality of their route, and their importance as a regional or national leisure/tourist resource. In contrast, short-range footpaths, including unmarked footpaths, are generally considered to have Medium sensitivity on the basis that they are shorter in duration and of local importance.

6.3.4.5 Cycling

62. The Study Area contains two National Cycle Routes¹¹ (NCRs) with potential views of the Development. These include:
- Route 78: an on-road cycle route which follows the route of the B842 along the east coast of Kintyre from Campbeltown to Claonaig, where it crosses over to Knapdale on the B8001 and follows the south and east coast along the B8024; and
 - Route 73: an on-road cycle route on the Isle of Arran which follows the route of the A841 from Newton to Brodick.
63. Cycling opportunities also exist on the quieter roads and tracks on accessible land within the Study Area.

6.3.4.6 By Boat

64. Accessing the islands and peninsulas within the Study Area is mainly done by ferry. However, the sea lochs such as the Kilbrannan Sound, Sound of Bute, Sound of Gigha, the Firth of Clyde and Loch Fyne are important tourist/recreational attractions in themselves and are utilised by pleasure boaters and sea kayaker.

6.3.4.7 Settlement

65. The Study Area is sparsely populated. Settlement occurs in the form of scattered villages and isolated dwellings on the edges of valleys and lochs and in the coastal regions. Rothesay on Bute and Lochgilphead on Knapdale are the only major towns within the Study Area, however, these towns are outwith the ZTV. Settlements with potential visibility, however, are as follows:
- Whitehouse, Kintyre peninsula: Small village on sloping ground surrounded by blocks of plantation with views over undulating ground towards Cruach nam Fiadh, located approximately 3km to the north of the Site;
 - Lochranza, Isle of Arran: Linear settlement along the valley of Loch Ranza with channelled views across the loch and out across the Kilbrannan Sound towards Kintyre, located approximately 12km to the south east of the Site;
 - Ardmish, Gigha: A sprawling village on sloping ground overlooking Ardmish Bay with open views across the Sound of Gigha towards Kintyre, located approximately 14km to the southwest of the Site;
 - Craighouse: a small coastal village situated on land that slopes down to a bay. This settlement is situated over 32 km to the south east of the Development; and
 - Kerrymenoch, Isle of Bute: this is a hamlet overlooking Scalpsie Bay, over 25 km to the east of the Development.
66. For the purposes of this assessment, receptors based in all settlements are considered to have a high sensitivity to the type of wind farm proposed.

6.3.5 Landscape Designations

67. The Study Area contains two national landscape designations and three local designations. For the purposes of this assessment the national designation is assumed to have a High sensitivity. Whilst locally important do not share the same degree of protection as national designations they are considered to also represent landscape that have a high sensitivity. The designated areas are briefly described below and their location and extents is indicated in Figure 6.3.
68. National Scenic Areas (NSAs): NSAs encompass some of the most varied and valuable landscapes and coastal environments in Scotland. These areas are important not only for their physical landforms and for the flora and fauna which they support, but also for the environmental assets that they represent. These qualities could easily be destroyed or damaged by even relatively small, insensitive development or in some areas by any development at all. Therefore the primary aim of the NSA designation is to provide the best landscapes with adequate protection against damaging development. Based on the blade tip ZTV the Development would be visible from two NSAs within the Study Area - the Isle of Arran NSA and Jura NSA.
69. Isle of Arran NSA: This designated area is located on the northern half of the Isle of Arran, between the summit of Beinn Bhreac and the Kilbrannan Sound and Sound of Bute, over 12 km to the southeast of the Site. The special qualities of this designated area are summarised as:

¹¹ NCR network based on GIS datasets provided by Sustrans, November 2008

- “A mountain presence that dominates the Firth of Clyde;
- The contrast between the wild Highland interior and the populated coastal strip;
- The historical landscape in miniature;
- A dramatic, compact mountain area;
- A distinctive coastline with a rich variety of forms;
- One of the most important geological areas in Britain;
- An exceptional area of outdoor recreation; and
- The experience of Highland and island wildlife at close hand.”

70. Jura NSA: This designated area covers the southern end of Jura, between the Sound of Islay and Rainberg Mor, over 32 km to the northwest of the Development turbines. The special qualities of this designated area, as set out in the capacity study are summarised as:

- “The distinctive Paps of Jura;
- Human settlement on the margins of a vast moorland terrain;
- A continually varying coast;
- Large tracts of Wild Land;
- The raised beaches of the west coast;
- An island of deer;
- An island close and yet remote; and
- The inaccessible Loch Tarbert.”

6.3.5.1 Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV):

71. Arran AGLV: The majority of the Isle of Arran, excluding the southern areas, is designated as a AGLV, approximately 12 km to the southeast of the Site.
72. Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae AGLVs: Little Cumbrae and Great Cumbrae AGLVs are located within the Firth of Clyde, approximately 30 and 31 km from the Development, respectively. Great Cumbrae comprises a number of scattered farmsteads and residential properties (mainly around the coastline) and the town of Millport, overlooking the Tan channel. Little Cumbrae, in contrast, is a private island including a castle, lighthouse and private residence, and was not open to the public at the time of this assessment.

6.3.5.2 Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ):

73. There are two APQs on Kintyre within the Study Area: a narrow strip along the east coast between Carradale and Campbeltown (approximately 20 km to the south of the Site); and a narrow strip on the west coast between Clachan and Kilchenzie (approximately 8 km to the west of the Site):
- A large area of Knapdale including the south east coast is APQ, approximately 5 km to the northwest of the Site; and
 - The majority of the Cowal Peninsula (approximately 13 km to the northeast of the Site) and the Isle of Bute (approximately 19 km to the east of the Site) is APQ.
74. These designated areas are protected in order to prevent “development in, or adjacent to, an Area of Panoramic Quality where the development’s scale, location or design will have a significant adverse impact on the character of the landscape, unless it is demonstrated that any significant adverse

effects on the quality for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social and economic benefits of National or regional importance.”. These areas are important not only for their physical landforms and for the flora and fauna, which they support, but also for the environmental assets that they represent”.

6.3.5.3 Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL):

75. There are three GDLs within the Study Area with potential for views of the Development:
- Achamore Gardens: Located on the Isle of Gigha, approximately 22 km to the northwest of the Site;
 - Mount Stewart: Located on the Isle of Bute, approximately 28 km to the east of the Site; and
 - Ballimore: Located on the Cowal Peninsula, approximately 26 km to the north of the Site.
76. GDLs are an important part of the area’s history, character and scenery and add greatly to the enjoyment of the countryside and settlements. In many cases they provide a landscape setting for an important building, have rare plant collections or contain interesting woodland or wildlife habitats. The primary aim of the GDL designation is to protect and if possible enhance these designations to allow future generations to enjoy them in the years ahead.

6.3.5.4 Wild Land

77. There are some large areas of Scotland, particularly in the north and west, whose largely semi-natural landscapes show minimal signs of human influence. These can be mountains and moorland, stretches of undeveloped coast or large areas of peat bog. These wild and remote areas have a distinct and special character, which is increasingly rare to find. A key component of Scotland’s identity, they bring significant economic benefits, attracting visitors and tourists. Many people derive psychological and spiritual benefit from their existence, and they provide increasingly important havens for Scotland’s wildlife.
78. In 2002 SNH published its Wildness in Scotland’s Countryside. This considers the value of wild places to society, the main pressures on the resource, and identifies ‘search areas for wild land’, which include most of the significant and valued areas of wild land character.
79. There are two such areas of Wild Land within the Study Area:
- One located approximately 20 km from the Site; and
80. An area covering central Jura is designated as Wild Land, located approximately 34 km to the north west of the Site. In January 2012 SNH published a more detailed analysis which maps relative levels of wildness for the whole of Scotland. The Wild Land areas identified in the 2002 publications, above, are reflected in the 2012 study.
81. Whilst Wild Land is considered important within Scotland, is considered to have a high sensitivity to any form of development and is covered by a number of key planning tools, including the National Planning Framework (June 2009), there is no specific protection for these landscapes afforded by Scottish Planning Policy.

6.3.6 Other Wind farms in the Study Area

82. Details of other wind farms located in the Study Area are given in Table 6.2 above, with their respective locations shown on Figure 6.6. The majority of existing and approved wind energy developments are concentrated in the central and southern regions of Kintyre and on the Isle of Gigha,

with further developments on the Knapdale and Cowal peninsulas. The existing and consented Tangy, Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill wind farms are separated by approximately 6 km, whereas Cour would be located within 4 km of Deucheran Hill, if consented. In contrast, there are no operational or consented wind farms within a 14 km radius of the Site. The closest operational site is Deucheran Hill, which is located approximately 14.8 km to the southwest of the Development.

83. The majority of existing and consented wind farms on Kintyre are located towards the central spine of the peninsula to avoid more sensitive edges and steeper slopes. Where this is not the case (i.e. Tangy) turbines are particularly visible and prominent in views from the coast and adjoining seascape.

84. The existing and consented wind farms are generally of medium to large scale and utilise turbines smaller than 80 m to blade tip. However, recent trends in development have seen an increase in the size of turbines. This is apparent at the recently consented Beinn an Tuirc extension which is approved to utilise turbines with a blade tip height of 100 m. This trend is also reflected in current proposals for wind farms in the Study Area; Cour and Auchadaduie turbines, if consented, would be 112 m and 99.5 m to blade tip respectively.

6.3.7 Landscape Character

85. Several Landscape Character Assessments have been commissioned by SNH to assess the many varied landscapes of Scotland. There are two character assessments which cover the Study Area as follows:

- Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde (Review No 78), SNH (1996); and
- Ayrshire Landscape Assessment (Review No 111), SNH (1998).

86. These assessments describe the character of the regions which they cover using a hierarchical approach whereby the region is first divided into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) which are then sub-divided into Landscape Character Types (LCTs).

87. LCAs are distinct landscape regions at the broad scale, based on general characteristics such as geology, landform, soils, ecological associations, land cover, and historical patterns of settlement and land use. In contrast LCTs are areas categorised in more detail and which are typified by a consistent pattern of particular constituent elements. Whereas LCAs are geographically specific, landscape types are generic and the same landscape type may occur in different landscape character areas.

88. Within Argyll and the Firth of Clyde there are six LCAs that may be subject to potential views of the Development. These are listed below along with a description of their key characteristics. The Development itself falls within the Mull of Kintyre (LCA 8).

6.3.7.1 Cowal Ridges (LCA 2): The key characteristics of which include:

- Underlying Dalradian rocks of the Southern Highland Group;
- A dramatic mountain ridges covered by moorland with rocky outcrops;
- Narrow glens and lochs;
- A large scale landscape with a wild character;
- A dispersed settlement pattern; and
- Some commercial forestry.

6.3.7.2 Loch Fyne (LCA 3): The key characteristics of which include:

- A large scale mosaic of forestry plantation and wild, open moorland;

- Craggy outcrops of rock;
- Views across Loch Fyne;
- Low, rounded hills;
- Stunted native birch and willow scrub; and
- Development concentrated around the edges of the loch. Inevitable pressure from tourism.

6.3.7.3 Knapdale (LCA 7): Key characteristics of which include:

- Strong upland parallel ridges in NW-SE alignment;
- Chains of offshore islands and Low ridges;
- Inland lochs;
- Glacial over-deepened glens have small scale enclosed landscapes
- Large scale conifer plantations on the ridges;
- Contrasting flat area of moss; and
- Numerous archaeological sites.

6.3.7.4 Mull of Kintyre (LCA 8): Key characteristics of which includes:

- Upland undulating plateau, in places dropping dramatically to the sea;
- Lush glens with a small scale domestic character;
- Prehistoric and Celtic archaeological sites along the edges of upland areas;
- Large scale mosaic of moorland and conifer plantations;
- Upland lochs;
- Wild and uninhabited upland areas contrast with a broad Lowland vale to the west of Campbeltown; and
- Rocky headlands and sandy bays.

6.3.7.5 Jura and Scarba (LCA 10): Key characteristics of which include:

- Wild and expansive character, predominantly uninhabited;
- Massive scale landscape;
- Open moorland and extensive areas of peat bog predominate with conifer plantations on Lower slopes; and
- Paps of Jura (steep sided mountains with scree slopes) stand out as features.

6.3.7.6 Bute (LCA 13): Key characteristics of which include:

- An island of beaches, lochs and hills;
- Verdant farmland;
- Open, rolling farmland;
- Wild moorland;
- Coastal plains with archaeological sites; and
- Raised beaches along the west coast.

89. Within Ayrshire there are two landscape character areas that would be subject to potential views of the development, as follows:

6.3.7.7 Arran (LCA 1): Key characteristics of which include:

- Dramatic landscape of heavily glaciated granitic peaks and valleys in the north;
- Lower and more subdued moorlands in the south;
- Exposed and remote western coast;
- Sheltered, wooded and settled to the east;
- Settled and pastoral fringe above the raised beaches and cliff lines along the coastal regions; and
- Rich in archaeological sites.

6.3.7.8 Inner Firth of Clyde (LCA 6): Key characteristics of which include:

- Medium distance views across semi-sheltered water to steeply rising shorelines, often backed by wooded slopes;
- Constantly changing landscape reflecting changing light and weather; and
- A combination of settled and unsettled coastlines, open water, pleasure craft and commercial shipping gives this area a distinctive character.

90. In total sixteen LCTs would be subject to potential views of the Development. Ten LCTs fall within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment and six are covered by the Ayrshire Landscape Assessment. The landscapes with potential views of the Development are listed in Table 6.5, below, along with a description of views obtained within them and their sensitivity. The Development would be located within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (LCT AGC6).

6.3.8 Seascape Character

91. A seascape character assessment has been commissioned by SNH to assess the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to wind farms as follows:

- An Assessment of the Sensitivity and Capacity of the Scottish Seascape in Relation to Wind Farms¹²;

92. It should be noted that the study was commissioned to contribute to strategic guidance on areas where the impact of offshore wind energy development on Scottish seascapes are likely to be of least significance, however the findings are useful at a strategic level to inform the LVIA for the Development.

93. The study defined 33 seascape units at a strategic scale. The Development is predicted to be visible from locations within Seascape Areas 24 and 25 and 26, the location and extent of which is indicated on Figure 6.2 and key characteristics are set out below.

6.3.8.1 Area 24: West Kintyre/South East Jura and South East Islay

94. Key characteristics of this seascape unit include:

- Contained seascape created by the proximity of coasts of Jura, Islay and Kintyre forming a broad sound;
- Even linear coastline of Argyll no distinct headlands but occasional shallow sandy bays resulting in Gigha and Paps of Jura being key focus of views from mainland;
- Sheltered feel, more exposed towards open sea at Mull of Kintyre;
- Sparse settlement, farming and fishing communities. No large scale development. Houses painted white, some grander houses; some distilleries on Islay;

- Moorland, farmland, forestry and some designed landscapes;
- Paps of Jura and headlands of Islay and Kintyre key focal points within this seascape; and
- Views to Ireland and Mull.

95. Sensitivity: This seascape has a High sensitivity to the type of wind farm development proposed. Such development would conflict with the Medium scale seascapes towards the north of this area but could possibly be accommodated in the larger scale areas further south where the area opens up. The area is a contained seascape with key views to the Paps of Jura which dominate this seascape and the Kintyre headland. Turbines would disrupt the appreciation of these strong focal points. There is a lack of development in this area, although the onshore wind farms on Argyll can be spotted in good weather. The scale of development is significantly different to the generally small scale, traditional or historic settlements and houses in this area.

96. The main forces for change in this seascape unit are:

- Landward wind energy development on Kintyre is a significant force for change which is changing the Perception of the area. Whilst this has many benefits socially and economically for the area in seascape/landscape terms it is a Major driver of change and will inevitably alter the character of the Seascapes and landscapes here, particularly relating to the proximity of Jura which is perceived as a remote and 'wild' island. Cumulative effects are potentially significant;
- Community wind energy development on Gigha; and
- Tourist facilities and caravan sites on Kintyre.

6.3.8.2 Area 25: Loch Fyne/Kilbrannan Sound

97. The key characteristics of this seascape unit include:

- Extremely narrow stretches of sea particularly in Loch Fyne;
- Forestry on mainland;
- Some picturesque settlements e.g. Inveraray, one of the earliest and best preserved planned towns in Scotland;
- Views of Arran Mountains dominate Kilbrannan Sound;
- Roads following very close to coastal edge for much of this area; and
- Small scale settlements some urban e.g. Lochgilphead, Campbeltown.

98. Sensitivity: Given the linear and enclosed nature of this seascape, the prominence of skylines and connecting vistas, the strong topographical form of adjoining landscapes, the sensitivity of this seascape to the type of wind development proposed is High.

99. The key forces for change in this seascape include wind farms, masts, waste water treatment infrastructure and cod farming in deep water off Arran.

6.3.8.3 Area 26: Firth of Clyde

100. The key characteristics of this seascape unit include:

- Broad sea basin formed by mainland and Arran, semi enclosed;
- Bute and Kyles of Bute appear to merge in many views;
- Generally narrow coastal ledge with coastal hills restricting views inland;
- Well settled along mainland coastal and island fringes;

¹² Commissioned Report No. 103, SNH (2005)

- Large scale industrial buildings -some of these with distinct vertical elements e.g. crane at Clydeport at Hunterston ore terminal;
- Constructed wind farm at Ardrossan;
- The Firth and the intricacies of Kyles and islands are key elements;
- Sheltered waters popular for sailing, many marinas, tourist facilities and links golf courses;
- Forestry and policy landscapes are a feature, borrowing views from Arran;
- Goat Fell on Arran dominates views within this seascape area and views of mountains to north also possible.

101. Sensitivity: This seascape has a Medium - High sensitivity in regard to the type of wind farm development proposed. Although sheltered and enclosed, it is of large scale with some industry present which turbines could relate to. However any large scale vertical development would affect the focus of intricate fingers of land and sea that form striking views within this seascape over a large area and would compromise the sense of vertical scale of Goat Fell.
102. Forces for change include onshore wind energy developments on mainland linking into capacity released by closure of Hunterston nuclear power station, major container development being sought for Hunterston and expansion of paper mill at Irvine.

6.3.8.4 Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Capacity Study

103. In addition to the preceding character appraisals a capacity study for Argyll and Bute has been published (Ref. Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, Argyll and Bute Council and SNH, 2012). This study (henceforth referred to as ‘the Capacity Study’) is intended to inform strategic planning for wind energy development in line with Scottish Planning Policy and to provide guidance on the appraisal of individual wind farm and wind turbine proposals in Argyll and Bute.
104. Based on the Capacity Study the Development would be located within an area identified as the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (landscape character type AGC6c), which extends along the spine of the Kintyre peninsula. The capacity study identifies this landscape to be part of an ‘area of search’ “with a Medium sensitivity to large (80-130m) wind farms.”
105. The landscape is described in the capacity study as follows:

“a gently undulating plateau-like landform with smooth even slopes. This landscape has a simple land cover of extensive coniferous forestry and moorland. It is sparsely populated and already accommodates three operational wind farm developments. Many of these characteristics present potential opportunities to accommodate large scale wind farm development (i.e. 80-130m turbines) although the more complex smaller scale hills and occasional narrow settled glens on the fringes of this broad upland plateau and more pronounced Higher hill summits are more sensitive as is the rugged and remote coast between Skipness and Tarbert. This landscape has an overall medium sensitivity to large development typology and a medium-low sensitivity to the medium typology (i.e. turbines up to 80m in height).

This is a very sparsely settled area which is difficult to access in places although the Kintyre Way long distance footpath attracts walkers. Visibility of the interior of these uplands is restricted from roads and settlement within adjacent Low-lying coastal areas although there are longer views from across Loch Fyne and from Arran and Gigha. Visual sensitivity is judged to be High-Medium for the large typology and Medium for the Medium typology, reflecting the greater scope for turbines of this size to integrate with existing wind farm developments and minimise effects on views.

No designated landscapes apply to the Kintyre area although it abuts a coastal APQ in places. Sensitivity in relation to landscape values is considered to be Low for both of the typologies assessed (large and Medium) although this would increase at the transition with the APQ designated area as turbines visible on prominent skylines above the coastal fringe may indirectly affect special qualities.”

106. The capacity study also identifies key cumulative landscape and visual issues as follows:
- Large turbines and/or more extensive wind farm developments sited on the edge hills and slopes of the Kintyre uplands where they would be likely to increase landscape and visual impacts on the settled coastal edge of Kintyre and on views from Arran and Gigha and would also undermine the established pattern of wind farm developments associated with the interior of these uplands;
 - Potential effects on views from the A83 Tourist Route where operational and any further wind farm developments in both Kintyre and Knapdale could potentially be visible in the more open Kennacraig to Clachan area and sequentially in views between Lochgilphead and Inverneill;
 - Extensions to operational wind farms may extend or exacerbate visual intrusion on sensitive skylines above the ‘hidden glens’ (LCT AGC3) or within the narrow settled Barr Glen and Glen Lussa within this character type;
 - Cumulative effects associated with any additional wind farm development into the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic character type (LCT AGC6c) in terms of views from the west coast of Arran which extend along the full length of the peninsula; and
 - The pattern of wind farm developments seen along the spine of the Kintyre peninsula from Arran - whether repeated clusters of separate wind farms along the length of the spine or a strategy of consolidating the existing foci for development may limit cumulative effects.
107. The capacity study goes on to propose a series of guidance with regard to the siting of large typology developments. The relevant parts of which were incorporated into the overall design strategy for the Development (see section 6.4).

