

Appendices

Appendix 7.A LVIA Methodology

Introduction

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) identifies, predicts, and evaluates potential landscape and visual effects likely to result from the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project. The main guidance for LVIA is set out in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Second Edition* (GLVIA) produced by the Landscape Institute (2002), and the methodology for this assessment adopts and conforms to these guidelines. In respect of wind farm development, further guidance is provided in a number of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) documents including *Siting and Design Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 1* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2009) and *Guidance for the Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts Arising from Wind farm Developments - Version 2* (SNH Advisory Services, 2005 and March 2012).

Essentially, the level of landscape and visual effect (and whether this is significant) is determined through consideration of the 'sensitivity' of the landscape or visual receptor and the 'magnitude of change' posed by the proposed development. In this case the proposed development is the construction of the Ascog Wind Energy Project and associated infrastructure, its operation for a period of 25 years, and decommissioning. The process involves iterative design and re-assessment of any remaining, residual effects that could not otherwise be mitigated or 'designed out'. The type of effect is also considered and may be direct or indirect; temporary or permanent; cumulative; and positive, neutral or negative. The landscape and visual assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and subjective assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

Study Area

The SNH guidance¹ advises that the LVIA Study Area for wind turbines of this height should be based on an area 35km distance from each of the proposed turbine locations. The

¹ *Siting and Design Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 1* (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2009).

Landscape and Visual Study Area is illustrated in **Figure 7.1** and in order to achieve the SNH guidelines, covers a circular area of 35.190 km radius from the application site centre. It is important to note that the boundary of the Study Area is not the limit of potential visibility in clear weather conditions. Rather it is an area defined by SNH, on the basis of research to determine a suitable Study Area for the assessment of wind farms, which would contain all potential significant landscape and visual effects.

Assessing Landscape Effects

Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute as “*changes to landscape elements, characteristics, character, and qualities of the landscape as a result of development.*” The potential landscape effects, occurring during the construction, decommissioning, and operation period, may therefore include, but are not restricted to, the following:

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

Development may have a direct (physical) effect on the landscape as well as an indirect or effect perceived from outside the landscape character area.

Evaluating Landscape Sensitivity to Change

The sensitivity of the landscape to a particular development is described as high, medium, low, or negligible. This is assessed by taking into account the existing landscape quality, landscape value and landscape capacity which often varies in response to both the type of development proposed and the particular site location, such that landscape sensitivity needs

to be considered on a case by case basis. This should not be confused with 'inherent sensitivity' where areas of the landscape may be referred to as inherently of high or low sensitivity, for example a National Park may be described as inherently of high sensitivity on account of its designation.

The main factors considered are discussed as follows:

- **Landscape quality:** The state of repair or condition of the elements of a particular landscape, its integrity and intactness and the extent to which its distinctive character is apparent. The quality of a landscape element or characteristic may also be influenced by the degree to which it may contribute to the overall landscape character, its rarity, fragility, and potential for replacement or mitigation. Landscapes of lower quality tend to include those under intensive agriculture, or urban fringe situations where the landscape elements and patterns have been eroded, almost creating a new and different landscape character.
- **Landscape value:** The importance attached to a landscape, often as a basis for designation or recognition, which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality including cultural associations, scenic or aesthetic qualities. In most cases, this is indicated by the presence or absence of a landscape planning designation such as a National Park indicating a landscape of national value. Many local landscape designations have been phased out in favour of an 'all landscapes approach' in accordance with the European Landscape Convention. Undesignated areas of the landscape may also be of some local value and indications of this are likely to be present in the form of documented, locally valued, cultural, scenic or aesthetic qualities. It should be noted that a landscape of high value may not always equate to areas of high landscape quality and that areas of low landscape value may contain areas of higher landscape quality.
- **Landscape capacity:** The capacity of a particular type or area of landscape to accommodate the proposed wind farm development without unacceptable effects on its character. Landscape capacity varies according to different landscape character and whilst accepting that wind farm development is widely visible, factors that commonly indicate suitability or capacity for wind farm development include landscape characteristics of larger scale, simple landform and skylines. Generally speaking, high landscape capacity together with lower landscape quality and value is a contributory factor towards low landscape sensitivity. Equally, low landscape capacity together with higher landscape quality and value, often, although not always correlates with high landscape sensitivity.

Evaluating the Magnitude of Change to the Landscape

The magnitude or degree of change resulting from a particular development is described as very high, high, medium, low, negligible or none. This is assessed by considering the scale and extent of proposed development, which may include the loss or addition of particular features, and changes to landscape quality, and character and as such needs to be considered on a case by case basis. Effective mitigation measures and design may reduce the magnitude of change and the resultant residual effects. The main factors to be considered are discussed as follows:

- **Loss, Alteration, or Addition to Landscape Elements:** Development may result in the loss, alteration, or addition of landscape elements such as trees, hedgerows, or development components such as new access track, and these can be quantified objectively.
- **Loss, Alteration, or Addition to Landscape Characteristics / Quality:** Development may result in the loss, alteration, or addition of physical landscape characteristics, such as key wooded areas, landscape patterns, or development components such as wind turbines, which can be quantified objectively. Perceptual characteristics and effects on scenic quality also need to be considered and judged subjectively with reference made to documented opinion.
- **Change to Landscape Character:** All landscapes change over time and much of that change is managed or planned. Often landscapes will have management objectives for conservation, enhancement, or alteration to create new landscapes or areas of townscape. The scale of change may be localised or occurring over parts of an area or more widespread affecting whole landscape receptors and their overall integrity.

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Examples and further guidance on the evaluation of landscape sensitivity and magnitude are provided in **Table 7A.1**.

The level of landscape effect is evaluated through the combination of landscape sensitivity and magnitude of change, a process, which is assisted by the use of **Table 7A.3**, which is used to guide the assessment. The assessment then makes a judgement as to whether the level of effect is significant in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and further information is provided about the nature of the effect (whether this is direct / indirect, temporary / permanent, isolated / cumulative or positive, neutral or negative).

In those instances where there would be no change to the landscape then the magnitude has been recorded as 'zero' and the level of effect as 'no change'.

Table 7A.1 Landscape Sensitivity and Magnitude

Examples of Sensitive Landscapes	
High	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would generally be a lower landscape capacity or scope for landscape change and higher landscape value and quality. Often includes landscapes which are nationally or internationally designated.
Medium	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource, and characteristics, there would be a medium landscape capacity or scope for landscape change and generally medium landscape value and quality. Often includes landscape of medium landscape value and quality which may be locally designated.
Low	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource, and characteristics, there would be a higher landscape capacity or scope for landscape change and generally lower landscape value and quality. Usually applies to degraded landscapes that may have been subject to very intensive agriculture, blanket forestry, un-mitigated / partly naturalised mining operations or similar.
Negligible	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where there is a high landscape capacity, a planned desire for landscape change and generally lower landscape value and quality. Usually applies to derelict landscapes, spoil heaps, and de-graded urban fringe areas that require restoration or re-development / re-planting and where this is supported by planning policy.
Examples of Magnitude	
Very High	A total change that may be large in scale and / or extent and include the loss of key landscape characteristics or the addition of new uncharacteristic features or elements, that would become the dominant characteristics of the landscape, and change the overall landscape quality, and character. Other factors to be considered include proposed mitigation measures. It should be noted that landscapes are dynamic and subject to change over time and that landscape change may subsequently lead to a positive, neutral, or negative effect.
High	A change that may be large in scale and / or extent, and include the loss of key landscape characteristics or the addition of new uncharacteristic features or elements that would potentially change the overall landscape quality, and character. Other factors to be considered include proposed mitigation measures. It should be noted that landscapes are dynamic and subject to change over time and that landscape change may subsequently lead to a positive, neutral, or negative effect.
Medium	A change of more limited scale and extent including the loss of some key landscape characteristics or elements, or the addition of some new uncharacteristic features or elements that would potentially change landscape quality and indicate the potential for change in landscape character.
Low	A change affecting small areas of landscape character and quality, including the loss of lower value landscape elements or the addition of new features or elements of limited characterising influence.
Negligible	A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character and quality, including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements, which are either of low value or hardly noticeable.
None	There would be no change to the receptor.

Assessing Visual Effects

Visual effects are concerned wholly with the effect of the development on views, and the general visual amenity. The visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:

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

Evaluating Visual Sensitivity to Change

Visual effects are also assessed by considering the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the proposed magnitude of change. The main factors to consider is the activity of the receptor (people) at the viewpoint location and the importance or popularity of the view and / or typical numbers of viewers. Other factors include the location and context of the viewpoint (in terms of the landscape value, quality, and capacity of the area within the view). The factors to be considered are discussed as follows:

- **Visual Receptor:** Whilst it is accepted that people will undertake a range of different activities, their visual experience of a development will change according to where they are, and what they are doing. The primary activity of the receptor at the viewpoint is a key determinate of visual sensitivity. Residents and people engaged in out-door recreation, where the focus of the activity is on enjoyment of the landscape and there is a high frequency of use, are considered to be of high sensitivity. People on local footpaths that are less frequently walked or utilitarian in character, people engaged in sport, or travelling are considered as less sensitive (medium); and people at work as the least (low) sensitive.
- **Frequency:** The popularity and/or number of viewers are also an important factor to consider. Landmarks / tourist attractions and national trails visited and used by large numbers of people are likely to be more sensitive than those which are less visited. Occasionally there may be exceptions such as motorways where, although there are higher numbers of receptors these are generally considered to be of lower visual sensitivity. Conversely some less well visited footpaths within wild areas may be of higher visual sensitivity precisely because this is why they are valued.
- **Location and Context:** The visual experience from a tourist destination, for example, could involve either the key views to or from the main attraction, or those from the car-park / service area, and this context will affect the sensitivity of the views. Whilst these views (from car-parks / service areas) may still be experienced by receptors of inherently higher sensitivity, these types of views should not be considered of higher value or sensitivity.

Evaluating the Magnitude of Change to the View

The magnitude of change is described as very high, high, medium, low, or negligible, and is assessed by taking into account possible changes caused by the wind farm, which may affect the view. In those instances where the development would not be visible and there would be no change to the view, the magnitude has been recorded as 'zero' and the level of effect as 'no view' of the Development.

