

Appendix 8.5:

Viewpoint Assessment

This page is intentionally blank.

Appendix 8.5 Viewpoint Assessment

1.1. Introduction2

1.2. Summary49

References50

1. Viewpoint Assessment

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Varied Development from a selection of 22 viewpoints. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Varied Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines. A comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts is given for each viewpoint. Each assessment viewpoint is illustrated in **Volume 3** of the EIA Report, in **Figures 8.54 to 8.75**.
- 1.1.2. A comparison is made between the predicted effect of the Consented Development in relation to the Proposed Varied Development, which is supported by comparative wirelines at **Figures 8.76 to 8.97**. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.3. In order to illustrate the potential cumulative situation, 360 degree cumulative wireframes have also been produced for four of the viewpoint locations, (Viewpoints 2, 7, 10 and 14) illustrating all schemes in the local area which are operational, under construction, consented and the subject of a full planning application. The cumulative wireframes are presented in **Figures 8.99 to 8.102**.
- 1.1.4. A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect during daylight hours for the Proposed Varied Development in comparison with the Consented Development is given in **Table 8.5.1** of this Appendix and is replicated at **Table 8.18** of the LVIA (**Volume 1, Chapter 8**). Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating carried forward to **Table 8.5.1** (replicated at **Table 8.18** of **Chapter 8**) is the rating that represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint.
- 1.1.5. For each assessment viewpoint the magnitude of change and the significance of the effect identified for the Consented Development is stated alongside any change to the effect. The predicted visual effect resulting from the Proposed Varied Development is compared with that of the Consented Development at each viewpoint.
- 1.1.6. Due to the turbine height of the Consented Development, aviation lighting was not required. However, due to the higher turbine height of the Proposed Varied Development, aviation lighting is required. In accordance with NatureScot *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment* (2024), the sensitivity to changes in views is assessed separately at each viewpoint. A summary of the sensitivity rating, magnitude of change and significance of effect during the hours of darkness in relation to the Proposed Varied Development is provided at **Table 8.5.2**, replicated at **Table 8.19** of the LVIA.

Viewpoint 1 – Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.7. This viewpoint is representative of the views from the B729 at Stroanfreggan Bridge, looking west towards the site. Viewpoint 1, as illustrated on **Figure 8.54**, was taken from the road verge at an area of hard standing just off the route, east of Stroanfreggan Bridge.
- 1.1.8. The view to the north-west comprises the near pasture and upland grassland of Stroanfreggan Craig and Round Craigs and the residential property of Stroanpatrick. The Old School House is not visible due to the presence of vegetation, but the outbuilding directly opposite the dwelling is visible beyond Stroanfreggan Bridge which occupies the foreground view. Beyond the higher ground of Stroanfreggan Craig, the coniferous plantation that occupies the site is seen alongside the hill formation of Marscalloch Hill, which is partly forested. The landform of the site and Marscalloch Hill curtail views further west.
- 1.1.9. In successive views to the south of Marscalloch Hill the landscape becomes lower lying which enables views to open up to the Rhinns of Kells which form the backdrop to the view from the road. Dundough Hill is also visible in the far left of the baseline photograph at **Figure 8.54** as a relatively small, rounded hill covered with plantation.
- 1.1.10. In successive views to the north-east, intervening conifer plantation screens views of the existing Wether Hill turbines in the distance.
- 1.1.11. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.12. As the viewpoint represents the view from a minor road used by local residents and tourists/walkers/cyclists, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.13. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.14. From this viewpoint during daylight hours, with reference to the wireline at **Figure 8.54**, the hubs and the upper parts of the towers of four of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible above the horizon, plus the blade tips of an additional two turbines. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 8.54**, one turbine tower and hub would be filtered from view by intervening deciduous trees. The associated ground level infrastructure of the Proposed Varied Development would not be noticeable due the presence of the intervening landform and the plantation within the site.

- 1.1.15. At a distance of c. 2.2 km from the nearest turbine, the Proposed Varied Development would form prominent feature in the view when travelling in a westerly direction along the road. They would occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall view available from the road and would be seen set down in the landscape beyond the near horizon, although it is acknowledged the turbines would appear taller in scale than Marscalloch Hill. The open view towards the Rhinns of Kells would remain as such.
- 1.1.16. With reference to the comparative wireline at **Figure 8.76**, when compared with the Consented Development, the lateral extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar. The vertical extent of the Proposed Varied Development, however, is greater. The increased height of the turbines gives the impression that they are closer to the residential property of Stroanpatrick and the viewpoint.
- 1.1.17. There would be a **high magnitude of change** in the view from the B729 at Stroanfreggan Bridge during daylight hours as a result of the Proposed Varied Development. This is the same as was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.18. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10**, only one to two of the seven nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 8.54**, only the nacelle light of turbine T11 would be visible. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine light would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the light would appear as a faint red dot against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights from isolated properties transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.19. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors using the route throughout the year. This level of effect is therefore deemed to be **significant**. This is the same level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.20. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered not significant due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 2 – Stroanfreggan Craig

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.21. This viewpoint is representative of the views available from Stroanfreggan Craig, a local hill feature of designated heritage importance which forms part of a signposted walk from the B729, located c. 1.4 km from the nearest proposed turbine. The photograph was taken to the north-east of the cairn to enable uninterrupted views towards the site to the west.

- 1.1.22. The viewpoint allows open views across the Water of Ken valley towards the hill shoulder in which the site is located. Smittons Bridge can be seen in the photograph as the B729 passes over the watercourse. The extensive plantation that covers the site is clearly visible, in all of the various stages of crop rotation from mature trees to immature stock and recently felled areas.
- 1.1.23. Beyond the site to the north-west, there are views towards the distinctive hill formations of Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, with longer distance views available to the existing Windy Rig, and Afton wind turbines, and glimpsed distant views of the existing Windy Standard I and II turbines. There are open views available to the south of the viewpoint, looking towards Culmark Hill, and towards the Rhinns of Kells to the south-west. There are also open views to the north towards Round Craigs, whilst the successive view to the east extends towards the existing Wether Hill turbines, set beyond further large scale plantation.
- 1.1.24. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.25. As this viewpoint represents the view from a designated heritage feature and walking route, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.26. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.27. With reference to the left-hand photomontage at **Figure 8.55**, The rounded landform of Marscalloch Hill forms the southern extent of the proposed turbines. The proposed turbines would be clearly visible in direct and open views to the west.
- 1.1.28. The mature tree belt in the immediate view is currently in the process of being felled in stages, which would allow views of the ground level components and the access route within the site, which follows an existing forest track. However, any such views are likely to be relatively short lived in comparison to the lifespan of the Proposed Varied Development due to the establishment and maturity of trees immediately beyond.
- 1.1.29. It is acknowledged that the temporal nature of the plantation within and surrounding the site would alter the nature of the view over the lifetime of the Proposed Varied Development. The restocked forest on the eastern edge of the site will establish to further screen the lower portions of the turbine towers and the associated ground level components. The immature tree planting within the valley bottom will also establish and mature to alter the nature of the river landscape.

- 1.1.30. With reference to the right-hand photomontage at **Figure 8.55**, the northernmost turbine would be located beyond the landform of Craigengillan Hill and thus the lower portions of the turbine towers and associated ancillary development would be screened from view. With reference to the comparative wireline at **Figure 8.77**, the turbines of the Proposed Varied Development generally appear more evenly spaced in this view than those of the Consented Development, in which a single turbine appears as an outlier at the northern extent of the array.
- 1.1.31. Overall, the lateral extent of the Proposed Varied Development is less than that of the Consented Development, however the vertical extent is greater, which gives the impression that the turbines are closer to the viewpoint. At this proximity, during daylight hours, considering the panoramic nature of the view in which the turbines would be seen from this viewpoint, it is considered that there would be a **very high magnitude of change**. This is greater than was predicted for the Consented Development, which identified a high magnitude of change in this location.
- 1.1.32. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10**, and the wirelines at **Figure 8.55**, all six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for lights from scattered properties in other views, and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium to high magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.33. During daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint, which would be **significant**. This is the same as was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.34. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered significant due to the proximity of the viewpoint to the proposed turbines and the lack of existing light sources in this location.

Viewpoint 3 – Guttery Glen (B729)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.35. This viewpoint is representative of the view to the west from the B729 as it passes through Guttery Glen, a localised and enclosed valley north of Blackmark Hill. The viewpoint has been selected to represent the variable visual experience from the B729 as it passes through the landscape local to the site. The viewpoint is located c.3.4 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.36. The view to the north-west and north of the minor road is relatively open with deciduous woodland seen flanking the watercourse that flows through the lowest lying land in the view.

The increasingly distant landform features of Round Craigs, Manquill Hill and Benbrack can be seen to the north-west of the view alongside the distant, distinctive hills of Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn to the west, beyond the northern part of the site. The existing turbines of Windy Rig Wind Farm are visible in the distance to the right-hand side of the view.

