
8.	LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL	
8.1.	Introduction	8-2
8.2.	Methodology.....	8-6
8.3.	Baseline Conditions.....	8-6
8.4.	Change in Effects	8-8
8.5.	Cumulative Effects	8-28
8.6.	Summary	8-40
8.7.	Statement of Significance	8-42

8. Landscape and Visual

8.1. Introduction

8.1.1. This Chapter does not repeat the information set out in *Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual* of the Shepherds' Rig EIA Report (November 2018) where that information remains valid in the context of the reduced number of turbines now proposed as the Revised Development (**AEI Figure 4.1**). As such, the Additional Environmental Information (AEI) supplements Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) and should be read in conjunction with it.

8.1.2. The Figures contained within the EIA Report (November 2018), have been superseded and replaced by new AEI Figures. EIA Report Figures 8.29, 8.30, 8.33 and 8.35 show cumulative ZTVs for the Longburn, Wether Hill Extension, Cornharrow and Stroanshalloch wind farms which have been either withdrawn or dismissed at appeal. These figures are therefore no longer required and are omitted from the AEI. This AEI chapter is supported by the following figures:

- AEI Figure 8.1: Site Location and LVIA Study Area
- AEI Figure 8.2: Other Wind Farms within 35 km
- AEI Figure 8.3: Other Wind Farms within 15 km
- AEI Figure 8.4: Landscape Designations within 35 km
- AEI Figure 8.5: Landscape Character Types within 35 km
- AEI Figure 8.6: Landscape Character Types within 15 km
- AEI Figure 8.7: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km
- AEI Figure 8.8: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km (NE Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.9: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km (SE Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.10: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km (SW Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.11: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km (NW Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.12: Blade Tip ZTV to 15km
- AEI Figure 8.13: Hub Height ZTV to 35 km
- AEI Figure 8.14: Hub Height ZTV to 35 km (NE Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.15: Hub Height ZTV to 35 km (SE Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.16: Hub Height ZTV to 35 km (SW Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.17: Hub Height ZTV to 15 km (NW Quadrant)
- AEI Figure 8.18: Hub Height ZTV to 15 km
- AEI Figure 8.19: Landscape Character Types and ZTV within 15km
- AEI Figure 8.20: Local Landscape Context
- AEI Figure 8.21: Topography Plan
- AEI Figure 8.22: Principal Visual Receptors to 15 km with ZTV to Blade Tip
- AEI Figure 8.23: Blade Tip ZTV (with Viewpoints)
- AEI Figure 8.24: Residential Visual Amenity Study Area to 2 km
- AEI Figure 8.25: CZTV with Wether Hill and Windy Standard I and II
- AEI Figure 8.26: CZTV with Blackcraig Hill and Knockman Hill
- AEI Figure 8.27: CZTV with Afton, Lorg, Windy Rig, Benbrack and South Kyle
- AEI Figure 8.28: CZTV with Torrs Hill
- AEI Figure 8.31: CZTV with Windy Rig and Windy Standard III

- AEI Figure 8.32: CZTV with Margree
- AEI Figure 8.34: CZTV with Troston Loch
- AEI Figure 8.36: CZTV with Glenshimmeroch
- AEI Figure 8.37: Viewpoint 1 Stroanfreggan Bridge
- AEI Figure 8.38: Viewpoint 2 Stroanfreggan Craig
- AEI Figure 8.39: Viewpoint 3 Guttery Glen
- AEI Figure 8.40: Viewpoint 4 Smittons Bridge
- AEI Figure 8.41: Viewpoint 5 Stroanfreggan Cairn
- AEI Figure 8.42: Viewpoint 6 Head of Ken Valley
- AEI Figure 8.43: Viewpoint 7 Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill
- AEI Figure 8.44: Viewpoint 8 Minor Road South of B729
- AEI Figure 8.45: Viewpoint 9 High Bridge of Ken (B7000)
- AEI Figure 8.46: Viewpoint 10 Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)
- AEI Figure 8.47: Viewpoint 11 B7000 north of East Arndarroch
- AEI Figure 8.48: Viewpoint 12 Dundough Hill
- AEI Figure 8.49: Viewpoint 13 Benniner
- AEI Figure 8.50: Viewpoint 14 Cairnsmore of Carsphairn
- AEI Figure 8.51: Viewpoint 15 Craig of Knockgray
- AEI Figure 8.52: Viewpoint 16 Alhang
- AEI Figure 8.53: Viewpoint 17 Southern Upland Way at waterside Hill
- AEI Figure 8.54: Viewpoint 18 A713 north of Stroansgassel
- AEI Figure 8.55: Viewpoint 19 A713 south of Carsphairn
- AEI Figure 8.56: Viewpoint 20 Woodhead Mines
- AEI Figure 8.57: Viewpoint 21 Corserine (Hennessy's Shelter)
- AEI Figure 8.58: Viewpoint 22 Carsphairn War Memorial
- AEI Figure 8.59: Viewpoint 1 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.60: Viewpoint 2 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.61: Viewpoint 3 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.62: Viewpoint 4 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.63: Viewpoint 5 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.64: Viewpoint 6 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.65: Viewpoint 7 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.66: Viewpoint 8 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.67: Viewpoint 9 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.68: Viewpoint 10 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.69: Viewpoint 11 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.70: Viewpoint 12 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.71: Viewpoint 13 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.72: Viewpoint 14 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.73: Viewpoint 15 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.74: Viewpoint 16 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.75: Viewpoint 17 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.76: Viewpoint 18 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.77: Viewpoint 19 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.78: Viewpoint 20 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.79: Viewpoint 21 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe
- AEI Figure 8.80: Viewpoint 22 - 360 degree Cumulative Wireframe

8.1.3. An updated assessment of the cumulative effects of the Revised Development is contained within this AEI which also updates to the

cumulative baseline which have occurred since the EIA Report (November 2019) was undertaken. The Revised Development changes the aerial photos and wirelines which are within the Residential Visual Amenity Study at EIA Appendix 8.1). These have been reproduced to reflect the Revised Development and are contained at **AEI Appendix 8.1** Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

- 8.1.4. In response to the EIA Report (November 2018), consultation responses relevant to the landscape and visual assessment have been received from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Officer (draft response), Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd, and Mountaineering Scotland. The nature of responses relates to potential adverse effects upon the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area (RSA) as well as cumulative landscape and visual impacts on residents in the Upper Glenkens. A summary of the matters raised by relevant consultees during consultation and the Applicant's response is set out in AEI Table 8.1. Certain third party representations have been received which also raise landscape and visual concerns, and these are also noted within AEI Table 8.1.
- 8.1.5. The response of the Carsphairn Community Woodland is acknowledged; however, the land referred to by Carsphairn Community Woodland is not designated, does not include residences, and is not presently functioning as a community woodland. All existing key receptors have been assessed within the EIA Report (November 2018) and within this AEI.

AEI Table 8.1: Summary of Relevant Consultee Responses and Third Party Representations

Consultee	Matter Raised	Response
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	<i>We consider that the remaining capacity of the Ken unit of Southern Uplands with Forestry is very limited. Having considered the proposal on its merits, we think that it will cause significant and adverse effects across a number of sensitivities including a localised significant adverse effects on the Galloway Hills RSA, on smaller scale landscapes within the vicinity of the proposal and a significant and adverse cumulative landscape and visual effects on receptors within the Upper Glenkens, mostly in conjunction with Longburn wind farm (should it be consented).</i>	SNH do not raise any issues with the methodology of the LVIA. Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) and this AEI fully assess the effects of the Proposed Development upon the Galloway Hills RSA, local landscapes to the Site and cumulative effects upon the Upper Glenkens. It should also be noted that the Longburn Wind Farm appeal was dismissed and there would be no potential for cumulative effects to arise with this scheme.
Dumfries and Galloway Landscape	The Landscape Officer requests Further Environmental Information (FEI) which relates to graphical	A response has been provided to the Landscape Officer which offers some clarification and

Consultee	Matter Raised	Response
Officer (draft response)	<p>representation of visualisations and cumulative visualisations. However, notwithstanding the above, the Landscape Officer provides the following draft feedback:</p> <p><i>My initial feedback is that the Shepherds' Rig site has no scope for development of the suggested scale; both turbine height and the spread of the wind farm are problematic. The site would be highly sensitive to even a substantially reduced scheme due to the spatial and visual relationship it has to the Carsphairn Hills, as well as nearby sensitive landscapes, the Head of the Ken valley (LCT 4), and the Upper Glenkens (LCT 9). With respect to setting and visual issues here would be implications for the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area (RSA). There are also cumulative issues in relation to the strategic wind farm pattern, as well as undetermined schemes.</i></p>	<p>justification to each of their FEI requests. Although not a requirement of SNH Guidance, some requests have been incorporated within the information submitted within this AEI to assist the Landscape Officer. These include the addition of location map extracts and view cones for visualisations and provision of 360-degree cumulative wirelines for all viewpoint locations where these were not previously provided.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) and this AEI fully assess the effects of the Proposed Development upon the Carsphairn Hills, the Head of the Ken Valley (LCT4), Upper Glenkens (LCT9), the Galloway Hills RSA and cumulative matters.</p>
Mountaineering Scotland	<p><i>Mountaineering Scotland objects to the proposed development on the grounds of visual impact and recreational detriment. We do so particularly to protect the integrity of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, a listed Corbett, as a significant hill-walking resource.</i></p> <p><i>Mountaineering Scotland believes the proposed site does not have the capacity to support a wind energy development of commercial scale without unacceptable harm to the context of the mountain landscape of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and the quality of experience of hillwalkers on that hill, on the Rhinns of Kells and on the Southern Upland Way.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) and this AEI fully assess the effects of the Revised Development upon the Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and on the Rhinns of Kells and the Southern Upland Way.</p>

Consultee	Matter Raised	Response
Carsphairn Community Woodland Ltd	<i>Muirdrochwood Forest is immediately adjacent to the proposed development and the erection of turbines, 6 within 1km of the forest, 3 of those within 500m, would have a negative impact on the project due to noise disturbance, visual impact (including aviation lights affecting dark sky experiences), jeopardising the tranquil feeling of this much needed community space.</i>	It is noted from the carsphairn.org website, that the land which would form this community resource, is yet to be acquired. It is acknowledged that the land identified does lie adjacent to the Site on the south and west-facing slopes of Marscalloch Hill. Nearby residential properties which have been assessed within the RVAS, are those at 1 and 2 Muirdrochwood and Furmiston, and these provide an indication of the potential impacts which may arise on any future community woodland. The identified effects at these properties are summarised at Table 8.5 of this AEI.

