

Tangy IV Wind Farm Section 36C Variation

Technical Appendix 5.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 5.4: ASSESSMENT OF DESIGNATED AND PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

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1. Technical Appendix 5.4: Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix details the assessment of effects of the Proposed Varied Development on designated and protected landscapes within the 40km study area, outlining any changes to effects when compared to those of the Consented Development.
- 1.1.2 The assessment of designated and protected landscapes considers effects on landscape character and identified Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) identified in NSA, Key Qualities identified in WLA and Special Qualities identified in LLAs. Conclusions made during the assessment of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) (see **Technical Appendix 5.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types**) are used to feed into this assessment and are cross referenced as necessary. Evaluation of sensitivity to development of the type proposed and magnitude of change has been undertaken for all relevant Special Landscape Qualities / Key Qualities / Special Qualities. Given the status of these Qualities, the value is considered to be universally high. Therefore, the sensitivity rating is based on susceptibility to change only.
- 1.1.3 The results of the 2018 assessment were also used to focus the scope of the assessment to SLQs most likely to be affected. Given the distance to the Proposed Varied Development and the **negligible** effects recognised in the 2018 assessment, significant effects are unlikely for the Proposed Varied Development therefore the high-level North Arran NSA Special Landscape Qualities assessment was considered appropriate for the Proposed Varied Development.
- 1.1.4 The assessment of landscape and visual effects has been used as a basis for an assessment of effects on the SLQs of the North Arran NSA. This has been carried out with reference to current Guidance (NatureScot et al. 2025).
- 1.1.5 There are no published designation descriptions or defined special qualities for the LLAs. The key characteristics which are considered to contribute to the importance of these areas have therefore been identified by ASH.
- 1.1.6 The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2 was adopted on 28th February 2024 and replaces the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015. The LDP2 changes the name of Areas of Panoramic Quality (APQs) identified in the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (2015) and used in 2018 EIA Report to Local Landscape Areas. However, there is no change to the boundary of the Mull of Kintyre LLA and West of Kintyre LLA (previously Areas of Panoramic Quality) which are within the LVIA study area.
- 1.1.7 This assessment does not include cumulative landscape effects or effects of visible aviation lighting which are discussed in **Technical Appendices 5.6: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables** and **5.10: Landscape and Visual Assessment of Aviation Lighting** respectively.
- 1.1.8 The following statutory designated landscapes, or landscapes otherwise protected by the planning system, were identified in the baseline review within the 2018 EIA Report as potentially experiencing landscape effects as a result of the Consented Development. This appendix outlines any changes to the assessment for the Proposed Varied Development and additionally include WLA 03: North Arran, previously scoped out from the EIA Report in 2018.

National Context

- North Arran NSA; and
- WLA 03: North Arran.

Local Context

- Mull of Kintyre LLA; and
- West Kintyre Coast LLA.

- 1.1.9 The above areas are illustrated in **Figure 5.4: Designated and Protected Landscapes**, and assessed in the following tables, in accordance with criteria outlined in **Technical Appendix 5.1: Assessment and Technical Methodologies**.