- 1.1.37. In successive views to the north and east, scattered trees in the landscape filter views towards the distant rolling landform. Conifer plantation on the horizon to the north-east screens views of the existing Wether Hill turbines.
- 1.1.38. At this location the views to the south and west of the road are curtailed by coniferous plantation along the horizon.
- 1.1.39. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.40. As this viewpoint is representative of a minor road used by local residents, tourists, cyclists and walkers, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.41. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.42. From the B729 at Guttery Glen, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the direct view for a short distance as the route winds through the valley landscape.
- 1.1.43. Although the ZTV at **Figure 8.5** suggests that up to all 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 8.56**, the southernmost four turbines of the Proposed Varied Development (T8 – T11) would be screened beyond an area of coniferous plantation on the eastern slopes of Blackmark Hill. At the northern end of Proposed Varied Development, T2 is filtered from view by an intervening mature deciduous tree. A further area of plantation would screen views of the lower portions of two turbines located within the central core of the site (T6 and T7), whilst the intervening landform would partially screen the lower parts of the remaining four turbines at the northern extent of the array (T1, T3, T4 and T5).
- 1.1.44. It is recognised that there would be parts of seven of the proposed turbines visible from Guttery Glen, however none of the ancillary ground level components of the site would be seen from this location. The turbines would be seen in the same part of the view as Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, but they would be set down in the landscape below the landform feature, and they would not appear greater in scale than the Corbett.

- 1.1.45. With reference to the comparative wireline at **Figure 8.78**, the turbines of the Proposed Varied Development generally appear more evenly spaced in this view than those of the Consented Development, in which a single turbine appears as an outlier at the northern extent of the array and stacking occurs between the next two turbines.
- 1.1.46. Overall, the lateral extent of the Proposed Varied Development is slightly less than that of the Consented Development, however the vertical extent is slightly greater. At this proximity, during daylight hours, due to the direct angle of view towards the Proposed Varied Development from this viewpoint, it is considered that there would be a **high magnitude of change**. This is the same as predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.47. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10**, and the wireline at **Figure 8.56**, up to all six nacelle lights would be theoretically visible from this location. However, with reference to the photomontage, the nacelle lights of T11 would be screened beyond coniferous plantation. The nacelle lights of T1, T6 and T7, would appear against the sky, whilst T4 and T5 would appear against the backdrop of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner.
- 1.1.48. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as relatively faint red dots. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.49. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors using the route throughout the year. This level of effect is therefore deemed to be significant. This is the same level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.50. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 4 – Smittons Bridge (B729)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.51. This viewpoint is representative of views available from the B729 as one approaches Smittons Bridge from the east. The view has been chosen to illustrate the likely views experienced as receptors travel in a westerly direction in close proximity to the site from Moniaivie to Carsphairn. The nearest turbine is located c. 1.2 km from the viewpoint. The photograph has been taken from the start of a signposted walking route to Stroanfreggan Craig Fort, opposite a layby and thus is a likely place for people to stop.

- 1.1.52. Smittons Bridge, which passes over the Water of Ken, is located on the eastern boundary of the Proposed Varied Development site. To the north of the bridge, along the western bank of the Water of Ken, outside of the site boundary, a recently planted area of deciduous trees and shrubs is visible in the middle distance. There are filtered views available through the young deciduous trees to recently felled and replanted areas of coniferous plantation within the site. Mature areas of conifer plantation are visible on the hilltop towards the centre of the site, whilst the landform of Beninner is visible in the distance.
- 1.1.53. The young deciduous trees on the western bank of the Water of Ken in the middle-distance screen distant views of existing wind turbines at Windy Rig and Afton wind farms. It should be noted that immature tree planting present both within the valley and the within the site will eventually mature to partially screen views in a westerly direction.
- 1.1.54. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.55. As the viewpoint represents the view from a minor road used by local residents and tourists/walkers/cyclists, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.56. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.57. The ZTV at **Figure 8.5** suggests that up to all 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, however, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 8.57**, views of the northernmost turbines (T1 – T4) would be reduced due to the filtering effect of intervening trees. The lower parts of the westernmost turbines (including T5, T6 and T8) would also be partially screened or filtered from view.
- 1.1.58. When the intervening trees have matured, it is anticipated that the five northernmost turbines (T1 - T5) would be obscured from view, but the hubs of at least the four closest turbines of the remaining six (T7, T9, T10 and T11) would still be visible above the tree canopy, back clothed against the sky. The moving blades tips of the other remaining turbines (T6 and T8) would also be visible above the tree line.
- 1.1.59. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.79**, the lateral extent of the Proposed Varied Development is slightly less than that of the Consented Development, however the vertical extent is slightly greater.
- 1.1.60. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines that are seen from the viewpoint would be perceived to be large in scale due to their visibility above the plantation and distant landform.

There would therefore be a **high magnitude of change** to the view during daylight hours. This is an increase from Consented Development, which indicated a medium to high magnitude due to the comparatively lower height of the turbines.

- 1.1.61. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. However, with reference to the wireline at **Figure 8.57**, the light of turbine T4 would be filtered from view by intervening deciduous trees. The filtering effect would increase over time as the trees mature, potentially also screening the nacelle lights of T1 and T5. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for lights from the isolated property of Smitton to the south of Smittons Bridge, and from transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.62. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors using the route throughout the year. This level of effect is therefore deemed to be significant. This is a higher level of effect than was predicted for the Consented Development due to the comparative height of the turbines and their increased level of visibility above the tree line, largely due to recent tree felling.
- 1.1.63. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 5 – Stroanfreggan Cairn

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.64. This viewpoint is representative of the view available in a north westerly direction from Stroanfreggan Cairn towards Stroanfreggan Craig Fort and the site. Stroanfreggan Cairn is located just east of the Southern Upland Way, the route of which can be seen passing west to east through the centre of the baseline photograph along the access track to Culmark. The viewpoint is located c.2.0 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.65. The viewpoint is located on lower lying rough pasture near to tributaries that flow into the Water of Ken. The Cairn is a known feature of local heritage importance and can be accessed by members of the public.
- 1.1.66. The view towards the site in the north-west features two drumlins alongside Stroanfreggan Craig Fort which is seen beyond the closest drumlin to the viewpoint. The plantation that covers the site, in its varied stages of growth, forms the middle-distance view and horizon

with the rounded summit of Marscalloch Hill also clearly visible a landform feature. In the far distance of the view to the north is Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Benniner.

- 1.1.67. In successive views, the Rhinns of Kells is visible in the distance to the south-west. Existing turbines within the operational Wether Hill wind farm are visible above conifer plantation to the north-east.
- 1.1.68. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is representative of views from a local feature of heritage importance just off the Southern Upland Way. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium-high.
- 1.1.69. Walkers on the Southern Upland Way and visitors to the scheduled monument are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.70. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.71. From this viewpoint location, open views are available in the direction of the Proposed Varied Development. The ZTV suggests that there would be visibility of up to all 11 of the proposed turbines; however, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 8.58**, views of the lower parts of most turbine towers, particularly the northernmost turbines (T1 – T4) would be reduced due to screening by intervening landform. Intervening coniferous forest plantation provides additional screening of the lower parts of turbine towers, however areas of planting currently in the process of being felled. This would increase visibility of ground level components, including the BESS, but recent tree planting within the site would gradually reduce visibility over time.
- 1.1.72. It is acknowledged that five of the proposed turbines would be seen in the same part of the view as Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and that four of the turbines would break the horizon formed by the hill mass. However, the arrangement of the turbines is such that there would be a high degree of visual permeability beyond the turbines towards the hill formation, and its overall distinctive landform can still be appreciated.
- 1.1.73. Across the site as a whole the proposed turbines appear relatively evenly spaced, allowing visual permeability through the wind farm aside from a small cluster to the right of the view to the north of the site. There is less stacking at the centre of the view than was apparent in relation to the Consented Development.
- 1.1.74. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.80**, the Proposed Varied Development occupies a similar horizontal field of view as the Consented Development, however the vertical field of view is slightly greater.

- 1.1.75. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines that are seen from the viewpoint would be perceived to be large in scale due to their visibility above the plantation and distant landform. There would therefore be a **high magnitude of change** to the view during daylight hours, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.76. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation at **Figure 8.58**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky or the distant landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for lights from an isolated property, and from transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.77. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the view to the north-west from Stroanfreggan Cairn. This level of effect is therefore deemed to be significant. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.78. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 6 – Head of Ken Valley

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.79. This viewpoint is representative of the view experienced when travelling south along Lorg Road from the Head of Ken valley picnic site and car park. This location was chosen as the view from the picnic site and car park itself is restricted by landform and vegetation. The view of the site begins to open when travelling south towards the dwelling Craigythorn, which can be seen as the white rendered property in the near view at **Figure 8.59**. The photograph was taken from an appropriate passing place on the road. The viewpoint is located c.3.9 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.80. The viewpoint is located within the low-lying valley. The views to the east and west are constrained by the valley slopes. The eastern slopes are heavily forested whilst the eastern slopes are partly forested with areas that appear recently felled and thus could be replanted in future years.
- 1.1.81. The primary focus of the view is along the valley to the south towards the distant ridge of the Rhinns of Kells.

