

Appendix 6.3 Viewpoint Assessment

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APPENDIX 6.3 Viewpoint Assessment

Introduction

This appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from a selection of 18 viewpoints, illustrated on Figure 6.14. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines. A comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts is given for each viewpoint. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

The viewpoint assessment considers both the existing visual baseline and also considers the future baseline scenario, as set out in section 6.5 of the main LVIA chapter, in which the consented wind farms at Douglas West (now under construction), Dalquhandy, Cumberhead, Kype Muir Extension and Kennoxhead are present in the landscape, as this is a material consideration to the application proposals.

A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in Table A6.3.1 of this Appendix and is replicated at Table 6.6 of the LVIA (EIA Report Volume 1, Chapter 6). Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating carried forward to Table A6.3.1 (replicated at Table 6.6 of Chapter 6) is the rating that represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint. Each assessment viewpoint is illustrated in Volume 4 of the EIA Report.

Viewpoint 1 – Coalburn, Muirburn Place

Viewpoint 1 is located approximately 4.7 km to the east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.37**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of views experienced by residents of Coalburn, as well as those experienced by road users travelling along the Coalburn Road between Lesmahagow to the north and Coalburn.

Coalburn is a nucleated settlement situated to the west of the M74 and B7078, clustered around several minor roads that lead west from Nether Fauldhouse, south from Lesmahagow and south-east from Porterhall and lies adjacent to the boundaries between the Plateau Farmland (LCT5), Plateau Farmland Opencast Mining (LCST5b) and the Plateau Moorland (LCT 6).

The foreground to the view comprises post and wire fencing bordering the roadside, with scattered trees to the west of the road and around properties along Shoulderigg Road in the left hand part of the view. The landscape extending west from Coalburn comprises the generally flatter plateau moorland to the north-west and the gently rounded form of the former open cast mining area, characterised as plateau farmland opencast mining to the south-west and is generally a combination of both managed and unmanaged grassland and open moorland. This lower lying land allows longer range views west towards the low hills covered by coniferous plantations that form the horizon of the view framing the lower lying plateau moorland and providing the backdrop to the view.

Over time the landscape to the west of Coalburn has been subject to significant human intervention through the former open cast mining activities that took place and it continues to be a productive landscape through the management of plantation woodlands to the west for a timber crop.

Wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline experienced in a westerly direction by residents and road users. Four of the six existing Nutberry wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint, forming prominent vertical elements extending above the skyline in views to the south-west of Coalburn in the left hand part of the view while to the north-west, some of the existing wind turbines of Auchrobert and Kype Muir wind farms can be clearly seen in the distance extending above the horizon to the view. Once constructed the consented turbines at Dalquhandy Wind Farm will be sited to the immediate south-west of the village and the consented turbines of Cumberhead Wind Farm will be sited over 3 km to the south-west behind Dalquhandy Wind Farm.

The sensitivity of residential receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by receptors in their homes. The sensitivity of road users is assessed as medium as views will be transient in nature and experienced at an oblique angle while travelling along the route in an undesignated landscape likely to be of no more than local value, whose susceptibility is lowered due to the presence of a number of existing wind farms to the west.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the view between the existing Nutberry and Kype Muir/Auchrobert wind farms, with the nearest turbine (T20) situated over 4.7 km to the west. The turbines will form noticeable vertical elements that will appear above the forest canopy but due to a combination of distance from the viewpoint and landform, will not intrude above the canopy to a great extent. The forest plantation will screen all ground-level components from view, limiting views to the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades.

The proposed turbines are taller in height than the existing Nutberry and Kype Muir wind turbines and although sited slightly closer to the viewpoint only appear slightly larger in scale and only slightly more prominent than the Nutberry turbines. However, they are located over 4.7 km away from the viewpoint and are sited within the existing forest plantation within a part of the landscape where wind farms are an established component of the

view. As such they appear contiguous with Nutberry Wind Farm and contained within the same landscape type as the adjacent schemes. This limits the influence of the turbines on the landscape and prevents them appearing to cross into the plateau moorland landscapes to the east that provide the setting to Coalburn.

Considered against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view. Although the turbines are taller than other nearby turbines, due to the distance from the viewpoint and the intervening landform they appear just above forest canopy and sat low within the landscape so as to not encroach into the plateau moorland in the foreground. As the view is already strongly influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not greatly influence the overall visual character.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Dalquhandy that will be situated in much closer proximity to the viewpoint and appear much more prominent in the view, and the Cumberhead and Kype Muir Extension to the north-west, the Proposed Development would continue to result in a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Assessed against the existing baseline the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views experienced by residential receptors in this location that would be significant, while road users would experience **moderate** effects that would not be considered significant due to views being glimpsed and experienced intermittently at a perpendicular angle to the route.