8.2. Methodology

8.2.1. The baseline information relied upon in order to make an assessment of the effects of the Revised Development is that information which has been provided in the EIA Report (November 2018), as updated by section 8.3 below. The same significance criteria and assessment methodology as referred to in the EIA Report (November 2018) has been followed.

8.2.2. In addition to the documents set out at 8.3.4 of the EIA Report (November 2018), the following guidance has been published and to which consideration is also made within this AEI:

- *Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (March 2019) Landscape Institute.*

8.2.3. Taking into account the relevant policy and guidance, baseline information, and assessment criteria, an assessment is presented below which details the effect of the revised layout.

8.3. Baseline Conditions

8.3.1. The EIA Report (November 2018) focusses the assessment of effects upon the local landscape character as described within the Dumfries and Galloway Wind Farm Landscape Capacity Study (DGWFLCS). The DGWFLCS identifies within its aims that it is based upon the landscape character types and areas defined in the SNH Landscape Character Assessment for Dumfries and Galloway.

- 8.3.2. In 2019, SNH published landscape character information which includes mapping and descriptions which supersede the earlier documents (SNH Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) 1998) and to which the EIA Report (November 2018) refers at para 8.5.4, bullet point one and also upon which the DGWFLCS bases its landscape and visual sensitivity assessment for wind turbine/wind farm developments. The SNH LCA 2019 has been published as an online resource which is available on the SNH website¹. In introducing the updated information, SNH sets out that since the studies undertaken in the 1990s, there have been digital technological advances; production of additional datasets; and changes in development patterns and pressures. It is also sets out that *'where current proposals or projects have analysis based on the 1990s LCT dataset, that should still be used'* and also that where there are *'topic specific landscape capacity or sensitivity studies, they would take precedence for informing that development type'*.
- 8.3.3. A review of the SNH LCA 2019 relevant to the study area has been undertaken. The SNH LCA 2019 uses the same spatial character areas as the earlier assessment. Where updates to key characteristics of the SNH LCTs are of pertinence to the Revised Development, these are noted within this AEI where appropriate. The updates to LCTs within the SNH LCA 2019 provide additional information to that which formed part of the preceding character document. Of note is the reference to wind development now comprising a key characteristic within the following LCTs of the 2019 SNH character assessments:
- Southern Uplands with Forest (LCT 178);
 - Upper Dale (LCT 160);
 - Southern Uplands (LCT 177); and
 - Foothills with Forest (LCT 176).
- 8.3.4. However, as set out within the EIA Report (November 2018) and by SNH, the DGWFLCS remains the principal document against which effects upon landscape character of wind development within Dumfries and Galloway should be made.
- 8.3.5. It is also of note that the Dumfries and Galloway Draft Local Development Plan 2² was adopted on 3rd October 2019, at which point it replaced the previous LDP from 2014.

¹ SNH (2019) Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland. Available at <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/landscape-character-assessment-scotland> (Accessed 10/9/2019)

² Dumfries and Galloway Council (2019), Dumfries and Galloway Council Local Development Plan 2

8.4. Change in Effects

Effects on Existing Landscape Features

Effects during Construction of the Revised Development on Existing Landscape Features

- 8.4.1. The principles of the development assessed within the EIA Report (November 2018) remain, albeit that there are now two fewer turbines proposed, requiring less felling of commercial forestry.
- 8.4.2. Direct effects upon the landscape due to borrow pit excavations result in a low magnitude of change upon landscape features which was assessed as a moderate/minor and not significant effect within Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) (para 8.6.8). This effect remains unchanged by the Revised Development.
- 8.4.3. Overall, the conclusion at para 8.6.9 of the EIA Report (November 2018), that there would be no significant effects upon existing landscape features during construction remains applicable.

Effects on Landscape Character

Effects on Landscape Character during Construction

- 8.4.4. The Revised Development does not alter the previously identified effects which have been set out at paras 8.6.46 to 8.6.54 of Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018), although it is noted that the Revised Development does not propose any turbines within the Ken unit of character type 4 – Narrow Wooded River Valley. Any direct effects of the Revised Development remain those associated with the location of access tracks which extend within the character type.

Effects on Landscape Character during Operational Phase

- 8.4.5. The effects on landscape character are described at paras 8.6.55 to 8.6.139 and are summarised in Table 8.11 within Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) which is reproduced here at AEI Table 8.2. Although the omission of T7 and T11 reduce the number of turbines within the array, resulting in some reduction in impact, the overall influence of the remaining turbines and associated infrastructure upon landscape character remains as assessed within Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018).

AEI Table 8.2: Summary of Landscape Character Effects

Landscape Character Type/Sub-type	Sub Area/Location	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
19a Southern Uplands with Forest – Ken unit	Development located largely within the character unit. Effects up to 1 km from proposed turbines.	Very High	Major/ Moderate	Significant
	1 km to 3 km to east	High	Moderate	Significant
	3 km to 5 km to east	Medium	Moderate	Significant
	Beyond 5 km to east	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor	Not Significant
	3 km to 4 km to north west	High	Moderate	Significant
	Up to 5 km to north west	Medium	Moderate	Significant
4 Narrow Wooded River Valley – Ken Unit	Access track partially located within the Unit. Effects up to 1 km from proposed turbines.	Very High	Major	Significant
	Up to 3 km distance	High	Major	Significant
	Up to 4 km to 4.5 km	Medium	Moderate	Significant
	Beyond 4.5 km	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor	Not significant
9 Upper Dale (Valley)- Upper Glenkens Unit	Development located within very small part of the Unit.	Low to Very Low	Moderate/ Minor to Minor	Not significant
	Up to 3 km	High	Major	Significant
	3 km to 4.5 km	Medium	Moderate	Significant
	Beyond 4.5 km	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor	Not Significant
19 Southern Uplands – Carsphairn Unit	Up to 1 km	Very High	Major	Significant
	1 km to 3 km	High	Major	Significant
	3 km to 4.5 km	Medium	Moderate	Significant
	Beyond 4.5 km	Low	Moderate/ Minor	Not Significant

Landscape Character Type/Sub-type	Sub Area/Location	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
18A Foothills with Forest – Stroan Unit	Up to 3 km	High	Major to Moderate	Significant
	3 km to 4 km	Medium	Moderate	Significant
18A Foothills with Forest – Rhinns of Kells unit	Over 4.5 km	Low	Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
8 Flooded Valley – Ken Unit	Over 11 km	Low	Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
21 Rugged Granite Uplands – Rhinns of Kells unit	Over 6 km	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate/Minor	Not Significant

Effects on Landscape Character during Decommissioning

8.4.6. The Revised Development does not alter the previously identified effects which have been set out at paras 8.6.140 to 8.6.144 of Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018).

Assessment of Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints

8.4.7. EIA Report Figure 8.23 'Blade Tip ZTV (with Viewpoints)' has been superseded by **AEI Figure 8.23** within the AEI. This illustrates that the areas with potential visibility of one or more of the turbines would remain largely the same.

Construction Effects

8.4.8. The Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) identifies at para 8.6.145, very localised (up to c. 2 km distance) effects as a result of construction activities upon representative viewpoints. The visual effects previously identified relate to the use of cranes associated with the installation of turbines and were assessed as being incidental and not significant, in relation to the overall effects identified as a result of the Revised Development. The Revised Development does not change this previous assessment.

Operational Effects

8.4.9. All Viewpoint Figures within the EIA Report (November 2018) have been revised to show the changes to the Revised Development. EIA Report Figures 8.37 to 8.58 are replaced by **AEI Figures 8.37 to 8.58**.

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- 8.4.10. The detailed viewpoint assessment of the operational phase effects contained at EIA Appendix 8.3 has been reviewed as part of this AEI. The assessments of effects identified within the detailed viewpoint assessment within the EIA Report (November 2018) are unaltered by the Revised Development and should be read in conjunction with the following sections of this AEI.
- 8.4.11. In undertaking the review of the revised layout, although none of the overall effects would be changed, there are some instances whereby the Revised Development improves the appearance of the wind farm in some views. This principally relates to locations where the removed turbines (T7 and T11) were the closest of the proposed turbines to the viewpoint, or at the edge of the array, or where instances of the stacking of multiple turbines in the view are improved through the adjustments made to the location of other turbines.
- 8.4.12. At one location (Viewpoint 11 (B7000 at East Arndarroch), the Revised Development is assessed to reduce the magnitude of change from high to medium/high. However, the improvement is not to such a degree that the overall effect changes from moderate, significant, to moderate, not significant.
- 8.4.13. AEI Table 8.3 provides the assessment of the changes to views at each Viewpoint location and summarises the overall effects at each location, highlighting one change to magnitude for Viewpoint 11.

