

Tangy IV Wind Farm Section 36C Variation

Technical Appendix 5.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 5.3: ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	Landscape Character Types	4
	Table 1.2.1: LCT 39: Plateau Moor and Forest (previously Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)	4
	Table 1.2.2: LCT 47: Bay Farmland	7
	Table 1.2.3: LCT 52: Coastal Plain - Argyll	10
	Table 1.2.4: LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll (previously Rocky Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)	11
	Table 1.2.5: Inland Glen (LCT 53)	15
	Table 1.2.6: LCT 54: Low Coastal Hills	17
	Table 1.2.7: LCT 55: Coastal Parallel Ridges	19
	Table 1.2.8: LCT 58: Sand Dunes and Machair	21

1. Technical Appendix 5.3: Assessment of Landscape Character Types

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Appendix sets out the assessment findings for the Landscape Character Assessment included within the 2018 EIA Report, outlining any changes to the assessment for the Proposed Varied Development.
- 1.1.2 The 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde¹, which the LCTs included in the 2018 EIA Report were based on, has now been replaced by the 2019 National Landscape Character Assessment issued by NatureScot. These areas correspond to the areas covered by the 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and Bute, although some of the names and descriptions have been updated.
- 1.1.3 This assessment considers the LCTs included within the 2018 assessment, focusing on any LCTs where significant effects were previously identified or where there is potential for effects to increase to significant levels. It will, however, use the updated names and descriptions from the more recent NatureScot LCT dataset.
- 1.1.4 As the detailed study area has been increased from 11km to 20km, a number of new LCTs are included in this assessment. For LCTs which were not included within the scope of the 2018 EIA Report a retrospective assessment of the Consented Development has been undertaken to allow for comparison between the Consented and Proposed Varied Developments.
- 1.1.5 The following Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the detailed study area have been included within the assessment, as they were identified within the 2018 EIA Report as potentially experiencing landscape effects of minor - moderate or above as a result of the Consented Development, or are otherwise considered to have potential for effects to increase to significant levels (as illustrated in **Figure V3a-5.5: Landscape Character Types within Detailed Study Area**):
- LCT 39: Plateau moor and forest (previously Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)
 - LCT 47: Bay Farmland
 - LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll (previously Rocky Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)
 - LCT 54: Low Coastal Hills
 - LCT 58: Sand Dunes and Machair
- 1.1.6 In addition, the following LCTs which were located outside of the study area for the Consented Development and therefore not included within the 2018 EIA Report, have been identified for inclusion within the assessment:
- LCT 55: Coastal Parallel Ridges
 - LCT 52: Coastal Plain - Argyll
- 1.1.7 To account for more fine-grained variations in landscape character, the area comprising Conie Glen, which is included as part of LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll within the

¹ Environmental Resources Management (1996). Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde. Scottish Natural Heritage

NatureScot LCT dataset, has been assessed as a separate landscape character type, referred to as 'Inland Glen (LCT 53)' in this assessment.

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

1.2 Landscape Character Types

Table 1.2.1: LCT 39: Plateau Moor and Forest (previously Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)

Landscape Baseline	
Description – Sub-area A	This sub-area, within which the Proposed Varied Development would be located, encompasses much of central Kintyre and comprises an undulating plateau with rounded slopes, increasing in elevation to the north. Landcover consists of moorland, with some upland pasture and blanket bog, and areas of forestry, in a relatively large scale pattern, which is continually changing as a result of forest management. There are occasional rocky outcrops or lochs. The settlement pattern is relatively sparse, consisting of isolated farmstead usually found in more sheltered areas. Wind farm development is a common characteristic of this landscape, with several wind farms situated within this LCT.
Description – Sub-area B	This sub-area occurs to the south of Aros Moss, to the east and west of Conie Glen. It comprises upland moorland with areas of forestry. Settlement is sparse and generally focused around coastal areas, where there are areas of pasture. Coastal areas also feature craggy cliffs, which often lead steeply down to the sea, and there are often expansive views out towards the sea from open hill tops. Some minor roads and forestry tracks are found within this sub-area. This sub-area is less strongly characterised by wind development, as no wind farms are directly situated within it, although many of the wind farms situated within sub-area A form part of the wider landscape context to the north.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics are noted for the Plateau Moor and Forest LCT by NatureScot: • Upland plateau with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile. • Upland lochs. • Winding narrow glens and wider glens with rivers. • Extensive, large-scale mosaic of open moorland and forest. • No field boundaries. • Very few buildings; occasional isolated dwellings on edges of moor. • Small enclosed pastures and occasional farms and houses on lower hill slopes at the transition with adjacent character types and within the narrow glens which dissect these uplands. • Little access: roads follow shorelines. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Remote upland character, despite close proximity to settled fringes and transport routes. • Series of rounded hills (e.g. Ranachan Hill) which are distinct from the main upland 'spine' of Kintyre in their open outlook and cultural heritage importance. • Existing pattern of commercial wind energy development.
Landscape Value	This is a relatively common landscape type throughout the majority of the inland parts of the Kintyre peninsula. Whilst it provides an important backdrop to coastal and low lying areas and provides recreational opportunities, it is considered to be of generally reduced value within the wider context. Landscape value is considered to be medium.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	The construction of Auchadaduie, Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) Wind Farms within this LCT since the 2018 EIA Report has increased the influence of wind turbine development.

Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a moderate (significant) effect within this LCT during construction. There would be a direct effect within this LCT as the Consented Development would involve removal of some existing turbines and replacement with fewer turbines of larger scale and across a greater footprint. It was noted that during construction, felling and construction works would appear similar to existing forestry operations, but likely to be greater in intensity and area affected, forming a more noticeable area of activity. This would reduce to a localised moderate (significant) effect during operation. It was found that many of the areas where there was theoretical visibility already have intervisibility with the Operational Development but that new areas would also be affected including around Loch Lussa and Glen Lussa. However, the existing Beinn an Tuirc wind farm is already visible from parts of Loch Lussa. The forested character of the LCT would often limit the influence and prominence of wind turbines in these areas (although this is a changing situation due to forestry operations). Where present as a feature in the landscape, the Consented Development would appear larger than the Operational Development and would be more prominent in some areas, particularly from open areas and when seen in relation to existing hills. In the latter case the larger turbines may sometimes appear to diminish the height and distinction of hills. This effect would occur in close proximity in relation to hills such as Ranachan Hill on the southern fringes of the LCT, and also when seen more distantly on the horizon from the north. In some locations, in the core of the LCT where other existing turbines are present, the greater size and footprint of the Consented Development could contribute to an encircling impression with gaps and distance between the Operational Development and other developments being less noticeable. In these areas wind turbines may be seen as a more continuous and defining feature of the landscape. Landscape sensitivity for this LCT was considered to be medium. The magnitude of change was predicted to be medium during construction and medium during operation up to around 5 km from the Consented Development, reducing to low beyond this distance as the Consented Development would be seen at greater distances and other wind farms have a similar influence on these areas.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Upland plateau with rounded ridges, craggy outcrops and an irregular slope profile. • Remote upland character, despite close proximity to settled fringes and transport routes. • Small enclosed pastures and occasional farms and houses on lower hill slopes at the transition with adjacent character types and within the narrow glens which dissect these uplands. • Series of rounded hills (e.g. Ranachan Hill) which are distinct from the main upland 'spine' of Kintyre in their open outlook and cultural heritage importance. • Existing pattern of commercial wind energy development.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a relatively common landscape type throughout the majority of the inland parts of the Kintyre peninsula. Whilst it provides an important backdrop to coastal and low lying areas and provides recreational opportunities, it is considered to be of generally reduced value within the context. The construction of Auchadaduie, Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) since the 2018 EIA Report has made wind development a more common characteristic within sub-area A of this LCT, slightly reducing its susceptibility to development of this type. However, susceptibility is somewhat higher within sub-area B, which is included within the Mull of Kintyre APQ, and provides a backdrop to both the southern coastal edge and Aros Moss to the north. This sub-area is less directly characterised by wind development. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be medium for both sub-areas.

Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The larger scale turbines may alter the remote upland character within the upland plateau. • The appearance of larger wind turbines on the skyline above the glens may become a dominant characteristic and diminish the more small-scale character in these areas. • The appearance of larger wind turbines could affect the sense of scale of the rounded hills and may distract in open views obtained from these hills. • The removal of the Operational Development turbines and introduction of the Proposed Varied Development may alter the balance and pattern or increase the prominence of turbines within some parts of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	Within sub-area A, the ZTV suggests that intervisibility would be concentrated within around 5km of the Proposed Varied Development, on the surrounding plateau and within glens, and across higher hills and ridges beyond, up to around 10km, with some more distant, intermittent intervisibility beyond these areas. There would be some small areas of additional intervisibility, compared with the Consented Development, from lower slopes within 5km, and from an area to the south of Cruach nan Gabhar, mostly characterised by forest. While many of these areas already have intervisibility with the Operational Development, some new areas would be affected including around Loch Lussa and Glen Lussa, although the existing Beinn and Tuirc Wind Farm is already visible around parts of Loch Lussa. The forested character would often limit the influence and prominence of wind turbines in these areas. The Proposed Varied Development would appear noticeably larger than the Operational Development and would be more prominent in some areas, particularly from open areas and when seen in relation to existing hills. The Proposed Varied Development would appear larger and more prominent than the Consented Development. Larger numbers of hubs and tips would be visible within some areas, with this change being particularly noticeable within some of the glen areas where landform previously obscured more of the turbines. The increase in scale compared with the Consented Development would be particularly noticeable within the more small-scale, rural landscapes immediately to the south of the Proposed Varied Development, within approximately 2km, where the turbines are likely to appear prominent. Within sub-area B, the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced in the northern context, mainly from summits and facing slopes, with intervisibility often contained by forestry. Theoretical visibility would be similar to that of the Consented Development, although there would be some additional intervisibility from the north-facing slopes of A' Chruach and Corr Bhan to the south-west, and around Kerran Hill to the south-east, although this would be limited by forest. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear larger within the northern context which would lead to them appearing closer, particularly from the northern parts of this LCT sub-area and from western and central hilltop areas where a greater proportion of the turbine towers, hubs and blades would usually be seen. Within sub-area A magnitude of change is anticipated to be medium - high during construction up to around 2km of the Proposed Varied Development and medium elsewhere. It is anticipated to be medium - high during operation up to around 2 km from the Proposed Varied Development, and medium up to 5km. Beyond this the magnitude of change would reduce to low. Within sub-area B, the magnitude of change is anticipated to be locally low - medium within western and central hilltop areas, and low elsewhere during both construction and operation.

Significance of Effect (summary of key changes)	Within sub-area A, the larger scale of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would lead to them appearing more prominent than the Consented Development. While they would often be experienced from areas where the Operational Development is already visible, the larger turbines may appear to diminish the height and distinction of the hills on the southern fringes of this sub-area, and also when seen more distantly on the horizon from the north. Wind development is an established characteristic within this sub-area, and the construction of wind farms including Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) since the 2018 EIA Report has increased the presence of wind development within this LCT. The removal of the Operational Development turbines and their replacement with the larger Proposed Varied Development turbines may further increase the dominance of wind development as a characteristic within this LCT and contribute to an encircling impression. However, from the northern and eastern parts of this sub-area in particular, they would often appear less prominent in relation to other intervening wind developments. The Proposed Varied Development may appear more prominent than the Consented Development from some of the lower lying glen areas, particularly within the immediate southern context, where it is likely to become a dominant feature and detract from the small-scale characteristics of these areas. However, within more distant glen areas, such as around Glen Lussa, the usually low numbers of turbines visible and the localised nature of these effects this is unlikely to detract from the small-scale characteristics of these areas. During construction, felling and construction works would appear similar to existing forestry operations, but would likely be greater in intensity and area affected, forming a more noticeable area of activity. From sub-area B, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be experienced on the northern skyline within views across Aros Moss, where they may slightly diminish the perceived scale of the hills to the north and appear closer than the Consented Development, particularly from the northern parts of this sub-area. They would also appear closer than other existing wind turbines. However, due to topographical screening and forest cover, these effects would be localised within the sub-area. The larger turbines are also likely to appear closer when experienced from the more remote hill tops to the south-west. Within sub-area A, the resultant effect on the landscape character during construction is therefore predicted to be locally moderate - major (significant) within the immediate context of the Proposed Varied Development up to around 2km, and moderate (significant) elsewhere, remaining moderate - major (significant) within up to 2km during operation, moderate (significant) up to around 5km from the Proposed Varied Development, and reducing to minor (not significant) elsewhere. Within sub-area B, the effect is predicted to be minor - moderate (not significant) within localised parts of this LCT, and minor (not significant) elsewhere.
Change to Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would increase the landscape effect within the immediate context of the Proposed Varied Development within 2km. This is largely due to potentially increased effects on the low-lying glen area to the south of the Proposed Varied Development. Outwith this area, there would not be an increase in the predicted effect ratings for this LCT.