Moderate effects would continue to be experienced by residential receptors in the future baseline scenario but they would no longer be considered to be significant due to highly prominent Dalquhandy turbines close to the village that would more strongly influence the visual character. Road users would continue to experience **moderate** effects that would not be significant.

Viewpoint 2 – M74 Overbridge

Viewpoint 2 is located approximately 7.8 km to the east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.38**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views of transient users of the minor road crossing the M74 motorway. The photograph has been taken adjacent to the bridge which crosses over the M74 motorway, on the road which travels between the B7078 towards Douglas Water to illustrate the availability of clear views which can be gained in the direction of the site from the bridge.

This viewpoint was originally selected to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the M74 motorway. However, after analysis of the motorway route, and the anticipated low sensitivity and orientation of the driver's line of sight being away from the turbines resulting in limited opportunities to view the proposed turbines, it was decided that a greater effect would be experienced from the minor road crossing the motorway. When travelling in the vicinity of the viewpoint in a northerly direction along the M74, the Proposed Development would be located to the west of the receptor. Beyond the immediate views of the motorway infrastructure, views extend towards a predominantly rural landscape with the landform undulating and rising towards hills in the distance. The view looks across the recently regenerated opencast coal site where the consented Douglas West Wind Farm is located. The vegetation cover consists primarily of grassland which appears to be a combination of managed and unmanaged fields. Individual trees and tree belts are scattered across the landscape. Plantations can be seen in the distance, and cover many of the hill tops in the far distance. While roadside vegetation partially filters such westerly views.

The B7078 runs parallel to the motorway, and although relatively quiet, fast moving vehicles can be seen crossing the landscape along this route as well as the M74. Telegraph poles and overhead wires follow the B7078 and extend into the distance. Several farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, many of which are protected by tree shelter belts. Evidence of quarrying/opencast activity is also visible in the middle distance. A site of large, commercial scale storage/distribution warehouses can be seen from the viewpoint and the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are clearly visible at the top of Henry's Hill. The Nutberry and Galawhistle Wind Farms are also visible within the view.

As this viewpoint represents the view from a minor road, the receptors are considered to be of medium sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

Where gaps in roadside vegetation allow, there would be clear views towards the Proposed Development at a distance of over 7.8 km. The proposed turbines would form a prominent feature in the view to the west, but they would be seen in the context of the simple, medium to large scale underlying landscape that already includes commercial scale wind energy development.

All of the Proposed Development turbines would be seen in the view in the same part of the landscape as the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Galwhistle and Nutberry turbines.

The proposed turbines which are sited at a similar distance from the viewpoint as the Nutberry turbines are taller in height and thus will appear slightly larger in scale and slightly more prominent in the view. However, they will not appear disproportionately out of scale with the adjacent Nutberry turbines and are sited within the existing forest plantation within a part of the landscape where wind farms are an established component of the view. As such they appear contiguous with Nutberry Wind Farm and contained within the same landscape type as the adjacent schemes, limiting the influence of the turbines on the landscape.

Considered against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view. The Proposed Development will introduce change to the view

and will introduce clearly noticeable additional elements to the view. However, as the view is already influenced by commercial scale wind energy development the Proposed Development will not in itself strongly influence the overall visual character.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Douglas West and Dalquhandy that will be situated in much closer proximity to the viewpoint, Cumberhead and Kype Muir Extension to the north-west, the Proposed Development would introduce additional elements to the view but these would be experienced in the context of the existing wind energy development that extends across the horizon of the view, reinforcing the existing visual character, resulting in a low/medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views experienced by road users in this location that would not be significant due to the angle of view and the distance from the viewpoint and the amount of existing wind energy development that strongly influences the visual character.

However, when considered against the future visual baseline road users would experience **moderate/minor** effects that would not be significant.

Viewpoint 3 – Lesmahagow-Hillcrest

Viewpoint 3 is located approximately 6 km to the north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.39**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint has been selected to represent the views experienced by residents on the outskirts of Lesmahagow, situated 6 km to the north-east of the Proposed Development, along the B7078 and approximately 3 km to the north of Coalburn. The view is representative of views experienced by receptors along the western edge of the settlement. Views within the settlement itself will largely be filtered by surrounding properties, landform and vegetation.