The magnitude of visual change is described by reference to the following:

- **Scale of Change:** The scale of change in the view (including extent and proportion of field of view affected), is determined by the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in the composition and extent of view affected. This can in part be described objectively by reference to numbers of new objects visible and the proportion or horizontal / vertical angle of the 90 degree angle of view affected.
- **Contrast:** The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of mass, scale, colour, form and texture. Developments which contrast in terms of colour, scale and form are likely to be more visible and have a higher magnitude of change.
- **Distance:** The proximity and distance from the development can be provided objectively and often provides a strong indicator of magnitude, subject to any intervening screening of the development by landform, vegetation, or buildings.
- **Speed:** The speed at which the development may be viewed will affect how long the view is experienced and the likelihood of the development being particularly noticed by people travelling in cars compared to those who may be walking and able to stop and 'take in' a view.
- **Angle of View:** The angle of view from the main direction of view may be considered in terms of whether the development is experienced directly or more obliquely. Road users are generally more aware of the views in the direction of travel, whilst train passengers are more aware of views perpendicular to their direction of travel. Elevated views are likely to reveal more of the development, where as low level views are more likely to be screened by intervening built form and vegetation.
- **Screening:** Development may be wholly or partly screened by landform, vegetation (seasonal) and or buildings. Conversely open views, particularly from landscapes where this is a characteristic, are likely to experience more of the development.
- **Skyline / Background:** Whether a development would be viewed against the skyline or a background landscape may affect the level of contrast and magnitude, with skyline developments often appearing more noticeable, particularly where they affect open and uninterrupted horizons.

- **Duration:** The duration of the change, whether temporary or long term, intermittent or continuous, seasonal due to periodic management or leaf fall, is a further factor for consideration.

Further guidance on the evaluation of visual sensitivity and magnitude is provided in **Table 7A.2**. The level of an effect is determined by the combination of sensitivity and magnitude of change, a process assisted by the use of **Table 7A.3**, which is used to guide the assessment.

Table 7A.2 Visual Receptor Sensitivity and Magnitude

Examples of Visual Receptor Sensitivity	
High	Generally, people in residential properties or settlement and on long distance, strategic footpaths or popular footpaths and tourist destinations, viewing important landscape features, beauty spots and picnic areas, where the activities are focused on the landscape. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint, would be higher.
Medium	Generally, people within recreational space, local and less well used footpaths or tracks. Receptors include walkers, cyclists, horse riders, skiers, minor road users, and rail passengers travelling through the landscape. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint would be medium.
Low	Generally, people within non-designated farmland, moorland, and landscapes of lower value with low footpath or recreational use. Receptors are likely to include people at their place of work, or taking part in activities not involving an appreciation of the landscape, and drivers on motorways and other busy trunk roads. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint, would be low.
Negligible	Generally not used.
Examples of Magnitude	
Very High	A major change or obstruction of a view that may be directly visible, appearing as the dominant and contrasting feature appearing in the foreground.
High	A major change or obstruction of a view that may be directly visible, appearing as a prominent and contrasting feature and/or appearing in the foreground / middle ground.
Medium	A moderate change or partial view of a new element within the view that may be readily noticed, directly or obliquely visible including glimpsed, partly screened or intermittent views, appearing as a noticeable feature in the middle ground.
Low	A low level of change, affecting a small part of the view that may be obliquely viewed or partly screened and/or appearing in the background landscape. May include moving views at speed.
Negligible	A small or intermittent change to the view that may be obliquely viewed and mostly screened and/or appearing in the distant background or viewed at high speed over short periods and capable of being missed by the casual observer.
None	There would be no change to the view.

Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint analysis is used to assist the LVIA and is conducted from selected viewpoints within the study area. The purpose of this is to assess both the level of visual impact for particular receptors and to help guide the design process and focus the assessment. A range of viewpoints are examined in detail and from these the areas of likely significant effect may be identified. The assessment involves visiting the viewpoint location; viewing wireframes and photomontages prepared for each viewpoint location. The fieldwork is conducted in periods of fine weather and good visibility and has also considered seasonally reduced leaf cover. The assessors have also viewed the photomontages in animated form so that the effects of blade rotation can be assessed and the turbines are always viewed as though facing towards the viewer to provide maximum potential visibility, although during operation, the turbines would face into the wind.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

In order to assist with viewpoint selection and to appreciate the potential influence of the development in the wider landscape, preliminary ZTV plans are used. ZTV plans illustrate the area from where it may be theoretically possible to view all or part of the proposed development (turbines). The ZTV does not however, take account of the screening effects of buildings, localised landform and vegetation, unless specifically mentioned (see individual figures). As a result, there may be roads, tracks and footpaths in the vicinity of the site and in the wider setting which, although shown as falling within the ZTV, are screened or filtered by banks, walls and vegetation and otherwise preclude viewing opportunities.

The ZTVs provide a starting point in the assessment process and accordingly tend towards giving a 'worst case' or greatest calculation of the likely visibility.

The ZTVs are calculated using Resoft Wind Farm© software to generate the zone of theoretical visibility of the proposed wind farm. This software creates a 3D computer model of the existing landscape and the development using digital terrain data (Ordnance Survey Landform Panorama tiles, providing a digital record of the existing landform of Great Britain at 10m elevation intervals based on 50m grid squares) and models representing the specified geometry and position of the proposed turbines. The computer model includes the entire study area and all ZTVs take account of the effects caused by atmospheric refraction and the Earth's curvature.

The resulting ZTV map is overlaid on OS mapping at an appropriate scale.

The completed ZTV plans and accompanying data are then presented as figures using desktop publishing/graphic design software.

Resoft Wind Farm© software is also used to calculate ZTV intervisibility of the proposed development with other wind farms. In addition to using the same methods as described above, the layouts and geometries of surrounding existing, proposed and application submitted wind farms are input into Resoft Wind Farm©. To cover these surrounding developments the 3D computer model of the existing landscape is extended out to the required radius (usually 70km from the centre of the proposed wind farm).

Photomontage and Wireframe Production

Once a view has been selected, the location is visited, confirmed, assessed and a photographic record taken to record the view. Details of the viewpoint location, and features within the view are also recorded in order to assist in the production of visualisations and to validate their accuracy. All photographs included in this assessment were recorded with a digital SLR camera set to produce photographs equivalent to that of a manual 35 mm SLR camera with a fixed 50 mm focal length lens. The viewpoints have been presented at a 90° angle of view illustrating the typical extent of view that would be experienced by the viewer at the viewpoint when facing in one direction and also provides an indication of the visual context of the proposed development.

The photomontages have been illustrated at an enlarged scale to illustrate a 90° of view to allow a comfortable viewing distance. Whilst no two dimensional image can fully represent the real viewing experience on the ground, viewing the photomontage at the correct viewing distance provides a comparable representation of the 'real-life' view and how the proposed development would appear in the landscape. The viewing distance is provided with each photomontage and the visualisations aim to provide a realistic representation of the proposed development, based on current information and photomontage methodology.

Methodology for Production of Visualisations

Each view has been illustrated with a photograph, a wireframe and in some cases a photomontage indicating the proposed development. In accordance with SNH guidance, photomontages are most useful when illustrating views of the development over distances of up to 10-15km, beyond this the visibility of the turbines in printed photomontages is difficult to see and so wireframes are produced instead. The decision regarding whether to produce

and illustrate a photomontage is a professional one and generally reserved to illustrate potential significant effects.

The wireframes and photomontages are produced using Resoft Wind Farm© software to generate a perspective view of the wind farm. This software creates a 3D computer model of the existing landscape and the development using digital terrain data (Ordnance Survey Landform Panorama tiles, providing a digital record of the existing landform of Great Britain at 10m elevation intervals based on 50m grid squares) and models representing the specified geometry and position of the proposed turbines. The computer model includes the entire study area and all visualisations take account of the effects caused by atmospheric refraction and the Earth's curvature. The computer model does not take account of the screening effects of any intervening objects and forestry, unless specified (see individual figures).

A wireframe or outline of the proposed development and the existing landform is generated for each viewpoint within the study area. These wireframes are used to assist the assessment on location at each viewpoint, the position of which, if required, is adjusted on site to achieve the most visible vantage-point of the proposed development (e.g. to avoid buildings, forestry, other features, potentially interfering with the view). Photographs are then taken using a digital SLR camera in combination with a panoramic head equipped tripod. Detailed information is then recorded on site to enable the accurate alignment of the photographs with the wireframe model (data such as: GPS grid co-ordinates; ground level information; compass bearings; and any other known references and viewpoint information). The photographs from the viewpoint are then joined to form a cylindrical projection panorama, using computer software to remove 'barrel distortion' caused by the camera lens. This panorama, combined in Resoft Wind Farm© with the data recorded on site, enables the wireframe to be superimposed and aligned. To produce the photomontage, the wireframe turbines are rendered to appear 'life-like' taking into account the time of the photography and conditions occurring on the day.

The completed panoramas, wireframes, photomontages, and accompanying data are then presented as figures using desktop publishing/graphic design software.

Please note: All directions given (bearings) are relative to Grid North (BNG).

Additional viewpoint number 24 Weymss Bay to Rothsay Ferry crossing was not taken in accordance with SNH photography guidelines but is a 'best fit' solution. It was not possible to

fix the exact coordinates for the location of the photograph as of course the ferry was not stationary. Instead a number of coordinates were recorded as the ferry progressed in order to best fix a location relevant to the photograph. However we were not satisfied with the resulting fit between the wireframes and the photographs as being accurate and have therefore represented this view without a montage.

Visual Assessment of Views from Residential Properties

Planning law contains a widely understood principle that individuals (i.e. visual receptors at a single residential property) have no 'right to a view' per se with the outlook or view from a private property (i.e. that available to a residential visual receptor) being a private interest and not therefore protected by the UK planning system, although the planning system also recognises situations where a substantial number of people's views could be affected could be considered to be a matter of public interest.

However decisions at some public inquiries involving wind farms where turbines have been considered to have an overbearing effect and/or result in unsatisfactory living conditions leading to a property being widely regarded as an unattractive and thus unsatisfactory (although not necessarily uninhabitable) place in which to live, can result in the coincidence of public and private interests.

In such circumstances the impact of the presence of the turbines becomes a material (planning) consideration. Hence it is necessary for the visual assessment to consider if this situation would arise for residential visual receptors in the properties closest to the proposed wind farm. Such a residential visual amenity assessment is over and above the visual assessment that is undertaken for all identified potential visual receptors within the detailed study area which concentrates upon evaluating visual changes in the receptors' main view. Reviews of decisions demonstrate that significant changes to the views available from a residential property and its curtilage are not the decisive consideration.

As a consequence the visual assessment methodology provides for a much more detailed assessment of the closest residential properties. This allows the assessor and consequently the determining authority to make a judgement as to whether the residents at these properties would be likely to sustain unsatisfactory living conditions which it would not be in the public interest to create.