- 1.1.82. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.83. As this viewpoint is representative of the views of local residents as they access their properties and walkers/cyclists/tourists using the route for leisure purposes, the viewpoint is considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.84. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.85. From this viewpoint location, open views are available in the direction of the Proposed Varied Development. The ZTV suggests that there would be visibility of up to all 11 of the proposed turbines; however, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 8.59**, views of the lower parts of most turbine towers screened by intervening landform. The turbines within the northern part of the site located beyond the near horizon and thus the lower parts of these turbines would not be seen. It is anticipated that the ground level components within the site would be screened from view by intervening vegetation within and adjacent to the site.
- 1.1.86. From this viewpoint location, the proposed turbines would break the skyline formed by Marscalloch Hill, but they would not be seen in the same part of the view as the distant Rhinns of Kells. The turbines would also appear set down in the valley landscape and would not greatly alter the perceived scale of the immediate river valley.
- 1.1.87. The proposed turbines would be seen in the context of the working valley landscape that is characterised by commercial forestry. It is acknowledged that there would be a degree of stacking of turbine blades within the array (between T7 and T11), although there is better spacing than the Consented Development at the right-hand side of the view above the near horizon. There is already a presence of turbines within the valley as the existing Windy Standard turbines are visible to a limited degree in the view to the north-west. They would appear in a separate part of the view from the Proposed Varied Development.
- 1.1.88. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.81**, both the horizontal and vertical fields of view of the Proposed Varied Development appear slightly greater than those of the Consented Development from this viewpoint.
- 1.1.89. Overall, it is considered that the addition of the proposed turbines to the view to the south would result in a **medium to high magnitude of change** in the view during daylight hours, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.90. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation at **Figure 8.59**, four of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location

(T4, T6, T7 and T11), with the nacelle lights of T1 and T5 screened by intervening landform. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for lights from an isolated property, and from occasional transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.91. It is considered that during the hours of daylight there would be a medium to high magnitude of change, resulting in a **moderate to major** level of effect that is deemed **significant**. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.92. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 7 – Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.93. This viewpoint is representative of the views from the summit of Culmark Hill, just off the route of the Southern Upland Way. The summit of the hill has been selected as the viewpoint location over the route of the long-distance path as the hill summit provides a slightly higher panorama. The viewpoint is located c.3.6 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.94. The view from Culmark Hill is expansive with long distance views available in all directions, particularly across the lower lying Upper Glenkens Valley to the south-west allowing views to the Rhinns of Kells. It is noted that other commercial wind energy is visible in various directions of view; Windy Standard to the north, Wether Hill to the north-east and Blackcraig to south-east. All of these existing wind farms are located at relative distance from Culmark Hill, located beyond the near horizon.
- 1.1.95. The view from the summit of the hill towards the site in the north-west comprises the lower lying pasture and low and mid slope rough grazing. The forested mid and upper hill slopes form a visual patchwork due to the various stages of planting, particularly within the site where there is young tree stock alongside recently felled areas.
- 1.1.96. The distant horizon in the direction of the site is formed by the notable hill formations of Cairnmore of Carsphairn and Beninner, alongside other rounded hills within the Southern Uplands. Existing turbines at Windy Standard II, Windy Rig and Afton wind farms are visible in the distance.

- 1.1.97. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is representative of views from a local high point just off the Southern Upland Way. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium-high.
- 1.1.98. As this viewpoint is located on a local hill summit adjacent to the Southern Upland Way, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.99. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.100. With reference to the ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation at **Figure 8.60**, from this viewpoint atop Culmark Hill it would be possible to see all of the proposed turbines, at a distance of c. 3.6 km to the nearest turbine. It is also anticipated that some of ground level components, including the BESS would be visible where plantation trees have been felled. It should be noted that the young plantation within the site will establish and mature to provide further screening to the lower parts of the turbines located on the eastern flank of the site.
- 1.1.101. The proposed turbines would be clearly visible in the wider view available from the summit and the rotation of the blades would draw attention to an area which includes existing wind turbine development, although this would not greatly detract from the appreciation of the wider panoramic views available.
- 1.1.102. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Varied Development would be located in the same part of the view as Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner, but they would be set down in the landscape and would not break the horizon formed by the hill massif. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the same part of the view as the existing Windy Standard turbines, and associated extension, but would form a clearly separate development.
- 1.1.103. It is also acknowledged that there would be some stacking of turbines within the array (between T5 and T7). However, with reference to the comparative wireline at **Figure 8.28**, the spacing of the turbines within the Proposed Varied Development is a general improvement upon the Consented Development which also included stacking in two locations, including four turbines in one part of the view. In addition, the Consented Development also included a turbine to the right-hand side of the view, which appeared separate from the main group. The Proposed Varied Development occupies a smaller horizontal field of view, although the vertical field of view is greater.
- 1.1.104. From this viewpoint, although the Proposed Varied Development displays better visual permeability through the wind farm to Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, it is considered that there would be a **high magnitude of change** in the view during daylight hours, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.

- 1.1.105. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation at **Figure 8.60**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as relatively faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky or the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for from distant isolated properties, or from occasional transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.106. It is considered that during the hours of daylight the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the visual amenity experienced by people visiting the hill summit, and those that are passing along the route of the Southern Upland Way. This effect is deemed to be significant. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.107. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 8 – Minor Road South of B729

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.108. This viewpoint is representative of the visual experience gained from the minor road to Fingland Moss from the B729, east of the site. The minor road is also a designated cycle route. The viewpoint is located c. 6.4 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.109. The single-track road passes over an expansive area of upland grassland grazed by cattle and sheep. Large areas of coniferous plantation also characterise the landscape at this location. The visual experienced is varied due to the intermittent enclosure provided by the interlocking rounded hills in which the route winds its way through.
- 1.1.110. To viewpoint is taken from a passing place on the road, south of the junction with the B729 as the road begins to pass over higher ground. The distinctive landform of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn is visible in the direction of the site to the north-west. In successive views, the existing Wether Hill turbines and associated met mast are visible to the north.
- 1.1.111. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.112. The susceptibility to change in the view of receptors using the road for recreational purposes (cycling/walking), and residents using the route to access the various farmsteads located

along the road is considered to be high. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.

- 1.1.113. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is lower. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.114. From this viewpoint location, the Proposed Varied Development would form a very minor additional element in the landscape at a distance of c. 6.4 km as shown at **Figure 8.61**.
- 1.1.115. As illustrated by the ZTV at **Figure 8.5**, there would be intermittent and variable visibility of the proposed turbines along the route as a whole. From the viewpoint, as illustrated in **Figure 8.61**, the hubs and blades of four turbines (T1 – T4) and the blade tips of a further turbine (T5) would be theoretically visible, however, intervening forestry trees would provide further screening of the hubs of T3 and T4. None of the ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development would be visible from this location.
- 1.1.116. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.83**, the horizontal fields of view of the Proposed Varied Development would appear slightly wider than that of the Consented Development from this viewpoint. However, as with the Consented Development, as illustrated in the comparative wireline, the turbines would be seen set down in the valley created by the interlocking hills, below the horizon created by Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. The turbines would not detract from the scale of the notable hill formation.
- 1.1.117. When considering the existing nature of the view, the screening effect of intervening landform and the distance from the site, the addition of the proposed turbines in the view would result in a **low magnitude of change** from this location during daylight hours, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.118. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.61**, two of the six nacelle lights would potentially be visible from this location (T1 and T4), however the landform would theoretically screen the nacelle light of T5. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively high level of lighting intensity, so if visible above the trees the lights would appear relatively bright against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for occasional transient lights of road users. This would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.119. It is considered that during the hours of daylight the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor level of effect** on the visual amenity of those travelling on the

minor road at this location. This effect is not deemed to be significant. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.

- 1.1.120. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 9 – High Bridge of Ken (B7000)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.121. This viewpoint is taken from the High Bridge of Ken on the B7000 on the northern approach to the site, south of the junction with the B729. The viewpoint is located c.2.0 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.122. The viewpoint was chosen to represent views at relatively close proximity to the site from the B7000, which is a well-used local route. The ZTV to blade tip at **Figure 8.5** suggests that there is visibility of all of the 11 proposed turbines, hence its inclusion as a viewpoint.
- 1.1.123. The view from the road as one approaches the bridge is focussed on the Water of Ken and its associated valley, which is well treed. Beyond the immediate valley, the landform rises to the north, and it is characterised by dense coniferous plantation.
- 1.1.124. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.125. As this viewpoint is representative of views from a secondary road, receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change in the view. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.126. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.127. With reference to the visualisation at **Figure 8.62**, the Proposed Varied Development would not be visible from this viewpoint due to the presence of the dense plantation and other trees in the foreground view. The site is set on the hillside beyond the immediate valley, and this results in the complete screening of the turbines.
- 1.1.128. It is recognised that the plantation located between the viewpoint and the site is likely to be felled during the lifetime of the Proposed Varied Development. However, it is unlikely to be felled all at once and the deciduous trees in the valley floor to the foreground would remain.