1.2 National Context

Table 1.2.1: North Arran NSA

Landscape Baseline	
Description	The NSA falls entirely within the 40km Study Area of the Proposed Varied Development and encompasses an expansive area covering 30,358 hectares (ha) of northern Isle of Arran and surrounding waters of Kilbrannan Sound, Sound of Bute and Firth of Clyde. The NSA comprises the spectacular Arran mountains which are characterised by complex ranges of distinctive and dramatic granitic pointed peaks, sharp ridges, steep glens and U-shaped valleys formed by glacial movements. The rugged and rocky moorland interior of the NSA contrasts with the surrounding coastal lowland which has been inhabited and managed since prehistoric times as evidenced by evocative remnants from different eras as well as modern forestry plantations and pastoral fields found on the lower slopes. The NSA coastline is unique and is formed of a variety of textures and colours due to glacial and coastal processes. Settlement occurs along the coastline and lower slopes comprised of scattered cottages and nucleated hamlets including Pirnmill, Lochranza, Sannox and Corrie, leaving a remote and uninhabited mountainous interior with limited accessibility.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	On-going forest or other land management around the lower slopes of the outer NSA may have led to some changes in forest and woodland cover. However, this has not led to any noticeable change in character, and therefore no noticeable direct changes in the presence of SLQs has been observed. Outwith the NSA, Auchadaduie, Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) and Blary Hill wind turbines within the central part of Kintyre have been constructed since the 2018 EIA Report and therefore the influence of wind development seen along the Kintyre peninsula in the western context has increased.
Landscape Value	This is a nationally valued landscape, which is appreciated for its scenic qualities and natural and cultural heritage associations and recreational opportunities. It is therefore considered to have a high landscape value.
Consented Development – Summary of Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA: Landscape Character Effects	The 2018 LVIA identified a negligible effect for the North Arran NSA. The boundary of the NSA lies at around 19km from the closest part of the Consented Development and it was noted that areas of potential intervisibility would be at least 20 km distant. Potential effects would be limited to the appearance of turbines on the far western and south-western horizon in expansive sea vistas from elevated areas. Existing wind turbines are already present within these views at Beinn an Tuirc and Deucheran Hill and it was considered unlikely that the distant appearance of additional turbines at Tangy would result in any discernible effect on the NSA. The high value and expansive qualities of wildness and expansive sea views was considered to lead to a high sensitivity, but magnitude of change was predicted to be negligible.
Summary of 2018 LVIA: SLQ Effects	The 2018 assessment evaluated each of the SLQs for susceptibility to change and potential effects. Three SLQs were identified as having potential to be affected by the Consented Development. • The contrast between the wild highland interior and the populated coastal strip; • The historical landscape in miniature: Different periods of historic land use appear as different layers in the landscape and can often be seen in one view; • An exceptional area for outdoor recreation. However, the assessment concluded that the effect on these SLQs would be negligible due to the distance of the Consented Development turbines from the NSA,

	and the context of existing turbines on the Kintyre Peninsula within which the Consented Development would be seen.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Sensitivity	The NSA is a highly valued landscape, as recognised by its designation. The mountainous terrain and wild land qualities, in association with valued coastal landscapes and views is considered to be very susceptible to changes of the type proposed. The landscape sensitivity is high.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to the NSA. The ZTVs indicate some increase in theoretical visibility between the Consented Development and the Proposed Varied Development across the western and west southern slopes of the NSA mostly around the lower margins of hills and likely to involve only turbine tips. The Proposed Varied Development lies at least 19km from the NSA with areas of potential intervisibility ranging between 20km and 28km in distance. It would therefore appear distant from all parts of the NSA. From coastal and lower lying slopes around western parts of the NSA, a greater number of turbine tips and longer blades may theoretically be seen than for the Consented Development. However, turbines would often be concealed by foreground landform and midground forestry and would therefore usually be barely perceptible (see VP28, Figures V3b-18.1 – 18.5). The taller appearance of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be more perceptible from higher ground where more of the turbines would be seen. This would include the summits, ridges and westerly facing slopes of Beinn Bharrain (see VP23, Figures V3b-15.1 – 15.6) and other more distant mountains. From these areas, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen within a context of other wind turbines which characterise the skyline of the Kintyre peninsula but would contribute to a localised greater density of turbines. This would be similar to the Consented Development, but the taller turbines of the Proposed Varied Development with longer blades would be slightly more prominent in comparison to the existing wind turbines. This change may be perceptible from closer summit areas such as Beinn Bharrain (approximately 24km) but would become less perceptible at greater distances such as Goat Fell (approximately 32km). There would be no intervisibility with turbines from east-facing slopes, the majority of interior remote glens and lochs or from the easterly edge of the NSA. The magnitude of change to the character of the NSA overall, is predicted to range between negligible and Low.
Review of Special Qualities for the Proposed Varied Development	The SLQs identified as having the potential to be affected by the Consented Development form the basis of the SLQ assessment for the Proposed Varied Development.
	The contrast between the wild highland interior and the populated coastal strip The 2018 LVIA noted that the appearance of wind turbines in vistas obtained from the upland interior could affect wild characteristics and thus reduce the contrast between the highland interior and coastal strip. The Proposed Varied Development would be mostly seen as a distant feature from the highest slopes and peaks of the NSA in the south-westerly context. Only a very small area of lower slopes and shoreline near Dougarie Point would experience intervisibility of tips, likely to be barely perceptible. The taller turbines would be slightly more perceptible than those of the Consented Development and would affect some limited additional areas of the lower slopes, but a number of existing, closer wind farm developments already characterise the skyline of the Kintyre peninsula. The Proposed Varied Development would be a perceptible additional feature within this context but would be unlikely to lead to any decrease in wild characteristics. Therefore, the distinction between the uninhibited mountain