In order to make this judgement information is obtained from publicly accessible locations and from publicly available aerial and ground level photography. In accordance with emerging best practice information is sourced as follows with reference to a wireframe visualisation from the property:

- Number, height and breadth of the turbines;
- The horizontal extent of the visible turbine array;
- Separation distance (closest and furthest turbines);
- Orientation of properties;
- Whether views from the property would be direct or oblique;
- The rooms affected and their uses (this will only rarely be able to be ascertained fully)²;
- The impact on the curtilage of the property, which could include any garden(s); driveway and patio;
- The effects of any screening by vegetation or nearby built development; and
- The context and nature of any intervening structures e.g. sited within an industrial setting or within a farm complex.

Emerging best practice is that consideration of residential visual amenity needs to be applied to all properties within a minimum of 1km from any of the proposed turbines, subject to any specific requirements from consultees.

It should be noted that this assessment of overall visual amenity does not account for noise or shadow flicker. These elements are assessed in separate chapters in the Environmental Statement.

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment (CLVIA)

The assessment of cumulative effects is essentially the same as for the assessment of site specific landscape and visual effects: the level of landscape and visual effect is determined by assessing the sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor, and the magnitude of change.

A cumulative landscape or visual effect simply means that more than one type of development is present or visible within the landscape. Other forms of existing development and landuse such as woodland and forestry, patterns of agriculture, built form, and

² In the absence of definitive information it will be assumed that upstairs rooms are used as bedrooms or bathrooms. As such they would be occupied less frequently during daylight hours and in accordance with the GLVIA are accorded less importance within the assessment in comparison with downstairs rooms.

settlements already have a cumulative effect on the existing landscape that is already accepted or taken for granted. These features often contribute strongly to the existing character, forming a positive component of the local landscape. Landscapes however, will have a finite capacity for new development, beyond which further change or alteration to the existing landscape character may be unacceptable in landscape terms.

Whilst the CLVIA considers other wind farm development, it should not be considered as a substitute for individual LVIA assessment in respect of each of the other developments concerned.

Cumulative Search Area.

The search area for the cumulative assessment is based on a 70km radius circle from the site centre and identifies all known existing, under-construction, and consented wind farms as well as known planning application sites and scoping stage sites.

Cumulative Study Area

The cumulative study area is the same as for the main part of the LVIA, but also takes account of other wind farms from the cumulative search area which may include those sites out to 70km radius or less. The selection process is agreed in consultation with the local planning authorities and is likely to focus on existing, under-construction, and consented wind farms as well as known planning application sites. Those developments at pre-planning or scoping stage are excluded in accordance with PPS 22 unless there is a justified / exceptional circumstance for inclusion in the assessment. In some circumstances more distant wind farms and single turbines or wind cluster schemes may be excluded from the assessment. These excluded schemes and the reasons for their exclusion would be clearly stated in the CLVIA.

The probability of cumulative effects is variable. Whereas those effects related to existing wind energy development and those under construction are considered as certain, effects related to development with planning consent is only considered as likely. Wind energy development sites for which there is a submitted planning application are considered as uncertain and other wind energy development for which no planning application has been made are considered as uncertain / unknown, as the level of uncertainty would be greater.

Types of Cumulative Effect

Types of cumulative effect are defined as follows:

- **Cumulative Landscape Effects:** Where more than one wind development may have an effect on a landscape designation or particular area of landscape character.
- **Cumulative Visual Effects:** the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development that may combine to have a cumulative visual effect. These can be further defined as follows:
 - Simultaneous or combined: where two or more developments may be viewed from a single fixed viewpoint simultaneously, within the viewer's field of view and without requiring them to turn their head. Note: A person's field of view is variable but is approximately 90° when facing in one direction.
 - Successive or repetitive: where two or more developments may be viewed from a single viewpoint successively as the viewer turns their head or swivels through 360°.
 - Sequential: where a number of developments may be viewed sequentially or repeatedly from a range of locations when travelling along a route within the study area.

The SNH document 'Siting and Designing Wind farms in the Landscape' explains that the development of multiple wind farms within a particular area may create different types of cumulative effect, such as where:

- 'The wind farms are seen as separate isolated features within the landscape character type, too infrequent and of insufficient significance to be perceived as a characteristic of the area;
- The wind farms are seen as a key characteristic of the landscape, but not of sufficient dominance to be a defining characteristic of the area;
- The wind farms appear as a dominant characteristic of the area, seeming to define the character type as a 'wind farm landscape character type.'

SNH also provide a list of key principles to consider in respect of landscapes with multiple wind farms as follows.

- 'Multiple wind farms will result in different types of cumulative effect. For each wind farm or strategy concerning potential wind farms, the most appropriate cumulative design objectives should be established, while also taking into account existing developments.
- Some landscape character types will be able to accommodate multiple wind farms, while this may be inappropriate within others. Generally, it will be preferable for wind farm development to be limited in its range of landscape character type within a particular area, to avoid reduction in the distinction between types.

- Individual wind farms should generally appear visually separated from one another in a landscape, unless specifically designed to create the appearance of a single combined wind farm.
- Different forms of wind farm development should respond to different landscape character types, to ensure wind farm landscapes complement the landform in their positioning, extent and density.
- Wind farms should not unacceptably dominate settlements.
- Wind farms should take account of existing focal points in the landscape, which may be neighbouring wind farms.
- Multiple wind farm development should not change distinctive skylines or occupy the major proportion of a skyline from key viewpoints or receptors.
- Extensions should consolidate the scale, size, and mass of the existing development; if the new turbines are compatible with the existing ones the resulting wind farm should relate to the area's landscape character in extent and scale.'

Predicting Cumulative Landscape Effects

The assessment considers the extent to which the proposed development, in combination with others, may change landscape character through either incremental effect on characteristic elements, landscape patterns and quality, or by the cumulative addition of new features. Identified cumulative landscape effects are described in relation to each individual Landscape Character Type and for any designated landscape areas that exist within the study area.

Predicting Cumulative Visual Effects

The assessment of cumulative visual effects involves reference to the cumulative visibility ZTV maps and the cumulative viewpoint analysis. The cumulative visibility of existing wind energy developments is established in the first instance using the computer programme to identify areas where wind energy developments are theoretically visible. The potential visibility of other consented and proposed developments is then incorporated to establish a level of visibility within which the additional contribution of the proposed development can be assessed. Cumulative visibility maps are analysed to identify the residential and recreational locations and travel routes where cumulative visual effects on receptors (people) may occur as a result of the proposed development.

With potential receptor locations identified, cumulative effects on individual receptor groups are then explored through viewpoint analysis, which involves site visits informed by wireframe illustrations that include other wind energy developments. The computer

programme itself can also be used to 'drive' particular travel routes to assess the visibility of different wind energy developments and inform the assessment of sequential cumulative effects that may occur along a route or journey and compared to actual route on site.

Evaluation of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

The level and significance of cumulative landscape or visual effects is determined in the same manner as the main LVIA, i.e. through combination of sensitivity and magnitude of change and through reference to Table A5.3. The resulting level of cumulative effect can emerge through four scenarios or combinations of cumulative effect, taking account of other wind energy development as follows:

- A *significant* effect from the proposed Ascog Wind Farm is predicted in addition to or in combination with *another significant effect* attributed to other development(s). The effect is still termed significant and cumulative, but is a greater level of effect than for either development individually.
- A *significant* effect from the proposed Ascog Wind Farm is predicted in addition to or in combination with a *non-significant effect* attributed to other development(s). The effect is still termed significant and cumulative, but is attributed to *the proposed Ascog Wind farm* and is a greater level of effect than for either development individually.
- A *non-significant* effect from the proposed Ascog Wind Farm is predicted in addition to or in combination with a *significant effect* attributed to other development(s). The effect is still termed significant and cumulative, but is attributed to *the other wind energy development(s)* and is a greater level of effect than for either development individually.
- A *non-significant* effect from the proposed Ascog Wind Farm is predicted in addition to or in combination with *another non-significant effect* attributed to other development(s). The effect is still termed cumulative and is a greater level of effect than for either development individually, *the combined effect however, may or may not be significant*.

The nature of a cumulative effect may also be described as direct / indirect, temporary / permanent, or positive/ negative. The probability of a cumulative effect occurring is also described (certain, likely or uncertain / unknown).

Evaluating Landscape and Visual Effects

The level of effect relating to landscape and visual effects and or cumulative landscape and visual effects is determined by the combination of sensitivity (ranging from high to negligible)

and magnitude of change (ranging from very high to zero), which is assisted by the use of a matrix table to guide the assessment. The matrix is illustrated in **Table 7A.3**.

Table 7A.3 Evaluation of Landscape and Visual Effects

Magnitude of Change	Landscapes and Visual Sensitivity			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Very High	Substantial	Substantial	Moderate / Substantial	Moderate
High	Substantial	Moderate / Substantial	Moderate	Slight
Medium	Moderate / Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Slight / Negligible
Low	Moderate	Slight	Slight / Negligible	Negligible
Negligible	Slight	Slight / Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Zero	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change

Key



Significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.



Not Significant in terms of the EIA Regulations

Types of Landscape and Visual Effect

The relevant EIA Regulations also require that the level of effect is also described in terms of its 'type' or 'nature' of effect (whether the effect is permanent / temporary, direct / indirect, positive/neutral/negative and or cumulative) as well as the scale over which the effect would occur. For example, an effect may be locally significant, or significant with respect to a small number of receptors, but not significant when judged in a wider context.

The type/nature and in addition, probability of effect, are also considered and these terms are defined below:

- **Temporary or Short Term / Long term / Permanent:** The time period over which an effect may occur is referred to as temporary or short term, long term, or permanent. Unlike many other forms of development, wind farms are largely reversible and this has an important bearing on the type and nature of a particular effect. In the case of this Development the application is for a 25 year period, therefore the landscape and visual effects of the Development are referred to as long term and reversible.