- 1.1.129. It is considered that during daylight hours or during the hours of darkness there would be **no change** to the view from the High Bridge of Ken. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.130. During daylight hours or during the hours of darkness there would be **no effect** on the viewpoint. This is equal to that was predicted for the Consented Development.

Viewpoint 10 – Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.131. This viewpoint has been taken from the Southern Upland Way as it passes the summit of Benbrack in close proximity to the Striding Arch sculpture at a distance of c. 5.5 km to the north-east of the nearest proposed turbine.
- 1.1.132. The view from Benbrack is panoramic and includes long distance views towards the Rhinns of Kells to the south-west. There are also longer distance views to the south and south-east. Views of the wider Southern Uplands to the north are limited by the nature of the upland landform. Within the 90 degree angle of view towards the site in the south-west there are existing wind turbines visible at Torrs Hill, whilst Windy Standard III is visible to the right-hand side of the view. Further to the right, existing turbines are visible at Windy Rig, and Windy Standard I and II Wind Farms.
- 1.1.133. The site appears in the near view from the summit as one looks directly over the Water of Ken valley. The site appears as a forested hill shoulder, the various stages of planting and felling are clearly visible as a patchwork of texture and colour. The notable hill formations of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner are seen to the north of the site. The Rhinns of Kells are seen at notable distance beyond the site.
- 1.1.134. In successive views to the north-west, existing wind turbines are visible at Afton Wind Farm, whilst turbines at Sanquhar II, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension and Whiteside Hill are visible to the north. Existing wind turbines at Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill are visible in successive views to the south.
- 1.1.135. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is representative of views from a known hill summit on the Southern Upland Way on which there is also a Striding arch sculpture. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium-high.
- 1.1.136. The susceptibility to change in the view of receptors walking along the Southern Upland Way is considered to be high. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.

- 1.1.137. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.138. As seen in the visualisation shown on **Figure 8.63**, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the middle-distance view within the context of the coniferous plantation that occupies the landscape to the south-west and west of Benbrack. The turbine hubs and blades of all of the 11 proposed turbines would be visible in the view. The ground level components associated with the easternmost turbines and the BESS near the centre of the site would also be visible until the recently restocked plantation begins to mature. The ground level components within the northern part of the site would be screened by the landform Craigengillan Hill.
- 1.1.139. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the view to the south of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner, set down in the landscape below the far horizon of the Rhinns of Kells. Views towards the Galloway Hills LLA would not be interrupted by the turbines. The Proposed Varied Development would occupy a small part of a much wider view and would be seen in combination with the existing Windy Standard turbines in view to the west.
- 1.1.140. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.85**, both the horizontal and vertical fields of view of the Proposed Varied Development and the Consented Development would appear similar from this viewpoint.
- 1.1.141. From this viewpoint there would be a **medium to high magnitude of change** in the view, during daylight hours, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.142. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation at **Figure 8.63**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the elevation of the viewpoint above the turbine lights would result in a high level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear brightly lit against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. At a relative proximity of under 6 km, this is anticipated to result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.143. From the Southern Upland Way at Benbrack, and from the nearby Striding Arch, the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the landscape to the south-west would give rise to a **moderate to major** level of effect on the views experienced by receptors at the hill summit during daylight hours. This effect is deemed to be **significant**. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.

- 1.1.144. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered not significant due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 11 – B7000 north of East Ardarroch

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.145. This viewpoint is representative of the view available from the B7000 as one travels northbound towards the B729. The viewpoint is located on the roadside verge on the brow of a hill to the north of the farmstead named East Ardarroch. The viewpoint is located c.2.9 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.146. The road travels along the eastern side of the Water of Ken and Kendoon Loch on higher ground above the valley, allowing long distance views towards Carsphairn to the north-west. The view to the north is typified by the upland landscape with Cairnsmore of Carsphairn visible beyond the conical Marscalloch Hill in the near view.
- 1.1.147. As can be seen in the baseline photograph at **Figure 8.64**, in the view towards the site in the north, the foreground pastoral landscape gives way to dense coniferous plantation as the landform rises to Marscalloch Hill, which forms the southern limit of the site. Plantation can also be seen on the mid slopes of the Southern Uplands in the far view to the north. Existing turbines at Afton Wind Farm are partially screened by conifer plantation on the horizon beyond the site. Existing turbines can also be seen in the distance at Benbrack Wind Farm in the north-west and at Sanquhar II Wind Farm in the north-east.
- 1.1.148. Existing wind turbines at Wether Hill Wind Farm are screened in successive views to the north-east by intervening conifer plantation, however, there are successive views available of turbines at Torrs Hill in the south-west.
- 1.1.149. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.
- 1.1.150. As this viewpoint is representative of views from the B7000, which is used for tourism purposes, forming part of the National Byway and providing access to the Southern Upland Way, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change in the view. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.151. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.152. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen at a distance of c. 2.9 km from the viewpoint location on the B7000. They would form notable features in the view beyond and

to the east of Marscalloch Hill. The southernmost turbines (T9 and T11) would appear the most noticeable features of the Proposed Varied Development with a large part of their towers visible above the plantation. The turbines located further north within the site will benefit from a greater degree of topographical screening, with turbines T3 and T5 appearing as blade tips above the eastern slope of Marscalloch Hill.

- 1.1.153. The ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development would generally be screened by intervening plantation or landform, but where tree felling has occurred around the bases of the turbines at the southern end of the site glimpses be visible from the road.
- 1.1.154. The Proposed Varied Development would generally appear set down in the landscape to the east of views towards Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, which falls within the Galloway Hills LLA, with only the southernmost turbines appearing on the horizon. Views towards the LLA from this location would not be interrupted by the presence of turbines.
- 1.1.155. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.86**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater.
- 1.1.156. It is assessed that from this viewpoint there would be a **high magnitude of change** during daylight hours as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Varied Development to the landscape, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.157. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.64**, all six nacelle lights would be theoretically visible from this location. However, with reference to the photomontage, the nacelle light of T5 would be screened by plantation on the horizon, and as trees grow and mature the nacelle light of T1 would also potentially be screened over time. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint below the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear as relatively faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.158. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would give rise to a **major** visual effect that is **significant** due the distance from the proposed turbines. This is higher than the level of effect that was recorded for the Consented Development as the sensitivity of receptors in this location has been upgraded from medium to high.
- 1.1.159. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered not significant due to the lower sensitivity of receptors.

Viewpoint 12 – Dundegh Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.160. This viewpoint is taken from a location on the northern side of Dundegh Hill, near to the summit, where there is a relatively open aspect towards the site. The viewpoint is located off the core path that traverses the Hill as from the footpath itself views to the north of screened by coniferous trees. There are also limited views in the direction of the site from the hill summit due to the presence of trees. The viewpoint is located c.2.6 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.161. The view towards the site in the in the north looks directly towards the southern face of Marscalloch Hill, over Kendoon Loch. The notable hills of Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn can be seen in the north-west of the view, with the wider Southern Uplands visible to the north-east.
- 1.1.162. Overall, the view to the north is relatively simple in nature, with large areas of coniferous plantation and upland grassland. Existing wind turbines are visible in the distance at Windy Rig, Sanquhar II and Wether Hill Wind Farms. Benbrack Wind Farm is visible in sequential views to the north-west. Views to the west and south are restricted by mature conifer plantation on the higher slopes of Dundegh Hill.
- 1.1.163. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.164. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be medium as it is located off the primary footpath network within the forest, so walkers are unlikely to regularly visit the viewpoint location. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.165. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is located outside of the Galloway International Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. The viewpoint is therefore also considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.166. The view from this localised point on Dundegh Hill the Proposed Varied Development would be partially visible in the direct view to the north. The turbines would be located beyond the near horizon created by Marscalloch Hill and as such the northernmost turbines would not be visible, and the ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development would also not be visible.
- 1.1.167. As illustrated in the photomontage at **Figure 8.65**, the southernmost turbines (T9 – T11), would appear most prominently above the landform of Marscalloch Hill, and would be relatively evenly spaced. The lower parts of turbines T7 and T8 would be largely screened by a combination of the intervening landform and conifer plantation on the horizon. The

remaining six northernmost turbines (T1 – T6) are anticipated to be screened from view by Marscalloch Hill and the conifer plantation that covers it, except for potentially the very tips of turbine blades.