Views extend in a westerly direction across the deeply incised, wooded River Nethan valley to the predominantly rolling rural landscape beyond. This comprises regular-shaped managed grassland fields bordered by a mix of drystone walls and managed hedgerows. Individual properties, farms and larger farm buildings are dotted across the landscape with extensive tree cover extending through the river valley and up the rising landform beyond. These elements combine to give the view a settled rural character. Distant hills provide the backdrop to the view, with the notable hills of Tod Law, Standingstone Hill and Nutberry prominent in the background. These hills are covered in part by coniferous woodland plantation. An overhead steel lattice pylon line crosses through the view and further woodpole lines cross through the rural landscape.

Wind farm development is an established component of existing views experienced from this viewpoint. The existing wind farms of Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Galawhistle and Nutberry are prominent vertical elements extending above the skyline in views to the south-west in the left hand part of the view. In the right hand part of the view to the north-west, the single Letham Farm wind turbine can be clearly seen extending above the horizon.

Once constructed the consented turbines at Dalquhandy Wind Farm will be sited to the south-west and will be seen in the same part of the view as the existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension wind farms. The consented turbines of Cumberhead Wind Farm will be sited over 5.2 km to the south-west beyond the existing Nutberry Wind Farm.

The sensitivity of residential receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by receptors in their homes.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a small proportion of the view to the east of the existing Nutberry Wind Farm, with the nearest turbine (T19) being situated over 6 km to the west. The turbines will form noticeable vertical elements that will be seen against the skyline. Through a combination of distance, topography and screening provided by vegetation, all ground-level components will be screened from view, limiting views to the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades, although Turbines 7, 10, 12, 15, 16 and 19 are almost entirely screened from view with just the upper blade tips visible above the intervening landform.

The proposed turbines are situated slightly closer to the viewpoint than the existing Nutberry wind turbines and due to their larger size will appear very slightly larger in scale and slightly more prominent in the view. However, they are located over 6 km away from the viewpoint and are sited within a part of the landscape where wind farms are an established component of the view. As such they appear contiguous with Nutberry Wind Farm and the other existing wind farms along the horizon of the view and contained within the same landscape type as the adjacent schemes, thereby limiting their influence on the landscape.

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view. It will introduce prominent additional elements to the view that will occupy a small

proportion of the overall view but will increase the horizontal extent of wind turbines within the view. However, as the view is already influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not in itself greatly influence the overall visual character.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Dalquhandy that will be situated in much closer proximity to the viewpoint and the consented Cumberhead Wind Farm, the magnitude of change would remain as medium. This is because the Proposed Development will extend wind turbines across an additional part of the view.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views experienced by residential receptors in this location that is considered to be significant.

Considered against the future visual baseline residential receptors would continue to experience **moderate** effects although the effects would no longer be considered significant.

Viewpoint 4 – Minor Road, Brackenridge

Viewpoint 4 is located approximately 3.6 km to the north north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.40**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint represents views experienced by road users travelling along this minor road linking areas to the south-east with the B7076 to the north and is also of relevance to views from some scattered residential properties to the west of Lesmahagow. It also serves to mark the transition between the Plateau Farmland (LCT 5) at the left hand edge of the view situated to the north-west of the road and the rolling moorland LCT in the central part of the view in the foreground and middleground and to the south-west of the road.

The view is characterised by the smooth, rounded form of Auchrobert Hill in the foreground to the south-west of the road with the existing turbines of Auchrobert Wind Farm on top of the hill. In the distance beyond Auchrobert the Kype Muir turbines are visible against the skyline on top of the hills to the west.

To the south-west the smooth rolling landform continues with the more distant rounded hilltops covered in conifer plantations providing the backdrop to the view. The existing turbines of Nutberry, Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension are visible to the south-west on the high ground in the left hand part of the view.

Landcover mainly comprises managed and rough grassland adjacent to the road with occasional tree belts, scattered properties and farms. This upland farming landscape gives way to the more elevated open moorland to the south-west and the wooded hilltops in the central part of the view.

As already mentioned, wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline in views experienced by residents and road users. Nine of the Auchrobert turbines are visible, forming highly prominent vertical elements on the top of Auchrobert Hill in the foreground of the view. Four of the six existing Nutberry wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint, forming prominent vertical elements extending above the skyline in views to the south-west of the road in the left hand part of the view while to the north-west, the more distant Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are much smaller components of the view, yet noticeable on the skyline to the south-east.

The sensitivity of residential receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by receptors in their homes. The sensitivity of road users is assessed as medium as views will be transient in nature and experienced at an oblique angle while travelling along the route in an undesignated landscape likely to be of no more than local value, whose susceptibility is lowered due to the presence of a number of existing wind farms.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the view between the existing Nutberry/Galawhistle and Auchrobert wind farms, with the nearest turbine (T19) situated over 3.6 km to the south. The turbines will form prominent vertical elements on the skyline on the higher ground to the west that forms the backdrop to the view. The forest plantation will screen all ground-level components from view, limiting views to the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades.