AEI Table 8.3: Summary of Visual Effects at Viewpoint Locations

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
1. Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729) EIA Report Figure 8.37, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.37	High	High	Major	Significant
The adjustment of T13 places this slightly more visible, with its hub partially appearing above the landform. This offers a slight worsening but one which is not to such a degree that the previous assessment within the LVIA of high magnitude of change and a major, significant effect, is altered.				
2. Stroanfreggan Craig EIA Report Figure 8.38, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.38	High	High	Major	Significant
The omission of T7 and T11 reduce the size of a small group which had consisted of five turbines and becomes three, with the three remaining being those set further back within the landscape from this viewpoint (T1, T2 and T5). Whilst this is beneficial to the views from this location, overall, the high magnitude of change and effect of major, significant assessed within the LVIA, remain unchanged.				
3. Guttery Glen (B729) EIA Report Figure 8.39, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.39	High	High	Major	Significant
The omission of T11 in particular reduces the visible blade clash, which is shown within the EIA Report (November 2018), to occur between T8, T9 and T11. To a lesser degree the blade clash between T5 and T7 is eliminated by the omission of T7 from the scheme. Although beneficial to views from this location, overall, the high magnitude of change and effect of major, significant assessed within the LVIA, is unchanged.				
4. Smittons Bridge EIA Report Figure 8.40, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.40	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
T7 and T11 would be screened by forestry from this viewpoint. However, when tree felling takes place, their omission increases the degree by which T3 would appear to be an outlier from the remainder of the turbines, appearing in the middle ground at the edge of the existing forestry. T3 would however be visible in front of the operational Windy Standard I and II and consented Afton and Windy Rig wind farms which would appear upon the distant horizon beyond. The previous LVIA assessment of medium to high magnitude of change and a moderate to major, significant effect, remains.				

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
<p>5. Stroanfreggan Cairn</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.41, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.41</p>	High	High	Major	Significant
<p>The adjustments to the locations of T13 results in a minor increase to the stacking between T13, T15 and T17 within this view. However, the deletion of T7 and T11 results in a reduction in the overall number of turbines visible and a reduction in turbine stacking in the vicinity of T2 and T5. Overall, the high magnitude of change and effect of major, significant, as assessed within the LVIA, remains unchanged.</p>				
<p>6. Head of Ken Valley</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.42, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.42</p>	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
<p>The number of turbines which would be visible from this location reduces through the removal of T7 and T11 and the associated impact would therefore reduce to some degree. Adjustments to the locations of T9 and T13 are apparent and create a more closely located grouping of turbines with T13 and T16. However, the previous LVIA assessment of medium to high magnitude of change and a moderate to major, significant effect, remains.</p>				
<p>7. Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.43, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.43</p>	High	High	Major	Significant
<p>The removal of T7 and T11 would reduce the overall number of turbines visible, with some associated reduction in impact. It is noted that this would also increase the distance between T3 and the other Shepherds' Rig turbines, leaving T3 as a slight outlier. However, as one of the more distant turbines in the array, its diminished scale places it as a more distant and less visible turbine within the view. Adjustments to the proposed locations of T6 and T8 increase the appearance of stacking with T4 and T14 to some degree. However, overall, the high magnitude of change and effect of major, significant, as assessed within the LVIA, remains unchanged.</p>				

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
<p>8. Minor Road south of B729</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.44, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.44</p>	High	Low	Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
<p>The blade tip of T7 is removed from the view by virtue of its omission from the scheme. The minor adjustment to the location of T4 slightly increases the extent of its blades which extend above the intervening landform. However, the subtleties of the changes does not change the low magnitude of change and moderate/minor, not significant effect assessed within the LVIA.</p>				
<p>9. High Bridge of Ken</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.45, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.45</p>	Medium	No Effect	No Effect	Not Significant
<p>There is no change arising from the Revised Development due to the full screening of the proposals by mature vegetation and the assessment of the LVIA of no effect, not significant, remains.</p>				
<p>10. Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.46, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.46</p>	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
<p>The adjustment to the location of T16 improves the stacking effect between T16 and T12. The slight relocation of T4 increases the appearance of stacking with T2 to a minor degree. However, these nuances and the reduction in impact associated with the omission of T7 and T11, which had previously been visible, does not alter the medium to high magnitude of change and the moderate to major, significant effect assessed within the LVIA.</p>				
<p>11. B7000 at East Ardarroch</p> <p>EIA Report Figure 8.47, as replaced by</p> <p>AEI Figure 8.47</p>	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate	Significant
<p>The omission of T11 reduces the extent of the array visible to the east. In addition, the omission of T7 within the eastern part of the array and the relocation of T9 slightly west increases the space between turbines, with T3, T17 and T14 appearing slightly separate to the east of the array. There would be a reduction in impact on the view from this location, through the reduction in the breadth of the array and number of turbines, reducing the high magnitude of change slightly, however this does not alter the moderate, significant effect assessed within the LVIA.</p>				

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
12. Dundegh Hill EIA Report Figure 8.48, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.48	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
Despite the omission of T7 and T11, which would result in some reduction in the impact, the assessment of the LVIA concluded a medium to high magnitude of change and a moderate to major, significant effect, which would remain.				
13. Beninner EIA Report Figure 8.49, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.49	High	Low to Medium	Moderate/Minor to Moderate	Not Significant
The omission of T7 eliminates the visual stacking which had previously occurred between T7 and T5, and is beneficial. T11, omitted from the scheme, will reduce the total number of turbines visible from this location, further reducing the impact on the view. Although of slight benefit, the visual change would not alter the assessment findings of low to medium magnitude of change and moderate/minor to moderate, not significant effect, of the LVIA.				
14. Cairnsmore of Carsphairn EIA Report Figure 8.50, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.50	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
There is no discernible change to the view as a result of the Revised Development. The two deleted turbines were not previously visible from this location and at this distance, the micro-siting of other turbines is indistinguishable. The assessment of the LVIA which concluded a medium magnitude of change and moderate, significant effect, remains.				
15. Craig of Knockgray EIA Report Figure 8.51, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.51	High	High	Major	Significant
The omission of T7 and T11 reduces the number of turbines which would be visible from this location from 19 to 17 and the relocation of T13 slightly improves the spacing between turbines. There would therefore be some reduction in impact from this location. However,				

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
	these nuances do not alter the high magnitude of change and the major, significant effect assessed within the LVIA.			
16. Alhang EIA Report Figure 8.52, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.52	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
	The omission of T7 and T11 reduces the number of turbines which would be visible from this location from 19 to 17 and eliminates the stacking between T7 and T3. The adjusted locations of T13 and T16 improves the stacked appearance with T8 and T2 respectively. However, although an improvement to the scheme with some associated reduction in impact, these nuances do not alter the medium magnitude of change and the moderate, significant effect assessed within the LVIA.			
17. Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill EIA Report Figure 8.53, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.53	High	Low to Medium	Moderate/Minor to Moderate	Not Significant
	Although there is a reduction in the number of turbine blades and/or hubs visible due to the deletion of the two turbines, at this distance, the changes are indistinct from that which was assessed within the LVIA. The assessment previously concluded a low to medium magnitude of change and moderate/minor to moderate, not significant effect, and this remains the case.			
18. A713 at Stroangassel EIA Report Figure 8.54, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.54	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
	Although there is a reduction in the number of turbine blades and/or hubs visible, those removed did not contribute greatly to the overall effect. The assessment of the LVIA, which concluded a medium magnitude of change and moderate, not significant effect, remains applicable.			
19. A713 south of Carsphairn EIA Report Figure 8.55, as replaced by	Medium	High to Medium	Moderate	Significant
	Although there is a reduction in the number of turbine blades and/or hubs visible, those removed did not contribute greatly to the overall effect. The assessment of the LVIA, which concluded a high to			

Name/ Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change (Revised Development)	Level of Effect (Revised Development)	Significance (Revised Development)
AEI Figure 8.55	medium magnitude of change and moderate, significant effect, remains applicable.			
20. Woodhead Mines EIA Report Figure 8.56, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.56	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
Although there is a reduction in the number of turbine blades and/or hubs visible, those removed did not contribute greatly to the overall effect. The assessment of the LVIA, which concluded a medium magnitude of change and moderate, significant effect, remains applicable.				
21. Corserine (Hennessey's Shelter) EIA Report Figure 8.57, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.57	High	Low to Medium	Moderate/Minor to Moderate	Not Significant
The omission of two turbines does not reduce the extent of the array visible from this location and at the distance over which the proposals would be viewed, there would be no discernible change to the view as a result of the Revised Development. The assessment of the LVIA which concluded a low to medium magnitude of change and moderate/minor to moderate, not significant effect, remains.				
22. Carsphairn War Memorial EIA Report Figure 8.58, as replaced by AEI Figure 8.58	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
Although the blade tips of the two omitted turbines would be theoretically visible, these will be obscured by intervening landscape and features. Their removal from the scheme, along with minor adjustments to the locations of some proposed turbines, does not alter the assessment of the LVIA, which concluded a medium magnitude of change and moderate, significant effect.				

Assessment of Effects on Visual Receptor Groups

- 8.4.14. Figure 8.22 'Principal Visual Receptors to 15km with ZTV to Blade Tip' within the EIA Report (November 2018) has been revised to show the changes to the Revised Development. This is now **AEI Figure 8.22**.

Construction Effects on Visual Receptor Groups

- 8.4.15. Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) sets out at paragraph 8.6.161, that overall, there would be a worst-case medium magnitude of additional effect, over and above the identified operational effects. The temporary moderate, significant additional effect which was

concluded in the EIA Report (November 2018), remains unchanged by the alterations to the Revised Development, by virtue of these being comparable to the previously assessed scheme, notwithstanding a minor benefit derived from the reduction of the number of wind turbines proposed from 19 to 17.