- 1.1.168. Turbines T9 – T11 would form notable features in the landscape to the north of Dundegh Hill but T7 and T8 would appear set down in the landscape at a similar elevation to Beninner and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, which appear separate from the horizon formed by Marscalloch Hill. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen located to the east of the two hill formations rather than in the foreground.
- 1.1.169. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.87**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater.
- 1.1.170. It is assessed that from this viewpoint there would be a **medium to high magnitude of change** during daylight hours as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Varied Development to the landscape, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development. However, as was previously noted, the Proposed Varied Development would not be visible from the summit of Dundegh Hill due to the presence of intervening conifer trees.
- 1.1.171. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.65**, only two of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location (T7 and T11). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint below the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear as relatively faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.172. During daylight hours there would be a **moderate to major** visual effect experienced from the viewpoint location on Dundegh Hill, which is **significant**. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.173. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered significant due to the proximity of the turbines.

Viewpoint 13 - Beninner

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.174. This viewpoint has been taken from the summit of Beninner, a notable landform feature located to the east of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. The viewpoint is located to the north-west of the site at a distance of c. 2.0 km.

- 1.1.175. The view from the summit of Beninner is vast and features the patchwork forested landscape to the east and south-east in which the site is located. The existing wind farms of Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill are visible in the same angle of the view as the site. There are also turbines of Windy Standard visible to the north of Beninner, at close proximity to the hill.
- 1.1.176. Existing wind energy development at Windy Rig, Windy Standard I, II & III, Afton, South Kyle, Enoch Hill, Pencloe, Hare Hill, Hare Hill Extension, Sanquhar II and Whiteside Hill wind farms is visible in panoramic sequential views to the north-west, north and north-east.
- 1.1.177. Beninner is located within The Galloway Hills LLA and thus the viewpoint represents the nature of views from the north-eastern fringes of the designated landscape at its closest point to the site.
- 1.1.178. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.179. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be high as it is located on a hill summit, so walkers are likely to visit the viewpoint location to experience long-distance views. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.180. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is located outside of the Galloway International Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.181. From the summit of Beninner the lateral extent of the Proposed Varied Development would be visible above the landform as shown on the photomontage at **Figure 8.66**. The broad plateau of the hill restricts views into the valley below. As such, the lower parts of the northernmost turbines would be screened from view, particularly T1, T3 and T5, which would only be visible as blades. The towers of T2, T4, T6 and T7 would also be largely screened by intervening landform. The ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development, including the BESS would be screened by landform.
- 1.1.182. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Varied Development would be clearly visible from the mid and upper slopes of Beninner, and as one reaches the ridgeline at the top, but it would be relatively well screened from the summit.
- 1.1.183. From the mid and upper slopes of Beninner, the Proposed Varied Development would form a notable cluster of vertical elements in the near view to the south-east. They would appear as a separate cluster of turbines to Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill. The ground level components of the Development are unlikely to form notable features in comparison with the turbines.

- 1.1.184. From this viewpoint location it is assessed that there would be a **medium magnitude of change** in the view during daylight hours, which is slightly greater than was predicted for the Consented Development due to the increased height of the turbines. As in the assessment for the Consented Development, from the mid and upper slopes of Beninner there would be a **high magnitude of change** in the view as a result of the Proposed Varied Development.
- 1.1.185. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.66**, five of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location (T1, T4, T6, T7 and T11). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint above the turbine lights would result in a high level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear brightly lit against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.186. During daylight hours it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views as seen from mid to upper slopes of Beninner, which is **significant**. This is greater than the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.187. From the summit of Beninner, set back from the ridgeline, there would be a **moderate** effect which is considered **significant** due to the proximity and scale of the turbines. This is a slightly greater effect than was predicted for the Consented Development due to the increased height of the turbines.
- 1.1.188. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant** due to the proximity of the turbines and the intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 14 – Cairnsmore of Carsphairn

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.189. This viewpoint is representative of the views from the summit of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, a notable Corbett located within the Galloway Hills LLA. The viewpoint is located c. 3.4 km to the north-west of the site.
- 1.1.190. The viewpoint is located between the trig point and cairn on the boulder-strewn summit of the Corbett. From the summit the view is panoramic across the Southern Uplands, the Water of Ken valley and the Galloway Hills. There are numerous existing wind farms visible from the summit, including Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill in the same direction of view as the site in the south-east.

- 1.1.191. Existing wind energy development at Windy Rig, Windy Standard I, II & III, Afton, South Kyle, Enoch Hill, Pencloe, Hare Hill, Hare Hill Extension, Sanquhar II and Whiteside Hill wind farms is visible in panoramic sequential views to the north-west, north and north-east.
- 1.1.192. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.193. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be high as it is located on a notable hill summit, so walkers are likely to visit the viewpoint location to experience long-distance views. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.194. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is located outside of the Galloway International Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.195. The ZTV at **Figure 8.5** suggests that up to all 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible from the viewpoint location. However, as can be seen in the wireline at **Figure 8.67**, those within the northern part of the site would be almost entirely screened by landform with only six turbines within the central and southern parts of the site (T6 – T11) visible to the south-east of the viewpoint. Only the blade tips of a further three turbines (T2, T4 and T5) would also potentially appear above the intervening landform.
- 1.1.196. The upper parts of turbines T6 – T11 would be seen above the landform against a backdrop of the partially forested lower lying landscape, below the rounded hill summits of the Southern Uplands. The ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development, including the BESS would be screened by landform.
- 1.1.197. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen as a distinctly separate wind farm to those of Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill which can also be seen to the south-east.
- 1.1.198. During daylight hours the turbines will form a notable feature in the view due to their distance from the Corbett, but they would not prevent an appreciation of the wider landscape that can be seen from Cairnsmore of Carsphairn.
- 1.1.199. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.89**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines.
- 1.1.200. It is assessed that from this viewpoint there would be a **medium magnitude of change** during daylight hours as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Varied Development to the landscape, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.

- 1.1.201. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.67**, three of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location (T6, T7 and T11). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint above the turbine lights would result in a high level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear brightly lit against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.202. During daylight hours it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would result in **moderate** level of effect on the views from the summit of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, which is considered significant due to the proximity and scale of the turbines. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.203. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant** due to the proximity of the turbines and the intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 15 – Craig of Knockgray

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.204. This viewpoint is representative of the views from the summit of Craig of Knockgray (383 m AOD), a notable peak located within the northernmost section of the Galloway Hills LLA, to the north of Carsphairn. The viewpoint is located 4.7 km to the west of the site.
- 1.1.205. The viewpoint is located on the summit of the hill from where there are panoramic views across the Glenkens, including the Water of Deugh valley to the south and the Rhinns of Kells to the south-west. To the north-west, the massif which includes Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner, rises prominently in the foreground. The view towards the site in the east extends across lower-lying hillslopes, scattered with small-scale conifer plantations, towards higher ground in the distance covered with larger conifer plantations.
- 1.1.206. There are existing wind farms visible from the summit, including Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill in the direction of the site in the east and south-east. Windy Standard II and III, Benbrack and South Kyle wind farms are visible in sequential views to the north, whilst wind turbines at Torrs Hill are visible to the south-west.
- 1.1.207. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.208. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be high as it is located on a hill summit, so walkers are likely to visit the viewpoint location to experience

long-distance views. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.

- 1.1.209. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is located outside of the Galloway International Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.210. The visualisation at **Figure 8.68**, illustrates that all 11 proposed turbines would be visible in the middle distance of view to the east. However, the tower and hub of turbine T1 would be screened by the intervening landform of Quantans Hill.
- 1.1.211. The turbines would be seen in the context of the broad open landscape, within an area of plantation forest. Beyond the turbines, the land rises up towards Wether Hill, where the existing turbines would appear in the distance above the horizon. The turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would also appear above the distant horizon.
- 1.1.212. The turbines will form notable features in the view due to their relatively close proximity to the viewpoint, but in the context of their broad open upland landscape context, would not prevent an appreciation of the wider landscape that can be seen from Craig of Knockgray.
- 1.1.213. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.90**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines.
- 1.1.214. During daylight hours there would be a **high magnitude of change** in the view from this location, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.215. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.68**, five of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location (T4, T5, T6, T7 and T11). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint in relation to the turbine lights would result in a moderate level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear as small red dots against the backdrop of the landform or the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.216. It is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would result in **major** level of effect on the views from the summit of Craig of Knockgray, which is **significant**. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.