Table 1.2.2: LCT 47: Bay Farmland

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT, located approximately 1.2km to the south of the Proposed Varied Development, comprises a broad, low-lying and gently undulating area which extends across the broad lowland vale between Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay, contained by surrounding elevated moorland. To the west there is a gradual transition to sand dunes, which back the beach at Machrihanish Bay. It is generally an open,

	expansive landscape, with very few trees, and a relatively simple landcover, consisting of large fields, used for pasture or arable land. Large patches of peaty marsh are found in low-lying areas. Expansive views can be obtained across the flat, open terrain. Settlement consists of houses and farmsteads in a regular pattern and a well-established network of major and minor roads, including the A83 which runs through this LCT. The airfield at Machrihanish, with associated buildings, security fencing and lights is a prominent feature. There is also a golf course extending along the sand dunes north of Machrihanish.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics for the Bay Farmland LCT are noted by NatureScot: • <i>Broad coastal bay of gently undulating farmland with smooth, rounded slopes.</i> • <i>Pasture predominates, with some arable fields.</i> • <i>Patches of bog and damp grassland in low-lying areas.</i> • <i>Large fields, typically enclosed by straight wire fences.</i> • <i>Prominent airfield development.</i> • <i>Small, active sand and gravel works.</i> • <i>Straight drainage ditches and narrow, straight roads and tracks.</i> • <i>Relatively well settled, regularly dotted with farms and houses.</i> • <i>Open, windswept and expansive landscape, prominent in views from the surrounding elevated moorland.</i> In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • <i>Historic pattern of roadside settlement with scattered farmsteads Campbeltown Airport conflicts with this.</i> • <i>Expansive vistas across the flat, open farmland.</i>
Landscape Value	This is a settled LCT, and its flat terrain is unusual on the Kintyre peninsula but relatively common and unremarkable in a broader context. It is not considered that there are any changes to the landscape value since the 2018 EIA Report. Landscape value is considered to be medium.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	The construction of Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) wind farms in the adjacent LCT 39 since the 2018 EIA Report has increased the influence of wind turbine development in the northern context.
Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a moderate (significant) effect to this LCT. It was noted that the Consented Development would comprise a replacement to the Operational Development, present within this context but would be noticeably larger and would affect a larger part of the containing horizon when seen from southern and western parts of the LCT, bringing its influence closer to this LCT. The increase in scale of the turbines was considered likely to result in them appearing as more prominent features where visible, affecting a slightly larger part of the LCT. In some locations, the Consented Development would appear larger on the enclosing hills and turbine tips would more frequently form the highest part of the horizon when compared to the Operational Development, potentially diminishing the perceived height of the enclosing hills. Whilst it was considered that this may affect the perception of these hills, it would not necessarily affect the sense of containment and would result in a change to only one part of the wider context. This significance of effect rating reflected a sensitivity level which was considered to be medium. Magnitude of change was predicted to be medium.

Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Open, windswept and expansive landscape, prominent in views from the surrounding elevated moorland. • Historic pattern of roadside settlement with scattered farmsteads. • Expansive vistas across the flat, open farmland.
Landscape Sensitivity	This LCT is already affected to some degree by the Operational Development and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) Wind Farm within the northern surrounding hills and a few small scale turbines on the fringes. It is an actively managed landscape with existing features associated with the Campbeltown Airport also present. Nevertheless, its open character and small-scale settlement and the relatively low containing hills are susceptible to change. Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be medium.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • Potential for the larger sized wind turbines within the surrounding elevated moorland to alter the perceived scale of the backdrop and appear prominent across the open agricultural plain. • The introduction of the Proposed Varied Development in place of the Operational Development on the northern hills containing this LCT could form an increased large scale focus distracting from the small scale settlement patterns. • Introduction of larger turbines within the existing vistas could be more prominent and create a more distracting feature than the existing wind farm.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT from the Proposed Varied Development. While there is extensive intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development within this LCT, the ZTV indicates very little increase in the extent of intervisibility compared to the Consented Development. The extent of intervisibility would increase slightly within the northern part of this LCT, adjacent to the A83, where generally small numbers of tips would be seen above the northern horizon. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear larger and more prominent than the Consented Development turbines in the context of containing hills to the north, and would occasionally affect a larger part of the containing horizon when seen from southern and western parts of the LCT. This would result in a noticeable change within part of the surrounding context and is considered to lead to a medium magnitude of landscape change during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect (summary of key changes)	The larger scale of the turbines would further increase their prominence within the northern context in comparison with the Consented Development, potentially further bringing their influence closer to this LCT, and diminishing the perceived height of the enclosing hills. However, this would only affect part of the wider context. While the turbines would be seen in a similar part the context as the now operational Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) turbines, they would appear closer and more prominent. The larger scale turbines would become more of a focus compared to the Consented Development turbines particularly from the southern parts of this LCT, where they may appear distracting in vistas across the open landscape and distract from the small scale settlement pattern. The landscape effect is predicted to be moderate (significant).
Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect identified within this LCT.