Operational Effects on Visual Receptor Groups

Residential Properties within 2 km of the Proposed Turbines

- 8.4.16. Residential Visual Amenity Study (RVAS), EIA Report Figure 8.24 'Residential Visual Amenity Study Area to 2km' has been revised to show the changes to the Revised Development. This is now **AEI Figure 8.24**.
- 8.4.17. The RVAS contained at EIA Appendix 8.4 has been reviewed as part of this AEI. The conclusions of the detailed viewpoint assessment are unaltered by the Revised Development and should therefore continue to be read in conjunction with the following sections of this AEI.
- 8.4.18. As a result of the omission of two turbines and relocation of T4, T6, T8, T9, T10, T13 and T16, Table 1 of the RVAS which contains distances between the properties and the proposed turbines, has been updated and is provided at AEI Table 8.4 below.

AEI Table 8.4: Properties Assessed in Detail

ID:	Property Name:	Nearest visible turbine	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Approx. direction of view towards wind farm
1	Marbrack	T16	1806m	E/S/E
2	Marbrack Cottage	T16	1749m	E/S/E
3	Furmiston	T16	1325m	NE
4	Nether Loskie	T16	1885m	NE
5	Marscalloch Cottage	T16	1923m	N/E/N
6	1 Muirdrochwood	T19	1286m	N
7	2 Muirdrochwood	T19	1297m	N
8	Smittons	T17	1358m	NW
9	Stroanpatrick	T17	2002m	NW
10	Craigengillan	T3	873m	NW
11	Craigengillan Cottage	T3	770m	NW

ID:	Property Name:	Nearest visible turbine	Distance to nearest visible turbine	Approx. direction of view towards wind farm
12	Moorbrock	T1	1409m	SW
13	Strahanna Farm	T3	1743m	WSW

- 8.4.19. The RVAS has been reviewed in light of the Revised Development. In order to undertake the review, Annex 3 (RVAS Aerial Photos) and Annex 5 (Wirelines) of EIA Appendix 8.4 have been updated to reflect the Revised Development layout. These are contained at **AEI Appendix 8.1, Annex 1 and 2** of this AEI.
- 8.4.20. The relocation of T4, T6, T8, T9, T10, T13 and T16 is apparent from RVAS locations 1 – 5 and 8 – 13. There is no change to the view from RVAS locations 6 and 7 (1 and 2 Muirdrochwood).
- 8.4.21. However, it is not assessed that in any instance these minor adjustments result in any change to the assessment conclusions of the RVAS within the EIA Report (November 2018).
- 8.4.22. The removal of T7 and T11, is apparent within views from RVAS locations 8 (Smittons), 10 (Craigengillan), 11 (Craigengillan Cottage), 12 (Moorbrock) and 13 (Strahanna Farm).
- 8.4.23. At location 8 (Smittons), the remaining, more northerly turbines in the array (T1, T2, T3, T4, T5 and T6) appear more recessive within the distant landscape, as the two more prominent turbines from that part of the array would be removed, albeit T3 appears as slightly more of an outlier in the distance as a consequence. At location 10 (Craigengillan) and location 11 (Craigengillan Cottage), the removal of T7 and T11 places the remaining turbines more distinctly within the more elevated areas of forestry, encroaching less upon the receptor location. From location 12 (Moorbrock), the omission of T7 and T11, in combination with the micro-siting of T9, is beneficial as the remaining turbines are obscured more by the intervening landform. At location 13 (Strahanna Farm), the combination of the omission of T7 and T11 and the micro-siting of T6, T10 and T13, results in fewer turbines appearing located on the more elevated parts of the land mass and a more coherent group of turbines located within the lower slopes in the more distant south.
- 8.4.24. When compared to the findings of the EIA Report (November 2018), the Revised Development is assessed to be of benefit to views from RVAS locations to the south, east and north of the Site by virtue of a reduction in the number of turbines visible and the improvement to the way in which the remaining turbines appear in a more coherent array set within the more elevated and distant areas of the forestry. From western RVAS

locations, the subtleties of turbine micro-siting maintain very similar views to that of the previously assessed scheme.

8.4.25. In reviewing the RVAS, whilst there are some benefits identified in relation to the Revised Development, these are not so great that the assessments of the RVAS within the EIA Report (November 2018) are altered.

8.4.26. Table 2 of the RVAS which provided a summary of the assessment, is contained at AEI Table 8.5 below and includes confirmation of the level of effect identified for each of the properties.

AEI Table 8.5: Summary of Assessment

ID:	Property Name:	Distance to nearest visible turbine of Revised Development	Worst case effect from house or garden/ curtilage/ private access using Pegasus methodology	Level of Significance	Over-bearing?
1	Marbrack	1806m	Moderate from all locations	Not significant	No
2	Marbrack Cottage	1749m	Moderate from all locations	Not significant	No
3	Furmiston	1325m	Minor/moderate from peripheral garden area and access track for 40m	Not significant	No
4	Nether Loskie	1885m	Moderate from east facing bedroom window	Not significant	No
5	Marscalloch Cottage	1923m	Moderate from east facing conservatory	Not significant	No
6	1 Muirdrochwood	1286m	Moderate from the access track leading to the property	Not significant	No
7	2 Muirdrochwood	1297m	Moderate from the access track leading to the property	Not significant	No
8	Smittons	1358m	Moderate from the access track leading from the property	Not significant, increasing to significant following felling of intervening woodland	No
9	Stroanpatrick	2002m	Moderate from first floor bedroom and access track approaching and leaving the property	Not significant	No

ID:	Property Name:	Distance to nearest visible turbine of Revised Development	Worst case effect from house or garden/ curtilage/ private access using Pegasus methodology	Level of Significance	Over-bearing?
10	Craigengillan (holiday home)	873m	Moderate/major from north west-facing windows (presumed living space)	Significant	No
11	Craigengillan Cottage	770m	Moderate from garden/curtilage and access track	Not significant	No
12	Moorbrock	1409m	Property 1: Moderate from south facing windows (presumed living space) and 65m of access track. Property 2: Minor/moderate from all areas	Not significant	No
13	Strahanna Farm	1743m	Moderate/major from living space and garden	Significant	No

Properties Located between 2 km and 5 km of the Proposed Turbines

- 8.4.27. EIA Report Figure 8.7 'Blade Tip ZTV to 35km' has been revised to show the changes to the Revised Development. This is now **AEI Figure 8.7** of the AEI.
- 8.4.28. The Revised Development does not bring about any distinguishable change to the extent of theoretical visibility within 5 km of the Site. The descriptions of properties which are located within the 2 km to 5 km ZTV, as set out between paras 8.6.168 to 8.6.181 of the EIA Report (November 2018), remain applicable.
- 8.4.29. The EIA Report (November 2018) at paras 8.6.182 to 8.6.184, concludes a high magnitude of change and major, significant effect for residences with an open aspect towards the Site between 4 km and 5 km from the Site, but not significant where these views are curtailed by vegetation or landform.
- 8.4.30. It is of relevance that most of the residences in this distance band from the Site are located to the south west of the Site and, as such, the two omitted T7 and T11 would in many cases have already been largely obscured from view by the intervening landform and forestry. The subtleties of the micro-siting of other turbines are not assessed as altering the conclusions of the EIA Report (November 2018).

Primary Settlements beyond 5 km

- 8.4.31. The assessment set out between paras 8.6.185 and 8.6.189 of the EIA Report (November 2018) concludes that a worst case medium magnitude of change and moderate, not significant visual effect upon settlements, the closest of which is Carsphairn, at a distance of approximately 6 km from the nearest turbine.
- 8.4.32. Notwithstanding that, where references are made in the original LVIA text to the previous scheme, which included 19 proposed turbines and to the now superseded ZTVs, the conclusions and assessments made are unchanged by the Revised Development for 17 turbines.

Core Paths and Other Routes including Long Distance and Recreational Trails

Rights of Way DS15, DS16 and DS21

- 8.4.33. The description of the routes and assessment of effects set out between paras 8.6.193 and 8.6.200 of the EIA Report (November 2018) remain.
- 8.4.34. It is noted that for users of DS16, when travelling in a southerly direction towards Lorg Road, the omission of T7 and T11 will be beneficial; however, the retention of T3, that which is in closest proximity to the path, maintains the high magnitude of change and major, significant effect earlier identified.
- 8.4.35. For routes DS15 and DS21, the major, significant effect from Knockgray Park and moderate/minor, not significant respective effects, would remain.

Core Paths and Other Routes

- 8.4.36. **AEI Figure 8.22** shows the updated 'Principal Visual Receptors to 15km with ZTV to Blade Tip', formerly EIA Report Figure 8.22.
- 8.4.37. The identified high magnitude of change and major, significant visual effect for Core Path 182 (which is also DS15, as noted at paragraphs 8.5.33 to 8.5.35 above), remains due to the distance over which the Revised Development is viewed and the subtleties of the Revised Development.
- 8.4.38. From the route of DS17, the number of turbines visible reduces from 19 to 17. Although appreciable, this is a minor change to a view which will, continue to constitute a major visual effect where an open westerly aspect exists from this route, and which is significant, as described at paras 8.6.205 to 8.6.207 of the EIA Report (November 2018). Viewpoint 2 is representative of views from this Core Path and is shown at **AEI Figure 8.38** of the AEI.

- 8.4.39. As illustrated by the visual material prepared for Viewpoint 12 (Dundeugh Hill) (EIA Report Figure 8.48, superseded by **AEI Figure 8.48**), T7 and T11, although theoretically visible, did not comprise a large element within the view from this location. It therefore is assessed that their omission from the Revised Development will have little change upon views of users of Core Path 23. The worst case major to moderate, significant effect which was assessed within the EIA Report (November 2018) at para 8.6.208 for a location at the summit of Dundeugh Hill, and the moderate/minor, not significant effect for other locations on the hill, would remain appropriate.
- 8.4.40. Considering the distance from the closest proposed turbine of c. 5 km, the differences between the Revised Development and that which was assessed within the EIA Report (November 2018) would be indeterminable. The conclusions set out at para 8.6.210 of the EIA Report (November 2018) remain unchanged, whereby as a worst case, for approximately 1.5 km of Core Path 199, a moderate, significant effect is assessed.
- 8.4.41. For users along the Bardennoch Pack Trail (Core Path 164), the updated ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of all 17 turbines exists from much of the route (**AEI Figure 8.22**), although it is noted within the EIA Report (November 2018) that this is largely where the route follows the ridge at c. 4.8 km and that some sections of the route are within coniferous woodland. From this south-westerly aspect, and at this distance, the reduction in the number of turbines proposed would be indeterminable and this change would not alter the worst-case moderate, significant effect identified at para 8.6.212 of the EIA Report (November 2018).