Table 6.5: Landscape Character Types within 35km of Development from where there is Theoretically Visibility

Landscape Types	Key Characteristics	Type of Views	Sensitivity to type of development proposed
LCTs within Argyll and the Firth of Clyde Landscape Character Assessment			
Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (AGC1)	<p>Located on the Cowal Peninsula, to the northeast of the Study Area, including Dunoon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic mountain ridges with steep plummeting slopes and numerous rocky outcrops. • Ribbon lochs and meandering rivers on narrow floodplains from dramatic contrast to surrounding slopes. • Conifer plantations on Lower slopes and open moorland or bare rock faces on upper slopes and summits • Contrast between open land on upper slopes beyond the head dyke, and large fields enclosed by stone walls within Lower valley. • Scattered birch woodland alongside burns and on upper slopes and oak woodland on sheltered Lower slopes. • Settlement confined to narrow strip along loch edge and concentrated in small bays and at heads of lochs <p>Key Issues: Sensitive landscape - floodplains and lochs provide the setting for mountain ridges and therefore their visual amenity is particular sensitive. Commercial forestry is the predominant force for change. Essential that the edges of plantations respond to landform in this sensitive and scenic landscape. Limited opportunities for development in this inaccessible mountainous landscape. Construction of new roads, dams and infrastructure projects should be planned to be as unobtrusive as possible. Vertical features can seem intrusive elements in the landscape.</p>	Flood plains and lochs provide the setting for mountain ridges and views are tightly enclosed and channelled across the valleys. Open, panoramic views from the ridges across the seascape towards surrounding islands.	High
High Tops (AGC2)	<p>Located on the Paps of Jura in the western extents of the Study Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged, steep sided mountain ranges with a massive scale, dramatic mountain scenery. • Diverse landform with gullies, scarp slopes and rocky screes. • Striking exposed rock faces with scrubby birch-oak woodland in gullies. • Relatively wide glens between mountain ranges. • Fast-flowing burns, waterfalls and small upland lochs are attractive, distinctive features. • Extensive conifer plantations on some Lower slopes. • Inaccessible and relatively uninhabited. <p>Key Issues: Wilderness landscape, extremely sensitive to change. Any form of development must be planned to minimise its visual and ecological impact. Pressures for change from commercial forestry but also from tourist developments (Skiing), infrastructure, hydro-electric power and wind farms and transmission lines. However opportunities limited due to access.</p>	Open, panoramic views from the High tops across the seascape towards surrounding islands such as Kintyre. Enclosed and channelled views through the wide glens.	High
Open Ridgeland (AGC5)	<p>Located on the Isle of Bute to the northeast of the Study Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, even slopes form rounded ridges and occasional steep summits. • Upper slopes are predominantly open moorland with blocks of commercial forestry, patches of birch woodland and scrub. • Marginal farmland confined to broader glens and loch fringes, with fields enclosed by stone walls and occasional shelter belts. • Narrow strips of broadleaf woodland along burns and within steep, rocky gullies. • Substantial, dark grey retaining walls and beech hedgerows emphasise contours and help to integrate settlements on Lower slopes. • Built development concentrated along very narrow shoreline strip. <p>Key Issues: Conserve natural character of sensitive undeveloped shoreline landscapes, giving careful consideration to the impact of any new built development on views from the opposite shores of narrow ribbon lochs or long peninsulas. Retain strong contrasts in scale and character of landscape on upper slopes and small-scale, diverse landscape pattern within valleys. Conserve and extend existing broadleaf woodland within gullies on valley slopes.</p>	Inter-visibility between the open ridgeland and the opposite shores of narrow ribbon lochs or long peninsulas. Long distance views from upland areas towards Kintyre, Knapdale and Arran, as well as mainland Ayrshire.	High

Landscape Types	Key Characteristics	Type of Views	Sensitivity to type of development proposed
Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (AGC6)	<p>Predominant LCT within the Study Area. Development is located within this LCT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland plateau with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile. • Extensive, large-scale mosaic of forestry plantations and small areas of open moorland with no field boundaries. • Upland lochs, winding narrow glens and rider river valleys flow through the landscape. • Development is restricted to occasional isolated dwellings on the edges of the moor. Access is limited to roads that typically follow the shorelines. <p>Key Issues: Recognised that the upland plateau is a target for new wind farm sites, however the principal force for change is commercial forestry. Large scale forestry tends to mask landform and locally important features and views and therefore the size and shape of plantations and the balance with open moorland needs to be considered. Due to the extensive areas of plantation there is scope for screening of development and changes in land use.</p>	Panoramic, long distance views from the plateaux in elevated locations across the seascape towards surrounding islands. Intervisibility across rugged upland landscape often restricted locally by large areas of plantation woodland and topographical features. Rugged skyline with few visually prominent features other than the topography.	Generally Medium, but with localised high sensitivity where there are pronounced summits, craggy smaller scale landforms, or where no forestry is present and the landscape therefore has a wilder, more remote character. Higher sensitivity also occurs in close proximity to the edge of the LCT and peninsula where steeply graded escarpments occur. The Site straddles areas of medium and high sensitivity, the higher sensitivity relating to peninsula escarpment edges adjoining the B8001 and medium sensitivity occurring on the flatter/gently undulating top of the peninsula where some reductions in landscape quality are also evident and there is some scope for mitigation (i.e. in forested areas).
Moorland Plateau (AGC8)	<p>Located on Jura and Islay to the western extents of the Study Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland plateau with an undulating landform on a massive scale. • Predominantly open moorland broken by rocky outcrops and upland lochs with extensive areas of blanket bog. • Inaccessible and relatively uninhabited with occasional farmsteads on the edge of the moor. • Conifer plantations on fringes of upland moor with broadleaf woodland limited to a few sheltered coastal cliffs. <p>Key Issues: Remote natural landscape with few opportunities to accommodate change without destroying wilderness qualities of landscape. Edges of the uplands are most visually prominent and therefore most visually sensitive parts of the moorland plateau, these are also the areas under most pressure for development. Important on these island landscapes to consider the wider viewshed.</p>	Panoramic long distance views from the upland plateaux across the seascape towards surrounding islands. Intervisibility across rugged upland landscape often restricted locally by topographical features. Rugged skyline with few visually prominent features other than the topography.	High
Rolling Farmland with Estates (AGC13)	<p>Located on the south eastern parts of the Isle of Bute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, rounded ridges with occasional steep banks, knolls and conical upstanding hills. • Flat coastal plain with sandy bays along the Firth of Clyde. • Groups of fairly large, rectangular fields, enclosed by linear shelterbelts and blocks of mixed woodland. • Stone walls, follies, beech hedgerows and estate policy woodlands. • Numerous hedgerow trees, often forming avenues along lanes. • Scattered large farmsteads in countryside. • Urban development on coastal plain and broader vales. <p>Key Issues: Development pressures and associated infrastructure development, especially along loch edges and river valleys. Pressure on semi-natural habitats and historical features through hedgerow removal and modern farm buildings. Pressure from commercial forestry. Characteristic scale and features of the landscape should be respected.</p>	Mixture of long distance, channelled and enclosed views due to variations in landform and tree cover. Some panoramic, long distance views from the upland areas across the seascape towards surrounding islands.	High
Basalt Lowlands (AGC17)	<p>Located on the southern tip of the Isle of Bute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undulating, eroded moorland on Lower fringes of the High stepped basalt. • Low ridges broadly follow a SE-NW alignment, with ribbon lochs in the glens. 	Channelled and enclosed views along steep sided valleys. Panoramic, long distance views	High

Landscape Types	Key Characteristics	Type of Views	Sensitivity to type of development proposed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indented coastline; Low headlands have a distinctive stepped profile. • Open moorland broken by rocky outcrops and ledges. • Extensive conifer plantations on Lower slopes of plateau. Diverse, patchy mosaic of woodland, bog and marginal pasture on Lower fringes of moor. • Scattered small holdings and cottages on edge of moor. Small estates influence the landscape character in some sheltered coastal bays. <p>Key Issues: Erosion of important landscape features and historic features such as stone walls through neglect. Management and extension of native woodlands. Pressure for landscape change from built development and road upgrading, especially on the edges of existing settlements.</p>	from the tops of the ridges across the seascape towards surrounding islands.	
Coastal Plain (AGC19)	Located on the western coasts of Kintyre and Bute, sheltered by the offshore Isle of Gigha. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely flat, linear, coastal plain backed by a coastal road. • Open exposed character. • Gradual transition from agricultural fields to marsh, mud flats and beach. • Large, straight, angular field patterns and lanes. Post and wire fencing enclosed fields, which are predominantly laid to pasture with some arable. • Remnant clumpy gorse hedgerows and stunted and windblown trees. • Isolated farmsteads and some development along coastal road. <p>Key Issues: Flat landform and wild open character make it sensitive to change and the beaches, marshes and mudflats support diverse species of flora and fauna. The area is overlooked from the coastal road and the landcover and topography elements leave few opportunities to accommodate landscape change without altering the local landscape character.</p>	Long, unimpeded views from the coastal road which is often elevated above the coastal plain. The isolated farms are an important visual focus and their setting should be conserved.	High
Rocky Mosaic (AGC20)	Located on the coastal regions of Kintyre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uneven, hummocky gorse-covered landform with rocky outcrops and narrow glens. • Rock indented coastline with offshore islands and small sandy bays, wild natural character. • Raised beaches, steep wooded cliffs and distinctive rounded knolls. • Relatively small scale but diverse landscape with a rich mix of colours and textures. • Scattered isolated farm buildings and small villages in sheltered sites. Stone walls provide partial enclosure. • Archaeological sites. <p>Key Issues: Most sensitive features are the raised beach cliffs, rounded rocky knolls, and indented coastline. Stands of semi-natural ancient woodland and archaeological sites should be conserved. Largely unspoilt area but forces for change from tourism and fringe development around the towns. Large scale developments would be inappropriate within the small scale landscape and may be difficult to screen.</p>	Potential for long distance views across the lochs and across the seascape towards surrounding islands. Topography tends to restrict views further inland.	High
Coastal Parallel Ridges (AGC22)	Located on the east coasts of Islay and Jura, and on the island of Gigha. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow rocky ridges with a strong southwest-northeast alignment, extending out into the sea. • Horseshoe shaped narrow sandy bays and extensive mudflats. • Stunted oak-birch woodlands on the narrow ridges separating narrow marginal pastures, marsh or lochs. Small blocks of conifers. • Small estates occupying coastal bays, small settlements concentrated at coves. • Rich variety of archaeological sites and stone walls enclosing fields along lanes. <p>Key Issues: Extremely sensitive to change due to distinctive small scale character and diverse and scenic landscape. Rich variety of vegetation types and numerous archaeological sites also contribute to its value. Relatively unspoilt although pressures from tourism, commercial forestry (which does not reflect the linear grain of the landscape) and decay of some small traditional cottages are forces for change. Landscape could only accommodate small-scale built development, which topography and vegetation would provide some screening for, however risk of linear built development along the coastal roads which would disturb traditional landscape pattern.</p>	Views within the landscape are typically short distance, restricted by the rocky ridges and vegetation. Long distance views from the coast across the seascape towards the surrounding islands.	High

Landscape Types	Key Characteristics	Type of Views	Sensitivity to type of development proposed
LCAs within Ayrshire Landscape Character Assessment			
<p>Raised Beach Coast (AYS1)</p>	<p>Located on the western and eastern coastlines of Arran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised beaches form a level shelf where areas of higher ground reach the coast. • Steep, craggy escarpments back the shelf, representing the former cliff line and often clothed in dramatically wind-sheared broadleaf woodland. • Cut into a wide range of different rock types including new and old red sandstones, schists and carboniferous rocks. • Farming is predominant land use as the raised beaches provide a level terrace of productive land. • Number of hill forts and castles reflect importance of the raised beaches in providing a corridor for communications. • Settlement characterised by narrow, linear villages and larger bay settlements. Building materials closely reflect variations in local geology. <p>Key Issues: To conserve and maintain the predominantly small scale, agricultural nature of this landscape type and to retain the integrity of the related landform and features. Should be considered a Low priority for wind energy development on landscape character and visibility grounds. Any developments on Higher ground should avoid sky-lining when viewed from coastal towns and main roads. Semi-natural and broadleaf planting schemes should be supported in recognition of the important contribution of these woods to the raised beach landscapes.</p>	<p>Much of the raised beach coast is Highly visible from surrounding areas as are views from the character area towards Kintyre to the west and mainland Ayrshire to the east. The elevated topography of the rugged granite uplands that flank the region and restrict views further inland.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Coastal Fringe with Agriculture (AYS3)</p>	<p>Located on the southern and eastern coastlines of Arran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fringe of small, geometric and usually hedged fields, although field boundaries are beginning to deteriorate. • Semi-natural oak and birch woodland occurs in upland valleys, beech woodland in the Lower, more sheltered parts of the valley. • Southern areas are some of the most settled parts of the island with many farmhouses and cottages. On the west coast historic residential cores, supplemented by Victorian additions have been expanded by the development of suburban housing. • Golf courses and caravan sites on western part of coastal fringe. <p>Key Issues: To conserve the historic and agricultural character of the areas by controlling development, sympathetic restoration of features and reinforcing the structure of field boundaries and trees. Rural landscape unsuitable for wind farm development which would conflict with the small scale and grain of this landscape</p>	<p>Views restricted by undulating topography, areas of woodland and sheltered bays on the western coast. Topography restricts views further inland but there are long distance views across the seascape towards mainland Ayrshire.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Coastal Headland (AYS4)</p>	<p>Located on the northern coast of Arran (Cock of Arran).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive headland comprising a combination of sandstones, carboniferous rocks and lavas. • Elongated headland running northwest to southeast with a steep northern face and shallower south facing slopes. • Southeastern most part forested but other areas remain under heather or rough grassland. • The dispersed village of Lochranza is sited around a sheltered natural harbour at the western end. <p>Key Issues: To conserve, undeveloped, the prominent coastal hill top landscapes. Development should generally be discouraged to maintain the 'untamed' character of the landscape. Although technically suitable for wind farm development it would not be compatible with the landscape character.</p>	<p>Long distance 180 degree views from the Highest parts of the headland towards northern Kintyre, across the Sound of Bute and towards mainland Ayrshire. Topography of central parts of Arran restricts views to the south. Views from the Lower parts are more restricted by topography.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Coastal Lowland Moor (AYS6)</p>	<p>Located on the western side of Arran on Machrie Moor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive areas of Lowland adjoining the coast. • Partially enclosed by rising hills to the north and east and Low coastal hills to the west. • Large number of prehistoric remains such as standing stones, stone circles and cairns (one of the largest archaeological areas in Scotland). • Moor covered by mixture of poorly drained rough grazing and tight network of geometric fields, however field boundaries area beginning to deteriorate • Dispersed scatter of houses and farms and some recently developed suburban housing estates. 	<p>Lowland landscape backed by hills and uplands which restricts views inland. Views across Lowland landscape and seascape towards Kintyre, often restricted by Low coastal hills.</p>	<p>High</p>

Landscape Types	Key Characteristics	Type of Views	Sensitivity to type of development proposed
	Key Issues: To arrest the gradual decline of agriculture while conserving the historic character of the landscape. Management of the issues associated with tourism on Machrie Moor requires consideration. Area is considered unsuitable for wind farms on landscape character grounds.		
Rugged Moorland Hills and Valleys with Forest (AYS22)	Covering the majority of southern Arran. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugged moorland underlain by red sandstone • Numerous tertiary dykes, sills and intrusions which give the moorland a degree of ruggedness. • Comparatively shallow slopes in the southwest and steep, craggy escarpments in the east. • Series of valleys cut into the upland mass providing routes for two High passes to cross the island. • Upland parts comprise stands of semi-natural oak and birch woodland and networks of drystone dykes, whereas Lowlands are more settled and pastoral with regular hedged fields and a predominance of beech, chestnut and field maple. • Afforested Higher moorlands contain coniferous plantation which extend down to the road which encircles the island. • Settlement limited to the occasional isolated farmstead sited high in the valleys Key Issues: To conserve the untamed nature of the moorland landscape and to emphasise contrasts with surrounding Lowlands. Potential siting of wind farms should aim to use adjacent forested landscapes to aid screening and backclothing.	Long distance views across surrounding seascape and to the north of Arran from upland areas. Views restricted by topography and vegetation within the valleys.	High-Medium
Rugged Granite Uplands (AYS25)	Covering the majority of northern Arran. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic mountain landscape created by granite intrusion, designated as a NSA. • Can be sub-divided into two peaks - the dramatic eastern peaks linked by a heavily serrated and knife edge ridge and the more rounded summits in the west. • Highly dissected landform with High peaks separated by plunging U-shaped valleys. • Landform dominated by sparse moorland vegetation and extensive areas of bare rock. • Coniferous plantation along the Lower slopes along the coastal fringes. • Signs of human settlement scarce Key Issues: To conserve and emphasise the dramatic and untamed landscape character of the granite uplands. Sensitive upland type and therefore tall structures should be resisted	Contrasting topography offers two types of views: panoramic, long distance views from the elevated uplands across the seascape towards surrounding islands and restricted, channelled views along the U-shaped valleys. The uplands provide a distinctive skyline and foci when viewed from the mainland, Kintyre or the Firth of Clyde.	High

6.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND DEVELOPMENT DESIGN MITIGATION

108. The Development description is given in Chapter 4: *Description of Development* of this ES. Chapter 3: *Site Selection, Design Evolution and Site Alternatives* of this ES details the design optimisation process undertaken in order to achieve a satisfactory layout in respect of landscape and visual amenity while respecting key environmental and technical constraints.
109. The Development would comprise three distinct phases:
- Construction phase;
 - Operational phase; and
 - Decommissioning phase.
110. From the point of view of the landscape and visual assessment, there are two aspects of a wind farm development that have the potential to cause an effect on landscape quality and visual amenity. These comprise:
- Activities and elements of the Development that would affect the fabric of the physical landscape of the Site; and
 - Activities and characteristics of the Development visible from the surrounding locality, would affect the landscape character and visual amenity nearby.

6.4.1 Construction Phase

111. The construction phase of the Development is likely to last for approximately 18 months. During this phase, the following activities and elements have the potential to cause an effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area:
- Site preparations, including tree felling and soil stripping;
 - Upgrading of existing site access tracks and formation of bell-mouth entrance and new site access;
 - Excavation and construction of turbine and anemometry mast foundations;
 - Excavations for underground cables;
 - Formation of temporary site compounds;
 - Site offices and car parking;
 - Formation of temporary crane pads adjoining each turbine location;
 - Construction of substation and control substation compound and control building;
 - Construction of grid connection off-site;
 - HGV deliveries to site and movement of vehicles on site;
 - Erection of turbines; and
 - Reinstatement works, including removal of temporary accommodation.
112. The location and management of these features have been carefully considered to minimise environmental effect.
113. The turbines themselves would be erected over a short period, typically 1-2 days per turbine, and the appearance of the construction cranes in views of the Site would therefore be of short duration.

6.4.2 Operational Phase

114. The operational phase would last approximately 25 years, during which time potential sources of landscape and visual effects of the Development would include:
- Wind turbines and anemometer masts;
 - Transformers;
 - Aviation lighting;
 - Access tracks; and
 - Substation and control building.
115. The effect of the above elements on the landscape and visual amenity of the Study Area are considered in detail in the sections which follow.

6.4.3 Decommissioning

116. Potential landscape and visual effects occurring during the decommissioning phase would be minimised by the limited and temporary nature of the works. A decommissioning method statement would be agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of decommissioning works.

6.4.4 Development Design Mitigation Measures

117. A number of measures have been incorporated into the design of the scheme to ameliorate potential landscape and visual effects of the Development. These are based on an analysis of the landscape and visual baseline and reflect the recommendations of the Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, Argyll and Bute Council and SNH, 2012).

6.4.4.1 Turbine Locations

118. The siting and layout of the proposed turbines were considered as part of an iterative design process aimed at reducing the potential landscape and visual effect of the wind farm, whilst taking into account other site constraints. The design optimisation process is described in Chapter 3: *Site Selection, Design Evolution and Alternatives* of this ES.
119. The Development would be located within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic LCT. A number of key priorities for the location and design of development are proposed in the capacity study and are of relevance to the Development. These are set out briefly below.
- “New developments should be sited away from the more complex and irregular small hills found on the outer edges of the Kintyre peninsula.*
- Turbines should not be sited on, or close-by, the more pronounced and higher hill summits found in the southern and northern parts of this character type.*
- Turbines should be sited to avoid any intrusion on views to and from the rugged and remote coast between Skipness and Tarbert as this would affect the sense of wildness associated with this seascape.*
- Development should also be sited to avoid significant intrusion on views from the B8001 to the mountains of Arran.*
- Significant intrusion on the setting and views from the adjacent settled and Rocky Mosaic (20) and Hidden Glens (3) should be avoided by large turbines being set well back into the interior of the uplands.”*

120. In addition to these priorities, an analysis of the key landscape elements and visibility of the Site and its surroundings was undertaken and the findings and design recommendations summarised below.
121. The Freasdail Site is mostly covered in plantation woodland and there are a number forest tracks. The topography rises from north to south and there is an upland plateau to the south of the Site, south of a prominent edge. Loch Freasdail is located to the northwest of the Site where the topography is more complex consisting of some pronounced summits and a valley.
122. The key priorities identified, which informed the Development layout were as follows:
- Set turbines back from the northern end of the Site and avoid prominent escarpment edges to avoid encroaching or dominating views from B8001 and provide separation from the adjoining valley;
 - Avoidance of the more complex topography around Loch Freasdail, and setting back of turbines to minimise impacts in views from Whitehouse;
 - Preferential use of flattest parts of Site to create more regular turbine height configuration;
 - Avoidance of any pronounced high spots/summits within the Site to reduce the visual impacts in wider views;
 - Turbine heights to respond to the scale of the landscape; analysis of wirelines indicated that a height of up to 100m to tip is more in keeping with the scale of the landscape;
 - Reduction of turbine height from 125m to 100m to tip also reduces view-shed, most notably within the Kilbrannan Sound and on some of the localised summits within the Kintyre peninsula to the south of the Site;
 - Creation of a coherent group of turbines in views which avoids turbines which overly protrude from surrounding group or appear separate from the main group of turbines; and
 - Retention, as far as practicable, of forestry along the northern and eastern sides of the Site to aid the mitigation of views Whitehouse and the B8001.

6.4.4.2 Turbine Design

123. A number of standard and site specific environmental mitigation measures were incorporated into the design of the Development. These include use of modern turbine design features.
124. The Development would make use of three bladed horizontal axis turbines with tubular steel towers. Research (Stevenson and Griffiths, 1995) has confirmed that tubular turbine towers reduce visual clutter and are simpler in appearance. Care was also taken to achieve a balanced ratio between tower height and blade length.
125. The turbines would be finished in a colour such as pale grey so that they appear recessive when viewed against the sky. This finish would incorporate an anti-reflective element.

6.4.4.3 Transformers

126. Internal transformers at the base of the wind turbine are sometimes specified to reduce the extent of infrastructure and built forms on wind farm sites, However, as described in the following LVIA, the ground level of the Site is often screened from external viewpoints by intervening vegetation and topography and so the use of internal transformers is not considered to be required for this development.

6.4.4.4 Aviation Lighting

127. Aviation lighting, if required, would comprise infrared lights on selected turbine nacelles. Infrared lighting is not visible to the naked eye and so no night time effects are anticipated. Consequently, this aspect of the Development is not considered further.

6.4.4.5 Bridges and Highway Improvements

128. No off-Site highway improvements would be required to accommodate the proposed construction and delivery vehicles.

6.4.4.6 Access Tracks

129. Entrance to the Site would be from the A83. The entrance would have wide access with visibility splays suitable for the Development. The proposed access from the A83 would extend south eastwards from the A83, up a slight valley to the north of Loch Freasdail. The proposed route would be located within existing mature mixed woodland which would, with the exception of the areas used for the track itself and the temporary enabling compound, be retained and would therefore screen those elements of the Development from the majority of external receptor locations.
130. Access tracks elsewhere within the Site have been designed to be as short as possible whilst avoiding environmentally sensitive locations and exposed summits and slopes.
131. Wherever practicable access tracks have been designed to follow existing forest tracks. However, 5.5km of new tracks would be required, including sections linking to proposed turbine locations. New tracks would be constructed with crushed stone and would hence be of similar appearance to existing forest tracks.
132. During the construction phase of the Development all access tracks would be constructed/widened to a width of between 5 and 7m to accommodate construction vehicles.

6.4.4.7 Lay-down Areas and Crane Pads

133. These would be surfaced to match the proposed track construction. Upon completion of the construction phase of the Development, lay-down areas would be removed and the ground is likely to be managed as open ground. The method of their reinstatement would be provided to the Local Planning Authority as part of the Construction Method Statement (CMS) prior to commencement of construction operations on Site.

6.4.4.8 Cabling, Substation Control Building and Site Office

134. In order to avoid potential visibility of the grid connection cables these would be undergrounded within the Site from each turbine to the substation. Undergrounded sections of cable would, wherever practicable, be placed beside proposed access tracks to reduce disturbance of the land and to ease future maintenance.
135. The substation control building would be located close to turbines 10 and 11, at the northwestern end of the wind farm on a relatively flat area of ground set back from adjacent exposed slopes and summits.

6.4.4.9 Grid Connection

136. The grid connection is subject to a separate planning application by SHETL however is likely to be made at Carradale substation, approximately 20km to the southeast of the Site. The applicant's

preference is to underground cabling between the control building/substation compound and the Carradale substation. However, no definitive route for this connection was available at the time of this assessment.

6.4.4.10 Stone Requirements

137. The aggregate required for the construction of the turbine bases and construction and upgrading of tracks would be imported to the Site.

6.4.4.11 Concrete Requirements

138. Concrete required for the construction of turbine foundations would be brought premixed to the Site and poured in situ. This would avoid the potential impacts associated with the use of concrete production facilities at the Site such as a batching plant.