	interior and coastal areas which is experienced in the much closer context within the NSA is very unlikely to be affected by addition of the Proposed Varied Development. Magnitude of Change for this SLQ would be negligible. A Historical Landscape in Miniature The 2018 LVIA noted that the appearance of wind turbines on the far western horizon would add an additional layer of contemporary development to the historic landscape which may reduce historical emphasis. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen as a distant feature to the south-west, within the context of a number of other wind farms along the skyline of the Kintyre peninsula. These developments already establish a layer of contemporary wind energy development to this context. Although the Proposed Varied Development would be slightly more perceptible than the Consented Development and would slightly increase the presence of wind turbines in this context, its addition would be unlikely to change the perception of the historical landscape within the NSA. Magnitude of Change for this SLQ would be negligible An exceptional area for outdoor recreation The 2018 LVIA noted that the appearance of wind turbines within western vistas may potentially reduce the perceived value of the landscape to recreational users. The NSA and the extensive panoramic mountain and sea views that are obtained are popular for recreation. The Proposed Varied Development would be theoretically visible within western panoramic vistas from mountain summits and some west and south-westerly facing slopes. It would appear distant, within a context where wind turbines are already a notable characteristic along the Kintyre peninsula in the western context but would perceptibly add to the density and presence of wind turbines in this context. Whilst this would affect the context of distant views from these mountain summits, it would comprise a very small change overall and is considered unlikely to change the experience of those undertaking recreation. Magnitude of Change for this SLQ would be low.
Effect Significance	Effects on the NSA would be indirect, resulting from the experience of the Proposed Varied Development turbines within the distant western context of the Kintyre peninsula. This context is already characterised by wind turbines along the skyline but the addition of the Proposed Varied Development would perceptibly increase this presence with the taller turbines appearing slightly more dense and prominent compared to existing turbines. However, given the existing association of this context with wind turbines, this is unlikely to change experiences of wildness or characteristics that are more closely associated with the closer context and features of the NSA, such as appreciation of the mountainous terrain, coastal features and the way in which these landscapes interrelate. The wider surrounding context is of greater importance as a contribution to views from elevated areas and coastlines. Whilst there would be no perceptible change to coastline areas, from some high summits the Proposed Varied Development would increase the perceived density of wind turbines on the Kintyre peninsula which may create a slightly greater distraction to these elevated views and increase a sense of industrial development. However, this would be very small within the expansive context of the wider seascape. The effect is predicted to be predominantly negligible, but a locally experienced minor (not significant) effect during construction and operation is predicted in relation to the effect on expansive views across the Kilbrannan Sound from higher hill slopes and summits and the appreciation of the Kintyre peninsula as part of the surrounding expansive seascape setting. This is predicted to lead to a minor (not significant) effect on one SLQ 'An exceptional area for outdoor recreation'. The effect

	on all other SLQs is predicted to be negligible and the effect on the NSA as a whole would not be significant.
Change to Effect Significance	The increased size of turbines is predicted to lead to a small increase in perceptibility of turbines, leading to <i>localised</i> effects on one SLQ ('An exceptional area for outdoor recreation') being slightly increased to minor (not significant). For the remaining SLQs and the NSA as a whole, the level of effect is predicted to be negligible which reflects the conclusions of the 2018 assessment.

Table 1.2.2: WLA 03: North Arran

Landscape Baseline			
Description	The WLA is located around 23km to the north-east of the Proposed Varied Development and encompasses inland valleys and peak across the northern part of the Isle of Arran, covering approximately 118km². The WLA consists of rugged hills and mountain ranges with peaks rising up to 900m AOD, separated by deep U-shaped valleys including Glen Iorsa, Glen Sannox and Glen Rosa. The rugged and steep, sharp mountains in the east of the WLA, including Goatfell, Caisteal Abhail and Beinn Tarsuinn contrast with the lower, rounded moorland hills of Beinn Bharrain, Mullach Buidhe, Beinn Bhreac and Beinn Tarsuinn to the west of Glen Iorsa. The prominent mountain massif dominates the Firth of Clyde and provides a prominent mountainous backdrop to views from the North Ayrshire coast, Kintyre Peninsula and Isle of Bute. Moorland vegetation, extensive bare rock on summits and higher slopes, watercourses, waterfalls contribute to a sense of naturalness and sanctuary and the enclosure of the mountains enhances the sense of remoteness and solitude within the interior. Experienced from the elevated areas, the surrounding sea and distant mainland also adds to the perception of remoteness. The WLA is uninhabited, although some contemporary land use such as forest plantations around the margins has some influence. Existing wind turbines outwith the WLA on Kintyre Peninsula and the mainland also influence the wider context. The SNH Map of Relative Wildness (see Figure 5.4-1: Map of Relative Wildness (WLA 03)) (obtained from the UK spatial data hub (data.gov.uk) shows the areas of greatest wildness to be within glens and valleys in the interior of the WLA and around the highest, rugged summits to the east with more moderate degrees of wildness across the more westerly summits and lower wildness around the periphery.		
Landscape Value	This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics. It also falls entirely within the North Arran NSA. Landscape value is therefore considered to be high.		
Consented Development – Summary of Effects			
WLA 03 was not considered in the 2018 LVIA.			
Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes			
Attribute	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Perceived naturalness	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not directly affect the WLA and so would not lead to any changes in vegetation cover within the WLA.	Negligible
Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the distant western context outwith the WLA, seen from some areas of higher ground and occasional lower slopes in the west of the WLA. It would form a perceptible increase in turbines, but in an area where existing wind farms already characterise the skyline of	Low