Southern Upland Way

- 8.4.42. The nature and extent of the route of the Southern Upland Way is set out within the EIA Report (November 2018) at paras 8.6.213 to 8.6.217 within which reference is made to EIA Report Figures 8.41, 8.42, 8.46 and 8.53 which are Viewpoints 5, 6, 10 and 17 respectively, and are superseded by **AEI Figures 8.41, 8.42, 8.46 and 8.53**. It is of note that Viewpoint 6 is located slightly west of and at a lower elevation than the route of the Southern Upland Way and that Viewpoint 7 is located just to the east of the Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill and is shown at **AEI Figure 8.43**, providing additional visual context close to the route.
- 8.4.43. The greatest visual effects identified along the Southern Upland Way occur within 4 to 5 km from the turbines (as identified at Viewpoints 5, 7 and 10. In these instances, as set out at para 8.6.220 of the EIA Report (November 2018), major to moderate, significant effects are identified. Whilst the number of turbines is reduced from 19 to 17, the

levels of effect for the Revised Development are assessed as remaining consistent with that previously set out.

Local Cycle Network

- 8.4.44. The nature and extent of the one local cycle route of note, is set out within the EIA Report (November 2018) at paras 8.6.221 to 8.6.224 within which reference is made to EIA Report Figures 8.22 and 8.44 which are the ZTV and Viewpoint 8 (Minor Road south of B776). These are superseded by **AEI Figures 8.22 and 8.44** within the AEI.
- 8.4.45. A moderate to moderate/minor, not significant effect is identified for this cycle route (National Byway) at para 8.6.225 of the EIA Report (November 2018). Whilst the number of turbines will be reduced from 19 to 17, the levels of effect for the Revised Development are assessed as remaining consistent with that previously set out, by virtue of the distances over which the Revised Development would be seen, which are such that the reduction in turbines and micro-siting, would be difficult to discern.

Roads

- 8.4.46. Descriptions of the roads within the study area and the effects of the previous scheme are contained at paras 8.6.226 to 8.6.254 of the EIA Report (November 2018). The ZTV, which was previously EIA Report Figure 8.12, has been superseded by **AEI Figure 8.12** within the AEI.
- 8.4.47. Assessment of the Revised Development, in relation to road users within the study area, concludes that there would be no discernible changes from the conclusions set out within the EIA Report (November 2018).
- 8.4.48. The A713 is the closest primary 'A' road to the Site. T7 and T11, now omitted from the Revised Development, were located to the eastern side of the wind farm array, at a lower elevation, offered screening of their towers by the intervening landform, as shown at EIA Report Figure 8.55 (Viewpoint 19 'A173 South of Carsphairn'). This figure is updated with the Revised Development at **AEI Figure 8.55**. As a result of the subtleties of the micro-siting and the limited contribution made by T7 and T11 to the overall effect concluded within the 2018 scheme, the moderate, significant effect previously concluded for oblique views along the section of the road between Bardennoch to Carsphairn (at c. 3.8 km), remains unchanged.
- 8.4.49. More distant locations on the A713 which were identified as experiencing some changes to views, concluded within the EIA Report (November 2018) (para 8.6.233) as moderate/minor, not significant, also remain unchanged.
- 8.4.50. Similarly, the assessment of the A762 and A712 located some 10 km and 13.5 km south of the Site respectively, would remain not significant,

as described at paras 8.6.238 and 8.6.239 of the EIA Report (November 2018).

- 8.4.51. The moderate, significant effect identified for the section of the B729, as it passes the Site, remains due to the Revised Development retaining the turbines in the south-eastern part of the array at their same locations, which are identified as bringing about the greatest degree of change at this location.
- 8.4.52. The major, significant effect identified for the B729 travelling east from Carsphairn remains unchanged. Again, it is the southernmost turbines which are identified as being most visible. The subtleties of micro-siting would not change this conclusion at para 8.6.242 of the EIA Report (November 2018).
- 8.4.53. Upon approach to the Site along the B729 from the east, Viewpoints 3, 1 and 4 (EIA Report Figures 8.39, 8.37 and 8.40) convey the experience along this route. These figures have been updated to **AEI Figures 8.39, 8.37 and 8.40** within the AEI. The greatest effect identified is that of major, significant for the section of the route between Guttery Glen and Smittons Bridge. The assessments of effects the EIA Report (November 2018) remain unchanged by the Revised Development.
- 8.4.54. The EIA Report (November 2018) identifies at para 8.6.248, a major, significant effect upon northerly views from the B7000, whereby the southernmost turbines would be most visible as the road passes higher ground between White Hill and Arndarroch. Similar to other locations to the south of the Site, the changes made to the layout of the Revised Development are assessed as being indeterminable, with the omitted turbines located further north and well screened by Marscalloch Hill and subtleties of micro-siting changing little to the overall effect of the proposal. There is no change to the conclusion of the EIA Report in this regard.
- 8.4.55. The Lorg Road follows a route to the east of the Site. The EIA Report (November 2018) assessed major significant effects along this route up to 4 km from the Site, beyond which visibility diminishes (paras 8.6.251 to 8.6.254). The omission of T7 and T11 reduces the number of turbines visible from this route in particular, due to their proximity to the route and location on the slightly lower parts of the landform. This change to the scheme is beneficial to the experience of users along this route. However, the remaining turbines would continue to be visible along the route and the overall assessed effect previously concluded, remains.

Visual Effects during Decommissioning

- 8.4.56. Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) identifies at paras 8.6.255 to 8.6.259, a low magnitude of change (over that of the operation phase) the greatest effects during decommissioning would be experienced by users of the Southern Upland Way, local Core Paths and

other recreational routes, and the local road network within close proximity to the Site.

- 8.4.57. The visual effects identified which relate to the use of cranes associated with the decommissioning of turbines and assessed as being localised, relatively incidental and not significant in relation to the overall effects identified as a result of the Revised Development. The Revised Development does not change this previous assessment.

Effects upon Regional Scenic Areas (RSAs)

- 8.4.58. The EIA Report (November 2018) identified no potential significant effects upon the Thornhill Uplands RSA. Whilst the deletion of the two turbines would give rise to some reduction in the impact on the RSA, there are very limited changes to the ZTV coverage across the RSA and as such there is assessed to be no change to these conclusions.
- 8.4.59. EIA Report Figure 8.23 'Blade Tip ZTV (with Viewpoints)' has been superseded by **AEI Figure 8.23** within the AEI. The extent of theoretical visibility in areas of the Galloway Hills RSA remains consistent with that of the earlier scheme, as set out at paras 8.6.262 to 8.6.263 of the EIA Report.
- 8.4.60. Since the EIA Report (November 2018) was written, the Dumfries and Galloway emerging Local Development Plan 2 (January 2018) has undergone examination by the Scottish Ministers and a modified Local Development Plan 2 was adopted on 3rd October 2019. Upon review of the adopted Plan, the policy wording applicable to RSAs (Policy NE2), is unaltered (notwithstanding a minor adjustment to the placement of acronyms). The description of policy matters at paras 8.6.264 to 8.6.273 within the EIA Report (November 2018) remain applicable to considerations of effects of the Revised Development upon the RSA.

Effects upon Landscape Character of the RSA

- 8.4.61. As set out at paras 8.5.3 to 8.5.6 of this AEI, there have been no assessed changes to effects of the Revised Development upon landscape character.
- 8.4.62. Paras 8.6.275 to 8.6.277 of the EIA Report (November 2018), describes the effects of the previous scheme upon the RSA. In doing so, it is identified that five of the proposed turbines are located at the periphery of the RSA, within the Ken unit of the Southern Uplands with Forest area, therefore having direct and significant effects. The five turbines all remain part of the Revised Development. Although three of these turbines have been subject to micro-siting, all five are located at the edge of the RSA. The previously identified effects therefore remain.
- 8.4.63. The Galloway Hills RSA extends across the landscape to the west and south of the Site. As such, the deleted turbines, T7 and T11, which had

been located within the north eastern part of the array, were largely set beyond other turbines which are retained in views from the RSA. For this reason, whilst there would be a limited reduction in impact, the overall influence of the Revised Development upon the landscape character of the RSA would be unaltered from the conclusions drawn at paras 8.6.276 and 8.6.277, which identify indirect significant effects up to 5 km within the Southern Uplands with Forest character type (LCT19A) and which adjoins the boundary of the RSA, and up to 4.5 km within the Upper Glenkens unit of the Upper Dale (Valley) character type (LCT9) and the Carsphairn unit of the Southern Uplands character type (LCT19), both of which are within the boundary of the RSA. Beyond these distances, effects become not significant.