6.4.4.12 Construction Methods and Landscape Reinstatement

139. Throughout all phases of the development, ground disturbance on the Site would be confined, as far as practicable, to the temporary site compounds, access tracks, turbine base areas, lay-down areas, crane pads and underground sections of the grid connection cables. The proposed location of these elements is described in Chapter 4: *Description of Development* of this ES. Moreover, working widths would be restricted and carefully monitored and any existing landscape feature or materials arising from site operations that are to be retained would be safeguarded.

140. On completion of the construction phase, all areas subject to construction disturbance adjacent to built elements (or areas of hard surfacing that are to be retained for the operational life of the Development) would be reinstated to match adjoining undisturbed ground, as far as reasonably practicable.

6.4.4.13 Decommissioning

141. During decommissioning of the wind farm, all above ground structures would be removed and the ground reinstated. Following current good practice¹³, below ground structures and foundations could be left in place to avoid further disturbance. Accordingly, the decommissioning phase is likely to have a minimal additional effect on the landscape and visual amenity of the locality and would restore the Site in a manner likely to ensure the successful assimilation of the affected areas into the adjoining, undisturbed landscape. This phase the development is therefore not considered further in this assessment.

6.5 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

6.5.1 Analysis of the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs)

142. The Blade Tip ZTV in Figure 6.4 indicates that the potential viewshed of the Development would be concentrated on elevated summits, Loch Tarbert and adjoining southeast facing slopes on the Knapdale peninsula. Beyond this, the viewshed extends westward across the Isle of Gigha and Sound of Jura to the coasts of Islay and Jura. To the southeast and east the viewshed extends along the eastern side of Kilbrannan Sound to Arran and eastwards across the Sound of Bute. Fragmented visibility is also predicted along the 'spine' of the Kintyre peninsula.

143. It is apparent from the ZTV that there would be extensive viewshadow caused by the screening effect of the elevated topography of the Kintyre and Knapdale peninsulas and the mountains of Arran. Moreover, the extent of forest cover and lochside vegetation on both the Kintyre and Knapdale peninsulas means that the visibility on these two landmasses would be even less than that shown in the ZTV.

6.5.2 Blade Tip & Hub Height Comparison ZTV

144. Figure 6.5 compares the theoretical viewshed of the Development turbines to blade tip and to hub height, thereby indicating where only blades would be visible.
145. It is apparent from this figure that, with the exception of some areas within the Kilbrannan Sound, the Development would generally be seen as a combination of blades tips and rotors.

6.5.3 Visibility from Settlements

146. Whitehouse, Kintyre Peninsula: Essentially a linear settlement arranged around the western side of a crescent oriented towards the A83 carriageway to the east. Views towards the Development are subject to restriction and filtering through intervening deciduous vegetation between the settlement and the A83 carriageway. Where views do occur, up to eleven turbines (hubs and rotors) would be seen, the turbines appearing on the skyline approximately 3 km to the south. Viewpoint 18 is indicative of views from the more open areas of the settlement.

147. Lochranza, Arran: Linear coastal settlement along the valley of Lochranza with channelled views across the loch and out across the Kilbrannan Sound towards Kintyre. Up to eleven of the Development turbines would be visible on the skyline at a distance of over 12 km to the northwest, the lower columns and a number of hubs being obscured by intervening topography of the Kintyre peninsula. A large proportion of residential properties within the settlement are oriented northeastwards towards the loch, and away from the Development, and so views from the main facade of such properties would be oblique.

148. Ardmish, Gigha: A low density coastal village of irregular arrangement situated on sloping ground overlooking Ardmish Bay with open views across the Sound of Gigha towards Kintyre. Up to ten of the Development turbines would be visible from this settlement at a distance of over 19 km to the northeast. The turbines would be partially obscured by intervening topography on the edge of the Kintyre peninsula.

149. Craighouse: Small coastal village situated on land that slopes down to a bay. Views are provided across the Sound of Jura towards Knapdale and Kintyre. Up to eleven of the Development turbines would be visible. The Development would be seen on the skyline at a distance of over 32 km to the southeast.

150. Kerrymenoch, Isle of Bute: Hamlet overlooking Scalpsie Bay with views towards Arran and Kintyre. Views of up to ten turbines would be provided from the southwestern aspect of residential properties. Turbines would be seen at a distance of over 25 km.

151. Millport, Great Cumbrae Island: Coastal town/large village overlooking Millport Bay. Whilst the ZTVs indicate potential views of up to ten turbines from the westernmost side of the town, field reconnaissance suggests that such views would be obscured by a wooded headland to the west of the town. Consequently no view of the Development is anticipated from this settlement. Consequently, this settlement is not considered further in this assessment.

¹³ SNH (2012), Wind farm restoration and decommissioning event, Battleby

6.5.4 Visibility from Transport Routes

152. The route analysis tables in Technical Appendix A6.4 record the potential visibility of the Development for key transportation routes in the Study Area. These tables were prepared utilising the same Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and ZTV data as used in preparation of the accompanying figures and visualisations. The tables should be read in conjunction with Figure 6.14a.
153. A83: The ZTVs indicate that of the 84 km of this route within the Study Area the Development would only be visible from an 8.99 km stretch of the route between Clachan and Barmore Island (at distances of between 2.26 km and 11.21 km). On this part of the A83 road users would theoretically see up to eleven turbines, the machines appearing on the skyline to the south east, in the opposite direction to Loch Tarbert. Further north, the Development would be viewed from south-bound vehicles between Asknish and Castleton, east of Lochgilphead. The turbines being seen on the horizon at distances of between 27 km and 31 km. Field reconnaissance suggests that actual visibility from this route would be intermittent and interrupted in places, by intervening forest and roadside tree cover.
154. A841: The ZTVs indicate that of the 63 km of this route that is located within the Study Area the Development would only be visible from a 16.68 km stretch of the route between Lochranza and Whitefarland Point (at distances of between 11 and 13.8 km). Road users would see up to eleven of the turbines on the skyline to the northwest. Some interruption of views would occur due to the screening effect of buildings on the northern side the road on the approach to Lochranza, but otherwise views across the Kilbrannan Sound are generally open.
155. A846: The ZTVs indicate that of the 30 km of this route that is located within the Study Area there would be intermittent views of up to eleven turbines from a 9.5 km section of this route between Kabrach and Lagg, on the eastern side of the Isle of Jura. The turbines would be seen at a distance of over 30 km but would be seen on the skyline. Such views would be interrupted, in places, by roadside vegetation and/or localised topographical elements.
156. B8001: Between Whitehouse and Claonaig views of the Development would occur on more open sections of the route between Glenreaddell and Redhouse from where the Development would be clearly evident on the skyline to the southwest at a distance of around 1.5 km. On other parts of this road intervening forest cover would screen the Development.
157. B8024: of the 48 km of this route that are present within the Study Area the ZTV indicates that intermittent views of up to eleven turbines would be provided from the B8024 between Point Mor and Barmore Island on the southern and eastern sides of the Knapdale peninsula. Whilst theoretical visibility would occur on over 14km of this route field reconnaissance indicates that views would be interrupted in places by the undulating topography of the peninsula and/or vegetation. Where the turbines are visible they would appear on the skyline between 4 km and 10 km to the southeast.
158. Coastal Road Gigha: Views of up to eleven turbines would be provided from the majority of this 8.97 km long route. The turbines would be seen on the horizon, over 16 km to the east.
159. Ferry Crossing - Tayinloan to Ardminish Bay, Gigha: Views of up to four turbines would be provided from a short section of this route (approximately 0.6 km) approaching Ardminish Bay. The turbines would be seen at a distance of over 17.4 km and would appear as a series of blade tips on the skyline to the east.
160. Ferry Crossing -Port Ellen to Kennacraig: This route was closed during the preparation of the LVIA and so the assessment of potential effects on this route has been undertaken using DTM and GIS analysis

alone. Based on computer generated analysis it is apparent that all eleven turbines (blades and hubs) would be visible from the majority of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the northeast, at distances of between 3.7 km and 31.34 km.

161. Ferry Crossing - Port Askaig, Islay to Kennacraig: Up to eleven of the Development turbines (blades and hubs) would be visible from a large proportion of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the northeast, at distances of between 7 km and 30 km. Viewpoint 13 is indicative of views from this route.

6.5.5 Visibility from Recreational Routes

162. National Cycle Route 78: Of the 113 km of this cycleway within the Study Area, the Development would be visible from a total of 22.5 km of the route between Loch Stornoway and West Tarbert, and between West Tarbert and Claonaig Bay. Up to eleven of the proposed turbines (blades and hubs) would be visible on the skyline at a distance of between 1.5 km and 8 km, the scheme being particularly prominent in views from sections of the route between Whitehouse and Claonaig on the B8001. Viewpoint 2 is indicative of views from the B8001.
163. Kintyre Way: The ZTVs indicate potential visibility between Skeroblingarry and Tarbert views of the Development would be confined to a small number of locations north of Carradale. However, field reconnaissance suggests that visibility would actually be restricted to a small number of elevated locations outwith the extensive forested area on this section of the route.
164. Further views of the Development would be provided from sections of the route between Deucheran Hill (site of Deucheran Hill wind farm) and Cnoc nan Craobh (situated around 16 km to the southwest). Further visibility would be provided between Rhonacan House and Cnoc Creagach (located between 6 km and 1.2 km southwest and south of the proposed turbines, respectively). Seen from the Rhonacan-Cnoc Creagach section of this route up to eleven turbines would be visible and would be prominent in views due to their proximity. Viewpoint 6 is located on the Kintyre Way by Cnoc Creagach.
165. No visibility of the Development is predicted on the sections of the Kintyre Way within Glen Lussa or between Loch Lussa and Bellochantuy Bay.
166. Offshore recreational users: In addition to views from ferries, recreational users including pleasure boaters and sea kayakers represent frequent receptors found on the waters of the Study Area. For the most part, such receptors would be screened from views of the Development in locations where viewshadow occurs as a result of intervening landmasses and topography. Locations affected by viewshadow include:
- Locations close to the Kintyre coast in the Sound of Gigha;
 - The western side of Gigha;
 - The Sound of Jura (between Knapdale peninsula and Jura);
 - The western side of the Sound of Kilbrannan;
 - The Majority of Loch Fyne;
 - The Kyles of Bute; and
 - The Firth of Clyde (with the exception of a section of water between the Sound of Bute and Ardrossan).
167. For receptors on the eastern side of Kilbrannan Sound Arran, adjoining the eastern side of Gigha and between Gigha, Islay and Jura (at distances of between 8 and 35 km) the Development's visibility

increases, up to eleven of the proposed turbines becoming visible on the skyline. However, the turbines would often be partially obscured by the edge of the peninsula in all but the most distant locations.

6.5.6 Visibility from Designated Landscapes

168. Arran NSA: Between three and eleven of the turbines would be visible from low lying positions along the coast between Whitefarland Point and Cock of Arran. All eleven turbines would also be visible from elevated northwestern slopes and summits including Beinn Bharrain, Meall nan Damn and Doire Duidhe, and from summits further inland, including Caisteal Abhail, at the head of North Glen Sannox, and Beinn Tarsuinn. Viewed from low lying positions the Development turbines would be seen distantly and partially obscured by the intervening edge of the peninsula landform, as demonstrated in Viewpoints 5 and 7. However the turbines would appear on the skyline. Viewed from elevated summits Freasdail turbines would be seen distantly and would be backclothed, as demonstrated by Viewpoint 8.
169. Jura NSA: Views of up to eleven of the Freasdail turbines would be provided from sections of the coastline between Cabrach and Lagg. From these locations the turbines would be seen distantly, but would appear on the skyline (as demonstrated in Viewpoint 14 at Craighouse Bay). The Development's visibility would increase on the more elevated southeast facing slopes and elevated summits, the lower columns of the turbines being evident. However, the turbines would be seen at a distance of over 32 km and so would only be evident during periods of good visibility.
170. Arran AGLV: The pattern of visibility within the AGLV is the same as that described in respect of the Arran NSA, above.
171. Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae AGLVs: Views of the Development would be confined to locations on the westernmost edge of Little Cumbrae and the western side of Great Cumbrae, including a formal vantage point on the top of the island. Up to eleven of the proposed turbines would be visible from these islands, the turbines being seen distantly, with a large proportion of turbine columns screened by the intervening edge of the Kintyre peninsula.
172. Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ): The Development would be screened from the APQ on Kintyre, but would be visible from the summit of Dun Skeig which is situated at the northern edge of the APQ on the western side of the peninsula. From this location, which is situated around 6.5 km to the west of the Development, up to eleven turbines would be visible on the skyline. However, a large proportion of the lower column of the turbines would be obscured by intervening topography.
173. According to the ZTVs views of up to eleven of the proposed Development turbines would also be provided from sections of the Knapdale APQ between Dunmore, Ardpatrik and Kilberry and from a small number of elevated summits such as Cruach Lagain. However, views from low lying positions along the B8024 and in the vicinity of Ardpatrik House are subject to considerable interruption as a result of intervening mixed woodland. Similarly, views from a large proportion of the elevated slopes within this APQ would be controlled by the extensive coniferous forest cover present.
174. The Development would also just be visible, theoretically, from the APQ surrounding Loch Fyne. This visibility would occur on sections of the A83 between Castleton and Port Ann. However, field reconnaissance suggests that actual visibility would be almost entirely prevented by intervening woodland and forest cover. Moreover this section of APQ is situated over 27 km from the proposed Freasdail turbines.

175. Visibility of the Development from the APQ on the Isle of Bute would be confined to locations on the western side of the island, between Garroch Head and Tarmore Hill (Ref. Viewpoint 3) at distances in excess of 21 km.
176. Between Birgidale and Kilchattan Butts up to ten of the Development turbines would be visible on the skyline. Viewed from Gallachan Bay, Stravanan Bay and Lubas Point all eleven of the Development turbines would be seen on the horizon. Within the southernmost part of the APQ, views of all eleven turbines would be provided from the western side of this LCT and elevated summits towards its centre and eastern side (e.g. Torr Mor and Covin Hill).
177. The Development would generally be partly obscured by the elevated edge of the Kintyre peninsula. Restricted views of the Development are also predicted from a small number of summits overlooking Loch Striven, at Innellan, but as these summits are covered by extensive forest cover such views are not anticipated in actuality.

6.5.7 Visibility from GDLs

178. Achamore Gardens GDL: This GDL comprises extensively wooded grounds and a series of linked gardens and forest/wooded walks. The B listed building is situated at the heart of this tree clad landscape thereby obscuring views out, towards the Development. Moreover, the access roads into this GDL are oriented northwest to southeast, away from Freasdail and so no avenues or vistas are provided towards the Development.
179. The only other GDL with potential views of the Development would be Ballimore. Whilst the ZTVs indicate that up to two of the proposed turbines would theoretically be visible from this GDL, field reconnaissance suggests that it is unlikely that views of the Development would be possible due to the screening effect of intervening forest cover which predominates in the area.

6.5.8 Visibility from Wild Land Search Areas

180. All eleven of the proposed Freasdail turbines would be visible from the summits of Beinn Bharrain, Beinn Tarsuirin, and land adjoining Glen Sannox. From these elevated positions the Development would be seen distantly (i.e. at distances of over 17 km) and would be backclothed by topography, as demonstrated in Viewpoint 8 at Beinn Bharrain.
181. The turbines would also be visible from the Wild Land search area that covers the Paps of Jura. As in views from Arran, the turbines would be seen distantly (i.e. at a distance of over 34 km) and would be backclothed by topography.

6.5.9 Visibility from Landscape Character Types

182. The extent of the Development's visibility from landscape character types is reported in Table A6.5-1, of Appendix A6.5.

6.5.10 Cumulative Visibility from Settlements

183. Whitehouse, Kintyre Peninsula: The ZTVs indicate potential cumulative (concurrent) visibility of Freasdail and Allt Dearg turbines from parts of this settlement. However, field reconnaissance suggests that no such cumulative visibility would occur due to the screening effect of surrounding woodland.

184. Lochranza, Arran: This settlement would be subject to no cumulative visibility due to its enclosed position within a glen. Views out from the settlement are largely contained within the glen and/or channelled northwest across the Kilbrannan Sound and direct towards the Site.
185. Ardminish, Gigha: Given the open aspect to the east of this settlement (i.e. towards the Kintyre peninsula) residents and visitors to the settlement are anticipated to experience cumulative views of the Development with the existing Beinn an Tuirc, Tangy and Deucheran developments and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie and Cour schemes. The Development turbines would appear separate from the main cluster of developments and more recessive in views due to its distance from the settlement and relatively small scale in comparison to the cumulative schemes.
186. Craighouse: Cumulative views of the Development and the existing and consented Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill wind farms would be provided from the harbour and bay areas of this settlement as well as the main residential areas of Craighouse. All of the wind farms would be seen distantly on the horizon (i.e. at distances in excess of 30 km) and would be partially obscured by intervening topography. The majority of development being concentrated on the middle part of the peninsula. In contrast the Development would be seen on the more northerly section of the peninsula, and Allt Dearg would be seen to the east/northeast, on the Knapdale peninsula. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed it would be interposed between the main cluster of wind farms and the Development.
187. Kerrymenoch, Isle of Bute: Cumulative views of the development would be restricted by intervening topography on the Isle of Bute and Inchmarnock Island. However, in the event of the proposed Cour wind farm being constructed it would appear on the skyline to the south of the Development at a distance of around 30 km, whilst the Development would be seen at a distance of around 23 km.

6.5.11 Cumulative Visibility from Transport Routes

188. The Route Analysis tables in Technical Appendix A6.4 record the potential cumulative visibility of the Development and existing/operational, consented and proposed wind farms from key transportation routes in the Study Area.
189. A83: Despite indications of combined and concurrent cumulative visibility in the Route Analysis table in appendix A6.4, actual visibility from this route would be overwhelmingly sequential. Between Westport and Clachan the Development would be screened by intervening topography. However, the existing Tangy, Beinn an Tuirc and Isle of Gigha schemes and proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie turbines would be sequentially and intermittently visible from this section of the route. The Isle of Gigha turbines are clearly apparent on the Gigha landmass to the west of the road, within the Sound of Jura, whilst Beinn an Tuirc, Tangy, appear to the east of this route and occupy a prominent elevated position on the Kintyre peninsula. In the event of the Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes being constructed they would also occupy elevated positions overlooking this route in places. Between Clachan and Whitehouse, the Development would generally not be seen in conjunction with other wind farms due to the screening effect of intervening topography and vegetation. Between Whitehouse and Tarbert the Development would once again be screened from view by intervening topography, but fleeting views of Allt Dearg would be provided, the blade tips of this scheme just visible above the horizon of the Knapdale peninsula, to the west.
190. A841: The emerging pattern of wind farm development focuses on the Kintyre peninsula, which is located to the west of this route, across the Kilbrannan Sound. As indicated in the ZTVs and Route Analysis tables in Appendix A6.4 views of the Development would be confined to locations between Lochranza and Whitefarland Point on the western side of Arran, from where the Development would

be seen to the west at distances of between 11 and 13.8 km. The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing and proposed Beinn an Tuirc turbines (seen on the skyline over 11 km to the west of this route), the existing Cruach Mhor development (seen at distances of over 37 km to the west from the A841 between Thundergay and Lochranza) and existing Deucheran Hill wind farm (which is visible to the west at distances in excess of 10 km). Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour (seen to the north of this route) and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. These schemes would be seen at distances of over 8 km and 17 km, respectively. The Development would be largely be screened by intervening topography of the peninsula, whilst, in contrast, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes are clearly visible on the skyline from much of this route. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent as it is located close to the eastern edge of the Kintyre peninsula, overlooking Kilbrannan Sound.

191. A846: This route is situated on the southeastern coastline of Jura from where open views across the Sound of Jura towards the Knapdale and Kintyre Peninsulas are provided. The ZTVs and Route Analysis tables indicate that intermittent and sequential cumulative visibility would be provided from a large proportion of this route between Cabrach and Lussa Point. The Allt Dearg, Cour, Deucheran Hill, Beinn Tuirc, Blary Hill, Tangy and Auchadaduie cumulative developments would mostly be seen on the horizon formed by the raised topography of the peninsulas, but would be seen distantly. The exception to this trend being the Gigha turbines which are lower lying and backclothed by the Kintyre peninsula landmass. In general, the Development would be substantially screened by intervening topography on the Kintyre peninsula, the exception being viewpoints by Craighouse, where views of Freasdale turbines would be provided across the incised mouth of Loch Tarbert. In contrast, the existing Beinn an Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran and Tangy schemes are clearly visible on west facing slopes or prominent summits. The proposed Cour and Auchadaduie schemes would also be prominent, the Auchadaduie scheme being particularly prominent due to its position on the edge of the peninsula scarp overlooking Gigha Sound.
192. B8001: It is apparent from the analysis of cumulative visibility on this route that, with the exception of a specific location 1.9 km northwest of Glenreadell from where the blade tip of one of the proposed Cour turbines would theoretically be visible, no other wind farm would be visible from this route. However, the Cour turbine would be seen distantly (over 13 km) and would therefore not be discernible in the view.
193. B8024: The cumulative ZTVs in Figures 6.7 to 6.13 indicate that intermittent cumulative views (sequential and combined visibility) would be provided from the B8024. Progressing southwards down Loch Tarbert, the Development turbines would be seen intermittently with the existing Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and Tangy developments, to the south and southwest. The Development would be the closest (at distances of between 4.17 km and 10.38 km) and therefore most prominent wind farm in views from this section of the route. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, these would also be visible, but at a distance of over 12 km. Between Kilberry and Inverneill there would be no further cumulative views.
194. Coastal Road Gigha: Cumulative views would be provided from the majority of this route, the Development being seen in conjunction with all of the cumulative sites except Cruach Mhor and Laggan Farm. The closest turbines would be those of the existing Gigha Wind Farm and consented extension, which would generally be seen at distances of less than 3 km. Elsewhere, the pattern of wind farm development would focus on the Kintyre peninsula, which is located to the east of this route, across the Sound of Gigha. As indicated in the ZTVs and Route Analysis tables in Appendix A6.4 the Development would be seen to the northeast at distances of between 16 and 18 km and would often be Substantially screened by the intervening topography of the Kintyre peninsula whereas the

cluster of developments comprising Beinn an Tuirc, Blary Hill and Auchadaduie (seen on the skyline between 11 km and 18 km), Deucheran Hill (over 11 km) and Tangy arrays (seen at a distance of over 17km) would be clearly visible on the skyline to the southeast of this route.

195. Ferry Crossing - Tayinloan to Ardmish Bay, Gigha: The Development would be visible from Ardmish Bay at a distance of over 17.4 km to the northeast of this route. The majority of the Development would be screened from view by intervening topography, but one hub and rotor and two blade tips would just be visible. The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill, and Tangy developments. These schemes would be seen extending along the horizon on top of the Kintyre peninsula, to the east and south of this ferry route. In the event of the Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes being constructed they would form an extension to the Beinn an Tuirc wind farm, but the Auchadaduie turbines would appear slightly separated from the Beinn an Tuirc and Blary Hill arrays and would result in some infilling of the space between Beinn an Tuirc and Tangy. The closest development to this route is the existing Isle of Gigha wind farm, which is prominent in views to the southwest of this route.
196. Ferry Crossing - Port Ellen to Kennacraig: The Development turbines would be visible from the majority of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the northeast, at distances of between 3.7 km and 31.34 km. Between Port Ellen and the Sound of Gigha the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn an Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and its extension and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, Cour and Laggan developments which would be seen distantly and occupy a broad arc to the northeast, east and southeast. The existing/consented schemes would form a series of relatively evenly spaced developments along the skyline on the central part of the peninsula, separate from the Development. Despite their distance relative to the Development, these schemes would appear more prominent, partially due to turbine numbers and partially due to their more open positioning on sections of elevated plateau, and in the case of Tangy, the development's position close to the edge of the peninsula. In the event of the proposed developments being constructed this prominence of development in the central part of the peninsula would be exacerbated. As this route extends into Loch Tarbert cumulative visibility ceases due to the enclosure provided by the steeply graded edges of the Knapdale and Kintyre peninsulas.
197. Ferry Crossing - Port Askaig, Islay, to Kennacraig: The Development turbines would be visible from a large proportion of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the northeast, at distances of between 7 km and 30 km. Between the Sound of Islay and the Sound of Gigha the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and its extension and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, Cour and Laggan developments which would be seen distantly and occupy a broad arc to the southeast of the route. The existing/consented schemes would form a series of relatively evenly spaced developments along the skyline of the central part of the peninsula. Despite their distance relative to the Development, these schemes would be clearly apparent, partially due to turbine numbers and partially due to their positioning on open sections of elevated plateaux, and in the case of Tangy, the development's position close to the edge of the peninsula. In the event of the proposed developments being constructed this prominence of development in the central part of the peninsula would be exacerbated. As this route extends into Loch Tarbert cumulative visibility ceases due to the enclosure provided by the steeply graded edges of the Knapdale and Kintyre peninsulas.