- **Direct / Indirect effects:** Direct effects relate to the host landscape and concern both physical and perceptual effects on the receptor. Indirect effects relate to those landscapes which are remote from the Development are therefore only affected in terms of visual or perceptual effects. The Landscape Institute defines indirect effects as those which are not a direct result of the development, but are often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway.
- **Positive / Neutral / Negative:** The landscape and visual effects may be positive, neutral, or negative. In the case of wind farm development, the most noticeable effects and changes are likely to be visual, however the landscape and visual assessment guidelines caution against the automatic assumption that all change would result in a negative effect.
 - In Landscape Terms: a positive effect would require development to add to the landscape quality and character of an area. Neutral landscape effects would include changes that neither add nor detract from the quality and character of an area including development that may be reasonably accommodated within the scale and capacity of the landscape in the context of landscape management and change, and negligible magnitudes of change. A negative effect may include the loss of landscape elements such as mature trees and hedgerows as part of construction or development that exceeds landscape capacity, leading to a reduction in landscape quality and character of an area.
 - In Visual Terms: positive or negative effects are less easy to define or quantify and require subjective consideration of a number of aesthetic factors affecting the view, which may be positive, neutral, or negative. Not all change, including high levels of change, is necessarily a negative experience. Public opinions as to the visual effects of wind farms vary widely, however this assessment is not an assessment of public opinion. Rather this assessment considers architectural and aesthetic factors such as the visual composition of the landscape in the view together with the wind farm design, which may or may not be reasonably accommodated within the scale and character of the landscape as perceived from the receptor location. Neutral visual effects would include changes that are not dominating, overbearing, or oppressive. They include development that appears reasonably well accommodated within the scale and landscape setting or context and also includes negligible magnitudes of change. A negative effect may include poor visual design quality such as overlapping turbines, inappropriate scale of development relative to the underlying landscape, or other visual factors that may reduce

scenic quality, such that the wind farm would appear dominating, overbearing, or oppressive for example.

- **Cumulative Effects:** Landscape and visual effects may also be cumulative with other existing, consented, or proposed wind farm development, for which there is a submitted planning application.

Valency

Public attitude surveys do not form part of the landscape and visual assessment process. It is noted however, that whilst opinions vary widely most public attitude opinion surveys indicate that the majority of respondents view wind farm development as neither positive or negative.

Probability of Effect

The probability of a landscape and visual effect occurring as a result of this Development should be regarded as certain, subject to the stated project design and the continuance of the existing, baseline landscape resource, including known changes such as other permitted wind farm development.

The probability of cumulative effects however is variable. Whereas those effects related to existing wind energy development and those under construction are considered as certain, effects related to development with planning consent is only considered as likely. Wind energy development sites for which there is a submitted planning application are considered as uncertain and other wind energy development for which no planning application has been made are considered as uncertain / unknown, as the level of uncertainty would be greater.

Determining the Significance of Effects

In accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations it is important to determine whether the predicted effects, resulting from the proposed wind farm, are likely to be significant. Significant landscape and visual effects, in the assessor's opinion, would be all those effects that result in a '**Substantial**' or a '**Moderate / Substantial**' effect as indicated in **Table 7A.3**. In these cases the reasons for this judgement will be explained as part of the assessment.

It is worth noting that wind farm development is in a different category to other forms of development such as mineral extraction or housing development. Generally wind farm development will have a 'small' development footprint, and entails the addition of tall structures to the landscape, usually without removing other landscape elements such as

trees and woodland, although the site area may be large. Wind farm development also includes aspects of visual permeability, and reversibility, although generally the visual effects are most likely to form the greater part of the assessed effects and may cover extensive areas of the study area.

The conclusion that some effects are 'significant' or 'not significant' must not be taken to imply that the application should be directly refused or approved; rather the predicted levels of effect, including those which are considered as significant in this assessment should be considered further by the decision makers and in light of wider planning policy, and as such form one step in the process of determining this planning application.

Appendix 7.B

LVIA Glossary

Abbreviations and Glossary

APQ	Area of Panoramic Quality
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AOV	Angle of View
BT	Blade Tip
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Cumulative effects*	<p>Additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>And:</p> <p>The summation of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions.</p>
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Degree of change	A combination of the scale extent and duration of an effect also defined as 'magnitude'.
Environmental fit*	The relationship of a development to identified environmental opportunities and constraints in its setting.
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Second Edition, published jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2002.
Indirect effects	Not a direct result of the development, but often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway. Also used to describe indirect landscape effects concerning perceptual characteristics and qualities of the landscape and indirect visual effects in relation to issues such as 'setting'.
HH	Hub Height
LCA	Landscape Character Area – usually defined by a landscape character assessment, and usually occurs within and/or may contain LCTs and relates to particular geographical locations or regions.
LCT	Landscape Character Type - usually defined by a landscape character assessment and relates to generic types of landscape that may occur in several locations.
Landscape capacity*	The degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without unacceptable adverse effects on its character. Capacity is likely to vary according the type and nature of change being proposed and the management or landuse of the site area.
Landscape character*	A distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, landuse and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape.
Landscape character subtype	A small area of distinctive or recognisable character within a wider LCA.
Landscape constraints	Components of the landscape resource such as views or mature trees recognised as constraints to development. Often associated with landscape opportunities.
Landscape designations	Areas protected either by law or through planning policies for reason of their landscape attributes or visual amenity e.g. National Parks, National Scenic Areas and AGLVs.
Landscape effects	Change in the elements, characteristics, character, and qualities of the landscape as a result of development.

Landscape elements	A component part of the landscape, such as trees, woodland and ponds.
Landscape features*	Prominent eye-catching elements, e.g. Wooded hill tops, and church spires.
Landscape fit	The relationship of a development to identified landscape opportunities and constraints in its setting.
Landscape patterns	Spatial distributions of landscape elements combining to form patterns, which may be distinctive, recognisable and describable e.g. hedgerows and stream patterns.
Landscape quality (or condition)*	Based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.
Landscape qualities	Term used to describe the aesthetic or perceptual and intangible characteristics of the landscape such as scenic quality, tranquillity, sense of wildness or remoteness. Cultural and artistic references may also be described here.
Landscape resource*	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character, and value.
Landscape sensitivity	The sensitivity of a landscape is defined by consideration of factors such as value, quality, / condition and capacity of the landscape relative to a particular type of proposed development.
Landscape value*	The relative value or importance attached to a landscape or view; (often as a basis for designation) which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, cultural associations, or other landscape reasons.
Level of effect	Determined through the combination of sensitivity of the receptor and the proposed magnitude of change brought about by the development.
Magnitude*	A combination of the scale, extent and duration of an effect also defined as 'degree of change'.
Mitigation*	Measures including any process, activity, or design to avoid, reduce, remedy, or compensate for adverse environmental impact or effects of a development.
NSA	National Scenic Area
Photomontage	An illustration of a computer generated perspective model of the proposed development that has been superimposed or combined onto a photograph from a recorded location
Positive or Negative Types of Landscape Effect	<p>The landscape effects may be positive, neutral, or negative.</p> <p>In landscape terms – a positive effect would require development to add to the landscape quality and character of an area. Neutral landscape effects would include low or negligible changes that may be considered as part of the 'normal' landscape processes such as maintenance or harvesting activities. A negative effect may include the loss of landscape elements such as mature trees and hedgerows as part of construction leading to a reduction in the landscape quality and character of an area.</p>
Positive or Negative Types of Visual Effect	<p>The visual effects may be positive, neutral, or negative.</p> <p>In visual terms – positive or negative effects are less easy to define or quantify and require a subjective consideration of a number of factors affecting the view, which may be positive, neutral, or negative. Opinions as to the visual effects of wind energy developments vary widely, however it is not the assumption of this assessment that all change, including substantial levels of change is a negative experience. Rather this assessment has considered factors such as the visual composition of the landscape in the view together with the design and composition, which may or may not be reasonably, accommodated within the scale and character of the landscape as perceived from the receptor location.</p>
Probability of Effect	<p>The probability of a landscape and visual effect occurring as a result of this Development should be regarded as certain, subject to the stated project design and the continuance of the existing, baseline landscape resource, including known changes such as other permitted wind farm development.</p> <p>The probability of cumulative effects however is variable. Whereas those effects related to existing wind energy development and those under construction are considered as certain, effects related to development with planning consent is only considered as likely. Wind energy development sites for which there is a submitted planning application are considered as uncertain and other wind energy development for which no planning application has been made are</p>

	considered as uncertain / unknown, as the level of uncertainty would be greater.
RD	Rotor Diameter
Receptor*	Physical landscape resource, special interest, or viewer group that will experience an effect. Landscape Receptors: The physical landscape resource (character, characteristics or elements such as trees and hedges). Visual Receptors: People within the landscape that that will experience a visual effect, often described as 'residents', 'road users', or 'walkers' for example.
Residual effects	Potential environmental effects, remaining after mitigation.
Scale Indicators	Landscape elements and features of a known or recognisable scale such as houses, trees, and vehicles that may be compared to other objects, where the scale of height is less familiar, to indicate their true scale.
Sense of Place (genius loci)*	The essential character and spirit of an area: 'genius loci' literally means 'spirit of the place'.
Significant Effects	It is a requirement of the EIA Regulations to determine the likely significant effects of the development on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect. Where possible significant effects should be mitigated. The significance of an effect gives an indication as to the degree of importance (based on the magnitude of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptor) that should be attached to the impact described. Whether or not an effect should be considered significant is not absolute and requires the application of professional judgement. Significant – 'noteworthy, of considerable amount or effect or importance, not insignificant or negligible'. The Concise Oxford Dictionary. Those levels and types of landscape and visual effect likely to have a major or important / noteworthy or special effect of which a decision maker should take particular note.
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Sustainability*	The principle that the environment should be protected in such a condition and to such a degree that ensures new development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Temporary or permanent effects	Effects may be considered as temporary or permanent. In the case of wind energy development the application is for a 25 year period after which the assessment assumes that decommissioning will occur and that the site will be restored. For these reasons the development is referred to as long term and reversible.
Type or Nature of effect	Whether an effect is direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse) or cumulative.
Visual amenity	Value of a particular place in terms of what is seen by visual receptors, taking account of all available views and the total visual experience. The assembly of components, which provide an attractive setting or backdrop for activities, to which value is attached in terms of what is seen.
Visual dominance	A visual effect often referred to in respect of residential properties that in relation to development would be subject to blocking of views, or reduction of light / shadowing, and high levels of visual intrusion.
Visual effect	Visual effects are concerned wholly with changes in views and visual amenity of visual receptors resulting from development.
Visual sensitivity	The sensitivity of visual receptors such as residents, relative to their location and context, to visual change proposed by development.
Visualisation	Computer visualisation, photomontage, or other technique to illustrate the appearance of the development from a known location.
Wireframe or Wireline	A computer generated line drawing of the DTM (digital terrain model) and the proposed development from a known location.
ZTV – Zone of Theoretical Visibility	Area or zone of visual influence or theoretical visibility of the wind farm within the study area for the visual assessment, generated by a computerised model of the development and a digital terrain model of the landscape.

***Note:**

Those descriptions marked with an asterisk are identical to the terminology provided in the GLVIA glossary or text.