		the Kintyre peninsula. When considering the distance from the WLA and the existing presence of constructed artefacts within this context, this is not predicted to lead to a perceptible change to the strength of this attribute.	
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the western context from small parts of the WLA would be reflective of existing patterns of wind farm developments across Kintyre. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen at considerable distance and, whilst it may lead to a very localised perception of increased wind farm development in the context of Kintyre, this is unlikely to change the influence of contemporary land use within the WLA as this part of Kintyre already appears managed due to expansive forest plantation cover and existing wind turbines.	Negligible
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Remoteness and inaccessibility	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter accessibility within the WLA. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the westerly context would be unlikely to noticeably decrease the sense of remoteness in the wider landscape as it would be very distant on the opposite side of the Kilbrannan Sound.	Negligible
A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	Given the distance of the Proposed Varied Development, on the opposite side of the Kilbrannan Sound and in the context of other existing wind farms, it would be unlikely to affect the sense of sanctuary or solitude.	Negligible
Risk or anxiety	Low	It is unlikely that the Proposed Varied Development would affect any sense of risk or anxiety.	Negligible
Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the distant westerly context and would be seen in views from elevated mountains summits and ridges. These views have considerable sense of awe, due to their very expansive nature and the very rugged qualities of the closer landform within the WLA. The Proposed Varied Development would appear distant in this setting, seen in the context of other existing wind farms. Although it would be likely to perceptibly increase the presence of wind turbines in the setting of Kintyre, it is considered unlikely to reduce this attribute strength due to the distance and setting beyond the Kilbrannan Sound.	Low
Physically challenging	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would not lead to any change to the physically challenging nature of the topography or the sense of physical challenge that is perceived.	Negligible

Assessment of Effects on Wild Land Qualities (WLQs)			
Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
A readily accessible area, but with strong wild land attributes, especially within the remote interior	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not change the accessibility of the WLA and the remote interior where the highest degree of wildness is experienced would be largely unaffected, with the exception of a few higher slopes. The Proposed Varied Development would lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines within the westerly context of the Kintyre peninsula from these higher slopes but this would be distant (typically beyond 28 km) and seen in the context of other existing wind turbines which are noted in the WLA description as having limited influence on wild land qualities due to their distance and small extent. Although the Proposed Varied Development would lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines within the western context of Kintyre, given the intervisibility with existing wind turbines, and the distance of the Proposed Varied Development from the WLA, it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to result in any changes to the perceived accessibility or sense of remoteness and sanctuary that are cited in this Key Quality.	Negligible
The contrast in experience between the rugged east and smoother and more remote west mountain ranges	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be external to the WLA and would not alter any sense of rugged terrain or appreciation of the variety of landform. It would be slightly closer to the smoother and more remote western hills which are more influenced by the Kilbrannan Sound and Kintyre mainland. However, its effect on the sense of remoteness and isolation within these hills would be limited, as it would be experienced in a distant westerly context beyond the sea which is already influenced by existing wind farm development as well as buildings and forest plantations. Whilst it would lead to a small perceptible increase in the presence of wind turbines on the Kintyre peninsula, given the distance involved this is unlikely to affect the appreciation of the remoteness and isolation which are noted in relation to these hills. It is therefore considered unlikely that the Proposed Varied Development would affect the contrast in experience between the eastern and western hills.	Negligible
A landscape which is well-defined, whose rugged qualities are widely experienced from the surrounding areas	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be situated outwith and distant from the WLA towards the easterly side of the Kintyre peninsula and therefore would not affect its appreciation from surrounding areas of the sea and mainland. Experienced from the summits within the WLA in south-westerly views, it would slightly increase the presence of wind development on the western skyline. However, the Kilbrannan Sound would continue to create a clear sense of separation between the WLA and Kintyre. The Proposed Varied Development would follow a pattern of existing wind farm development along the spine of the Kintyre	Negligible