6.5.12 Cumulative Visibility from Recreational Routes

198. National Cycle Route 78: Between Ardnacross Bay and Claonaig the Development would not be visible. However, intermittent and fleeting views of existing and consented Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran turbine would be provided, the turbines being seen on the skyline to the west of this route at distances of between 4 km and 8 km. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, these would also be visible on this stretch of the route. As the route extends northwestwards, along the B8081, intermittent views of the Development would be provided to the southwest of this route. The turbines would be seen at a distance of around 1.5 km and would occupy a prominent skyline position of the side of this incised valley location. Between Kennacraig and West Tarbert views of the Development and other wind farms would be restricted by intervening topography and/or forestry. Views from the section of the cycle route between West Tarbert and Loch Stornoway would also be substantially interrupted by intervening vegetation along the West loch Tarbert lochside. However, intermittent and filtered views of the Development, the existing/consented Beinn an Tuirc Deucheran hill, Tangy and Isle of Ghiga developments would be provided to the south. In the event of the proposed Cour, Auchadaduie and Isle of Gigha projects being constructed these would also be visible. Freasdail would be the closest wind farm to this route, the other existing, consented and proposed turbines appearing infrequently, and appearing in the distance.
199. Kintyre Way: Between Skeroblingarry and Carradale Bay the Development would not be visible from this route. However, the existing/consented Beinn an Tuirc, and Tangy schemes would be visible close to this route (i.e. between 1.8 km and 7 km) and would form prominent elements in the landscape. In the event of the Laggan farm turbine being constructed this would also be visible close to the route, to the southeast of Tangy.
200. Between Carradale Bay and Killean cumulative views of the Development (seen at distances of over 14 km to the north) and Beinn an Tuirc (over 5 km to the south), Allt Dearg (over 32 km to the north/northeast) wind farms would be provided from between Deucheran Hill (site of Deucheran Hill wind farm) and Cnoc nan Craobh (situated around 16 km to the southwest). The proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes would be seen to the west of Bein an Tuirc (south of the route), whilst the Cour turbines would be visible seen at a distance of between 2 km and 6 km to the north.
201. Further relatively limited cumulative visibility would be provided between Lochan Fraoich and Claonaig Bay. From this section of the route the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill schemes (see distantly to the north, south and south, respectively) and subject to substantial screening by intervening topography.
202. Offshore recreational users: Receptors on the eastern side of Gigha would be subject to views of the Development with the existing/consented Beinn Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and its extension and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, and Cour developments. With the exception of the Isle of Gigha turbines, all of the wind farms would be seen distantly and would occupy a broad arc to the northeast, east and southeast. The existing/consented schemes would form a series of relatively evenly spaced developments along the skyline on the central part of the peninsula, separate from the Freasdail array.
203. Receptors in Kilbrannan Sound would be subject to cumulative views. The Development would be seen at distances of between 7 km and 35 km (edge of Study Area). The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing and proposed Beinn an Tuirc turbines, the existing Cruach Mhor development and existing Deucheran Hill wind farm. Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. The Development would be largely be screened by

intervening topography of the peninsula, whilst, in contrast, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes are clearly visible on the skyline from much of this route. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent from locations within Kilbrannan Sound.

204. Between Gigha, Islay and Jura (at distances of between 8 and 35km) the Development would be visible on the horizon to the east, at distances of between 3 km and 35 km (edge of the Study Area). The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and its extension and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, Cour and Laggan developments which would be seen distantly and occupy a broad arc to the east, and southeast. The existing/consented schemes would form a series of relatively evenly spaced developments along the skyline on the central part of the peninsula, separate from the Development. Despite their distance relative to the Development, these schemes would appear more prominent, partially due to turbine numbers and partially due to their open positioning on sections of elevated plateau, and in the case of Tangy, the developments position close to the edge of the peninsula. In the event of the proposed developments being constructed this prominence of development in the central part of the peninsula would be exacerbated.

6.5.13 Cumulative Visibility from Designated Landscapes

205. Arran NSA: Cumulative visibility within the NSA would be confined to locations along the northwestern side of Arran between Lochranza and Imachar Point and on the northwestern flanks of Beinn Bharrain, Beinn Bhreac, Coirein Lochain, Meall Bhig, Meall nan Damh, Meall Mor and Doire Bhuidhe.
206. Viewed from low lying positions along the coast, including sections of the A841 coastal road, the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing and proposed Beinn an Tuirc turbines, the existing Cruach Mhor development and existing Deucheran Hill wind farm. Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. Whilst the Development would be substantially screened by intervening topography of the peninsula, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes would be clearly evident on the skyline from much of this part of the designated landscape. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent from locations within Kilbrannan Sound. This is evident in views from Viewpoint location 7 from where Freasdail turbines would largely be obscured and clearly separated from the other cumulative sites.
207. Viewed from Beinn Bharrain, Beinn Bhreac, Coirein Lochain, Meall Bhig, Meall nan Damh, Meall Mor and Doire Bhuidhe the majority of wind farm development would be concentrated in the middle section of the peninsula, the Beinn an Tuirc, Tangy and proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes forming one grouping/cluster of schemes, with a second grouping occurring further north which includes Deucheran Hill and Isle of Gigha arrays. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed this would appear separate from the preceding tow clusters and more prominent due to its closer proximity to the viewpoint, on the eastern side of the peninsula. The Development would appear entirely separate from all existing, consented and proposed wind farms. Viewpoint 8 (Ref. Figure 6.22) is indicative of views from elevated sections of the NSA.
208. Cumulative views would also be provided from sea based locations adjoining the Arran coast. In these locations the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing and consented Beinn an Tuirc turbines, the existing Cruach Mhor development and existing Deucheran Hill wind farm. Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. Whilst the Development would be substantially screened by intervening topography of the peninsula, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes are clearly evident on the skyline from much of this seascape.

In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent from locations within Kilbrannan Sound. This is evident in views from Viewpoint locations 4, 5 and 7. The Development turbines would largely be obscured and clearly separated from the other cumulative sites.

209. Jura NSA: Cumulative views would be provided from sections of the coastline between Cabrach and Lagg. The Development would be seen distantly on the horizon and in conjunction with the existing Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill and Tangy developments, the majority of which would also be seen at distances of over 30 km and on the skyline. Existing and consented schemes are largely concentrated in the middle of the peninsula, and the Development would extend the development pattern further north, thereby broadening the extent of the view and the skyline subject to wind and energy development. However, given this designated landscape's distance from the Kintyre peninsula the Development is likely to only be clearly evident during periods of especially good visibility. Gigha turbines would also be seen distantly and would be backclothed by Kintyre, and would therefore be inconspicuous in the view. The proposed Cour turbines would be located on the eastern side of the peninsula and would therefore be largely obscured from this designated landscape.
210. Arran AGLV: The pattern of visibility within the AGLV is broadly the same as that described in respect of the Arran NSA, above.
211. Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae AGLVs: Cumulative views would be confined to locations on the westernmost edge of Little Cumbrae and the western side of Great Cumbrae, including a formal vantage point on the top of the island. The Development (seen at distance of over 30 km to the west of this designation) would be seen in conjunction with Allt Dearg (seen over 39 km to the northwest), Cruach Mhor (over 36 km to the northwest), Deucheran Hill (over 23 km to the southwest), and Beinn an Tuirc (over 18 km to the southwest). Also seen to the southwest would be the proposed Laggan, Cour and Blary Hill schemes (at distances of over 17.7, 24 and 39 km, respectively).
212. Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ): The Development and the cumulative developments would be screened from the majority of the APQ on the Kintyre peninsula, the only potential cumulative visibility occurring on the summit of Dun Skeig which is situated at the northern edge of the APQ on the western side of the peninsula. From this location the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Deucheran Hill turbines which are just visible as a series of blade tips on the skyline to the south. Also visible are the Isle of Gigha turbines, which are seen distantly to the southwest and below the skyline. In this context the Development would bring wind energy development closer to this part of the APQ, but would be seen in the opposing direction to the existing and consented schemes. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed it would be located distantly to the south.
213. Cumulative visibility from the Knapdale peninsula APQ would primarily be provided from locations in the vicinity of Loch Stornoway due to the screening effect of woodland and forest cover. In these locations the Development would be seen in conjunction with Deucheran Hill wind farm, which is evident on the skyline at the centre of the peninsula. The Development would be clearly visible to the north. Viewpoint 15 illustrates potential cumulative views from this APQ.
214. The Development would also just be visible, theoretically, from the APQ surrounding Loch Fyne. This visibility would occur on sections of the A83 between Castleton and Port Ann. However, field reconnaissance suggests that actual visibility would be almost entirely prevented by intervening woodland and forest cover. Such restrictions on visibility would also apply to cumulative developments. Moreover this section of APQ is situated over 27 km from the Development turbines.

215. In general terms cumulative visibility from the APQ on the Isle of Bute would be confined to locations on the western side of the island, between Garroch Head and Tarmore Hill.
216. Between Birgidale and Kilchattan Butts the Development and all of the cumulative sites would be seen at a considerable distance and would therefore only be readily apparent during periods of especially good visibility. The Development would represent a barely discernible addition to an already limited cumulative context.
217. Viewed from Gallachan Bay, Stravanan Bay and Lubas Point the Development turbines would be seen on the horizon, along with the existing Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill turbines. All three schemes would be seen distantly, and would be clearly separated, thereby avoiding the appearance of clustering or a concentration of development. Because of their distance from this LCT, the Development and the existing/consented cumulative schemes would occupy a small proportion of the expansive view from this coastal landscape. On this basis, the magnitude of cumulative change attributable to the Development would be negligible, equating to a barely discernible addition to the cumulative context. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed, no alteration to this finding is anticipated.
218. Within the southernmost part of the APQ, cumulative views would be provided from the western side of this LCT and elevated summits towards its centre and eastern side. From these locations the Development would be seen in conjunction with Allt Dearg turbines in a westerly direction. The Development and Allt Dearg would both be seen distantly on the skyline and would occupy a small proportion of the view.

6.5.14 Cumulative Visibility from GDLs

219. Achamore Gardens GDL: Given the extensively wooded nature of the grounds to this GDL which restrict views out, towards the Development, and the orientation of access roads, no cumulative visibility is anticipated.
220. Ballimore GDL: Given the extensively wooded nature of the grounds to this GDL which restrict views out, towards the Development, no cumulative visibility is anticipated.

6.5.15 Cumulative Visibility from Wild Land Search Areas

221. Cumulative visibility within the Wild Land Search Area on Arran would be concentrated on the elevated summits of Bein Bharrain, Bein Tarsuirin, and land adjoining Glen Sannox. The Development would be seen to the northwest and in conjunction with the existing Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill, Tangy, Allt Dearg and Gigha arrays. Whilst the majority of development would be seen at distances in excess of 13 km, Allt Dearg would be seen at distances of over 34 km. From these elevated positions the Development would be seen distantly (i.e. at distances of over 17 km) and would be backclothed by topography. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed, this would be positioned to the west, northwest of this area of Wild Land, adding to the clustering of development in the middle of the Kintyre peninsula.
222. The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill and Tangy developments on the Kintyre peninsula from the Wild Land Search Area that covers the Paps of Jura. As in views from the Wild Land on Arran, the Development turbines would be seen distantly (i.e. at a distance of over 32 km) and would be backclothed by topography. In the event of the proposed Cour, Blary Hill and Auchadaduie developments being constructed these schemes would also be seen at distances of over 28 km. Given the distance at which the Development and the

cumulative developments would be viewed, and the Development's backclothed position, it would be recessive in views from this area of Wild Land.

6.5.16 Cumulative Visibility from Landscape Character Types

223. The extent of the Development's cumulative visibility from landscape character types is reported in Table A6.5-1 and 6.5-2 of Appendix A6.5.

6.5.17 Viewpoint Analysis

224. A preliminary blade tip ZTV for the initial turbine layout was generated to enable viewpoint locations to be selected for inclusion in the detailed assessment. Viewpoints were selected to be representative of the range of receptors likely to be affected by views of the Development during operation. Parameters considered during selection of the viewpoints included:
- Types of receptor: to include landscape character types most likely to be affected; designated landscapes, historic gardens and designed landscape, settlements, roads, marked footpaths; marked viewpoints; picnic areas and beauty spots and outdoor passive recreational locations;
 - Distance from the Development;
 - Direction from the Development with the aim of achieving a distribution from different compass points around the Development; and
 - Altitude.
225. Following the fixing of the design a second blade tip ZTV was generated (Figure 6.4). This revised ZTV was utilised in the completion of the LVIA.
226. The following paragraphs detail the assessment of the viewpoints agreed with ABC and SNH. The predicted cumulative view is summarised in a table within each viewpoint assessment. As previously noted, it is considered important to identify the potential cumulative effects of the Development with existing/consented wind farms separately from the theoretical cumulative effects which would arise from the Development with proposed developments.

6.5.18 Viewpoint 1: Cnoc a Bhaille, Shios (E186364, N662854) - Figure 6.15

227. This viewpoint is situated in at a prominent summit (419 m AOD) approximately 5.18 km to the northeast of the nearest turbine. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by hill walkers.

6.5.18.1 Existing View

228. Views from this location are large scale and panoramic. To the north the view extends across the northernmost part of the Kintyre peninsula towards Loch Fyne and Argyll beyond. To the east, the view extends across the summits of the hills on the Kintyre peninsula to the Isle of Bute, Cumbrae and the Ayrshire coastline. To the west views extend across the Kintyre peninsula, West Loch Tarbert and the Knapdale peninsula and are terminated by the prominent topography of Jura and Islay, the Paps of Jura forming a dramatic skyline in the distance. To the south the view follows the channel of the Sound of Kilbrannan which is flanked on its eastern side by the distinctive topography of Arran, and on the other, by the Kintyre peninsula.
229. The view towards the Site comprises a foreground and middle-ground of large scale undulating moorland with a complex, varied and irregular topography with low summits and rocky outcrops. Landcover adds to the complexity of the landscape, comprising a mosaic of coarse moorland grassland, erosion channels, turf edges, rock exposures and large scale coniferous plantations. In the distance, this trend is repeated, the topography forming interlocking sloping forms that are reinforced by the

form of plantations. In the background, the undulating form of the peninsula forms a low curving skyline.

230. The interior of the Site is clearly visible at the centre of the view and is marked by continuous, mature forest cover.

6.5.18.2 Predicted View

231. The proposed removal of forest cover at the Site would increase the prominence of the Site initially due to the disturbed appearance of clear felling. However, as moorland species naturally regenerate within the managed open ground and replacement planting matures the Site would be assimilated into the adjoining landscape of the peninsula. The predicted operational view of the Development is illustrated by Figure 6.15 and shows all eleven of the proposed turbines (hubs and rotor) backclothed by topography. In addition to the turbines a number of ancillary elements would be visible, including access tracks and crane pads.

6.5.18.3 Predicted Cumulative View

232. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.15 and is summarised in Table 6.6a below:

Table 6.6a: Viewpoint 1: Cumulative View (visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	SW		5.18	15.51°
Existing/Consented Schemes				
Allt Dearg	NNW		13.95	4.14°
Beinn an Tuirc	SSW		28.00	2.78°
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SSW		30.57	4.01°
Deucheran Hill	SSW		29.30	2.49°
Isle of Gigha	SW		27.47	0.40°
Isle of Gigha Extension	SW		27.77	0.07°
Proposed Schemes				
Blary Hill	SSW		29.30	2.49°
Cour	SSW		16.06	4.56°

233. The Development would be seen in the same direction as Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran turbines, but clearly separate from these schemes. In the event of the proposed Cour and Blary Hill developments being constructed it would also be seen distantly in the same direction.

6.5.18.4 Magnitude of Change

234. Despite its distance from the viewpoint and backclothed position, the Development would represent a Moderate magnitude of change equating to a localised change within a broader unaltered context.

6.5.18.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

235. The magnitude of cumulative change attributable to the Development would be Moderate when considered in respect of existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area (equating to a noticeable addition to the proportion of the view occupied by wind farm development, but a localised change in an otherwise unaltered context), and would remain Moderate in the event of the proposed Blary Hill and Cour being included.

6.5.18.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

236. This viewpoint is considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed as hill walkers at this location would be focused upon views of the landscape and seascape. Consequently, the effect on visual amenity of visual receptors would be Major/Moderate and therefore significant.

6.5.18.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

237. The cumulative effect on receptors at this viewpoint would be Major/Moderate in respect of existing and consented wind farms. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Blary Hill and Cour developments being taken into account.

6.5.18.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

238. The viewpoint occurs in the Upland Forest - Moor Mosaic landscape character type (AGC6) which is ascribed a Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The magnitude of change anticipated as a result of the Development would be Moderate. Initial, clear felling and subsequent likely establishment of moorland cover within the managed open ground is considered consistent with existing characteristic elements in the landscape. Similarly, the proposed turbines would, in themselves, not be wholly unique or usual for the peninsula, but would introduce large scale engineered elements and movement to a predominantly undeveloped and still landscape. Consequently, the effect on the character at this viewpoint would be Moderate and not significant.

6.5.18.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

239. When considered in relation to the existing and consented wind farms visible from this location the Development would represent a moderate change to the landscape by bringing development closer to this viewpoint. This would equate to a moderate cumulative effect. This would remain the case if the proposed wind farms are taken into account and not significant.

6.5.19 Viewpoint 2: B8001 near Glenreadell (E185647, N658972) - Figure 6.16

240. This viewpoint is situated on an important transportation and tourist route, and is representative of views obtained by users of NCR78. The viewpoint is located in a broad shallow valley at an elevation of around 98m AOD, approximately 1.96 km from the nearest turbine.

6.5.19.1 Existing View

241. Existing views from this location are largely contained within the valley, views to the north and south being medium scale and short to mid-ranged and terminated by the elevated topography of the adjoining upland landscape. To the southeast the view extends along the valley towards Glenreadail and is terminated by the summit of Cnoc na h-Eireige. To the northwest views from this location are foreshortened by topography on the southwestern flank of Coire nan Capull.

242. The view towards the Site is illustrated in Figure 6.16. The foreground and middle-ground contain a gently sloping and undulating moorland landscape of coarse grasses, rushes with contrasting erosion channels. Beyond this, in the background, the edge of the upland landscape is indicated by a series of

steeply graded, interlocking landforms which are covered in large scale coniferous plantations. These plantations have a complex appearance, often comprising irregular edges, clear felled areas and remnant open areas of moorland.

243. The Site is visible on the skyline at the centre of the view and is marked by a mature coniferous plantation on a gently doming landform.

6.5.19.2 Predicted View

244. The predicted view is illustrated by Figure 6.16. This image shows all eleven of the Development turbines visible on the skyline in a series of three rows. The proposed felling of forest cover at the Site would remove the tree line from the horizon at the Site, but ancillary elements would be screened by intervening topography.

6.5.19.3 Predicted Cumulative View

245. No other wind farm would be visible from this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative change or cumulative effect at this viewpoint

6.5.19.4 Magnitude of Change

246. Given the proximity of the Development to this viewpoint and its skyline position the magnitude of change would be Substantial (equating to a considerable alteration to the view).

6.5.19.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

247. None.

6.5.19.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

248. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by recreational and tourist receptors and is therefore considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Given this sensitivity and the Substantial magnitude of change anticipated, the effect on this viewpoint would be Major and significant.

6.5.19.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

249. None.

6.5.19.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

250. This viewpoint occurs in the Upland Forest - Moor Mosaic landscape character type (AGC6) which is generally ascribed a Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. However, given its enclosed position, reduced scale and the increased emphasis upon the elevated skyline, the sensitivity at this viewpoint is considered to be High. Consequently, the Development would result in a Major (significant) effect as it would introduce large scale engineered structures and movement to the currently still forested skyline.

6.5.19.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

251. None.

6.5.20 Viewpoint 3: Tarmore Hill, Isle of Bute (E205085, N658866) - Figure 6.17

252. This viewpoint is located at a formal vantage point offering 360 degree panoramic views. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 83m AOD, approximately 21.28 km from the nearest turbine.

6.5.20.1 Existing View

253. Existing views from this location are large scale, long-range and panoramic. To the north the view extends to Kilmory Hill and along the western side of the Isle of Bute. To the east the view crosses the Isle of Bute and the Firth of Clyde to the increasingly developed Ayrshire coast and adjoining uplands. To the south, open views are provided across the Sound of Bute to the Firth of Clyde and Arran, the distinctive mountains of which form a prominent focal point.

254. To the west, in the direction of the Site the foreground of the view contains gorse moorland, beyond which the land falls away to the verdant pastureland of the coastline, beyond which Inchmarnock is visible within the Sound of Bute. In the background the view is bounded by the essentially linear form of the Kintyre peninsula which forms an undulating skyline.

255. The Site is entirely obscured by intervening topography on the eastern edge of the peninsula.

6.5.20.2 Predicted View

256. The predicted view is illustrated by Figure 6.17. This image shows six of the proposed Freasdail turbines (blade tips only) just visible on the skyline. Given the distance at which the turbines would be seen, and the substantially restricted nature of the visibility, views of the turbines are considered to only occur during periods of especially clear visibility.

6.5.20.3 Predicted Cumulative View

257. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.17 and is summarised in Table 6.6b:

Table 6.6b: Viewpoint 3: Cumulative View (visible sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction From Viewpoint	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	W	21.28	1.80°
Existing/Consented Schemes			
Allt Dearg	NW	13.95	4.14°
Deucheran Hill	WSW	32.13	1.25°
Proposed Schemes			
Cour	WSW	27.92	3.07°

258. Whilst theoretically visible, a comparison of the existing view and cumulative wireline image indicates that none of the cumulative developments would be discernible from this location.

6.5.20.4 Magnitude of Change

259. The Development would be substantially obscured by intervening topography and would be seen at a distance of over 21 km. Consequently, it would be barely discernible and represent a Negligible change to the view from this location.

6.5.20.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

260. Negligible. The cumulative wind farms would not be discernible in the view from this viewpoint.

6.5.20.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

261. This viewpoint is located at a formal vantage point where receptors are focused on the view and adjoining landscape/seascape. Consequently, the viewpoint is considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Whilst the matrix in Table 6.4, above indicates a Negligible change, when coupled with High sensitivity, would generally result in a Moderate/Minor effect, the Development is predicted to result in a Minor effect on the visual amenity at this viewpoint due to its distance and the considerable screening that the Development. However, either rating of effect is considered to be not significant.

6.5.20.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

262. Given that the cumulative developments would not be apparent in views from this location the cumulative effect of the Development would be Minor. This would be the case in respect of existing and consented wind farms, and also when the proposed Cour development is taken into account.

6.5.20.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

263. The viewpoint occurs in the Open Ridgeland landscape character type (AGC5) which is generally considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The proposed Development would, as a result of its largely obscured position and distance, represent a Minor effect on the character of the landscape and not significant.