Appendix 7.C

Viewpoint Analysis

Introduction

Viewpoint analysis assists in both the design process and the further definition of the scope of the assessment process. In particular, a significance threshold indicating the distance from the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project, where significant effects may be likely, has been identified, and this has been used to focus the baseline information and detailed reporting of the assessment in this chapter.

The viewpoint analysis has been conducted from nineteen locations as illustrated in **Figure 7.2**, and the views from these locations are illustrated in **Figures 7.13a/b** to **7.38a/b**.

A summary of the viewpoint analysis is provided in **Table 7.C1**

Viewpoint Summary

Table 7C.1 lists the names of the viewpoints and provides a summary of the viewpoint analysis and cumulative analysis. The information is as follows:

- Distance: Distance of the viewpoint location from the nearest turbine within the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project.
- Assessment: LVIA:
 - Sensitivity: The sensitivity of the viewer at the viewpoint location is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, and negligible) in accordance with the methodology in **Appendix 7A**.
 - Magnitude: The magnitude of change, taking account of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, negligible, and zero) in accordance with the methodology.
 - Level of Effect: The level of visual effect, taking account of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project is recorded and takes account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology. This effectively provides the level of ‘additional’ effect of Ascog.
- Assessment: CLVIA:
 - Magnitude (Existing): The magnitude of change, taking account of the existing wind energy development is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, negligible, and zero) in accordance with the methodology.

- Magnitude (Existing and Consented): The magnitude of change, taking account of the other wind energy development that is either existing, consented or under construction, is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, negligible, and zero) in accordance with the methodology.
- Magnitude (Existing, Consented and Application): The magnitude of change, taking account of the other wind energy development that is either existing, consented, under construction or proposed as listed in Table 6.4 of the main chapter, is recorded (ranging from high, medium, low, negligible, and zero) in accordance with the methodology.
- Cumulative Level of Effect: The level of cumulative visual effect, taking account of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project, the other existing, consented / under construction and proposed wind energy development, is recorded and takes account of the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the methodology. Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to significant effects in accordance with the relevant EIA Regulations and the wind farm contributing most to the cumulative effects is recorded in brackets. This effectively provides the ‘combined’ level of effect of Ascog, taking account of all other development that may be visible.

Sunlight and Weather Conditions

Changing weather patterns and local climatic conditions will influence the visibility of the Ascog Wind Energy Project which will vary from periods of low visibility (fog, low cloud, and bright sunny conditions that are accompanied by haze generated by temperature inversions) as well as periods of high visibility in clear weather. In some instances the wind farm may appear ‘back-lit’ (e.g. appearing darker in colour during sunset / sunrise and periods of pale or white blanket cloud) and in other circumstances may appear to be ‘up-lit’ (e.g. during stormy periods that combine dark clouds and bright sunshine).

Significance Threshold

The viewpoint assessment is summarised in **Table 7C.1** and the analysis indicates that significant effects would extend to an area of approximately 2km distance from the nearest proposed wind turbines as indicated by viewpoint 1: Common Hill, and Viewpoint 3: Rothesay on the Isle of Bute.

Further detailed site survey and analysis reveals that some limited significant visual effects may also occur at distance of between 2-3km from the turbines to the south and southwest of the Ascog Wind Energy Project in the vicinity of Loch Ascog and the West Island Way.

In terms of cumulative effects, the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project is isolated from other wind farms due to its island location, the nearest being on the mainland at Kelburn Estate at approximately 15km distance from Ascog. The cumulative viewpoint assessment indicates that there would be no significant cumulative effects (with the exception of viewpoint 3), with many viewpoints recording little or no cumulative wind farm visibility.

Importantly these levels of effect are indicative of a visual effect on a particular viewpoint location and they should not be assumed to translate into visual effects on the overall visual experience, as each of the viewpoints have been specifically located where the sensitivity of the receptor and the views of the Ascog Wind Energy Project would be greatest, in this sense they are not typical or representative.

Table 7C.1 Summary of Viewpoint Analysis

Viewpoint	Dist.* (m)	Assessment: LVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project)			Assessment: CLVIA (other Wind Energy Development)			Assessment: CLVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project and other Wind Energy Development)
		Sensitivity	Magnitude (Ascog)	Level of Effect**	Magnitude (existing)	Magnitude (existing and consented)	Magnitude (existing, consented application)	and Cumulative Level of Effect***
1. Common Hill, Isle of Bute	804	High	High- medium	Substantial to Moderate / Substantial	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Substantial to Moderate / Substantial (on account of Ascog)
2. Mount Stewart, Isle of Bute		High	Zero	None / No View	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
3. Rothesay, Isle of Bute	2,051	High	Medium to Low	Moderate / Substantial Moderate	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
4. Toward Quay, southern point of Cowal Peninsular	4,367	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Slight	Negligible	Zero	Negligible	Moderate to Slight
5. Southerly point on B881, Isle of Bute	5,060	Medium to High	Negligible	Slight to Slight / Negligible	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
6. Bell Bay, Great Cumbrae Island	8,164	High	Low	Moderate	Zero	Zero	Negligible	Moderate
7. Strone Point, Kyles of Bute	9,033	High	Negligible	Slight	Negligible	Zero	Negligible	Slight
8. A78, Knock Castle	9,065	High to Medium	Low	Moderate to Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
9. Vantage point at Glaid Stone, Great Cumbrae Island	9,139	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Slight	Low to Negligible	Negligible	Low	Moderate

Viewpoint	Dist.* (m)	Assessment: LVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project)			Assessment: CLVIA (other Wind Energy Development)			Assessment: CLVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project and other Wind Energy Development)
		Sensitivity	Magnitude (Ascog)	Level of Effect**	Magnitude (existing)	Magnitude (existing and consented)	Magnitude (existing, consented application)	and Cumulative Level of Effect***
10. Wemyss Bay to Rothesay ferry route (for revised VP see no. 24 below)	9,201	High	Low	Moderate	Negligible	Negligible	Low	Moderate
11. Largs	10,72 4	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
12. Inverchaolain, East Coast of Loch Striven	11,74 5	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
13. Kelburn Estate, south of Largs	13,64 5	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
14. Lunderston Bay Picnic Spot, North of Inverkip	15,14 0	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
15. Greenock Cut, West of Dunrod Hill.	16,12 7	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Negligible	Negligible	Slight
16. Farland Head, West Coast near Portencross	16,30 7	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
17. Gourouck Hunterston Quay ferry route	17,65 5	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
18. Cock of Arran, Arran	17,92 1	High	Negligible	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Slight
19. Corrie Village, Arran	21,28 1	High	Negligible	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Slight
20. Kilcreggan, Roseneath Peninsular	21,33 8	High	Negligible	Slight	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect

Viewpoint	Dist.* (m)	Assessment: LVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project)			Assessment: CLVIA (other Wind Energy Development)			Assessment: CLVIA (Ascog Wind Energy Project and other Wind Energy Development)
		Sensitivity	Magnitude (Ascog)	Level of Effect**	Magnitude (existing)	Magnitude (existing and consented)	Magnitude (existing, consented application)	and Cumulative Level of Effect***
21. Goat Fell summit, Arran	24,230	High	Negligible	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Slight
22. Minor public road adjacent to Braeside (as requested by ABC)	406	Medium to high	High	Moderate substantial to substantial	Zero	Zero	Zero	No cumulative effect
23. B811 between Lochend and Crossbeg (As requested by ABC)	1,330	Medium	Medium to high	Moderate to moderate/substantial	Slight	Slight to moderate	Moderate	Moderate
24. Additional Viewpoint from Weymss Bay to Rothsay ferry crossing as requested by ABC	4571	High to medium	Low	Moderate to slight	Slight	Slight to moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Note:

* Distance: from closest turbine (listed in increasing distance except Viewpoints 22,23 and 24 which are additional viewpoints requested by Argyll and Bute Council)

** Those levels of effect shown in bold relate to potential significant effects in accordance with the EIA Regulations for the specific receptor.

*** Where effects are predominantly associated with a wind energy development other than Ascog Wind Energy Project, this is listed in brackets.

Figure 7.13a/b	Viewpoint 1: Common Hill, Isle of Bute	
Description	<p>This viewpoint (also known as Canada Hill) is located at a high point to the east of Rothesay town, 804m due north of the proposal site. Southerly views towards the site from this viewpoint are relatively open and rural in nature, incorporating a golf course and the native vegetation along its boundary within the foreground backed by native vegetation associated with the steep slope at High Bogany in the middle distance. In the far distance the native vegetation is associated with Ascog, Balmory and Mid Ascog. The falling landform beyond Common Hill creates a gently undulating horizontal skyline that runs at or just below the hub heights of the turbines.</p> <p>There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 15-25km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality and would be experienced by golfers and recreational users of the single track, which is also a core path (C252c), which leads to a summit viewpoint.</p> <p>The sensitivity is considered to be high.</p>	
Mitigation	<p>The colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the distant landscape.</p> <p>The design has evolved to minimise visual effects on Ascog, which is considered to be more sensitive. The turbines have been kept back slightly from the edge and steep slopes of the valley sides, but a small number would still remain visually prominent from this location.</p>	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines and the met mast would be visible in this view as a tight group of turbines. All three turbines would openly be visible with no screening provided by existing vegetation or built structures. The lower portion of the towers and blade tips below the hubs of the three turbines would have the backdrop of the hills, and the elements at and above hub height are visible on the horizon against the sky. They would represent the introduction of new and relatively prominent, rotating, features to the view. The existing clump of trees to the left of the turbines represents potential scale indicators within the view.</p> <p>However, the three turbines would take up a relatively small proportion (3%) of the overall horizontal angle of view (AOV) and appear as simple and compact almost sculptural feature in the landscape and are of a reasonably scale when compared to the receiving landscape.</p> <p>Given the combination of close proximity views with no screening by the underlying topography, the magnitude of change would be high / medium.</p> <p>Whilst in Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Construction / decommissioning activity across the northern part of the site (including road construction) would be partly visible. Within the southern part of the site, construction / decommissioning activities would be largely screened from view by the intervening landform.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from zero to high / medium.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	High / Medium (Zero to High / Medium during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Substantial to Moderate/Substantial and Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 15-25km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be successive visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast at approximately 20km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	

Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast at approximately 15km distance (negligible magnitude).
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Substantial to Moderate/Substantial and Significant on account of the Ascog Wind Energy Project

Figure 7.14a/b	Viewpoint 2: Mount Stewart	
Description	This viewpoint is located at the access to the Mount Stuart House and Estate, visitor attraction at 2,273m to the south of the proposal site. This location represents the closest point on the estate boundary to the proposal, further viewpoint locations within the gardens and at the house would be screened by existing mature vegetation and there would be no view of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project.	
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality, at the gateway to the Mount Stuart House and Estate, visitor attraction and the sensitivity is considered to high.	
Mitigation	Not applicable.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation: There would be no view (zero magnitude) of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project.</p> <p>Whilst in Construction and Decommissioning: There would be no view (zero magnitude) of the proposed Ascog Wind Energy Project.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Zero
	Type of Effect	Not applicable.
	Level of Effect	None / No View
	Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.