		mainland and would not affect the clearly defined margins of the WLA which are formed by the surrounding sea.	
A strong sense of naturalness, with unmodified catchment systems and little intensive land use within the wild land area	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not directly affect the WLA and therefore would not affect any of the natural processes which contribute to the sense of naturalness within it.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape and though existing wind farm development is already evident within the wider context from some elevated areas, the wild land attributes and Key Qualities are generally sensitive to new development. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high.		
Magnitude of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be located between 23km and 35km from this WLA and therefore would lead to only potential indirect change. There would be limited intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development within the WLA comprising an area of facing slopes in the west of the WLA at an approximate distance of 23km - 28km and a few higher summit areas at approximately 27km- 32km within the central – eastern part of the WLA and higher southeastern slopes of Glen Iorsa and its northwest slopes to its west. The Proposed Varied Development would be set within the distant westerly context of the Kintyre peninsula where it would reflect existing patterns of wind energy development but would form a perceptible increase in the distant presence of wind turbines. Nevertheless, given the influence of these existing wind farms within this part of the context, this is anticipated to lead to very little perceptible change to wild land attributes and perceptual responses. Magnitude of change is predicted to be low for the physical attribute '<i>Lack of construction or other artefacts</i>', and the perceptual response '<i>Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe</i>' but negligible for all other attributes and responses. When considering the effects on WLQs, the low magnitude of change affecting the attributes 'Absence of Modern Artefacts' and 'Arresting and Inspiring Qualities' has the potential to affect the WLQ 'A readily accessible area, but with strong wild land attributes, especially within the remote interior'. However, when taking into account the very distant nature of these changes along with the lack of likely change to the qualities of remoteness and sanctuary which are specifically cited in the WLA description, the magnitude of change to this WLQ overall is predicted to be negligible. Overall, magnitude of change is anticipated to be locally low during construction and operation on west facing slopes and summits where extensive westerly views are obtained and higher baseline levels of wildness are experienced, including areas around the summit of Beinn Bharrair, and the western ridge of the Glen Rosa horseshoe which encloses Glen Iorsa (Beinn Nuis, Beinn Tarsuinn and Caisteal Abhail). Elsewhere, magnitude would be negligible.		
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines within the distant context to this WLA. This context contributes to some of perceptual responses of wild land including arresting and inspiring qualities. However, the distant appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within a context where other wind turbines are already present is predicted to lead to a negligible degree of change to the combined experience of physical attributes and perceptible responses that contribute to WLQs. Relatively small parts of the WLA where the higher strength of wildness is experienced would be affected, comprising some higher mountain areas towards the central core at considerable distance from the Proposed Varied Development where a context of existing wind farm development is already perceived. Other areas closer		

	to the periphery of the WLA where intervisibility would be experienced are more closely influenced by other contemporary land use and features in the nearer context. Overall, this is considered to be a very small effect in the context of the identified WLQs and the WLA as a whole. A localised minor (not significant) effect during construction and operation is predicted to the strength of wildness around the more central peaks of the WLA. However, the contribution of this effect to the value of the WLA as a whole is predicted to be negligible. There would be no perceptual degree of effect to any of the WLQs.
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1.3 Local Context