Effects upon Visual Amenity of the RSA

- 8.4.64. As set out at 8.5.7 to 8.5.57 of this AEI, there have been no assessed changes to effects of the Revised Development upon visual amenity, notwithstanding one reduction of magnitude of change at Viewpoint 11 (B7000 at East Ardarroch) and which is located within the Galloway Hills RSA.
- 8.4.65. Paras 8.6.278 to 8.6.285 of the EIA Report (November 2018) describe the visual effects of the previous scheme upon the RSA and its special qualities. As described at 8.4.65, the Galloway Hills RSA extends predominantly south and west of the Site, with the Revised Development appearing within many views from within the RSA as set beyond the landform of Marscalloch Hill, and beyond the extent of the RSA. As such, significant effects are identified within the RSA, within 8 to 9 km of the Revised Development. Also identified are some significant visual effects looking towards the RSA from beyond its boundaries from the east and south east.
- 8.4.66. Despite the visibility of both the Revised Development and the landscape of the RSA from locations within and beyond the RSA's extent, the revised layout would continue to maintain the special qualities of the RSA, as described at paras 8.6.282 to 8.6.284 of the EIA Report (November 2018). Indeed, the changes to the Revised Development, which are generally positive, (as set out within the summary of visual effects contained at **Table 8.3** of the AEI) would be such that the impact on the RSA would reduce. Where EIA Report Figures are referenced in the LVIA to demonstrate the manner by which the RSA would continue to be appreciated, these have been updated to show the Revised Development, as noted previously at paragraph 8.1.3.
- 8.4.67. Although generally found to be an improvement to the EIA Report (November 2018), the AEI assesses no changes to the significance of the landscape or visual effects arising from the Revised Development. As such, the conclusions of the EIA Report (November 2018) at para 8.6.285, which identifies localised significant effects on landscape

character and visual effects from, or towards a small part of the RSA, and no significant effects upon the special qualities of the RSA, remain valid.

8.5. Cumulative Effects

8.5.1. All other wind energy developments that were operational, under construction, consented, or subject to a valid full planning application, up to a cut-off date of 1st July 2018, within 35 km of the Revised Development, were identified and reviewed as part of the cumulative assessment in the EIA Report (November 2018).

8.5.2. Since that time, it is noted that there have been some changes to the cumulative situation and these have been reviewed as part of the updated cumulative assessment set out in this AEI, based on a new cut-off date of 12th September 2019.

8.5.3. The original assessment focused on a detailed study area of 15km, which was illustrated on EIA Report Figure 8.3 'Other Wind Farms within 15km'. The following updates are applicable to the information:

- In-Planning schemes
 - Longburn – appeal dismissed
 - Wether Hill Extension – application withdrawn
 - Ulzieside – application withdrawn as part of Sanquhar II submission
 - Pencloe – appeal allowed – status changed to 'consented'
- Scoping Schemes
 - Glenshimmeroch – submitted and appealed on non-determination and appeal upheld - status changed to 'consented'
 - Cornharrow – submitted and appealed on non-determination and appeal dismissed
 - Troston Loch – now submitted - status changed to 'planning'
 - Stroanshalloch – no longer being progressed
- New schemes not previously shown on EIA Report Figure 8.3
 - Sanquhar II – now submitted and at 'planning' stage

8.5.4. These updates are illustrated on **AEI Figure 8.3**.

8.5.5. The written cumulative assessment work was previously based on a selection of the schemes shown on EIA Report Figure 8.3, with those towards the north and north-east beyond 10 km being discounted due to a lack of intervisibility. These schemes were identified in Table 8.13: 'Other Wind Farms Considered in Detail in the Cumulative LVIA'.

8.5.6. AEI Table 8.6 summarises the updated position and confirms those schemes which are now considered in detail in the updated cumulative assessment in light of the information set out above.

AEI Table 8.6: Other Wind Farms Considered in Detail in the Cumulative LVIA

Site	Blade tip height of turbines	Number of turbines
Operational		
Windy Standard I	92.5m	36
Windy Standard II	100 - 120m	30
Wether Hill	91m	14
Blackcraig Hill	110m	23
Consented		
Afton	120m	27
Lorg	130m - 150m	9
South Kyle	149.5m	50
Knockman Hill	81m	5
Benbrack	130m	18
Torrs Hill	100m	2
Windy Rig	125m	12
Glenshimmeroch	149.9m	10
In Planning		
Windy Standard III	120m - 177.5m	20
Margree	120m	17
Troston Loch	149.9m	14

8.5.7. Three scenarios were previously considered in the cumulative assessment, which reflected the different degrees of certainty that these schemes would be constructed:

- Scenario 1 - assumed that other consented (but as yet unbuilt) wind farms were operational;
- Scenario 2 - extended this further to assume that all schemes in planning were also operational with the exception of Longburn; and
- Scenario 3 - assumed all schemes in planning were operational, including Longburn.

8.5.8. In addition, a fourth scenario addressing the four scoping schemes within 10km of the Site was also considered in EIA Appendix 8.5.

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- 8.5.9. In light of the above information, the following updates to the cumulative assessment can be considered to apply:
- Scenario 1 – The changes to this scenario are that Pencloe and Glenshimmeroch have now become consented. Given the location of Pencloe beyond Windy Standard I and II, this scheme had not previously been scoped in to the detailed assessment, and it is considered that this approach remains applicable. Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm is located within 5 km of the site and its consent alters the assessment made for this scenario. An update is therefore required, drawing on the EIA Appendix 8.5, in which this scheme had already been considered. This update is set out below;
 - Scenario 2 - The main changes to this scenario are the addition of one nearby scheme which was previously at Scoping (Troston Loch) and the withdrawal of Wether Hill Extension. The Sanquhar II scheme is now also submitted, but for the same reasons as Pencloe it is not proposed to consider this in detail. A short update is therefore required, drawing on the EIA Appendix 8.5 in which these schemes had already been considered. This update is set out below; and
 - Scenario 3 – This Scenario is no longer applicable now Longburn has been dismissed.
 - EIA Appendix 8.5 to the EIA Report (November 2018) – This EIA Appendix is no longer applicable now one scheme has moved into Scenario 2, one has been confirmed as no longer being progressed and two have been decided at appeal, with one consented and one dismissed.
- 8.5.10. AEI Table 8.7 provides an updated summary of cumulative effects at each of the 22 assessment viewpoints.

AEI Table 8.7: Summary of Cumulative Visual Effects

Viewpoint		Visibility of Wind Farms at Each Viewpoint Location												
		Wether Hill	Blackcraig Hill	Knockman Hill	Margree	Afton	Lorg	South Kyle	Benbrack	Torrs Hill	Glenshimmeroch	Windy Rig	Troston Loch	Windy Standard I, II and III
1	Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729)	O								X				
2	Stroanfreggan Craig	O				X					X			X
3	Guttery Glen (B729)	O				X	O				X			X
4	Smittons Bridge					X					X			X
5	Stroanfreggan Cairn	O								[O]				
6	Head of Ken Valley						O							O
7	Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill	O	O	[O]	O	X				O	O	X	O	X
8	Minor Road south of B729	X O			O		[X]				O		O	
9	High Bridge of Ken						[X]			[O]		[X]		
10	Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)	O	O	O	O	O	O			X	O	X	O	
11	B7000 at East Ardarroch	O	[O]	[O]	O	[X]	X		X		O		O	
12	Dundeugh Hill	X	O		O		X		O		O	X	O	[X]
13	Beninner	X O	X	X	X	[O]	O			O	X	O	X	[O]
14	Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	X	X	X	X	O	O			O	X	O	X	O
15	Craig of Knockgray	X	X	X	X			[O]		O	X		X	O

		Visibility of Wind Farms at Each Viewpoint Location												
		Key: X = In Combination, O = In Succession, [] = theoretically visible only (i.e. not actually visible)												
Viewpoint		Wether Hill	Blackraig Hill	Knockman Hill	Margree	Afton	Lorg	South Kyle	Benbrack	Torr's Hill	Glenshimmeroch	Windy Rig	Troston Loch	Windy Standard I, II and III
16	Alhang	O	X	X	X			O			X	XO	X	O
17	Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill	X	O	O	O	X	X	[X]	X	O	X	X	X	X
18	A713 at Stroangassel	X					X	[X]			[O]	[X]		
19	A713 south of Carsphairn	[X]	[O]		[O]		X			[X]	[O]		X	
20	Woodhead Mines	X	X	X	X						X		X	
21	Corserine (Hennessey's shelter)	X	X	X	X	X	X	O	O	X	X	X	X	X
22	Carsphairn War Memorial	[X]	[X]		[X]					[O]	[X]		[X]	

Updated Scenario 1

8.5.11. The following section considers the updated Scenario 1 which assumes that all other consented (but as yet unbuilt) wind farms are operational. For each of the schemes in this Scenario, a cumulative ZTV (CZTV) was produced as part of the EIA Report (November 2018), to illustrate the theoretical visibility with the Revised Development. Each ZTV has been updated to reflect the theoretical visibility with the Revised Development layout. It should be noted that EIA Report Figures 8.29, 8.30, 8.33 and 8.35 are now omitted as a result of the wind farms having been either withdrawn or dismissed at appeal.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Features and Character

8.5.12. The main change to this Scenario is the inclusion of the consented Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm. In order to establish whether there would be any change to this assessment firstly, a review of the updated cumulative ZTV for Glenshimmeroch, **AEI Figure 8.36**, has been undertaken. The areas of the landscape in which further combined

visibility will occur with the introduction of this scheme are located to the south and south east of the Site within character types 19A Southern Uplands with Forest, 9 – Upper Dale (Valley), 18A - Foothills with Forest, 21 - Rugged Granite Uplands and 21A - Rugged Granite Uplands with Forest. In particular this would occur within that part of the 18A - Foothills with Forest, the landscape within which Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm is located, approximately 5 km to the south-east of the Shepherds' Rig Site.