Figure 7.15a/b	Viewpoint 3: Rothesay, Isle of Bute	
Description	The viewpoint is located 2,051m west of the nearest turbine (turbine 1). In the foreground, the view consists of mixed town and parkland / wooded landscape. The middle ground is more heavily populated with residential properties, trees, and playing fields. In the background the land rises to the horizon which is punctuated by a series of trees and woodland blocks. No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality, and along the West Island Way long distance walking route and the C237(b) Core Path. It is experienced by local residents and recreational users and is considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design has evolved to minimise visual effects on Ascog. The number of turbines has been	

	reduced and the turbine locations have been set back from the edge of the Ascog valley. The colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>According to the wireframe, theoretically all three turbines would be visible, although the lower element of the towers and the lower blade tips of two turbines would be heavily screened by the existing topography. However, the existing vegetation would screen out two of the turbines and Turbine 1 would be partly visible affecting a very narrow vertical and horizontal AOV.</p> <p>The development would appear as a simple almost sculptural feature, viewed in the context of a contemporary landscape / townscape and would be of a reasonably scale when compared to the receiving landscape / townscape in the view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be medium / low.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>There would be little or no views of the construction activity, related only to the movement of a crane and or vehicles.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from zero to medium / low.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Medium / Low (Zero to medium / low during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Moderate / Substantial and bordering on Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7.16a/b	Viewpoint 4: Toward Quay, Southern Point of Cowal Peninsular
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at the shore of Toward Quay, near Castle Toward and views south to the proposal site at 4,367m distance. The foreground view is principally of the Toward Sailing Club slip and the shore at Toward Quay. The water in the middle ground is where the Firth of Clyde meets Loch Striven. The ferry to the right is following the Wemyss Bay to Rothesay ferry route and is just entering Rothesay Bay. The background to the centre and right is of the Isle of Bute, and the settlement of Rothesay can be seen along the coastline. The hills above Rothesay are primarily deciduous woodland and evergreen plantations.</p> <p>In the far distance, above the ferry is the snowy mountain top summit of Goat Fell on Arran. To the left are Great and Little Cumbrae Islands and to the far left is the mainland.</p> <p>There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments.</p>
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality and is experienced by residential and recreational receptors including walkers on the Five Degrees West Challenge Long Distance Route, and the Core Path C222 and C208. Additionally sailors of the Toward Sailing Club and kayakers using the club house and Launch Point L067. Visitors to the nearby

	Castle Toward would also be receptors. The receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The colour of the turbines would reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>According to the wireframe, theoretically the tops of all three turbines would be visible, with the majority of the towers and lower blade tips screened by the existing topography. However, there is additional woodland screening which would further reduce the visibility of the turbines.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be low / negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>The upper part of the crane may be visible during the construction period only.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from zero to low / negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low / Negligible (Zero to low / negligible during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight and not Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the east at approximately 15km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight and not Significant	

Figure 7.17a/b	Viewpoint 5: Southerly Point on B881, Isle of Bute
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located along the B881, at 5,060m south of the proposal site. The foreground is characterised by the shallow valley aligned parallel with Loch Quien, Loch Fad and Loch Ascog and rural pasture fields and woodland. This area forms the route of the B881 minor road connecting the A844 south of the island with Rothesay to the north. Well managed native hedgerows run parallel to this road, and beyond to the left and right are grazing fields. To the far right the access drive to Birgidale Crieff Farm is just visible. The middle ground is predominantly grazing land, with some rough grassland on slightly higher elevations. Field boundaries are defined by small trees and hedgerows.</p> <p>The high ground of Barone Hill to the left and the linking of pockets of plantations across the view form the back ground. Kaimes Hill and Edinbeg Hill north of the island are just visible in the far background to the left. To the right of the picture some telegraph pole structure come into view.</p> <p>No existing windfarms are visible from this location.</p>

Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality and would be experienced by road users on the B881. The viewpoint location is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>There would be visibility of the top of one blade tip, accounting for the screening effects of vegetation.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>No construction works would be visible and the magnitude of change would be zero.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	Medium to High
	Magnitude	Negligible (Zero to negligible during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight to Slight / Negligible and not Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7.18a/b	Viewpoint 6: Bell Bay, Great Cumbrae Island	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at the shoreline of Bell Bay on Great Cumbrae Island, 8,164m to the southeast of the proposal site. This viewpoint views out from, across the Firth of Clyde towards the Isle of Bute, and in the background to the right are the peninsulas of higher ground from the main land with Loch Striven and Kyles of Bute interlocked, although these water corridors are not clearly visible.</p> <p>No existing windfarms are visible from this location.</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is located within the North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area. It is experienced by recreational receptors (cyclists following the locally marked Great Cumbrae Island Tour and people on the beach and picnic sites) and other road users of the B896.</p> <p>These receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity.</p>	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible with their towers viewed against the backdrop of Windy Hill (north of the Isle of Bute) whilst the top half would be visible against the skyline. There would be no screening by topography or vegetation.</p>	

	<p>The three turbines would take up a relatively small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV (approximately 2°), although the turbines would appear 'broadside' to the viewer) and appearing as a simple composition amounting to a relatively small change to the view appearing in the distance within the open landform on which they are situated.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be low.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from zero to low.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low (Zero to low during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would in theory be successive visibility of the Cour application on the Kintyre peninsula to the west at beyond 30km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

Figure 7.19a/b	Viewpoint 7: Strone Point, Kyles of Bute
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at the shoreline of Strone Point, 9,033m due north of the proposal site. This view is alongside the local road connecting Colintrave to Strone Point and beyond to Coustonn, on the mainland peninsular between the water corridors of Kyles of Bute and Loch Striven. To the right in the middle ground the upland landscape of rough grazing and moorland is the Isle of Bute, the highest ground being Kames Hill and then Edinbeg Hill. Rothesay settlement is screened by the headland as it descends down to the shoreline. The higher ground of Common Hill is behind this headland. To the left of the picture is the peninsular located between Loch Striven and Firth of Clyde, with Toward Quay and Point at the tip. In the far distance is the mainland. On a perfectly clear day, and in the summer when the sun is higher, Great Cumbrae Island may also be visible. There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is just located within the Kyles of Bute NSA. It is experienced by residential receptors (South Hall Farm, The Boat House and the South Hall Sawmill conversion) and users of the local road. The sensitivity of this viewpoint is high.</p>
Mitigation	<p>The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.</p>

Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically the top elements (including the upper tower, hub and blades) of all three turbines would be visible. The lower elements would be screened by the higher topography of Common Hill, whilst the top elements would be visible against the skyline. In reality, turbine 3 would be completely screened and turbine 2 would be partly screened by vegetation.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the horizontal AOV occupying (1°) and would appear limited in overall height as viewed from this location, such that they appear of a reasonable and comparable scale when compared to the woodland on the horizon. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, appearing in the distant background, easily accommodated within this landscape scene.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible (Zero to negligible during construction and decommissioning)
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight and not Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 20-25km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 20km distance (low magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

Figure 7.20a/b	Viewpoint 8: A78, Knock Castle
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at a lay-by alongside the A78, at 9,065m due east of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground is commanded by the Firth of Clyde stretching across the whole of the photograph. Central to the middle ground, although itself distant, is the majority of the Isle of Bute, with the mainland peninsulas to the right. The landscape beyond the water is one of plantations, woodland and grassland. The settlement of Rothesay can be seen to the right of centre along the coastline.</p> <p>In the far distance to the left is the Isle of Arran, and the rising ground of Goat Fell summit.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint is located within the North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area and the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. It is representative of views experienced by users of the A78, and the Ayrshire Coastal Path long distance walking route, and the nearby tourist attraction and Historic Scotland visitor site of Knock Castle.</p> <p>The viewpoint location is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity.</p>

Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically all three turbines would be visible, mostly against the skyline, appearing as a regularly spaced, simple and compact linear feature or 'row' of turbines.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, appearing in the distant background, easily accommodated within this landscape scene.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be low.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to low.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High and Medium
	Magnitude	Low
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7.21a/b	Viewpoint 9: Vantage Point at Glaid Stone, Great Cumbrae Island	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located on high ground at the Glaid Stone viewpoint or vantage point (360°) at 9,131m due south east of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground is of the rough and grazing grassland on the edge of great Cumbrae Island, with the local access road to the right of the photograph. The middle ground is commanded by the Firth of Clyde stretching across the whole of the photograph. Central in the distance is the north of the Isle of Bute, its strong angular patterns of grass fields enclosed by linear shelterbelts and blocks of estate woodland and plantations visible. The settlement of Rothesay can be seen to the right of the island along the coastline. In the far distance across the whole of the photograph are the mainland peninsulas. This is also illustrated as a 360° cumulative viewpoint (see Figure 7.34a/b Cumulative Viewpoint 1).</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint was requested by SNH, and is located within the North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area. The views will be experienced by walkers and tourists visiting Great Cumbrae Island. The viewpoint location is considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible against the backdrop of the peninsulas and associated higher ground. The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene.</p>	

	The magnitude of change would be low / negligible. Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning: Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to low / negligible.	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low to Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 7-10km distance (low magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 10km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the northeast between at approximately 10km distance (low magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

Figure 7.22a/b	Viewpoint 10: Wemyss Bay to Rothesay ferry route	
Description	Since this viewpoint is from a ferry route (i.e. a moving form of transport), it is not possible to take photographs to SNH standards. A wireframe only illustrates the the proposed site within the landscape, which is represented by a wireframe. However, the existing view would not be too dissimilar to that of Figure 7.20a/b, Viewpoint 8 A78, Knock Castle, at 9,065m east along the coastline, since the elevation and general orientation of the view are similar. This viewpoint is located at 9201m to the northeast of the proposal site.	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint has been specifically selected, as requested by SNH, to overlap with the sailing routes and, in general be representative of Skelmorlie settlement. Views are experienced by ferry users, recreational and residential receptors. These receptors are considered to range from high (residents) to medium to high (ferry and recreational users) sensitivity and the viewpoint has been assessed as of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	Whilst in Operation: The wireframe illustrates that all three turbines would be visible against the skyline. The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene. The magnitude of change would be low. Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:	

	Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to low.	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 15-25km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast at approximately 15km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 10km distance (low magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

Figure 7.23a/b	Viewpoint 11: Largs
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located on the Largs promenade at 10,724m east of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground is the shores of the Inner Firth of Clyde at Largs. Further left (out of the photograph) the ferry runs between Largs and Great Cumbrae Island. In the middle ground to the left, the northern end of Great Cumbrae Island can be seen, a landscape of improved pasture and small areas of deciduous woodland and heather moorland. To the right is a small promontory in Largs Bay with residential housing (just off the photograph).</p> <p>Across the whole photograph in the far distance is the Isle of Bute, and just right of centre the settlement of Rothesay can be seen along the coastline. The characteristic groups rectangular fields enclosed by shelterbelts and mixed estate woodland / plantations are visible. A more dramatic mountain landscape, with its conifer plantations and open moorland, can be seen to the right, by the mainland promontories enclosing the ribbon lochs (Loch Striven) and kyles (Kyles of Bute).</p>
Sensitivity	This viewpoint is located along the Long Distance Route Ayrshire Coastal Path and within the settlement of Largs. It is representative of views experienced by recreational and residential receptors which are considered to be of high sensitivity.
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible against the sky with the lower parts of the towers partly visible against the background landscape. The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV (approximately 2°). The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene.</p>

	The magnitude of change would be low to negligible. Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning: Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to low / negligible.	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low to Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate to Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location, and the existing / under construction Kelburn Windfarm would be screened from view by the townscape of Larges itself.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7.24a/b	Viewpoint 12: Inverchaolain, East Coast of Loch Striven	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located on a private drive within Inverchaolain settlement, 11,745m due north of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground is of rough grassland, scrub and to the left (of the photograph), the private access drive to a small number of properties along the loch edge. A post and wire fence creates the field boundary and a few small trees grow along the drive way. The lower slopes of Inverchaolain Glen which flows into Loch Striven are visible on the right and central area of the photograph with the water of Loch Striven, extending out southwards towards the Isle of Bute to meet the Kyles of Bute and Firth of Clyde. In the distance, to the left and right is landscape typical of this steep ridgeland and mountain LCT. Mountain ridges with conifer plantations on the lower slopes, oak woodland on the sheltered lower slopes and large fields within the lower valley.</p> <p>In the far distance is the Isle of Bute, white structures of Rothesay settlement are just able to be seen central to the photograph.</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality and just off from the Five Degrees West Challenge long distance walking route. There were no public areas that had an unscreened view onto the proposed site, and a location along the private drive was the only possible location. This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residential receptors, and their sensitivity is considered to be high.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically the tips of three turbines would be visible, although to the eye only one is obviously visible. The woodland on Common Hill would additionally screen the turbines resulting in the majority of all turbines being screened from view. The tip of one blade may be noticeable.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	

Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7/25a/b	Viewpoint 13: Kelburn Estate, South of Largs	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located from the estates 'viewpoint' on higher ground, and is located at 13,645m distance to the southeast of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground of this raised beach coast landscape typifies the rich broadleaf woodland, with gently rising land, grading into moorland higher up. Kelburn golf course displays well manicure grassland and individual trees, whilst Kelburn marina to the right prove this to be a sheltered location from the elements. To the left, the jetty to Fairlie Quay Marina can be seen. The water corridor between the mainland and Great Cumbrae Island in the middle ground is known as Fairlie Roads, which links with the Firth of Clyde to the right.</p> <p>Left and central in the distance is Great Cumbrae Island. In the far distance central to the photograph is the Isle of Bute, and to the right peninsulas from the mainland.</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint was requested by SNH and is representative of views experienced by visitors to the Kelburn Estate Garden and Designed Landscape tourist attraction. This is located within the North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area. This was the only publicly accessible location on the estate which had a view of the proposed site, uninterrupted by trees. The viewpoint has therefore been assessed as of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible against the background landscape, affecting a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight

Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.

Figure 7/26a/b	Viewpoint 14: Lunderston Bay Picnic Spot, North of Inverkip	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located close to the shoreline at 15,140m due northeast of the proposal site.</p> <p>The views are immediately of the shoreline and the Firth of Clyde, channelling down towards the Isle of Bute in the far distance. To the left is the raised beach landscape of deciduous woodland up to the waterfront. And the 237m high chimney associated with the redundant Inverkip Power Station. This chimney is the third tallest chimney in the UK and Scotland's tallest free-standing structure. To the right of the photograph is the peninsular leading south from Dunoon. The linear settlement of Innellan can be seen along the coastline with the deciduous woodland above and the coniferous plantations rising above up the steep slopes.</p> <p>In the distance, central to the photograph, is the Isle of Bute of comparatively lower lying topography. A ferry crossing the Firth of Clyde on the Rothesay to Wemyss Bay ferry route is just visible. Behind the Isle of Bute is the rugged granite uplands landscape of Arran. The mountain summit of Goat Fell is the highest point.</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is experienced by active and passive recreational receptors visiting the Ardgowan Garden and Designed Landscape and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The viewpoint has therefore been assessed as of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible against the background landscape, below and to the right of the Arran mountains, affecting a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene. The presence of the Inverkip power station chimney vertical structure commands the attention of the viewer, diverting away any views towards the proposal site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	

Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of the Ascog Wind Energy Project

Figure 7/27a/b	Viewpoint 15: Greenock Cut, West of Dunrod Hill.	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at an elevated point along a circular walk over moorland and then along the Greenock Cut (an aqueduct now a Designated Ancient Monument) with views over the Clyde. The viewpoint is located at 16,127m distance, due northeast of the proposal site.</p> <p>The foreground is a typical landscape of the areas rugged moorland hills LCT, with moorland vegetation, rough grassland and conifer plantations, and woodland down slope. In the middle ground the landscape is similar, although of high topography to the left of the photograph. To the right the land falls down to the shoreline and the settlements of Inverkip and closer to the Inverkip power station chimney, Wemyss Bay. The water channel of Firth of Clyde flows southwards towards the Isle of Bute.</p> <p>In the distance to the right is the plantation clad ridgeland and mountain landscape of a mainland peninsula sloping down to its southern tip Toward Point. The Isle of Bute is central to the photograph at this distance. In the far distance are the other peninsulas of the mainland separating the channels of Loch Striven and Kyles of Bute, and further to the left, the high mountains of Arran.</p> <p>There are a few vertical structures in the foreground, electricity poles / pylons, and the chimney in the middle ground.</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. It is experienced by recreational receptors considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible against the background landscape (Kilmory and Barone Hills), affecting a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene. The presence of the Inverkip power station chimney vertical structure commands the attention of the viewer, diverting away any views towards the proposal site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be successive visibility of the blade tips of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension at approximately 10km distance (negligible magnitude).	

Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Magnitude of Change	There would be simultaneous visibility of the Cour application at approximately 50km distance (negligible magnitude).
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight and not Significant

Figure 7/28a/b	Viewpoint 16: Farland Head, West Coast near Portencross	
Description	This viewpoint is located at 16,307m due southeast of the proposed site at the Farland head picnic site which is visible in the foreground together with the associated car park and adjacent houses. The steeply sloping landscape (Raised Beach Coast) is visible on the right of the photograph and Great Cumbrae Island is visible beyond the water on the left of the photograph.	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is located on the coastline adjacent to a picnic site and is considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>There would be no view of the proposed development from this location due to the existing buildings visible in the photograph.</p> <p>Should tourists visiting this location walk further along the road or coastline towards the castle a view of the upper parts of the three turbines would just be visible against the skyline. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of the Ascog Wind Energy Project	

Figure 7/29a/b	Viewpoint 17: Gourouck Hunterston Quay ferry route	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at 17,655m due northeast of the proposed site. Since this viewpoint is from a ferry route (i.e. a moving form of transport), it is not possible to take photographs to SNH standards. A wireframe only illustrates the setting of the proposed site within the viewed landscape. However, the existing view would not be too dissimilar to those of Figure 7.32a/b/Viewpoint 18 at Kilcreggan on the Roseneath Peninsula. This viewpoint essentially is along the Firth of Clyde open waters towards the proposed site, with the high topography of the mainland to the left of the wireframe and a peninsula to the right. On the Isle of Bute, the higher ground of Common Hill is to the right of the proposed site. The mountains of Arran are visible in the far distance.</p> <p>No existing windfarms are visible from this location.</p>	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is located within a ferry route and a popular sailing route. It is representative of views experienced by ferry users and recreational (sailors) receptors and is considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, the whole of all three turbines would be visible, although with the backdrop of Isle of Bute hills and Arran's mountains.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a very small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view. The turbines, being new elements in this field of view, would be a small change to the view appearing in the distant background. The presence of the Inverkip power station chimney vertical structure commands the attention of the viewer, diverting away any views towards the proposal site. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of the Ascog Wind Energy Project	

Figure 7/30a/b	Viewpoint 18: Cock of Arran, Arran	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located along the shore front north of North Sannox at 17921m distance due south of the proposal site.</p> <p>The body of water in the fore and middle ground is the Sound of Bute, linking to the left with</p>	

	<p>Kilbrannan Sound and to the right Firth of Clyde. In the far distance is the Isle of Bute central to the photograph with the Cowal peninsulas to the left and the mainland to the right, although at this distance these are difficult to discern.</p> <p>There would be visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland between approximately 20-25km distance.</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint was requested by SNH and is located within North Arran NSA, North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area and along the popular local Cock of Arran walking route. Close to the coastline is also a popular kayaking route. Views are experienced by recreational receptors and are considered to be of high sensitivity.</p>	
Mitigation	<p>The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.</p>	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, all three turbines would be visible, although against the backdrop of high ground created by Leacann nan Gall on a peninsula.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a very small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view. The turbines, being new elements in this field of view, would be a small change to the view appearing in the distant background. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland between approximately 20-25km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 25km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 30km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight and not Significant	

Figure 7/31a/b	Viewpoint 19: Corrie Village, Arran
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located adjacent to a bus stop and shoreline picnic spot at the Corrie settlement, 21,281m due south of the proposal site.</p> <p>The fenced grassed area is the public garden / picnic site associated with Corrie Hotel. The body of water in the fore and middle ground is the Firth of Clyde, linking to the Sound of Bute to the left.</p>