Table 1.2.3: LCT 52: Coastal Plain - Argyll

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT occurs on the west coast within the study area, to the north of Muasdale, where it encompasses a narrow coastal strip stretching up to around Rhunahaorine Point. It comprises a relatively flat, coastal landscape, which has been drained for agricultural use, including large rectilinear fields and rough pasture, backing mudflats, sandy bays and rocky headlands. The landscape is generally open and exposed, although there are occasional stands of trees and hedgerows. This LCT is bounded to the east by the A83 road, which separates it from the adjacent Rocky Coastland LCT. Settlement consists of isolated farms, with narrow tracks leading up from the A83. Seaward views are obtained looking towards Gigha.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics are noted for the Coastal Plain - Argyll LCT by NatureScot: • Completely flat, linear coastal plain, backed by a coastal road. • Straight, angular field patterns and lanes. • Gradual transition from agricultural fields to marsh, mud flats and beach. • Open, exposed character. • Post and wire fencing encloses fields. • Predominantly pasture, but some arable fields. • Remnant clumpy gorse hedgerows and stunted, wind-blown trees. • Isolated farmsteads and some development along coastal road. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • The upland interior provides a backdrop to the coastal landscape.
Landscape Value	This LCT forms part of the West Kintyre (Coast) APQ and is valued for its coastal character and recreational opportunities associated with its beaches and the Kintyre Way long distance route which stretches from Tarbert to Southend / Machrihanish. Landscape value is considered to be high.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	<i>This LCT was not included within the 2018 assessment.</i>
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • The upland interior provides a backdrop to the coastal landscape
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Its open, exposed character makes it susceptible to development of the type proposed. Views inland are somewhat more enclosed by the surrounding hills. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The appearance of wind turbines within the inland context may affect the relationship with the interior uplands

Magnitude of Change – Consented Development (Retrospective Assessment)	There would be no direct change to this LCT. ZTV coverage indicates that intervisibility would be limited to a localised area around Rhunahaorine Point, where small numbers of hubs and tips would be perceptible above the distant skyline to the south (approximately 19km away), above forestry. Intervisibility would gradually decrease further inland from Rhunahaorine Point, and there is no theoretical visibility from other parts of this LCT. The Operational Development turbines are not visible, or are barely perceptible from the westernmost tip of Rhunahaorine Point. Magnitude of change is considered to be locally low around Rhunahaorine Point, and elsewhere negligible.
Magnitude of Change – Proposed Varied Development	The ZTV indicates some additional visibility for the Proposed Varied Development, compared to the Consented Development, extending slightly further inland near Rhunahaorine Point. This additional visibility would generally comprise small numbers of turbine tips, in some cases limited by forest. Higher numbers of hubs and tips would be visible from further west compared to the Consented Development, although this would still represent a very localised change within the wider landscape context. There would be no theoretical visibility from other parts of this LCT. Magnitude of change is considered to be locally low around Rhunahaorine Point, and elsewhere negligible.
Significance of Effect – Consented Development (retrospective Assessment)	Effects on this LCT would be indirect, resulting from the appearance of the Consented Development in the distant interior upland context to the south-east. These effects would be localised to a small part of this LCT around Rhunahaorine Point and would affect a small part of the inland backdrop to this LCT. As the Operational Development turbines are not visible, or are barely perceptible, from here, it would introduce wind turbines as a new characteristic in this part of the wider context. However, due to distance and limited intervisibility it is not considered that this would noticeably alter the key characteristics of this landscape. The resultant effect on landscape character from the Consented Development during construction and operation is therefore considered to be minor (not significant).
Significance of Effect – Proposed Varied Development	The larger scale of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would make them appear slightly more noticeable in the south-eastern landscape context compared to the Consented Development turbines, although this would still represent a change to a localised part of the wider inland context, experienced from a small part of this LCT. While the Proposed Varied Development would form a new perceptible feature, due to the distance involved it is not anticipated that this would affect the relationship with the interior uplands, and would not detract from the valued coastal qualities of this landscape. The resultant effect on landscape character during construction and operation is therefore considered to be minor (not significant).
Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect identified within this LCT.

Table 1.2.1: LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll (previously Rocky Mosaic in 1996 Landscape Assessment of Argyll and the Firth of Clyde)

Landscape Baseline	
Description – Sub-area A	This LCT is present across Argyll and Bute. Sub-area A is found on the west coast of Kintyre, north of Westport. It comprises a narrow coastal edge, and is usually characterised by an uneven landform, featuring rounded rocky knolls, steep, craggy cliffs, as well as small sandy bays. Landcover is varied, with a small-scale, unpredictable character, comprising rough moorland on upper slopes, and pasture on lower slopes, with gorse and birch woodland growing in steep gullies, and areas of broadleaf woodland within more sheltered glens for example within Glenbarr, which combine to

	give the landscape a natural character. Within the study area, this landscape is relatively well-settled, featuring settlement clusters as well as scattered dwellings, connected by a network of major and minor transport routes, including the A83 which follows the western Kintyre coastline, offering scenic coastal views. Parts of this LCT feature archaeological remnants from various time periods.
Description – Sub-area B	Sub-area B is found around the settlement of Machrihanish and includes the rocky coastline between Machrihanish and Leac Buidhe. Rising up gently from the coast, the inland landscape is characterised by rough pasture and patches of broadleaf woodland, with conifer blocks around the southern edge of this landscape character type. This area has a relatively settled, agricultural character, with settlement focused around Machrihanish, and scattered farmsteads within other parts of this landscape. The B842 passes through this LCT and forms its northern boundary.
Description – Sub-area C	Sub-area C includes the bay around Campbeltown Loch on the eastern coast of Kintyre, and generally has a more developed character compared to the other sub-areas. It includes the town of Campbeltown, and surrounding properties, which are connected by transport routes including the B842 and A83. Infrastructure associated with the harbour and flood defences around Campbeltown give the coastline a more managed and less natural character than within other sub-types. The bay is enclosed by surrounding hills, which feature pasture on lower slopes and moorland on the upper slopes, with the hills to the south being more forested. The surrounding hills and Davaar Island, which is situated at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch, give the landscape a more enclosed character in contrast to the western coastline.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics are noted for the Rocky Coastland – Argyll LCT by NatureScot: • Uneven, hummocky landform with rocky outcrops and narrow glens. • Raised beaches, cliffs and distinctive rounded knolls. • Rocky, indented coastline with offshore islands and small sandy bays. • Relatively small-scale landscape with a diverse mix of colours and textures. • Steep wooded cliffs and hummocky, gorse-covered slopes. • Stone walls provide partial enclosure. • Relatively well-settled, with scattered isolated farm buildings and small villages in sheltered sites. • A wide variety of archaeological sites. • Complex transitional landscape. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Dramatic topography often leads to a distinct separation from adjacent landscape character types both in terms of visibility and accessibility. • Strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by distinctive landform. Raised beach and steep, bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the rocky coast.
Landscape Value	This LCT includes a number of coastal landscapes which are valued for their scenic and recreational opportunities with the eastern and western coasts also falling within areas recognised by Argyll and Bute Council as APQs. Consequently, landscape value is considered to be high.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	The construction of Auchadaduie, Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) Wind Farms in the adjacent LCT 39 since the 2018 EIA Report has increased the influence of wind turbine development within the inland context.

Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a localised minor - moderate effect within the western coastal unit (Glenbarr to Westport), particularly around Glenbarr where the increase in turbine height would result in the wind farm becoming a more prominent feature on the skyline and greater focal point, appearing closer and potentially diminishing the perceived scale of the landform. Further south, along the coast larger turbine blades would appear intermittently above the skyline within the elevated agricultural areas above the raised beach. They would also occasionally appear above the enclosing bluff slopes from areas of raised beach. These areas currently experience only limited effects or more localised effects from the Operational Development. The Consented turbines would be likely to appear large and may disrupt the sense of perceived separation between the interior uplands and the coastal rocky mosaic area. It was noted that whilst this change would be noticeable, it would be localised and would not affect the more valued coastal aspects of the LCT unit. Within more distant LCT units, including those to the south around Machrihanish and Campbeltown, the effect was considered to be minor. While the larger scale turbines would affect a slightly larger area than is currently affected by the Operational Development and lead to a perceptible degree of change within this wider landscape, it was considered unlikely that this would result in a noticeable change to the valued characteristics of these areas. These significance of effect ratings reflect a sensitivity level for this LCT of high, with Magnitude of low - medium during construction and operation between Glenbarr and Westport (up to around 8 km from the Consented Development), and a low magnitude of change beyond this distance and for eastern and southern LCT units, as well as for the LCT resource as a whole.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Relatively small-scale landscape with a diverse mix of colours and textures. • Dramatic topography often leads to a distinct separation from adjacent landscape character types both in terms of visibility and accessibility. • Strong connection with the sea and nearby islands, directed in some areas by distinctive landform. Raised beach and steep bluff slopes separate the interior uplands from the rocky coast
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Although the Operational Development has some indirect influence in some localised areas, the small scale coastal landscapes which are experienced at close proximity, intimate sense of enclosure of raised beach areas, and expansive coastal vistas are considered to be highly susceptible to change of the type proposed. Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The appearance of wind turbines may distract from the smaller scale elements of the coastal landscape • The appearance of wind turbines may create greater connection between built elements within the interior upland and the coastal area • The appearance of wind turbines within the inland context may distract from the coastal aspects of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. Indirect change would be in the form of intervisibility with turbines in the surrounding landscape context. The ZTV indicates that the extent of intervisibility for the Proposed Varied Development would be very similar to that of the Consented Development.

	Within <u>Sub-area A</u> the Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear noticeably larger than the Operational Development turbines and become a more prominent focal point particularly near Glenbarr, where the turbines would be experienced on the skyline within the interior upland to the south. Within the more southern parts of this sub-area, there would be intermittent intervisibility above the enclosing bluff slopes. Although visibility would be more limited within the southern parts, where they appear above the bluff slopes the turbines would appear particularly close and prominent from here. While the extent of theoretical visibility would be similar to that of the Consented Development, more tips and hubs would be seen above the skyline for the Proposed Varied Development. Magnitude of change would be medium within Sub-area A. Within <u>Sub-Area B</u> to the south of Machrihanish, the ZTV also indicates very little increase in the extent of intervisibility within this area compared to the Consented Development. From most areas the full extent of the turbines would be experienced, appearing more prominent than the Consented Development turbines in the northern context beyond Machrihanish Bay. They would appear considerably larger and closer than the Operational Development turbines which they are replacing. They would be experienced in a similar part of the context as the Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) turbines, although they would appear closer. This is likely to lead to wind turbines becoming a more noticeable characteristic within this context, potentially appearing closer than the Consented Development. Magnitude of change would be low - medium within Sub-area B. Within <u>Sub-Area C</u> around Campbeltown, the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced above the moorland hills to the north-west, in a context where the Operational Development turbines are currently not visible, although Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) wind farm features in a similar part of the landscape from some of the southern parts of this LCT. While there would be some additional areas of theoretical visibility from lower slopes to the south compared with the Consented Development, this would comprise limited numbers of turbine tips, with intervisibility limited by buildings within Campbeltown. From upper slopes within the southern part of this sub-area, higher numbers of tips and hubs would be experienced above the skyline compared with the Consented Development. This has the potential to make wind development a more perceptible feature within the inland context. Magnitude of change would be low within Sub-area C.
Significance of Effect (summary of key changes)	Within <u>Sub-area A</u> the increased scale of the Proposed Varied Development turbines compared to the Consented Development would increase their influence within the inland context, potentially appearing closer than the Consented Development and diminishing the perceived scale of the landform. They would be experienced in a context where there is currently limited influence from existing wind developments. To the south, where turbines would be experienced above the enclosing bluff slopes, they would be likely to appear large and may disrupt the sense of perceived separation between the interior uplands and the coastal rocky mosaic area. While this would reflect a localised change, the taller turbines leading to this effect being experienced more frequently and in places more prominently. The more valued coastal aspects of this sub-area would remain unaffected. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be moderate (not significant) within Sub-area A. Within <u>Sub-area B</u>, the larger scale of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would bring them closer within the northern context, increasing the influence of wind development within this part of the wider landscape context, particularly from the northern part of this LCT near Machrihanish. However, from most of this LCT the turbines would still appear external, and their effect on the small-scale, coastal characteristics of this LCT would be limited. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be minor - moderate (not significant) within Sub-area B.

