CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

TECHNICAL APPENDICES

Introduction

7.1 This Chapter considers the potential effects of the proposed Windburn Wind Farm (the proposed development) on the landscape and visual resources of the proposed development location (the site) and the surrounding study area, during the construction and operational phases of the project.

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

7.3 The assessment methodology for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was developed in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Version 3, 2013) (GLVIA3), and is detailed in **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology.** The assessment was undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects at LUC.

7.4 This Chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters:

- **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution;**
- **Chapter 3: Description of Development;**
- **Chapter 8: Ecology;**
- **Chapter 9: Ornithology;**
- **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; and**
- **Chapter 13: Socio-economics, Tourism, Recreation and Land Use.**

7.5 This Chapter is supported by Figures contained in Volume 3a, visualisations contained in Volumes 3b and 3c, and the following Technical Appendices contained in Volume 4a:

- **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**.

Scope and Consultation

Consultation and Scoping Responses

7.6 In undertaking the assessment, consideration was given to the consultation responses received as part of the EIA Scoping and Gatecheck process. **Table 7-1** presents a summary of key landscape and visual related consultation responses from NatureScot, Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council, Friends of the Ochils, and ScotWays.

Table 7-1: Scoping and Gatecheck Responses

Consultee and Date	Issue Raised	Response/ Action Taken
	"We consider the proposed development could result in extensive significant effects and cumulative effects on the Ochil Hills, a prominent band of hills forming both a barrier and a gateway between Perthshire	The LVIA includes information on the design objectives for the proposed development, which seek to mitigate landscape effects on the Ochil Hills as far as possible (and noting that a level

NatureScot[1] 10th May 2023 Scoping Response	*and Kinross-shire, and the setting to both[2], which has a clear identity as a distinctive highly valued landscape of unique character within Scotland[3].”*	of localised landscape effects is unavoidable, for projects of this nature).
	“The siting of the proposal would result in extensive predicted visibility over the Ochil Hills and surrounding lowland landscapes to the north, south and west of the site. We therefore consider that particular emphasis be given to the overall siting and design of the proposal and how it relates to the surrounding landscape. This is particularly relevant given the distinctive landscape of the Ochil Hills and its role in forming both and barrier and a gateway between Perthshire and Kinross-shire, and the setting to both”	See the ‘Embedded Measures’ Section of this LVIA.
	“We confirm that the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should be carried out in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition.”	Noted. The LVIA was carried out in accordance with best practice guidance, including Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition (GLVIA3), as outlined in **Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance** and set out in **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology**
	“In relation to the cumulative assessment, we advise the Craighead Wind Farm is included given its location within the Ochil Hills to the west of the proposal and likely for potential significant effects.”	Noted. Craighead Wind Farm is included within the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (cumulative LVIA).
	“We consider that the Cleish Hills LLA and Forest LLA be scoped in given predicted visibility over these areas and also the likelihood for potential significant cumulative effects.”	The assessment of effects on local landscape designations is focussed on effects within 15km. Given there would be very limited theoretical visibility across the Cleish Hills Local Landscape Area (LLA), and none within 15km, significant effects are considered unlikely to occur and as such the Cleish Hills LLA was not taken forward for detailed assessment. Detailed assessment of the

1 NatureScot is the operating name for the body formally called Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

2 Perth and Kinross Landscape Supplementary Guidance 2020

3 Clackmannanshire Council (2015): Supplementary Guidance 2 - Onshore Wind Energy

		Forest Special Landscape Area (SLA) is presented in the 'Effects on Designated Landscapes' Section of this LVIA.
	"*Given the extensive visibility of the proposed development over the Ochil Hills and the lower lying carse in and around Stirling, we consider there is an under-representation of viewpoints from this area. We advise that the following viewpoints are included within the assessment to ensure that all potential significant effects, both, individually and cumulatively, are captured:* • *Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards (NS82598980);* • *Chartershall Road (NS78928936);* • *Stirling Castle esplanade (NS79149395);* • *Kersebonny Road (NS77329372);* • *A811 near Gargunnock (NS70059522) – in addition to proposed Viewpoint 2: Blair Drummond Castle/Safari Park;* • *Consideration of another viewpoint from the carseland close to Stirling, e.g. the Stirling County Cricket Club ground. This would be representative of widespread visibility to the south east of Stirling and views from the A91;* • *A viewpoint from the upper reaches of the popular Alva Glen walk, where the ZTV (although indistinct) appears to suggest there will be close visibility of blades if not hubs;* • *Given the importance of the Ochils skyline, the provision of wirelines for all nearby villages that will have visibility of blades and/or hubs; and* • *Sequential wirelines covering areas of visibility from the M9/A9 corridor."*	All suggested viewpoints were considered, and further consultation was carried out with NatureScot in September 2023 to agree the final viewpoint list. The following viewpoints were taken forward into the LVIA: • Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards; • Chartershall Road; and • A811 near Gargunnock The remaining viewpoint suggestions have not been taken forward into the LVIA due to limited theoretical visibility of the proposed development from these locations. Wirelines from the following locations however are provided in **Volume 3c** following agreement with NatureScot: • Stirling Castle esplanade; • Kersebonny Road; • Stirling County Cricket Club ground; and • Dumglow, Cleish Hills (to demonstrate visibility from the Cleish Hills). Wirelines from key routes (M9/A9) and villages are provided in **Volume 3c**.
	"*We advise that a viewpoint is included from the Cleish Hills to ensure that the cumulative effects of the proposal are captured given that the distinctive Ochil Hills are currently experiencing a high interest from wind energy development proposals*."	As shown in the ZTV in **Figure 7.2a-c and 7.5b**, theoretical visibility from the Cleish Hills is very limited and as such a viewpoint has not been included to represent these views. Further consultation was carried out with NatureScot to agree the final viewpoint list. A wireline only however is provided from the summit from Dumglow in the

		Cleish Hills (**Figure 7.31**) in **Volume 3c.**
NatureScot 4th March 2024 Gatecheck Response	*"Table 3.1 states that the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle have been scoped out of assessment due to lack of visibility in agreement with Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council and that a wireline will be included in the EIA report from Stirling Castle demonstrating this. We recommend that clarification is provided in the EIA report as to whether visibility of the turbines from these viewpoints may become possible should turbines be micro-sited up slope."*	Visibility of the proposed development from Stirling Castle would be limited to the blades of three turbines due to the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills, as demonstrated by the wireline from Stirling Castle Esplanade provided in **Volume 3c**. Micrositing of turbines within 50 m upslope would have limited effects on the degree of visibility as the intervening landform would continue to screen the majority of the proposed development.
Clackmannanshire Council 2nd May 2023 Scoping Response	"*The approach should apply best practice advice and guidance including that published by NatureScot*".	Noted. The LVIA was carried out in accordance with best practice guidance as outlined in **Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance** and set out in **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology.**
	"*Table 6.2 on page 22 suggest that The Forest Special Landscape Area be scoped out. However, this area includes Gartmorn Dam Country Park and other areas used for recreation and the development is understood to be visible form these locations. Consideration should be given to given to scoping this area in."*	The assessment of effects on the Forest SLA is presented in the 'Effects on Designated Landscapes' Section of this LVIA.
	"*It is suggested consideration is given to additional viewpoints; on the B9140, possibly between Fishcross and Collyland Roundabout. On other hilltops in the Ochils such as Ben Ever or a top accessible from Glen Devon; and the right of way between Blackford and Tillicoultry."*	All suggested viewpoints were considered. A viewpoint is included from the B9140, near Collyland (VP5). Views from the Ochil Hills are represented by VP1: Ben Cleuch, VP2: The Nebit, VP3: Innerdownie and VP4: Dumyat which are hill summits that offer elevated open views across the western and central extents of the Ochil Hills and which are well frequented by hill walkers. As such no additional viewpoints from within the Ochils were included in the LVIA. A wireline only however is provided from the summit of Ben Ever in **Volume 3c.**

	"*We agree it is essential to have as up to date information about other wind energy developments in the pipeline to inform the cumulative impact assessment.***"**	Noted.
	"*It is noted that no visible aviation lighting is required or proposed. This should be verified*."	Noted. As the proposed turbines are under 150m to blade tip height, visible aviation lighting should not be required. Information regarding aviation (including aviation lighting) is provided in **Chapter 14: Other Issues**.
	"*It is suggested consideration is given to effects on receptors travelling on the railway between Alloa and Stirling."*	The ZTV on **Figures 7.2a-c** indicates limited theoretical visibility of a small number of turbines from localised sections of the Alloa to Stirling railway. As such effects on views experienced from the Alloa to Stirling railway are not anticipated to be significant and as such have not been assessed as part of this LVIA. Effects on views experienced by receptors travelling on the railway between Falkirk to Stirling and Dunblane to Perth are considered within the assessment (refer to **Table 7-48** and **Table 7-49**).
Clackmannanshire Council 21st February 2024 Gatecheck Response	*"It is noted that the LVIA will include the effects on the Forest SLA in Clackmannanshire and include additional viewpoints on the B9140 and Ben Ever in the Ochil Hills. No response has been provided to the suggestion of inclusion of a VP on the Tillicoultry to Blackford right of way."*	The assessment of effects on the Forest SLA is presented in the 'Effects on Designated Landscapes' Section of this LVIA and VP5: B9140 near Collyland represents effects on views experienced from the B9140. A viewpoint from Ben Ever has not been included within this LVIA as views from hills within the Ochils are represented by VP1: Ben Cleuch, VP2: The Nebit, VP3: Innerdownie and VP4: Dumyat. However a wireline from Ben Ever is provided in **Volume 3c**. A response to Clackmannanshire Council's scoping response was provided to Clackmannanshire Council on 22/08/2023 and 21/09/2023. This response proposed that an assessment viewpoint from the Tillicoultry to Blackford right of way is not included as views experienced by

		recreational receptors in the Ochil Hills can be represented by VP1: Ben Cleuch, VP2: The Nebit, VP3: Innerdownie and VP4: Dumyat Innerdownie. No response from Clackmannanshire Council was received in relation to this proposal.
	"The Council`s comments re para 6.8.1 highlighted that any assessment should not focus only on impacts experienced on routes identified as Core Paths as the majority of recreational routes within the hills and leading to the hill summits are not defined as Core Paths within Clackmannanshire."	Effects on views experienced by recreational receptors within the Ochils Hills are represented by the assessment of a number of viewpoints including VP1: Ben Cleuch, VP2: The Nebit, VP3: Innerdownie and VP4: Dumyat. Effects on views experienced by recreational receptors in the Ochils Hills are also assessed within the assessment of routes, including Core Paths and Rights of Way within 5km of the proposed development.
Perth and Kinross Council Perth and Kinross Council 19th May 2023 Scoping Response	"*PKC* [Perth and Kinross Council] *agrees with the applicant that a 40km radius for the detailed study area is acceptable for the consideration of any effects, including landscape character assessment. The LVIA should therefore be focused on key considerations and effects. The consideration of potential impacts on landscapes to be scoped into the assessment and set out in Tables 6-1 and 6-2 are also generally agreed with*."	Noted.
	"*In terms of the viewpoints illustrated in Table 6-3, they would appear to be appropriate. PKC is not aware of any additional viewpoints which would add to or further enhance an LVIA assessment of this development."*	Noted.
	"*The proposed Craighead Wind Farm is located approximately 15km to the east of the site and should be included in the assessment of potential cumulative impacts*."	Noted. Craighead Wind Farm is included within the cumulative LVIA.
Stirling Council 21st April 2023 Scoping Response	"*Stirling Council are content with the proposed methodology."*	Noted.
	"*Stirling Council have previously raised the following viewpoints in previous consultations, as highlighted in paragraph 3.1.3 of the scoping:* • *Stirling Castle Esplanade and;* • *The A9 near Balhaldie Services*	As shown in the ZTV in **Figure 7.2a-c**, theoretical visibility of the proposed development from these locations is limited, due to the landform of the Ochil Hills. Limited visibility is unlikely to result in significant visual effects and as such viewpoints from the

	Whilst acknowledging turbine heights have been reduced from 180m to 149.9m ZTV mapping indicates potential visibility from these viewpoints so we would again request these be considered in the list of view point locations as they are respectively an iconic viewpoint and key tourist route/gateway."	Stirling Castle Esplanade and the A9 near Balhaldie Services have not been included within the LVIA. A wireline from each of these locations however is provided in **Volume 3c**.
	"*In February 2023 Stirling Council received a pre-application notice for a 4 x 180m turbine windfarm at Drummarnock in the Gargunnock-Touch Hills, south west of Stirling*."	Noted. Drummarnock Wind Farm is included within the cumulative LVIA.
Friends of the Ochils 21st April 2023 Scoping Response	"*We would ask that appropriate weight is given to the decisions relating other windfarm planning applications in the Ochils such as those determined at a conjoined PLI in 2007 for Snowgoat Glen - P/PPA/340/490, Lochelbank – P/PPA/340/491, Little Law – P/PPA/340/484 and Mellock Hill – P/PPA/340/485, and those relating to the Rhodders windfarm application when the number of turbines was reduced from 9 to 6. These decisions are particularly relevant to matters relating to cumulative impact of wind farms in the Ochil Hills and the capacity of the Ochils landscape to accommodate wind turbines*."	Cumulative effects of operational, consented, and proposed wind farm development at application stage on the Ochil Hills are considered and assessed in the cumulative LVIA for relevant landscape and visual receptors.
	"*We welcome the more detailed consultation to be carried out by NatureScot, Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council on the final scope of the cumulative assessment*."	Further consultation with NatureScot, Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council was carried out to notify the consultees of the scope of the cumulative assessment.
	"*We have serious concerns about the visibility of the proposed turbines from a number of viewpoints to the south of the Ochils such as VPs 4, 6, 9 and 10* [superseded numbering from scoping]. *For the first time, turbines in and around Burnfoot Hill would be visible above the iconic scarp slope of the Ochils to the detriment of the visual amenity afforded by the hill range*."	The LVIA includes information on the design objectives for the proposed development, which seek to mitigate effects on the surrounding visual amenity, including from the representative viewpoints listed in the 'Selection of Viewpoints for Assessment' Section of this LVIA.
	"*We would wish to see an additional viewpoint selected to the east of the proposed development showing the cumulative impact of that development with other Ochils windfarms such as Greenknowes. We would propose Innerdownie as that viewpoint*."	A viewpoint from Innerdownie (VP3) is included within the LVIA.

	"*Consideration requires to be given to the possible cumulative impact of the proposed windfarm with the Beauly to Denny powerline*."	Given the intervening distance of approximately 6km between the proposed development and the Beauly to Denny overhead line and the overhead line's position on the lower western slopes of the Ochil Hills, it is considered that interaction between the two developments would be minimal. As such, the Beauly to Denny overhead line is not assessed as part of the cumulative LVIA.
	"*The Scoping Report requires to take into account the proposed Craighead Windfarm (ref: ECU00004738) adjacent to the proposed Brunt Hill Windfarm (ref: ECU00004654)*".	Noted. Craighead Wind Farm is included within the cumulative LVIA.
	"*Consideration should be given to scoping in rather than scoping out those LCT and Designated Landscapes where the effects are described as "unlikely to be significant". This lack of certainty suggests that the precautionary principle should apply and that they should be scoped in and not out*."	The purpose of the LVIA is to focus on potential significant effects that were identified during field and desk based studies. Consideration will be given to all LCTs/ Designated Landscapes within the study area, with landscape receptors scoped out based on theoretical visibility and professional judgement.
ScotWays 24th April 2023 Scoping Response	Maps provided by ScotWays show - *"right of way TP193 as recorded in the National Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) crosses or is close to the application site"; "the Heritage Paths project promotes a route, Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track [HP353], for its historic interest. This old route crosses or is close to the application site"* and *"Scottish Hill Tracks describes route 131 Tillicoultry to Blackford or Gleneagles [HT724] which crosses or is close to the application site".*	Theoretical visibility of the proposed development from BLFD1 (forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193) and AUCH53 and AUCH113 (forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193) is described in Table 7-6. BLFD1 (forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193) is considered within the assessment.
	"*As well as direct impacts of development upon public access, ScotWays has an interest in impacts on recreational amenity, so this includes the impact of wind farm development on the wider landscape. We anticipate that the applicant will take into account both recreational amenity and landscape impacts in developing their proposals for this site. We will consider these issues further should this scoping stage lead to a planning application*."	Noted. Potential effects on recreational amenity are considered in the assessment of viewpoints and routes, presented in the Visual Assessment in the 'Effects on Visual Receptors at Viewpoints' Section of this LVIA. The applicant has also undertaken an Ochil Hills Recreation Usage Survey which is included as **Technical Appendix 13.1**.

	"*As ScotWays is aware of a number of wind turbine proposed in this general area, we are particularly concerned that the cumulative impact of these proposed developments is taken into account*."	Cumulative effects as a result of other proposed wind farm developments in the study area are considered and assessed in the cumulative LVIA.

Effects Assessed in Full

7.8 The following effects were identified at the scoping stage for consideration in this assessment:

- effects on the physical landscape of the site;
- effects on the perceived landscape character of Landscape Character Types (LCT) within a 15km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the proposed development;
- effects which could be of relevance to the reasons for designation as described by the key characteristics/special qualities of nationally and locally designated landscapes within 15km of the proposed development, as well as the overall integrity of nationally designated areas, as required by NPF4;
- effects on visual receptors at representative viewpoints;
- effects on visual receptors at settlements and routes in the study area (described below); and
- cumulative landscape and visual effects (including combined, successive, and sequential visual effects).

Effects Scoped Out

7.9 On the basis of the desk based and field survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the EIA team, experience from other relevant projects and policy guidance or standards, and in agreement with statutory consultees (NatureScot, Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council), the following topic areas were 'scoped out' of detailed assessment, as proposed in the Scoping Report:

- effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs) with limited theoretical visibility and/or beyond 15km from the proposed development, where the potential for significant effects on landscape character is limited;
- effects on landscape and visual related designated landscapes with limited theoretical visibility and/or beyond 15km from the proposed development, where the potential for significant effects on the reasons for designation is limited;
- effects on Wild Land Areas;
- effects on routes and settlements with limited theoretical visibility and/or beyond 15km from the proposed development, where the potential for significant visual and sequential effects is limited;
- effects upon residential visual amenity, in the form of a detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), given the nearest residential property is located approximately 2.7km from the nearest turbine; and
- effects arising from decommissioning of the proposed development, given the baseline against which to assess likely significant decommissioning effects cannot be easily predicted, and the approach to decommissioning is not currently known. The effects

from decommissioning will typically be similar to those arising during construction, which are detailed in this Chapter.

Approach and Methods

7.10 The LVIA methodology was prepared in accordance with the principles contained within GLVIA3 and is described in detail in **Technical Appendix 7.1**.

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

- the area from which the proposed development may theoretically be visible was established through creation of a ZTV covering a distance of up to 40km from the outermost wind turbines of the proposed development, refer to **Figures 7.2a-c** for blade tip ZTV;
- the landscape of the study area was analysed, and landscape receptors identified;
- the visual baseline was recorded in terms of the places where people would be affected by views of the proposed development, and the nature of views and visual amenity, seen by different groups of people;
- viewpoints were selected (including representative viewpoints, specific viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints), in consultation with Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council and NatureScot; and
- likely effects on landscape and visual resources were identified.

7.12 This assessment is carried out in accordance with the principles contained within the relevant legislation, policy and guidance detailed in **Technical Appendix 4.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance**.

Study Area

7.13 The study area for the assessment was defined as a 40km radius from the outermost turbines of the proposed development in all directions, as recommended in current guidance for turbines between 131-150m to blade tip[4] (maximum tip height of proposed development is 149.9m), and in agreement with statutory consultees Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council and NatureScot[5]. The site is shown on **Figure 1.1: Site Location** and the study area is shown on **Figure 7.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area**.

7.14 To consider cumulative effects of the proposed development in relation to other wind farms in the wider area, wind farms within 40km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development were included for the purposes of modelling and detailed assessment. Wind farms within 40km of the proposed development are shown on **Figure 7.6: Other Wind Farm Developments**.

4 SNH (February 2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance. Version 2.2

5 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) rebranded in August 2020 as NatureScot. Where relevant reference is still made to SNH within this chapter in respect of guidance which remains valid and is yet to be republished etc.

Desk Based Research and Data Sources

7.15 The following data sources have informed the assessment:

- NatureScot (2019 web based resource) Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions;
- Ordnance Survey (OS) Maps at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scales;
- OS Terrain® 5 mid-resolution height data (DTM) (5m grid spacing, 2.5metres RMSE);
- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 raster data;
- Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 raster data; and
- Ordnance Survey 1:250,000 raster data.
- data from other wind farm applications for the cumulative assessment and Clackmannanshire Council/Perth and Kinross Council/Stirling Council/Energy Consents Unit (ECU) planning portals.

Field Surveys

7.16 Field survey work was carried out during several visits under differing weather conditions between July 2022 and November 2023 and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. Field survey work included visits to viewpoints and designated landscapes and extensive travel around the study area, to consider potential effects on landscape character and on experiences of views seen from specific viewpoints, settlements and routes.

Assessment Methods

7.17 **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology** should be referred to whilst reviewing the approach taken and the findings of this assessment in order to gain a clear understanding of how findings of significance are informed. The significance of the potential effects of the proposed development considers the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the potential effect and is assessed in line with industry best practice guidance.

Sensitivity of Receptor

7.18 The sensitivity of the potentially affected receptors is influenced by both the susceptibility of the landscape or visual receptor to the type of development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or view. Judgements were recorded as high, medium, low, or negligible. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of sensitivity is provided in **Technical Appendix 7.1**.

Magnitude of Change

7.19 The magnitude of change (described as the magnitude of effect in GLVIA3) was identified through consideration of the degree of change to baseline conditions predicted as a result of the proposed development, as well as the geographical extent of the landscape or visual effect, its duration and reversibility. This is recorded as high, medium, low, or negligible. Detailed information about the approach to assessment of magnitude is provided in **Technical Appendix 7.1**.

Overall Level of Effect and Significance

7.20 Levels of effect were identified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major, as described in **Technical Appendix 7.1**. Moderate and major effects are considered significant in the context of the EIA Regulations.

7.21 In terms of the direction of effects (positive or adverse), there is a wide spectrum of opinion with regard to wind energy development. To cover the worst-case scenario, effects during construction and operation for the type and scale of wind farm development proposed are assumed to be adverse, unless stated otherwise.

Visualisation Methodology

7.22 The methodology for production of the visualisations is based on current good practice guidance as set out by NatureScot. Detailed information about the approach to viewpoint photography, ZTV and visualisation production is provided in **Technical Appendix 7.1.**

Mitigation and Residual Effects

7.23 Measures to reduce effects upon the landscape resource and, views and visual amenity were predominantly achieved through the design of the proposed development, as detailed in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**. Measures to reduce landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects, are embedded into the design of the wind farm. All residual effects are therefore as predicted in the assessment sections above.

Assumptions, Limitations and Confidence

7.24 No notable information gaps were identified during the preparation of baseline information or undertaking of the assessment, and it is considered that there is sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be taken in relation to the identification and assessment of likely significant effects on landscape, views, and visual amenity.

Baseline Conditions

Landscape Baseline

7.25 This section presents an overview of the landscape baseline, comprising current landscape character (including constituent landscape elements), landscape condition (including influence of existing wind farms or other development) and any designations attached to the landscape.

Site and Context

7.26 The site context is described in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**; and detailed information on the proposed development is provided in **Chapter 3: Description of Development**.

7.27 The site (shown in **Figure 7.1**) is located within the Ochil Hills, approximately 3km north of Alva. The southern part of the site is located within the Clackmannanshire Council administrative area and the northern part of the site is located within the Perth and Kinross Council administrative area. Part of the western boundary of the site follows the boundary of the adjacent Stirling Council administrative area to the west.

7.28 The site extends across open hills within the Ochils, between Blairdenon Hill (631m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) on the western boundary, Bengengie Hill (565m AOD) on the southern boundary and Ben Buck (679m AOD) on the south eastern boundary, which is the highest point within the site. The northern part of the site comprises a narrow area which partly follows an existing minor road (Sheriffmuir Road) and extends from the main part (where wind turbines would be located) of the site to the A9 to the north. This part of the site enables access from the A9 up to the main part of the site. Topography generally falls northwards from the highest point at Ben Buck (679m AOD) to the lowest point of approximately 145m AOD at the A9. Landform is characterised by undulating hills and upland moorland with some steep upland glens.

7.29 There are a number of small watercourses across the site which drain into various surrounding water courses and bodies of water, including Upper Glendevon Reservoir which lies adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the site, the River Devon in the low lying carseland to the south and the Allan Water to the north.

7.30 A core path crosses the narrow northern part of the site near East Biggs and a second core path runs along a short section of the site boundary to the north of Upper Glendevon Reservoir.

7.31 A group of operational wind farms, comprising Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms, is located adjacent to the east of the site.

Landscape of the Study Area

7.32 The study area, shown on **Figure 7.1**, extends to a 40km radius from the outermost wind turbines of the proposed development in all directions. The study area extends across a number of administrative areas including Clackmannanshire Council in the centre (containing the southern part of the site), Perth and Kinross Council in the north and east (containing the northern part of the site) and Stirling Council in the western part of the study area which meets the western site boundary. Some of the eastern part of the study area sits within the Fife Council area (approximately 11km from the nearest turbine) and the Falkirk Council area is located within the southern part of the study area (approximately 9km from the nearest turbine). A number of further administrative areas extend across the southern edges of the study area, over 20km from the nearest turbine, including East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire to the south west and West Lothian and City of Edinburgh to the south east.

7.33 The landscape of the study area is varied. The central, western and northern parts of the study area largely comprise elevated landscapes with distinct lowland hill ranges, including the Ochil Hills in the centre of the study area. Other areas of lowland hills can be found in the western and northern parts of the study area around Doune, Callander and Strathyre, and around Crieff and Bankfoot, separated by wide lowland straths. There are also some areas of more remote upland hills and plateaux separated by incised upland glens in the north and north western part of the study area. The eastern and southern parts of the study area are generally characterised by lowland landscapes. To the south of the Ochils, flat carseland forms the floodplain of the River Forth which meanders through this landscape before opening out into the Firth of Forth in the south east. Along the Firth of Forth, the landscape is characterised by coastal farmland which turns into areas of farmed lowland plains and plateaux across the Lothians. Within Fife however, the coastal fringes quickly transform to lowland hills and valleys that rise up to meet the Cleish Hills to the west of Kelty. Within the south western part of the study area, rolling farmland separated by broad valleys characterise much of the landscape to the north west of Glasgow as well as some further areas of lowland hills and some small areas of rugged moorland hills at the Campsie Fells.

7.34 Within the lower parts of the study area, arable and pastoral fields are a common feature. This is particularly evident in the lowland areas within the southern half of the study area across the floodplain of the River Forth where much of the landscape is broad, flat and fertile. There are however some areas of coniferous forestry in this part of the study area, including The Forest to the north east of Clackmannan and Devilla Forest to the east of Kincardine. Across lowland hills and upland areas land cover typically comprises pasture fields on lower slopes and rugged moorland across higher slopes, as well as some dispersed areas of coniferous forestry, including across parts of the Ochils. Areas of more characteristic broadleaved and mixed woodland and coniferous forestry are found within the valleys and straths that separate the hill ranges and upland hills.

7.35 As well as the Firth of Forth, there are a number of key water courses that form distinctive straths and valley within the study area, including the River Allan to the north of the site within Strathallan. The River Earn, which forms Strathearn, is located within the northern part of the study area, approximately 15km from the nearest turbine.

Landscapes of Scotland

7.36 NatureScot's 'Landscapes of Scotland'[6] presents a national picture of landscape variety across Scotland at a strategic level. Similar to landscape character assessment, the 'Landscapes of Scotland' divides Scotland into a number of areas[7] based on landscape distinctiveness however at a larger regional and more strategic scale than landscape character assessment. The study area comprises a number 'Landscapes of Scotland' areas including, but not limited to, the Ochils area which covers the centre of the study area including the site and the Ochil Hills.

Landscape Character Types

7.37 This section provides a description of landscape character (including constituent landscape elements) – drawing on published studies, supplemented with project specific research and field work where relevant.

7.38 The landscape character of the site and the study area is described in the 'Scottish Landscape Character Assessment', published by NatureScot in 2019. Landscape Character Types (LCTs) across the study area are shown on **Figure 7.4a: Landscape Character Types** and are shown overlaid with the ZTV on **Figure 7.4c: Landscape Character Types with Blade Tip Height (149.9m) Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**.

7.39 Clackmannanshire Council's Supplementary Guidance on Onshore Wind Energy[8], Perth and Kinross Council's Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy[9] and Stirling

6 NatureScot (2012) Landscapes of Scotland. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/landscapes-and-habitats/about-scotlands-landscapes/landscape-variety-scotland#:~:text=The%20Landscapes%20of%20Scotland%20map%20unites%20the%20physical%20fabric%20of,communication%20about%20landscape%20issues%20easier.

7 NatureScot's Landscapes of Scotland Map is available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscapes-scotland-map-and-descriptions

8 Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance 2, Onshore Wind Energy. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6851.pdf

9 David Tyldesley And Associates (2010) Perth and Kinross Council Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy, Final Report. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44779/DTA-Landscape-Study-for-Wind-Energy-2010/pdf/DTA_Landscape_Study_for_Wind_Energy_2010.pdf?m=637017430672100000

Council's Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development[10] include landscape sensitivity assessments of each administrative area's landscape character areas/ units. The LCTs considered within this assessment are based on NatureScot's 2019 'Scottish Landscape Character Assessment', however the findings of the Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council landscape sensitivity assessments were considered within this assessment.

7.40 The site is located across three LCTs, as shown on **Figure 7.4a**. The wind turbines of the proposed development are located within the Lowland Hills - Central LCT 149[11] and Lowland Hill Ranges LCT 382[12]. The northern part of the site that contains the site access track (including a section of the Sheriffmuir Road) is located within the Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside LCT 384[13].

7.41 Existing wind farms within the study area are predominately located within units of the Lowland Hills - Central LCT 149. The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms are located within the host LCT 149 unit. Other units of LCT 149 to the north west and south west contain a number of further operational wind farms. These operational turbines influence the "*refuge of remoteness*"[12] that is created by the open character and lack of settlement within this LCT as well as LCT's role in providing a "*dramatic backdrop*"[12] to surrounding lowland areas.