Table 1.3.1: Mull of Kintyre LLA

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LLA, located 10.8km south from the Proposed Varied Development, encompasses the southernmost end of the Kintyre Peninsula and Sanda Island to its south. The core of the LLA consists of rounded hills characterised by a forest / moorland mosaic which separate the low lying landscape of Aros Moss to the north, from a fertile, farmed southern coastal plain. Enclosed farmed glens, Glen Breackerie and Glen Conie, cut through the rounded hills featuring scattered settlement of isolated farms. To the south of the hills, the farmed coastal plain area lies at the mouths of these glens, sloping down to a coastline of long, sandy beaches and rocky outcrops. Settlement is mostly focussed within this coastal plain with the small village of Southend forming the greatest concentration of residential development within a wider setting of farms and cottages. The coastline to east and west is rock bound but is of strikingly different character with the east coast of slumped cliffs and rocky bays being relatively accessible, followed by a narrow road with occasional isolated properties, whilst the western coastline is very remote, with rugged, high cliffs backed by isolated moorland with limited accessibility. The LLA has a strong remote and secluded character with island-like qualities due to its remoteness, rugged coastline, uplands and distance by road from more central parts of Scotland, being surrounded on three sides by sea. The LLA also features a high concentration of historic sites which reflect its historically important position as an outpost on the south-western tip of Argyll. These include castle ruins at Dunaverty, prehistoric funerary or domestic monuments and lighthouses at Mull of Kintyre and Sanda Island. Long, sea views towards the surrounding land masses of Northern Ireland, the Ayrshire coast and the Isle of Arran, in which the islands of Alisa Craig and Sanda Island form a focus, give an important contribution to the wide scenic value of this LLA.
Key Characteristics	• Dominant series of large hills separating Aros Moss to the north from the southern coastal edge and providing a backdrop to both landscapes (e.g. The Slate, Tirfergus Hill and Kerran Hill); • Enclosed and sometimes settled valleys, with rounded hilltops above (e.g. Glen Breackerie, Strone Glen and Conie Glen); • Accessible, diverse eastern and southern coastline of contrasting cliffs and coastal plain, raised beach, rock-bound bays and scattered settlement; • Exposed and rugged western cliffs; • Moorland hills with qualities of wildness in the south-western part of the LLA.
Landscape Value	This is a landscape of regional importance, which is appreciated for its scenic qualities, historical features and its rugged and remote character by residents, tourists and visitors. It's recognition as an LLA gives it a generally high landscape value.
Landscape Baseline	
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	On-going management within the LLA may have led to some changes in forest and woodland cover. However, this has not led to any noticeable change in the wider character, and therefore no noticeable direct changes in the baseline characteristics of the landscape have been observed. However, outwith the LLA, Auchadaduie, Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) and Blary Hill wind turbines within the central part of Kintyre have been constructed since the 2018 EIA Report and therefore the influence of wind development within the northern context has slightly increased.

Consented Development – Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a minor (not significant) effect to the LLA during construction and operation. It was noted that only localised parts of this LLA would theoretically obtain intervisibility with the Consented Development, mostly elevated ground in the central hills. It was considered that these areas are already affected to some degree by the Operational Development turbines and small single turbines south of Campbelltown. The turbines associated with the Consented Development would be noticeably larger and may have an effect of appearing to bring the northern Kintyre Hills closer. Whilst this in itself was not necessarily considered negative, it would potentially increase the prominence of wind turbines along parts of the northern boundary of the LLA. However, it was considered that this would be a very localised effect and that valued coastal aspects of this landscape would be unaffected. At a distance of at least 18km, it was not considered that there would be any effect on the wildness values of the south-western hills. Although sensitivity for this area was considered to be high, magnitude of change was predicted to be low leading to the minor (not significant) effect.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Sensitivity	Whilst some parts of this landscape may have potential to accommodate some development similar to that proposed, coastal and smaller scale settled landscapes are considered very susceptible to large scale wind energy development. Although wind farm development is present in the wider context, there is no existing wind farm development within the LLA which increases the susceptibility to change. This is considered to lead to a high sensitivity overall when taking account of the high value of the landscape. Landscape sensitivity is still considered to be high.
Magnitude of Change	The comparative ZTV (see Figure 5.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development and Figure 5.4: Designated and Protected Landscapes) indicates that there would be few areas of increased intervisibility between the LLA and the Proposed Varied Development compared to the Consented Development. The Proposed Varied Development would be similarly experienced from elevated areas within the LLA, from the summits and facing slopes of the forest/ moorland interior within LCT 39. However, the proposed turbines would appear larger within the northern context which would lead to them appearing closer, particularly from western and central hilltop areas where a greater proportion of the turbine towers, hubs and blades would usually be seen. From eastern areas, the Proposed Varied Development would be less often seen in full, but the taller turbines would typically lead to a greater number and proportion of hubs, blades and tips being present in comparison with the Consented Development. Much of the intervisibility indicated by the ZTV would occur within forested areas and therefore would be likely to be less frequent due to enclosure by trees. ZTV analysis suggests that there would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development from coastal areas and smaller glens and only limited, localised visibility from the larger valleys within this LLA (refer to Figure 5.4: Designated and Protected Landscapes). The localised nature of change which would vary between perceptible and noticeable is considered to lead to a low – medium Magnitude of Change during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would appear similar to the Consented Development when experienced from elevated areas within the Mull of Kintyre but the taller turbines would appear more prominent and in effect closer within the views across the open landscape of Aros Moss from northern parts of the LCT where they would appear much closer than other existing wind turbines. This may affect the perception of scale and distance within the landscape, as noted in the assessment of