- 8.5.13. With reference to the DGWFLCS, the scope for further development within the character type and unit within which the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm is located (Stroan unit of character type 18A - Foothills with Forest), is limited in terms of large typology turbines.
- 8.5.14. The Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm will shorten the perceived gap between the Blackcraig Hill/ Knockman Hill cluster of turbines and the Wether Hill Wind Farm. It will sit within the 18A - Foothills with Forest landscape character type, creating a series of wind farms appearing broadly equidistant from each other, extending north to south when perceived from higher ground to the west, and from the landscape to the west of the Water of Ken Valley within character type 9. There are likely to be some localised significant effects upon the perception of landscape character with character type 9, but these will nonetheless be brought about in the absence of the Revised Development.
- 8.5.15. The Southern Uplands and the Southern Uplands with Forest characteristics as described within the SNH LCA 2019, are described as landscapes where wind farms are either a local or a key characteristic of these respective areas. This has become characteristic of these areas over and above other landscapes within Dumfries and Galloway, as has been identified within the updated SNH character appraisal for these respective LCTs. This identified characteristic would continue to be reinforced.
- 8.5.16. In light of the additional visibility of the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm within the landscape to the south east of the Site, it is considered that there would also be a combined high magnitude of change on part of the 18A - Foothills with Forest landscape, in addition to that identified previously in relation to character type 19 and the Ken unit of character type 19A.
- 8.5.17. When the totality of landscape effect is considered, there would be localised significant effects on character types 18A and 19A, with some localised significant indirect effects upon character type 19 and 9.
- 8.5.18. Overall, the significant cumulative effects upon landscape character would not arise as a direct result of the introduction of the Revised Development, rather the introduction of turbines further south within the landscape.

Cumulative Effects on the Galloway Hills RSA

- 8.5.19. The above discussion in relation to landscape character has determined that the extent of wind energy development within the landscape beyond the RSA boundary would be extended with the introduction of Glenshimmeroch. This would be perceived from the RSA, particularly from the higher ground within the Rhinns of Kells and from Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, as was shown on the cumulative ZTV at EIA Report Figure 8.36 and is now shown in relation to the Revised Development at **AEI Figure 8.36**.
- 8.5.20. Nevertheless, the Scenario 1 schemes, alongside the Revised Development, would be seen and perceived in the context of existing wind energy development already present in the wider landscape.
- 8.5.21. Previously, it was noted that that there would be no additional significant cumulative effects upon the RSA in cumulative Scenario 1, as wind energy development is already a characteristic of the landscape beyond the RSA.
- 8.5.22. With the addition of Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm within the Scenario 1 baseline, there would be an increased potential for cumulative effects on the RSA. However, any additional significant effects on the RSA arising as a result of the introduction of the Revised Development to the landscape, would arise because of the scheme in its own right rather than due to cumulative effects.

Combined Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- 8.5.23. The addition of Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm within the Scenario 1 baseline increases the extent to which wind development would be visible within the landscape to the south east of the Shepherds' Rig Site.
- 8.5.24. When the addition of Glenshimmeroch within the Scenario 1 baseline is considered, it is noted that the Revised Development would be visible in combination with this scheme from the vast majority of high peaks and hill top locations within the study area and from the higher ground within the Glenkens Valley. From the Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill, there will be wind energy development visible in the view to the north west through to the east, although these wind developments will appear distinct from each other within the landscape. The presence of Glenshimmeroch will be greater than other wind farms at a larger distance, such as the existing Blackcraig Hill and the consented Knockman Hill, alongside the Revised Development.
- 8.5.25. In views from low lying locations to the south, south east and east, the Revised Development is most likely to be seen with Glenshimmeroch in successional views whereby each development would appear within views in differing directions but where each development would appear distinct and separate within the landscape.

- 8.5.26. Overall, there will be some localised significant cumulative effects on visual amenity as a result of the introduction of Glenshimmeroch, to the landscape, alongside all other existing schemes. However, for the most part these effects would occur in the absence of the Revised Development, due to the combined visibility of this additional scheme which lies close to the Revised Development in the landscape.

Sequential Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- 8.5.27. The four routes that formed the primary receptors considered in the sequential cumulative assessment presented in the Chapter 8 of the EIA Report (November 2018) were the B729, the B7000, the A713, and the Southern Upland Way.
- 8.5.28. In cumulative Scenario 1 of the EIA Report (November 2018), it was previously noted that there are several consented, yet unbuilt wind farms within 15 km of the site and that these predominantly lie to the north east and north west of the site. The descriptions of cumulative matters as set out at paras 8.7.76 to 8.7.82 of the EIA Report (November 2018) continue to apply. The conclusion of the EIA Report (November 2018) at para 8.7.82, was that the Proposed Development would introduce localised significant visual effects upon the route in its own right due to the proximity to the Site to the footpath, but that the cumulative effects would not be significant.
- 8.5.29. Into this Scenario, however, the consented Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm introduces wind development approximately 5 km to the south east of the site, roughly equidistant between the existing Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill wind farms.
- 8.5.30. The Revised Development would be seen in the context of this pattern of turbines extending from north to south over approximately 15 km. This will be appreciable particularly from the Southern Upland Way as it passes over open higher ground. There would be some significant sequential visual effects upon views from the Southern Upland Way, but these would occur in the absence of the Revised Development by virtue of the proximity of the Site to the route. However, in particular, the presence of Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm within the Scenario 1 baseline will already be close to the route in the south east. Indeed, the Revised Development would be introduced into a landscape where wind development is increased from the existing baseline and into which the significance of introducing the Revised Development into this baseline scenario would not be notably greater than that assessed previously. No additional significant effects over and above those assessed for the Revised Development in its own right i.e. against the existing baseline, are predicted.
- 8.5.31. In terms of the overall totality of effects on the route however, this would be notably increased for a short section to the south of the Shepherds' Rig site, due to the close proximity of the route to the

Glenshimmeroch scheme at that point and whereby overall, the Revised Development would appear in succession and in combination with other wind farms, although this would reinforce the identification of wind farms as an existing key characteristic within the SNH LCA 2019 of the Southern Uplands with Forest (LCT178) and Foothills with Forest (LCT176).

- 8.5.32. Along the A713 glimpsed views of the Glenshimmeroch scheme may be available, but would not be such as to bring about any significant effect. As noted in the EIA Report (November 2018), the overall effect would reinforce the presence of turbines within this outlying forested landscape beyond the Water of Ken Valley. Within this context the addition of the Revised Development would not appear out of character. The turbines of the Revised Development would appear as a distinctly separate wind farm located at distance to the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm. The overall effect on the A713 would not be significant.
- 8.5.33. The addition of the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm would increase the overall visibility of turbines from the routes of the B729 and B700. Notwithstanding this, the addition of the Revised Development, in views from these routes would not give rise to any additional significant cumulative effects in this Scenario, over and above those identified for the development in its own right.

Updated Scenario 2

- 8.5.34. The following section considers the updated Scenario 2 which assumes that all other consented (but as yet unbuilt) and in planning wind farms are operational. For each of the schemes in this Scenario, cumulative ZTVs (CZTV) have been updated as part of this AEI, to illustrate the theoretical visibility with the Revised Development.
- 8.5.35. In turn, full updated 360 degree cumulative wireframes previously shown in EIA Report Figures 8.59 – 8.64 have been updated to show all operational, under construction, consented and in planning schemes. These are presented in **AEI Figures 8.59 – 8.64**. In addition, 360 degree wireframes have also been produced for all other viewpoints in response to the draft consultee response from the Dumfries and Galloway Landscape Officer. These are presented in **AEI Figures 8.65 – 8.80**.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Features and Character

- 8.5.36. It was previously identified that in this scenario there were three other undetermined wind farms located within 15 km of the Revised Development, namely Windy Standard III, Wether Hill Extension, and Margree. Wether Hill Extension has since been withdrawn, but there is now one further scheme to be considered alongside Windy Standard III and Margree, namely Troston Loch.

- 8.5.37. Previously it was noted that that there would be a combined medium magnitude of change upon character type 19 and the Ken unit of character type 19A, as described at paras 8.7.34 to 8.7.38 of the EIA Report (November 2018), but such effects would not be significant due to the location of the schemes within the varied Upland landscape, where plantation is extensive to serve to screen the presence of turbines.
- 8.5.38. A review of the cumulative ZTV for Troston Loch (**AEI Figure 8.34**) identifies that the combined visibility with Shepherds' Rig Wind Farm is less than that with Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm, meaning that there are fewer locations from where both Shepherds' Rig and Troston Loch are theoretically visible than from where both Shepherds' Rig and Glenshimmeroch are theoretically visible. Troston Loch Wind Farm would appear to extend the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm to the north east, reducing the gap between Wether Hill and Glenshimmeroch when viewed from the west, with Margree Wind Farm to its south. The inclusion of Troston Loch Wind Farm within the baseline would further reinforce the presence of Wind Farms within the 18A - Foothills with Forest landscape and whereby appearing as a larger group within views from higher ground, yet a group which would remain visually separate from that of the Revised Development.
- 8.5.39. In light of the additional visibility of Troston Loch in the Scenario 2 baseline, it is considered that the combined high magnitude of change on part of the 18A - Foothills with Forest landscape, which is identified for Scenario 1, would be reinforced by the addition of Troston Loch within the Scenario 2 baseline.
- 8.5.40. When the totality of landscape effect is considered, there would be localised significant effects on character type 18A, with some localised significant indirect effects upon character type 19A, from which wind development would be visible within the wider landscape to the south east, south and west. However, these effects would occur in any event in the absence of the Revised Development should the other proposed schemes be granted consent. The effects identified for the Shepherds' Rig Revised Development which are identified for the scheme in its own right, do not increase when set within the Scenario 2 baseline.

Cumulative Effects on the Galloway Hills RSA

- 8.5.41. The introduction of Troston Loch within the Scenario 2 baseline would be perceived from the RSA, particularly from the higher ground within the Rhinns of Kells and from Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, as shown on cumulative ZTV at **AEI Figure 8.34**. However, it would appear alongside and extending the Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm and appearing as a group lying within the landscape between the existing Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill wind developments.