7.42 The LCTs within 15km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development are listed in **Table 7-2**. The theoretical visibility of the proposed development is described. The theoretical visibility of the proposed development (ZTV coverage, refer to **Figure 7.4c**) is used as a means of identifying which LCTs require further assessment, and which LCTs can be scoped out because they are unlikely to experience significant effects arising from the proposed development. LCTs beyond 15km from the site, and those with limited actual visibility within 15km of the site, are not considered further within the assessment.

Table 7-2: Landscape Character Types within 15km of the proposed development

LCT	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of proposed development
Lowland Hill Ranges (382)	Host, <1km, widespread visibility across the LCT within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment**.
Lowland Hills – Central (149)	Host, <1km, widespread visibility across the LCT within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment**.

10 Stirling Council (2015) Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development, Update January 2015

11 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 149: Lowland Hills – Central. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20149%20-%20Lowland%20Hills%20-%20Central%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf

12 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 382: Lowland Hill Ranges. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20382%20-%20Lowland%20Hill%20Ranges%20-%20final%20pdf.pdf

13 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 384: Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20384%20-%20Broad%20Valley%20Lowlands%20-%20Tayside%20-%20final%20pdf.pdf

Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside (384)	Host, <1km, widespread visibility across the LCT within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment**.
Carselands (153)	Widespread visibility across the LCT within 15km. **Considered within assessment.**
Lowland Hill Fringes – Central (150)	Extensive visibility across the LCT within 15km. **Considered within assessment.**
Lowland River Valleys – Central (152)	Limited visibility within 15km and visibility limited to blades of a small number of turbines. As such effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Lowland Valley Fringes (154)	Visibility within 15km limited to blades of a small number of turbines, and as such effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)	Extensive visibility across the LCT within 15km. **Considered within assessment.**
Lowland Basins (390)	No theoretical visibility within 15km. Not considered further.
Lowland Hills and Valleys (186)	Limited theoretical visibility within 15km, and as such effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Coastal Flats – Fife (196)	Some theoretical visibility at distances over 10km however most views likely to be orientated towards the coast, away from the proposed development. As such effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Hill Slopes (183)	Very limited theoretical visibility within 15km. Not considered further.
Coastal Hills – Fife (192)	Limited theoretical visibility at distances over 10km, and as such effects on landscape character are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.

Designated Landscapes and Wild Land

7.43 Designated Landscapes across the study area are shown in **Figure 7.5a: Designated Landscapes & Wild Land Areas** and are shown overlaid with the ZTV in **Figure 7.5b: Designated Landscapes & Wild Land Areas with Blade Tip Height (149.9m) Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**. The theoretical inter-visibility with the proposed development (ZTV coverage) is used as a means of identifying which Designated Landscapes require further assessment. Designated landscapes and Wild Land within 15km are listed in **Table 7-3**. At distances over 15km, effects on designated landscapes are unlikely to be significant, based on professional judgement and experience.

Nationally Designated Landscapes

7.44 The site is not located within any nationally designated landscapes. The River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) National Scenic Area (NSA) is located approximately 20km north west from the nearest turbine as shown on **Figure 7.5a**. There are some small areas of theoretical visibility within the NSA however due to its distance from the proposed development, significant effects on the special qualities of the NSA are considered to be

unlikely. The River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA is therefore not considered within the assessment. The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) is located approximately 23km to the west of the nearest turbine. There are some areas of theoretical visibility within the western extent of the LLTNP however due to its distance from the proposed development, significant effects on the special qualities of the LLTNP are considered to be unlikely, and it is therefore not considered within the assessment. The Trossachs NSA is located approximately 30km to the west of the nearest turbine. Due to this distance, significant effects on the special qualities of this NSA are also considered to be unlikely and as such the Trossachs NSA is not considered within the assessment.

Locally Designated Landscapes

7.45 The majority of the site is located within the Ochil Hills Local Landscape Area (LLA) which is a local designation within the Perth and Kinross Council administrative area. The southern part of the site is located within the Ochils Special Landscape Area (SLA) which sits within the Clackmannanshire Council administrative area. There are a number of further locally designated landscapes within 15km of the proposed development, as shown on **Figure 7.5a** and set out in **Table 7-3** below.

Wild Land

7.46 The Ben More - Ben Ledi Wild Land Area (WLA) is located approximately 30km to the north west of the nearest turbine. Due to this distance, effects on the WLA are unlikely to be significant therefore it is not considered within the assessment.

Table 7-3: Designated Landscapes and Wild Land within 15km of the proposed development

Designated Landscape	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of proposed development
Perth and Kinross Local Landscape Areas (LLA)	
Ochil Hills LLA	Host, <1km, widespread visibility across the LLA within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment**, in combination with the Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council) and the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council).
Upper Strathearn LLA	Limited theoretical visibility indicated within 15km of the proposed development, with screening and filtering of outward views by woodland and forestry in this part of the LLA. Given the limited visibility and intervening distance, effects on the special qualities of the LLA are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Clackmannanshire Special Landscape Areas (SLA)	
Ochils SLA	Host, <1km, widespread visibility across the LLA within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment,** in combination with the Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council) and Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council).
Forest SLA	Visibility indicated in the west and south of the SLA, at distances of 6.3-11.7km to the south east of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment**.
Stirling Local Landscape Areas (LLA)	
Western Ochils LLA	Limited visibility indicated from elevated landform in the south west of the LLA and along the eastern boundary. Whilst visibility is limited, the Western Ochils LLA, the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council) and Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and

	Kinross Council) are considered together in the assessment. **Considered within assessment.**
Keir LLA	Visibility indicated across the LLA at distances of 9.6-12.5km to the west of the proposed development. **Considered within assessment.**
Southern Hills LLA	Limited theoretical visibility indicated within 15km of the proposed development, with some screening and filtering of outward views by woodland and forestry in this part of the LLA. Given the limited visibility and intervening distance, effects on the special qualities of the LLA are unlikely to be significant. Not considered further.
Fife Local Landscape Areas (LLA)	
Cleish Hills LLA	No theoretical visibility within 15km of the nearest turbine, and not considered further.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

7.47 There are a number of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) within the study area some of which are open to members of the public. The closest GDL is Airthrey Castle which is located approximately 7.3km to the south west of the nearest turbine, however it has no theoretical visibility of the proposed development due to the intervening landform of the south western edge of the Ochil Hills. Further information on GDLs and other designated and previously recorded undesignated cultural heritage assets is provided in **Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**.

Visual Baseline

7.48 This section identifies the extent of theoretical visibility of the proposed development and identifies visual receptors that are assessed within the visual assessment of the LVIA. This section also introduces the assessment viewpoints agreed with statutory consultees that are used as representative points from which to assess effects on visual receptors (people) and particular views, including reasons for their selection.

Study Area

7.49 Key transport routes near the site include the A9, which is the main route connecting Stirling to Perth and passes along the northern boundary of the site in Strathallan. The A91 is located approximately 3.7km to the south of the nearest turbine at its closest point and passes along the low lying carseland through Menstrie, Alva, Tillicoultry and Dollar. To the east, the A823 is located approximately 6.4km at its closest point as it passes through Gleneagles and Glen Devon. Key routes in the wider study area include the M9 and M80, located approximately 10km and 14.3km to the south west of the turbines respectively, and the A876, located approximately 11.4km to the south east, which crosses the River Forth at Clackmannanshire Bridge. To the north, the A85 is located approximately 18km from the turbines and to the east the M90 is located approximately 22km away. The Scottish Central railway is located approximately 5.6km to the north of the nearest turbine and the Stirling - Alloa - Kincardine railway is located approximately 7km to the south.

7.50 The study area is well populated with a number of settlements scattered throughout. The settlement pattern largely comprises villages and towns located along key transport routes, particularly within the central belt area to the south, as well as some scattered

individual properties. The closest settlement to the turbines is Alva, located approximately 3.2km to the south. Further settlements within 5km of the turbines include Menstrie approximately 4.5km to the south west and Tillicoultry approximately 4.5km to the south east. Beyond 5km, settlements include Tullibody, Fishcross, Alloa and Sauchie located approximately 5.3km, 5.7km, 6.4km and 6.5km to the south of the nearest turbine respectively and Devonside and Coalsnaughton located approximately 5.7km and 6km to the south east. Dollar is also located approximately 7.5km to the south east of the nearest turbine. To the south west, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Stirling are located approximately 7.6km, 8km and 9km from the nearest turbine respectively. To the north, Blackford is located approximately 5.3km from the nearest turbine. To the north west, Greenloaning and Braco are located approximately 5.7km and 7km respectively from the nearest turbine. Gleneagles and Auchterarder are located approximately 8.5km and 9.4km to the north east of the nearest turbine respectively.

7.51 There are a number of Scottish Great Trails within the study area, including the Fife Coastal Path located approximately 14.3km to the south east of the nearest turbine which runs along the northern coast of the Firth of Forth in Fife. The Forth Clyde Canal/Union Canal Towpath and the John Muir Way are located approximately 21km to the south of the nearest turbine and run from Edinburgh through the central belt towards the west coast (outside of the study area to the west). The Rob Roy Way is located approximately 25km to the north west of the nearest turbine and runs between Drymen (outside the study area to the west) to Pitlochry (outside the study area to the north).

7.52 There are a number of core paths and National Cycle Network (NCN) routes across the study area. The closest core path is located approximately 3km to the east of the turbines and provides a connection from Tillicoultry to Blackford through the Ochil Hills. The closest NCN route is NCN Route 768 approximately 3.4km to the south of the turbines. Further NCN routes within the study are include NCN Route 767 approximately 5.4km to the south east and NCN Routes 76 and 765 located approximately 6.5km and 7.8km to the south west respectively.

7.53 There are several existing large-scale wind farms within the study area. The closest wind farm are Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East which form a group of turbines to the east of the proposed development, approximately 0.5km from the nearest turbine. Green Knowes Wind Farm is located approximately 9km to the north east and Braes of Doune is located approximately 16km to the north west. Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm is located approximately 12km to the north west. A full list of operational wind farms is provided in **Table 7-7** and shown on **Figure 7.6**.

Analysis of Visibility of the proposed development

7.54 **Figures 7.2a-c** and **Figures 7.3a-b** show the theoretical visibility of the proposed development to maximum wind turbine blade tip height (149.9m) and hub height (80.9m) respectively. The ZTV indicates that, across the study area, theoretical visibility of the proposed development is mainly focused to the north, west and south of the site.

7.55 Within 5km of the proposed development, theoretical visibility is mainly focused within the site. Landform along or near the site boundary limits visibility from areas within 5km of the site, though some theoretical visibility is indicated from surrounding summits within the Ochil Hills and along glens which afford views into the site, including Alva Glen to the south and Glen Anny to the north.

7.56 Within 5km to the south west and south of the site, visibility is indicated from Colsnaur Hill to the south west of the site, the western slopes of Alva Glen, Craighorn, with further localised areas of visibility indicated from elevated landform near Big Hunt Hill and The

Nebit. To the south east of the site, visibility is indicated from Ben Ever and Ben Cleuch, with further localised areas of visibility indicated from elevated landform near Wood Hill, The Law, Andrew Gannel Hill and Grodwell Hill. To the east of the site, visibility is indicated from Burnfoot Hill and Bald Hill. To the north east of the site, visibility is indicated from Craigentaggert Hill and Wether Hill, with further localised areas of visibility indicated from slopes to the north of Upper Glendevon Reservoir, and to the north and south west of Lower Glendevon Reservoir. To the north of the site, visibility is indicated from elevated landform near Tambeth, with further visibility indicated from the northern slopes of the Ochil Hills between the named properties of Greenhill and Buttergask.

7.57 Within 5km-20km, visibility is focused to the north, west and south of the site. Theoretical visibility is indicated from Strathallan to the north west, north and north east of the site, though mainly focused on slopes to the north of the strath. Further visibility is indicated from the lowland hills to the north of Strathallan including Beinn Odhar, Ben Clach, Cromlet, and Gask Ridge. Theoretical visibility is indicated from Strathearn within approximately 13-20km of the proposed development.

7.58 Within 5-10km to the west, south west and south of the site, visibility is limited by the intervening landform of the southern summits of the Ochil Hills, which screen views of the proposed development. Beyond 10km to the west of the site, theoretical visibility is indicated from the River Teith valley along the A84 and the Braes of Doune. To the south west of the site, theoretical visibility is indicated from the western Carse of Forth between Stirling and Flanders Moss. To the south of the site, theoretical visibility is indicated near Alloa, Sauchie and Clackmannan, though intervening buildings within settlements and vegetation would screen and filter views of the proposed development. Beyond 10km, theoretical visibility is indicated to the south of the Carse of Forth, including along the M876 and M9, though intervening vegetation would screen and filter views towards the proposed development. Theoretical visibility is indicated from the eastern Touch Hills to the south west of the site, though intervening landform would limit visibility from the more distant Gargunnock Hills.

7.59 To the south east and east of the site, theoretical visibility from the lower-lying Lower Devon Carselands, and foothills, lowland hills and lowland basin of Fife is limited by the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills. Localised areas of visibility are indicated from within the wider Ochil Hills to the east of the site, though intervening landform would screen views from lower slopes and glens to the east of the site.

Selection of Viewpoints for Assessment

7.60 This section sets out the viewpoints that are used to represent and assess the visual effects of the proposed development. The viewpoint list is a representative selection of locations agreed with statutory consultees; it is not an exhaustive list of locations from which the proposed development would be visible.

7.61 A total of 20 viewpoints were selected through desk study, field work and consultation with statutory consultees (as detailed in **Table 7-1** and **Technical Appendix 7.1**). The viewpoints are all publicly accessible as advocated by GLVIA3[14] and include:

- locations selected to represent the experience of different types of receptor;

14 The selection of viewpoints for LVIA should take account of the factors listed in Paragraph 6.20 of GLVIA3.

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

7.62 The viewpoints used to assess the visual effects are listed in **Table 7-4** and their locations are shown on **Figures 7.2a-b.**

Table 7-4: Assessment Viewpoints

VP	Viewpoint Name	Easting	Northing	Distance and nearest turbine[15]	Reason for Selection
1	Ben Cleuch	290273	700638	2.0km (T5)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this popular hill summit located within the Ochils SLA.
2	The Nebit	288830	698638	2.2km (T1)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this hill summit located within the Ochils SLA.
3	Innerdownie	296661	703149	8.0km (T11)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this hill summit within the Ochil Hills LLA.
4	Dumyat	283572	697667	5.4km (T2)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this hill summit located within the Western Ochils LLA.
5	B9140 near Collyland	288746	695302	5.5km (T1)	Represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors.
6	Gleneagles Hotel	291680	711278	8.6km (T13)	Represents views experienced by visitors and guests at the Gleneagles Hotel and within the Inventory-listed Garden and Designed Landscape.
7	Braco	283515	709666	7.7km (T13)	Represents views experienced by local residents within the settlement of Braco.

15 Distance between viewpoint and the nearest wind turbine of the proposed development.

8	Alloa Tower[16]	288881	692515	8.3km (T1)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors visiting the historic Alloa Tower.
9	Clackmannan Tower[17]	290653	691972	9.1km (T1)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors visiting the historic Clackmannan Tower.
10	B827	281158	712469	11.3km (T13)	Represents views experienced by road users travelling south eastwards with open views of the Ochil Hills.
11	Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards	282630	689776	12.4km (T1)	Represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors.
12	A9/ B934	303167	719003	21.5km (T11)	Represents views experienced by road users travelling southwards along the A9 within the north eastern part of the Study Area.
13	Gask Ridge, St Davids	295183	720363	18.2km (T13)	Represents views experienced by recreational and residential receptors near Gask Ridge, St Davids, within the northern part of the Study Area.
14	Bannockburn Memorial	279532	690668	13.3km (T2)	Represents views experienced by visitors to the popular Bannockburn Memorial, one of Scotland's most famous battlefields.
15	Clackmannanshire Bridge	292004	687171	14.1km (T1)	Represents open views experienced by road users travelling northwards on the Clackmannanshire Bridge.
16	Chartershall Road	278907	689408	14.7km (T2)	Represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors within the Southern Hills LLA.
17	Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park	273235	698224	14.8km (T6)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors at the popular visitor attraction of Blairdrummond Castle/ Safari Park, on the southern edge of the Blair Drummond Inventory-listed Garden and Designed Landscape.
18	Knock of Crieff	286775	722917	19.5km (T13)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this hill summit located within the Upper Strathearn LLA.
19	A811 near Gargunnock	269761	695247	18.9km (T2)	Represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors within the Southern Hills LLA.

16 Viewpoint is located a top of tower.

17 Viewpoint is located as base of tower.

20	Falkirk Wheel	285274	680030	21.0km (T1)	Represents views experienced by recreational receptors at the popular visitor attraction of the Falkirk Wheel.

Settlements

7.63 Settlements are those defined as such within the Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan 2 (2019), Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan (2015) and Stirling Local Development Plan (2018).

7.64 Settlements within the study area are generally concentrated along key transport routes which pass through lower-lying carselands and valley landscapes, including the M9/A9, A91, A84, A811 and A85. To the south and west of the site, settlement is relatively extensive and comprises the key settlements of Stirling, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Alloa, as well as a number of smaller villages and towns, with linear settlement extending between the settlement cores. To the north and east of the site, settlement is slightly more dispersed, comprising smaller towns and villages and scattered individual properties and farmsteads. To the north east of the site, Auchterarder, Gleneagles and Strathearn form a relatively extensive area of settlement.

7.65 The settlements of Menstrie, Alva and Tillicoultry are located within approximately 5km of the proposed development, and are located to the south of the Ochil Hills. There are no other settlements located within 5km of the outermost turbines of the proposed development.

7.66 Theoretical visibility of the proposed development from settlements across the 40km radius study area is illustrated by **Figures 7.2a-b** with potential views from settlements described in **Table 7-5**.

7.67 The ZTV does not take account of any screening or filtering of views by buildings or vegetation, which would substantially reduce visibility from the majority of settlements. In order to focus on potentially significant effects, settlements from which there is no theoretical visibility are not considered further in this assessment. Furthermore, settlements with limited visibility over a longer-distance i.e. beyond 15km from the outermost turbines of the proposed development, and where it is unlikely that significant effects could occur, are not considered further in the assessment.

Table 7-5: Settlements within 15km

Settlement	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of proposed development
Clackmannanshire Council	
Alloa / Sauchie	Visibility indicated across the settlements, at distances of 5.9-8.8km to the south of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
Alva	Very limited visibility of blades indicated from the southern edge of the settlement at a distance of 4km to the south of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Clackmannan / Kennet	Visibility indicated across the settlements, at a distance of 8.6-10.7km to the south east of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
Dollar	No visibility indicated, not considered further.

Fishcross / Devon Village	Very limited visibility of blades indicated at distances of 5.3-6.1km to the south of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Forestmill	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Menstrie	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Muckhart	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Tullibody / Glenochil	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Tillicoultry / Coalsnaughton	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Perth and Kinross Council	
Aberuthven	Visibility, mainly limited to blades, indicated across the settlement at a distance of approximately 15km to the north east of the proposed development. Given the limited visibility and intervening distance, significant effects are considered unlikely. Not considered further.
Auchterarder / Gleneagles / Strathearn	Visibility indicated from across the settlements, at a distance of approximately 6.6-12.3km to the north and north east of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
Blackford	Visibility, limited to a small number of blades, indicated from the west of the settlement at a distance of 5.3km to the north of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Braco	Visibility indicated from across the settlement at a distance of approximately 7.3km to the north west of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
Greenloaning	Visibility indicated from across the settlement, at a distance of approximately 5.8km to the north west of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
Muthil	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Stirling Council	
Ashfield / Kinbuck	Limited visibility indicated (limited to blades of a small number of turbines) at a distance of 9km to the west of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Blairlogie / Bridge of Allan	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Dunblane	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated from the west of the settlement within 8.6-10.5km to the west of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Cowie / Fallin / Throsk	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated across the settlements at a distance of 9.8-12.5km to the south west of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Plean	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated across the settlement at distances exceeding 14km to the south west of the proposed development. Not considered further.
Stirling / Cambusbarron	Visibility indicated from across the settlements, mainly focused in the south of Stirling and near Cambusbarron within 10.1-13.1km

	to the south west of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**

Routes

7.68 Visibility from a linear route is rarely uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change as receptors (people) move along a route depending on the surrounding landform, the presence of buildings, structures, tree cover and vegetation situated along its length. Theoretical visibility of the proposed development from routes across the study area is illustrated by **Figure 7.2b**. They include a hierarchy of paved public roads, recreational routes (promoted long distance footpaths, core paths and cycle routes) and ferry routes.

7.69 Based on an analysis of theoretical visibility and potential views **Table 7-6** provides information on which routes were carried forward for detailed assessment. Due to the lower susceptibility of receptors typically using roads, those beyond 15km from the outermost wind turbines of the proposed development were scoped out of the assessment. Promoted long distance footpaths and cycle routes were included at up to 15km from the outermost wind turbines of the proposed development. Where there is limited theoretical visibility, or where actual visibility from a route is likely to be limited due to localised screening, these routes are not considered further in this LVIA, as the likelihood for significant sequential effects is limited.

Table 7-6: Routes

Routes	Distance and Theoretical Visibility of proposed development
Key roads within 15km	
M9	Visibility indicated from sections of the roads to the west and south of the proposed development, within 10.2km at its nearest point. **Considered within the assessment.**
A9	Visibility indicated from sections of the roads to the north, west and south of the proposed development, within 5km at its nearest point. **Considered within the assessment.**
A84	Visibility within 15km limited to blades, with limited visibility of turbine hubs beyond 15km. Views from the A84 are represented by Viewpoint 17: Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park. Sequential effects not considered further.
A91	Limited visibility indicated from approximately 6.6km of the road to the south west of the proposed development, within 8.8km at its nearest point. Outward views from this section of the road are partially screened and filtered by woodland lining the road. Where outward glimpsed views towards the site are available, visibility of the proposed development would mainly be limited to a small number of turbine blades. Sequential effects not considered further.
A811	Visibility within 15km limited to blades, with limited visibility of turbine hubs beyond 15km. Views from the A84 are represented by Viewpoint 19: A811 near Gargunnock. Sequential effects not considered further.

A822	Visibility indicated from approximately 15.5km of the road within 6-20km to the north west and north of the proposed development. **Considered within the assessment.**
A820	Limited visibility indicated from approximately 4.5km of the road to the west of the proposed development. Outward views from this section of the road are screened and filtered by localised landform and intervening vegetation. Not considered further.
A823	Visibility indicated from approximately 5km of the road within 8.7-11.3km to the north of the proposed development. Actual visibility would be reduced by intervening vegetation lining the road and localised landform to the south of the road. Very limited visibility indicated from localised sections of the road to the east of the proposed development. Sequential effects not considered further.
A824	Visibility indicated from approximately 6.2km of the road within 15km to the north east of the proposed development. However, outward views from this section of the road are partially screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings. Sequential effects not considered further.
A872	Visibility indicated from approximately 3.7km of the road within 15km to the south west of the proposed development, however outward views from this section of the road are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings. Sequential effects not considered further.
A876	Visibility indicated from approximately 5.9km of the road, near the Clackmannanshire Bridge, within 15km to the south of the proposed development. Views from the A876 are represented by Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge. Sequential effects not considered further.
A905	Visibility indicated from sections of the road to the south of the proposed development, within 10km at its nearest point. **Considered within the assessment.**
A907	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated from approximately 12km of the road to the south and south east of the proposed development, within 7.7km at its nearest point. Outward views from this section of the road are partially screened and filtered by woodland lining the road and buildings from sections of the road that pass within settlements. Sequential effects not considered further.
A908	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated from approximately 4km of the road to the south of the proposed development, within 5.3km at its nearest point. Outward views from this section of the road are partially screened and filtered by woodland lining the road and buildings from sections of the road that pass within settlements. Sequential effects not considered further.
A977	Visibility of a small number of turbines indicated from approximately 6.5km of the road to the south east of the proposed development, within approximately 10.1km at its nearest point. Outward views from this section of the road are partially screened and filtered by woodland lining the road and buildings from sections of the road that pass within settlements. Sequential effects not considered further.

A985	Visibility indicated from a relatively short section of the road (approximately 2.4km) near the Kincardine on Forth Bridge, within 15km to the south of the proposed development. Similar views are illustrated by Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge. Significant effects are considered unlikely given the intervening distance. Sequential effects not considered further.
Recreational Routes within 15km	
Core Paths and Rights of Way within 5km of the proposed development	Core Paths within 5km of the proposed development include the following: Perth and Kinross Council Core Paths • BLFD1 (forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193) to the north of the proposed development – visibility indicated from sections of the route near Upper Glendevon Reservoir, **considered within the assessment.** • BLFD113; BLFD118 to the north east of the proposed development - intermittent visibility indicated, **considered within assessment**. • AUCH53 and AUCH113 (forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193) to the east of the proposed development - limited visibility indicated, not considered further. • Stirling Council Core Path 9078Lg to the south west of the proposed development – no visibility indicated, not considered further. Clackmannanshire Council Core Paths • Core Path 62 to the south east of the proposed development – no visibility, not considered further. • Core paths between Alva and Tillicoultry – limited to no visibility, not considered further.
National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 76	Visibility indicated from relatively extensive sections of the route within 15km. **Considered within the assessment.**
NCN Route 764	Visibility, mainly limited to blades, indicated from the route between Clackmannan and Blairhall, however intervening vegetation would further screen and filter outward views from the route. Not considered further.
NCN Route 765	Visibility, mainly limited to blades, indicated from the route between Doune and Dunblane, however intervening vegetation would further screen and filter outward views from the route. Not considered further.
NCN Route 767	Visibility, mainly limited to blades of a small number of turbines, indicated from approximately 4km of the route between Alloa and Tillicoultry to the south of the proposed development, within 5.3km at its nearest point. Outward views from this section of the route are partially screened and filtered by woodland lining the route and buildings from sections of the route that pass within settlements. Sequential effects not considered further.
NCN Route 768	No visibility indicated, not considered further.
Railway Routes within 15km	

Falkirk Grahamston to Stirling railway	Visibility indicated from approximately 11km of the route (between Stirling and Larbert) within 15km to the south of the proposed development. Intervening vegetation screens and filters outward views from the route, however glimpsed views towards the proposed development would be possible. **Considered within the assessment.**
Stirling–Alloa–Kincardine rail link	Visibility indicated from approximately 8km of the route between Alloa and Kincardine within 15km to the south and south east of the proposed development, however this section of the railway is only used for freight. Limited visibility indicated from sections of the railway with passenger service, closer to the proposed development (between Alloa and Stirling). Intervening vegetation screens and filters outward views from the route. Not considered further.
Dunblane to Perth railway	Visibility indicated from much of the route within 15km of the proposed development, including sections between Greenloaning and Blackford, south of Auchterarder and east of Aberuthven. **Considered within the assessment**.

Other Wind Farm Developments

7.70 Operational wind farms located across the study area are listed in **Table 7-7** and shown on **Figure 7.6**. Operational wind farms are included as part of the baseline for the LVIA and considered as part of the primary LVIA.

7.71 In line with NatureScot guidance[18], the scope for the assessment of potential future cumulative landscape and visual effects (i.e. beyond those with existing projects which are already determined as part of the primary LVIA) included other wind farm proposals within an initial 60km radius search area from the proposed development. Wind farms within the 40km study area[19] are listed in **Table 7-6** and shown on **Figure 7.6** and the wireframes in **Figures 7.8-7.37** to illustrate the wider context. The assessment of cumulative effects focuses on developments that are likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects, and concentrates on the relationship between the proposed development and other operational, consented and proposed developments (i.e. developments with a valid application or awaiting determination following appeal/public inquiry). In this instance the assessment focuses on schemes within 20km of the nearest turbine forming part of the proposed development where, within this distance, the scope for significant cumulative effects is greatest. Beyond 20km, the scope for significant cumulative effects is limited.

7.72 Single turbines are given consideration where it is judged that potential interactions with the proposed development may give rise to significant cumulative effects; this was judged to be within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. There are no single turbines located within 5km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. Proposals that had not yet progressed beyond Scoping stage were not considered within the assessment as none were identified to be relevant to the assessment, in that they

18 NatureScot, (2021). Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments.

19 As recommended in current guidance (SNH (February 2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance. Version 2.2) for turbines equal to or greater than 150m to blade tip.

would be likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects, prior to the cumulative cut-off date of 19 March 2025.

7.73 Wind energy developments located within the 40km radius study area, which are considered likely to give rise to significant cumulative effects were selected as follows:

- all wind turbines within a 5km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines; and
- wind farms (e.g. clusters of two or more wind turbines) with wind turbines of ≥80m maximum blade tip height within a 40km radius of the proposed outermost wind turbines.

7.74 Consented wind farms and wind farms at application or appeal stage within the planning system, are considered as part of the assessment of potential future cumulative effects, as they may give rise to different potential future cumulative baseline scenarios.

7.75 A cut-off date of 19 March 2025 was applied for the inclusion of developments within the cumulative assessment. Wind farms considered within the cumulative assessment are listed in **Table 7-7** and shown on **Figure 7.6**.

Table 7-7: Other Wind Farm Developments included in the Cumulative Assessment

Wind Farm	Status	No. of Turbines	Blade tip height (m)	Distance (km)[20]
Rhodders	Operational	6	102	0.5
Burnfoot Hill	Operational	13	102	1.2
Burnfoot Hill North	Operational	2	102	1.5
Burnfoot Hill East	Operational	3	135	2.1
Green Knowes	Operational	18	93	8.9
Strathallan Phase 2	Consented	5	92.5	11.5
Strathallan Phase 1[21]	Operational	4	92.5	12.5
Craighead	Application Submitted	8	200	14.5
Rosehill Farm	Operational	3	99.5	14.7
Brunt Hill Wind Farm	Application Submitted	18	200	15.3
Braes of Doune	Operational	36	100	16.0
Todhill Farm	Operational	4	125	17.5
Drummarnock	Application Submitted	4	180	19.6
Earlsburn Extension	Application Submitted	7	135-149.9	20.2
Craigengelt	Operational	8	125	21.0
Kingsburn	Operational	9	115	21.2
Earlsburn	Operational	15	110	21.6

20 Approximate distance between outermost turbine of the proposed development and outermost turbine of other wind farm

21 Since the date of fieldwork and photography was undertaken, the status of Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm has changed from under construction to operational.