- 1.1.217. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant** due to the relative proximity of the turbines and intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 16 – Alhang

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.218. This viewpoint is representative of the views from the summit of Alhang, located c. 5.4 km to the north of the site. The view south from Alhang looks directly along the Water of Ken valley with the site located on valley slopes to the immediate west of the watercourse as seen in the photograph at **Figure 8.69**.
- 1.1.219. The conical summit of Marscalloch Hill is seen in the middle of the view, below, and separate to, the notable hill formation of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. Marscalloch Hill can be seen clothed in coniferous forest at its various stages of rotation. To the right of the view existing turbines at Windy Rig Wind Farm can be seen at relative proximity, whilst to the left of the view Blackcraig Hill Wind Farm lies on the distant horizon. Wether Hill Wind Farm lies beyond the left of the view in the distance to the south-east.
- 1.1.220. Long distance panoramic views are available from Alhang. The Galloway Hills are seen at distance to the south; the Rhinns of Kells form the far horizon. The lower lying valley of Nithsdale can be seen to the north with wind energy development extending across the valley. Windy Standard I, II & III, South Kyle, Enoch Hill, Pencloe and Afton Wind Farms are visible to the north-west, Sanquhar II Wind Farm is visible at relative proximity to the north, with Hare Hill Wind Farm, its extension and Whiteside Hill Wind Farm beyond.
- 1.1.221. The rounded hills of the Southern Uplands are seen to the east and west of the site, where existing wind farms can be seen at close proximity; namely Windy Standard and extension and Windy Rig. The wind farms of Wether Hill and Blackcraig Hill can also be seen at distance to the south-east.
- 1.1.222. The viewpoint is located within the Uplands and Moorlands LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.223. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be high as it is located on a hill summit, so walkers are likely to visit the viewpoint location to experience long-distance views. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.224. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.225. With reference to the visualisation presented at **Figure 8.69** the Proposed Varied Development would be visible from the summit of Alhang with all of the proposed turbines visible due to the angle of view directly south across the site.
- 1.1.226. The turbines would be arranged in a formation sympathetic to the conical nature of Marscalloch Hill. The turbines would be located within the afforested landscape below the hill summit. The turbines would appear back clothed by the landform, and they would not interrupt views towards the distant Rhinns of Kells.
- 1.1.227. The Proposed Varied Development would also appear as a distinctly separate wind farm within the wider landscape within the same angle of view as the existing Blackcraig Hill development.
- 1.1.228. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.91**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.
- 1.1.229. From this viewpoint, during daylight hours, there will be a **medium magnitude of change** in the view, which is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.230. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.69**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint above the turbine lights would result in a high level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear as small, though brightly lit red lights against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.231. During daylight hours, from the summit of Alhang there will be a **moderate** level of effect experienced by receptors who walk to the summit. This effect is deemed significant due to the relative proximity and scale of the turbines. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.232. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant** due to the relative proximity of the turbines and the intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 17 – Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.233. This viewpoint is located on the Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill, north-west of St John's Town of Dalry. The view is wide reaching across the Glenkens towards Cairnsmore of Carsphairn in the distant view. The viewpoint is located c.10.2 km to the south of the site.
- 1.1.234. The middle of the view is formed by the Water of Ken valley at Earlstoun Loch. The valley features mixed and deciduous woodland within a pastoral landscape. A line of overhead pylons can be seen passing through the valley and over a local hill towards Kendoon Power Station, the tower of which is also visible in the view.
- 1.1.235. Beyond the valley, the smaller hill formations of Dundegh Hill and Marscalloch Hill are visible. Both hills are blanketed in coniferous plantation, and the telecommunications mast on Dundegh Hill is also visible. Beyond these middle-distance hills, the higher land formations of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, Beninner and Craig of Knockgray can be seen and these form the distant horizon. Existing wind energy development is visible on the distant horizon on either side and below the notable hill masses of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. Wind turbines at Benbrack, South Kyle and Windy Standard III wind farms are visible on the horizon at the left of the view, to the west of the hill masses, whilst Windy Standard I, Windy Rig, Afton, Sanquhar II and Wether Hill wind farms extend to the right of the view, to the west side of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn.
- 1.1.236. Broadscale, sweeping panoramic views are available from this location over the Water of Ken valley to the south and the upland ridge of the Rhinns of Kells in the west. Existing turbines at Blackcraig Hill Wind Farm are visible on the horizon in successive views to the east.
- 1.1.237. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.238. The susceptibility to change of receptors at this location is considered to be high as it is located on a long-distance footpath, which is well-used by walkers. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.239. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located outside of the Galloway Forest Dark Skies Park, the susceptibility is considered to be medium. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.240. The visualisation at **Figure 8.70** shows that the Proposed Varied Development would be located beyond Marscalloch Hill, set down in the landscape below the distant horizon formed by the notable hill masses of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner beyond. The proposed turbines would be located within the same part of the view as the operational turbines at Windy Rig and Afton wind farms.
- 1.1.241. It is noted that there would be some stacking of the turbine blades of T1 and T6 as seen from this location, but the turbines would be seen at a distance of over 10 km and as such they

would form relatively small features in the much wider panorama available from Waterside Hill.

- 1.1.242. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the context of other existing man-made features in the landscape, such as the overhead pylons, power station tower, and other wind turbines.
- 1.1.243. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.92**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.
- 1.1.244. During daylight hours, there would be a **low to medium magnitude of change** in the view, from the Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.245. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.70**, all six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint in relation to the turbine lights would result in a moderate level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear as small red dots against the backdrop of the landform or the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. This would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.246. During daylight hours there would be a **moderate/minor to moderate** visual effect experienced at the viewpoint location, which is not considered significant. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.247. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the relative distance to the turbines and the relative intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 18 – A713 north of Stroangassel

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.248. This viewpoint is taken from the roadside verge of the A713 to the north of Stroangassel at a safe location alongside the busy road corridor. The view from the A713 is frequently interrupted by roadside vegetation and this location represents views from a relatively open section of the route from which Marscalloch Hill can be seen. The viewpoint is located c.5.6 km from the nearest turbine.

- 1.1.249. The view is constrained by the valley location but there are channelled views in a north-easterly direction between Dundough Hill and Mackilston Hill towards Manquhill Hill. The conical peak of Marscalloch Hill within the southern part of the site is visible beyond the forested slopes of Dundough Hill. Existing wind energy development at Sanquhar II and Wether Hill wind farms is visible along the horizon.
- 1.1.250. It is acknowledged that the viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA. However, the landscape within the valley features numerous man-made influences such as overhead power lines, telegraph poles, the telecoms mast on Dundough Hill, and the tower of Kendoon Power Station.
- 1.1.251. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.252. As this viewpoint is representative of views from a busy main road, that is a signed tourist route to Ayr, receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change in the view. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.253. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered to be low. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.254. The ZTV at **Figure 8.5** indicates that there is theoretical visibility of up to all 11 turbines from this viewpoint. However, the visualisation at **Figure 8.71** shows that the lower parts of turbines T4 and T8 would be located behind Marscalloch Hill, and a further four turbines within the northern part of the site (T2, T3, T5 and T6) would be almost entirely screened by coniferous plantation, aside from their blades. The ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development, including the BESS would be screened from view.
- 1.1.255. The southernmost turbines (T7, T9, T10 and T11) would form the most notable features of the Proposed Varied Development, seen beyond the existing power station tower at Kendoon. The turbines would appear set back in the view and beyond Marscalloch Hill.
- 1.1.256. The proposed turbines would appear in a separate part of the view to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn to the north and they would not detract from the sense of overall scale in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.257. The visualisation is representative of the type of intermittent views available from the A713 as one travels at relative speed through the valley landscape.
- 1.1.258. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.93**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this

viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.

- 1.1.259. During daylight hours, there would be a **medium magnitude of change** in the view, from this viewpoint. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.260. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.71**, two of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location (T7 and T11). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as relatively faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with few existing light sources except for transient lights of road users and isolated distant properties. This would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effects

- 1.1.261. It is considered that there would be a **moderate** level of effect from this viewpoint location during daylight hours. This is not deemed to be **significant** due to a combination of distance from the site, the nature of the baseline landscape, and overall limited visibility of the Proposed Varied Development. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.262. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the relative distance to the turbines and the relative intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 19 – A713 south of Carsphairn

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.263. This viewpoint is located on the A713 south of Carsphairn in the vicinity of a large layby immediately east of Bardennoch Hill. It is also located within the Galloway Hills LLA. The viewpoint was chosen as a result of consultation with the local authority. The viewpoint is located c.3.8 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.264. The view from the layby itself is screened by the presence of plantation in the immediate vicinity thus the location was sited to the north where there are open views in an easterly direction due to the absence of trees.
- 1.1.265. The view towards the site in the east extends along the lower lying valley towards the western slopes of Marscalloch Hill. Marscalloch Hill is clothed with plantation, and there are numerous geometric blocks of coniferous trees punctuating the valley. The holiday let of Cumnock Knowes can be seen in the foreground view with the small holding of Polwhirn seen in the middle distance beyond.

- 1.1.266. From the road there are uninterrupted views of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn in the north, due to the felling of the plantation in the immediate landscape to the east of the route. Over such time that the recently re-stocked plantation grows and matures, such views would eventually become interrupted, as would views towards the site.
- 1.1.267. Views towards the south and west are constrained by the rising landform, which is crossed by electricity pylons and overhead power lines.
- 1.1.268. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.269. As this viewpoint is representative of views from a busy main road, that is a signed tourist route to Ayr, receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change in the view. Overall, the viewpoint is considered to be **medium sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.270. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered to be low. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.271. With reference to the ZTV at **Figure 8.5**, up to all 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint. This is confirmed by the visualisation presented at **Figure 8.72**, which shows the turbines appearing above the horizon in the lower lying landscape located between Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Marscalloch Hill. The lower parts of the easternmost turbines (T7, T9 and T11) would be screened from view. The ground level components within the southern part of the site, including the BESS would be screened from view, but some sections of access track and areas of hardstanding within the northern part of the site may be glimpsed within areas of felled conifer plantation.
- 1.1.272. The turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would form notable features in the view to the east due to the open nature of the valley landscape. It should be noted that once the area of new plantation to the immediate east of the road has grown and matured, views towards the Proposed Varied Development would become increasingly screened by the trees over time.
- 1.1.273. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.94**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.
- 1.1.274. During daylight hours, there would be a **high magnitude of change** in oblique views from the road experienced by receptors using the A713 from this viewpoint. This is slightly greater than was identified for the Consented Development due to the increased turbine height.