	Within <u>Sub-area C</u> , the Proposed Varied Development would similarly increase the influence of wind development within the inland context. Their larger scale would bring the turbines slightly closer, but they would continue to be experienced as external to this landscape, where the focus is directed towards the coast and would be unlikely to distract this, particularly considering the relatively developed character within this sub-area. The overall influence of the Proposed Varied Development is considered to be comparable to that of the Consented Development. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be minor (not significant) within Sub-area C.
Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect within Sub-area C. The Proposed Varied Development would slightly increase the landscape effect on Sub-areas A and B of this LCT. The localised change within sub-area A from minor - moderate (not significant) to moderate (significant) would result in a new significant effect within this part of LCT 53.

Table 1.2.5: Inland Glen (LCT 53)

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT comprises Conie Glen, which is an inland glen with a north-south orientation situated within the south of Kintyre, set within adjacent upland areas. It has a generally small scale, rural character, with landcover on the glen floor consisting of pasture, with patches of broadleaf woodland found along watercourses, while the upper slopes are characterised by moorland and blocks of forestry. Landcover is gently undulating. The northern part of this LCT has a strong connection with the adjacent Bay Farmland LCT, with open views obtained across Aros Moss towards the upland areas to the north, whereas further south the character becomes more contained. Settlement consists of scattered properties and farms, which are usually accessed from the B842 which runs along the glen floor.
Key Characteristics	The following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Relatively small-scale landscape, with scattered farm buildings connected by the B842. • Gently undulating landform, enclosed by adjacent upland areas. • Landscape opens up to the north with expansive vistas across Aros Moss. • Pasture predominates on the glen floor, with some arable fields.
Landscape Value	This is a settled LCT, which is relatively common in a broader context, but is valued at a regional level for its small-scale rural character, as recognised by its inclusion within The Mull of Kintyre APQ by Argyll and Bute Council. Landscape value is considered to be medium - high.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	The construction of Blary Hill and Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) Wind Farms within LCT 39 since the 2018 EIA Report has increased the influence of wind turbine development within the northern context, experienced from the northern part of this LCT.
Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	<i>Note: Inland Glen, forms part of LCT 53: Rocky Coastland – Argyll but has been considered as a separate landscape character type for the purposes of this assessment. It was outside of the 11km detailed study area used for the 2018 EIA and therefore not considered within the assessment for the Consented Development.</i>

Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: - Relatively small-scale landscape, with scattered farm buildings connected by the B842. - Landscape opens up to the north with expansive vistas across Aros Moss.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Although there is some influence from existing wind farm development within the northern part of this LCT, the small-scale landscape pattern and expansive vistas to the north would be somewhat susceptible to change of the type proposed. Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be medium.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: - The appearance of wind turbines may distract from the smaller scale elements of the landscape. - The appearance of wind turbines within the northern context may distract in extensive vistas across Aros Moss.
Magnitude of Change – Consented Development (Retrospective Assessment)	There would be no direct change to this LCT. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility would be concentrated within the northern part of this LCT near its transition with LCT 47: Bay Farmland, from the glen floor and from facing slopes where the glen opens up towards Aros Moss. The Consented Development turbines would mainly be experienced from areas where the Operational Development turbines are currently seen within a similar context, although the larger scale of the turbines would make them a more prominent focal point, and would result in a greater area of the landscape backdrop being occupied by turbines. The turbines would be experienced on the skyline of the moorland hills to the north across Aros Moss. All 16 turbines would usually be seen, in most cases including both hubs and tips. Magnitude of Change is considered to be locally Low - medium within the northern part of this LCT near the transition with LCT 47, and elsewhere negligible where there would be no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development.
Magnitude of Change – Proposed Varied Development	There would be no direct change to this LCT. Indirect change would be in the form of intervisibility with turbines in the context of the uplands to the north, from the northern part of this LCT near its transition with LCT 47: Bay Farmland. The extent of intervisibility for the Proposed Varied Development would be very similar to that of the Consented Development. Due to their larger scale Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear somewhat more prominent in comparison with the Consented Development turbines. Magnitude of Change is considered to be locally Low - medium within the northern part of this LCT near the transition with LCT 47, and elsewhere negligible where there would be no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development.
Significance of Effect -Consented Development (Retrospective Assessment)	While the Consented Development would be experienced in a part of the wider landscape context where the Operational Development turbines are already present, they would become a much more prominent focal point within the moorland hills in expansive vistas to the north across Aros Moss, when experienced from the northern part of this LCT, making wind development a more prominent feature within the wider landscape context, and diminishing the perceived scale of these hills. However, it would be experienced within a context that is clearly separated from this landscape type, and unlikely to affect the small-scale elements of this landscape. Effects would be limited to the northern part of this landscape near its transition with LCT 47: Bay Farmland. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be locally minor - moderate (not significant) near the northern boundary, and negligible (not significant) elsewhere.

Significance of Effect – Proposed Varied Development	The taller stature of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be likely to further increase their prominence as a focal point within the northern landscape context and diminish the perceived scale of the moorland hills within this context, appearing to bring the turbines closer to this landscape. However these effects would still be limited to a small part of this LCT, and a localised part of the wider landscape, unlikely to affect the small-scale elements of this landscape. Much of this LCT would remain unaffected, as the ZTV indicates that the extent of intervisibility would be similar to that of the Consented Development. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be locally minor - moderate (not significant) near the northern boundary and negligible (not significant) elsewhere.
Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect identified for this LCT.

Table 1.2.6: LCT 54: Low Coastal Hills

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT is found 6.7 km to the east of the Proposed Varied Development, within Glen Lussa and further south around Smerby. A small area of this LCT is also found along the southern coast of Kintyre². It comprises a farmed landscape which features low, undulating hills with an irregular landform, and narrow winding glens. Rocky outcrops occur on the more elevated summits, covered by gorse and scrub, while lower elevations are characterised by a patchwork of large-scale fields. Fields are used predominantly for pasture, although some arable land is present. There are small bays with narrow beaches along the coast. The landscape is generally open, although some woodland is present. It is a relatively well-settled landscape, with scattered groups of houses and farm buildings. Long views can be obtained, with adjacent areas of upland moorland forming an important backdrop.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics for the Low Coastal Hills LCT are noted by NatureScot: • Uneven, undulating landform, with many abrupt breaks of slope. • Broad, undulating valleys with tributary streams in steep, winding gullies. • Outcrops of rock on hilltops. • Narrow sandy beaches at coast. • Irregular, fairly large-scale field pattern. • Isolated groups of buildings and farms. • Open landscape with few trees, backed by steep moorland ridges. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Framed views up through glens into the upland interior.
Landscape Value	This landscape forms a part of the east Kintyre Coast APQ and is valued for its gentle coastal character and vistas up and down the coast and towards the Kilbrannan Sound and Arran. Landscape value is considered to be high.