6.5.20.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

264. Given the substantially screened nature of cumulative schemes the cumulative effect of the Development would be Minor and not significant. This would be the case in respect of existing and consented wind farms, and also when the proposed Cour development is taken into account.

6.5.21 Viewpoint 4: Lochranza Ferry (Approx E190862, N652472) - Figure 6.18

265. This viewpoint is located on the upper deck of the Lochranza to Claonaig Bay Ferry within the Sound of Kilbrannan, approximately 9.14 km to the southeast of the nearest turbine.

6.5.21.1 Existing View

266. The view from the ferry is, by nature, subject to constant change, but is typically dominated by the open waters of the Kilbrannan Sound and the landmasses of Arran and the Kintyre peninsula. Connecting views are, however, provided to the northeast, towards the Isle of Bute and Cowal peninsula. To the southwest views are channelled down the Kilbrannan Sound towards the Irish Sea.

267. The view towards the Site is depicted in Figure 6.18. The view in this direction contains a foreground and middle-ground comprising the open waters of Kilbrannan Sound, the openness and essentially flat and simple character of which places emphasis upon the distant Kintyre peninsula and the undulating skyline that it creates. Some complexity is created by the mosaic of moorland and plantation vegetation on the eastern side of the side of the peninsula.

268. The Site is entirely obscured in the existing view due to intervening topography.

6.5.21.2 Predicted View

269. The predicted view is illustrated by Figure 6.18. This image shows all eleven of the proposed turbines visible on the skyline, the remainder of the Development being obscured by intervening topography.

6.5.21.3 Predicted Cumulative View

270. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.18 and is summarised in Table 6.6c:

Table 6.6c: Viewpoint 4: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction From Viewpoint	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	NW	9.14	6.45°
Existing/Consented Schemes			
Beinn an Tuirc	SW	22.00	1.26°
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SW	24.03	1.05°
Deucheran Hill	WSW	16.56	2.32°
Proposed Schemes			
Cour	WSW	12.35	6.92°

271. Beinn an Tuirc wind farm is barely discernible from this location, whereas Deucheran Hill wind farm is apparent on the skyline, but is clearly separated from the Development. Cour turbines would, however be seen in close proximity to Deucheran Hill and would occupy a prominent position on the eastern edge of the Kintyre peninsula and would represent the most prominent of existing, consented or proposed wind farms.

6.5.21.4 Magnitude of Change

272. The Development, as a result of its distance from this location, and the relatively small proportion of the view the turbines would occupy, would constitute a Slight magnitude of change.

6.5.21.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

273. Considered in relation to the existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area the Development is predicted to result in limited alteration to baseline conditions. The cumulative magnitude of change attributable to the Development would therefore be Slight (equating to a minor addition to the cumulative context). This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed.

6.5.21.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

274. This viewpoint is representative of view obtained by passengers on the Lochranza ferry including tourists, and is consequently considered to have a High sensitivity, despite the transitory nature of the viewpoint. Given the Slight magnitude of change anticipated, the effect on ferry passengers is predicted to be Moderate and not significant.

6.5.21.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

275. Considered in relation to the existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area the Development is predicted to result in Moderate cumulative effects, which is not significant. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed.

6.5.21.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

276. The viewpoint occurs in Seascope Area 25: Loch Fyne/Kilbrannan Sound of Seascope Character Type: Type 9 Sounds Narrows and Islands, which is ascribed a High sensitivity. Given the limited visibility of the Freasdail turbines and their distance from this viewpoint the effect on the character of the seascope would be Moderate and not significant.

6.5.21.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

277. Seen in conjunction with the existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area, the Development would constitute a Moderate cumulative effect. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour turbines being installed.

6.5.22 Viewpoint 5: Lochranza Ferry Terminal (E192610, N650969) - Figure 6.19

278. This viewpoint is situated close to Lochranza Pier and embarkation point for the ferry, and is representative of views obtained by ferry passengers, tourists/road users parked in nearby lay-bys. This viewpoint is also representative of oblique views obtained from a number of nearby residential properties that front onto the A841. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 4m AOD, approximately 11.44 km from the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.22.1 Existing View

279. Views from this location are generally focused towards the southeast and east, along Loch Ranza and to the north and northwest across the Kilbrannan Sound towards the eastern coastline of the Kintyre peninsula.

280. The view towards the Development is depicted in Figure 6.19. The view in this direction contain a foreground and middle-ground comprising foreshore and the open waters of Kilbrannan Sound, the openness and essentially flat and simple character of which places emphasis upon the distant Kintyre peninsula and the undulating skyline that it creates. Some complexity is created by the mosaic of moorland and plantation vegetation on the eastern side of the side of the peninsula.

281. The Site is entirely obscured in the existing view due to intervening topography.

6.5.22.2 Predicted View

282. Figure 6.19 shows all eleven of the proposed turbines visible in the skyline at the centre of the view. The lower columns and ancillary elements would be obscured by intervening topography.

6.5.22.3 Predicted Cumulative View

283. No other wind farm would be visible from this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative change or cumulative effect at this viewpoint.

6.5.22.4 Magnitude of Change

284. The magnitude of change arising from the Development would be Slight as the proposed turbines would be seen distantly and would be partially obscured by intervening topography, and would therefore occupy a relatively small proportion of the view.

6.5.22.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

285. None.

6.5.22.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

286. Ferry passenger, tourists/road users at this viewpoint and nearby residential receptors are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Given the Slight magnitude of change, the effect on the visual amenity of the receptors at this viewpoint would be Moderate, and therefore not significant.

6.5.22.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

287. None.

6.5.22.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

288. The viewpoint occurs on the border of the Rugged Granite Uplands (landscape character type AYS25) and the Raised Beach Coast (landscape character type AYS1), both of which are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

289. The Development would introduce large scale engineered forms to the skyline overlooking Kilbrannan Sound, but the turbines would be seen distantly and would be partially obscured, thereby limiting the extent of the view they would affect. Consequently, the effect on landscape character at this viewpoint would be Moderate and not significant.

6.5.22.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

290. None.

6.5.23 Viewpoint 6: Kintyre Way, near Cnoc Creagan (E184096, N656626) - Figure 6.20

291. This viewpoint is situated on one of the more open elevated stretches of the Kintyre Way regional trail. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 141m AOD, approximately 1.7 km southeast of the nearest turbine.

6.5.24 Existing View

292. The view towards the Development is medium scale and mid-ranged and comprises a foreground and middle-ground of coarse moorland grassland, rushes erosion channels and stone outcrops with large scale coniferous plantations. The smoothly graded undulating skyline forms a prominent horizon to the view.

6.5.24.1 Predicted View

293. The predicted view is illustrated in the photomontage in Figure 6.20. This image shows existing forest at the Site removed and all eleven of the proposed the Development turbines (hubs and rotors) visible on the skyline from this location.

6.5.24.2 Predicted Cumulative View

294. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.20 and is summarised in Table 6.6d:

Table 6.6d: Viewpoint 6: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	NNW		1.70	42.47°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Allt Dearg	NNW		19.70	1.61°	

295. Whilst theoretically visible, the Allt Dearg turbines would, in fact, not be discernible from this viewpoint due to intervening topography and vegetation.

6.5.24.3 Magnitude of Change

296. Whilst set back from the edge of the valley in which this viewpoint is situated, the Development would occupy the majority of the view towards the Site and would occupy a prominent skyline position. Consequently, the magnitude of change would be Substantial.

6.5.24.4 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

297. No other wind farm would be visible from this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative change and no cumulative effect at the viewpoint.

6.5.24.5 Effect upon Visual Amenity

298. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by walkers on the Kintyre Way regional trail who are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. On the basis of this sensitivity and the Substantial magnitude of change, the effect experienced by receptors at this location would be Major, representing a significant effect on visual amenity.

6.5.24.6 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

299. None.

6.5.24.7 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

300. The viewpoint occurs in the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape type (AGC6) which is generally considered to have a Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

301. The Development would introduce large scale engineered forms and movement to this essentially still and undeveloped landscape and would result in a Major/Moderate effect. However, the proposed felling and restoration of the Site to managed open land is consistent with the existing land uses in the vicinity.

6.5.24.8 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

302. None.

6.5.25 Viewpoint 7: Thundergay, Isle of Arran (E187895, N646439) - Figure 6.21

303. This viewpoint is situated on the A841 coastal route and represents views obtained by general road users and tourists. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 6m AOD, approximately 12.5 km southeast of the nearest of the Development’s turbines.

6.5.25.1 Existing View

304. Views from this location are generally focused towards the southwest and northeast, along the A841 carriageway and Kilbrannan Sound, and westwards towards the eastern coastline of the Kintyre peninsula, views to the east being foreshortened by the steeply banking topography of the Meall nan Damh and Meall Donn hills.

305. The view towards the Site is depicted in Figure 6.21. The view in this direction contains a foreground and middle-ground comprising foreshore and the open waters of Kilbrannan Sound, the openness and essentially flat and simple character of which places emphasis upon the distant Kintyre peninsula and the undulating skyline that it creates. Some complexity is created by the mosaic of moorland and plantation vegetation on the eastern side of the side of the peninsula.

306. The Site is entirely obscured in the existing view due to intervening topography.

6.5.25.2 Predicted View

307. The predicted view is illustrated in the photomontage in Figure 6.21. This image indicates that eight of the proposed turbines (blade tips only) would be visible on the skyline from this perspective. However, the turbines would be barely discernible, appearing as blade tips only.

6.5.25.3 Predicted Cumulative View

308. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.21 and is summarised in Table 7.6e:

Table 6.6e: Viewpoint 7: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	NNW		12.53	6.06°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Beinn an Tuirc	SW		15.84	1.70°	
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SW		17.62	1.68°	
Deucheran Hill	WSW		11.64	4.03°	
Proposed Schemes					
Cour	W		8.40	10.34°	

309. The Development and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms would barely be discernible from this location. In contrast Deucheran Hill is clearly evident on the skyline, and in the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed, it would be prominent on the skyline overlooking Kilbrannan Sound.

6.5.25.4 Magnitude of Change

310. Given the substantially restricted visibility of the Development owing to its distance from the viewpoint, the magnitude of change would be Negligible.

6.5.25.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

311. Given the substantially restricted visibility of the Development compared to other wind farms in the Study Area, the cumulative magnitude of change attributable to the Development would be Negligible.

6.5.25.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

312. This viewpoint is representative of road users and tourists. Whilst general road users are considered to have a Medium sensitivity tourists are considered to have a High sensitivity due to their expectations and concentration on the view and landscape. When the magnitude of change and sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint are considered the effect at this viewpoint would usually be considered to range from Moderate/Minor to Minor. However, given the especially restricted visibility of the Development the effect is considered to be Minor only, which does not represent a significant effect on the visual amenity of receptors.

6.5.25.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

313. The Development would result in Minor cumulative effects in respect of existing and consented wind farms. This would remain the case in the event of the Cour turbines being constructed.

6.5.25.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

314. This viewpoint is situated in the Raised Beach Coast LCT on Arran (AYS1) which is ascribed a High sensitivity. Given the especially restricted nature of the visibility of the Development, the effect on landscape character at the viewpoint is considered Minor.

6.5.25.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

315. The Development would result in Minor effects in respect of existing and consented wind farms. This would remain the case in the event of the Cour turbines being constructed.

6.5.26 Viewpoint 8: Beinn Bharrain (E189474, N642248) - Figure 6.22

316. This viewpoint is situated on a prominent summit within the Arran NSA and Wild Land search area. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 707 m AOD, approximately 17 km from the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.26.1 Existing View

317. Views from this elevated summit on Arran are long-range and panoramic. To the north, views extend across the Meall Donn and Meall nan Damh summits to Kilbrannan Sound and northern end of the Kintyre peninsula, and the Knapdale peninsula and Argyll mainland, beyond. To the east the view contains the dramatic summits of the Arran Mountains, including Beinn Nuis, Beinn Tarsuinn and Goat Fell. To the south views extends across Coire nam Buabhall to the western coastline of Arran and Kilbrannan Sound. To the west views are focused upon the enclosed interior of Kilbrannan Sound, the Kintyre peninsula and the distant landmass of Islay.

318. The view towards the Site, as depicted in Figure 6.22, comprises a short foreground of moorland grassland and rugged rock exposures. The land to the northwest of this viewpoint descends steeply emphasising the background of the view which contains the open waters of Kilbrannan Sound, the linear form of the Kintyre peninsula and distant hills of the Knapdale peninsula, the complex mosaic of managed moorland vegetation and large scale coniferous plantations of the Kintyre and Knapdale peninsulas contrasts with the simplicity of the Kilbrannan Sound and the wildness of the Beinn Bharrain summit, resulting in a diverse range of landscape/seascapes in the view.

6.5.26.2 Predicted View

319. The predicted operational view is illustrated in the wireline in Figure 6.22. This image shows all eleven turbines (hubs and rotors) visible from this summit. The turbines would appear low lying and

backclothed by topography. Proposed infrastructure, whilst theoretically visible from this location, is likely to be difficult to discern. However, the removal of the forest in the Site would be clearly apparent, current forest cover being replaced by moorland species within the open ground.

6.5.26.3 Predicted Cumulative View

320. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated in the wirelines in Figure 6.22 and is summarised in Table 6.6f:

Table 6.6f: Viewpoint 8: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction From Viewpoint	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	NNW	17.00	5.32°
Existing/Consented Schemes			
Allt Dearg	N	34.73	1.65°
Beinn an Tuirc	WSW	15.27	7.13°
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	WSW	16.44	3.91°
Cruach Mhor	NNE	46.60	1.67°
Deucheran Hill	W	13.09	4.43°
Isle of Gigha	W	26.14	0.14°
Isle of Gigha Extension	W	26.36	0.07°
Tangy	SW	25.22	1.74°
Proposed Schemes			
Auchadaduie	WSW	20.82	1.18°
Blary Hill	WSW	18.23	4.31°
Cour	WNW	11.17	6.93°

321. The wireline image shows how the majority of wind farm development is concentrated in the middle section of the peninsula, the Beinn an Tuirc, Tangy and proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes forming one grouping/cluster of schemes, with a second grouping occurring further north which includes Deucheran Hill and Isle of Gigha arrays. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed this would appear separate from the preceding two clusters and more prominent due to its closer proximity to the viewpoint, on the eastern side of the peninsula. The Development would appear entirely separate from all existing, consented and proposed wind farms and would extend wind energy development further into the northern part of the peninsula.

6.5.26.4 Magnitude of Change

322. The Development would be seen distantly, within the context of a large scale panoramic view and would be backclothed. On this basis the magnitude of change would be Slight.

6.5.26.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

323. Considered in relation to existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area, the Development would constitute a Slight addition to the cumulative context due to its distance, backclothed position and

separation from other wind farms. This would remain the case in the event of all of the proposed wind farms being constructed.

6.5.26.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

324. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by hill walkers at the Beinn Bharrain summit. These receptors are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Despite this sensitivity, the Development would result in only a Slight change to the view and have a Moderate effect, which is not considered significant.

6.5.26.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

325. The Development, considered in relation to existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area, would constitute a Moderate cumulative effect. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farm developments being taken into account and not significant.

6.5.26.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

326. This viewpoint is situated within the Rugged Granite Uplands landscape character type (AYS25) which is ascribed a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

327. The Development would introduce further turbines to the landscape. Whilst proposed felling would result in a change to the landcover at the Site, such change is considered consistent with the existing landscape of commercial forestry and moorland. Given the Slight magnitude of change attributable to the Development, the effect is predicted to be Moderate and not significant.

6.5.26.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

328. The Development would introduce further turbines to the landscape, extending development further north along the peninsula. However, given the cumulative magnitude of change attributed to the Development, the cumulative effect is predicted to be Moderate and not significant. This would be the case in respect of existing and consented wind farms, and in the event of the proposed wind farms being constructed.

6.5.27 Viewpoint 9: Proximity of Achamore, Isle of Gigha (E164348, N648102) - Figure 6.23

329. This viewpoint is situated in an elevated position at the northern edge of the Achamore Gardens, adjoining the St Cathan’s cemetery, and is representative of views obtained by tourists and visitors to St Cathan’s Church and the nearby standing stones. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 27 m AOD, approximately 20.5 km to the southwest of the nearest turbine.

6.5.27.1 Existing View

330. Views from this location are largely directed towards the southeast, east and northeast as views in other directions are foreshortened by a combination of topography and/or mature coniferous plantations.

331. Views towards the Site from this viewpoint comprise a foreground of open pasture, beyond which the settled coast at Ardminish is apparent. Beyond this, Ardminish Point extends into Gigha Sound. In the distance the horizon is formed by the undulating topography of the Kintyre, Knapdale and Cowal peninsulas.

332. The Site is obscured by intervening topography.

6.5.27.2 Predicted View

333. The predicted operational view is illustrated by Figure 6.23 This shows five of the Freasdail turbines visible (one hub and rotor and four blade tips). Only the blade tips would be visible on the skyline, the hub/rotor of one turbine being backclothed by topography.

6.5.27.3 Predicted Cumulative View

334. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.23 and is summarised in Table 6.6g:

Table 6.6g: Viewpoint 9: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	ENE		20.50	1.64°
Existing/Consented Schemes				
Beinn an Tuirc	SE		14.61	9.04°
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SSE		15.84	8.16°
Isle of Gigha	SSW		1.08	8.98°
Isle of Gigha Extension	SW		1.35	1.40°
Tangy	SW		19.50	3.99°
Proposed Schemes				
Auchadaduie	SSE		12.85	2.25°
Blary Hill	SSE		12.86	7.27°

335. The existing and consented Beinn an Tuirc turbines would form a single array on the skyline, set back from the edge of the peninsula, parts of the extension being obscured by intervening vegetation of Achamore House estate. Tangy wind farm is obscured by this vegetation, as are the Gigha turbines. In the event of the proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes being constructed these would also be screened from view by vegetation. The Development would be seen distantly to the north of Beinn an Tuirc and would be barely visible.

6.5.27.4 Magnitude of Change

336. Given this viewpoint’s distance from the Development and the substantially restricted visibility of the scheme and its largely backclothed appearance the magnitude of change would be Negligible, equating to a very limited, almost imperceptible change to the view.

6.5.27.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

337. The Development would represent a Negligible cumulative change in respect of the existing Beinn an Tuirc wind farm due to its limited visibility. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Auchadaduie and Blary Hill schemes being constructed.

6.5.27.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

338. Receptors at this viewpoint include tourists and visitors to St Cathan’s Church and the nearby standing stones who are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. However, given the distance to the Development, its largely obscured position, and the fact that only the very

end of blade tips would overtop the skyline, the effect on the visual amenity of receptors is predicted to be Minor and not significant.

6.5.27.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

339. Based on the relative distance of cumulative schemes and the restricted nature of cumulative visibility, and the visibility of the Development itself, the cumulative effect on visual amenity would also be Minor in relation to existing and consented schemes, and also in respect of existing, consented and proposed wind farms in the Study Area.

6.5.27.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

340. The viewpoint occurs in the Coastal Parallel Ridges landscape character type (AGC22) which is considered to have a High sensitivity to wind farm development. When the Negligible magnitude of change is combined with this sensitivity effect at this viewpoint would usually be considered to be Moderate/Minor. However, given the especially restricted visibility of the Development the effect is considered to be Minor only as the Development would be barely discernible.

6.5.27.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

341. The Development would also result in a Minor cumulative effect when seen in conjunction with existing and consented wind farms. This would remain the situation should the proposed wind farms be taken into account.

6.5.28 Viewpoint 10: A83, Approach to Clachan (E175533, N655781) - Figure 6.24

342. This viewpoint is situated on an important tourist route and a coastal section of the Kintyre Way regional trail and is situated in the edge of an area designated as an Area of Panoramic Quality. This viewpoint is also indicative of oblique views obtained from two nearby properties. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 50m AOD, approximately 7 km from the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.28.1 Existing View

343. Small to medium scale and mid-ranged views are provided from this location. To the south the horizon is brought close to the viewer by the steeply graded topography in this direction, whereas, views to the west and northwest extend across the farmland on the edge of the peninsula and across West Loch Tarbert to Ardpatrik point on the Knapdale peninsula, and across the Sound of Jura to Islay and Jura in the distance.

344. The foreground and middle-ground of the view towards the Site to the northeast of this location comprises a settled and managed landscape of undulating pastureland with stone dyke enclosures and scattered farmsteads and dwellings, with coniferous plantations also evident. In contrast, as the landscape rises to form the upland at the northern end of the Kintyre peninsula it is characterised by coarser moorland vegetation and an increased predominance of large scale plantations on the horizon.

345. The Site is obscured from view by a combination of intervening topography and coniferous plantation.

6.5.28.2 Predicted View

346. The predicted view is illustrated in the photomontage and wireline images in Figure 6.24. These images show all eleven turbines (eight hubs and rotors and three blade tips) visible on the skyline at the centre of the view, their visibility increased by initial felling of forestry at the Site.

6.5.28.3 Predicted Cumulative View

347. No other wind farm would be visible from this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative change and no cumulative effects.

6.5.28.4 Magnitude of Change

348. Seen at a distance of over 7km and partially obscured by intervening topography, the proposed turbines would occupy a prominent skyline position and would result in a Slight magnitude of change, equating to a modest alteration to the baseline, the change being experienced as localised whilst the majority of the view and landscape remain unaltered by the Freasdail development.

6.5.28.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

349. None.

6.5.28.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

350. Tourist and walkers on the Kintyre Way are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Consequently, the effect, taking into account the Slight magnitude of change, would be Moderate and therefore not significant.

6.5.28.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

351. None.

6.5.28.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

352. This viewpoint occurs on the border of two landscape character types; the Rocky Mosaic type (AGC20), and the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (AGC6). This transition between these two landscapes is apparent in the view from this location, the forest and moorland grassland landscape is apparent in the elevated ground in the background, whilst the greener pasture and stone dyke enclosures are present in the lower lying foreground and middle ground. Because of the transitional nature of the landscape in the view and presence of size indicators in the form of scattered dwellings and farmsteads the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be High.

353. Consequently, the effect, taking into account the Slight magnitude of change would be Moderate and not significant, the scale and prominence of the Development would be mitigated by intervening topography and vegetation.

6.5.28.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

354. None.

6.5.29 Viewpoint 11: Port Mor (E166567, N654542) - Figure 6.25

355. This viewpoint is situated on at the northern end of Gigha overlooking a series of sandy bays and is representative of views obtained by tourists and walkers. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 1m AOD, approximately 16 km to the southwest of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.29.1 Existing View

356. Views from this exposed headland are large scale, panoramic and long-range. To the north the view extends along the Sound of Jura to the Knapdale peninsula. To the west the view from this location is foreshortened by the headland at Cnoc an Itich. To the east the view extends across the Sound of Gigha to the Kintyre peninsula.

357. The view towards the Site is illustrated in Figure 6.25. This view is dominated by the open waters of the Sound of Gigha, the openness and simplicity of which emphasises the skyline which is formed by the undulating form of Kintyre peninsula. The contrasting colours and patterns formed by the mosaic of moorland vegetation and coniferous plantations on the side of the peninsula add to its prominence in the view.

358. The Site is obscured in this view by intervening topography on the elevated edge of the peninsula.

6.5.29.2 Predicted View

359. Whilst the wireline image in Figure 6.25 indicates a total of eleven turbines to be visible from this location an examination of the wireline in this figure suggests that a total of nine turbines (6 hubs and rotors and 3 blade tips) would be visible in actuality due to the screening effect of intervening vegetation. The turbines would be seen on the skyline above the incised alignment of the A83 at Clachan, at a distance of over 16 km.