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- 8.5.42. As with the Scenario 1, all application stage schemes alongside the Revised Development would be seen and perceived in the context of existing wind energy development already present in the wider landscape.
- 8.5.43. Previously, it was noted that that there would be no additional significant cumulative effects upon the RSA in cumulative Scenario 2, as given the number of operational and consented schemes considered in Cumulative Scenario 1, the change to the baseline brought about by the other schemes in planning would be relatively minimal.
- 8.5.44. With the addition of Troston Loch to the Scenario 2 baseline, there would be a slightly increased potential for cumulative effects on the RSA, by virtue of an increase in the number of wind turbines appearing within the landscape to the east of the RSA, however those of Margree and Troston Loch will appear further from the RSA than the consented Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm. Wind energy development is already a characteristic of the landscape beyond the RSA and any additional significant effects on the RSA arising as a result of the introduction of the Revised Development to the landscape would arise because of the scheme in its own right rather than due to cumulative effects.

Combined Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- 8.5.45. Change to the Scenario 1 baseline by virtue of the introduction of Glenshimmeroch, increases the pattern of existing wind development as assessed within the EIA Report (November 2018). The addition of Troston Loch to the Scenario 2 baseline, along with that of Margree, would increase, but not greatly alter the visual effects over and above that of Scenario 2. The Scenario 2 schemes are extensions to existing wind farms or are located in areas where wind farms were already a characteristic of the landscape. The EIA Report (November 2018) identified no greater than a moderate/minor additional effect in Cumulative Scenario 2 from those locations where the Revised Development would be seen in combination with other proposed schemes from the same location. The updated cumulative scenarios within this AEI increase the cumulative effects of Scenario 1, with the Scenario 2 schemes giving rise to an additional effect which is associated with the increase in the visibility of wind development from elevated locations or within successional views which incorporate additional Windy Standard III, Margree and Troston Loch wind farms.
- 8.5.46. Overall, there will be some localised cumulative effects on visual amenity as a result of the introduction of Troston Loch to the landscape, alongside all other existing, consented schemes. However, for the most part these effects would occur in the absence of the Revised Development, due to the visibility of this additional scheme.

Sequential Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- 8.5.47. In cumulative Scenario 2, it was previously noted that the Wether Hill Extension and Windy Standard III wind farms would further reinforce the visual presence of turbines within the Southern Upland landscape. This would be further extended with the introduction to this scenario of the Troston Loch scheme.
- 8.5.48. The Revised Development would be seen in the context of a concentration of turbines, particularly from the Southern Upland Way as it passes over open higher ground and whereby the Troston Loch scheme would add to the turbines of Glenshimmeroch (consented) and Margree (in planning) schemes. There are likely to be some significant sequential visual effects upon views from the Southern Upland Way, but these would occur in the absence of the Revised Development. The significance of introducing the Revised Development into this baseline scenario would not be notably greater than that assessed for Scenario 1 above, and no additional significant effects are predicted. In terms of the overall totality of effects on the route; however, this would be increased for the short section to the south of the Shepherds' Rig Site, due to the increase in the number of turbines which would be visible from those locations.
- 8.5.49. Along the A713, it was previously noted at para 8.7.84 of the EIA Report (November 2018), that the proposed Margree turbines would be visible south of St Johns Town of Dalry in association with the consented Knockman Hill turbines and the existing Blackcraig scheme. In this expanded cumulative Scenario 2, glimpsed views of the Troston Loch scheme may also be available from the A713, but would not be such as to bring about any significant effect, appearing beyond those of Glenshimmeroch, closer to the route.
- 8.5.50. As noted in the EIA Report (November 2018) and with regard to the updated Scenario 1 above, the overall effect would reinforce the presence of turbines within this outlying forested landscape beyond the Water of Ken Valley. Within this context, which is increased by the Margree and Troston Loch schemes, the addition of the Revised Development would not appear out of character. The turbines of the Revised Development would appear as a distinctly separate wind farm located at distance to the other schemes. The overall effect on the A713 would not be significant.
- 8.5.51. The sequential experience from the B729 and B7000 in this scenario was previously identified to be limited as there was limited intervisibility between the Revised Development, the other proposed schemes and the two roads, as described at para 8.7.85 of the EIA Report (November 2018). The removal of the now withdrawn Wether Hill Extension scheme from the scenario would reduce the potential effect upon the B729 to some degree, but the addition of the Troston Loch scheme would

increase the visibility of turbines to the south of the route from some sections of the B729. Notwithstanding this, the addition of the Revised Development, in views from these routes would not give rise to any additional significant cumulative effects in this Scenario.

8.6. Summary

Effects on Landscape Character

- 8.6.1. The Revised Development does not give rise to significant effects upon landscape character that were not previously identified, but neither are any reduced. It should be noted that the Revised Development brings improvements to the previous scheme, but these improvements are not of such scale or to such a degree that the overall effects are altered.
- 8.6.2. The Revised Development, through the omission of two turbines and to a lesser degree the micro-siting of seven turbines, slightly improves the visual permeability across the Site and reduces the extent that the sense of openness of the Southern Uplands would be altered by the scheme. There are improvements to the configuration of turbines within views, with fewer turbines and adjusted locations reducing instances where stacking or blade clash occur, resulting in a more coherent element within the landscape.
- 8.6.3. The conclusions drawn within the EIA Report (November 2018) at paras 8.10.7 to 8.10.8 continue to apply. These identified significant direct effects upon the landscape within which the Site is located; the Ken unit of character type 19A – Southern Uplands with Forest and the Ken unit of character type 4 – Narrow Wooded River Valley up to distances of 4.5 km to 5km from the Revised Development. Beyond these, significant indirect effects upon the Upper Dale (Valley) (character type 9), Southern Uplands with Forest (character type 19 and Foothills with Forest (character type 18A) were identified between 4 km and 4.5 km from the Revised Development.

Effects on Visual Amenity

- 8.6.4. The omission of two turbines and micro-siting of seven turbines, is generally noted as either resulting in no discernible change to views or will comprise a slight improvement to the way in which individual turbines would be seen in relation to each other, for instance through reduced instances of a visual stacking effect.
- 8.6.5. On the whole, the changes are minor when set against the introduction of the Revised Development into the existing baseline. The effects of the Revised Development would therefore continue to be significant from 15 of the 22 representative viewpoints, at two dwellings within the RVAS, some residences to the east, south east and west between 2 km and 5 km, Core Paths 182 (Path DS15), DS16, DS17, Core Path 23 and 199, part of the Southern Upland Way and some roads within the

locality, as summarised within the EIA Report (November 2018) at paras 8.10.9 to 8.10.17. As such, the conclusions drawn within the EIA Report continue to apply.

Effects on the Galloway Hills RSA

- 8.6.6. There are indirect significant effects up to 5 km from the Site within the Southern Uplands with Forest, and up to 4.5 km within the Upper Glenkens unit of the Upper Dale (Valley) character type and the Carsphairn unit of the Southern Uplands character type.
- 8.6.7. Although generally found to be an improvement to the scheme, the AEI assesses no changes to the significant landscape or visual effects arising from the Revised Development. As such, the conclusions of the EIA Report (November 2018), which identifies localised significant effects on landscape character (extending to c. 5 km of the Revised Development) and visual effects from, or towards a small part of the RSA (up to c. 8 km), remain unaltered. Additionally, there will be no significant effects upon the special qualities of the Galloway Hills RSA.

Cumulative Effects

- 8.6.8. When the totality of landscape effect is considered, there would be localised significant direct effects on character types 18A and 19A, with some localised significant indirect effects upon character type 19. However, these effects would occur in any event in the absence of the Revised Development should other proposed schemes be granted consent.
- 8.6.9. In terms of cumulative effects upon the Galloway Hills RSA, the extent of wind energy development within the landscape beyond the RSA boundary would be extended with the introduction of Glenshimmeroch (consented) and Troston Loch (in planning). This would be perceived from the RSA, particularly from the higher ground within the Rhinns of Kells and from Cairnsmore of Carsphairn.
- 8.6.10. The consent of Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm and its inclusion within an updated Scenario 1 cumulative baseline increases cumulative effects upon the RSA for this scenario. The addition of Troston Loch, within the Scenario 2 schemes, would increase potential for cumulative effects on the RSA; however, this is slightly reduced by the withdrawal of Windy Hill extension scheme. Wind energy development is already a characteristic of the landscape beyond the RSA, and any additional significant effects on the RSA, arising as a result of the introduction of the Revised Development to the landscape, would arise because of the scheme in its own right rather than due to cumulative effects.
- 8.6.11. There will be some localised significant combined cumulative effects on visual amenity as a result of the introduction of Glenshimmeroch and Troston Loch to the landscape, alongside all other existing, consented

and in planning schemes. However, for the most part these effects would occur in the absence of the Revised Development, due to the combined visibility of these schemes which lie close to one another in the landscape.

- 8.6.12. In terms of the overall totality of effects on significant sequential effects, this would be notably increased for a short section of the Southern Upland Way to the south of the Shepherds' Rig Site, due to the close proximity of the route to the Glenshimmeroch scheme at that point and beyond it, the Troston Loch scheme.

8.7. Statement of Significance

- 8.7.1. Effects on landscape and visual amenity associated with the Revised Development are considered to remain unchanged from the conclusions outlined in the EIA Report (November 2018). There continue to be significant landscape and visual effects which would occur as a result of the Revised Development; however, the deletion of two turbines and micro-siting of seven others is found to be beneficial when compared to the scheme which was previously assessed.
- 8.7.2. It should however be noted that following updates to the cumulative baseline from that of 1st July 2018 to an updated date of 12th September 2019, additional localised significant cumulative effects upon landscape character types 18 and 19A, are identified, along with an indirect localised significant effect upon landscape character type 19 and a localised significant combined cumulative effect on visual amenity. These effects are identified as a result of the introduction of Glenshimmeroch to the Scenario 1 baseline, which considers schemes which are consented but not operational. However, it is identified that these effects would occur in any event in the absence of the Revised Development, should the other schemes be consented.