² Due to the limited theoretical visibility and distance to the Proposed Varied Development this LCT unit has been scoped out of the detailed assessment.

Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	While the construction of Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) wind farm in the adjacent LCT 39 since the 2018 EIA Report may have marginally increased the influence of wind turbine development within some parts of this LCT, intervisibility with these is very limited.
Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a minor effect on this LCT, during construction and operation. The Consented Development would appear within framed views inland along Glen Lussa which currently do not feature any wind turbines. Whilst it may become a noticeable focus within these views, it would not affect the generally seaward valued aspects of this LCT nor its perceived scale. The area potentially affected comprises a relatively small part of the LCT and it was therefore considered that these changes would be localised. This significance of effect rating reflects a sensitivity level which is considered to be high, due to its small scale components, with magnitude of change predicted to be Low.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Open landscape with few trees, backed by steep moorland ridges. • Framed views up through glens into the upland interior.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape with small scale components which are very susceptible to change. Landscape sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The presence of wind turbines within the western context may appear prominent within the open landscape and could affect the perceived scale of the moorland interior. • Potential for indirect effects due to the presence of turbines within inland valley views where turbines are not currently visible.
Magnitude of Change	The ZTV indicates that there would be intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development within the northern part of this LCT, largely focused along the glen floor north of Peninver, where the Proposed Varied Development would be experienced in the north-western context in framed views along Glen Lussa which currently do not feature any wind turbines. There would be some additional intervisibility compared with the Consented Development, extending slightly further up the glen slopes particularly on the northern side, consisting mainly of turbine tips seen above the skyline. From the glen floor larger numbers of hubs and tips would be experienced in framed views, and there would be some additional intervisibility within the northern part of Peninver. However, these changes would still be relatively localised within part of this LCT. Magnitude of change would still be considered low.
Significance of Effect (summary of key changes)	Within views along Glen Lussa, due to the larger scale of the turbines, the Proposed Varied Development may become a more prominent focus in views compared with the Consented Development and may appear to slightly diminish the scale of the moorland hills within the inland context, where the Operational Development turbines are currently not visible, particularly when experienced from areas higher up the glen. However, this would not affect the coastal qualities or seaward valued aspects of this LCT, and the overall influence of the turbines would remain comparable to that of the Consented Development. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be minor (not significant).

Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect identified within this LCT.
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Table 1.2.7: LCT 55: Coastal Parallel Ridges

Landscape Baseline	
Description	This LCT, which is found on the isle of Gigha within the study area, comprises a series of narrow rocky ridges. Landcover consists of a mosaic of deciduous woodland, areas of moorland and small pastures. The rocky coastline features small sandy bays and mudflats. The eastern side of the island is relatively well-settled, with scattered crofts and small settlement clusters, the largest of these being Ardmish, connected by the minor road which traverses the island north to south. There are also a number of hotels and tourist accommodation. Settlement is more sparse on the western side of the island. There is a more domestic character around estates such as Achamore House, which contrasts with the more rugged, natural character along the coastline.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics are noted for the Coastal Parallel Ridges LCT by NatureScot: • Narrow rocky ridges with a strong south-west/north-east alignment, which break down to form chains of rocky islands at the coast. • Horseshoe-shaped, narrow sandy bays and extensive mudflats. • Stunted oak-birch woodlands on the rocky ridges separating narrow marginal pastures, marsh or lochs. • Small blocks of conifers. • Stone walls enclosing fields and along lanes. • Small settlements, concentrated at coves. • Rich variety of archaeological sites. • Small estates. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Strong connection with the sea, with open seaward vistas obtained along the coastline towards the Kintyre mainland and other islands
Landscape Value	Whilst it is not covered by any designations, this LCT is valued for its recreational opportunities, scenic views and its coastal character, including its rocky coastline and sandy bays. Landscape value is considered to be high.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	<i>This LCT was not included within the 2018 assessment.</i>
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Strong connection with the sea, with open seaward vistas obtained along the coastline towards the Kintyre mainland and other islands
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a valued landscape, which provides recreational opportunities. It's open coastal views would be susceptible to the introduction of new large-scale development. Landscape sensitivity is considered to be high.

Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: The appearance of wind turbines on the Kintyre peninsula may distract in open seaward vistas.
Magnitude of Change – Consented Development (Retrospective Assessment)	The ZTV indicates that intervisibility with the Consented Development would be concentrated within the south-eastern part of Gigha, along facing slopes, although there would also be some intervisibility to the south-west near Meall a' Ghlamaidh, and to the north around Eilean Garbh and near Kilnearach. The Consented Development would be experienced in seaward views towards the Kintyre peninsula, where it would be seen on the distant skyline to the south-east, usually featuring all 16 turbines. It would mainly be experienced within areas where there is currently intervisibility with the Operational Development turbines, although the turbines would appear noticeably taller, making it a more prominent feature in views. Magnitude of change is considered to be low within this LCT.
Magnitude of Change – Proposed Varied Development	The ZTV indicates similar levels of intervisibility for the Proposed Varied Development compared to the Consented Development, which would be concentrated within the south-eastern part of Gigha, along facing slopes, although there is also some intervisibility to the south-west near Meall a' Ghlamaidh, and to the north around Eilean Garbh and near Kilnearach. The turbines would usually be experienced within a context where there is already intervisibility with the Operational Development turbines, although they would appear noticeably taller. While the turbines would appear larger and slightly more prominent in views towards the Kintyre peninsula compared with the Consented Development turbines, due to the distance the difference in scale would be less noticeable, and their overall influence would be comparable. Magnitude of change is considered to be low within this LCT.
Significance of Effect – Consented Development (retrospective Assessment)	All effects on this LCT would be indirect, resulting from the appearance of the Consented Development in the south-easterly landscape context, where it would be experienced in open seaward views towards Kintyre. From the majority of areas, it would be experienced in a context where the Operational Development turbines already feature within the same part of the landscape, although the larger scale of the turbines may result in turbines becoming more of a focus where experienced above the distant Kintyre skyline. It would also usually be experienced in the context of other existing wind development on the mainland, as well as Gigha and Extension Wind Farm in the more immediate landscape context. Due to the distance, the turbines would usually be experienced as a small part of the wider landscape context and are unlikely to detract from the key characteristics of this LCT. The resultant effect of the Consented Development on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be minor (not significant).
Significance of Effect – Proposed Varied Development	The taller stature of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be perceptible, making them appear slightly more prominent in the south-easterly landscape context than the Consented Development. This may potentially make them more of a focus in seaward views towards Kintyre. However considering the wider context, their overall influence would be comparable to that of the Consented Development. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be minor (not significant).
Change to Effect Significance	No change is predicted to the level of effect identified for this LCT.