Shelloch	Consented	5	180	24.5
Lochelbank	Operational	12	91	24.7
Easter Drumclair Wood	Consented	2	149.5	29.1
Burnhead	Operational	13	127	30.4
Binn Eco Park	Operational	4	115	30.6
Greendykeside	Operational	2	100	31.0
Drumduff	Operational	3	120	31.1
Little Raith	Operational	9	126	31.2
Glentarken	Application Submitted	12	180	31.5
Mossmorran	Operational	2	100	31.6
The Heights	Application Submitted	3	180	31.7
Drumduff Extension	Consented	3	149.9	32.0
Greengairs East	Operational	8	149.9	32.2
Greengairs	Consented	9	125	32.2
Westfield	Operational	4	110	32.7
Standhill Farm	Operational	2	84	33.5
Forrestfield	Consented	4	125	34.4
Torrance Farm	Operational	3	125	34.6
Gevens Wind Cluster	Operational	3	99.5	34.7
Torrance Farm Extension	Operational	2	125	35.2
Dewshill	Consented	2	200	36.1
Middle Balbeggie Farm	Operational	2	126.5	39.1

7.76 The baseline situation will keep changing, and there may be changes to the status or list of wind energy developments considered between carrying out the assessment and the determination of the application.

7.77 Given the varied status, and therefore certainty, associated with un-built wind farms and infrastructure across the study area the cumulative assessment is structured so as to report on potential development scenarios, beyond those reported upon in the primary assessment (i.e. consideration of relationship between the proposed development and existing developments):

- Scenario 1 (higher level of certainty): the addition of the proposed development to a landscape with operational and consented wind farms; and
- Scenario 2 (lower level of certainty): the addition of the proposed development to a landscape with operational, consented and undetermined valid planning applications.

7.78 The cumulative assessment focuses on the assessment of ‘additional’ effects, i.e. the additional effects that would arise from adding the proposed development to a more speculative baseline, which includes other built wind farms and other consented and proposed developments under Scenario 1 and Scenario 2. The additional effects may vary under different scenarios, e.g. because another proposed wind farm could either result in screening of turbines (potentially reducing the effects) or may result in effects being exacerbated (i.e. made more severe).

7.79 Combined ZTVs (**Figures 7.7a-7.7g**) for other wind farms were prepared to show where ZTVs overlap and where cumulative effects may arise. This includes in-combination views – two wind farms seen at the same time in a similar direction - and successive views - two wind farms seen from the same location but in different directions.

General Observations – Current Baseline (Operational Developments)

7.80 Operational wind farm development nearest the site is generally located within elevated areas of lowland hills, including the Ochil, Gargunnock and Touch Hills. General observations on the location, pattern and scale of existing wind energy development (operational) across the study area are summarised below:

- a cluster of operational commercial scale wind farm development, comprising Burnfoot Hill (11 turbines, 102m blade tip height), Burnfoot Hill East (2 turbines, 135m blade tip height), Burnfoot Extension (2 turbines, 102m blade tip height), and Rhodders (6 turbines, 102m blade tip height), is located adjacent to the eastern site boundary and in the western Ochil Hills.
- the operational Greenknowes (18 turbines, 95m blade tip height) is located in the central Ochil Hills, approximately 8.9km to the north east of the proposed development.
- the operational Lochelbank (12 turbines, 91m blade tip height) is located in the eastern Ochil Hills, approximately 25.2m to the north east of the proposed development.
- the operational Braes of Doune (36 turbines, 100m blade tip height) is located approximately 17.3km to the north west of the proposed development, within an area of lowland hills to the north of Doune.
- a cluster of operational development, comprising Kingsburn (9 turbines, 115m to tip height), Earlsburn (15 turbines, 110m to tip height) and Craigengelt (8 turbines, 125m to tip height) is located in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills approximately 21km to the south west of the proposed development.
- the operational Strathallan Phase 1 (4 turbines, 92.5m blade tip height) is located approximately 12.5km to the north, north west of the proposed development, in an area of lowland hills to the north of Braco.
- various smaller developments are located across the lower-lying carselands, farmland and moorland of the study area.

General Observations – Scenario 1: Consented Developments (Existing and Consented Developments)

7.81 Consented wind farm development in the study area is also focused within elevated lowland hills within the study area, generally following the pattern of operational development. General observations on the location, pattern, and scale of existing and consented wind energy development across the study area are summarised below:

- the consented Shelloch Wind Farm (5 turbines, 180m blade tip height) is located approximately 24.8km to the south west of the proposed development, and would form an extension to the west of the cluster of operational development formed by Kingsburn, Earlsburn and Craigengelt in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills.
- the consented Strathallan Phase 2 (5 turbines, 92.5 blade tip height) is located approximately 11.5km to the north, north west of the proposed development, and would form an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm.

General Observations – Scenario 2: Proposed Developments (Existing, Consented and Proposed Developments (application submitted))

7.82 Other proposed developments (application submitted) within the study area include:

- Craighead (8 turbines, 200m blade tip height) and Brunt Hill (18 turbines, 200m blade tip height) Wind Farms would form a new cluster of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills, approximately 14.5km to the north east of the proposed development, between the operational Green Knowes and Lochelbank Wind Farms.
- Earlsburn Extension (7 turbines, 135-149.9m blade tip height) and Drummarnock Wind Farms are located approximately 20km to the south west of the proposed development, and would form a north eastern extension to the existing and emerging cluster of wind farm development formed by the operational Kingsburn, Earlsburn and Craigengelt and consented Shelloch Wind Farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills.
- further proposed wind farms located beyond 30km of the proposed development, including The Heights (3 turbines, 180m blade tip height) and Glentarken (12 turbines, 180m blade tip height).

Summary of Emerging Patterns of Wind Farm Development

7.83 Taking into account the current baseline of existing wind farm development and future cumulative scenarios as outlined in Scenarios 1-2, there are a number of emerging patterns of wind farm development within the study area. Within the Ochil Hills, which is a strategic area within NatureScot's 'Landscapes of Scotland', there are three emerging groups of wind farm development. These three groups comprise an operational group of wind farms within the south western part of the Ochil Hills (to the east of the proposed development) a further three operational and proposed wind farms (including Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms) in the central part of the Ochil Hills, and a further two operational wind farms in the north eastern part of the Ochil Hills, as illustrated on **Figure 7.6**. Further proposed wind farm development within the study area form part of existing groups of wind farms including within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills in the south western part of the study area (within the Lennox Hills 'Landscapes of Scotland' area) and around West Lothian and North Lanarkshire in the southern part of the study area (within the Slammanan Plateau 'Landscapes of Scotland' area).

Assessment of Effects

7.84 The assessment of effects is based on the project description as outlined in **Chapter 3: Description of Development**. Unless otherwise stated, potential effects identified are considered to be negative.

7.85 The assessment of landscape and visual effects follows the methodology summarised in this chapter and set out in detail in **Technical Appendix 7.1: LVIA and Visualisation Methodology** and is based upon the project description outlined in **Chapter 3: Description of Development**. The LVIA reports on construction and operational effects separately.

Embedded Measures

7.86 The design of the proposed development aims to achieve a coherent and balanced turbine layout, in line with guidance provided by NatureScot. The rationale behind the design strategy and documentation of the iterative design process in response to the

technical and environmental constraints is identified in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution**. The objective in designing the wind farm was to develop a layout that responds to its setting in terms of landform and pattern, and which presents a simple visual image, avoiding the clustering of turbines and the isolation of outlying turbines in views from key locations and views from sequential routes seen by a range of different receptors (people) of varying sensitivity, on balance with environmental and technical constraints. The following landscape and visual design aspirations were considered during the design process of the proposed development:

- to select a turbine model which responds to the scale and key characteristics of the landscape in terms of tip height and proportion of blade length to tower height e.g. large scale turbines are best suited to more extensive, upland areas, and set back from the more sensitive upland fringes;
- relate the layout of the wind farm to the key characteristics of the landscape, e.g. a simple visual image that relates to the relatively simple upland landscape of the Ochils;
- to design a visually balanced and coherent group of turbines which is compatible with and to be seen as part of the operational wind farm group located <1km to the east of the proposed development comprising Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East;
- aim to create a visually balanced, simple, and cohesive layout when seen from key viewpoints, particularly from Braco (VP7), avoiding uneven visual densities, overlapping turbines, partial screening behind a skyline and outlying single turbines or groups of turbines, where possible;

7.87 Key landscape and visual design objectives for the site included:

- to design a layout that reduces visibility of turbines and avoids turbines appearing too numerous and too dominant above the Ochils escarpment in views from the low-lying carseland to the south, whereby the Ochil Hills forms a prominent backdrop to this lower lying landscape;
- avoid turbines breaking the skyline in views north from the summit of Ben Cleuch (VP1);
- avoid turbines appearing too numerous and too dominant from the summit of Dumyat (VP3) (which is one of the most popular hill summits in the Ochils and which currently has no visibility of the operational wind turbines within the Ochils); and
- to design a layout that reduces visibility and seeks to ensure that the proposed turbines do not appear excessive in size and scale compared to the nearby operational wind turbines within the Ochils, particularly in views from the north e.g. Gleneagles (VP6) and Braco (VP7).

7.88 Further commitments which are made to reduce landscape and visual effects, after construction are detailed in **Chapter 15: Schedule of Commitments** and will be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will be produced following consent and prior to construction. Relevant commitments include:

- restoration of construction compounds and turbine laydown areas to as close as possible to their original condition;
- use of upper vegetated turfs to dress infrastructure edges and to reinstate the surface of restoration areas; and
- restoration of blanket bog, as detailed in the Habitat Management Plan (HMP).

7.89 A draft CEMP is included in **Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**.

Potential Construction Effects

Sources of Effects during Construction

7.90 During the proposed 24 months construction phase, there would be potential short-term landscape effects arising from the presence of partially constructed infrastructure and construction activities on the site (as described in **Chapter 3: Description of Development**). Effects occurring during the construction phase are considered to be reversible unless otherwise stated.

7.91 The changes arising from the construction of the proposed development, as outlined in **Chapter 3: Description of Development**, would include:

- construction of the temporary construction compounds (see **Figure 3.9**);
- working of borrow pits;
- upgrades to existing access tracks;
- construction of new site access tracks;
- construction of new watercourse crossings;
- felling of mainly coniferous forestry near Carim Lodge (see **Technical Appendix 3.2: Forestry)**
- use of artificial lighting during period of limited natural light;
- construction of turbine foundations and crane hardstandings;
- construction of 33 kV substation and compound including control building and battery storage area (see **Figure 3.7**);
- excavation of trenches and cable laying adjacent to site tracks (see **Figure 3.6**);
- movement onto site and delivery and erection of wind turbines;
- commissioning of the wind turbines, control building and battery storage;
- restoration of areas disturbed during construction (see **Technical Appendix 3.1)**; and
- re-planting/compensatory planting (see **Technical Appendix 3.2)**.

Landscape Effects during Construction

Table 7-8: Construction Effects on the site

Construction Effects on the site	
Location and baseline description	The site is located within the west of the Ochil Hills, an area of lowland hills which forms the northern boundary to the Forth Valley. Access into the interior of the site extends north, descending towards Strathallan and the A9 near Blackford.

	Elevated landform within the site includes the rounded summits of Core Hill (542m AOD) in the north east of the site, Sauchanwood Hill (541m AOD) in the centre, Ben Buck (679m AOD) in the south east, Bengengie Hill (564m AOD) in the south west, Blairdenon Hill (631m AOD) in the west, and Mickle Corum (594m AOD) in the west. Ben Buck is the highest point within the site, with landform generally descending towards Strathallan to the north, reaching a low point of approximately 145m AOD at the A9. A number of small watercourses cross the site, draining into various surrounding water courses and bodies of water including Upper Glendevon Reservoir which lies adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the site, the River Devon in the low lying carseland to the south and the Allan Water to the north. The landcover within the elevated interior of the site comprises rough grassland and heather moorland, with areas of arable fieldscape located at lower elevations in the north of the site. The site forms part of the wider upland context in northerly views from the settled Carselands to the south and river valleys to the north, though the central extents of the site are located within the interior of the wider Ochil Hills. The operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East, Burnfoot Extension and Rhodders Wind Farms are located within close proximity to the east of the site and exert an influence of human activity across the western Ochil Hills.
Sensitivity	The relatively large-scale, simple landform and landscape pattern, and human influence of nearby operational wind farms indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The sense of tranquillity and intervisibility with the more sensitive lower-lying landscapes indicate a higher susceptibility. On balance susceptibility is judged to be medium. The site is located within the locally-designated Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross) and the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire), indicating a higher landscape value. The Ochil Hills have a local recreational value given their proximity to relatively densely settled landscapes, though the more popular and frequently accessed local summits of the Ochil Hills are located outside of the site boundary. Overall value is judged to be high. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	Construction activities would result in direct effects on the landscape of the site. Changes primarily relate to excavations and track construction; disturbance to land cover; the working of borrow pits; the presence of tall cranes and partially built towers whilst turbines are being erected; construction of the substation and associated buildings and the movement of and lighting on construction vehicles and plant around construction compounds and storage areas. There would therefore be large scale changes to the site relating to construction activity. The overall scale of change during construction would be large. In terms of geographical extent, physical changes would be limited to areas within the site boundary, focused within elevated areas in the centre and south of the site where turbines would be constructed. Indirect effects on character would extend into other areas in the south west and north of the site, as well as beyond the site, across the adjacent hills and uplands to the north, south, east and west within the Ochil Hills (within the host LCTs LCT 382: Lowland Hill Ranges and LCT 149: Lowland Hills – Central, see **Table 7.10** and **Table 7.11**). The construction phase of the project is expected to last approximately 24 months, and would therefore be temporary and short term.

	The level of reversibility would be varied, from fully reversible changes associated with ground disturbances (albeit that vegetation would take some time to recover) to longer lasting effects associated with infrastructure that forms part of the operational scheme.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**, resulting in a **major (significant)** effect on the landscape of the site. These effects would be temporary and contained within the geographical extent of the site.

Visual Effects during Construction

7.92 Visual effects during the construction phase would affect the same receptors as assessed in the operational phase. Visual effects resulting from construction would change throughout the construction phase as wind turbines are gradually constructed in sections. As such, visual effects during the construction phase are unlikely to exceed the level of effect associated with operational visual effects and are not assessed independently.

Residual Construction Effects

7.93 The assessment of effects above assumes all construction related best practice mitigation measures are implemented (as identified in **Technical Appendix 3.1: Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)**, therefore the residual effects arising from construction would remain as identified in the section above.

Potential Operational Effects

Sources of Effects during Operation

7.94 The main likely effects of the proposed development on landscape and visual amenity once operational would be associated with the presence of the wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure including access tracks and onsite substation as described in **Chapter 3: Description of Development** and shown on **Figure 3.1**.

7.95 The key components of the proposed development of relevance to this assessment include:

- 13 wind turbines of up to 149.9m tip height;
- hardstand areas for maintenance cranes at each wind turbine location;
- a network of new and upgraded access tracks including new watercourse crossings; and
- a 33 kV substation and compound including control building and battery storage area.

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

Predicted Operational Effects

Table 7-9: Operational Effects on the site

Operational Effects on the site	
Location and baseline description	The site is described in detail in **Table 7-8** above.

Sensitivity	Taking into account the judgements of susceptibility and value, the sensitivity of the site is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	Direct operational effects on the landscape would be introduced through the presence of all 13 turbines and associated infrastructure, including hardstandings, access tracks, and substation compound. The proposed development would change the character of the site from an area of rounded summits and elevated grassland and moorland to an area of rounded summits and elevated grassland and moorland with wind turbines. The scale of change resulting from the proposed development would be large. In terms of geographical extent, physical changes would be limited to areas within the site boundary, focused within elevated areas in the centre and south of the site where turbines would be in operation. Indirect effects on character would extend into other areas in the south west and north of the site, as well as beyond the site, across the adjacent hills and uplands to the north, south, east and west within the Ochil Hills (within the host LCTs LCT 382: Lowland Hill Ranges and LCT 149: Lowland Hills – Central, see **Table 7.10** and **Table 7.11**).
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high**, resulting in a **major (significant)** effect on the landscape of the site.

Operational Effects on Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

7.97 LCTs within 40km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development are illustrated on **Figure 7.4a**, with theoretical visibility from those LCTs located within 20km indicated by the ZTV shown on **Figure 7.4c**. The assessment describes the potential effects on landscape character resulting from the introduction of the proposed development during the operational phase and a consideration of potential cumulative landscape effects arising in conjunction with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms. The assessment is limited to those LCTs where potentially significant effects are considered possible, as detailed in **Table 7-2**.

Table 7-10: LCT 382 Lowland Hill Ranges (host)

Lowland Hill Ranges (382) (host)	
Location and baseline description	The north of the site (and including part of the site access) and five turbines of the proposed development are located within this LCT host unit. Parts of the southern and western boundaries of this LCT unit broadly follow parts of the local authority boundaries between Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council. Key characteristics include: • *"The Sidlaw and Ochil Hills comprise hard volcanic rocks which appear as relatively uniform ridgelines orientated southwest to northeast, contributing to the much wider strategic grain of landscape character defined by the Highland Boundary Fault geology.* • *Recognisable shapes, peaks and slopes, and ridge profiles, the presence of which is emphasised by their location set within low lying agricultural landscape to the north and south.* • *Short burns and rivers flowing from dramatic, short steep glens.* • *Several large glens through the hills.* • *Often distinctive and conspicuous scarp and dipslopes.* • *Generally open medium scale landscapes of almost conical summits dominated by grass moorland and upland pasture.*

	• *Sweeping patchwork of regular but not geometric patterns on the dipslopes.* • *Some areas of extensive forestry.* • *Occasional vertical features such as navigational and telecom masts, follies, and wind turbines which appear prominent in these elevated locations.* • *Popular use for informal recreation by nearby large centres of population.* • *A sense of relative tranquillity."*[22] The operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms are located within this LCT (refer to **Figure 7.6**).
Sensitivity	The relatively large-scale, simple landform and landscape pattern, and human influence of operational wind farms, other vertical features and conifer plantations indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The sense of tranquillity and intervisibility with the more sensitive lower-lying landscapes indicate a higher susceptibility. On balance susceptibility is judged to be medium. This unit of the LCT is located within the locally-designated Ochil Hills LLA, indicating a higher landscape value. The Ochil Hills have a local recreational value given their proximity to relatively densely settled landscapes. Overall value is judged to be high. The Perth and Kinross Landscape Study[23] identifies this LCT as being of medium landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	Direct effects on the host LCT unit would be introduced through the presence of five turbines and associated site access, internal access tracks and a substation. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates extensive theoretical visibility from this LCT unit including within the site boundary where the surrounding landform largely contains the site. In terms of wider effects, outside the site boundary within 5km there is also extensive theoretical visibility to the north of the site around Tambeth, Greenhill and East Biggs and from western-facing hills slopes including Craigentaggert Hill and Wether Hill to the north east. Beyond 5km, there is intermittent theoretical visibility from western-facing hills slopes near Eastbow Hill and Steele's Knowe to the north of Glen Devon within 10km, and from western-facing hill slopes further east near Mellock Hill, Black Law, Corb Law and Simpleside Hill within 15km. The introduction of the proposed development would directly affect the "r*ecognisable shapes, peaks and slopes, and ridge profiles*" within this LCT unit as the turbines form new large-scale features seen across the horizons of the LCT. The proposed development would also directly affect the LCT's sense of "*relative tranquillity".* Existing views of operational turbines are available from this LCT unit and have altered the landscape character to some extent. The presence of the operational group of turbines formed by Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind

22 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 382: Lowland Hill Ranges. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20382%20-%20Lowland%20Hill%20Ranges%20-%20final%20pdf.pdf

23 David Tyldesley And Associates (2010) Perth and Kinross Council Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy, Final Report. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44779/DTA-Landscape-Study-for-Wind-Energy-2010/pdf/DTA_Landscape_Study_for_Wind_Energy_2010.pdf?m=637017430672100000

	Farms within <1km to the east of the proposed development in the adjacent LCT already exerts an influence of development on this LCT around the site. The operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms, which are located further north east within this host LCT unit, also exert an influence. These operational wind farms both within and adjacent to this LCT unit contribute to the "*occasional vertical features…which appear prominent in these elevated locations*". Wind turbines associated with the proposed development would be perceived in the context of the existing Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North wind farm group and in some views would appear as part of it, increasing the influence of wind farm development on this LCT unit. Turbine hardstandings, tracks and other associated ancillary infrastructure would result in a localised alteration to the landcover and terrain of the host LCT unit. The scale of change is judged to be large across a small geographical extent of the host LCT unit, limited to hill summits and slopes within the site that have visibility, as well as localised areas on adjacent hill slopes that contain the site to the north and east within approximately 5km of the proposed development. In these areas, visibility would be localised but the most concentrated within the LCT. The scale of change is also judged to be large within 5km as from localised hills summits within and adjacent to the site, the proposed development would be perceived in close proximity views and as such appear more prominent in the landscape. The scale of change would reduce to medium for western-facing hill slopes with visibility of the proposed development to the east beyond 5km but within approximately 10km, where the proposed development would be perceived at greater distances and where visibility would be slightly more intermittent. Beyond 10km, the scale of change would reduce with distance and due to limited theoretical visibility.
Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **high** within the part of the LCT within the site, and for hill summits and west-facing slopes within 5km of the proposed development to the north and east of the site. The magnitude of change would reduce to **medium** for hill summits and west-facing slopes with visibility of the proposed development to the east beyond 5km but within 10km. Beyond 10km, the magnitude of change would decrease with distance and due to limited theoretical visibility. Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect of the proposed development on the host LCT is judged to be **major (significant)** locally, including across hill summits within the site, and hill summits and west-facing slopes within 5km of the proposed development to the north and east of the site. Due to the operational cluster of turbines at Burnfoot Hill, this area has already been influenced by wind turbines, however the proposed development would intensify this influence. Effects would reduce to **moderate (significant)** for parts of the host LCT unit with visibility of the proposed development beyond 5km but within 10km to the east. These would primarily affect hill summits and west-facing slopes, from where the proposed development would be perceived as a prominent influence in the landscape, albeit at greater distances. Beyond 10km, effects would fall below the threshold of significance.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms located within this LCT host unit. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would form a distant feature in outward views north and north west from this LCT unit, in a different direction of the view as the proposed development. Other consented wind farms located beyond this LCT unit would form barely perceptible features in outward views. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the intervening distance.

	The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be located within this LCT unit over 10km to the east of the proposed development. These wind farms would result in the intensification of wind farm development within the LCT and the wider Ochil Hills. These proposed wind farms would be seen as one wind farm group and in both combined and successive views with the operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms across the LCT. The proposed development would generally be visible in successive views with these other wind farms. The addition of the proposed development would increase the influence of wind farm development within this LCT. However, the proposed development would be seen in the context of the existing adjacent group of operational wind farms formed by Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms (located just outside of this LCT). The proposed development would have minimal direct interaction with the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms given the intervening distance. There are currently no other proposed wind farms within this LCT. Cumulative interactions with the proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms, located over 15km away from the host LCT unit to the south west, would be limited due to distance and landform (particularly from northern facing slopes of the host LCT). Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south, generally seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-11: LCT 149 Lowland Hills – Central (host)

LCT 149 Lowland Hills – Central (host)	
Location and baseline description	The south of the site and eight turbines of the proposed development are located within this LCT host unit. The northern boundary of this LCT unit broadly follows parts of the local authority boundaries between Clackmannanshire Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Stirling Council. One other LCT unit is located within 15km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development to the north west. Key characteristics include: • *"Prominent, open, large scale character, of predominantly smooth, gently rounded upper slopes and hill summits.* • *Simplicity and unity of landform.* • *Hills covered in rolling expanses of peatland, rough grass and heather moorland.* • *Occasional, widely scattered blocks of coniferous forest.* • *Almost entirely uninhabited landscapes, with any dwellings widely dispersed, often located to the edge of single-track roads which zigzag across lower ground.* • *Recreational use is mainly restricted to the fringes of the hills and higher tops, which provide greater visual interest.* • *Important close visual interrelationships between the hills and escarpments, and neighbouring lowland and carseland areas.*

	• *Open character, absence of current settlement and limited penetration by roads or hill tracks create a refuge of remoteness in close proximity to densely settled areas.* • *Hills often act as a buffer between more intensively used and populated areas. They create a strong contrast to these areas, and provide a sometimes dramatic backdrop."*[24] The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnhill Foot North Wind Farms are located in the host LCT unit. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is located within the north western unit.
Sensitivity	The large-scale, relatively simple landform and occasional human influence of operational wind farms and conifer plantations indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The remote character and intervisibility with the more sensitive lower-lying landscapes indicate a higher susceptibility. On balance susceptibility is judged to be medium. The host unit of the LCT is located within the locally-designated Ochil Hills LLA/Western Ochils LLA, indicating a higher landscape value. A number of popular local hill summits are located within the LCT unit with Ben Cleuch and The Nebit identified as promoted viewpoints on Ordnance Survey mapping, indicating a higher recreational value. Overall value is judged to be high. The Clackmannanshire Supplementary Guidance on Onshore Wind Energy[25] identifies this LCT as being of high landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	Direct effects on the host LCT unit would be introduced through the presence of eight turbines and associated access tracks. The introduction of the proposed development would directly affect the "*important close visual interrelationships between the hills and escarpments, and neighbouring lowland and carseland areas"* within this LCT unit as the turbines would appear as new large-scale features interrupting the views across the LCT and wider landscape. The proposed development would also directly effect the LCT's sense of "*remoteness*" afforded by the absence settlement roads and hill tracks, as well as the LCT's role in providing a "*strong contrast"* and *"dramatic backdrop"* to the surrounding settled areas to the north, west and south. This LCT unit however is already influenced by the operational group of turbines formed by Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms located within the unit, and <1km to the east of the proposed development. Wind turbines associated with the proposed development would be perceived in the context of the existing Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North wind farm group and in some views would appear as part of it, increasing the influence of wind farm development on this LCT unit. Turbine hardstandings and tracks would result in a localised alteration to the landcover and terrain of the host LCT unit. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates extensive theoretical visibility from this LCT unit within the site boundary. Outside the site boundary within 5km theoretical

24 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 149: Lowland Hills – Central. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20149%20-%20Lowland%20Hills%20-%20Central%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf

25 Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance 2, Onshore Wind Energy. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6851.pdf

	visibility is reduced and becomes more intermittent from hill summits and site-facing slopes to the east, west and south. Beyond 5km, theoretical visibility is limited to some site-facing slopes around King's Seat Hill and Whitewisp Hill to the east as well as from site-facing slopes around Dumyat to the south west. There is also theoretical visibility within the north western LCT unit across distance between approximately 11-25km away, including across the elevated south eastern-facing slopes, which contain the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm. The scale of change is judged to be large across a relatively small geographical extent of the host LCT unit. This is limited to the hills and slopes within the site and adjacent hills slopes primarily to the east and south within approximately 5km of the proposed development, where visibility would be most concentrated within the LCT. Beyond 5km, the scale of change is judged to be small as theoretical visibility within the host LCT unit is limited due to the intervening landform that contains the site and screens the proposed development. The scale of change is also judged to be small for the north western LCT unit due the distance of approximately 11km between the LCT unit and the nearest turbine.
Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **high** within the part of the host LCT unit within the site and for hill summits to the east and south of the site within 5km of the proposed development. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** for other parts of the host LCT unit beyond 5km where visibility would become limited and for the north western LCT unit which is approximately 11km away where the proposed development would be perceived at a greater distance. The effect of the proposed development on the host LCT is judged to be **major (significant)** within the site and for hill summits with theoretical visibility to the east and south within 5km of the proposed development. Beyond 5km the effect reduces to **minor (not significant)** for both the host LCT unit and the north western LCT unit due to limited theoretical visibility and distance from the proposed development.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms located within the LCT host unit or the north western LCT unit. Other consented wind farms would form barely perceptible features in outward views from both the host LCT unit and the north western LCT unit. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within the host or north western LCT unit. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in views from both the host LCT unit and the north western LCT unit. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be visible in views to the north west from the host LCT, located over 10km to the east of the proposed development. These proposed wind farms would be seen as one wind farm group and in both combined and successive views within the operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms in the adjacent Lowland Hill Ranges LCT (382). From the north western LCT, Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms and the proposed development would be seen as part of two separate distinct groupings of wind farm development that already influence outward views experienced from this LCT unit. When viewed from both the host LCT unit and north western LCT unit, the proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other

	proposed wind farms given the intervening distance and different directions of view in which the proposed development would appear. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms, located over 10km away from the host LCT unit to the south west, would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills (within a further unit of this LCT). Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south from the host and north western LCT unit, generally seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-12: LCT 384 Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside

LCT 384 Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside	
Location and baseline description	This LCT is located approximately 3.5km to the north and north east of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. Key characteristics include: • *"Broad straths formed by glacial erosion, loosely enclosed by the foothills and massif to the north, and lower locals hill ridges to the south.* • *Overriding southwest to northeast orientation.* • *Undersized, misfit rivers which typically from adjacent low elevations do not read as dominant landscape features.* • *Complex local topography caused by glacial deposition, including outwash terraces, eskers and dry valleys.* • *Distinctive red soils and red building stone, contribute to a colourful mosaic of large fields particularly in the earlier months when crops are immature.* • *Influence of large estates, particularly in terms of mature woodland and policies defined field boundaries and enclosed estate houses.* • *Dominance of arable and root crops, in large fields typically enclosed by post and wire fencing, which contribute to the overriding horizontal landform and large to medium scale. Some specialist crops such as fruit orchards and bulb fields are adding diversification, with expansion of highly visible poly-tunnels an increasingly common feature.* • *Tree and hedge loss weakening landscape character increasing openness of landscape, and increasingly ineffective in mitigating the dust bowls in dry months* • *Significant network of roads running through landscape, with main trunk roads including the A9 and A90 roads running along the straths linking a number of large towns;* • *Well-settled landscape with strong hierarchy of settlement types from large towns, to small villages, located within a well-populated agricultural landscape.* • *Rich historic landscapes with features including standing stones, hillforts, Roman camps and medieval castles and tower houses.* • *Tall vertical structures are prominent in this landscape and adjacent elevated hills including views to pylon lines both within and on the adjacent foothills, and a small numbers of clusters and small wind farms.*