6.5.29.3 Predicted Cumulative View

360. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.25 and is summarised in Table 6.6h below:

Table 6.6h: Viewpoint 11: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction From Viewpoint	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Freasdail	ENE	16.00	6.53°
Existing/Consented Schemes			
Allt Dearg	NE	26.43	0.50°
Beinn an Tuirc	SSE	18.97	3.78°
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SSE	20.76	3.03°
Deucheran Hill	SE	13.86	4.57°
Proposed Schemes			
Blary Hill	SSE	17.99	4.76°

361. Whilst Allt Dearg and Beinn an Tuirc turbines are reportedly visible from the location, they are not in actuality as it is only the very end of turbine blades that are theoretically visible and at a distance of over 26km and 18.97 km, respectively, this is considered extremely unlikely, even in the clearest conditions. Whilst 6 of the Deucheran Hill turbines are visible, they are substantially obscured by intervening topography. In the event of the Blary Hill turbines being constructed these turbines would be seen distantly on the skyline to the south of the Development.

6.5.29.4 Magnitude of Change

362. Given this viewpoint’s distance from the Site, and the limited proportion of this expansive view that the proposed wind farm would occupy, the magnitude of change would be Slight.

6.5.29.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

363. Despite the theoretical cumulative context, little existing or consented wind energy development is actually visible from this location. Consequently, the magnitude of cumulative change attributable to the Development in respect of existing and consented schemes would be Negligible. However, if

considered in the context of the increased cumulative context arising from the Blary Hill turbines, Freasdail would constitute a Slight cumulative change.

6.5.29.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

364. Tourists and walkers at this viewpoint are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. On this basis, the Development would result in a Moderate effect, which is not significant.

6.5.29.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

365. Based on the cumulative scenarios described above, the Development would constitute a Moderate/minor cumulative effect in respect of existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area, and a Moderate cumulative effect in the event of the proposed Blary Hill turbines being constructed.

6.5.29.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

366. The viewpoint occurs in the Coastal Parallel Ridges character type (AGC22) which is ascribed a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The Development would introduce large scale engineered forms, and localised complexity to a largely simple and undeveloped landscape of the peninsula, resulting in a Moderate effect on the character of the landscape.

6.5.29.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

367. The Development would constitute a Moderate/minor cumulative effect in respect of existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area as these schemes are not readily apparent in the view. However, this cumulative context would become more apparent in the event of the Blary Hill wind farm being constructed, and in which case the cumulative effect attributable to Freasdail would be Moderate.

6.5.30 Viewpoint 12: Dun Skeig (E175781, N657176) - Figure 6.26

368. This viewpoint is situated on a local summit on the edge of an Area of Panoramic Quality, and is representative of views obtained by hill walkers. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 131m AOD, approximately 6.5 km to the west/southwest of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.30.1 Existing View

369. Long-range and panoramic views are provided from this location. To the north the view extends across the West Loch of Tarbert to the Knapdale peninsula. To the west the view comprises the open water of the Sound of Gigha and Sound of Jura and is bounded in the distance by the landmass of Jura and Islay. To the south the views are focused inland, across the Kintyre peninsula, beyond which the distinctive Arran Mountains form a focal point in the skyline.

370. In the direction of the Site (east/northeast) the foreground falls away steeply thereby emphasising the middle-ground of the view which comprises an irregular undulating pastureland with occasional plantations, scattered farmsteads and roads. In the background, as the land rises to meet the Kintyre upland the landscape comprises an undulating series of hills and ridges covered with a combination of moorland grassland, rock exposures and extensive coniferous plantations.

371. The Site is obscured from this viewpoint by intervening topography.

6.5.30.2 Predicted View

372. The predicted operational view is illustrated in the photomontage and wireline images in Figure 6.26. These images show all eleven of the proposed turbines (9 hubs and rotors and 2 blade tips) would be visible from this location. The turbines would be seen on the skyline.

6.5.30.3 Predicted Cumulative View

373. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.26 and is summarised in Table 6.6i below:

Table 6.6i: Viewpoint 12: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	E		6.50	6.47°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Deucheran Hill	S		12.73	4.41°	
Isle of Gigha	SW		15.60	0.63°	
Isle of Gigha Extension	SW		15.90	0.11°	
Proposed Schemes					
Cour	SSE		9.32	5.56°	

374. Deucheran turbines are almost entirely screened from view by intervening topography, whilst the existing Gigha turbines are visible to the southwest. Cour represents the potentially most prominent cumulative scheme and would appear on the skyline to the southeast of this viewpoint, whilst Freasdail would be seen to the northeast.

6.5.30.4 Magnitude of Change

375. The Development would be seen at a distance of around 6.5km, would appear on the skyline and would occupy around 6.5 horizontal degrees of this expansive view. On this basis the magnitude of change arising from the development would be Moderate, equating to a modest alteration to the baseline and localised effects within a broader unaltered context.

6.5.30.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

376. In the context of the existing and consented turbines, as described above, the Development is predicted to result in a Slight cumulative change. However, if Cour is taken into account the increased prominence of wind farm development in views from this viewpoint would provide a more obvious cumulative context, and as a result the cumulative change attributable to the Development would increase to Moderate, the schemes enclosing the viewpoint to the northeast and southeast.

6.5.30.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

377. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by hill walkers who are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Given the Moderate magnitude of change predicted, the effect experienced at this viewpoint would be Major/Moderate and significant.

6.5.30.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

378. The introduction of the Development would represent a Moderate cumulative effect in respect of existing and consented developments in the Study Area, but a Major/Moderate (significant) effect should Cour be constructed, due to the more apparent cumulative context against which Freasdail would be assessed.

6.5.30.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

379. The viewpoint occurs in the Rocky Mosaic character type (AGC20) which is generally considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The Development would introduce large scale engineered structures and movement to the currently still and undeveloped skyline of the neighbouring Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape that encloses the view to the east, resulting in a Major/Moderate (significant effect).

6.5.30.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

380. In the context of the existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area the Development would represent a Moderate cumulative effect. However, in the event of Cour being constructed this would increase to a Major/Moderate effect due to the increased cumulative context against which Freasdail would be assessed.

6.5.31 Viewpoint 13: Islay Ferry - Port Askaig to Kennacraig (E150084, N660534) - Figure 6.27

381. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained from the deck of the ferry as it reaches the edge of the Sound of Islay, off the south coast of Jura. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 4 m above sea level, approximately 32 km to the west of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.31.1 Existing View

382. The view from the ferry is, by nature, subject to constant change, but is typically dominated by the open waters of the Sound of Jura and the landmasses of Jura and Islay. Connecting views are provided along the Sound of Jura to the northeast, towards the Knapdale peninsula and Argyll. To the southwest views are channelled between Islay and Kintyre to Ireland and the Irish Sea.

383. The view towards the Site is depicted in Figure 6.27. The view in this direction contains a foreground and middle-ground comprising the open waters of the sound of Jura, the openness and essentially flat and simple character of which places emphasis upon the Isle of Gigha and Kintyre peninsula and the undulating skyline that it creates. Some complexity is created by the mosaic of moorland and plantation vegetation on the eastern side of the side of the peninsula.

384. The Site is entirely obscured in the existing view due to intervening topography.

6.5.31.2 Predicted View

385. The predicted view is illustrated in the wireline image in Figure 6.27. This image shows all eleven turbines visible (10 hubs and rotors and 1 blade tip). The turbines would be seen on the skyline to the east at a distance of around 32 km.

6.5.31.3 Predicted Cumulative View

386. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.27 and is summarised in Table 6.6j, below:

Table 6.6j: Viewpoint 13: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	SE		32.00	1.61°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Allt Dearg	ENE		35.31	1.02°	
Beinn an Tuirc	SE		33.45	4.07°	
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	SE		34.42	3.70°	
Deucheran Hill	ESE		30.56	2.33°	
Isle of Gigha	SE		19.03	0.48°	
Tangy	SSE		36.11	2.00°	
Isle of Gigha Extension	SE		34.42	3.70°	
Proposed Schemes					
Auchadaduie	SE		30.91	0.89°	
Blary Hill	SE		31.41	3.39°	
Cour	ESE		31.02	2.50°	

387. With the exception of Gigha, all of the cumulative wind farms are located at distances of over 30 km. Whilst the majority of wind farms would be seen on the skyline, the Isle of Gigha and Cour turbines would be backclothed. The majority of existing and consented development is located on the middle part of the peninsula, and appears in the form of a series of developments relatively evenly spaced along the spine of the peninsula or, as in the case of Tangy, on its western edge. The proposed Cour and Freasdail developments would extend this pattern of development northwards.

6.5.31.4 Magnitude of Change

388. Given its distance from this viewpoint and consequently limited proportion of the view it would occupy, the Development would result in a Negligible change, being barely perceptible except in periods of outstanding visibility.

6.5.31.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

389. The existing and consented wind farms, whilst distant from this viewpoint, are of a scale or in a location that renders them more prominent than smaller scale schemes such as Freasdail. Given the distance and proportion of the view that would be occupied by the Development, relative to the existing and consented developments, the magnitude of cumulative change is predicted to be Negligible. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being incorporated.

6.5.31.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

390. Whilst this viewpoint is, by nature, transitory passengers on the ferry are likely to focus on the landscape/seascape and have an expectation of enjoying the scenery and so are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. When considered in respect of the magnitude of change predicted, the effect on the visual amenity of passengers would be Moderate/Minor and not significant.

6.5.31.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

391. Similarly, the cumulative effect attributable to the Development in respect of existing and consented wind farms would be Moderate/minor. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being taken into account.

6.5.31.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

392. The viewpoint occurs in seascape character Area 24: West Kintyre/South Jura and Southeast Islay, which is generally considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The Development would not represent a wholly new feature in views from this location and would be seen distantly, thereby representing a Negligible change to the existing landscape/seascape as experienced at this viewpoint, which equates to a Moderate/minor effect.

6.5.31.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

393. The cumulative effect attributable to the Development in respect of existing and consented wind farms would be Moderate/minor. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being taken into account.

6.5.32 Viewpoint 14: Craighouse Bay, Jura (E152943, N666937) - Figure 6.28

394. This is a coastal viewpoint situated the Craighouse ferry terminal, overlooking Craighouse bay. It is representative of views obtained by tourists/visitors to Craighouse and nearby residential properties which are oriented towards the bay. This viewpoint is located in the Jura National Scenic Area. The viewpoint is located at an elevation just above sea level, approximately 30.50 km west of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.32.1 Existing View

395. Views from this location are focused on the coastline between Craighouse and the headland at Ardfernal, and upon the bay which is enclosed by a series of small islands that mark its easternmost boundary.

396. The view towards the Site (to the southeast) comprises the open waters of the bay, and the landmass of the Small Isles that enclose it. The view in this direction is bounded by the Knapdale and Kintyre peninsulas which form undulating skylines in the distance.

397. The Site is obscured from this viewpoint by intervening topography.

6.5.32.2 Predicted View

398. The predicted view is illustrated in the wirelines in Figure 6.28. These images show all eleven of the proposed turbines (hubs and rotors) visible on the skyline in the distance.

6.5.32.3 Predicted Cumulative View

399. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.29 and is summarised in Table 6.6k below:

Table 6.6k: Viewpoint 14: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	ESE		30.50	1.89°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Allt Dearg	ENE		30.24	1.08°	
Beinn an Tuirc	SE		36.50	7.13°	
Deucheran Hill	SE		32.26	2.29°	
Proposed Schemes					
Cour	SE		31.75	2.27°	

400. All of the cumulative wind farms are located at distances of over 30 km and would be seen on the skyline. The majority of existing and consented development is located on the middle part of the peninsula. The proposed Cour and Freasdail developments would extend this pattern of development northwards.

6.5.32.4 Magnitude of Change

401. Given its distance from this viewpoint and consequently limited proportion of the view it would occupy, the Development would result in a Negligible change, being barely perceptible except in periods of outstanding visibility.

6.5.32.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

402. Given the distance and proportion of the view that would be occupied by the Development, relative to the existing and consented developments, the magnitude of cumulative change is predicted to be Negligible. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being incorporated.

6.5.32.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

403. The tourists/visitors to Craighouse and nearby residential receptors are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. When considered in respect of the magnitude of change predicted, the effect on the visual amenity of passengers would be Moderate/minor and not significant.

6.5.32.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

404. Similarly, the cumulative effect attributable to the Development in respect of existing and consented wind farms would be Moderate/minor. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being taken into account.

6.5.32.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

405. The viewpoint occurs on the edge of the Coastal Parallel Ridges character type, overlooking seascape character Area 24: West Kintyre/South Jura and Southeast Islay. Both of these areas are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The Development would not represent a wholly new feature in views from this location and would be seen distantly, thereby representing a Negligible change to the existing landscape/seascape as experienced at this viewpoint, which equates to a Moderate/minor effect.

6.5.32.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

406. In the context of existing and consented developments, the Development would represent a Negligible addition. This would also be the case in the event of the proposed developments being taken into account. This equates to a Moderate/Minor effect in respect to existing and consented wind farms and existing, consented and proposed schemes.

6.5.33 Viewpoint 15: B8024, Knapdale Peninsula (E172356, N661612) - Figure 6.29

407. This viewpoint is situated on a key transportation and tourist route, and is representative of views obtained by users of NCR78. Additionally, the viewpoint is located within an Area of Panoramic Quality. The viewpoint is at an elevation of around 84m AOD, approximately 10.37 km from the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.33.1 Existing View

408. Views from this location are concentrated in a southerly and easterly direction. To the south the view is channelled down the line of the Sound of Gigha by the Kintyre and Gigha landmasses. To the east, towards the Site, the view extends across Loch Stornoway, the Knapdale peninsula and the West Loch Tarbert to the Kintyre peninsula.

409. The foreground in the view towards the Site is a steeply graded landform with coarse grassland and gorse scrub cover. In the middle-ground the landscape comprises the open water of Loch Stornoway which is enclosed by the raised topography of the Knapdale peninsula which contains a complex assemblage of grasslands, scrub and deciduous woodland. The view is bounded, in this direction, by the Kintyre peninsula which appears as an undulating landmass with a mosaic of moorland grassland habitats and forestry, the contrasting colour and complex patterning of which increase its prominence in the view. The Arran Mountains form a prominent focal point on the skyline in this direction.

410. The Site is not visible from this location due to the screening effect of intervening topography.

6.5.33.2 Predicted View

411. The predicted operational view is depicted in the photomontage in Figure 6.29. This image shows all 11 of the turbines (hubs and rotors) visible on the skyline. Predicted Cumulative View

412. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated in the wireline images on Figure 6.29 and is summarised in Table 6.6l below:

Table 6.6l: Viewpoint 15: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	ESE		10.37	5.38°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Deucheran Hill	SSE		17.56	3.65°	
Isle of Gigha	SSW		16.78	0.63°	
Isle of Gigha Extension	SSW		17.04	0.11°	
Proposed Schemes					

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Angle Subtended (Degrees)
Auchadaduie	S		25.47	1.09°
Blary Hill	S		24.25	3.41°
Cour	SSE		14.78	5.36°

413. The Development would be the closest wind farm to this viewpoint and the most clearly apparent in the view. Of the existing and consented developments, Deucheran Hill is evident, but seen at a distance of over 17.50 km. The Isle of Gigha turbines, whilst also visible, are seen distantly and at a lower elevation to the developments on the peninsula. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be seen to the north of Deucheran Hill, but would be partially obscured by intervening topography.

6.5.33.3 Magnitude of Change

414. The Development would be seen at a distance of over 10 km and would occupy around 5 horizontal degrees of the view. Viewed from this perspective the wind farm would represent a small alteration to this expansive view and a localised change within an otherwise unaltered context. On this basis the magnitude of change is considered to be Slight.

6.5.33.4 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

415. Seen in conjunction with the existing Deucheran Hill turbines and Isle of Gigha turbines the Development would constitute a Slight addition to the cumulative context, drawing wind energy development closer to this viewpoint. This would also be the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being constructed.

6.5.33.5 Effect upon Visual Amenity

416. Road users at this location are considered to have a Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, whereas tourists and cyclists on NCR78 are considered to have a High sensitivity. This sensitivity, coupled with the Slight magnitude of change predicted constitutes a Moderate/Minor effect in regard to road users, and a Moderate effect in respect of tourists and cyclists.

6.5.33.6 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

417. The Development would result in Moderate/Minor (road users) to Moderate (tourists and cyclists) cumulative effects in respect of existing and consented wind farms. This would also be the case in the event of the proposed cumulative developments being constructed.

6.5.33.7 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

418. The viewpoint occurs in the Rocky Mosaic character type (AGC20), which is generally considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Consequently, the proposed Development would result in a Moderate effect. The proposed Development would introduce further large scale engineered forms and movement into the landscape.

6.5.33.8 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

419. The Development would result in Moderate cumulative effects in respect of existing and consented wind farms, extending the pattern of wind energy development north, towards this viewpoint. The Development would also result in a Moderate cumulative effect when the proposed developments are taken into account.

6.5.34 Viewpoint 16: B8024, Dunmore (E180043, N662471) - Figure 6.30

420. This viewpoint is situated on an important transportation and tourist route on the Knapdale peninsula, and is representative of views obtained by users of NCR78 and nearby residential receptors at Tigh Na Traigh, whose property is oriented towards the B8024 carriageway. The viewpoint is located close to sea level, approximately 4.5 km to the northwest of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.34.1 Existing View

421. Views from this location are primarily focused across West Loch Tarbert loch in a southeasterly direction due to the enclosure provided to the northwest by topography and vegetation.

422. Figure 6.30 illustrates the existing view towards the Site. The view in this direction comprises a simple open and horizontal foreground and middle-ground consisting of the loch foreshore and the open waters of the loch which emphasise the skyline which is formed by the Kintyre peninsula in the background. The peninsula is characterised by an undulating landform with localised hill summits and ridges and varied landcover ranging from low-lying enclosed pasture and deciduous woodland, small scaled settlement and scattered dwellings, to large scale coniferous forest and moorland grassland on elevated slopes.

423. The interior of the Site is obscured by intervening topography and vegetation.

6.5.34.2 Predicted View

424. The predicted operational view is illustrated in the photomontage and wireline image in Figure 6.30. These images show all eleven of the proposed turbines (hubs and rotors) visible on the skyline. Some alteration to the view would arise from the proposed forest felling at the Site, but this would be minimal, and infrastructure would be screened by intervening topography.

6.5.34.3 Predicted Cumulative View

425. No other wind farms would be visible from this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative change or effects at this viewpoint.

6.5.34.4 Magnitude of Change

426. The Development would be seen at a distance of around 4.5 km and would occupy a large proportion of the view. Given this and its prominence, the magnitude of change arising from the Development would be Substantial, representing a considerable alteration to the view.

6.5.34.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

427. None.

6.5.34.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

428. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by road users, tourists and cyclists and a small number of residential receptors. With the exception of general road users, these receptors are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Given the high sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint, the effect would be Major.

6.5.34.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

429. None.

6.5.34.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

430. This viewpoint is located in the Rocky Mosaic character type, close to the edge of the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape of the Knapdale peninsula and overlooking the West Loch Tarbert. Given the confluence landscape/seascape types and enclosed position of this viewpoint it is considered to have a High sensitivity in landscape character terms. The proposed Development turbines would introduce large scale engineered elements and movement to an essentially undeveloped skyline, the scale of the turbines would be made more evident by the presence of dwellings on the intervening lochside. Given the sensitivity of the landscape and the magnitude of predicted change, the effect on landscape character at the viewpoint would be Major in respect of road users and Major for tourists and cyclists.

6.5.34.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

431. None.

6.5.35 Viewpoint 17: Meall Reamhar, Knapdale (E177893, N668404) - Figure 6.31

432. This viewpoint is situated on an elevated summit on the Knapdale peninsula and is representative of views obtained by hill walkers. The viewpoint is also located within an Area of Panoramic Quality. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 471m AOD, approximately 10.77 km to the northwest of the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.35.1 Existing View

433. Views from this location are large scale, long-range and panoramic. To the north and northeast the view extends across the Knapdale peninsula towards Argyll and the Cowal peninsula. To the east the view comprises the edge of the Knapdale peninsula, beyond which West Loch Tarbert and the northern end of the Kintyre peninsula are visible and beyond which the Cowal peninsula and Isle of Bute are evident and bound the view. To the south the view extends across the forested southern extents of Knapdale to the Sound of Gigha and the western side of the Kintyre peninsula. To the west of this viewpoint views are provided across the Sound of Jura to Jura and Islay, the Paps of Jura a focal point in this direction.

434. Figure 6.31 illustrates the view to the southeast, towards the Site. The view in this direction consists of the undulating moorland, lochans and coniferous forest of the Knapdale peninsula, beyond which the flat form and reflectivity of the waters in West Loch Tarbert contrast with the darker colouring, undulating forms and complexity of the Kintyre peninsula. The background of the view contains Kilbrannan Sound and the distinctive mountains of the Isle of Arran.

435. The Site is visible on the top of the Kintyre peninsula between this viewpoint and Arran, but is currently covered in dense coniferous plantation.

6.5.35.2 Predicted View

436. The predicted view is illustrated by the photomontage and wireline in Figure 6.31. These images show all eleven of the proposed turbines (hubs and rotors) from this elevated viewpoint. The turbines would be backclothed by topography between Meall Reamhar and the Arran Mountains. Initial felling at the Site would also be apparent, the current forestry likely to be replaced by moorland grassland. Proposed infrastructure including site tracks would just be apparent.

6.5.35.3 Predicted Cumulative View

437. The predicted cumulative view is illustrated on Figure 6.31 and is summarised in Table 6.6m below:

Table 6.6m: Viewpoint 17: Cumulative View (Visible Sites)

Wind Farm Site	Direction Viewpoint	From	Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	Horizontal Subtended (Degrees)	Angle
Freasdail	SSE		10.77	7.84°	
Existing/Consented Schemes					
Allt Dearg	NNE		8.68	5.00°	
Beinn an Tuirc	S		24.02	2.38°	
Beinn an Tuirc Extension	S		33.78	3.30°	
Cruach Mhor	NE		31.77	2.82°	
Deucheran Hill	S		24.02	2.38°	
Isle of Gigha	SSW		25.48	0.42°	
Isle of Gigha Extension	SSW		25.75	0.07°	
Tangy	SSW		40.82	1.194°	
Proposed Schemes					
Auchadaduie	SSW		33.18	0.88°	
Blary Hill	S		31.61	2.70°	
Cour	S		19.95	3.00°	

438. With the exception of the Gigha turbines, existing and consented wind farms would be seen distantly but as a concentration of turbines, with the exception of Allt Dear and Cruach Mhor the majority of wind farms concentrated in the middle section of the peninsula. The proposed Auchadaduie and Blary Hill schemes would add to this concentration. In contrast, the proposed Cour development would bring wind energy development closer to this viewpoint, would appear separate from the main cluster of developments and would broaden the width of the view occupied by wind farms. The Development would bring development even closer to the viewpoint and would appear clearly separated from other wind farms in the vicinity.

6.5.35.4 Magnitude of Change

439. Given this viewpoint's distance from the Site and its backclothed position the magnitude of change would be Moderate.

6.5.35.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

440. The Development would constitute a Moderate magnitude of cumulative change in respect of existing and consented turbines, and Moderate when proposed wind farms such as Cour are taken into account.

6.5.35.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

441. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by hill walkers visiting the summit of Meall Reamhar who are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The effect on visual amenity as a result of the proposed Development would be Major/Moderate the significance of the effect being exacerbated by the positioning of the scheme in the view towards the Arran Mountains.

6.5.35.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

442. The Development would represent a Major/Moderate cumulative effect on relation to existing and consented wind farms. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind developments being constructed.