Table 1.2.8: LCT 58: Sand Dunes and Machair

Landscape Baseline	
Description	Within the study area this LCT is found on the west Kintyre coast, within Machrihanish bay, and encompasses sandy beaches and rocky outcrops with dunes. This is a landscape with a relatively simple pattern, consisting of extensive dunes, broken by dune ridges, which support patches of marram grass. The sand dunes are often bordered by arable fields further inland. While the dunes themselves are uninhabited, the surrounding landscapes are relatively well-settled. This LCT is important for recreation and tourism, particularly associated with hotels and golf courses. There is an open and exposed character to the landscape and extensive views can often be obtained along the coast.
Key Characteristics	The following key characteristics are noted for the Sand Dunes and Machair LCT by NatureScot: • Open, windswept sand dunes in broad coastal bays. • Calcareous grasslands with important and rare plant communities. • Patches of marram grass. • Strong contrasts in colour and texture between dunes and the large, fertile arable fields inland. • Large, prominent farms. • Golf courses and hotels. In addition, the following characteristics have been noted within the study area: • Expansive seaward and coastal vistas. • Sense of openness and exposure but with small scale intimacy within dune slacks.
Landscape Value	This LCT is valued for its recreational opportunities and as a relatively rare sandy beach on the Kintyre peninsula. It is also valued as a feature of the views obtained from outwith the LCT – e.g. from Machrihanish. Landscape value is considered to be high.
Changes to the Landscape Baseline since 2018 EIA Report	The construction of Beinn an Tuirc (Phase 3) Wind Farm in the adjacent LCT 39 since the 2018 EIA Report has slightly increased the influence of wind turbine development in the north-eastern context from the southern part of this LCT.
Consented Development - Summary of Landscape Effects	
Summary of 2018 LVIA	The 2018 LVIA identified a minor (not significant) effect within this LCT during construction and operation. While the Operational Development turbines are prominent within the landscape context and coastal vistas on the hills to the north, the Consented Development would appear noticeably larger and more imposing within this context with the turbines appearing potentially greater in height than the hills on which they are situated. This may form a distracting feature when looking north along the beach or create a greater focus in views across the beach from areas such as Machrihanish. However, given the prominence of the Operational Development turbines, it was considered that this would not result in a very noticeable change to landscape characteristics, and the effect would be limited in its extent, affecting only a small part of the surrounding context and not affecting the more valued seaward aspect. Landscape sensitivity for this LCT was considered to be high. The magnitude of change was predicted to be low during both construction and operation.
Proposed Varied Development – Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this landscape which may be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise:

	• Strong contrasts in colour and texture between dunes and the large, fertile arable fields inland. • Expansive seaward and coastal vistas • Sense of openness and exposure but with small scale intimacy within dune slacks.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Although its openness and presence of existing, similar features, may theoretically be able to accommodate some level of development of the type proposed. Its expansive sea and coastal vistas and fragile dune systems are considered to be highly susceptible to changes, whilst its small-scale patterns are also susceptible to the imposition of large scale patterns of development. Sensitivity to change is therefore considered to be high.
Potential Effects	Potential effects which may result to this landscape comprise: • The appearance of the larger wind turbines has potential to become a more distracting or dominant feature in the landscape context to the north, affecting the relationship between the dunes and the inland landscape • The larger turbines may appear more dominant within views along the coast to the north. • The presence of the larger turbines within the landscape context to the north could be more imposing than the existing smaller wind turbines and affect a perceived sense of openness.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. The ZTV indicates extensive intervisibility within this LCT, which is largely consistent with the intervisibility for the Consented Development. However, there would be a small area of additional intervisibility for the Proposed Varied Development within the northern area, generally comprising one or two turbine tips. The turbines would usually be experienced from areas where the Operational Development wind turbines are already prominent within the landscape context and coastal vistas on the hills to the north but would appear noticeably larger within this context. Overall, the turbines would appear taller and more prominent than the Consented Development turbines. Larger numbers of tips and hubs would be visible within the northern part of the LCT, compared with the Consented Development. Particularly within the southern part of this LCT, the turbines would appear noticeably taller and more imposing within the inland landscape. To the north, where intervisibility with existing turbines is more limited, the Proposed Varied Development may result in a greater degree of change. Magnitude of change for the Proposed Varied Development is anticipated to be medium within this LCT during construction and operation.
Significance of Effect (summary of key changes)	Given the prominence of the Operational Development turbines, the Proposed Varied Development would not introduce wind turbines as a new characteristic into this landscape, however, they would appear noticeably larger than the existing turbines. They may appear greater in height than the hills on which they are situated, potentially forming a distracting feature when looking north along the beach or create a greater focus in views across the beach from areas such as Machrihanish. The turbines would appear more prominent than the Consented Development turbines, particularly as experienced from the beach area, within the southern part of the LCT. They may appear to bring wind turbine development closer, potentially affecting the relationship with the inland landscape and impacting coastal vistas looking north. However, this would affect only one part of the surrounding context and would not affect the more valued seaward aspect. Within the northern part of this LCT the turbines would be more peripheral to the coastal setting. Within the dune stacks, the Proposed Varied Development would have a less noticeable impact on the setting, due to the less open character within these areas. The resultant effect on the landscape character during construction and operation is therefore predicted to be moderate (significant).

Change to Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would result in a new significant effect within this LCT, increasing the landscape effect from minor (not significant) to moderate (significant).
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