	Single large commercial turbines are located infrequently along the strath itself. • *Wide, panoramic views across the breadth of the strath, running along and up to the enclosing hills. In particular there are unrivalled views from Strathmore up to the foothills and uplands of the Grampian Mountains to the north."*[26] There are no commercial-scale operational wind farms located within this LCT.
Sensitivity	The relatively broad and large-scale of the landscape, presence of settlement and human influences including overhead electricity infrastructure, particularly in the east of the LCT, the road network and views of operational wind turbines in adjacent LCTs, indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. Localised areas of complex topography, the relatively diverse landscape pattern, open nature of views and intervisibility with the Ochil Hills indicate a higher susceptibility. Overall susceptibility is judged to be medium. The south of the LCT is located in the Ochil Hills LLA, the north east of the LCT is in the Sidlaw Hills LLA and the north east of the LCT is located in the Upper Strathearn LLA. On balance, value is judged to be medium. The Perth and Kinross Landscape Study[27] identifies this LCT as being of low-medium landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	Approximately 1.5km of the northern extent of the access track would be located within the LCT however turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure associated with the proposed development would be located outside of this LCT. As such, most of the effects on this LCT would be indirect. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates theoretical visibility of a number of turbines within 10km of the LCT, from parts of Strathallan around Greenloaning, Blackford, and Gleneagles and along the A9 corridor. Extensive theoretical visibility is also available from the gradual south-facing landform further north near and to the east of Braco, where a larger number of turbines are theoretically visible. Visibility of the proposed development would alter the "w*ide, panoramic views across the breadth of the strath, running along and up to the enclosing hills"* through the introduction of new large-scale vertical features across along southern horizons formed by the enclosing Ochil Hills. Beyond 10km, there is theoretical visibility from around Auchterarder and from south-facing slopes around Strathearn and Keillour Forest between approximately 14-20km from the proposed development. At distances beyond 14km, it is considered that the integrity of the key characteristics in these parts of the LCT would not be compromised by the proposed development. From some parts of the LCT, the proposed development would be seen as part of the operational group of turbines formed by Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill,

26 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 384: Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20384%20-%20Broad%20Valley%20Lowlands%20-%20Tayside%20-%20final%20pdf.pdf

27 David Tyldesley And Associates (2010) Perth and Kinross Council Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy, Final Report. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44779/DTA-Landscape-Study-for-Wind-Energy-2010/pdf/DTA_Landscape_Study_for_Wind_Energy_2010.pdf?m=637017430672100000

	Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms located <1km to the east of the proposed development. The proposed development would further contribute to the existing influence of "*tall vertical structures"* which are *"prominent in this landscape and adjacent elevated hills".* The scale of change is judged to be medium across a relatively small geographical extent of the LCT across the south-facing landform near and to the east of Braco, where a larger number of turbines are theoretically visible within 10km and where there is a strong relationship with the enclosing Ochil Hills. The scale of change would reduce to small for the remaining parts of the LCT, including lower parts of Strathallan where intervening landform obscures or screens views, and more distant parts of the LCT to the north.
Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **medium** across a localised area across south-facing landform near and to the east of Braco where there would be extensive visibility of a large number of turbines at distances between 5-10km. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** for the remaining parts of the LCT across the Strathallan and more distant parts of the LCT to the north. The effect of the proposed development on this LCT is judged to be **moderate (significant)** across the south-facing landform near and to the east of Braco, within 10km distance, where a larger number of turbines would be visible. The effect would reduce to **minor (not significant)** for remaining parts of the LCT across Strathallan and more distant parts of the LCT to the north, due to limited visibility and distance from the proposed development.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are current no consented wind farms located within this LCT. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen in views north and west from the LCT, in a different direction of the view as the proposed development. Other consented wind farms would form barely perceptible features in outward views from this LCT or would be largely screen by intervening landform. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the intervening distance and limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within this LCT. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be visible to varying degrees in views to the south and south east from this LCT. These other proposed wind farms would be seen in combined views with the operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms to the south and south east. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would therefore increase the influence of wind farm development in the Ochil Hills which forms the southern backdrop to this LCT. The proposed development would be seen in similar directions and successive views with Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms, further intensifying the external influence of wind farm development on this LCT however would be seen as part of the distinctly separate operational wind farm group adjacent to the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance between them. Other proposed wind farms within the study area would be largely screened from this LCT due to the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-13: LCT 153 Carselands

LCT 153 Carselands	
Location and baseline description	Two units of this LCT are located to the south and south west of the site, located approximately 3km and 9km from the nearest turbine of the proposed development respectively. Key characteristics include: • *"Flat, open, large scale Carselands of predominantly open agricultural landcover forming the floor and former floodplains of the River Forth, River Devon and Black Devon.* • *Important as landscape setting of Stirling, Stirling Castle, and the Ochil Hills.* • *Absence of settlement across the Carselands, restricted to villages on the peripheral slopes and scattered farmsteads along the valley floors.* • *Periodic extensive flooding continues to influence land use.* • *Trunk roads run in parallel to the northern and southern perimeters of the Carselands.* • *Distinct character of group of Hillfoot villages, and their relationship with streams issuing from Ochil Hills within Lower Devon area, as well as major overhead power lines and their pylons.* • *Recent expansion of settlement boundaries at edge of carse making new development very visible.* • *Industrial and agricultural buildings, and bonded warehouse on open carseland prominent in views within Lower Devon area* • *Largest remaining intact raised bog in Britain at Flanders Moss, with international importance for nature conservation.* • *Importance of Carse of Forth open farmland for flocks of wintering geese.* • *Open views across carse accentuated by consequent dramatic contrast with the adjacent escarpments of the Ochils and Fintry, Gargunnock and Touch Hills."*[28] The operational Rosehill Farm Wind Farm is located in the south LCT unit (refer to **Figure 7.6**).
Sensitivity	The simple, flat landform and large-scale of the LCT indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The southern LCT contains a greater influence of human development, including more settlement and industrial sites particularly within the area to the north of the River Forth. This also indicates lower susceptibility. In other parts of the southern LCT unit and within the south western LCT unit the relatively small-scale and rural character of other settlement, complex landscape pattern, open nature of views, and intervisibility with Stirling Castle and the Ochil Hills indicates a higher susceptibility. Overall susceptibility is judged to be medium.

28 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 153: Carselands. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20153%20-%20Carselands%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf

	The northern edge of the southern LCT unit extends across the southern fringes of the Ochils SLA and Western Ochils LLA. This LCT also contains a number of National Cycle Network (NCN) routes and some visitor locations of interest including Alloa Tower and Dunmore Park which are National Trust locations, indicating localised areas of a higher recreational value. The southern edge of the south western LCT unit extends across the northern fringes of the Southern Hill LLA and a very small part of the west of this LCT unit is located within the Rednock LLA. Two locations identified as promoted viewpoints on Ordnance Survey mapping are located in the west of the south western LCT unit, including one at Flanders Moss National Nature Reserve, also indicating localised areas of a higher recreational value. Overall value is judged to be medium. The Clackmannanshire Supplementary Guidance on Onshore Wind Energy[29] and the Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study[30] identifies this LCT as being of medium-high landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects would be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the proposed development from within the LCT. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates widespread visibility of a varying number of turbines across the two LCT units. Within the closer southern LCT unit, theoretical visibility of up to ten turbines extends across the area around Fishcross and Fairfield on the northern side of the River Forth within 10km, with more extensive visibility extending across much of the LCT unit to the south of the river between 5-20km away. In the south western unit, theoretical visibility of up to ten turbines extends across most of the unit at distances over 10km from the proposed development. From both LCT units however the proposed development would be partially screened by the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills, particularly when viewed from the south western LCT unit where views would largely be limited to turbine blades (refer to Viewpoint 17: Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park and Viewpoint 19: A811 near Gargunnock which are representative of views in this area). Visibility of the proposed development would alter the "*open views across carse accentuated by consequent dramatic contrast with the adjacent escarpments of the Ochils*…" as new large-scale vertical features would be visible along the northern and north eastern horizon from these LCT units, where the Ochil Hills form a prominent backdrop in these views. The existing group of operational wind farms to the east of the proposed development in the Ochil Hills does not currently influence this LCT as it is screened by intervening landform. However the proposed development would be perceived in the backdrop to a landscape that is now characterised by industry and settlement along the carse of the River Forth. Given that the proposed development would be partially screened from the LCT units, and would be perceived within the context of existing human influence of industry and settlement along the carseland, the scale of change within these LCT units is judged to be small, across a large geographical extent.

29 Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance 2, Onshore Wind Energy. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6851.pdf

30 Stirling Council (2015) Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development, Update January 2015.

Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **low** due to the partial visibility of the proposed development and the existing human influence within this LCT. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect of the proposed development on this LCT is judged to be **minor (not significant).**
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms are located within this LCT. The consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be located approximately 5km to the south of the south western unit however visibility of this consented wind farm would limited from both LCT units due to intervening landform (and with this wind farm seen behind the operational Kingsburn Wind Farm when visible). Other consented wind farms to the south and south west of these LCT units would form relatively distant features in outward views, when visible. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented wind farms given limited visibility of some consented wind farms, intervening distance and different directions of view in which the proposed development would appear. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within this LCT. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be located approximately 3km to the south of the south western unit and are visible at varying degrees from both this LCT unit and the southern LCT unit. In some views, these proposed wind farms would be seen as part of an existing group of wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, increasing the external influence of wind farm development on these LCT units. The proposed development would be seen in successive views with these proposed wind farms with a distance of approximately 19km between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms. The interaction between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be limited given this distance and the different viewing directions. Other visible proposed wind farms would be located over 30km to the south of the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-14: LCT 150 Lowland Hill Fringes – Central

LCT 150 Lowland Hill Fringes – Central	
Location and baseline description	Three units of this LCT are located within 15km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. The closest unit is located approximately 4km to the west of the proposed development. The further two units are located approximately 8km to the north west and 13km to the south west respectively. Key characteristics: • "*Undulating, rolling topography rising to larger scale hill landforms.* • *Gradation of topography creates transitional landscape linking the open hills of more pronounced relief and the neighbouring settled valley landscapes.* • *Diverse landcover of arable and open improved and unimproved pasture land, interlocks with woodland and forestry, with some estate landscapes with frequent beech hedgerows and shelterbelts.*

	• *High proportion of woodland cover including large coniferous blocks, mixed shelterbelts and broadleaf tree clumps.* • *Scattered residential development and small settlements on slopes, with recent expansion in some areas.* • *Minor roads.* • *Concentration of small water bodies, reservoirs and small watercourses.* • *Strong interrelationship between stepped escarpment and lower foot slopes in Gargunnock/Fintry and East Touch Fringe.* • *Estate and designed landscapes give distinctive character to East Touch Fringe area.* • *Hill fringes offer important panoramic views to neighbouring hills, valleys and straths, as well as large settlements such as Glasgow and Falkirk.* • *A sense of remoteness and isolation in some areas despite proximity to settlement and relatively limited geographic extent."*[31] The operational Todhill Farm Wind Farm is located in the south western unit of this LCT.
Sensitivity	The medium to larger-scale of the landscape and occasional human influence of major road networks, operational wind turbines, overhead electricity infrastructure, conifer plantations and proximity to settlement indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The relatively diverse landscape pattern, complex undulating landform and intervisibility with more sensitive lower-lying landscapes indicate a higher susceptibility. Some higher slopes near the Braes of Doune within the north western LCT unit offer a sense of remoteness which also indicates higher susceptibility. On balance, susceptibility is judged to be medium. The south western LCT unit is partially located within the Southern Hills LLA, indicating areas of higher value within the LCT. However, overall value of the LCT is judged to be medium. The Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study[32] identifies this LCT as being of high landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects would be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the proposed development from within the LCT. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates widespread visibility of a varying number of turbines across the three LCT units. Within the closest LCT unit, theoretical visibility is limited, with up to seven turbines being visible across a small area across the forested slopes of Sheriff Muir and a small area to the north of Bridge of Allan. Actual visibility in these parts of this LCT is likely to be reduced further by pockets of mixed woodland and coniferous forestry. Within the north western unit, theoretical visibility is more widespread with up to all 13 turbines being theoretically visible from south western-facing slopes around the Braes of Doune at distances within 15km. However, visibility of turbines from this area would be largely limited to turbine blades and hubs due to the intervening landform of the western side of the Ochils, reducing

31 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 150: Lowland Hill Fringes – Central. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20150%20-%20Lowland%20Hill%20Fringes%20-%20Central%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf

32 Stirling Council (2015) Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development, Update January 2015.

	the influence of the proposed development on this LCT unit. From the southwestern unit there is theoretical visibility of up to ten turbines across parts of the unit within 15km, between and around Gillies Hill, Chartershall, Plean and Cowie. Landform on the southern edge of the Ochil Hills would partially screen some of these turbines. Visibility of the proposed development may alter the "*important panoramic views to neighbouring hills, valleys and straths…"* including from some open hill slopes within the north western LCT unit around the Braes of Doune, as well as some localised areas of elevation around Chartershall in the southwestern LCT unit. However from much of these LCT units the proposed development would form a relatively distant feature that is partially screened by intervening landform in the Ochil Hills. From parts of the south western LCT, the proposed development would be seen in some successive views with the operational Todhill Farm Wind Farm which directly influences this LCT unit. From parts of the north western LCT, the proposed development would be seen in the context of other operational wind farm development in the Ochil Hills which already alter views from the LCT. Given the limited visibility in the closest LCT unit to the west and that the proposed development would be partially screened and form relatively distant features in views from the north western and south western LCT units the scale of change is judged to be small. Effects would be experienced over a large geographical extent across both the north eastern and south western LCT units.
Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **low** for this LCT, due to limited theoretical visibility in the closest LCT unit to the west, and the partial visibility and/ or distance at which the proposed development would be perceived from the remaining LCT units. The effect of the proposed development on this LCT is judged to be **minor (not significant).**
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms located within the three units of this LCT within 15km of the proposed development. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be located approximately 6km to the north east of the north western unit and would be seen in outward views from the LCT. The proposed development would be seen in a separate direction of the view from this part of the LCT, though mostly screened by intervening landform. Given the intervening distance between developments and the limited combined visibility, there would be limited interaction between these developments. The consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be located approximately 2km to the south of the south western unit and would be perceived as part of an existing group of wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The proposed development would be introduced in different direction of views from these LCT units and would be perceived as part of the existing group of wind farms adjacent to the proposed development within the Ochil Hills. Given the distance of approximately 24km between Shelloch Wind Farm and the proposed development there would be limited interaction between these wind farm developments. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within these LCT units. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be located approximately 1km to the south of the south western unit and visible at varying degree from parts of all three LCT units. In some views, these proposed wind farms would be seen as part of an existing group of wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, increasing the external influence of

	wind farm development on these LCT units to the south and south west. The proposed development would be seen in successive views with these proposed wind farms with a distance of approximately 19km between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms. The interaction between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be limited given this distance and the different viewing directions. The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be visible from limited parts of the north western and south western LCT units. These turbines would be seen as distant feature along the eastern skyline, at distances over 20km from these LCT units and partially screened by intervening landform. From the north western LCT, Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be seen in the context of the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North wind farm group, and within the same part of the horizon as the more distant operational Green Knowes Wind Farm. From this LCT unit the proposed development would be visible in combined views with Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms yet would be seen as part of the distinctly separate operational wind farm group adjacent to the proposed development. Given the distance between Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms and the proposed development, and the partial visibility of the wind farms, there would be minimal interaction between the proposed development and these other proposed wind farms. Other visible proposed wind farms would be located over 30km to the south of the proposed development and as such would have minimal interaction with the proposed development. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-15: LCT 380 Lowland Hills – Tayside

LCT 380 Lowland Hills – Tayside	
Location and baseline description	Two units of this LCT are located within 15km of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. The closest unit is located approximately 7km to the north of the proposed development. The second unit is located approximately 14km to the north east of the proposed development. Key characteristics include: • *"Low rounded ridges and hills separating lowland straths and adjoining the nearby uplands.* • *Composed of soft, red sandstones.* • *Transitional character with medium-scale pastures on lower slopes, giving way to rough grazing and even, open moorland higher up.* • *Extensive woodland, including conifer forests on less fertile soils.* • *Evidence of historic settlement and land use, with prehistoric standing stones, cairns, stone and hut circles, Roman forts roads and signal stations, and fortified houses and castles marking gateway points to the Highlands.*

	• *Modern settlement limited to scattered farmsteads and hamlets, with some main roads and pylons."*[33] The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm is located within this LCT.
Sensitivity	The medium to larger-scale of the landscape and occasional human influence of overhead electricity infrastructure conifer plantations and proximity to settlement indicate a lower susceptibility to development of the type and scale proposed. The relatively diverse landscape pattern and intervisibility with more sensitive lower-lying landscapes indicate a higher susceptibility. On balance susceptibility is judged to be medium. The north of the closest unit is located within the Upper Strathearn LLA and the east of second unit is located within the Sidlaw Hills LLA. Overall value is judged to be medium. The Perth and Kinross Landscape Study[34] identifies this LCT as being of low-medium landscape sensitivity. The overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.
Assessment of landscape effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located entirely outside of this LCT, therefore any effects would be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the proposed development from within the LCT. The ZTV (**Figure 7.4c**) indicates extensive visibility of up to 13 turbines across the two LCT units within 15km of the proposed development. Within the closest LCT unit, extensive areas of theoretical visibility of all 13 turbines extend across the south-facing slopes to the north and west of Braco, around Fedda Hill, Cromlet, Coire Odhar, Anmore Wood and west of Auchterarder, as well as around Ben Clach in the west of the unit. Around Fedda Hill, Coire Odhar and Anmore Wood, actual visibility is likely to be reduced by blocks of coniferous forestry and mixed woodland in these areas. Within the eastern extent of the LCT unit theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent, including to the north of Auchterarder. At and around Auchterarder, the number of turbines that would be theoretically visible reduces. In the second LCT unit to the north east, there is extensive theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines across much of the western part of this unit, extending from western boundary across Trinity Gask, St Davids and Findo Gask to Crossgates. Most of this visibility is beyond 15km and would be reduced by blocks of coniferous forestry and mixed woodland within the LCT unit. The proposed development would alter exterior views to the south and south west from these LCT units, introducing new large-scale vertical features across the south and south western horizon formed by the Ochil Hills. In most views, the proposed development would be seen as part of the group of operational wind farms to the east of the proposed development. These operational wind farms already influence exterior views from this LCT however the proposed development would increase this influence of wind farm development. This influence would be most notable in the closest parts of the closest LCT, to the north and west of Braco, where the Ochils form a prominent backdrop to the south.

33 NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Type 380: Lowland Hills – Tayside. [Online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20380%20-%20Lowland%20Hills%20-%20Tayside%20-%20final%20pdf.pdf

34 David Tyldesley And Associates (2010) Perth and Kinross Council Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy, Final Report. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44779/DTA-Landscape-Study-for-Wind-Energy-2010/pdf/DTA_Landscape_Study_for_Wind_Energy_2010.pdf?m=637017430672100000

	The scale of change is judged to be medium across a small geographical extent of the closest LCT unit from localised areas to the north and west of Braco within 10km where visibility of a large number of turbines would be relatively widespread. The scale of change would reduce to small for the remaining parts of the closest LCT unit beyond 10km and for the north eastern LCT unit where the proposed development would have a less prominent influence on the landscape due to the increased distance.
Overall level of effect and significance	The magnitude of change is judged to be **medium** within the closest LCT unit to the north and west of Braco within 10km. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** for the remaining parts of the closest LCT unit and for the north eastern LCT unit. The effect of the proposed development on this LCT is judged to be **moderate (significant)** within localised parts of the closest LCT unit, to the north and west of Braco within 10km, where the proposed development would be perceived as a relatively prominent feature in the landscape. For the remaining parts of the closest LCT unit beyond 10km and for the north eastern LCT unit, the effect reduces to **minor (not significant)** due to the distance the proposed development would be perceived at.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm is located within this LCT, and would form an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm. Whilst the proposed development would be seen in some combined views with Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm from the LCT, the two developments would appear as separate and distinct wind farms given the intervening distance. Other consented wind farms would form barely perceptible features in outward views from this LCT or would be largely screen by intervening landform. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the intervening distance and limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within this LCT. From the south western extent of the closest LCT unit, the proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms are visible in external views to the south and south west at distances over 17km. These proposed wind farms would been seen as part of an existing group of wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills which form relatively distant features along the south and south western horizon. The proposed development would be seen in successive views with these proposed wind farms with a distance of approximately 19km between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms. The interaction between the proposed development and Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be limited given this distance and the different viewing directions. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be visible at varying degrees in views to the south and south east from the LCT units. These wind farms would be seen in combined views with the operational Green Knowes Wind Farms and in successive views with the operational Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms further east and the operational wind farm group adjacent to the proposed development. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would therefore increase the influence of wind farm development in the Ochil Hills which form the southern backdrop in views to the south from these LCT units. The proposed development would be seen in both successive and combined views with Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms, further intensifying the external influence of wind farm development on this LCT. However, the proposed development would be seen as part of the distinctly

	separate wind farm group. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance between them. Other visible proposed wind farms would be located over 30km to the south of the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Effects on Visual Receptors at Viewpoints

7.98 The assessment of visual effects from the 20 viewpoints selected to represent views of the proposed development are set out below (as listed in **Table 7-4** and shown on **Figure 7.2a-c**). This assessment assumes that all effects are long-term, during the proposed 40 year operational lifespan of the proposed development, reversible and adverse, unless stated otherwise.

7.99 Accompanying visualisations for each assessment viewpoint are contained in Volumes 3b and 3c of the EIA Report prepared in accordance with the methodology set out in **Technical Appendix 7.1**.

Table 7-16: Viewpoint 1: Ben Cleuch

Viewpoint 1: Ben Cleuch				
Grid Reference (NGR)	290273	700638	**Figure Number**	7.8
LCT	Lowland Hills – Central (149)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	The Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire)
Direction of view	North, north west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	9		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the popular local hill summit of Ben Cleuch (721m AOD), the highest hill within the Ochils, within the Ochils SLA. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. Open and panoramic views are available from this elevated location. The gently rolling moorland around the summit and nearby Ben Buck form the foreground of views north, north west. The landform descends towards Strathallan, with blocks of coniferous forestry seen in distant views. More remote upland summits form the background and skyline of distant views looking west to north. The neighbouring summits of the Ochil Hills are seen in views east and north east. Views looking south east to south west overlook lower-lying landscapes, including the settled carselands of the River Devon valley to the south, with the broad flat landscape of the River Forth valley with clusters of dense settlement seen beyond, and the coastal farmland of Fife seen to the south east, punctuated by occasional lowland hills. Distant hill summits within the wider Scottish Highlands form the background of views west, north west to north. The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms are evident in close proximity views north west. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in more distant views north			

	west. The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature in views north, north west. The operational Craigengelt, Kingsburn, and Earlsburn Wind Farms are seen in the context of the Gargunnock and Touch Hills to the south west, mostly backclothed by rising landform beyond. More distant operational wind farms are visible in wider views south east to south west in very clear conditions, including Todhill Farm, Rosehill Farm and Greengairs East, Burnhead and Drumduff in the Forth Valley, and more distant wind farms seen beyond the Firth of Forth.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Ochils SLA, at a location promoted as a panoramic viewpoint on Ordnance Survey mapping. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs of nine and the blades of 13 turbines would be seen extending across close to middle distance views looking north west, backclothed by more distant landform. Turbines in the north of the site would be partially screened by the intervening landform of Ben Buck. The proposed development would appear to the west of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm and would increase the horizontal extent of turbines in close to middle distance views. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in more distant views in the same direction. The proposed development and the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms would extend continuously across a relatively wide angle of panoramic views looking north, north west and west. The turbines of the proposed development would appear slightly larger in scale than other nearby operational wind turbines, though at a similar intervening distance as the operational wind turbines and are likely to read as one larger wind farm. Ancillary infrastructure, including thardstandings and onsite access tracks would be partly visible in the middle distance of views, extending across moorland, though tracks and hardstandings associated with the nearest turbines would be largely screened by intervening landform. Views of the substation would be screened by intervening landform. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents, limited to the hill summits of Ben Ever (refer to the wireline on **Figure 7.32**), Ben Cleuch, Ben Buck and Burnfoot Hill (though operational wind farms form a more apparent feature in views from this location) and site-facing slopes within approximately 1.8km to the south and west of the proposed development. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small. Ben Cleuch tends to be accessed from the south, so views of this nature open up around the summit area. The proposed development would appear in elevated panoramic views with an existing presence of wind farms. However, the proposed turbines would appear closer than existing turbines. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a large scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change is judged to be **high** and taking account of the high sensitivity would result in a **major (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline	The consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be seen in distant views south west, seen in the context of other operational wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen in distant views north, north west, forming an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm. Other consented wind farms would form

(operational and consented)	barely perceptible features in wider successive views from this location. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance and limited inter-visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be seen in views north east, increasing the horizontal extent and prominence of the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm. These proposed wind farms would be seen in front of the operational Lochelbank Wind Farm and Binn Eco Park Wind Farm. The introduction of the proposed development under this scenario would lead to an intensification of wind farm development within the Ochil Hills, however the emerging pattern of wind farms would result in two distinct groupings of wind farm development in views from this location. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance and different directions of view in which the proposed development would appear. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in successive views from this location. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills to the south west. The proposed Glentarken Wind Farm would be seen in distant views north, north west, in a similar direction of view as the Strathallan Phase 1 (operational) and Phase 2 (consented) Wind Farms. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south, generally seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance and limited inter-visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-17: Viewpoint 2: The Nebit

Viewpoint 2: The Nebit				
Grid Reference (NGR)	288830	698638	**Figure Number**	7.9
LCT	Lowland Hills – Central (149)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	The Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire)
Direction of View	North		**Distance to nearest turbine**	2.2km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	5
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the local hill summit of The Nebit (449m AOD) within the Ochils SLA. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. The foreground of views north is formed of the rough grassland summit, with landform descending to Glenwinnel Burn in relatively close-distance views. Western summits of the Ochil Hills range, including Bengengle Hill, Craighorn and Ben Ever, form the skyline and focus of middle-distance views north, foreshortening more distant views. More distant views are available looking south west to south east, overlooking the lower-lying Forth Valley and carselands of the River Devon valley. The			

	Firth of Forth is seen in distant views south east, with rising summits beyond Edinburgh forming the skyline of views in this direction. The operational Craigengelt and Earlsburn Wind Farms are seen in relatively distant views south west. More distant operational wind farms are visible in views south east to south in very clear conditions, including Todhill Farm, Rosehill Farm and Greengairs East, Burnhead and Drumduff in the Forth Valley, and more distant wind farms seen beyond the Firth of Forth.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Ochils SLA, at a location promoted as a panoramic viewpoint on Ordnance Survey mapping. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The blades of four turbines would be seen against the skyline, partially screened by intervening landform, in the middle distance of views looking north. The blades of turbines in the south of the site (T1, T2, T3, T5) would be seen beyond the intervening landform of Craighorn. The blades of one further turbine (T6) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. Turbines in the centre and north of the site would be fully screened by intervening landform. Operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills are screened by intervening landform in views from this location, though other more distant operational wind farms are seen in successive views south west to south east. The proposed development would appear as the closest wind farm development in the view, though screening by intervening landform would minimise the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed turbines. Panoramic views would remain focused overlooking the lower-lying Forth Valley, carselands of the River Devon valley and the Firth of Forth. Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents, limited to site-facing elevated landform and hill summits along the southern edge of the Ochil Hills, within 1.4-5km to the south and south east of the proposed development. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small. The proposed development would appear in elevated panoramic views with an existing presence of wind farms. However, the proposed turbines would appear more prominent and closer in the view than existing turbines. Given the proximity of the proposed turbines, the introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in distant successive views south to south west from this location, generally seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. One turbine of the consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be seen in the same angle of the view as the operational Earlsburn Wind Farm. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in views south west, seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in successive views south to south west from this location. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these proposed schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-18: Viewpoint 3: Innerdownie

Viewpoint 3: Innerdownie				
Grid Reference (NGR)	296661	703149	**Figure Number**	7.10
LCT	Lowland Hill Ranges (382)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross)
Direction of View	West		**Distance to nearest turbine**	8.0km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	9		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	12
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the local hill summit of Innerdownie (610m AOD), within the Ochil Hills LLA. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. The foreground of views west is formed of an area of gently descending rough grazing with post and wire fencing. Coniferous forestry on the southern slopes of Glen Sherup extends through the middle-distance of the view, with landform descending to Glensherup Burn. Mixed woodland and further coniferous forestry is seen on the opposite side of the burn. Summits of the Ochil Hills, including Burnfoot Hill, Core Hill, Ben Buck and Middle Hill rise in more distant successive views north west to south west. The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms are evident in views west, mostly backclothed by landform but with some blades seen against the skyline. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in more distant views north west. The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm forms a distant feature in views north, north west. The operational Green Knowes Wind Farm forms an evident feature in views north east. Other more distant operational wind farms are visible in views south east to south in very clear conditions, including Earlseat Farm, Westfield, Middle Balbeggie Farm, Gevens Wind Cluster, Little Raith and Mossmorran located within the lower-lying coastal landscape of Fife in views south east, and other more distant wind farms located to the south of the Firth of Forth in views south.			
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Ochil Hills LLA. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**			
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of nine turbines and the blades of one further turbine would be seen in the middle distance of views west, partially against the skyline and partially screened by intervening landform. The blades of a further			

	two turbines (T1 and T3) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The proposed development would appear within a similar angle of the view as the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms. The proposed turbines would appear slightly larger in scale, though seen beyond the operational turbines. Intervening landform extending between Burnfoot Hill and Ben Buck would partially screen turbine bases. The proposed development and other operational wind farms would extend continuously across a medium angle of the view. Ancillary infrastructure, including hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be barely perceptible in views from this location given the intervening distance and partial screening by intervening landform. The substation would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Similar views would be experienced from localised hill summits and site-facing elevated landform within 3-8km to the north east and east of the proposed development, including near Innerdownie, Bald Hill and Ben Shee. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small. The proposed development would appear in elevated panoramic views, increasing the density of operational wind turbines in views west. The proposed development however would be seen as part of the existing group of operational turbines. Taking a precautionary approach, the introduction of the proposed development would result in a scale of change to the view that is considered to just fall into the threshold of medium.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen in distant views north, north west, forming an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be seen in views east, north east, forming a noticeable feature across a medium angle of the view. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be seen in front of the more distant operational Lochelbank Wind Farm and Binn Eco Park Wind Farm, introducing wind turbines into a part of the Ochil Hills not currently influenced by wind turbines. The proposed turbines of Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would appear larger in scale than operational turbines, includingthe operational Green Knowes Wind Farm which would be evident in successive views north. The introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills, however the proposed development would be seen within the same angle of the view, and beyond, the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would appear more prominent in views from this location. The proposed Glentarken Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in distant views north, north west, in a similar direction of the view as the Strathallan Phase 1 (operational) and Phase 2 (consented) Wind Farms. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south, generally seen within the context of other operational and consented wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with

	these other proposed schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-19: Viewpoint 4: Dumyat

Viewpoint 4: Dumyat				
Grid Reference (NGR)	283572	697667	**Figure Number**	7.11
LCT	Lowland Hills – Central (149)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	Western Ochils LLA (Stirling)
Direction of View	North east		**Distance to nearest turbine**	5.4km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	2		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	8
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the local hill summit of Dumyat (418m AOD), one of the south westernmost summits of the Ochils, within the Western Ochils LLA. The viewpoint is representative of views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. A memorial to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, memorial bench, cairn beacon and trig point are located at the summit. Views north east look across the Ochil Hills. The landform of the summit descends in the middle distance of the view to Menstrie Burn, with blocks of coniferous forestry extending across the rising landform on the opposite side of the incised watercourse valley. Western summits of the Ochil Hills, including Big Hunt Hill, Blairdenon Hill, Bengengie Hill and Colsnaur Hill, form the skyline and focus of views north east, foreshortening more distant views. Views south west to south east overlook the lower-lying Forth Valley and carselands of the River Devon valley, with areas of dense settlement scattered across the lower-lying landscape, surrounded by agricultural fields and pockets of woodland. Views from the memorial bench are focused south overlooking the Forth Valley. The settlements of Alva and Alloa form relatively evident features in views south west, and Bridge of Allan and Stirling extend across views south west. The Firth of Forth is seen in distant views south east, with rising summits of the Pentlands beyond Edinburgh forming the skyline of views in this direction. The coastal farmland of Fife seen to the east, south east, punctuated by occasional lowland hills, including the Cleish Hills to the east. The Gargunnock and Touch Hills are seen in views south west to west, with the profile of the northern scarp slope forming a distinctive feature in views. Distant Highland summits form the background of views north west to north. A cluster of industrial buildings and warehouses form an evident feature within the lower-lying landscape in the middle distance of views south. The operational Craigengelt, Kingsburn and Earlsburn Wind Farms are seen in distant views south west. The operational Todhill Farm and Rosehill Farm are visible in views south. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm and Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm are seen in distant successive views north, north west to north, respectively. Other more distant wind farms are visible in very clear conditions in views south beyond the Firth of Forth.			
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.			