- 1.1.275. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.72**, all six nacelle lights would be theoretically visible from this location, however conifer plantation on the horizon would potentially screen the light of T7. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with few existing light sources except for transient lights of road users and isolated distant properties. This would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.276. The addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the landscape to the east of the A713 would result in a **moderate** level of effect during daylight hours. This effect is deemed to be **significant** due to the notable presence of the turbines across the view at c. 3.8 km distance. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.277. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower susceptibility of receptors and the low intensity of the lights.

Viewpoint 20 – Woodhead Mines

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.278. This viewpoint is representative of the views from a designated Heritage Asset; Woodhead Mine, Carsphairn. The former lead mine, settlement and smelt mills closed in 1873. However, evidence of the former workings and settlement remain visible. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA approximately 3 km west of the village of Carsphairn at a higher elevation of approximately 100 m AOD. Beyond the Mine to the west, the hills of Knockower, Coran of Portmark, Bow, Meaul and Cairnsgarroch dominate the near distant view. The viewpoint is located c.8.7 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.279. The viewpoint was chosen to best represent the available views towards the site from the most elevated part of the Mine, at the location of the former worker's buildings. Views are available across the former mined areas, which also include the former worker's cottages and remnant smelt mills, dotted across the immediate landscape.
- 1.1.280. The landform beyond the Mine falls towards the village of Carsphairn beyond Garryhorn; a satellite property located equidistant from the viewpoint and the village. Views towards the site in the east and north-east comprise the notable hills Craig of Knockgray, Cairnsmore of Carsphairn and Beninner, which provide the highest elevation in the view. The middle distant views to the west is of Craigengillan Hill, a 401 m AOD hill, with gently sloping sides which are blanketed by coniferous plantation.

- 1.1.281. Existing wind farms are visible in this view; namely Wether Hill to the due east and Blackcraig Hill at distance to the south-east. Views towards the south and west are constrained by the upland ridge of the Rhinns of Kells.
- 1.1.282. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.283. As this viewpoint represents the view from a designated heritage asset and core path, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.284. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered medium. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.285. With reference to the ZTV at **Figure 8.5**, up to all 11 of the proposed turbines would be visible from this part of Woodhead Mine. However, with reference to the wireline at **Figure 8.73**, they would not be visible in their entirety. The intervening landforms of Craig of Knockgray and Knockwhirn would screen the lower parts of those within the northern part of the site so that the hubs of only T2, T3 and T5 would potentially be visible, but only the blade tips of T1 and T4. The southernmost turbines (T6 – T11) are located beyond Marscalloch Hill, which partially screens the lower parts of the turbines, especially those located to the east of the site. Additional screening from the coniferous plantations which blanket Craigengillan Hill would provide further additional screening of the Proposed Varied Development from this location.
- 1.1.286. The turbines would be arranged relatively evenly across the development. The turbines would add some additional vertical height to the skyline in part above the landform in which Wether Hill resides. It is anticipated that none of the ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development, including the BESS would be visible from this location.
- 1.1.287. The Proposed Varied Development would appear in combination with Wether Hill Wind Farm to the west and some overlapping would occur. The scale and geometry of the proposal would be greater than that of the existing wind farms in the wider landscape due to the proximity between the receptor and the turbines. The turbines would form notable features in the view to the east from this location. However, due to the scale and openness of the landscape in this view, they would not appear to be disproportionate in the landscape and would not introduce any additional development in parts of undeveloped views.
- 1.1.288. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.95**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.

- 1.1.289. During daylight hours, there would be a **medium magnitude of change** from this viewpoint. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.290. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the wireline at **Figure 8.73**, up to five of the six nacelle lights would be theoretically visible from this location (T6, T7, T11 and potentially also T5). With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the relative elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights would result in a relatively high level of lighting intensity. The lights would appear relatively bright, albeit small red dots, against the backdrop of the landform or sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant scattered properties. This would result in a **low to medium magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.291. Taking into account the high sensitivity of the view from the former lead mine towards the site and the medium magnitude of change with the addition of the Proposed Varied Development, the overall visual effect would be a **moderate** during daylight hours. This effect is deemed to be **significant** due to the notable presence of the turbines in the view at c. 8.7 km distance. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.292. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor to moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant** due to the lower susceptibility of receptors.

Viewpoint 21 – Corserine (Hennessy's Shelter)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.293. This viewpoint is representative of the views from Hennessey's Shelter and Cairn, a summit plateau 800 m AOD at the Scar of the Folk. Located c. 800 m from the summit of Corserine, a Corbett, which is the highest of the Rhinns of Kells ridge; this viewpoint represents the long-distance views east towards the site. Similar views are available as one travels south along the subsidiary summits of the ridge. This viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA. The viewpoint is located c.12.3 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.294. The viewpoint was chosen to best represent the available views towards the Site. Views from the summit of Corserine towards the site would in part be screened by the sweeping, open landform located east of the summit's trig point. Although Corserine has the highest elevation amongst the surrounding hills, it was decided that the shelter/cairn would allow for uninterrupted and 'worst case' views towards the site, of which includes the expansive blanket of forestry, undulating hills and lochs in the landscape below.
- 1.1.295. The land falls towards the summit of Craigrine to the north-east and the slopes of the curving ridge of North Gairy and Top can be seen in the immediate view to the south-east. The notable hill formation of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn provides the highest elevation on the skyline from

this viewpoint which can be seen in the middle-distance view. The Lowther Hills can be seen in the long-distance views beyond the Nithsdale Valley landscape.

- 1.1.296. Existing wind energy development is visible in this view; including South Kyle, Enoch Hill, Windy Standard I, II & III Afton, Hare Hill and Hare Hill Extension are visible in the distance to the west of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. Windy Rig, Sanquhar II and Whiteside Hill Wind Farms are visible to the east of the landform beyond the site, whilst the Torrs Hill wind turbines are visible in the foreground. Wether Hill Wind Farm is visible to the east of the site and Blackcraig Hill Wind Farm is visible in the distance to the south-east.
- 1.1.297. Views to the west comprise of the rising landform which leads up to the summit of Corserine. The summit of Carlin's Cairn can be seen to the north-west from the shelter which also includes the falling hills that occupy the ridge line to the north.
- 1.1.298. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.299. As this viewpoint represents the view from a hill summit adjacent to a core path, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.300. During the hours of darkness, although the viewpoint is located outside of the boundaries of the Galloway International Dark Sky Park, it is less than 500 m from the boundary, which wraps around it on two sides, so it is likely to be visited by star gazers, therefore the susceptibility is also considered high. The viewpoint is therefore considered to be **high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.301. With reference to the ZTV presented at **Figure 8.5**, and the visualisation at **Figure 8.74**, all of the 11 proposed turbines would be visible from Hennessey's Shelter and Cairn, although not in their entirety. The lower part of turbine T9 would be screened behind Marscalloch Hill.
- 1.1.302. The turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, although there would be some stacking between turbines T7 and T10. Some of the ground level components would be visible within the northern part of the site due to the elevation of the viewpoint, however they would not appear as prominent features due to the intervening distance. The turbines will be back clothed by the receding landform towards the Lowther Hills. However, they will not add any additional vertical height to the skyline.
- 1.1.303. The Proposed Varied Development would appear as a separate wind farm within the wider landscape. The scale of the proposal will be greater than that of the existing wind farms in the wider landscape, albeit small. Windy Standard Wind Farm is comparable in scale with regards to geometry, but greater in coverage and number of turbines. The addition of the

Proposed Varied Development in the landscape is proportionally small in relation to the overall view.

- 1.1.304. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.96**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development appears similar to the Consented Development from this viewpoint, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. There is also a slightly greater degree of visual permeability between the turbines due to improved spacing.
- 1.1.305. During the hours of daylight, the magnitude of change in view from this viewpoint would be **low to medium**. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.306. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10** and the visualisation presented at **Figure 8.74**, all of the six nacelle lights would be visible from this location. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the elevation of the viewpoint above the turbine lights would result in a high level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear brightly lit, albeit very small red dots against the backdrop of the landform. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with very few existing light sources except for distant lights of scattered properties and transient lights of road users. At over 12 km away, this would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.307. During daylight hours it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor to moderate** level of effect which is deemed to be **not significant**. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.308. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 22 – Carsphairn War Memorial

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.1.309. This viewpoint is located directly upon Carsphairn War Memorial looking east towards the B729. The viewpoint was chosen as a result of consultation with the local authority. The viewpoint is located c.4.6 km from the nearest turbine.
- 1.1.310. The photograph presented in **Figure 8.75** of this EIA Report illustrates the nature of the landscape on the southern edge of Carsphairn. It is a working landscape with man-made influences, particularly overhead pylons that span the view.
- 1.1.311. From the War Memorial, the primary visual experience looks west and south-west across the Water of Deugh and towards the Rhinns of Kells. The site is located in the opposite direction to this view, beyond the route of the A713 and the aforementioned pylons.