	LCT 39 (see Technical Appendix 5.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types), leading to the LLA hills feeling less distinct from upland areas to the north of Aros Moss due to the more present influence of wind farm development. However, due to topographical screening and forest, this would be only occasionally experienced and would therefore be a localised effect. There would be limited effects on glen areas which are mostly contained by the hills. Although some turbines would begin to become prominent when travelling out of the LLA through Conie Glen, this would be associated with the landscapes beyond the LLA rather than affecting the appreciation of the LLA itself and would reflect the existing contrast between the LLA and the northern hills where wind farms are more prevalent. The increase in turbine size would also be likely to draw the effects of the Proposed Varied Development closer to the more remote hill tops of the south-west of the LLA, and this would lead to some localised effects on the qualities of remoteness within western and south-western parts of the LLA which currently feel distant from other wind farm developments. There would be no effect on the qualities of coastal areas. The level of landscape effect is predicted to increase within <i>localised</i> parts of the LLA to minor – moderate (not significant) during construction and operation. This would occur across hills around the northern boundary where the distinction between the designated LLA area and the hills to the north would be diminished, and the moorland hills in the south-west where qualities of remoteness would be slightly reduced.
Change to Effect Significance	The level of effect is predicted to slightly increase within localised areas compared to that for the Consented Development but would remain not significant, changing from minor (not significant) to <i>localised</i> minor – moderate (not significant).

Table 1.3.2: West Kintyre Coast LLA

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LLA is located 1.2km from the Proposed Varied Development and extends along the western coast of the Kintyre peninsula from Westport, up north to Corran Point near Portachoilan, at the mouth of West Loch Tarbert. The Proposed Varied Development 40km Study Area encompasses the southern and central parts of LLA, extending northwards to Rhunahaorine Point. The LLA within the study area comprises a distinctive and diverse coastline with a section of coastal plain comprising pasture and arable fields along the Sound of Gigha. The LLA contains a transitional landscape from rocky shoreline, through rough crumbling cliff faces and raised beaches enclosed to the east by undulating moorland. Within the south of the LLA, the rugged, rocky character of the shoreline is broken by small sandy bays backed by rough grassland and green pastures, immediately sheltered by bluff slopes, often with distinctive solifluction landform, transitioning into moorland further inland. Linear settlement pattern and caravan parks are found at the Bellochantuy Bay and Muasdale where the coastline is more indented with small sandy bays, backed by craggy cliffs with rocky boulders, jagged gullies and waterfalls. The landscape in the vicinity of Tayinloan becomes more agricultural in character and further north, near Rhunahaorine the landscape transitions into a wetland coastal plain with conifer woodlands and hedgerows. The LLA is relatively well settled and accessible by the A83 road (Kintyre 66), except for the shore near Glenacardoch Point which displays some rugged characteristics. The Kintyre Way crosses through Kilmory and extends northwards along the coast of the LLA. Historic landuse is evident in archeological remains including forts, burial ground, duns, standing stones, cairns and cist burials.

Special Qualities	• Strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by distinctive landform. Steep, bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the rocky coast; • Contrast of exposed, and at times rocky, character of the coastal strip and pastoral areas nearby; • Distinct pockets of secluded settlement in the south where space permits, such as at Bellochantuy; • Contrasting expansive and almost level landscape in the vicinity of Rhunahaorine Point, where the sky opens up to match the scale of the sea and scale of the nearby uplands stands out.
Landscape Value	This is a highly valued landscape for its coastal character and strong connection with the sea and nearby islands and its recognition as a LLA gives it a generally high landscape value.
Landscape Baseline	
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	On-going management within the LLA may have led to some localised changes in settlement and woodland cover. However, this has not led to any noticeable change in character, and therefore no noticeable direct changes in the baseline characteristics of the landscape have been observed. Outwith the LLA, Auchadaduie, Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) and Blary Hill Wind Farms have been constructed within the central part of Kintyre since the 2018 EIA Report. However, visibility of these developments is very limited within the LLA.
Consented Development – Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a minor – moderate (not significant) effect to the LLA during construction and operation. It was noted that only small areas of the LLA would be intervisible with the Consented Development with turbine blades and tips appearing intermittently above the bluff slopes which enclose the narrow coastal strip. There is relatively limited visibility of the Operational Development turbines in this area, mostly comprising the appearance of blade tips only above bluff slopes and it was predicted that the Consented Development would affect a greater area of the LLA with larger sections of turbine blades and sometimes hubs appearing skylined. Wider but more distant intervisibility would be theoretically shared with the more open landscapes further north towards Rhunahaorine Point. However, the Consented Development was predicted to appear distant and barely perceptible from this distance. The appearance of moving blades above the bluff slope would be infrequent but large and locally distracting where experienced, interrupting the skyline of the inland backdrop. This was predicted to lead to a noticeable change to views in these small areas resulting in a range of isolated significant visual effects but the wider coastal experience and valued coastal aspect of the LLA would remain largely unaffected. The contribution of a small number of infrequently obtained significant visual effects from individual viewpoints was considered unlikely to lead to a significant effect on the integrity and value of the LLA overall. Sensitivity of the LLA was noted to be high due to its high value and small, intimate scale which is very susceptible to change. Magnitude of change was anticipated to range between low - medium up to around 8km from the Consented Development and negligible beyond that distance.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. The small scale coastal landscapes which are experienced at close proximity, intimate sense of enclosure formed by the steep bluff slope separating it from the upland interior, and expansive coastal vistas are considered to be highly susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity is still considered to be high.