	The viewpoint is located within the Western Ochils LLA and the interpretative elements at the summit indicate a higher recreational value. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of two turbines and the blades of a further five turbines would be seen against the skyline, partially screened by intervening landform in views north east. The blades of one further turbine (T9) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. Turbines in the north of the site would be fully screened by intervening landform. Operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills are screened by intervening landform in views from this location, though other more distant operational wind farms are seen in successive views. The proposed development would appear at the closest wind farm development in the view, though screening by intervening landform would minimise the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed turbines. Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised elevated areas within the south west of the Ochil Hills, limited to site-facing slopes and hill summits within 4.5-6.5km to the south west of the proposed development, including Dumyat and Loss Hill. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small. The proposed development would appear in elevated panoramic views with an existing presence of wind farms. However, the proposed turbines would appear more prominent and closer in the view than existing turbines. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Shelloch Wind Farm would form a distant feature in views south west, seen in the context of other operational wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 would be seen in views north, partially screened by intervening landform. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in views south west, seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The proposed Glentarken Wind Farm would form a distant feature in views north-west, in an angle of the view between the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm and the Strathallan Phase 1 (operational) and Phase 2 (consented) Wind Farms. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south, generally seen within the context of other operational and consented wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-20: Viewpoint 5: B9140 near Collyland

Viewpoint 5: B9140 near Collyland				
Grid Reference (NGR)	288746	695302	**Figure Number**	7.12
LCT	Carselands (153)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North		**Distance to nearest turbine**	5.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	1		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	4
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located on the B9140, between Fishcross and Glenochil Village. A number of scattered residential properties are located along the B9140 near the viewpoint. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and similar views experienced from nearby residential properties. The B9140 runs broadly parallel to the southern slopes of the Ochil Hills, which forms the focus of oblique views north from the road. The foreground of the view north is formed of lower-lying fields of rough grazing with occasional trees and woodland, bound by post and wire fencing. The settlement of Alva, located at the foot of the Ochil Hills, is seen extending across the middle distance of views. Buildings within the settlement are relatively low-profile, however the six-storey former Strude Mill building forms a landmark along the northern edge of the settlement. Hill summits, including The Nebit, Ben Ever, Wood Hill, Craighorn and Craig Leith, steeply rise beyond the settlement, forming the skyline and background of the view. Localised landform and intervening woodland extending in the middle distance of views south west to south east foreshortens more distant views in these directions. An overhead line on steel lattice pylons forms a skyline feature, passing across the middle distance of views south west to south east. A trident wood pole overhead line also passes parallel to the steel lattice overhead line in views south west to south east. There are no views of existing commercial-scale wind farm development from this location.			
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however relatively open views are available looking towards the Ochil Hills (including the Ochils SLA, Western Ochils LLA and Ochil Hills LLA). The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium.**			
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of one turbine and the blades of a further two turbines would be seen against the skyline in views north from this location, partially screened by intervening landform. The blades of one further turbine (T3) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The proposed development would introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views from this location, however turbines would be seen across a relatively small proportion of the view. Where visible, turbines would not transcend the scale of the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills, which form a distinctive skyline in views from this location.			

	Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Views into the site are available along Alva Glen from this location. Similar views would be experienced from localised areas along the B9140 to the west of the Collyland roundabout, and the northern edge of Alloa/Sauchie near Fairfield, where open outward views north are available. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be small. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 (operational and consented) and Scenario 2 (operational, consented and proposed) cumulative baselines	No other consented or proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-21: Viewpoint 6: Gleneagles Hotel

Viewpoint 6: Gleneagles Hotel				
Grid Reference (NGR)	291680	711278	**Figure Number**	7.13
LCT	Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	South west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	8.6km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	8
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the Gleneagles Hotel, near the southern entrance to the hotel car park on a path that provides a link between the car park and other parts of the hotel grounds and used by visitors and guests. As such, the viewpoint is representative of views experienced by a wide range of visitors and guests at the Gleneagles Hotel, surrounding grounds and golf course (an Inventory-listed Garden and Designed Landscape). The hotel is set within a relatively wooded landscape, which partially screens and filters outward views. Views south west from this location are glimpsed in between a break in intervening vegetation, formed by the clearance of a path extending through woodland in the middle distance of the view. The path runs broadly parallel to a driveway, and passes towards the main access road to the hotel in the middle distance of the view. The rising landform of the Gleneagles golf course is seen beyond the road. More distant summits, including the ridgeline of Craigentaggert Hill and Core Hill, form the skyline and background of views south west. A car park is seen in close-distance views west and a putting green is glimpsed in between woodland in views east. More distant views looking in other directions from this location are generally screened and filtered by intervening			

	woodland and vegetation. From some other parts of the grounds, including parts of the golf course which is less publicly accessible, there are some more open outward views across the surrounding landscape including the Ochil Hills to the south. The operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North, Burnfoot Hill East, Rhodders and Green Knowes Wind Farm are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation within the foreground of the view, though blades would be glimpsed beyond intervening landform in views south west from other nearby locations.
Sensitivity	Visitors and guests to the hotel are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however the Gleneagles Hotel is a popular location with tourists and views from the hotel are likely to be experienced by a large number of people. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The blades of up to eight turbines would be glimpsed on the skyline beyond intervening landform in relatively distant views south west from this location. When in leaf, vegetation in the foreground and middle distance of the view would filter views of the proposed development, with the blades of up to four turbines glimpsed on the skyline. The proposed development would be seen in relatively focused views, glimpsed in between a break in intervening vegetation. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce wind turbines in the view, however the blades would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform and would occupy a small proportion of the view. Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Similar views would be experienced from parts of the grounds of the Gleneagles Hotel and parts of the golf course, localised extents of the A823 near Gleneagles, and the settlement of Auchterarder. However, intervening vegetation and buildings often screen and filter outward views towards the site from these locations. The geographical extent of similar views is therefore considered to be medium. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 (operational and consented) and Scenario 2 (operational, consented and proposed) cumulative baselines	No other consented or proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. Views of the proposed Brunt Hill Wind Farm would be screened and filtered by intervening dense vegetation in the foreground and middle distance of the view. No additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur for either cumulative assessment scenario. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-22: Viewpoint 7: Braco

Viewpoint 7: Braco				
Grid Reference (NGR)	283515	709666	**Figure Number**	Figure 7.14

LCT	384 - Broad Valley Lowlands - Tayside	**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	South, south east	**Distance to nearest turbine**	7.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	10	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located within the settlement of Braco, along the B8033 near the Braco Clocktower, cemetery and bowling green in the north of the community. The viewpoint represents views experienced by local residents within the settlement of Braco. The foreground of the view south to south east comprises the tarmac of the B8033 and the footpath to the south of the road. Relatively low stone walls, wood fencing and landscaping contain a bowling green and cemetery, which extend through the middle distance of the view, with two storey residential properties, scattered trees and woodland seen beyond. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills are seen in distant views south east, forming the horizon in views. Braco Clocktower forms a focal feature in the middle distance of views east. Dense mixed woodland near Ardoch is seen beyond the clocktower and screens more distant views east. Other distant views north, east and west are generally foreshortened by intervening buildings within the settlement and woodland around. Turbines of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm form a relatively distant skyline feature in views south east. The blades of three turbines of the operational Burnfoot Hill are glimpsed beyond intervening landform in views south east. Distant views of the operational Green Knowes, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings in the foreground and middle distance of the view.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape. Relatively distant views towards the Ochil Hills (including the Ochil Hills LLA, the Ochils SLA and Western Ochils LLA) are available from parts of the settlement. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs of 10 turbines and the blades of 13 are theoretically visible, seen against the skyline in relatively distant views south, south east. The blades of two turbines (T1 and T2) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. Turbines T12, T5, T10, T8 would be screened by intervening vegetation, when in leaf, in the middle distance of views, though these turbines would be seen in views from other nearby locations. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm, seen on the horizon above the Ochil Hills. The proposed turbines would appear larger in scale than the operational turbines. Ancillary infrastructure located within the interior of the site, including the hardstandings and access tracks passing between turbines, would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. However, the access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in distant views, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and forming a relatively		

	linear feature extending across these slopes. The proposed substation would be seen in the middle distance of views, located on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills and in front of the proposed turbines. Within the settlement of Braco, similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents. Similar views of the proposed development would be seen from residential properties in the north west of the village, given the location of these properties at slightly higher elevation than the core of the settlement, and localised extents near the Braco Clocktower, where outward views south, south east are glimpsed in between intervening buildings and vegetation. Beyond the settlement of Braco, similar views would be experienced from nearby sections of the A822 and B827 (see **Table 7-25**: Viewpoint 10: B827), where outward views towards the site are available. The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	No consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Views of the proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings in the foreground and middle distance of the view from this location. No other proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-23: Viewpoint 8: Alloa Tower

Viewpoint 8: Alloa Tower				
Grid Reference (NGR)	288881	692515	**Figure Number**	7.15
LCT	Urban (0)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North		**Distance to nearest turbine**	8.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	3		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	7
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the elevated parapet of Alloa Tower, a local landmark and National Trust property within the south of the settlement of Alloa. The viewpoint represents views experienced by visitors to the tower. Relatively open and panoramic views are available from this location. The foreground of the view north comprises the immediate containing stone wall of the parapet. The settlement of Alloa is seen beyond, extending through the middle distance to longer distance views. Woodland near Inglewood House and Gubber Hill extends beyond the settlement in views north west, with scattered trees and other landscaping extending between buildings within the settlement throughout the view. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills, including			

	the summits of Craig Leith, Craighorn, The Nebit, Ben Ever and Ben Cleuch, forms the background and skyline of the view north. Views south and south east overlook the relatively low-lying and broad River Forth valley, with rising landform of the Pentlands forming a distant skyline in views south east. The Gargunnock and Touch Hills form a distant skyline in views south west. Overhead lines on steel lattice pylons extend across views south east to south west. Industrial buildings located along the northern shore of the River Forth form relatively evident features in views south west. The operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms form distant skyline features in views south west. The operational Rosehill Farm and Todhill Farm Wind Farms are seen in views south, south west. In clear conditions, more distant operational wind farms are seen in views south and south east, beyond the Firth of Forth.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however Alloa Tower is a popular location promoted by the National Trust. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of three turbines and the blades of a further three turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north, partially screened by intervening landform. The blades of one further turbine (T9) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. T1, T2 and T6 would appear most prominently, seen above the skyline formed by Craighorn and proximate ridgelines. Whilst turbines would be seen above the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills, turbines would appear well-contained beyond this intervening landform. The proposed development would be seen across a relatively small angle of wider panoramic views available from this location, beyond the settlement of Alloa, which is not currently influenced by wind farm development. However, other more distant wind farms are seen in successive views in other directions. Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Given the elevated nature of Alloa Tower, views within the settlement that are similar to those experienced from the tower are limited. Glimpsed views towards the site are available from some limited parts of the centre of Alloa and from the north west of the settlement and west of Sauchie, though intervening landform would play a greater role in screening turbine bases in views from these locations. Outward views towards the proposed development from the base of Alloa Tower would be screened and filtered by intervening woodland and buildings to the north of the tower. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Blades of the consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in views west, south west, beyond the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes

	given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would form relatively distant features seen against the skyline in views west, south west. These proposed wind farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, though increasing the prominence and horizontal extent of turbines. The proposed development would appear as a separate wind farm in a different angle of the view. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. Whilst the proposed development would increase the proportion of the overall panoramic view influenced by wind farms, there would be minimal interaction between the proposed development and these other proposed and consented wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-24: Viewpoint 9: Clackmannan Tower

Viewpoint 9: Clackmannan Tower				
Grid Reference (NGR)	290653	691972	**Figure Number**	7.16
LCT	Carselands (153)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North, north west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	9.1km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	2		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	6
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the base of Clackmannan Tower[35], a local landmark within the south west of the settlement of Clackmannan. The viewpoint represents views experienced by visitors to the tower. Given the location of the tower on King's Seat Hill (57m AOD), relatively open views are available, even from the base of the tower. The foreground of views north, north west comprise pastoral fields bound by post and wire fencing. Coniferous forestry at Back Wood extends through the middle distance of the view, and partially screens and filters views of the lower-lying carselands of the River Devon valley. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills, including the hill summits of Craig Leith, Craighorn, The Nebit, Ben Ever and Ben Cleuch, forms the background and skyline of views north west to north east. Clackmannan Tower screens views south from this location, however visitors to the tower would experience open views south when moving around the tower. Views south and south west overlook the low-lying and broad River Forth valley. The Gargunnock Hills form a distant skyline in views south west. The settlement of Alloa extends across views west and north west, partially screened and filtered by trees and woodland in the foreground and middle distance of views. The smaller settlement of Clackmannan is seen in views			

[35] Clackmannan Tower is in care of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The interior of the tower cannot be accessed.

	east, with rolling farmland seen beyond. The Cleish Hills form the skyline in views north east. The operational Craigengelt Wind Farm forms a skyline feature in views west. The operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms are barely perceptible along the skyline of views west. To the south west, operational turbines at Rosehill Farm and Todhill Farm are visible. Overhead lines on steel lattice pylons extend across a wide angle of views south west. In clear conditions, more distant operational wind farms are seen in views south and south east, beyond the Firth of Forth.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however Clackmannan Tower is a popular location promoted by Historic Environment Scotland. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of two turbines and the blades of a further four turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north, north west. Turbines would be partially screened by intervening landform, including the summit of Craighorn. The proposed development would be seen across a relatively small angle of the view, though introducing turbines into an angle of the view without an existing influence of wind turbines. However, other operational wind farms are seen in successive views in other directions from this location. Ancillary infrastructure, including the substation, hardstandings and onsite access tracks would be screened by intervening landform in views from this location. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents near Clackmannan Tower, given the slightly elevated position of the tower compared to the settlement of Clackmananan. Similar views would also be possible from properties in the north and north west of the settlement, in between intervening buildings and vegetation. The geographical extent of similar views is considered small. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Blades of the consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in views west, south west, beyond the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would form relatively distant features seen against the skyline in views west, south west. These proposed wind farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, though increasing the prominence and horizontal extent of turbines. The proposed development would appear as a separate wind farm in a different angle of the view. Turbine blades of the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views north east. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant

	views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. Whilst the proposed development would increase the proportion of the overall panoramic view influenced by wind farms, there would be minimal interaction between the proposed development and these other proposed and consented wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-25: Viewpoint 10: B827

Viewpoint 10: B827				
Grid Reference (NGR)	281158	712469	**Figure Number**	7.17
LCT	Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	South east		**Distance to nearest turbine**	11.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	12		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located along the northern edge of the B827 to the north west of Braco. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling south eastwards with open views of the Ochil Hills. The foreground of the view south east comprises the tarmac of the road, with bracken and rough grassland lining the far edge of the road. Landform descends steeply beyond the road towards the River Knaik. Partially wooded and forested landform at Cromlet rises beyond the incised river corridor. The Ochil Hills, including the summits of Ben Cleuch, Blairdenon, Mickle Corum and Big Hunt Hill, form the background and skyline of views south east, with occasional blocks of conifer plantation extending across the mid-slopes of the hills. Rising landform to the north and south of the road channels views from this location towards the south east. The ridgeline of Cromlet foreshortens more distant views looking south from this section of the road. The ridgeline of Coire Odhar foreshortens distant views north from this section of the road. The summits of Beinn Odhar, Beinn nan Eun, and Ben Clach foreshorten more distant views north west, with the Highland summits of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a'Chroin glimpsed beyond the intervening skyline. A wood pole electricity distribution line passes broadly parallel to the south of the road, extending across relatively close-distance views north west to south east. An overhead line on steel lattice pylons forms an evident feature in views south west to west, crossing over the ridgeline of Cromlet and towards the viewpoint location. Two domestic-scale wind turbines are also seen above the ridgeline of Cromlet. The operational Rhodders and Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm forms a relatively distant skyline feature in views south east. The blades of Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North are glimpsed beyond intervening landform in views south east. Views towards the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of the view south east. Views towards the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of the view north.			
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however relatively			

	open and focused views are available towards the Ochil Hills. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of twelve turbines and the blades of one further turbine would be seen, partially against the skyline in relatively distant views south east. Turbines in the north of the site (notably T11, T13, T12) would be mostly backclothed by more distant landform, including Ben Buck. Turbines in the south and centre of the site would appear against the skyline. The ridgeline formed by Sauchanwood Hill would partially screen turbine bases. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Rhodders and Burnfoot Hill Wind Farms, and would appear slightly larger in scale than the operational turbines. Ancillary infrastructure located within the interior of the site, including the hardstandings and access tracks passing between turbines, would be mostly screened by intervening landform in views from this location, or difficult to perceive due to viewing distance. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in distant views, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and forming a relatively linear feature extending across these slopes. The proposed substation would be glimpsed beyond intervening vegetation in the middle distance of views, located on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills and in front of the proposed turbines. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 7km of the B827, and nearby sections of the A822, where outward views towards the site are available. Similar views would also be experienced from the nearby settlement of Braco (see **Table 7-22**: Viewpoint 7: Braco). The geographical extent of similar views is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Views towards the consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of the view north. No other consented wind farms would be seen in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	No other proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. Views towards the proposed Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of the view. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-26: Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards

Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards				
Grid Reference (NGR)	282630	689776	**Figure Number**	7.18
LCT	Lowland Hill Fringes – Central (150)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North, north east		**Distance to nearest turbine**	11.3km

Number of hubs theoretically visible	0	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	6
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located along the southern edge of Cowie Road (the B9124) between Cowie, to the east, and Bannockburn, to the west and near the named farmstead of Easter Greenyards. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors. Relatively open views overlooking the surrounding low-lying carseland to the north are available from this location. The foreground of views north, north east is formed by the tarmac of the road, with rough grassland lining the opposite side of the road. Rectilinear agricultural fields, bound by hedges and post and wire fencing extend through the middle distance of the view. The settlement of Fallin is seen in the middle distance of the view, with woodland seen beyond. The tops of warehouses to the north of the River Forth are seen in more distant views, with woodland at the foot of the Ochil Hills seen beyond. The tops of buildings within other settlements at the foot of the Ochil Hills, including Alva and Alloa, extend through relatively distant views north to north east, partially screened and filtered by intervening woodland. The Ochil Hills, including the summits of Dumyat, Big Hunt Hill, Colsnaur Hilll, Craig Leith and Ben Cleuch, form the background and skyline of the view. A railway line runs parallel to the B9124, though in cutting at lower elevation than the road. The tops of gantries associated with the railway line are seen in views north east and east. The Cleish Hills form a skyline feature in view north east. The settlement of Stirling, including the castle hill, rises in the middle distance of views north west, with more distant Highland summits seen beyond. The Wallace Monument forms a distant feature in views north, north west. Rolling agricultural landform foreshortens more distant views south from the road. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in distant views north west, mostly backclothed by landform with some blades seen against the skyline. Two domestic scale turbines are seen in relatively distant views east. Distant views towards the operational turbines at Rosehill Farm, to the south east, and Craigengelt Wind Farm, to the west, south west, are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation.		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, or at a promoted stopping point on the road. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The blades of six turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north, north east. Turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform of the south western Ochil Hills. Whilst turbines would appear above the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills, the proposed development would appear well-contained beyond this intervening landform and would not transcend the scale of the hills. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce turbines into views towards the Ochil Hills, though other operational wind farms are seen in successive views in other directions. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 2km of the B9124, proximate sections of the railway to the north of the road, the northern edge of the settlement of Cowie and the north of the settlement of Fallin, where		

	outward views towards the site are available. The geographical extent is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance and limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Views west, south west towards the proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms and other more distant proposed wind farms in views south would be screened and filtered by intervening landform, vegetation and buildings. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-27: Viewpoint 12: A9/ B934

Viewpoint 12: A9/ B934				
Grid Reference (NGR)	303167	719003	**Figure Number**	7.19
LCT	Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	South west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	21.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located along the southern edge of the A9, near Upper Cairnie and the junction with the B934. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling southwards along the A9. Relatively open views south east to south west are available from this section of the road. The foreground of the view south west looks beyond the rough grassland verge of the road towards low-lying gently rolling agricultural fields. Fields are bound by a mix of hedges and woodland, with farmsteads and dispersed residential properties scattered across the middle distance. The Ochil Hills, including Craig Rossie, Wether Hill, Craigentaggert Hill and Mickle Corum, form the background and skyline of views west and south west, with blocks of coniferous forestry extending on the mid to upper slopes. Rolling landform foreshortens views north from the road. Localised landform at Keirwoodhead foreshortens distant views west from this section of the road. The blades of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms are barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views south west. One turbine of the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm is glimpsed on the skyline beyond intervening forested landform in views south, south west. Other operational wind farms are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and localised landform in views from this location.			
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, or at a			

	promoted stopping point on the road. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of five turbines and the blades of a further eight turbines would form distant skyline features in views south west. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms, though these wind farms are barely perceptible in views from this location. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view south to south-west. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 8.5km of the A9 between Aberuthven and Crossgates, though intervening vegetation and localised landform occasionally screens and filters outward views from this section of the road. The geographical extent is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	No other consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in successive views south, in a different angle of the view as the proposed development. The proposed Brunt Hill Wind Farm would form a fairly evident feature extending above the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills, though the bases of turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform. The turbines of the proposed Craighead Wind Farm would be seen beyond, partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed development would form a more distant feature in views south west, seen in a similar angle of the view as the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms. The introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills, however the proposed development would be seen within the same angle of the view as the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would appear more prominent in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-28: Viewpoint 13: Gask Ridge, St Davids

Viewpoint 13: Gask Ridge, St Davids				
Grid Reference (NGR)	295183	720363	**Figure Number**	7.20
LCT	Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	South, south west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	18.3km

Number of hubs theoretically visible	9	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located near the Madderty Parish War Memorial to the north of the minor road which passes through the community of St Davids. The road crosses the Gask Ridge, an elevated area located to the north of Strathearn and near the Highland Boundary Fault, once home to a series of Roman fortifications. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational and residential receptors near Gask Ridge, St Davids. The foreground of views south, south west comprises the tarmac of the road, with hedgerow bounding the south of the road. When in leaf, the hedgerow screens and filters views of low-lying fields in the middle distance of the view. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills is glimpsed on the skyline beyond the hedgerows. Outward views in other directions from this location are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings in close-distance and the middle distance of the view, though more distant outward views north, north east are glimpsed in between a break in vegetation. Turbines of the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East are glimpsed beyond intervening landform and vegetation with turbines seen against the skyline in views south, south west. The operational Greenknowes is also glimpsed beyond intervening landform and vegetation, with turbines seen against the skyline, in views south. Views of other operational wind farms are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and localised landform from this location.		
Sensitivity	Residential and recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however the memorial is a locally-valued location. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of up to nine turbines and the blades of a further four turbines would form distant skyline features in views south, south west. However, vegetation in the foreground and middle distance of the view, when in leaf, partially screens and filters views of all but five turbines. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms, though these operational wind farms and the proposed development would be glimpsed beyond intervening vegetation in the foreground of the view which screens and filters views towards the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. Similar views would be experienced from the minor road network and residential properties near St Davids, Trinity Gask, and to the south east of Crieff, where outward views towards the site are available. The geographical extent is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.		
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.		
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 (operational and consented) and Scenario 2 (operational,	No other consented or proposed wind farms would be perceptible from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.		

consented and proposed) cumulative baselines	

Table 7-29: Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial

Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial				
Grid Reference (NGR)	279532	690668	**Figure Number**	7.21
LCT	Lowland Hill Fringes – Central (150)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North east		**Distance to nearest turbine**	13.3km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	3		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	7
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the Bannockburn Memorial, at one of Scotland's most famous battlefields located along the south western edge of Stirling. The viewpoint represents views experienced by visitors to the memorial. The memorial is set within an area of grass lawns bound by woodland, with occasional distant views glimpsed in between clusters of trees. The foreground of the view north east comprises grass lawn, with hedges and trees seen beyond. The rooflines of residential properties extend through the middle distance of the view, with the more distant landform of the Ochil Hills, including Colsnaur Hill and the ridgeline of Ben Cleuch, forming the background and skyline of the view. Views within the immediate context of the memorial parkland are relatively open, though surrounding woodland partially screens and filters more distant views north and east. Views west are generally more open and overlook a gently rolling pastoral landscape. The rising landform of the Gargunnock and Touch Hills form the background and skyline of views west, with coniferous forestry covering much of the east-facing slopes. The M9 passes in a cutting in views west and is therefore screened from view. Views of operational wind farms are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings from this location.			
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors and tourists are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however the battlefield is a popular and widely promoted tourist location, hosting a visitors centre. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**			
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of three turbines and the blades of a further three turbines would form distant skyline features in views north east. The blades of one further turbine (T9) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform, and further screened by vegetation in the foreground of views. Views towards the proposed development would be framed by a break in intervening vegetation surrounding the perimeter of the memorial. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into the view, given screening by other operational wind farms in views from this location.			

	The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view north east. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents. The memorial is located at a slightly higher elevation than nearby residential development in the south of Stirling, and views towards the site are often screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings near the memorial. Glimpsed open views towards the proposed development would be available from areas of open green space within the south of the settlement and localised elevated areas in the south of Stirling, near Bannockburn, Whins of Milton and Coxet Hill. Similar views would also be experienced from a small section of Chartershall Road to the west of the M9 near Foot o' Green (see **Table 7-31**: Viewpoint 16: Chartershall Road), though at slightly greater intervening distance. The geographical extent is considered small. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 (operational and consented) cumulative baseline	Views towards consented wind farms would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be seen in successive views south-west and west, respectively, from this location. Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm would be seen against the skyline, in a similar direction of the view as the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms, though the turbines of these operational wind farms are screened and filtered by intervening landform and vegetation. The blades of Drummarnock Wind Farm would be seen against the skyline, partially screened and filtered by intervening landform. The proposed Drummarnock Wind Farm would be seen in a similar direction of the view as the operational Craigengelt Wind Farm, however the blades of this operational wind farm are screened and filtered by intervening landform and vegetation. The introduction of the proposed development under this scenario would lead to an intensification of wind farm development in successive views experienced from this location. However, the proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance and different directions of view in which the proposed development would appear. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-30: Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge

Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge				
Grid Reference (NGR)	292004	687171	**Figure Number**	7.22
LCT	Carselands (153)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North, north west		**Distance to nearest turbine**	14.1km

Number of hubs theoretically visible	4	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	8
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located on the eastern edge of the A876, at the southern end of the Clackmannanshire Bridge. A footpath, shared by cyclists (using NCN Route 76) and pedestrians, runs parallel to this section of the A876. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and users of the footpath, travelling northwards on the bridge. The foreground of the view north, north west overlooks the low-lying Carselands, with the River Forth, which is relatively broad in this section extending through the middle distance of the view. Pockets of woodland and scattered agricultural buildings are seen beyond the river. The rising landform of King's Seat Hill and Clackmannan Tower are seen in more distant views, with the tower of the Clackmannan Parish Church also forming a focal feature in distant views further to the east of Clackmannan Tower. The Ochil Hills, including the summits of Colsnaur Hill, Craig Leith, Ben Ever and the ridgeline of Ben Cleuch, are seen in more distant views forming the background and skyline of views. Overhead lines on steel lattice pylons extend across a wide angle of successive views from this location, passing within close distance of this viewpoint. Views of operational wind farms are mostly screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings from this location. However, the turbines of the operational Todhill Farm, Rosehill Farm, Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn are glimpsed against the skyline beyond intervening screening in distant views west, south west.		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Recreational receptors, including walkers and cyclists, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, or at a promoted stopping point on the road. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of four turbines and the blades of a further four turbines would form distant skyline features in views north, north west. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views towards the Ochil Hills, however other operational wind turbines are seen in other directions of the view. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 2km of the A876 at the Clackmannanshire Bridge and its western approach, the adjacent Kincardine on Forth Bridge. Similar views would also be experienced from the lower-lying landscape along the western banks of the River Forth, including near Airth and Dunmore, where outward views towards the site are available, though views from the bridges are slightly more open and elevated in nature. The geographical extent is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.		
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.		

Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Views towards consented wind farms would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm would be glimpsed in distant views west, in between intervening vegetation and buildings which partially screen and filter views. These proposed wind farms would be seen in the same direction of view as the operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be glimpsed beyond intervening forested landform in distant views north, north east. These proposed wind farms would be seen beyond operational steel lattice pylon overhead lines, which pass in the middle distance of the view. The proposed development would form a distant feature in views north, north west, seen separately to these other proposed developments. The proposed development would have limited interaction with these other developments given the intervening distance and limited visibility. Views towards other more distant proposed wind farms would be screened and filtered by intervening buildings and vegetation. The proposed development would have limited interaction with these other developments given the intervening distance and limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-31: Viewpoint 16: Chartershall Road

Viewpoint 16: Chartershall Road				
Grid Reference (NGR)	278907	689408	**Figure Number**	7.23
LCT	Lowland Hill Fringes – Central (150)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	Southern Hills LLA
Direction of View	North east		**Distance to nearest turbine**	14.7km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	4		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	7
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located on the western edge of Chartershall Road near the Stockbridge Plantation, to the south west of Stirling and the M9. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors within the Southern Hills LLA. Relatively open views north, north east and south east are available from this location. The foreground of views north east is formed by the road, bound to the east by relatively low hedges. Gently rolling arable and pastoral fields extend through the middle distance of the view. Fields are bound by a mix of wood fencing, hedges and woodland. Residential properties along the southern edge of Stirling are seen in the middle distance of the view, with development along the River Forth and more distant settlements at the base of the Ochil Hills seen in more distant views north east. The Bannockburn memorial is seen in the middle distance of views north, north east. The rising Ochil Hills, including the summits of Dumyat, Colsnaur Hill and the ridgeline of Ben Cleuch, form the background and skyline of views north east. Views west from this location are screened and filtered by mixed woodland at Stockbridge Plantation. Rising landform at Gillies Hill foreshortens more distant			

	views north, north west from this section of the road. Distant Highland summits are seen in the background of views north. Views east overlook the low-lying coastal farmland landscape of Fife, with the Cleish Hills rising in the distance. A small number of domestic scale turbines are seen in distant views looking east to south east. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in distant views north, north west, mostly backclothed by more distant landform. Blades of one turbine of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm are barely perceptible in views north east. The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm is barely perceptible beyond intervening forested landform in views north, north east. Overhead lines on steel lattice pylons extend across a wide angle of relatively distant views looking east to south east.
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Southern Hills LLA. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of four turbines and the blades of a further three turbines would form distant skyline features in views north east. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view north east. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views north east, however other operational wind turbines are seen in other directions of the view. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents of the minor road network within close proximity of the viewpoint location. Similar views are also experienced from the Bannockburn Memorial (see **Table 7-29**: Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial), though at slightly closer distance. The geographical extent is considered small. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be barely perceptible beyond intervening forested landform in views north, north east. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with this consented scheme given the intervening distance and limited visibility. No other consented wind farms would be seen in views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of views west from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-32: Viewpoint 17: Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park

Viewpoint 17: Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park				
Grid Reference (NGR)	273235	698224	**Figure Number**	7.24

LCT	Carselands (153)	**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	East, north east	**Distance to nearest turbine**	14.8km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	0	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	7
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located near the south western entrance to the Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park, north of the A84 and south of the settlement of Doune. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors at the popular visitor attraction of Blairdrummond Castle/ Safari Park, on the southern edge of the Blair Drummond Inventory-listed Garden and Designed Landscape, and similar views experienced from nearby sections of the A84. Relatively open views north east to south east are available from this location. The foreground of views east, north east comprises a relatively flat pastoral field bound by post and wire fencing, mixed woodland and hedges. Buildings at Briarlands Farm are seen in the middle distance of the view. Localised rolling landform rises beyond Briarlands Farm, with woodland and the farmstead of Craigarn Hall seen at higher elevation. The rising summits of the Ochil Hills form the background and skyline of distant views north east, including the distinctive summits of Dumyat and Castle Law, and ridgeline extending between Mickle Corum and Craig Leith. Views south east look across relatively flat pastoral fields with woodland and coniferous forestry in the middle distance filtering more distant views. Mixed woodland located immediately to the west and south east of the road screens and filters more distant views south, north and west from this location. Operational wind farms are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in views from this location. An overhead line on steel lattice pylons is glimpsed in distant views north east, passing along the lower slopes of the western Ochil Hills.		
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however Blairdrummond Castle and Safari Park are popular and promoted tourist locations. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The blades of six turbines would form distant skyline features in views east, north east. The blades of one further turbine (T9) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The proposed turbines would be well-contained beyond the intervening landform of the western Ochil Hills. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view and would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view east, north east. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 7.7km of the A84 and 3.8km of the A873, where outward views towards the site are available. Outward views from Blairdrummond Castle and the Safari Park are mostly screened and filtered by intervening vegetation, though occasional glimpsed distant views east, north east towards the proposed development would be available. The geographical extent is considered medium.		

	The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	No consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in the foreground of views south, south west from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-33: Viewpoint 18: Knock of Crieff

Viewpoint 18: Knock of Crieff				
Grid Reference (NGR)	286775	722917	**Figure Number**	7.25
LCT	Lowland Hills – Tayside (380)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	Upper Strathearn LLA
Direction of View	South		**Distance to nearest turbine**	19.5km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	13		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	13
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located at the Knock of Crieff, a local hill summit to the north of Crieff. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors from this hill summit located within the Upper Strathearn LLA. Woodland surrounding the viewpoint partially screens and filters views, though relatively open views south east towards the Ochil Hills, mainly focused on Wether Hill, are glimpsed in between breaks in vegetation. Wooded landform descends in the foreground and middle distance of the view south east, towards a lower-lying broad valley with pockets of mixed woodland and shelterbelt. The Ochil Hills rise beyond the valley, forming the skyline of views in this direction. Views south, towards the site, are screened and filtered by mixed woodland in the foreground of the view. The operational Green Knowes Wind Farm is glimpsed in between breaks in vegetation in relatively distant views south east. Views of other operational wind farms are screened and filtered by vegetation in the foreground of views from this location.			
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Upper Strathearn LLA, at a location promoted as a panoramic viewpoint on Ordnance Survey mapping. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**			

Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be screened and filtered by intervening mixed woodland in the foreground of views south. Where glimpsed views towards the site are available from locations near the viewpoint, the hubs and blades of all thirteen turbines would be visible against the skyline of relatively distant views south. The bases of turbines in the west (T2, T6 and T9) and east (T5 and T11) of the site would be partially screened by intervening landform, though relatively direct views towards turbines in the centre of the site would be possible. The proposed development would appear as a slightly separate cluster to the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North, Burnfoot Hill East and Rhodders Wind Farms, with proposed turbines appearing larger in scale than operational turbines. Similar views would be experienced from very localised locations on the Knock of Crieff, given dense woodland screens and filters outward views towards the site from this location. Similar views would also be experienced from elevated areas in the north of the settlement of Crieff, and the southern settlement edge where fewer intervening features screen and filter views south towards the site. However, these views are experienced at slightly lower elevation, with intervening landform playing a slightly greater role in screening turbine bases. The geographical extent is considered small. Given the intervening distance and small proportion of the view that would be occupied by the proposed development, the scale of change to the view is considered small.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	No consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in distant views south east, glimpsed in between a break in intervening vegetation. Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would form a distant skyline feature, in a similar direction of the view as the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm. The proposed development would be seen in a different angle of the view, increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms, with proposed turbines appearing larger in scale and more prominent than operational turbines. The spacing between these two main clusters of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills would be retained. Parts of the skyline formed by the profile of the Ochil Hills (between the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farm) would not be affected by wind turbines under this future baseline scenario. No other proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. Given the intervening distance and screening and filtering of views towards the proposed development, the level of effect would remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-34: Viewpoint 19: A811 near Gargunnock

Viewpoint 19: A811 near Gargunnock				
Grid Reference (NGR)	269761	695247	**Figure Number**	7.26

LCT	Carselands (153)	**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	Southern Hills LLA (Stirling)
Direction of View	North east	**Distance to nearest turbine**	18.9km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	2	**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	8
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located on a minor access road extending to the north of the A811, near the junction of this road with the A811 to the north west of the small village of Gargunnock. The viewpoint represents views experienced by road users and nearby residential receptors within the Southern Hills LLA. Relatively open views are available from this location. The foreground of views north east comprises the tarmac of the road, bound by low hedges. Relatively flat arable and pastoral fields extend across the middle distance of the view, with small farmsteads scattered across the middle distance of the view. Pockets of mixed woodland extend across middle to longer-distance views. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills forms the background and skyline of the view north east. Views in other directions generally overlook relatively flat arable and pastoral fields, with scattered farmsteads and pockets of mixed woodland seen across the view. Carleatheran, within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, rises in the middle distance of views south, foreshortening more distant views in this direction. Distant Highland summits, including the distinctive Ben Lomond and Ben Ledi, form the background of distant views looking north west to north. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in distant views north, mostly backclothed with some turbines seen against the skyline. The operational Strathallan (Phase 1) Wind Farm is barely perceptible against the skyline in distant views north, north east.		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is located within the Southern Hills LLA. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of two turbines and the blades of a further six turbines would form distant skyline features in views north east. The proposed turbines would be well-contained beyond the intervening landform of the western Ochil Hills, with the blades of T9, T7 and T5 forming barely perceptible features on the skyline. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view and would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view north east. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 10km of the A811, where outward views towards the site are available at distances of 15-25km to the west of the proposed development. Similar views would also be experienced along the north eastern edge of the village of Gargunnock, where outward views towards the site are available. The geographical extent is considered medium. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.		
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.		

Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in distant views north, north east. No other consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	No proposed wind farms would be seen in views from this location therefore no additional cumulative visual effects are predicted to occur. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-35: Viewpoint 20: Falkirk Wheel

Viewpoint 20: Falkirk Wheel				
Grid Reference (NGR)	285274	680030	**Figure Number**	7.27
LCT	Lowland River Valleys – Central (152)		**Landscape Designation or Wild Land Area**	N/A
Direction of View	North		**Distance to nearest turbine**	21.0km
Number of hubs theoretically visible	5		**Number of turbines with blades theoretically visible**	10
Viewpoint location, receptors, and existing view	This viewpoint is located on a footpath located to the south of the Falkirk Wheel, a rotating boat lift and popular visitor attraction to the west of Falkirk. The viewpoint represents views experienced by recreational receptors and visitors to the Falkirk Wheel. Views from this location are focused north towards the large steel structure of the Falkirk Wheel, which marks the meeting of the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. The foreground of views north comprises the footpath and adjacent fencing, with the Falkirk Wheel and visitor centre seen in relatively close-proximity views. Woodland and relatively flat arable and pastoral fields are seen beyond, with warehouses at Lochlands seen in the middle distance of the view. Further buildings within the settlements of Falkirk and Larbert extend across middle to longer-distance views. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills forms the background and skyline of the view north. Woodland and earthworks to the west, south and east screen and filter more distant views from this location. A steel lattice overhead transmission line crosses the middle distance of views north east to north west. Operational turbines at Rosehill Farm are seen in relatively distant views north, backclothed by the more distant Ochil Hills. Overhead lines on steel lattice pylons pass through the middle distance and longer-distance views north to north west.			
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors and tourists are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, however the Falkirk Wheel is a popular and widely promoted tourist location, hosting a visitors centre. The value of the view is considered high. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this viewpoint is judged to be **high.**			

Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The hubs and blades of five turbines and the blades of a further four turbines would form distant skyline features in views north. The blades of one further turbine (T11) would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The proposed turbines would be contained beyond the intervening landform of the south western Ochil Hills, and would not transcend the scale of landform on the skyline. The proposed development would be seen in the same angle of the view as the operational turbines at Rosehill Farm. However, the operational turbines at Rosehill Farm appear slightly closer in the view and have a different relationship with the surrounding topography as they are seen within the lower-lying carseland in the foreground of the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would be seen within the context of the more elevated landscape of the Ochil Hills, beyond the skyline above the lower-lying carseland and the operational Rosehill Farm turbines. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents on the footpath network to the south of the Falkirk Wheel, which is located at slightly higher elevation than the ground level of the visitor centre and approach to the attraction. Similar views would also be experienced from the upper level of the boat lift and nearest sections of the Union Canal near the Falkirk Wheel (north of Roughcastle Tunnel). Views towards the site from lower-lying locations to the north of the Falkirk Wheel, including the Forth and Clyde Canal, are often screened and filtered by intervening vegetation. Views towards the site from sections of the Union Canal near and to the south of Roughcastle Tunnel are screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and localised landform. The geographical extent is considered small. Given the intervening distance, small proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development and existing presence of wind turbines in the same angle of the view, the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to the view.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Views towards the consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be screened and filtered by intervening landform in distant views from this location. No other consented wind farms would be seen from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Other proposed wind farms, including Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms, would be screened and filtered by intervening vegetation in successive views from this location. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Effects on Visual Receptors within Settlements

7.100 Theoretical visibility of the proposed development from settlements across the study area is illustrated by **Figures 7.2a-7.2c**. Visual effects from settlements, which were taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined in **Table 7-5**, are discussed below. Where a settlement is represented by an assessment viewpoint reference is made to this.

Table 7-36: Alloa and Sauchie

Alloa and Sauchie			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 8: Alloa Tower (**Figure 7.15**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	6.0km

	Also refer to illustrative wireline on **Figure 7.36** for Sauchie (Church Grove)		
Description	Alloa is a key settlement located within the Clackmannanshire Council local authority area. The settlement is located to the north of the River Forth within the lower-lying landscape of the Carse of Forth. Alloa is accessed via the A907, A908 and a railway line passing within the centre of the settlement. Sauchie is a smaller settlement, located directly north of Alloa with the two settlements forming a wider conurbation. Sauchie is located to the west and east of the A908, with rural carselands forming the setting to the north of the settlement and Schawpark Golf Course to the north east. Given the relatively extensive nature of the settlements, outward views from the settlement core are typically screened and filtered by intervening buildings and associated vegetation. More distant outward views across the River Forth are available from the south of Alloa. Glimpsed views north towards the Ochil Hills are available from some parts of Alloa and Sauchie, notably the north west of Alloa and the west of Sauchie and around areas of open greenspace within the settlements. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively widespread existing visibility of operational wind farms from the settlement, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlements are not located within a designated landscape, though The Forest SLA is located adjacent to the eastern edge of Sauchie. The value of views is considered medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be **high**.		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to seven turbines across the settlements, at a distance of 5.9-8.8km to the south of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement often screen outward views north towards the site. Viewpoint 8: Alloa Tower (**Table 7-23**, **Figure 7.15**) illustrates the view from Alloa Tower in the south of the settlement. However, the viewpoint, which is located at the top of the tower, is more elevated than views experienced more widely from Alloa. Glimpsed views towards site are available from some limited parts of the centre of Alloa, from areas in the north west of the settlement and west of Sauchie (refer to the wireline on **Figure 7.36**), with visibility becoming more localised in the east of Sauchie. Where outward views towards the site are available, the hubs and blades of up to three turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be seen against the skyline in views north, partially screened by the intervening landform of summits within the Ochil Hills to the south of the site. The proposed development would introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views from these areas, however turbines would be seen across a relatively small proportion of the view. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the north west of Alloa and the west of Sauchie, where outward views towards the site are available.		
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for areas in the north west of Alloa and the west of Sauchie, where outward views towards the site are available.		

Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively widespread combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the settlements. However, consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in outward views from the settlement. Where visible, these wind farms would be seen in distant views in different directions of the view to the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would form relatively distant skyline features in outward views west and south west from the settlements (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These proposed wind farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, though increasing the prominence and horizontal extent of turbines. The proposed development would appear as a separate wind farm in a different angle of the view. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. Whilst the proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of wind turbines in outward views from the settlement, there would be minimal interaction between the proposed development and these other proposed and consented wind farms. Relatively wide angles of the view, including towards the Ochil Hills, would remain without the influence of wind turbines, so as to avoid the perception of encirclement of the views from the settlement by wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-37: Clackmannan and Kennet

Clackmannan and Kennet			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 9: Clackmannan Tower (**Figure 7.16**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	8.7km
Description	Clackmannan in a small town located within the Clackmannanshire Council local authority area. The town is located within the lower-lying landscape of the Carse of Forth, approximately 2km north of the River Forth. The town is accessed via the B910/Alloa Road and the A907 passes to the north of the town. Kennet is a small linear settlement located to the south east of Clackmannan along Alloa Road. Views from the centre of Clackmannan are typically screened and filtered by intervening buildings and vegetation. More distant outward views are available from the edges of the settlement and from elevated areas within the settlement, particularly near North Road. Residential properties within Kennet follow a linear pattern to the north east of Alloa Road, with views mainly orientated north east or south west. The surrounding rural carselands form the setting to outward views from the edges of Clackmannan and Kennet, with the Ochil Hills forming a relatively distant but recognisable skyline in outward views north and north west. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates visibility of operational wind farms from the north and south of Clackmannan and the north west of Kennet, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlements are not located within a designated landscape. The value of views is considered medium.		

	Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to seven turbines across the settlements, at a distance of 8.6-10.7km to the south east of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement often screen outward views north, north west towards the site. Viewpoint 9: Clackmannan Tower (**Table 7-24**, **Figure 7.16**) illustrates the view from the base of Clackmannan Tower to the west of the settlement. The tower is located on King's Seat Hill, at slightly higher elevation than Clackmannan and Kennet. However, similar views towards the site are possible from the north and north west of Clackmannan. In views from these areas, the hubs and blades of up to two turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north, north west. Turbines would be partially screened by intervening landform, including the summit of Craighorn. The proposed development would be seen across a relatively small angle of the view. Glimpsed views towards the proposed development would also be possible from the northern edge of Kennet, though the proposed turbines would be seen at a greater intervening distance, with increased screening of turbines by intervening landform. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the north and north west of Clackmannan and northern edge of Kenner, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for areas in the north and north west of Clackmannan and north of Kennet, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	Blades of the consented Shelloch Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in outward views west, south west from the north and south of Clackmannan and the north west of Kennet (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**), beyond the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from this location, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would form relatively distant skyline features in outward views west, south west from the north and south of Clackmannan and the north west of Kennet (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These proposed wind farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, though increasing the prominence and horizontal extent of turbines. The proposed development would appear as a separate wind farm in a different angle of the view. The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views north east from the settlements (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7e**), where outward views are available. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these wind farms given the intervening distance and limited visibility Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in successive distant views south from the settlements, seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. Relatively wide angles of the view, including towards the Ochil Hills, would remain without the influence of wind turbines, so as to avoid the perception of encirclement of the views from the

	settlements by wind farms. There would be minimal interaction between the proposed development and these other proposed and consented wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-38: Auchterarder / Gleneagles / Strathearn

Auchterarder / Gleneagles / Strathearn			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 6: Gleneagles Hotel (**Figure 7.13**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	6.6km
Description	Auchterarder is a large town in the Perth and Kinross Council local authority area. The town is located on the northern slopes of the valley to the north of the Ochil Hills. The settlement is accessed via the A824, with the A9 and a railway line passing to the south of the settlement. Outward views from the centre of Auchterarder are generally screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings. However, given the location of the settlement on gently rising valley slopes, some glimpsed views south are possible, looking towards the Ochil Hills. Views from the southern settlement edge and elevated north of the settlement are particularly open looking south towards the Ochil Hills and surrounding rural landscape. Gleneagles and Strathearn are smaller settlements located to the west of Auchterarder. Gleneagles is mainly centred around the Gleneagles Hotel, and Strathearn comprises a small number of dispersed residential properties situated around the golf course. Woodland associated with the grounds of the hotel and golf course occasionally screen and filter outward views from these areas, however views towards the Ochil Hills and surrounding rural landscape are possible. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the settlements, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlements are not located within a designated landscape, though views are focused towards the Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council), located within approximately 1km to the south of the settlements at its nearest point. The value of views is considered medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at these settlements is judged to be **high**.		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to ten turbines across the settlements, at a distance of approximately 6.6-12.3km to the north and north east of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement occasionally screen outward views south west towards the site. Viewpoint 6: Gleneagles Hotel (**Table 7-21**, **Figure 7.13**) illustrates the view from the south of Gleneagles. The blades of up to eight turbines would be glimpsed on the skyline beyond intervening landform in relatively distant views south west from this location. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce wind turbines in the view, however the blades would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform and would occupy a small proportion of the view. Similar views would be experienced from Gleneagles and Auchterarder (particularly more elevated areas in the north of the settlement), where outwards views towards the site are available. In views from the western edge of Strathearn (near the golf course), the hubs and blades of up to two turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be visible, against the skyline. The proposed development would be		

	seen slightly separate to the cluster of operational turbines formed by Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farm, though extending across a relatively small proportion of the view. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from Gleneagles, Auchterarder (particularly more elevated areas in the north of the settlement) and the west of Strathearn.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from Gleneagles, Auchterarder (particularly more elevated areas in the north of the settlement) and the west of Strathearn, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 (operational and consented) and Scenario 2 (operational, consented and proposed) cumulative baseline	The consented Shelloch and proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be seen in distant views south west from the western edge of Gleneagles and Strathearn, in the context of other operational wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). The proposed Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be glimpsed in relatively distant views east, south east from the settlements (refer to the CZTV on **Figure 7.7e)**, beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. These wind farms would seen slightly separate to the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm. Whilst the introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines (within views east, south east and south west towards the Ochil Hills), the emerging pattern of wind farm development would be relatively well screened by intervening landform and set back from the break in the slope. Much of the view south, including views overlooking the Gleneagles golf course and the surrounding summits of Wether Hill and Eastbow Hill, would not be affected by wind farms. Where outward views north and north west are available from the settlements, the proposed Glentarken Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in distant views. No other consented or proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from the settlements. The proposed development would have limited interaction with these other developments given the intervening distance and limited visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-39: Braco

Braco			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 7: Braco (**Figure 7.14**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	7.2km
Description	Braco is a small village located within the Perth and Kinross Council local authority area, accessed by the A822. Most of the settlement is located to the west of the A822, and south of the B8033. The village is relatively nucleated, centred around Braco Clocktower and cemetery. The village is relatively low-lying, located on the lower northern sides of Strathallan. Outward views from the village are generally screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings, though occasional glimpsed longer-distance views south are available looking towards the Ochil Hills. Particularly open views are available from residential properties in the north west of the village, given the location of these properties at slightly higher elevation than the core of the settlement. Where outward views south, south east are available from the settlement, the foreground and middle distance of views is generally occupied by buildings within the village and associated landscaping. The rising landform of the Ochil Hills are seen in distant views south east, forming the background of views.		

	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates visibility of operational wind farms from the settlement, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Turbines of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm form a relatively distant skyline feature in views south east from the settlement. The blades of three turbines of the operational Burnfoot Hill are glimpsed beyond intervening landform in views south east. The operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms are occasionally seen in glimpsed views from the settlement, though often screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings.
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlement is not located within a designated landscape. Relatively distant views towards the Ochil Hills (including the Ochils SLA, Western Ochils LLA and Ochil Hills LLA) are available from parts of the settlement. The value of the view is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to 13 turbines across the settlement, at a distance of 7.2-7.6km to the north, north west of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement often screen outward views south, south east towards the site. Viewpoint 7: Braco (**Table 7-22**, **Figure 7.14**) illustrates the view from the settlement, along the B8033 near the Braco Clocktower, cemetery and bowling green. In views from the settlement, the hubs and blades of up to eleven turbines and the blades of up to a further two turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views south, south east. The blades of T1 and T2 would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in distant views, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and forming a relatively linear feature extending across these slopes. The proposed substation would be seen in the middle distance of views, located on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills and in front of the proposed turbines. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Rhodders Wind Farm and proposed turbines would appear larger in scale than the operational turbines. The proposed turbines would appear partially screened by intervening landform, though T11, T13 and T9 would form relatively noticeable skyline features. Within the settlement of Braco, similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents. Similar views of the proposed development would be seen from residential properties in the north west of the village, given the location of these properties at slightly higher elevation than the core of the settlement, and localised extents near the Braco Clocktower, where outward views south, south east are glimpsed in between intervening buildings and vegetation. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to views from the north west of the village and near Braco Clocktower, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect for views from the north west of the village and near Braco Clocktower, where outward views towards the site are available, within approximately 8km of the proposed development. However, considered in the wider context of the whole settlement, significant effects resulting from the proposed development would be experienced from localised parts of the settlement. Buildings and vegetation often combine to

	limit outward views towards the site from large parts of the settlement. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** or **barely perceptible** for other parts of the settlement, resulting in a **minor** or **negligible (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	No consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from the settlement. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Distant views of the proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm may be glimpsed in between intervening buildings and vegetation in outward views south-west from the settlement (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These proposed wind farms would be seen in the context of the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. No other proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. Where visible in successive views from the same locations, the proposed development would be seen as a separate development to the proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm and in a different direction of the view. Relatively wide angles of the view, including towards the Ochil Hills, would remain without the influence of wind turbines, so as to avoid the perception of encirclement of the views from the settlement by wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-40: Greenloaning

Greenloaning			
Representative viewpoint	Refer to illustrative wireline on **Figure 7.37** for Greenloaning (Allandale Crescent)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	5.8km
Description	Greenloaning is a small village located in the Perth and Kinross Council local authority area, accessed via the A822. The settlement is relatively linear in form, extending along either side of the A822 with the south east of the settlement extending towards the A9. The village is relatively low-lying, located on the lower southern sides of Strathallan and at the northern base of the Ochil Hills. Views from the village are relatively open and look across the wider Strathallan landscape, though occasionally screened and filtered by woodland and other buildings within the settlement. Where outward views south east, towards the site, are available from the settlement, low-lying gently rolling fields with occasionally blocks of conifers and pockets of woodland extend through the middle distance of the view, with the rising Ochil Hills forming a relatively distant background. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates visibility of operational wind farms from the settlement, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen against the skyline in occasional outward views north west from the settlement. The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm is seen against the skyline in views north, north west from the settlement.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlement is not located within a designated landscape, though it is located directly adjacent to, and forms part of the setting of the Ochil Hills LLA. The value of the view is considered medium.		

	Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at this settlement is judged to be **high.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to ten turbines across the settlement, at a distance of 5.8-6.0km to the north, north west of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement and gently rising landform to the south of the settlement often screen or filter outward views south, south east towards the site. More open outward views towards the site are possible from residential properties in the north of the settlement, near Allandale Crescent, and along the southern edge of the settlement. Where views towards the site are available from the north of the settlement (illustrated by the wireline on **Figure 7.37**), the hubs and blades of up to four turbines and the blades of up to a further six turbines would be seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills in relatively distant views. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Rhodders and Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm, with proposed turbines appearing notably larger in scale. Where views towards the site are available from the south of the settlement, the hubs and blades of up to one turbine and the blades of up to a further seven turbines would be seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. Intervening landform would play a greater role in screening turbines in views from the south of the settlement. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to views from localised areas in the north of the settlement within 6km of the proposed development, reducing to a small-scale change for localised areas in the south of the settlement, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect for views from the north of the settlement where outward views towards the site are available. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** for areas in the south of the settlement with views of the proposed development, resulting in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen against the skyline in views north, north west from the settlement, forming an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm. The proposed development would be seen in a separate direction of the view, appearing above the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. Given the separate angles of the view occupied by the consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm and the proposed development there would be limited interaction between these developments. No other consented wind farms would be perceptible in views from the settlement. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	Distant views of the proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm may be glimpsed in between intervening buildings and vegetation in outward views south-west from the settlement (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). The proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm would be seen in the context of the operational Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. No other proposed wind farms would be perceptible in views from this location. Where visible in successive views from the same locations, the proposed development would be seen as a separate development to the proposed Earlsburn Extension Wind Farm and in a different direction of the view. Relatively wide angles of the view, including towards the Ochil Hills, would remain without the influence of wind turbines, so as to avoid the perception of encirclement of the views from the

	settlement by wind farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-41: Stirling / Cambusbarron

Stirling / Cambusbarron			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial Also refer to illustrative wirelines on **Figure 7.28** for Stirling Castle Esplanade, **Figure 7.29** for Kersebonny Road and **Figure 7.30** for Stirling County Cricket Club ground	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	8.8km
Description	Stirling is a city located in the Stirling Council local authority area. The settlement is located within the Carse of Forth, mainly focused to the south of the River Forth. Stirling is accessed via the A9, A905 and A872, with the M9 passing along the western edge of the settlement. Cambusbarron is a smaller settlement located directly to the west of Stirling and the M9, with the two settlements forming a wider conurbation. Views from the settlements vary. Given the relatively extensive nature of the settlements, outward views from the settlement core are typically screened and filtered by intervening buildings and associated vegetation. More distant outward views are available from elevated areas in the south of Stirling, near Bannockburn, Whins of Milton and Coxet Hill, elevated areas in the south of Cambusbarron, elevated areas near Stirling Castle hill, and areas along the edges of the settlements. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the settlements, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature where outward views north, north west are available from the settlements. The operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingburn Wind Farms are occasionally glimpsed in outward views west and south west from the settlements, though partially screened by the intervening landform of the Touch Hills.		
Sensitivity	Residential receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The settlements are not located within a designated landscape, though the Southern Hills LLA is located adjacent to the western edge of the settlements, and the Western Ochils LLA is located adjacent to the north east of Stirling. The value of views is considered medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors at these settlements is judged to be **high**.		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates fairly widespread visibility of up to seven turbines across the centre and south of Stirling and south of Cambusbarron, with small areas of visibility of up to ten turbines from the southern edge of Stirling, within 10.1-13.1km to the south west of the proposed development. However, buildings and vegetation in the settlement often screen outward views north east towards the site. Theoretical visibility of up to three turbines is indicated from localised areas in the centre of Stirling, near the A905 and Stirling Castle. Intervening landform would screen views of the proposed development in closer views from the north of Stirling and the north of Cambusbarron.		

	Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial (**Table 7-29**, **Figure 7.21**) illustrates the view from the Bannockburn Memorial along the south western edge of Stirling. The hubs and blades of up to three turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would form distant skyline features in views north east. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would not transcend the scale of the landform forming the skyline of the view north east. Similar views would be experienced from relatively localised extents of the settlement of Stirling, including localised elevated areas in the south of Stirling, near Bannockburn, Whins of Milton and Coxet Hill. Similar views would also be experienced from elevated areas in the south of Cambusbarron, where outward views towards the site are available, though intervening landform would play a greater role in screening turbines in views from this area. In views from localised areas in the centre of Stirling and at Stirling Castle (refer to **Figure 7.28**) and near the Stirling County Cricket Club grounds (refer to **Figure 7.30**), the blades of up to three turbines would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in relatively distant views north east. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from localised extents of the settlement of Stirling, including localised elevated areas in the south of Stirling, near Bannockburn, Whins of Milton and Coxet Hill and the south of Cambusbarron, where outward views towards the site are available. The scale of change would reduce to barely perceptible for other parts of Stirling with visibility of the proposed development.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from Stirling and Cambusbarron, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively widespread combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the settlements. However, consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in outward views from the settlement. Where visible, these wind farms would be seen in distant views in different directions of the view to the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in views west and south west from the settlements, in combination with other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills (refer to the CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These wind farms would form relatively evident skyline features in views towards the Gargunnock and Touch Hills and would be more prominent than the operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. Views of these other proposed wind farms would mainly be focused in the west of the settlements. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Effects on Visual Receptors Travelling on Routes

7.101 Visibility from a route is not uniform along its entire length. This is because views of the surrounding landscape change due to the landform, buildings, and vegetation cover as the viewer moves along the route. Sequential effects from the key routes which were taken forward for detailed assessment, as outlined from **Table 7-6,** are set out below.

Table 7-42: M9

M9			
Representative viewpoint	Refer to illustrative wireline on **Figure 7.35** for M9 near Bannockburn Interchange	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	10.1km
Description	The M9 is a major motorway in Scotland, connecting Edinburgh and Stirling. The road passes between the M8 to the west of Edinburgh and the A9 to the north of Dunblane. The M9 passes approximately 10.1km to the west of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. Within the study area, outward views from the routes are variable. Woodland often screens and filters outward views from the routes, though there are some more open sections of the M9 to the north west of Stirling. Buildings also screen and filter outward views from sections of the routes which pass near settlements. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the M9, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Where outward views from the road are available, the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature in views north, north west. The operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingburn Wind Farms are occasionally glimpsed in outward views west and south west from the road, though partially screened by the intervening landform of the Touch Hills. The three turbines of the operational Rosehill Wind Farm are located within close proximity of the M9, and appear evident in views from sections of the road near the interchange with the M876.		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. A short section of the M9 passes within the Keir LLA. A section of the road passes along the north eastern boundary of the Southern Hills LLA. The value of views from the road is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors on these routes is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from sections of the M9 to the west, south west and south of the proposed development. To the west of the proposed development, intermittent visibility is indicated from the M9, though limited to a small number of turbines. To the south west of the proposed development, theoretical visibility is indicated from sections of the M9 between Stirling and Polmont, within 13.1-23km. However, actual visibility would be limited by intervening vegetation and embankment, particularly sections of the M9 between Polmont and Stirling and occasionally for sections of the A9 to the north of the proposed development. Where outward views are possible from sections of the M9 between Stirling and Polmont (refer to wireline on **Figure 7.35**), the hubs and blades of up to four turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be seen in relatively distant oblique views north east from the road. Outward views from this section of the road are limited to localised glimpsed views, given screening by intervening vegetation lining the road and the adjacent embankment for sections of the road passing in cutting. Where outward views are available from sections of the M9 north of Stirling and to the south west of the proposed development, the blades of up to seven turbines would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in relatively distant views north east.		

	The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the M9, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from the M9, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively widespread combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the road. However, consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in outward views. Where visible, these wind farms would be seen in distant views in different directions of the view to the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in views west and north west from the road, in combination with other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills (refer to the CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These wind farms would form relatively evident skyline features in views towards the Gargunnock and Touch Hills and would be more prominent than the operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. The blades of the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in distant views north east from sections of the road between Plean and Falkirk (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7e**). Whilst the introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines in outward oblique views looking to either side of the road, the proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed schemes given the intervening distance and different angles of the view occupied. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-43: A9

A9			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 12: A9/ B934 Also refer to illustrative wirelines on **Figure 7.33** for A9 near Balhaldie Services and **Figure 7.34** for A9 near Netherton	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	5.2km
Description	The A9 is a major A-road in Scotland. Within the study area, the A9 passes north west and north between the M9 at Falkirk, toward Stirling and Dunblane, before passing north east towards Perth. The A9 passes approximately 5.2km to the north west of the nearest turbine of the proposed development, also passing to the west, north and north east of the proposed development through Strathallan. Within the study area, outward views from the routes are variable. Woodland and buildings associated with settlement often screen and filter outward views from sections of the route, though there are some more open sections of the A9 near Blackford and between Aberuthven and the junction with the B934. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the A9, although intervening vegetation and buildings often		

	screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Where outward views are available, the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm forms a skyline feature in outward views north west and west from the road, at distances exceeding 8km. The operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm forms a skyline feature in views north and north west from the road. Operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills, including Green Knowes, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North, Burnfoot Hill East and Rhodders Wind Farms are glimpsed in views south west, south and south east from the road, though typically partially screened by intervening landform along the northern edge of the Ochil Hills.
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. The A9 passes within the Keir LLA and along the northern boundary of the Ochil Hills LLA. The road does not pass within or near any other designated landscapes. The value of views from the road is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors on these routes is judged to be **medium.**
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from sections of the A9 to the south west, west, north west, north and north east of the proposed development. To the north and north east of the proposed development, visibility is indicated from sections of the A9 between Greenloaning and Blackford within 5.0-6.4km, and more distant sections between Auchterarder and Crossgates, within 9.2-24.3km. To the west of the proposed development, intermittent visibility is indicated from the A9, though limited to a small number of turbines (refer to the wireline from A9 near Balhaldie Services on **Figure 7.33**). However, actual visibility would occasionally be limited by intervening vegetation and embankment for sections of the A9 to the north of the proposed development. Viewpoint 12: A9/ B934 (**Table 7-27**, **Figure 7.19**) illustrates the view from sections of the A9 to the north east of the proposed development, near the junction with the B934 at Upper Cairnie. In views from this location, the hubs and blades of up to five turbines and the blades of up to a further seven turbines would form distant skyline features in views south west. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farm, though these wind farms are barely perceptible in views from this location. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 8.5km of the A9 between Aberuthven and Crossgates, though intervening vegetation and localised landform occasionally screens and filters outward views from this section of the road. Where outward views are possible from sections of the A9 to the north of the proposed development between Greenloaning and Blackford (refer to wireline on **Figure 7.34**), the hubs and blades of up to three turbines and the blades of up to a further seven turbines would be seen in oblique views south from the road, partially screened beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in some closer-distance views from the road, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and forming a relatively linear feature extending across these slopes. However, sections of the access track located nearest the road would follow the alignment of existing tracks. The proposed substation would be seen in the middle distance of views, located on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills. However, coniferous forestry to the east and west of the substation would limit visibility. The perceptibility of ancillary infrastructure would decrease with distance.

	Other operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills are screened by intervening landform in views from this location, though occasionally glimpsed from other sections of the road. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the A9, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from the A9, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from sections of the A9 within the study area. However, combined and sequential views of the proposed development with consented wind farms are limited. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen in oblique views north and north west from the road, forming an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm and seen in the opposite direction as the proposed development. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in distant views south west, including the Shelloch Wind Farm which would be seen in the context of other operational wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with consented wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational, consented and proposed wind farms from sections of the A9 within the study area. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7e** indicates areas of combined visibility of the proposed development with other operational and proposed wind farms within the Ochil Hills. Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in successive views south from sections of the road focused between Gleneagles and Perth, in a different angle of the view as the proposed development. The proposed Brunt Hill Wind Farm would form a fairly evident feature extending above the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills, though the bases of turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform. The turbines of the proposed Craighead Wind Farm would be seen beyond, partially screened by intervening landform. Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would appear more prominent than the proposed development in views from this section of the road. The proposed development would form a more distant feature in views south west, seen in a similar angle of the view as the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms. The introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills in views from the road and would increase the length of the road where views would be influenced by turbines. However, the proposed development would typically be seen within the same angle of the view as the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in successive views from this road. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills in views south west from sections of the road between Dunblane and Greenloaning. The proposed development would be seen in a separate direction of oblique views from this section of the road. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with these other proposed wind

	farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-44: A822

A822			
Representative viewpoint	N/A	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	6.0km
Description	The A822 passes between the A9 at Greenloaning and the A9 at Dunkeld. Within the study area, the A822 forms part of the Perthshire Tourist Route, promoted by Visit Scotland[36], between Greenloaning and the A826 at Milton. The road passes approximately 6.0km to the north of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. Within the study area, views from the road vary. Within 15km of the proposed development, relatively open outward views are available from sections of the road between Greenloaning and Braco, and some sections of the road north of Braco. However, as the road passes north, it runs through a more undulating landscape of lowland hills, which partially screen outward views from the road. Where relatively open outward views are afforded from the road within approximately 10km of the proposed development, views overlook the relatively broad agricultural valley landscape of Strathallan. The Ochil Hills form a prominent skyline feature in views south and south east from this section of the road. Views are relatively rural in nature, though there are some distant views of operational wind farms, including Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East available from sections of the road (as indicated by the CZTV on **Figure 7.7a**).		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Within the study area, the road passes within the Upper Strathearn LLA. However, extents of the road within 15km of the proposed development do not pass within any designated landscape. The value of views from the road is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors on these routes is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from sections of the road within 6.1-12.7km to the north of the proposed development. Beyond 12.7km, visibility becomes more localised. Actual visibility would be reduced by intervening vegetation and localised landform, which occasionally screen and filter outward views from sections of the road. Where outward views are available from sections of the road between Braco and the junction with the A823, within 7.2-11.2km to the north of the proposed development, the hubs and blades of up to 10 turbines and the blades of up to a further three turbines would be seen against the skyline in views south, south east. The blades of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North, Burnfoot Hill East and Rhodders Wind Farm are barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views south, south east from this section of the road. The proposed development would appear more prominent than these other operational wind farms. Most turbines would appear partially screened by intervening landform, though relatively direct views towards T11 and T13 in the north east of the site would be available. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in distant views, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and		

[36] https://www.visitscotland.com/travel-planning/getting-around/driving/route-planner/perthshire-tourist-route/

	forming a relatively linear feature extending across these slopes. Glimpsed views of the proposed substation may be available, in which the substation would be seen on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills and typically in front of the proposed turbines. However, coniferous forestry to the east and west of the substation would limit visibility. The perceptibility of ancillary infrastructure would decrease with distance. In views from sections of the road to the south of Braco, within 6.0-6.7km of the proposed development, intervening landform would play a greater role in screening turbines. The hubs and blades of up to five turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be seen against the skyline in views south east. Most proposed turbines would be relatively well-screened by intervening landform, however turbines in the north and north east of the site (T11, T12 and T13) would be more evident. The proposed development would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill and Rhodders Wind Farms, with proposed turbines appearing larger in scale and more prominent. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 and the proposed substation would be slightly more evident in views from this section of the road, where outward views towards the lower to mid slopes of the Ochil Hills are available. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to views from sections of the road within approximately 11.2km of the proposed development between the A9 and the A823, where outward views towards the site are available. The scale of change would decrease with distance.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect for views experienced from sections of the A822 between the A9 and A823, where outward views towards the site are available. Intervening vegetation occasionally limits outward views towards the site from sections of the road within 20km of the proposed development.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively widespread combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the road. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen against the skyline in views west and north-west from the road, forming an extension to the operational Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farm. The proposed development would be seen in a different direction of the view, typically at a similar or greater intervening distance. Other consented wind farms, including Shelloch Wind Farm, would be barely perceptible in distant views from the road. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational, consented and proposed wind farms from sections of the road within the study area. However, combined and sequential views of the proposed development with other proposed wind farms are limited. Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in successive views west and south west from the road, forming part of a larger cluster with the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm. The proposed development would be seen in a different angle of the view, increasing the horizontal extent of the operational Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East, Burnfoot Hill North and Rhodders Wind Farms, with proposed turbines appearing larger in scale and more prominent than operational turbines. The spacing between these two main clusters of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills would be retained. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in successive views from this road. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills in views south west from sections

	of the road between Greenloaning and Muir of Orchil. The proposed development would be seen in a different angle of views from this section of the road. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with these other proposed wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-45: A905

A905			
Representative viewpoint	N/A	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	10.0km
Description	The A905 passes between the M9 at Grangemouth and Stirling. The road passes approximately 10.0km to the south of the nearest turbine of the proposed development. Outward views from the road are generally open, though occasionally screened and filtered by intervening vegetation and buildings associated with settlements. Where open outward views are afforded from the road, views overlook the open and relatively flat agricultural landscape of the Carse of Forth. The Ochil Hills form a prominent skyline in views north from the road. Industrial development and electricity infrastructure is seen in many views from the road, including overhead lines on steel lattice pylons, industrial estates located along the River Forth, a number of domestic-scale wind turbines, and more distant views of commercial-scale wind farms such as the operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms (as indicated by the CZTV on **Figure 7.7a**).		
Sensitivity	Road users are considered to be of low susceptibility to changes in the view. Within the study area, the road does not pass within any designated landscapes. The value of views from the road is considered medium. Taking into the account the judgments of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors on these routes is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility across the length of the road between Grangemouth and Stirling. Visibility of up to 10 turbines is indicated from sections of the road between Dunmore and Grangemouth. Visibility slightly decreases for sections of the road closer to the site, between Dunmore and Fallin, where theoretical visibility of up to seven turbines is indicated. Actual visibility would be reduced by intervening vegetation and buildings where the road passes through settlements. Where outward views towards the site are available from sections of the route between Fallin and Dunmore, the hubs and blades of up to one turbine and the blades of up to a further four turbines would form relatively distant features on the skyline of views north and north east, looking towards the Ochil Hills. Turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform of the south western Ochil Hills. The proposed development would introduce wind turbines into views looking towards the Ochil Hills, though proposed turbines would appear across a small proportion of the view. Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards (**Table 7-26**, **Figure 7.18**) illustrates similar views, though at a slightly greater intervening distance. Similar views would be experienced from sections of the road within 10.0-10.8km to the south and south west of the proposed development. Where outward views towards the site are available from more distant sections of the road between Dunmore and Grangemouth, the hubs and blades up of up to seven turbines and the blades of up to a further two turbines would be seen		

	against the skyline in distant views north. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views towards the Ochil Hills, however the proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view. Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge (**Table 7-30**, **Figure 7.22**) illustrates similar views from proximate sections of the A876. Similar views would be experienced from sections of the road within 10.0-10.8km to the south and south west of the proposed development. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the A905, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from the A905, where outward views towards the site are available.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from sections of the road within the study area. However, this would be limited to distant views of Shelloch Wind Farm, seen in the context of other operational wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, and more distant consented wind farms to the south. Where visible, the proposed development would be seen in the opposite direction of successive views. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with consented wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational, consented and proposed wind farms from the road. Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in distant successive views north east, with turbine blades seen against the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills, mainly in views from the eastern section of the road between Throsk and Airth. The proposed development would be seen in a separate angle in views from the road. A wide angle of the overall panoramic view towards the Ochil Hills would not be affected by wind turbines under this future baseline scenario. Combined views of other proposed wind farms would include distant views of the proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms and more distant proposed wind farms to the south. The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be seen against the skyline in views west from road, increasing the horizontal extent and prominence of other operational and consented wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. However, these other proposed wind farms would form a distant feature in views from the road. Where visible, the proposed development would be seen in the opposite direction of successive views. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with other proposed wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-46: Core Paths and Rights of Way within 5km of the proposed development

Core Paths and Rights of Way within 5km of the proposed development			
Representative viewpoint	N/A	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	3.2km
Description	Perth and Kinross Council Core Path BLFD1 forms part of the Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193. The route passes between Blackford via Glen of Kinpauch to the Upper Glendevon Reservoir dam. Views from the northern section of the route, between		

	Blackford and Kinpauch Hill, are relatively open overlooking Strathallan to the north. As the route enters Glen of Kinpauch and continues onto Glen Bee, steeply sloping landform on either side of the route focuses and channels views along the glens. Near Upper Glendevon Reservoir, views are focused overlooking the reservoir, with nearby hill summits within the Ochil Hills containing more distant views. The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms form an evident feature on a wide angle of the skyline in views from sections of the route near Upper Glendevon Reservoir. The operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm is seen in distant views north west from the route. Perth and Kinross Council Core Path BLFD113 and BLFD118 form a horseshoe-shaped route to the south of the A9 near Blackford. BLFD113 passes south west from the A9 towards Burnside, then passing west towards East Biggs where it meets with BLFD118 to pass north towards the A9 at Netherton. The routes pass along the gently undulating southern slopes of Strathallan. Views from the routes are relatively open overlooking Strathallan to the north. The rising Ochil Hills form the skyline of views south from the routes, and foreshorten more distant views. Other operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills are generally screened by intervening landform in views from the routes, though the operational Green Knowes Wind Farm is glimpsed beyond intervening landform in distant views south east. The operational Braes of Doune and Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farms are seen in distant views north west from the routes.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. These routes are located within the both Ochil Hills LLA and the Ochils SLA. The overall value of views from this route are judged to be high. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility of up to 10 turbines from sections of Perth and Kinross Council Core Path BLFD1 between Glen Bee and Upper Glendevon Reservoir. The ZTV indicates intermittent theoretical visibility from sections of Perth and Kinross Council Core Path BLFD113 and BLFD118, focused within sections of BLFD118 between East Biggs and the A9, with further areas of localised visibility indicated from sections of BLFD113 between Whaick and the A9. In views from BLFD1 near Upper Glendevon Reservoir (also forming part of Scotways Tillicoultry to Blackford Hill Track HP353/Right of Way TP193), the hubs and blades of up to seven turbines and the blades of up to a further two turbines would be seen against the skyline in views south west. The proposed turbines would increase the horizontal extent of the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North and Burnfoot Hill East Wind Farms, however these operational turbines appear closer and more prominent across a wide angle of the skyline. Similar views would be experienced from localised extents of the route (less than 1km). In views from BLFD118 between East Biggs and the A9, the hubs and blades of up to three turbines and the blades of up to a further seven turbines would be seen against the skyline in views south. Turbines would be relatively well-screened by intervening landform, with some blades being barely perceptible. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in some closer-distance views from the route, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills. However, sections of the access track located nearest the route would follow the alignment of existing tracks. The proposed substation would be seen in glimpsed views. However, coniferous forestry to the east of the substation would limit visibility. Similar views would be experienced from approximately

	1.5km of BLFD118 between East Biggs and the A9. In views from sections of BLFD113 between Whaick and the A9, the hubs and blades of up to two turbines and the blades of a further two turbines would be seen on the skyline of views south. Turbines would be partially screened by intervening landform, though turbines in the west of the site (T6 and T9) would be relatively evident. Similar views would be experienced from very localised sections of the BLFD113 near Whaick. Intervening landform would play a greater role in screening turbines from other sections of the BLFD113. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to views from BLFD1 near Upper Glendevon Reservoir. The scale of change would reduce to low for views from other sections of BLFD1 and BLFD113, where views of the proposed development are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** for sections of BLFD1 near Upper Glendevon Reservoir, and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect for views experienced from this section of the route. The magnitude of change would be **low** for other sections of BLFD1 and BLFD113, where views of the proposed development are available, resulting in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would be seen in views north-west from Core Path BLFD1, BLFD113 and BLFD118, in a separate angle of the view as the proposed development. No other consented wind farms would be seen in views from the routes. Given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility, the proposed development would have limited cumulative interaction with the consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates no visibility of other proposed wind farms from the routes. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-47: NCN Route 76

NCN Route 76			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge (**Figure 7.22**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	6.5km
Description	NCN Route 76 is a national cycle route and is also referred to as ‘Round the Forth’, passing along the shores of the Firth of Forth and within the Forth Valley. Within 20km of the proposed development, NCN Route 76 forms a circular route passing between Falkirk, Stirling, Alloa, and Kincardine. The route is a combination of on-road and traffic-free sections, passing on the minor road network between Falkirk and Stirling, the A907 between Stirling and Tullibody, minor roads between Tullibody and Kincardine, then passing over the Clackmannanshire Bridge on the A876 towards Falkirk. Views from the route vary, and are often screened by intervening vegetation or buildings where the route passes through settlements. Relatively open outward views are available from much of the route within 20km of the proposed development, though intervening vegetation and buildings associated with settlements occasionally screen and filter views. Views are focused overlooking the gently undulating Carse of Forth landscape and River Forth, with the Ochil Hills forming an evident skyline feature in views north from the route.		

	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the route, although intervening vegetation and buildings often screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Where outward views are available, the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature in views north, north west. The operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingburn Wind Farms are occasionally glimpsed in outward views west and south west from the route, though partially screened by the intervening landform of the Touch Hills. Operational turbines at Todhill Farm and Rosehill Farm are also glimpsed in outward views from the route.
Sensitivity	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. The route does not pass within any designated landscapes, though the northern part of the route passes within close proximity of the Western Ochils LLA. The value of views is considered medium. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figures 7.2a-c and 7.3a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from much of the route within 20km of the proposed development, though mainly focused in sections of the route between Clackmannanshire Bridge and sections of the bridge to the south of the River Forth between Falkirk and Stirling, within 10.5-16.6km of the proposed development. Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge (**Table 7-30**, **Figure 7.22**) illustrates the view from sections of the route near Clackmannanshire Bridge. In views from this section of the route, the hubs and blades of four turbines and the blades of a further four turbines would form distant skyline features in views north, north west. The proposed development would be perceived to introduce commercial-scale wind turbines into views towards the Ochil Hills, however other operational wind turbines are seen in other directions of the view. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the wider view, seen beyond the containing skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. Similar views would be experienced from sections of the route directly north west of the bridge, near Craigton, and sections of the route between Clackmannanshire Bridge and the M9, where outward views towards the proposed development are available. Intervening landform would play a stronger role in screening the proposed development in views from other sections of the route. In views from the route near Cowie, Fallin and Alloa, the blades of up to seven turbines would be seen, mostly screened by the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the route, where outward views towards the site are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** for sections of NCN Route 76 with visibility of the proposed development, and taking account of the **high** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect for views experienced from the route.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the route. However, this would be limited to distant views of Shelloch Wind Farm, seen in the context of other operational wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills, and more distant consented wind farms to the south. Where visible, the proposed development would be seen in the opposite direction of successive views. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with consented wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational, consented and proposed wind farms from the route. The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be glimpsed beyond intervening forested landform in distant views north east from the route. The proposed development would form a distant feature in views north, north west, seen separately to these other proposed developments. The proposed development would have limited interaction with these other developments given the intervening distance and limited visibility.A wide angle of the overall panoramic view towards the Ochil Hills would not be affected by wind turbines under this future baseline scenario. Distant views of the proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms and more distant proposed wind farms to the south would also be experienced from sections of the route. The proposed Drummarnock and Earlsburn Extension Wind Farms would be seen against the skyline in views west from route, slightly increasing the prominence of other operational and consented wind farms in the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. However, these other proposed wind farms would form a distant feature in views from the route. Where visible, the proposed development would be seen in the opposite direction of successive views. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with other proposed wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-48: Falkirk Grahamston to Stirling railway

Falkirk Grahamston to Stirling railway			
Representative viewpoint	Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards (**Figure 7.18**)	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	10.9km
Description	The railway line between Falkirk Grahamston and Stirling passes broadly on a south east to north westerly alignment between the two settlements. Outward views from this section of the railway vary, but generally overlook the rural fringe between the two settlements, with distant outward views north towards the Ochil Hills available from sections of the route. The route occasionally passes in cutting, with embankment foreshortening more distant views from these sections of the route. Vegetation lining the railway, and buildings associated with settlements further screen and filter outward views from sections of the route. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the route, although intervening vegetation and embankment occasionally screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Where outward views are available, the operational Braes of Doune Wind Farm forms a relatively distant feature in views north, north west. The operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingburn Wind Farms are occasionally glimpsed in outward views north west and west from the route, though partially screened by the intervening landform of the Touch Hills. Operational turbines at Todhill Farm and Rosehill Farm are also glimpsed in closer-distance outward views from the route.		
Sensitivity	People traveling by train, whose attention is likely to be somewhat focused on views of the surrounding landscape from the train are considered to be of medium susceptibility to changes in the view.		

	The railway route between Falkirk Grahamston and Stirling is not located within a designated landscape. The value of the view available from the railway is considered to be medium. On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors travelling along the railway is judged to be **medium**.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from much of the railway route between Falkirk Grahamston and Stirling. However, actually visibility would be reduced by intervening embankment, vegetation and buildings associated with settlements. Relatively open views towards the site are possible from sections of the railway west of Cowie and north east of Bannockburn. Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards (**Table 7-26**, **Figure 7.18**) illustrates similar views as those experienced from sections of the railway route to the west of Cowie. The blades of five turbines would be seen against the skyline in relatively distant views north, north east. Turbines would be mostly screened by intervening landform of the south western Ochil Hills. Similar views would be experienced from approximately 2.1km of the railway route between Cowie and Bannockburn, where outward views towards the site are available. In views from more distant sections of the railway route to the north west of Falkirk, the hubs and blades of up to two turbines and the blades of up to a further seven turbines would form a distant feature across a relatively small angle of the distant skyline formed by the Ochil Hills. The proposed development would be mostly screened by intervening landform in glimpsed views from this section of the railway. The proposed development would result in a small-scale change to views from the railway route, where outward views of the proposed development are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **low** and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **minor (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively widespread combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the railway route. However, consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in outward views. Where visible, these wind farms would be seen in distant views in different directions of the view to the proposed development. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these consented schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be seen in views west and north west from the railway, in combination with other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills (refer to the CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**). These wind farms would form skyline features in views towards the Gargunnock and Touch Hills and would be more prominent than the operational Craigengelt, Earlsburn and Kingsburn Wind Farms. The blades of the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in distant views north east from sections of the railway route between Cowie and Falkirk (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7e**). The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these proposed schemes given the intervening distance and limited combined visibility. The level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Table 7-49: Dunblane to Perth railway

Dunblane to Perth railway			
Representative viewpoint	N/A	**Approximate distance to nearest turbine**	5.6km
Description	The railway line between Dunblane and Perth passes broadly on a south west to north easterly alignment through Strathallan and towards Strathearn in the north east. Outward views from this section of the railway vary, but generally overlook the rural landscape to the north of the Ochil Hills. The Ochil Hills form an evident focus of views south from the railway route, which passes near the northern base of the hill group. The route occasionally passes in cutting, with embankment foreshortening more distant views from these sections of the route. Vegetation lining the railway, and buildings associated with settlements further screen and filter outward views from sections of the route. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7a** indicates relatively extensive visibility of operational wind farms from the route, although intervening vegetation and embankment occasionally screen outward views towards operational wind farms. Where outward views are available, the operational Braes of Doune and Strathallan Phase 1 Wind Farms form skyline features in outward views west, north west from sections of the route between Dunblane and Perth, though perceptibility of these wind farms decreases with distance. Operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills (including Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill North, Burnfoot Hill East, Rhodders and Green Knowes Wind Farm) are glimpsed in views from sections of the railway between Kinbuck and Blackford and south of Auchterarder, though partially screened by intervening landform along the northern edge of the Ochil Hills. Operational wind farms located within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills are glimpsed in distant outward views south west from sections of the railway near Greenloaning, though partially screened by intervening landform.		
Sensitivity	People traveling by train, whose attention is likely to be somewhat focused on views of the surrounding landscape from the train are considered to be of medium susceptibility to changes in the view. The railway route between Dunblane to Perth is located partially within, or within close proximity of the Ochil Hills LLA. The value of the view available from the railway is considered to be high. On balance, taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, and the fact that people's experience of views would be transient in nature due to train speed, overall sensitivity of receptors travelling along the railway is judged to be **medium.**		
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The ZTV (refer to **Figure 7.2a-c**) indicates theoretical visibility from sections of the railway route, mainly focused between Greenloaning and Blackford. Further areas of intermittent theoretical visibility are indicated from sections of the route south of Auchterarder and east of Aberuthven. In views from sections of the railway route between Netherton and Blackford, the hubs and blades of up to seven turbines and the blades of up to a further four turbines would be seen in the middle distance of the view south from the railway line. The proposed turbines would appear against the skyline, partially screened by the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills. The access track crossing into the site from the A9 to the north would be seen in some views from the railway, ascending the scarp of the Ochil Hills and forming a relatively linear feature extending across these slopes. However, sections of the access track located nearest the railway would follow the alignment of existing tracks. The proposed substation would be seen in the middle distance of views, located on the lower slopes of the Ochil Hills. However, coniferous forestry to the east and west of the substation would limit visibility. The perceptibility of		

	ancillary infrastructure would decrease with distance. Other operational wind farms within the Ochil Hills are screened, or just barely perceptible beyond intervening landform in views from this section of the railway. Similar views would be experienced from localised sections of the railway, limited to approximately 2km of the route north and north west of Netherton. In views from other parts of the route between Greenloaning and Netherton, intervening landform would play a stronger role in screening the proposed turbines. In views from sections of the route south of Auchterarder and east of Aberuthven, the blades of up to nine turbines would be visible, though barely perceptible beyond the intervening landform of the Ochil Hills. The introduction of the proposed development would result in a medium-scale change to views from approximately 2km of the railway near Netherton, within approximately 6km of the proposed development, where outward views towards the site are available. The scale of change would reduce to small for other sections of the railway route with visibility of the proposed development.
Overall level of effect and significance	The overall magnitude of change would be **medium** for sections of the railway route near Netherton, and taking account of the **medium** sensitivity would result in a **moderate (significant)** visual effect for views experienced from this section of the route. However, considered in the wider context of the whole length of the route, significant effects resulting from the proposed development would be experienced from localised sections of the railway. Vegetation, buildings, and embankment often combine to limit outward views towards the site from the railway. The magnitude of change would reduce to **low** or **barely perceptible** for other sections of the railway route, where views of the proposed development are available, resulting in a **minor** or **negligible (not significant)** visual effect.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7b** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational and consented wind farms from the railway route. However, combined and sequential views of the proposed development with consented wind farms are limited. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would form a skyline feature in outward views west, north west from sections of the route between Dunblane and Perth, though perceptibility would decrease with distance. The proposed development would be seen in a different direction of the view. Other consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in distant views south west, including the Shelloch Wind Farm which would be seen in the context of other operational wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with consented wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The CZTV on **Figure 7.7c** indicates relatively extensive combined visibility of operational, consented and proposed wind farms from sections of the railway. However, combined and sequential views of the proposed development with other proposed wind farms are limited. Other proposed wind farms would form distant features in successive and partially screened views from the railway. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms would be partially screened and filtered in distant views south west from sections of the railway between Dunblane and Greenloaning (refer to CZTV on **Figure 7.7g**), seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The proposed development would be seen in a separate direction of oblique views from the railway. The CZTV on **Figure 7.7e** indicates areas of combined visibility of the proposed development with other operational and proposed wind farms within the Ochil Hills. Brunt Hill and Craighead Wind Farms would be seen in successive views south from sections of the railway, mainly focused between

	Gleneagles and Perth, in a different angle of the view as the proposed development. These other proposed wind farms would be partially screened by intervening landform, seen beyond the skyline formed by the Ochil Hills in views from the railway. The proposed development would form a more distant feature in views south west. The introduction of the proposed development would result in an intensification of wind turbines within the Ochil Hills in views from the railway and would increase the length of the railway where views would be influenced by turbines. However, the proposed development would typically be seen within the same angle of the view as the operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill North Wind Farms. Given the intervening distance and limited combined views of the proposed development with these other proposed wind farms, the level of effect would therefore remain as identified in the primary assessment.