- 1.1.312. It is acknowledged that the viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and there are glimpsed views of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn, but overall, the view to the east is utilitarian in nature.
- 1.1.313. The viewpoint is located within the Galloway Hills LLA and as such the value of the viewpoint is considered high.
- 1.1.314. As this viewpoint represents the view from a war memorial set within a small park, receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view during daylight hours. Therefore, the viewpoint is considered to be **high sensitivity** during daylight hours.
- 1.1.315. During the hours of darkness, as the viewpoint is not located within a dark sky park, the susceptibility is considered medium. Overall, the viewpoint is therefore considered to be **medium high sensitivity** during the hours of darkness.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.1.316. With reference to the visualisation at **Figure 8.75**, The Proposed Varied Development would be seen to be located beyond the ridgeline, and horizon, formed by Marscalloch Hill. The turbines would appear in the landscape at a distance of c. 4.6 km and would be seen in the context of other vertical elements in the near view, such as telegraph poles and pylons.
- 1.1.317. It is acknowledged that the turbines would break the horizon, but the skyline is already repeatedly punctuated by pylons that cross the view. The proposed turbines would not alter the sense of scale of the overall landscape, and views to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn would remain to be appreciated.
- 1.1.318. From this viewpoint, the westernmost turbines in the southern part of the site (T8 and T10) would form the most notable features of the Proposed Varied Development. The remaining turbines within the southern part of the site (T7, T9 and T11) would be located beyond the ridgeline and thus partially screened from view. The turbines located in the northern part of the site (T1 – T6) would be almost entirely screened from view by a combination of landform and vegetation in the intervening landscape aside from partial views of turbine blades. None of the ground level components of the Proposed Varied Development, including the BESS would be visible from this location.
- 1.1.319. With reference to the comparative wireline presented at **Figure 8.97**, the horizontal extent of the Proposed Varied Development to the south-east of the viewpoint appears similar to that of the Consented Development, but the vertical extent is slightly greater. The greater height of the turbines would result in an increased degree of visibility above intervening vegetation. However, a similar number of turbines would be visible overall, due to the increased spacing between the turbines of the Proposed Varied Development.

- 1.1.320. During the hours of daylight, the introduction of the Proposed Varied Development to the view would result in a worst-case **medium magnitude of change** in the view from the War Memorial. This is the same as was identified for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.321. During the hours of darkness, with reference to the lit turbine ZTV at **Figure 8.10**, up to all six nacelle lights would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint. However, with reference to the visualisation presented at **Figure 8.75**, the four lights within the northern part of the site (T1, T4, T5 and T6) would be screened by intervening trees. With reference to the turbine lighting intensity ZTV at **Figure 8.11**, the lower elevation of the viewpoint in comparison with the turbine lights of T7 and T11 would result in a low level of lighting intensity, so the lights would appear as faint red dots against the backdrop of the sky. This change would occur in a part of the landscape with few existing light sources except for transient lights of road users and isolated distant properties. This would result in a **low magnitude of change** during the hours of darkness.

Significance of Effect

- 1.1.322. It is considered that during daylight hours the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect which is deemed to be **not significant**. This is due to the Proposed Varied Development being seen within an existing 'worked' landscape that already features numerous vertical elements at closer proximity to the viewpoint. This is equal to the level of effect that was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.1.323. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Table 8.5.1 – Summary of Visual Effects at Viewpoint Locations During Daylight Hours – Comparison with Consented Development

Name / Receptor	OS Grid Ref	Distance to nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Consented Development			Proposed Varied Development		
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
1. Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729)	264537, 591795	2238m (T9)	High	High	Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
2. Stroanfreggan Craig	263712, 592073	1370m (T9)	High	High	Major	Significant	Very High	Major	Significant
3. Guttery Glen (B729)	265802, 591708	3464m (T9)	High	High	Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
4. Smittons Bridge	263405, 591862	1223m (T9)	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
5. Stroanfreggan Cairn	264008, 591424	1967m (T9)	High	High	Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
6. Head of Ken Valley	265861, 598017	3916m (T2)	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
7. Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill	264468, 589685	3574m (T9)	High	High	Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
8. Minor Road south of B729	268514, 590655	6366m (T9)	High	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant

Name / Receptor	OS Grid Ref	Distance to nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Consented Development			Proposed Varied Development		
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
9. High Bridge of Ken	261971, 50162	2042m (T11)	Medium	No Effect	No Effect	Not Significant	No Effect	No Effect	Not Significant
10. Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)	268026, 597039	5457m (T2)	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
11. B7000 at East Ardarroch	261845, 589289	2913m (T11)	High*	High	Moderate	Significant	High	Major	Significant
12. Dundough Hill	261845, 589289	2619m (T11)	High	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant	Medium to High	Moderate to Major	Significant
13. Beninner	260584, 597150	2002m (T1)	High	Low to Medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant	Medium	Moderate	Significant
14. Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	259460, 597979	3398m (T1)	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant	Medium	Moderate	Significant
15. Craig of Knockgray	257042, 594380	4735m (T8)	High	High	Major	Significant	High	Major	Significant
16. Alhang	264227, 601029	5438m (T1)	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant	Medium	Moderate	Significant
17. Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill	260837, 582074	10181m (T11)	High	Low to Medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant	Low to Medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant

Name / Receptor	OS Grid Ref	Distance to nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Consented Development			Proposed Varied Development		
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
18. A713 at Stroangassel	260314, 586823	5601m (T11)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
19. A713 south of Carsphairn	257699, 592185	3832m (T10)	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate	Significant	High	Moderate	Significant
20. Woodhead Mines	252893, 593746	8665m (T10)	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant	Medium	Moderate	Significant
21. Corserine (Hennessey's Shelter)	250448, 587285	12335m (T10)	High	Low to Medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant	Low to Medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant
22. Carsphairn War Memorial	256859, 593087	4652m (T10)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not significant	Medium	Moderate	Not significant

Bold text indicates a significant effect

Red text indicates a change in significant effect between the Consented Development and the Proposed Varied Development

*Previously recorded as medium sensitivity

Table 8.5.2 – Summary of Visual Effects at Viewpoint Locations During Hours of Darkness

Name / Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
1. Stroanfreggan Bridge (B729)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
2. Stroanfreggan Craig	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate	Significant
3. Guttery Glen (B729)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
4. Smittons Bridge (N)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
5. Stroanfreggan Cairn	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
6. Head of Ken Valley	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
7. Southern Upland Way at Culmark Hill	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
8. Minor Road south of B729	Medium	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
9. High Bridge of Ken	Medium	No Effect	No Effect	Not Significant
10. Southern Upland Way, Benbrack (Striding Arch)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
11. B7000 at East Ardarroch (N)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Not significant
12. Dundegh Hill	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	Significant
13. Beninner	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	Significant
14. Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	Significant
15. Craig of Knockgray	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	Significant
16. Alhang	Medium high	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant

17. Southern Upland Way at Waterside Hill	Medium high	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
18. A713 at Stroangassel	Medium	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
19. A713 south of Carsphairn	Medium	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
20. Woodhead Mines	Medium high	Low to medium	Moderate / Minor to Moderate	Not Significant
21. Corserine (Hennessey's Shelter)	High	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant
22. Carsphairn War Memorial (N)	Medium high	Low	Moderate / Minor	Not Significant

Bold text indicates a significant effect

(N) – Night-time visualisation produced from this viewpoint in addition to day-time visualisation.

N.B. The Consented Development did not require aviation lighting due to the height of the turbines.

1.2. Summary

- 1.2.1. This assessment found that of the 22 viewpoints, 16 would experience significant visual effects during daylight hours as a result of the Proposed Varied Development. This is one more than was predicted for the Consented Development.
- 1.2.2. The only additional viewpoint with significant effects in comparison with the Consented Development is Viewpoint 13 – Benniner, due to increased turbine height and the greater visibility above landform.
- 1.2.3. Additionally, at Viewpoint 4 - Smittons Bridge an increased level of effect has been identified due to increased turbine height and greater visibility due to recent tree felling.
- 1.2.4. During the hours of darkness, the Proposed Varied Development is predicted to give rise to significant effects at five of the 22 viewpoints.

References

NatureScot. (2024). *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment*. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-aviation-lighting-impact-assessment>. Accessed on: 20 February 2025.