6.5.35.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

443. This viewpoint is located within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape of the Knapdale peninsula, which is considered to have a generally Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. However at this viewpoint, the incidence of small scale landscape elements and more distinctive rugged hills means that the sensitivity increases to High. The Development would introduce large scale engineered elements and movement to a currently undeveloped and still part of the peninsula. The turbines, whilst not affecting the important/distinctive skyline formed by the Arran Mountains would present a new focal point in the direction of the mountains. On the basis of the preceding analysis the effect on the character of the landscape at this viewpoint would be Major/Moderate and significant.

6.5.35.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

444. The Development would constitute a noticeable addition to the cumulative context, introducing wind energy development to a part of the landscape currently not developed. Consequently, the cumulative effect attributable to the Development, in respect of existing and consented wind farms in the Study Area would be Major/Moderate and significant. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being constructed.

6.5.36 Viewpoint 18: Whitehouse (E181779, N661407) - Figure 6.32

445. This viewpoint is situated on the A83 at the northwestern edge of Whitehouse and is representative of views obtained by road users and tourists. The viewpoint is located at an elevation of around 27m AOD, approximately 2.8 km from the nearest Freasdail turbine.

6.5.36.1 Existing View

446. Views from this location are small to medium scale and are generally focused on land to the southeast and south of the viewpoint where some penetration of views towards the scarp edge of the Kintyre peninsula is provided. In this direction the foreground comprises areas of coarse grass with remnant hedgerow species and marshy ground. In the middle-ground the landscape contains further marshy ground and riparian vegetation associated with the course of burns. Often, such riparian vegetation consists of tree and shrub species. Some scattered dwellings are present in this part of the view. In the background the view is bounded by extensive coniferous forest cover that forms the skyline.

6.5.36.2 Predicted View

447. The predicted view is illustrated by Figure 6.32. This shows ten of the Freasdail turbines (8 hubs and rotors and 2 blade tips) visible on the horizon.

6.5.36.3 Predicted Cumulative View

448. No other wind farm would be visible from this location. Consequently no cumulative change or cumulative effect would occur at this viewpoint.

6.5.36.4 Magnitude of Change

449. Given the proximity of this viewpoint to the Site, the proportion of the view that the turbines would occupy and their prominent skyline positioning, the magnitude of change is predicted to be Substantial.

6.5.36.5 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

450. None.

6.5.36.6 Effect upon Visual Amenity

451. This viewpoint is representative of views obtained by road users and tourists on the A83. Whilst general road users are considered to have a Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed tourists, who are assumed to be more focused on the scenery, are considered to have a High sensitivity. On this basis, the effect at this viewpoint would range from Major/Moderate in respect of road users, and Major in respect of tourists, both scenarios represent significant effects.

6.5.36.7 Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity

452. None.

6.5.36.8 Effect on Landscape Character at the Viewpoint

453. This viewpoint is situated in the Rocky Mosaic character type which is considered to have a High sensitivity. The proposals would result in the loss of forest cover from imparts of the skyline and the establishment of large scale engineered structures and movement in a part of the landscape currently characterised by dense forest an stillness, and would constitute a Major effect on the character of the landscape at the viewpoint.

6.5.36.9 Cumulative Effect on Landscape Character

454. None.

6.5.37 Summary of Viewpoint Analysis Findings

455. Table 6.7, below, summarises the findings of the preceding Viewpoint Analysis. The abbreviation EC in the table refers to cumulative effects arising from the Development in conjunction with existing and consented wind farms within the Study Area, whilst ECP concerns the cumulative effects arising from the Development in conjunction with existing, consented and proposed wind farms.

Table 6.7: Summary of Effects at Viewpoints

VP	Viewpoint Name	Effects on Visual Amenity	Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity	Effect on landscape Character	Cumulative Effect on landscape Character
1	Cnoc a Bhaille Shios	Major/Moderate	Major/Moderate (EC) Major /Moderate (ECP)	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)
2	B8001, Near Glensreasdail	Major	NA	Major	NA
3	Tarmore Hill, Isle of Bute	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)
4	Lochranza Ferry	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)

VP	Viewpoint Name	Effects on Visual Amenity	Cumulative Effect on Visual Amenity	Effect on landscape Character	Cumulative Effect on landscape Character
5	Lochranza Ferry terminal, Arran	Moderate	NA	Moderate	NA
6	Kintyre Way near Cruach nam Fiadh	Major	NA	Major/Moderate	NA
7	Thundergay	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)
8	Beinn Bharrain, Arran	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)
9	Proximity of Achamore Gardens, Isle of Gigha	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)	Minor	Minor (EC) Minor (ECP)
10	A83, Clachan	Moderate	NA	Moderate	NA
11	Port Mor, Gigha	Moderate	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate (ECP)	Moderate	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate (ECP)
12	Dun Skeig	Major/Moderate	Moderate (EC) Major /Moderate (ECP)	Major/Moderate	Moderate (EC) Major /Moderate (ECP)
13	Islay Ferry	Moderate/minor	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate/Minor (ECP)	Moderate/minor	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate/Minor (ECP)
14	Craighouse Bay, Jura	Moderate/minor	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate/Minor (ECP)	Moderate/minor	Moderate/Minor (EC) Moderate/Minor (ECP)
15	Knapdale Peninsula	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)	Moderate	Moderate (EC) Moderate (ECP)
16	B8024, near Dunmore	Major	NA	Major	NA
17	Meall Reamhar	Major/Moderate	Major/Moderate (EC) Major /Moderate (ECP)	Major/Moderate	Major/Moderate (EC) Major /Moderate (ECP)
18	Whitehouse	Major/Moderate to Major	NA	Major	NA

6.6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

456. This section examines the significance of the landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Development as follows:

- Effects on landscape fabric - the effects of the Development on the physical landscape of the Site;
- Effects on landscape character - the effect on the key characteristics of the landscape character areas potentially affected by the Development; and
- Effects on visual amenity - the effects on the visual amenity within the Study Area.

457. This section also considers the significance of potential cumulative effects.

6.6.1 Effects on Landscape Fabric

458. The effects of the Development on the fabric of the landscape can be either direct or indirect. Direct effects occur where changes to the fabric of the landscape arise as a result of physical disturbance; for example, the loss of landscape elements including vegetation, and alterations to landform. The following sections explain the likely effects on the fabric of the landscape. Details regarding potential effects of off-site disturbance relating to highways improvements on the B727 are given in Chapter 14: Access, Traffic and Transport of the ES.

6.6.1.1 Construction Phase

459. Table 4.1 of Chapter 4: *Description of Development* of this ES, quantifies the amount of potential land-take required for the Development. Details of off-site effects on landscape fabric are given in Chapter 14: *Traffic and Transport* of this ES. Given the limited nature of such effects they are not considered further here.

460. As indicated in those sections of the ES, the Development footprint would result in permanent alteration to existing landcover of approximately 6.7 ha of the Site during construction of the Development. 95.6 ha of existing forestry would be felled during construction to accommodate the Development, being replaced by managed open ground which is consistent with the existing character of the peninsula. Throughout the lifetime of the Development, the change to open ground from forestry would equate to an increase of 230.3 ha when comparing the with wind farm forest plan to the existing forest plan. Whilst the removal of the forestry would undoubtedly result in substantial change to landcover and the character of the Site such clear felling is a common aspect of the local landscape and not anomalous.

461. The construction of temporary compounds, site infrastructure, crossings, compounds and turbine foundations would add localised impacts by adding further hard areas on the Site and small scale changes to topography, including the formation of drainage ditches. Such additions would constitute localised substantial changes, with the majority of the Site not affected by the wind farm construction.

462. Based on this analysis, and the medium sensitivity of the physical landscape of the existing Site, the effect on landscape fabric would be Major/Moderate and significant during felling and construction works. However, if the proposed felling is disregarded significant effects on landscape fabric arising from construction works would be localised and liable to last for a maximum of 18 months. It should be noted, however, that the majority of the Site would be subject to no effect as a result of construction works.

463. This assessment does not reflect potential effects relating to Soils, peat resources, ecology or hydrology as these are dealt with elsewhere in the ES.

6.6.1.2 Operational Phase

464. Once all spoil, temporary compounds and temporary hard standings have been removed and the felled habitats on the Site have matured, effects on the fabric of the Site would be transformed to largely beneficial ones, the regenerated open ground likely to comprise of moorland species affording enhanced ecological benefits. The minimisation of disturbance associated with the wind farm and its infrastructure would restrict adverse effects to tracks, crossing points, control building, permanent crane pad and turbine locations, which represent a relatively limited proportion of the Site.

6.6.2 Effects on Landscape Character

465. The Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the 35 km radius Study Area have been classified based on published SNH landscape assessments and the recent Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study, which have been reviewed and adopted as the basis for defining the baseline landscape character. Analysis of the LCTs in conjunction with the ZTV's show that potential visibility of the Development would occur in parts of sixteen LCTs identified in the Study Area. The Site is located within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type (AGC6).
466. Table A6.5-1 of Appendix A6.5 contains a description of the extent of visibility and an assessment of the magnitude of change and resultant effects on each LCT. From this it is apparent that significant effects would be experienced within the following LCTs:
- Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (AGC6): and
 - Rocky Mosaic (AGC20):
467. Significant effects within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape would be confined to low lying positions along the B8001 corridor and elevated positions within 10 km such as the summits of Cruach nam Fiadh and Cnoc Creagach, where the turbines would represent a new element in the landscape and would introduce large scale engineered elements and movement to a landscape currently characterised by a combination of large scale coniferous forest and open moorland and which is both remote and essentially still. Whilst the removal of forest cover at the Site and the establishment of the proposed wind farm infrastructure would alter the character of the Site, it is not considered to be inconsistent with the general character of the upland landscape. Viewpoints 1, 2 and 6 are illustrative of the range of significant effects anticipated within this LCT.
468. Significant cumulative effects within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic landscape would be generally be confined to elevated locations within 6 km of the Development from where cumulative visibility of Freasdale and all of the existing and consented wind farms would be possible, the Freasdale turbines being the closest and most prominent. Such significant effect would also occur in the event of the proposed wind farms being constructed. Lower lying positions within this LCT (i.e. on the B8001) would generally not be afforded cumulative visibility due to their enclosed position.
469. Significant effects within the Rocky Mosaic LCT would be restricted to locations such as Dun Skeig and a small number of locations in the vicinity of Whitehouse on the Kintyre peninsula, whilst on the Knapdale peninsula significant effects would occur at a small number of locations along the western side of West Loch Tarbert. However, a large proportion of this LCT would be subject to no effect due to the screening effect of intervening topography and or vegetation. With the exception of parts of the Knapdale peninsula by Loch Stornoway, the Development would represent a new element of the landscape and would introduce large scale engineered elements and movement to a prominent skyline overlooking West Loch Tarbert.
470. Significant cumulative effects would be experienced in a limited number of locations within this landscape due to the screening effect of adjoining peninsula topography and the increased incidents of structural vegetation, the principal location affected being located at the summit of Dun Skeig.

6.6.3 Effects on Seascape Character

6.6.3.1 Area 24: West Kintyre/South East Jura and South East Islay

471. A large proportion of the northernmost third of this seascape unit would be screened from the Development by the intervening Knapdale peninsula. However up to eleven of the Development

turbines would be visible from an area between the southeastern coast of Jura and the Sound of Gigha, between 30 and 9 km, respectively. Viewed from the more distant sections of this unit, the Development would be seen distantly on the skyline and would occupy a small proportion of the view (Viewpoints 13 and 14 are indicative of such views). Closer to the Kintyre peninsula the turbines would be partially screened by intervening topography and would constitute a relatively small alteration to the view, introducing large scale engineered elements and movement to a currently undeveloped and still part of the peninsula which forms the boundary at the eastern side of this seascape unit. On the basis of this analysis, the Development is predicted to result in a Slight magnitude of change on this seascape unit and a Moderate effect. However, within West Loch Tarbert all eleven of the proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline to the southeast of the loch. Given the proximity of the Development to this part of the seascape unit, the magnitude of change would be Substantial, representing a Major (significant) effect.

472. In cumulative terms, the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and Tangy wind farms, and the consented Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc extension, Gigha extension and proposed Auchadaduie, Cour and Blary Hill turbines from the southeastern coast of Jura and the Sound of Gigha. Viewed from the more distant sections of this unit, the Development and existing, consented and proposed developments would be seen distantly, and with the exception of Gigha turbines, on the skyline on the top of the peninsula and set back from its coastal edge. The emergent pattern of development is concentrated in the middle section of the peninsula, but with a separate cluster occurring to the north at Allt Dearg. However, in closer proximity the visibility of the cumulative schemes reduces due to the screening effect of the intervening topography along the edge of the Kintyre peninsula. A consequence of this is that the number of visible schemes reduces and where turbines are visible they are generally partially obscured by topography the closer to the Kintyre peninsula the receptor is located. This is apparent from a comparison of Viewpoints 9, 11, 13 and 14. Viewed from the interior of West Loch Tarbert the only other wind energy development visible would be the existing and proposed Isle of Gigha turbines which would be seen at distances of over 17km to the southwest, away from the Development. As a result, the cumulative magnitude of change would be Slight and the cumulative effect in respect of existing/consented and existing/consented and proposed wind farm scenarios would be Moderate and not significant.
473. With the existence of the Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill turbines, the Development would not appear as a wholly unique landscape feature. Moreover, given its distance, often partially screened appearance and separation from these other wind farms the Development would represent Negligible magnitude of cumulative change in locations in the Sound of Jura, increasing to Slight in the vicinity of Port Mor and the Sound of Gigha, equating to cumulative effects ranging between Moderate/Minor and Moderate dependent upon distance.
474. The proposed turbines of the Beinn an Tuirc extension and Blary Hill would all be consistent with the existing pattern of development, resulting in a relatively modest expansion of existing development in views to the east from this seascape unit. Cour wind farm, where visible, would extend development northwards along the peninsula, but a gap between Freasdale and the main bulk of development would be maintained. The 3 turbines of the proposed Auchadaduie scheme would appear somewhat anomalous due to their position on the side of the peninsula and separation from the main grouping of turbines at Beinn an Tuirc and Blary Hill.
475. In general, the establishment of the proposed wind farms would not alter the predicted cumulative effect attributable to the Development. However, an exception to this would be parts of the seascape unit in the vicinity of Port Mor on Gigha, where the addition of the proposed Blary Hill wind farm

would provide a more obvious cumulative context, thereby increasing the perception of cumulative affected arising from the Development.

476. On the basis of the preceding analysis, no significant effects are anticipated within this seascape.

6.6.3.2 Area 25: Loch Fyne/Kilbrannan Sound

477. Cumulative visibility within this seascape unit would be confined to the eastern side of the Kilbrannan Sound, a pronounced viewshadow being evident along the western side of the Sound as a result of the screening effect of the intervening topography of the Kintyre peninsula. The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing and proposed Beinn an Tuirc turbines, the existing Cruach Mhor development and existing Deucheran Hill wind farm. Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. Whilst the Development would be mostly screened by intervening topography of the peninsula, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes are clearly evident on the skyline from much of this seascape. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent from locations within Kilbrannan Sound. This is evident in views from Viewpoint locations 4, 5 and 7. Freasdail turbines would largely be obscured and clearly separated from the other cumulative sites. Given this restricted visibility and the comparative prominence of existing and consented developments, the magnitude of cumulative change within this seascape unit that would be attributable to the Development in conjunction with existing and consented developments would range from None in the western sections of the unit to Slight in the northern section of the unit west of Lochranza. This equates to a cumulative effect ranging from None to Moderate. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour scheme being constructed.

6.6.3.3 Area 26: Firth of Clyde

478. Cumulative visibility within this seascape unit would be confined to sections of the Sound of Bute between Cock of Arran and the Isle of Bute (over 15km from the nearest Development turbine), and the Firth of Clyde between the Isle of Bute and Ardrrossan (over 27km from the nearest Development turbine). The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc, Cruach Mhor and Deucheran Hill developments, all of which would be seen distantly (over 20km), and would be partially restricted by intervening topography. Consequently, the cumulative context for the Development would be reduced in prominence. The Development, whilst closer (at its closest - 11km from the nearest Freasdail turbine) and more visible than the existing cumulative sites, would also be partially screened and occupy a relatively small proportion of the view. Given the relatively recessive existing cumulative context and the restricted and distant visibility of the Development, the magnitude of cumulative change in respect of existing and consented wind farms would range from Slight by the Cock of Arran, reducing to None further east where visibility is curtailed by intervening topography of Arran. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed, as this proposed scheme would be more prominent than the Development.

6.6.4 Effects on Visual Amenity

479. For the purposes of this assessment settlements and users of recreational routes are considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed, whilst, with the exception of tourists, road and rail users are considered to have a Medium sensitivity. Off-shore receptors (such as passengers on ferries, boats, ships, and sea kayakers) whilst also subject to transitory views, generally progress at a slower rate than road users and often concentrate on the wider seascape and landscape, and are therefore considered to have a High sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

6.6.5 Settlements

480. Whitehouse, Kintyre Peninsula: The magnitude of change arising at this settlement would vary greatly according to the extent of intervening vegetation to the southeast of this settlement, but where visible the Development is predicted to result in Substantial change due to its proximity to the settlement and skyline position. This would constitute a Major effect.
481. In cumulative terms, no other wind farms would be visible from this settlement due to its enclosed position and the extent of surrounding structural vegetation. Consequently, the Development would result in no cumulative effect at this location.
482. Lochranza, Arran: Based on this settlement's distance from the Development, the generally oblique nature of views towards the Development from properties, and the partially obscured nature of the Development's visibility the magnitude of change experienced at this settlement would range from None to Slight, constituting an overall Moderate effect.
483. Lochranza would be subject to no cumulative visibility due to its enclosed position within a glen. Consequently, the Development would result in no cumulative effects at this location.
484. Ardmish, Gigha: Given the Development's distance from this settlement and its partially backclothed and obscured position the magnitude of change experienced at this settlement would be Negligible, equating to a Moderate/Minor effect.
485. The Development when considered in relation to the existing/consented Beinn an Tuirc, Tangy and Deucheran developments would represent a Negligible cumulative change and Minor cumulative effect due to its distance and scale relative to the cumulative schemes. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadadie and Cour schemes being constructed.
486. Craighouse, Jura: The Development would be seen distantly and would therefore occupy a small proportion of the view from this settlement. The magnitude of change at this settlement would be Negligible, equating to a barely discernible change to the baseline condition and a Moderate/ Minor effect.
487. Whilst a number of existing and consented wind farms would also be visible, they would be seen at a considerable distance, thereby mitigating potential effects associated with wind energy developments on the Kintyre peninsula. In this context the Development would result in Negligible cumulative change and a Moderate/Minor cumulative effect in respect of existing and consented developments. This would also be the case in the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed.
488. Kerrymenoch, Isle of Bute: Given the distance of the Development from this settlement, and its partially obscured position the magnitude of change would be Negligible and the effect resulting from the Development would be Moderate/Minor.
489. The only other wind farm that would be visible from this settlement would be the proposed Cour development. Given this settlement's distance from Cour and consequent limitation on the cumulative context, and small proportion of the view that the Development would affect, the cumulative magnitude of change in respect of the proposed Cour scheme would be Negligible, equating to a Moderate/Minor effect. The Development would result in no cumulative effect in respect of existing or consented developments as these would not be visible from this settlement.

6.6.6 Transport

490. A83: On the basis of the visibility described in section 6.5.4, the distance of the Development from this route, and its skyline position, the magnitude of change experienced by road users of this route would generally be Negligible, but increasing to Slight on the northbound approach to Clachan and Substantial in locations adjoining Whitehouse. The effects on this route would therefore generally be None or Moderate/Minor, Moderate in the vicinity of Clachan, and Major in a small number of locations in the vicinity of Whitehouse.
491. Despite indications of combined and concurrent cumulative visibility on this route in the route analysis in technical Appendix A6.4 and the cumulative ZTVs, actual visibility from this route would be sequential due to the often restricted or filtered nature of views. Between Westport and Clachan the Development would be screened by intervening topography. However, the existing Tangy, Beinn an Tuirc and Isle of Gigha schemes and proposed Blary Hill and Auchadaduie turbines would be sequentially and intermittently visible from this section of the route. The Isle of Gigha turbines are clearly apparent on the Gigha landmass to the west of the road, within the Sound of Jura, whilst Beinn an Tuirc and Tangy appear to the east of this route and occupy a prominent elevated position on the Kintyre peninsula. In the event of the Blary Hill and Auchadaduie schemes being constructed they would also occupy elevated positions overlooking this route in places. Between Clachan and Whitehouse, the Development would generally not be seen in conjunction with other wind farms due to the screening effect of intervening topography and vegetation. Between Whitehouse and Tarbert the Development would once again be screened from view by intervening topography, but fleeting views of Allt Dearg would be provided, the blade tips of this scheme just visible above the horizon of the Knapdale peninsula, to the west.
492. Given the limited proportion of the route affected by the Development relative to other schemes such as Gigha, and the fact that the Development and other wind farms are often seen in different directions to each other, the cumulative magnitude of change on this route would be Slight and the cumulative effect would be Moderate. This finding would apply in respect of existing and consented wind farms as well as when proposed turbines are taken into account.
493. A841: Given the relatively limited extent of this route subject to views of the Development, its distance from the Site and the partial screening of the turbines where views are provided, the magnitude of change on this route would range from None to Slight and the effect would be None to Moderate, greatest effect occurring on the northern section of the route south of Lochranza.
494. The emerging pattern of wind farm development focuses on the Kintyre peninsula, which is located to the west of this route, across the Kilbrannan Sound. The Development would be seen in conjunction (in sequence and in combination) with the existing and proposed Beinn an Tuirc turbines (seen on the skyline over 11 km to the west of this route), the existing Cruach Mhor development (seen at distances of over 37km to the west from the A841 between Thundergay and Lochranza) and the existing Deucheran Hill wind farm (which is visible to the west at distances in excess of 10 km). Views of Allt Dearg, the proposed Cour (seen to the north of this route) and Laggan farm schemes would also be provided. These schemes would be seen at distances of over 8 km and 17 km, respectively. The Development would be largely be screened by intervening topography of the peninsula, whilst, in contrast, the existing Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran schemes are clearly visible on the skyline from much of this route. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, this scheme would be particularly prominent as it is located close to the eastern edge of the Kintyre peninsula, overlooking Kilbrannan Sound. On the basis of the preceding analysis the Development is predicted to result in cumulative change ranging from None on the majority of this route, but Negligible at Thundergay, and Slight as the route extends northwards towards Lochranza. This would equate to effects ranging from None to Moderate/Minor. These findings would apply in regard to the existing and consented wind farm context and if proposed Cour development was taken into account.
495. A846: Given this route's distance from the Site and the intermittent nature of views of the Development, the magnitude of change would be Negligible and the effect would be Moderate/Minor. This would also be the case in respect of potential cumulative effects.
496. B8001: Between Whitehouse and Claonaig views of the Development would occur in the more open sections of the route between Glenreasdell and Redhouse from where the Development would be clearly evident on the skyline to the southwest. On other parts of this road intervening forest cover would screen the Development. Given the proximity of this route to the Site the magnitude of change arising from the Development would be Substantial, constituting a Major effect.
497. It is apparent from the analysis of cumulative visibility on this route that, with the exception of a specific location 1.9km northwest of Glenreasdell from where the blade tip of one of the proposed Cour turbines would theoretically be visible, no other wind farm would be visible from this route. However, the Cour turbine would be seen distantly (over 13km) and would therefore not be discernible in the view. Given the absence of any readily discernible cumulative development from this route, the cumulative magnitude of change would range from None in respect of existing and consented schemes and Negligible in respect of the Cour development, which equates No cumulative effect and a Minor cumulative effect, respectively.
498. B8024: of the 48km of this route that are present within the Study Area the ZTV indicates that intermittent views of up to 11 turbines would be provided from the B8024 between Point Mor and Barmore Island on the southern and eastern sides of the Knapdale peninsula. Views would be interrupted in places by the undulating topography of the peninsula and/or vegetation. Where the turbines are visible they would appear on the skyline between 4km and 10km to the southeast. Given the intermittent nature of views from this route the magnitude of change would range from None to Slight in the vicinity of Loch Stornoway, to Substantial in a small number of locations along the western side of West Loch Tarbert. Consequently, effects would range from None to Moderate at Loch Stornoway, with localised Major effects on sections of the route on the lochside of West Loch Tarbert.
499. The ZTVs indicate that intermittent cumulative views (sequential and combined visibility) would be provided from the B8024 between Barmore Island and Loch Stornoway. Progressing southwards down Loch Tarbert Freasdale turbines would be seen intermittently with the existing Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and Tangy developments, all of which would be seen distantly to the south and southwest. Freasdale would be the closest (at distances of between 4.9 km and 10.38 km) and therefore most prominent wind farm in views from this section of the route. In the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed, these would also be visible, but at a distance of over 12 km. At Loch Stornoway the Development would be the closest wind farm to this route and clearly apparent in the view. Between Barmore and Dunmore the cumulative magnitude of change would range from None to Slight. This would also be the case at Loch Stornoway. The cumulative effect on this route would therefore range from None to Moderate.
500. Coastal Road Gigha: Given its distance from the Site and the often partially screened nature of the Development when viewed from this route, the magnitude of change would range from Negligible to Slight, equating to a Moderate/Minor to Moderate effect.