Magnitude of Change	The comparative ZTV (see Figure 5.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development) indicates that there would be some localised areas of increased intervisibility between the LLA and the Proposed Varied Development, compared to the Consented Development. This would be likely to involve a few areas where the blades or tips of the taller turbines would appear above the bluff slopes in a similar way to the Consented Development. In other areas where the consented turbines would already be present, the larger turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would be typically more prominent with increased numbers of turbine tips and hubs visible compared to the Consented Development, and turbines likely to appear taller above the bluff slopes. Overall, this would lead to a slightly more frequent appearance of turbines, which would often be very noticeable, within parts of the LLA south of Glenacardoch Point. Further north between Glenacardoch Point and Rhunahaorine Point the majority of the LLA would remain largely unaffected. The Comparative ZTV (see Figure 5.3: Comparative ZTV of the Consented Development and Proposed Varied Development) indicates some increased theoretical visibility around Tayinloan towards Rhunahaorine point between around 15km and 20km from the Proposed Varied Development. This would be mostly limited to a small grouping of blades and tips above the southern skyline which would appear relatively distant though greater numbers of turbines would be seen from the outer Point. This would form a perceptible increase in the scale and appearance of turbines in views down the coast from this area but would be generally similar to the Consented Development and very localised in the context of the LLA. Overall, the change is predicted to be notable within localised parts of the LLA leading to a medium Magnitude of Change during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development would be similar to that of the Consented Development where the turbines would appear intermittently, but would be very noticeable and prominent, above the inland bluff slopes which contain the coastal strip. However, the taller turbines would lead to this effect being experienced more frequently and in places more prominently. This greater prominence of turbines would appear more present and imposing on the small-scale coastal landscape where existing settlement and development is tucked in the base of the bluff slopes, closely reflecting the distinct topographical patterns. This may disrupt the sense of scale and enclosure, and the perceived separation between the interior uplands and the coastal rocky mosaic area (as noted for LCT 53 Sub-area A (see Technical Appendix 5.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types)). As it would be experienced in the inland context, the Proposed Varied Development would not affect the more immediate coastal aspects of the LLA or appreciation of the rocky foreshore, but would form a prominent feature within linear southerly views towards Mull of Kintyre from open raised beach and shingle areas where there is currently limited visibility of existing wind developments (see VP1: A83 at Glenbarr Burial Ground (Figures V3b-1.1 – 1.5)). This could be distracting and alter the perception of the scale of the inland backdrop in views along the coast, particularly when experienced from the section between Bellochautuy Bay and Glenacardoch Point but would be less noticeable in more distant open vistas from the north of the LLA near Rhuanahaorine Point, where only limited intervisibility would be obtained. The increased prominence and frequency of the Proposed Varied Development in the southern part of the LLA between Westport and Glenacardoch Point compared to the Consented Development is predicted to lead to a localised moderate (significant) effect within around 8km of the Proposed Varied Development during both construction and operation. However, beyond this distance, the Proposed Varied Development is not predicted to alter the appreciation of the LLA and the effect would be negligible.

Change to Effect Significance	The level of effect within the southern section of the LLA between Westport and Glenacardoch Point is predicted to rise from a minor – moderate effect which would not be significant to moderate effect which would be <u>locally significant</u> . However, the effect on the northern part of the LLA, north of Glenacardoch Point, would remain unchanged.
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