Effects on Designated Landscapes

7.102 The proposed development is not located within a designated landscape. However, there are landscape designations within the 40km Study area, as shown on **Figure 7.5a**. Theoretical visibility across these landscape designations is mapped on **Figure 7.5b**. The assessment describes the likely effects on the special qualities of designated landscapes resulting from the introduction of the proposed development during the operational phase and a consideration of likely cumulative landscape effects arising in conjunction with other existing, consented and/or proposed wind farms. The assessment is focused on those designated landscapes where likely significant effects are considered possible, as detailed in **Table 7-3**. Operational effects are long-term, reversible and adverse unless stated otherwise. Given the recognised value of such designated landscapes, the designated landscapes included in the assessment are considered to be of high sensitivity unless stated otherwise.

Table 7-50: Operational Effects on the Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council), the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council) and Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council)

Operational Effects on the Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council), the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council) and Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council)	
Baseline Description	The Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council), Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council) and Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council) are located within the Ochil Hills. The three designations adjoin each other within the western part of the Ochil Hills at the site. The Ochil Hills LLA is the largest of the three designations and extends north eastwards from the site across most of the Ochil Hills. The Ochils SLA extends across the south western part of the Ochil Hills north of Alva, Tillicoultry and Dollar. The Western Ochils LLA covers the western extent of the Ochil Hills, between the site and Dunblane. The relevant special qualities of each local landscape designation include: The Ochil Hills LLA Special Qualities: • *"Prominent band of hills forming a both a barrier and a gateway between Perthshire and Kinross-shire, and the setting to both.* • *Relatively wild and tranquil, yet readily accessible and with good provision for a range of users.* • *Extensive natural landcover of heather moorland, grassland and woodland.* • *Distinctive southern scarp slopes, steep interior glens.*

	• *Though there are few distinctive peaks, there are many accessible summits and viewpoints.* • *Rich in features of geological and historical interest."*[37] Ochils SLA Special Qualities: • *"The rising steep hill slope above the Hillfoot settlements to high moorland plateau in a compact form is a unique feature in Central Scotland.* • *Rock outcrops on the southern face of the hills offer evidence of the geological past of Central Scotland.* • *The large scale topography of rounded slopes and hill summits is dramatic, with rolling grassy or peaty ridges and braes.* • *The southern escarpment is incised by a number of dramatic and scenic gorges, including those of Mill Glen, Alva Glen and Dollar Glen.* • *The character of the SLA is enhanced by elements of cultural heritage including a number of hill forts, and Castle Campbell, which sits within Dollar Glen."*[38] Western Ochils LLA Special Qualities: "*Special Qualities* • *"A landscape of marked diversity, contrast and drama, including dominant natural and man-made landmarks.* • *Juxtaposition of the abrupt, extremely steep southern scarp and carse. The summit and slopes of Dumyat and Castle Law appear to tower over the historic village of Blairlogie and the carse - their visual impact and seeming great height enhanced by the lack of scale indicators and the flat fields at their base "giving a landscape experience which is unique in Scotland" (Ash Consulting Group 1999, Central Region Landscape Character Assessment, SNH Review No. 123).* • *Presence of other key landmark features of the Abbey Craig and Wallace Monument, visible over a wide area.* • *Contrast between sense of isolation and remoteness on parts of the hills and Sheriff Muir and busy activity and development at the university campus and in views across the Forth Valley from the hill edges.* • *Contrast between open hills and moor with areas of woodland and well-tended fields across the lower hill fringe slopes.* • *Contrast between steep, sometimes precipitous, hill fringe slopes and the settlements huddled at their base. (Particularly Blairlogie, but also Causewayhead and Bridge of Allan.).* *Striking Views* • *Outstanding and varied panoramic outward views - to Stirling town and castle, the Forth Valley and the surrounding uplands.*

37 Perth and Kinross Council (2020) Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan 2, Landscape Supplementary Guidance 2020. [Online] Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45777/Adopted-SG-2020/pdf/LandscapeSG_mar2020.pdf?m=1583927238097

38 Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Appendix EA1: Special Landscape Areas – Statement of Importance. [Online] Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6862.pdf

	• *Views to the LLA often include the Castle and Old Town of Stirling, creating unique visual compositions and contributing to a strong sense of identity and place for the wider Stirling area."*[39] The operational Rhodders, Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot Hill East and Burnfoot Hill north Wind Farms are located within the northern extents of the Ochils SLA. The operational Green Knowes is located within the Ochil Hills LLA within the hills to the north of Glen Devon, and the operational Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park are located over 20km to the east within the eastern extents of this designation. There are no operational wind farms within the Western Ochils LLA.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located within both the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA, extending over the adjoining boundary of these two designations south of Sauchanwood Hill. As such, there would be both direct effects on the landscape fabric of these landscape designations, including changes to the landcover and subtle changes to the terrain, as well as wider perceptual effects. The proposed development is not located within the Western Ochils LLA therefore effects on this designation would be perceptual. In terms of perceptual effects, the ZTV (**Figure 7.5b**) indicates widespread visibility of up to 13 turbines within 5km of the proposed development across the northern extent of the Ochils SLA, including from hill summits and site-facing slopes including Ben Ever and Ben Cleuch. Within the Ochil Hills LLA, there would be large intermittent areas of visibility within 15km, including from the south western-facing slopes of Core Hill, Craigentaggert Hill and Wether Hill within 5km of the proposed development as well as further site-facing hills slopes to the north east within 15km. Elsewhere within these designations and within the Western Ochils LLA theoretical visibility would be limited to smaller occasional areas on site-facing slopes, with visibility of a fewer number of turbines due to intervening landform that would reduce visibility. The ZTV in **Figure 7.4c** indicates theoretical visibility across the LCTs within the three designations including: • 382 - Lowland Hill Ranges for which a high magnitude of change was identified for areas of the LCT unit within approximately 5km of the proposed development reducing to medium for areas of the LCT within approximately 10km within the Ochil Hills LLA; • 149 - Lowland Hills – Central for which a high magnitude of change was identified for areas of the LCT unit within approximately 5km of the proposed development reducing to low for areas of the LCT beyond 5 km within the Ochils SLA and Western Ochils LLA; • 384 - Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside for which a medium magnitude of change was identified for areas of the LCT unit within approximately 10km of the proposed development near Braco, reducing to low for remaining parts of the LCT within the Ochil Hills LLA; and • 150 - Lowland Hill Fringes – Central for which a low magnitude of change was identified for areas of the LCT within the Western Ochils LLA. Assessment viewpoints located within the designations include: • Viewpoint 1: Ben Cleuch located to the south east of the proposed development within the Ochils SLA which represents views experienced by

39 Stirling Council (2014) Stirling Council Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance SG27, Protecting Special Landscapes.

	recreational receptors including hill walkers. A high magnitude of change was identified for this viewpoint; • Viewpoint 2: The Nebit located to the south of the proposed development within the Ochils SLA which represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. A medium magnitude of change was identified for this viewpoint; • Viewpoint 3: Innerdownie located to the east of the proposed development within the Ochil Hills LLA which represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. A medium magnitude of change was identified for this viewpoint; and • Viewpoint 4: Dumyat located to the south west of the proposed development within the Western Ochils LLA which represents views experienced by recreational receptors including hill walkers. A medium magnitude of change was identified for this viewpoint. The introduction of the proposed development has the potential to locally affect some of the special qualities of the designations, notably the "*relatively wild and tranquil"* quality of the Ochil Hills LLA and the "*dramatic"* hills and summits of the Ochils SLA. Effects on the special qualities of the Western Ochils LLA are considered to be limited due to the restricted nature of theoretical visibility. However these special qualities have already been affected by the existing operational wind farms that the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA already accommodate. The introduction of the proposed development would intensify the existing influence of wind farm development on these designated areas and their special qualities, as well as the role they play in providing a setting to the surrounding lowland landscapes. The proposed development would be visible from a number of hill summits and slopes within these designations including from Viewpoint 1: Ben Cleuch and Viewpoint 3: Innerdownie where up to 13 turbines would be theoretically visible. The proposed development however would be located within parts of the Ochils SLA and Ochil Hills LLA that are already physically and /or perceptually altered by the operational group of turbines adjacent to the site and more distance operational wind farms include Green Knowes. Locally, the scale of landscape change on the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA is judged to be medium, over a small geographical extent within 5km of the proposed development, where both physical and perceptual effects would occur. These parts include the site, and hills summits and site-facing slopes to the north, east and south of the proposed development within 5km. Beyond 5km within the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA, the scale of change would reduce to small as effects on the "*relatively wild and tranquil"* quality of the Ochil Hills LLA and the "*dramatic"* hills and summits of the Ochils SLA would reduce with distance. In addition, at distances beyond 5km, where theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent, the proposed development would also be more clearly perceived as part of the existing group of wind farms adjacent to the site which these designations have already been altered by. The scale of change on the Western Ochils LLA would also be small due to the limited theoretical visibility across this designation.
Overall level of effect and significance	A **medium** magnitude of change and a **moderate (significant)** effect is judged for parts of the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA within 5km of the proposed development. These parts include the site and hills summits and site-facing slopes to the north, east and south of the proposed development where the "*relatively wild and tranquil"* quality and "*dramatic"* hills and summits would be most affected. For the remaining parts of the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA

	and for the Western Ochils LLA, a **low** magnitude of change and **minor (not significant)** effect is judged. In summary, there would be some direct and localised effects on the landscape fabric of the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA and on landscape character. However, as the proposed development would be located in an area which is altered by existing wind turbines and would generally be seen as part of an existing wind farm group, its introduction is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of these local landscape designations.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms within these local landscape designations. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm is located approximately 6km to the north of the Ochil Hills LLA, and would appear as a relatively distant feature in outward views from the LLA, in the opposite direction of view as the proposed development. Other consented wind farms would form barely perceptible features in outward views from these designations therefore there would be limited interaction between these wind farms and the proposed development given the intervening distance. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of these designations when considered in this cumulative scenario, by adversely affecting the qualities for which they were designated.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	The proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be located within the Ochil Hills LLA over 10km to the east of the proposed development. These wind farms would result in the intensification of wind farm development within the Ochil Hills LLA. These proposed wind farms would be seen as one wind farm group in both combined and successive views with the operational Green Knowes, Lochelbank and Binn Eco Park Wind Farms (which are also located within this designation). The proposed development would be visible in successive views with these other proposed and operational wind farm. The addition of the proposed development would further increase the influence of wind farm development in the Ochil Hills LLA and in longer-distance views to the north east from the Ochils SLA. However, the proposed development would form part of an existing group of operational wind farms that already affects the "*relatively wild and tranquil"* quality of the Ochil Hills LLA. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms given the intervening distance and gap retained between these emerging clusters of development. Other proposed wind farms are located outside of these local landscape designations, and would form distant features in views to the south west. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms, located over 15km away from the designations to the south west, would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. Other proposed wind farms would be barely perceptible in views south, generally seen within the context of other operational wind farms to the south of the Firth of Forth. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of these designations, when considered in this cumulative scenario, by adversely affecting the qualities for which they were designated.

Table 7-51: Operational Effects on the Keir LLA (Stirling)

Operational Effects on the Keir LLA (Stirling)	
Baseline Description	The Keir LLA is located approximately 9.2km to the west of the nearest turbine of the proposed development within the Stirling Council administrative area. The designation is located to the north west of Bridge of Allan and encompasses both steeper slopes and rolling farmland and woodland at the northern edge of the Carse of Forth. The relevant special qualities of the local landscape designation include: *"Strong cultural landscape links* • *Keir estate designed landscape establishes core high quality landscape character.* *Accessible landscape close to settlements.* • *Excellent network of paths east of the M9/A9 with ease of access from Bridge of Allan and Dunblane – although the motorway, trunk road and Keir Estate boundary wall make pedestrian access to the west difficult.* • *The landscape forms an important buffer of countryside between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane and plays some role in the setting of and approach to both settlements. As a consequence the land east of the M9/A9 is designated green belt land.* *'Gateway' character* • *The landscape sits at a point of transition – between the lowland Carse of Stirling and more highland Strath Allan, creating a 'gateway' feel travelling north or south.* *Expanse and containment* • *Marked contrast between visually open and contained areas, relating to landform, aspect and tree cover.* *Marked contrast, and some tension, between busy activity along the road corridors and areas of quiet seclusion.* • *Relevance heightened by the number of roads and volume of traffic relative to a fairly small extent of the LLA."*[40] There are no operational wind farms within this LLA.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located entirely outside of this LLA, therefore any effects would be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the proposed development from within the LLA. The ZTV (**Figure 7.5b**) indicates widespread visibility across the LLA with up to three turbines visible within the eastern part of the LLA around Park of Keir, Gallow Hill and around the A9. From Knock Hill and across the western parts of the LLA around Keir House, Arnhall Wood and Biggens Wood the number of turbines that would be theoretically visible increases to seven. Visibility however would be limited to the blades of turbines, due to the intervening landform of the western edge of the Ochil Hills which would screen most of the proposed development in views from the LLA. Actual visibility would be reduced further by extensive woodland associated with the Keir House Garden and Design Landscape (GDL) that would screen views from much of the

40 Stirling Council (2014) Stirling Council Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance SG27, Protecting Special Landscapes.

	western extent of the LLA. As such, the introduction of the proposed development would have limited effects on the special qualities of the LLA, and would result in a small-scale of change over small geographical extent where open views towards the Ochils are available.
Overall level of effect and significance	A **low** magnitude of change and a **minor (not significant)** effect is judged for this LLA. In summary, the limited visibility of the proposed development would result in limited effects on the special qualities of the LLA. As such, the introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the LLA.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms located within this LLA. The consented Shelloch Wind Farm would not be visible from this LLA due to intervening landform that would screen the wind farm in views from the LLA. The consented Strathallan Phase 2 Wind Farm would form a distant feature in views north, north east from the LLA, where outward views are available in between intervening vegetation. Other consented wind farms to the south would be located at distances of over 20km and as such would form barely perceptible features in outward views from this LLA. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the limited visibility of the proposed development and the intervening distance between it and the other visible consented wind farms. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of the LLA, when considered in this cumulative scenario, by adversely affecting the qualities for which it was designated.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within this LLA. The proposed Earlsburn Extension and Drummarnock Wind Farms, located over 8km to the south west of the LLA, would be seen in the context of other operational and consented wind farms within the Gargunnock and Touch Hills. Other proposed wind farms to the south and south east would be barely perceptible in outward views from this LLA. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of the LLA when considered in this cumulative scenario by adversely affecting the qualities for which it was designated.

Table 7-52: Operational Effects on the Forest SLA (Clackmannanshire)

Operational Effects on the Forest SLA (Clackmannanshire)	
Baseline Description	The Forest SLA is located approximately 6.1km to the south east of the nearest turbine of the proposed development within the Clackmannanshire Council administrative area. The designation is located to the east of Sauchie within the Carse of the Forth. The SLA encompasses Gartmorn Dam and associated woodland in the western part of the SLA and coniferous forestry around The Forest and Brucefield in the central and eastern parts of the SLA. The relevant special qualities of the local landscape designation include: • *"The variety of woodland cover from large-scale commercial plantations to semi-natural wet woodland is quite a unique feature.* • *A significant proportion of the existing woodland cover is classified as ancient woodland, meaning that woodland has been present since at least the mid 18th century.* • *Gartmorn Dam was created in the early 18th century to power the mines in the Sauchie area and at that time was the largest artificial body of water in*

	Scotland. Since then it has gone on to serve Alloa as a public water supply and now as a green recreational resource. • *The woodland is contained within a rolling landscape which is characterised by a scatter of small farm steadings.* • *The former mine site at Castlebridge, being developed as a business estate, is contained within the landscape with the former access tower being a landmark feature in the landscape.* • *From outwith the area the rolling wooded landscape contrasts with urban development at Alloa and Sauchie and forms an attractive landscape setting for these settlements.* • *The ridges around Gartmorn Dam offer striking views over the water and views northwards to the Ochils and southwards to Clackmannan and its Tower and the Upper Forth Estuary.* • *The lade path, linking Gartmorn Dam in the west with Forestmill in the east, offers high level views over the upper section of the Black Devon Gorge.* • *Gartlove viewpoint off the A977 offers views over the north of the area to the dramatic Ochils in the background."*[41] There are no operational wind farms within this SLA.
Assessment of visual effects (primary assessment)	The proposed development would be located entirely outside of this SLA, therefore any effects would be limited to indirect effects experienced through views of the proposed development from within the SLA. The ZTV (**Figure 7.5b**) indicates visibility of up to seven turbines within the western extents of the SLA around Jellyholm, reducing to visibility of up to three turbines around Gartmorn Dam and Linn Mill in the central parts of the SLA and Brucefield within the southern extents of the SLA. Actual visibility from these areas however would be reduced by mixed and deciduous woodland cover, particularly in the areas to the east of Sauchie, to the south of Gartmorn Dam and around Brucefield. Much of the SLA around The Forest would have very limited to no visibility of the proposed development due to intervening landform to the north of the SLA which would screen the proposed development, as well as screening provided by coniferous plantation forestry that extends across much of the designation. Where some limited open views to the north are available, including around Gartmorn Dam, the introduction of the proposed development would affect the "*striking views over the water and views northwards to the Ochils"*. The proposed development would introduce turbines in views towards the Ochil Hills from the SLA that are currently unaffected by wind farm development, and as such would perceptually influence the special qualities that relate to views of the Ochil Hills. Due to the intervening landform at the southern edge of the Ochil Hills and intervening woodland however, views of the proposed development would be limited to small number of hubs and blades and would occupy a relatively small extent of the horizontal field of view. As such, the scale of change is judged to be small, over a small geographical extent of the SLA where open views to the north are available around Gartmorn Dam.
Overall level of effect and significance	A **low** magnitude of change and a **minor (not significant)** effect is judged for this SLA.

41 Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Appendix EA1: Special Landscape Areas – Statement of Importance. [Online] Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6862.pdf

	In summary, there would be some perceptual effects on the special qualities of the SLA however these would be experienced in localised parts of the SLA and a small horizontal extent of views would be altered. As such, the introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the SLA.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 1 cumulative baseline (operational and consented)	There are currently no consented wind farms located within this SLA. Consented wind farms to the south and south west would be located at distances of over 20km and as such would form barely perceptible features in outward views from this SLA. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other consented wind farms given the intervening distance. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario by adversely affecting the qualities for which it was designated.
Assessment of effects under Scenario 2 cumulative baseline (operational, consented and proposed)	There are currently no proposed wind farms within this SLA. From some parts of the SLA, a small number of turbines within the proposed Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms would be visible in views to the north east at distances between 15-17km. The proposed development would be seen in successive and sequential views with these other proposed wind farms, increasing the influence of wind farm development on special qualities relating to views of the Ochil Hills. Due to a distance of over 10km between the proposed development and Craighead and Brunt Hill Wind Farms, and the limited visibility within the SLA, the proposed development would have minimal interaction with these wind farms. Other proposed wind farms to the south and south west would form barely perceptible features in outward views from this SLA. The proposed development would have minimal interaction with these other proposed wind farms given the intervening distance. As for the primary assessment, the proposed development would not significantly alter the integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario by adversely affecting the qualities for which it was designated.

Statement of Significance

7.103 As set out in the LVIA methodology (**Technical Appendix 7.1**), mitigation of landscape and visual effects was undertaken through design modifications and input to the design process. The design evolution is set out in **Chapter 2: Site Description and Design Evolution** of the EIA Report. As all mitigation for landscape and visual effects is embedded within the final design for the proposed development, all effects identified in this chapter are residual effects.

7.104 Significant effects on landscape character would occur within the site and within four of the LCTs considered in the assessment, although significant effects would be contained within 10km of the proposed development.

7.105 Significant effects on visual amenity would occur for six of the representative viewpoints, all of which are located within 12km, though the majority of which are focused within the western Ochil Hills and within 8km of the proposed development. Significant effects on visual amenity would also occur for receptors within the settlement of Braco, although limited to localised parts of the settlement within 8km of the proposed development, and Greenloaning, limited to views from the north of the settlement within 6km of the proposed development. Significant visual effects would occur for receptors travelling on the A822 within approximately 11km of the proposed development and localised sections of the Dunblane to Perth railway within 6km of the proposed development. Significant visual effects would also occur for recreational users of the Core Paths and Rights of Way within

5km of the proposed development, though limited to relatively short sections of these routes.

7.106 Significant effects would occur across parts of the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA within 5km of the proposed development, although these are not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of these local landscape designations.

7.107 **Table 7-53** below summarises the predicted effects of the proposed development on landscape and visual amenity within the site and study area.

Table 7-53: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Change and Significance of Effect (Primary Assessment)	Significance of Effect: Scenario 1	Significance of Effect: Scenario 2
Construction Phase				
The site	High	High and **major (significant)**	N/A	N/A
Operational Phase				
Landscape Character				
The site	High	High and **major (significant)**	N/A	N/A
LCT 382 Lowland Hill Ranges (host)	High	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Medium and **moderate (significant)** between 5-10km.	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Medium and **moderate (significant)** between 5-10km.	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Medium and **moderate (significant)** between 5-10km.
LCT 149 Lowland Hills – Central (host)	High	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Low and minor (not significant) beyond 5km.	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Low and minor (not significant) beyond 5km.	High and **major (significant)** within the site and within 5km. Low and minor (not significant) beyond 5km.
LCT 384 Broad Valley Lowlands – Tayside	Medium	Medium and **moderate (significant)** to the east of	Medium and **moderate (significant)** to the east of	N/A

		Braco within 10km. Low and minor (not significant) for remaining parts of the LCT.	Braco within 10km. Low and minor (not significant) for remaining parts of the LCT.	
LCT 153 Carselands	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
LCT 150 Lowland Hill Fringes – Central	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
LCT 380 Lowland Hills – Tayside	Medium	Medium and **moderate (significant)** to the north and west of Braco within 10km. Low and minor (not significant) for remaining parts of the LCT.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** to the north and west of Braco within 10km. Low and minor (not significant) for remaining parts of the LCT.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** to the north and west of Braco within 10km. Low and minor (not significant) for remaining parts of the LCT.
Views and Visual Amenity				
Viewpoint 1: Ben Cleuch	High	High and **major (significant)**	High and **major (significant)**	High and **major (significant)**
Viewpoint 2: The Nebit	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**
Viewpoint 3: Innerdownie	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**
Viewpoint 4: Dumyat	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**
Viewpoint 5: B9140 near Collyland	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 6: Gleneagles Hotel	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 7: Braco	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	N/A

Viewpoint 8: Alloa Tower	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 9: Clackmannan Tower	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 10: B827	Medium	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	Medium and **moderate (significant)**	N/A
Viewpoint 11: Cowie Road at Easter Greenyards	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A
Viewpoint 12: A9/ B934	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 13: Gask Ridge, St Davids	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 14: Bannockburn Memorial	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 15: Clackmannanshire Bridge	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	Low and minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 16: Chartershall Road	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 17: Blairdrummond Castle Safari Park	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 18: Knock of Crieff	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Viewpoint 19: A811 near Gargunnock	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	Low and minor (not significant)
Viewpoint 20: Falkirk Wheel	High	Low and minor (not significant)	N/A	N/A
Settlements				
Alloa and Sauchie	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Clackmannan and Kennet	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)

Auchterarder / Gleneagles / Strathearn	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Braco	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for views from the north west of the village and near Braco Clocktower. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other parts of the settlement.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for views from the north west of the village and near Braco Clocktower. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other parts of the settlement.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for views from the north west of the village and near Braco Clocktower. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other parts of the settlement.
Greenloaning	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for for views from the north of the settlement. Low and minor (not significant) for areas in the south of the settlement.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for for views from the north of the settlement. Low and minor (not significant) for areas in the south of the settlement.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for for views from the north of the settlement. Low and minor (not significant) for areas in the south of the settlement.
Stirling / Cambusbarron	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Routes				
M9	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
A9	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
A822	Medium	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the A822	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the A822 between the	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the A822 between the A9 and A823.

		between the A9 and A823.	A9 and A823.	
A905	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Core Paths and Rights of Way within 5km of the proposed development	High	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of BLFD1 near Upper Glendevon Reservoir. Low and minor (not significant) for other sections of BLFD1 and BLFD113.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of BLFD1 near Upper Glendevon Reservoir. Low and minor (not significant) for other sections of BLFD1 and BLFD113.	N/A
NCN Route 76	High	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Falkirk Grahamston to Stirling railway	Medium	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)	Low and minor (not significant)
Dunblane to Perth railway	Medium	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the railway route near Netherton. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other sections of the railway route.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the railway route near Netherton. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other sections of the railway route.	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for sections of the railway route near Netherton. Low or barely perceptible and minor or negligible (not significant) for other sections of the railway route.
Designated Landscapes				
Ochil Hills LLA (Perth and Kinross Council), the Ochils SLA (Clackmannanshire Council) and Western Ochils LLA (Stirling Council)	N/A	Medium and **moderate (significant)** for parts of the Ochil Hills LLA and Ochils SLA within 5km.	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of these local landscape designations when considered in this cumulative scenario.

		Low and minor (not significant) for the Western Ochils LLA. The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of these local landscape designations.	alter the overall integrity of these local landscape designations when considered in this cumulative scenario.	
Keir LLA (Stirling Council)	N/A	Low and minor (not significant) The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the LLA.	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the LLA when considered in this cumulative scenario.	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the LLA when considered in this cumulative scenario.
Forest SLA (Clackmannanshire Council)	N/A	Low and minor (not significant) The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the SLA.	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario.	The introduction of the proposed development is not judged to significantly alter the overall integrity of the SLA when considered in this cumulative scenario.

References

- Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance 2, Onshore Wind Energy. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6851.pdf
- Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Adopted August 2015. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6862.pdf
- Clackmannanshire Council (2015) Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan, Appendix EA1: Special Landscape Areas – Statement of Importance. Available at: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/6862.pdf
- David Tyldesley And Associates (2010) Perth and Kinross Council Landscape Study to Inform Planning for Wind Energy, Final Report. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/44779/DTA-Landscape-Study-for-Wind-Energy-2010/pdf/DTA_Landscape_Study_for_Wind_Energy_2010.pdf?m=637017430672100000
- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3).
- Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation-1.pdf
- NatureScot (2012) Landscapes of Scotland. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/landscapes-and-habitats/about-scotlands-landscapes/landscape-variety-scotland#:~:text=The%20Landscapes%20of%20Scotland%20map%20unites%20the%20physical%20fabric%20of,communication%20about%20landscape%20issues%20easier
- NatureScot (2012) Landscapes of Scotland Map. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscapes-scotland-map-and-descriptions
- NatureScot (2019) National Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions
- NatureScot (2020) General pre-application and scoping advice for onshore wind farms. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2020-10/General%20pre-application%20and%20scoping%20advice%20for%20onshore%20wind%20farms.pdf
- NatureScot (2021). Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments
- Perth and Kinross Council (2020) Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan 2. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45242/Adopted-Local-Development-Plan-2019/pdf/LDP_2_2019_Adopted_Interactive.pdf?m=1576667143577
- Perth and Kinross Council (2020) Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan 2, Landscape Supplementary Guidance 2020. Available at: https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45777/Adopted-SG-2020/pdf/LandscapeSG_mar2020.pdf?m=1583927238097

- Scottish Government (2023). National Planning Framework 4. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/11/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/documents/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/govscot%3Adocument/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft.pdf
- SNH (2015) Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands, 2nd Edition.
- SNH (2015) Spatial Planning for Onshore Wind Turbines – Natural Heritage Considerations.
- SNH (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-11/Siting%20and%20designing%20windfarms%20in%20the%20landscape%20-%20version%203a.pdf
- SNH (2017) Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance
- SNH (2018) A Handbook on Environmental Impact Assessment, Appendix 2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Version 5.
- SNH (2019) Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction, Version 4. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-good-practice-during-wind-farm-construction
- Stirling Council (2014) Stirling Council Local Development Plan, Supplementary Guidance SG27, Protecting Special Landscapes.
- Stirling Council (2015) Stirling Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development, Update January 2015.
- Stirling Council (2018) Stirling Local Development Plan, October 2018. Available at: https://www.stirling.gov.uk/media/0zpdflkj/stirling-council-local-development-plan-2018.pdf