	In the far distance is the Isle of Bute central to the photograph, the Cowal peninsulas to the left and the mainland to the right, although at this distance these are difficult to define. There would be visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland between approximately 20-25km distance.	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is within North Arran NSA and the North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area. It is also along the National Cycle Route 73 and close to the coastline is also a popular kayaking route. It is representative of views experienced by residents, road users of the A841 and recreational users. The sensitivity therefore is considered to be high.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, all three turbines would be visible, although against the backdrop of high ground created by Leacann nan Gall on a peninsula.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a very small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view. The turbines, being new elements in this field of view, would be a small change to the view appearing in the distant background. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland between approximately 20-25km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 25km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 30km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight and not Significant	

Figure 7/32a/b	Viewpoint 20: Kilcreggan, Roseneath Peninsular
Description	This is the most northerly viewpoint is located at 21,338m distance from the proposed site. The view follows the channel of the Firth of Clyde south towards the Isle of Bute, enclosed by the higher ground of the rugged moorland hills to the left, where Gourrock settlement can be seen along the coastline. The ridgeland and mountain landscape to the right is host to the settlements of Dunoon and Innellan also characteristically along its coastline. At this distance, the Isle of Bute can

	only just be seen central to the photograph.	
Sensitivity	This viewpoint location was requested by SNH and is representative of views experienced by residential and B833 road user receptors. It is considered to be of high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, all three turbines would be visible, although against the backdrop of the high ground of Goat Fell summit on Arran.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a very small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view. The turbines, being new elements in this field of view, would be a small change to the view appearing in the distant background. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other existing windfarms are visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other consented windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other application windfarms would be visible from this location.	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	There would be no cumulative effects in respect of Ascog Wind Energy Project.	

Figure 7/33a/b	Viewpoint 21: Goat Fell summit, Arran	
Description	<p>This viewpoint is located at the summit of Goat Fell due south of the proposed site at 24,230m distance, a wireframe only has been provided for this viewpoint.</p> <p>The body of water in the middle ground is the Sound of Bute, linking to the left with Kilbrannan Sound and to the right Firth of Clyde. In the far distance is the Isle of Bute central to the photograph, the Cowal peninsulas to the left and the mainland to the right.</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint was requested by SNH and is within the North Arran NSA, Wild Land Search Area and North Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Area. It is experienced by recreational receptors that are considered to be of high sensitivity.</p> <p>This is a cumulative viewpoint illustrated as 360° in Figure 7.35a/b.</p>	
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, all three turbines would be visible, although against the backdrop of the Isle of Bute landscape.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a very small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view. The turbines, being new elements in this field of view, would be a small change to the view</p>	

	<p>appearing in the distant background. The magnitude of change would be negligible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to negligible.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Negligible
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respective extensions on the mainland between approximately 22-27km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 27km distance (negligible magnitude).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	There would be visibility of Waterhead Moor (30km).	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight and Not Significant	

Figure 7/36a/b	Viewpoint 22: Minor public road adjacent to Braeside
Description	<p>This viewpoint on the minor public road adjacent to the residential property at Braeside at 406m distance.</p> <p>The view from this section of the minor public road adjacent to the property at Braeside looks towards the hill of though the view is partially screened by intervening vegetation, roadside hedges and telegraph poles. To the base of the hill is a sewage works and associated ancillary structures. Further south and west lies the Loch Ascog reservoir and concrete dam, sluice and associated built structures. To the south and west a dramatic backdrop to the view is formed by the hills to the south. To the east at the northern foot of Ascog Hill are glimpsed views through to the Firth of Clyde and the mainland beyond. Please note that the actual property at Braeside</p>
Sensitivity	This viewpoint was requested by ABC and is within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality. It is experienced by road users receptors that are considered to be of medium sensitivity.
Mitigation	The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky. The turbines are evenly spaced forming a coherent pattern and their perceived height falls from north to south following the curvature of Ascog hill.
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines and the met mast would be visible in this view as an evenly spaced and coherent group of turbines. All three turbines would openly be visible with little or no screening provided by</p>

<p>existing vegetation or built structures. The towers and blade tips below the hubs of the three turbines are visible on the horizon against the sky. They would represent the introduction of new and relatively prominent, rotating, features to the view. However many manmade structures are already prominent in the this view including the sewage works to the base of the hill and the man made elements of the reservoir.</p> <p>However, the three turbines would take up a relatively small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view (AOV) and appear as simple and coherent almost sculptural feature in the landscape and are of a reasonable scale when compared to the receiving wider panoramic landscape towards the west and south.</p> <p>Given the combination of close proximity views with no screening by the underlying topography, the magnitude of change would be high / medium.</p> <p>Whilst in Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Construction / decommissioning activity across the northern part of the site (including road construction) would be partly visible. Base activities of the northern most turbine would be visible. Within the southern part of the site, construction / decommissioning activities would be largely screened from view by the intervening landform.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from zero to high / medium. The wireframe illustrates that theoretically, all three turbines would be visible.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from slight to moderate substantial.</p>		
Assessment	Sensitivity	Medium (minor road users)
	Magnitude	Medium
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Moderate and not significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other wind farms are visible.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Zero	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other wind farms are visible	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Zero	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	No other wind farms are visible	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Zero	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	No cumulative effect	

Figure 7.37a/b	Viewpoint 23: B881 between Lochend and Crossbeg, Isle of Bute
Description	This viewpoint is located along the B881 between Lochened and Crossbeg, at 1130m south and west of the proposal site.. This area forms the route of the B881 minor road connecting the A844 south of the island with Rothesay to the north. Well maintained stone dykes run parallel to this road, and beyond to the left and right are grazing fields. To the far right in the distance the existing wind farms at Wardlaw Wood and Kelburn Estate on the mainland are visible. The middle ground

	<p>is predominantly grazing land, with a line a telegraph poles crossing the grazing. Windyhall farmstead is visible to the north and east and dwellings at Ashford adjacent to the B881 to the north. Loch Ascog reservoir is visible in the middle distance to the east. Field boundaries are defined by small trees hedgerows and stone walls.</p> <p>The high ground of Barone Hill to the left and the linking of pockets of plantations across the view form the back ground. Kaimes Hill and Edinbeg Hill north of the island are just visible in the far background to the left.</p> <p>Waterhead Moor wind farm is visible from this location to the far east on the mainland across the Firth of Clyde.</p>	
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located within the Argyll and Bute Area of Panoramic Quality and would be experienced by road users on the B881. The viewpoint location is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity.	
Mitigation	The colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky. The lower section of the southern most turbine would be viewed against the backdrop of Hills of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in the far distance.	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>All three turbines would be visible in this view as an evenly spaced and coherent group of turbines. All three turbines would openly be visible with little or no screening provided by existing vegetation or built structures. The towers and blade tips below the hubs of the three turbines are visible on the horizon against the sky. They would represent the introduction of new and relatively prominent, rotating, features to the view. However many manmade structures are already prominent in the this view including the power lines, the Waterhead Moor wind farm and the man made elements of the reservoir.</p> <p>However, the three turbines would take up a relatively small proportion of the overall horizontal angle of view (AOV) and appear as simple and coherent almost sculptural feature in the landscape and are of a reasonable scale when compared to the receiving wider panoramic landscape in all directions.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be low.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>The construction works would be visible but only to a very small angle of the overall view and the magnitude of change would be low.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	Medium to High
	Magnitude	Low
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral.
	Level of Effect	Slight to moderate and not Significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	Wardlaw Wood and Kelburn Estate existing wind farms are visible from this location in the 90 degree view. In the wider 360 degree view Ardrossan and Extension are visible.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	Millour Hill/ Wardlaw wood extension, Kelburn, and Dalry existing schemes may be visible from this location. From the angle of view they are visible on the skyline as a single large wind farm. Ardrossan wind farm is also theoretically visible in the wider 360 degree view to the south.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	Waterhead Moor application wind farm would be visible from this location but we believe that the application has been withdrawn.	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

Figure 7.38a/b	Viewpoint 24: Additional Wemyss Bay to Rothesay ferry crossing	
Description	<p>Since this viewpoint is from a ferry route (i.e. a moving form of transport), it is not possible to take photographs to SNH standards. A wireframe only illustrates the proposed site within the landscape, which is represented by a wireframe for viewpoint 10. At the request of Argyll and Bute Council we have produced an illustrative montage and wireframe using a number of coordinates taken from the moving ferry. The result is illustrative and accurate as far as is possible.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located at 4571m to the northeast of the proposal site.</p>	
Sensitivity	<p>This viewpoint has been specifically selected, as requested by ABC, to overlap with the sailing routes and, in general be representative of Skelmorlie settlement. Views are experienced by ferry users, recreational and residential receptors. These receptors are considered to range from high (residents) to medium to high (ferry and recreational users) sensitivity and the viewpoint has been assessed as of high sensitivity.</p>	
Mitigation	<p>The design and scale of the turbines has evolved to minimise visual effects and the colour of the turbines would be a pale grey to reduce their visibility when viewed against the background sky.</p>	
Magnitude of Change	<p>Whilst in Operation:</p> <p>The wireframe illustrates that all three turbines would be visible against the skyline.</p> <p>The three turbines would take up a small proportion of the overall horizontal AOV. The new elements would constitute a small change to the view, easily accommodated within this landscape scene. It can be seen from this view that the turbines are in scale within the view. The proposed overall height to blade tips is lower than the summit of the adjacent hill at Montford which is the prominent hill when entering Rothesay from the ferry. Further to the west the large scale hills of Arran and the Lochgilphead Peninsula give scale to the proposed wind farm.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would be low.</p> <p>Whilst Under Construction and Decommissioning:</p> <p>Views of the construction activity would be largely limited to the crane and turbine erection. The magnitude of change would range from zero to low.</p>	
Assessment	Sensitivity	High
	Magnitude	Low
	Type of Effect	Long term (reversible), direct, and neutral to negative.
	Level of Effect	Moderate and not significant
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be successive visibility of the existing / under construction Wardlaw Wood, Ardrossan and Kelburn windfarm developments including their respect extensions on the mainland towards the southeast between approximately 15-25km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be successive visibility of the consented Wardlaw Wood extension on the mainland towards the southeast at approximately 15km distance (negligible magnitude).</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Slight to Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Magnitude of Change	<p>There would be successive visibility of the Waterhead Moor application on the mainland towards the southeast between at approximately 10km distance (low magnitude). However we believe that this application has been withdrawn.</p>	
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate	
Cumulative Level of Effect: Ascog + Existing + Consented + Application Wind Energy Schemes		
Cumulative Level of Effect	Moderate and not Significant	