501. Cumulative views would be provided from the majority of this route, the Development being seen in conjunction with all of the cumulative sites except Cruach Mhor and Laggan Farm. The closest turbines would be those of the existing Gigha wind farm and proposed extension, which would generally be seen at distances of less than 3km. Elsewhere, the pattern of wind farm development would focus on the Kintyre peninsula, which is located to the east of this route, across the Sound of Gigha. The Development would be seen to the northeast at distances of between 16 and 18 km and would often be substantially screened by the intervening topography of the Kintyre peninsula whereas the cluster of developments comprising Beinn an Tuirc, Blary Hill and Auchadaduie (seen on the skyline between 11 km and 18 km), Deucheran Hill (over 11 km) and Tangy arrays (seen at a distance of over 17km) would be clearly visible on the skyline to the southeast of this route. Consequently the cumulative magnitude of change would range from Negligible to Slight in respect of existing/consented wind farms. This would also be the case if the proposed wind farms were taken into account.
502. Ferry Crossing - Tayinloan to Ardmish Bay, Gigha: At Ardmish Bay the Development would represent a Negligible magnitude of change due to its distance and substantially screened position. As the route extends southeastwards visibility ceases rapidly due to the viewshadow generated by the topography of the Kintyre peninsula. The Development would also represent a Negligible magnitude of cumulative change in respect of existing and consented wind farms on Gigha and the Kintyre peninsula due to the relative prominence of these schemes in comparison to the Development. This would also apply in the event of the proposed wind farms being constructed.
503. Ferry Crossing - Port Askaig, Islay, to Kennacraig: The Development would be visible from a large proportion of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the east, at distances of between 7km and 30km. Between the Sound of Islay and the Sound of Gigha the magnitude of change ranges from Negligible to Slight, and in the vicinity of Dunmore and Kennacraig the magnitude of change would be Substantial due to the proximity of the ferry to the Site and the prominence of the proposed turbines on the skyline above West Loch Tarbert. Consequently, the effect experienced on this route would be Moderate/Minor at the sound of Islay, Moderate in the vicinity of Gigha, and Major between Dunmore and Kennacraig.
504. Cumulative visibility between the Sound of Islay and the Sound of Gigha would comprise the Development in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, Cour, Isle of Gigha extension and Laggan developments, which would be seen distantly and occupy a broad arc to the southeast of the route. Given the relative distances and prominence of the cumulative schemes and the Development, the cumulative magnitude of change on this section of the route would range from Negligible to Slight, and the cumulative effect would be Moderate/Minor to Moderate in respect of existing and consented schemes and also when proposed wind farms are taken into account. As this route extends into Loch Tarbert cumulative visibility ceases due to the enclosure provided by the steeply graded edges of the Knapdale and Kintyre peninsulas.
505. Ferry Crossing -Port Ellen to Kennacraig: The Development would be visible from a large proportion of this route, the turbines being seen on the horizon, to the northeast, at distances of between 3.7 km and 31.34km. Between Port Ellen and the Sound of Gigha the magnitude of change ranges from Negligible to Slight, and in the vicinity of Dunmore and Kennacraig the magnitude of change would be Substantial due to the proximity of the ferry to the Site and the prominence of the proposed turbines on the skyline above West Loch Tarbert. Consequently, the effect experienced on this route would be Moderate/Minor to Moderate between Port Ellen and the Sound of Gigha, and Major between Dunmore and Kennacraig.
506. Cumulative visibility between the Sound of Islay and the Sound of Gigha would comprise the Development in conjunction with the existing/consented Beinn Tuirc, Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Isle of Gigha and its extension and Tangy wind farms, and the proposed Blary Hill, Auchadaduie, Cour and Laggan developments, which would be seen distantly and occupy a broad arc to the east of the route. Given the relative distances and prominence of the cumulative schemes and the Development, the cumulative magnitude of change on this section of the route would range from Negligible to Slight, and the cumulative effect would be Moderate/Minor to Moderate in respect of existing and consented schemes and also when proposed wind farms are taken into account. As this route extends into Loch Tarbert cumulative visibility ceases due to the enclosure provided by the steeply graded edges of the Knapdale and Kintyre peninsulas.
- 6.6.7 Recreation**
507. National Cycle Route 78: The Development would be visible from a total of around 20% of this route (within the Study Area), the turbines being seen from locations between Loch Stornoway and West Loch Tarbert, and between West Tarbert and Claonaig Bay. Seen from locations at Loch Stornoway the Development would represent a Slight magnitude of change and Moderate effect due to its distance and partially obscured position. As the route progresses along the western side of the loch intermittent views of the Development would be provided through intervening lochside vegetation. Where this occurs the turbines would appear prominently on the skyline on the opposite (eastern) side of the loch, resulting in a Substantial change and a Major effect. As the route approaches West Tarbert the Development would be screened by a combination of topography and vegetation. However, between Whitehouse and Claonaig on the B8001 the Development would be clearly evident. Given the proximity of this section of the route to the Site the magnitude of change arising from the Development would be Substantial, constituting a Major effect. Consequently much of this route would be subject to no effects, and significant effects would be confined to a small number of locations along the western side of West Loch Tarbert and on the B8001 between Whitehouse and Claonaig.
508. It is apparent from the analysis of cumulative visibility on this route that, with the exception of sections of the route in the vicinity of Loch Stornoway, there would be minimal combined visibility of the Development and other wind farm schemes as a result of the screening effect of intervening topography and vegetation. Moreover, sequential visibility would be severely restricted, with cumulative sites seen distantly and often substantially obscured. Consequently, cumulative effects on this route would be Slight, and essentially confined to more open locations on the southern side of the Knapdale peninsula. Consequently, the cumulative effect, in respect of both the existing/consented and existing/consented and proposed wind farm cumulative contexts would range from None to localised Moderate effects and therefore would not be significant.
509. Kintyre Way: The ZTVs indicate some potential visibility between Skeroblingarry and Tarbert but views of the Development would be confined to a small number of locations north of Carradale (e.g. on the northern flanks of Cnoc nan Gabhar) where up to 8 turbines would be visible at a distance of around 17.5 km. As the route progresses northwestwards further intermittent views of the Development would be provided from sections of the route between Deucheran Hill (site of Deucheran Hill wind farm) and Cnoc nan Craobh (situated around 16km to the southwest). Given its distance from the Development the magnitude of change on these sections of the route would be Slight and effect would be Moderate. The closest section of the route affording views of the Development would be in the vicinity of Cnoc Creagach (situated around 1.4 km to the southeast of the Development). In this position all 11 turbines would be visible and would represent a Substantial magnitude of change and a Major (significant) effect.

510. In cumulative terms combined views of the Development and cumulative developments would be confined to the northern flanks of Cnoc nan Gabhar and a small number of locations by Deucheran Hill, and in the vicinity of Cnoc Creagan. Viewed by receptors at Cnoc nan Gabhar and Deucheran Hill the Development would be seen distantly, and in the context of the closer and therefore more prominent Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc turbines and so would represent a Slight magnitude of cumulative change and a Moderate cumulative effect. This would remain the case in the event of the proposed Cour turbines being constructed. Whilst the ZTVs indicate the Development would be seen in conjunction with Allt Dearg from sections of the route in the vicinity of Cnoc Creagan, field reconnaissance suggests that Allt Dearg would be screened by intervening forestry to the north of the route in this location. Consequently, there would be no cumulative effects on this section of the route.
511. Offshore recreational users: For the assessment of effects and cumulative effects on offshore recreational users reference should be made to the assessment of Seascape Units in section 6.6.3, above.
- 6.6.8 Designations**
512. Arran NSA: A large proportion of this designated area would be subject to no views of the Development. However, in low lying locations along the coast between Whitefarland Point and Cock of Arran the magnitude of change arising from the Development would range from Negligible to Slight, equating to Minor and Moderate effects. Moderate effects would also be experienced on northwestern slopes and summits of Beinn Bharrain, Meall nan Damn and Doire Duidhe, and from summits further inland, including Caisteal Abhail, at the head of North Glen Sannox, and Beinn Tarsuinn.
513. In low lying positions along the northwestern sections of the coast Arran coastline, including sections of the A841 coastal road, and the adjoining waters of Kilbrannan Sound, Cumulative effects would range from Negligible to Slight, and the effects would be Moderate/Minor to Moderate and not significant. Moderate effects would be experienced in the northernmost part of the coast adjoining Lochranza. However, it should be noted that no cumulative visibility would be experienced within the settlement of Lochranza or adjoining glen.
514. Viewed from the elevated summits of Beinn Bharrain, Beinn Bhreac, Coirein Lochain, Meall Bhig, Meall nan Damh, Meall Mor and Doire Bhuidhe the Development would result in a Slight magnitude of cumulative change in respect of existing and consented wind farms. If the proposed Cour development is taken into account the cumulative change would remain Slight. On this basis the cumulative effect would be Moderate.
515. It is clear from the preceding analysis that no significant effects would be experienced within the NSA and so the Development is not considered to threaten the character or key characteristic/defining elements of this designation.
516. Jura NSA: Given the distance at which the Development would be seen from this designated landscape the magnitude of change would be Negligible and the effect would be Moderate/Minor. This would also be the case in respect of potential cumulative effects, both in regard to existing and consented developments and when proposed schemes are taken into account.
517. Arran AGLV: The pattern of visibility and effects is consistent with those described in respect of the Arran NSA, above.
518. Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae AGLVs: Views of the Development would be confined to locations on the westernmost edge of Little Cumbrae and the western side of Great Cumbrae, including a formal vantage point on the top of the island. Given the limited proportion of the AGLV affected and the distance at which the Development would be viewed the magnitude of change experienced in this designated area would be Negligible, and the effect would be Moderate/Minor.
519. In cumulative terms, the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing/consented wind farms of Allt Dearg, Cruach Mhor, Deucheran Hill, and Beinn an Tuirc, as well as the proposed Laggan, Cour and Blary Hill schemes. The Development and all of the existing consented and proposed wind farms would be seen distantly, the Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill schemes forming the greatest concentration of development. Given the relative distances and prominence of the Development and the cumulative developments, the cumulative magnitude of change attributable to the Development would be Negligible, irrespective of which cumulative scenario is taken into account (i.e. existing and consented or existing, consented and proposed developments). This represents a Moderate/Minor effect, which is not considered significant.
520. Kintyre Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ): With the exception of the summit of Dun Skeig, the Development would be screened from the APQ on the Kintyre peninsula. Consequently, there would be no change across the majority of this designated area, with localised Moderate change and Major/Moderate (significant) effects at Dun Skeig, according to the analysis for Viewpoint 12. Consequently, the APQ and its defining characteristics would not be undermined by the Development.
521. Similarly, whilst there would be no cumulative change across the majority of this designated landscape cumulative views would be provided from Dun Skeig from where the Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Deucheran Hill and Isle of Gigha turbines. In this context the Development would bring wind energy development closer to this part of the APQ, but would be seen in the opposite direction to the existing and consented schemes. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed it would be located to the south. In the context of the existing and consented turbines, as described above, the Development is predicted to result in a Slight cumulative change and a Moderate cumulative effect. However, if Cour is taken into account the increased prominence of wind farm development in views from this viewpoint would provide a more obvious cumulative context, and as a result the cumulative change attributable to the Development would increase to Moderate and the cumulative effect would be Major/Moderate and significant. Consequently, significant cumulative effects within this APQ are predicated on the approval of the proposed Cour development.
522. Within the Knapdale APQ the Development would be seen from locations between Dunmore, Ardpatrik and Kilberry, and on a small number of elevated summits such as Cruach Lagain. However, views from low lying positions along the B8024 and in the vicinity of Ardpatrik House are subject to considerable interruption as a result of intervening mixed woodland. Similarly, views from a large proportion of the elevated slopes within this APQ would be controlled by the extensive coniferous forest cover present. Given this fragmented and often interrupted pattern of visibility, the distance of potentially affected parts of the APQ from the Site, the magnitude of change would range from None to Slight in low lying locations, to Moderate in more elevated positions. This equates to effects ranging from None to Major/Moderate, with significant effects confined to a small number of elevated viewpoints within the APQ. In cumulative terms the cumulative magnitude of change would range from Slight in locations adjoining Loch Stornoway, to Moderate at Cruach Lagain. This constitutes Moderate cumulative effects at Loch Stornoway and localised Major/moderate effects at Cruach Lagain.

523. The Development would also just be visible, theoretically, from the APQ surrounding Loch Fyne. This visibility would occur on sections of the A83 between Castleton and Port Ann. However, field reconnaissance suggests that actual visibility would be almost entirely prevented by intervening woodland and forest cover. Moreover this section of APQ is situated over 27km from the Development and so the magnitude of change would be Negligible and the effect would be Moderate/Minor. Given the constrained nature of views from this designated area cumulative change would also be negligible and the cumulative effects would be Moderate/Minor.
524. Visibility from the APQ on the Isle of Bute would be confined to locations on the western side of the island, between Garroch Head and Tarmore Hill. Given the limited extent of the APQ on the Isle of Bute that would be subject to views of the Development, the Development's distance from receptor locations within the APQ and its largely obscured position, the magnitude of change would be Negligible and the effect would be Minor. Cumulative change attributable to the development would also be Negligible and the cumulative effect would be Minor.

6.6.9 Visibility from GDLs

525. Achamore Gardens GDL: This GDL comprises extensively wooded grounds and a series of linked gardens and forest/wooded walks. The B listed building is situated at the heart of this tree clad landscape thereby obscuring views out, towards the Development. Moreover, the access roads into this GDL are oriented northwest to southeast, away from Freasdail and so no avenues or vistas are provided towards the Development. Cumulative views from this GDL are similarly constrained. Consequently, the Development would result in Negligible effects and Negligible cumulative change. This equates to Minor individual and cumulative effects.
526. The only other GDL with potential views of the Development would be Barmore. Whilst the ZTVs indicate that up to 2 of the proposed turbines would theoretically be visible from this GDL field reconnaissance suggests that it is unlikely that views of the Development would be possible due to the screening effect of intervening forest cover which predominates in the area. Consequently there would be no individual or cumulative effects at this GDL.

6.6.10 Visibility from Wild Land Search Areas

527. Arran Wild Land: Views of all eleven of the proposed Freasdail turbines would be provided from the summits of Bein Bharrain, Bein Tarsuirin, and land adjoining Glen Sannox. From these elevated positions within the Arran Wild Land Search area the Development would be seen distantly (i.e. at distances of over 17km) and would be backclothed by topography, as demonstrated in Viewpoint 8 at Beinn Bharrain. As discussed previously in respect of the Arran AGLV and NSA, the magnitude of change would range from None to Slight and effects would similarly range from None to Moderate, which is not considered significant.
528. The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill, Tangy and Gigha projects which would appear to the west and southwest at distances in excess of 13 km. Allt Dearg would also be visible, but unlike the cluster of development to the west and southwest, would appear at distances of over 34 km, to the northwest. In the event of the proposed Cour development being constructed, this would be positioned to the west, northwest of this area of Wild Land, adding to the clustering of development in the middle of the Kintyre peninsula.
529. Paps of Jura Wild Land: The Development would be seen in conjunction with the existing Allt Dearg, Beinn an Tuirc, Deucheran Hill and Tangy developments on the Kintyre peninsula from the Wild Land Search Area that covers the Paps of Jura. As in views from the Wild Land on Arran, the Development

turbines would be seen distantly (i.e. at a distance of over 32km) and would be backclothed by topography. In the event of the proposed Cour, Blary Hill and Auchadaduie developments being constructed these schemes would also be seen at distances of over 28 km. Given the distance at which Freasdail and the cumulative developments would be viewed, and the Development's backclothed position, it would be recessive in views from this area of Wild Land. On this basis the cumulative magnitude of change in respect of existing and consented developments would be Slight and the cumulative effect Moderate. This would also be the case in the event of the proposed wind farms being taken into account.

6.7 SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

530. The LVIA considers the potential landscape and visual effects arising from the Development. The LVIA and accompanying illustrations were prepared in accordance with current professional guidance and with reference to consultation responses from ABC and SNH and matters identified during public exhibitions.
531. Initially an examination of the existing landscape and visual baseline conditions within a 35 km Study Area was undertaken to establish a benchmark against which to determine the significance of potential effects. A large part of this submission has been the examination of the Development in conjunction with existing operational, consented and proposed wind farms within the 35 km Study Area.
532. The capacity study for Argyll and Bute in respect of wind energy development was referenced and it is clear from this document that, whilst there are constraints on potential large scale typologies, there remains some capacity for development of the type proposed, subject to a number of key design priorities. The priorities identified in the capacity study relate to topography, protection of sensitive seascapes and coastal edges, protection of views from key settlement and transportation routes, and mitigation of potential significant effects on neighbouring landscape types. These priorities, along with specific strategies identified by the landscape and visual analysis, have formed the basis of the design of the Development.
533. Potential sources of impact associated with the Site were identified and a series of mitigation measures proposed ranging from generic measures such as turbine type, to site specific measures. Key to mitigation of potential effects arising from this Development are the minimisation of infrastructure and ancillary elements at the Site (including importation of aggregate and concrete, to avoid the necessity of borrow pits and concrete batching) through careful positioning of infrastructure and use of existing forest tracks, and careful reinstatement of disturbed ground. An unavoidable aspect of the Development would be the felling of existing forest cover across the majority of the Site. However, as the Site is a commercial forest this is not considered to be inconsistent as clear felled areas are an established feature of the peninsula landscape.
534. The design of the Development was informed by recommendations in the Argyll and Bute capacity study and the landscape and visual analysis undertaken in respect of this Development. Key priorities arising from these studies included the protection of key landscapes, receptors/receptor locations on the peninsula and adjoining seascapes, and the selection and the establishment of a suitable scale of development, including the use of an appropriate size of turbine. Details of the design iteration process are given in Chapter 3: *Site Selection, Design Evolution and Alternatives* of this ES.

6.8 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

535. The role of the LVIA is to establish potential significant effects arising from the Development in order to aid the determination of the application. The significant effects identified in respect of the Development are summarised in the paragraphs below.

6.8.1 Landscape Fabric

536. Whilst significant effects on the landcover at the Site are anticipated as a result of the felling of existing forestry at the Site, no significant effects would arise from the Development itself.

6.8.2 Landscape Character

537. Of the 16 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) in the Study Area 2 would be subject to significant landscape and/or visual effects:

- Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (AGC6); and
- Rocky Mosaic (AGC20).

538. Significant effects within the Upland Moor Mosaic LCT would be confined to low lying positions along the B8001 corridor and elevated positions at the summits of Cruach nam Fiadh and Cnoc Creagach. The Development would also result in significant cumulative effects within this LCT, but such effects would only occur at the summits of Cruach nam Fiadh and Cnoc Creagach, and would be derived, principally from the intervisibility of the Development and the following existing/consented schemes:

- Allt Dearg;
- Beinn an Tuirc ;
- Cruach Mhor;
- Deucheran Hill ; and
- Isle of Gigha and extension.

539. Significant effects within the Upland Moor Mosaic LCT would also occur in respect of the following proposed schemes:

- Auchadaduie;
- Blary Hill;
- Beinn an Tuirc extension; and
- Cour.

540. Significant effects within the Rocky Mosaic LCT would be confined to locations such as Dun Skeig, and a small number of locations in the vicinity of Whitehouse and along the western side of West Loch Tarbert. Significant cumulative effects would be restricted to the summit of Dun Skeig and would arise, primarily, from the possible addition of the proposed Cour development to the existing and consented cumulative context.

6.8.3 Seascape Character

541. Significant effects would be restricted to the interior of West Loch Tarbert within the West Kintyre / South East Jura and South East Islay seascape unit (Area 24). Effects on all other seascape areas would be mitigated by a combination of intervening topography and/or distance. Additionally, no significant cumulative effects are anticipated.

6.8.4 Visual Amenity

6.8.4.1 Settlements

542. Significant effects upon settlements within the Study Area would be confined to parts of the Whitehouse settlement. No significant cumulative effects would occur at this settlement.

6.8.4.2 Transport

543. Significant landscape and visual effects would occur on the following sections of the road network:

- A short section of the A83 in the vicinity of Whitehouse;
- A small number of locations on the B8024, along on the western lochside of west Loch Tarbert;
- The B8001 between Whitehouse and Claonaig

544. None of these sections of route would be subject to significant cumulative effects, however.

545. Significant effects are also predicted on sections of the Port Askaig to Kennacraig ferry route, within West Loch Tarbert. Again, these effects would not be cumulative.

6.8.4.3 Recreation

546. Significant effects are predicted on NCR 78 on the western side of West Loch Tarbert, and on the B8001 between Whitehouse and Claonaig. Significant effects are also predicted in the Kintyre Way in the vicinity of Cnoc Creagan. Neither recreational route would be subject to significant cumulative effects, however.

6.8.4.4 Designated Landscapes

547. Significant effects on landscape designations would be confined to two locations within APQs. These comprise Dun Skeig (Kintyre peninsula APQ) and Cruach Lagain (part of the Knapdale peninsula APQ). Whilst both locations would also be subject to significant cumulative effects, such effects would accrue only in the event of the proposed Cour development being implemented.

6.9 CONCLUSION

548. Any on-shore wind farm in the UK will result in some significant landscape effects, including effects outwith the Site itself. Whilst significant effects on the fabric of the landscape are anticipated, these relate to the construction phase of the Development and are predominantly concerned with the proposed forest felling at the Site. However, such felling is, none-the-less considered to be consistent with the existing character of the peninsula. Moreover, some beneficial effects are anticipated as a result of the conversion of the Site to managed open ground.

549. It is also accepted that the Development would result in some significant effects on visual amenity and landscape character of the Site and adjoining countryside and seascape. However, it is apparent from the preceding assessment that such effects would be well contained and restricted to locations within a relatively limited geographical area. This is due to a combination of the landform and landcover of the Kintyre peninsula and the low lying position at the base of steeply graded escarpments of the majority of receptor locations including roads and settlement, thereby screening the Development from the majority of receptor locations close to the Site.

550. Much of the existing, consented and proposed wind energy development is focused on the central area and spine of the peninsula. Whilst it is appreciated that further development that extends northwards could result in the establishment of a continuous band of development along the top of the peninsula,

the Development is considered, on the basis of the evidence in the preceding LVIA, to be sufficiently separate from the main cluster of developments, to avoid this scenario. Moreover, it is apparent that the landscape and seascape of the Study Area can accommodate a development of the type proposed without undermining the character and amenity of the landscape.