The proposed turbines are taller in height than the existing Nutberry and Auchrobert turbines but appear smaller in scale than the Auchrobert turbines which are closer to the viewpoint. The proposed turbines are sited within the existing forest plantation within a part of the landscape where wind farms are an established component of the view. As such they appear contiguous with Nutberry Wind Farm and contained within the same landscape type as the adjacent schemes.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a high magnitude of change to the existing view, introducing prominent additional elements to the view situated

between the existing Nutberry and Auchrobert wind turbines. However, as the view is already strongly influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not greatly influence the overall visual character.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Dalquhandy to the south-east and Cumberhead, the Proposed Development would continue to result in a high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by residential receptors in this location that would be significant while road users would experience **moderate/major** effects. Although views will be glimpsed intermittently perpendicular to the road, they are considered significant.

When considered against the future visual baseline residential receptors would continue to experience **major** significant effects and road users would continue to experience **moderate/major** effects that would continue to be significant.

Viewpoint 5 – Sandford, School Road

Viewpoint 5 is located approximately 7.7 km to the north north-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIA and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.41**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint has been selected to represent the worst-case views that would be experienced by residents of Sandford, situated over 7.5 km to the north north-west of the Proposed Development on School Road. Views within the settlement itself will be partially filtered by surrounding properties and vegetation.

The existing view is across the gently sloping Kype Water valley. Improved grassland fields bordered by post-wire fencing extend from School Road down into the valley and are punctuated by dwellings and farm buildings, with occasional scattered trees. This pattern of managed grassland fields with intermittent belts of trees and scattered properties extends up the southern valley side, giving way to fields of rough grassland on the higher slopes. The view is framed by the low, rounded landform of Kypes Rig and Araburn Rig, which is partly covered in trees to the south-west but more open to the south-east in the direction of the Proposed Development.

Wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline experienced in southerly views from Sandford. In the south-westerly part of the view the existing turbines of Kype Muir Wind Farm are prominent vertical elements on the horizon of the view, with the distant blade tips of Dungavel Wind Farm just visible above the hills. In the south-eastern part of the view the existing turbines of Auchrobert Wind Farm and the individual turbines at North Brackenridge and at High Waterhead Farm are noticeable vertical elements on the horizon. The Kype Muir Wind Farm is situated approximately 3.1 km to the south of the viewpoint while Auchrobert Wind Farm is situated approximately 4.5 km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

The sensitivity of residential receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by receptors in their homes.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the view in the same part of the view that Auchrobert Wind Farm is situated. The turbines will form barely noticeable elements that will be largely screened from view by the intervening landform to the south of Sandford, such that only the blade tips of 16 turbines will be visible above the landform. These will appear as diminutive elements within the view compared to the existing wind farms of Auchrobert and Kype Muir that are both situated closer to the viewpoint and both occupy a more prominent elevated position on the high ground to the south of the settlement.

For these reasons the Proposed Development will result in a very low magnitude of change in both the existing and future baseline scenarios.

Significance of Effect

When considered against both the existing and future baseline scenarios It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in **Minor/no effect** on views and visual amenity experienced by residential receptors in this location. Effects would not be significant.

Viewpoint 6 –Strathaven, War Memorial

Viewpoint 6 is located approximately 10.1 km to the north-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.42**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint has been selected to represent the worst-case views that would be experienced by residents in Strathaven and views experienced by people visiting this landmark for remembrance that also allows sweeping views over the town and beyond. However, it should be noted within the settlement views towards the Proposed Development will be largely restricted by the surrounding built form and intervening vegetation.

The viewpoint is situated on the southern side of Strathaven War Memorial on top of a man-made mound at 210 m AOD. Its elevated position almost at the centre of the town allows panoramic views across the rooftops of the lower-lying town in the immediate foreground, with views partially filtered by extensive tree cover on the slope down towards the town. The built form of the town comprises a mix of more traditional stone-built properties with grey slate roofs, interspersed with some modern steel commercial buildings and more recently built residential properties further south towards the southern edge of the town, with streets lined with lighting columns.

Regular-shaped grazing fields with hedgerow field boundaries border the southern edge of the town extending across the lower valley sides of Avon Water. This managed pastoral landscape continues to extend southwards and gradually rises in elevation towards Middle Rig and Kypes Rig whose smooth rounded form provides the backdrop to the view.

Wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline experienced in southerly views from the viewpoint. In the centre of the view the existing turbines of Kype Muir Wind Farm are prominent vertical elements that extend above the hillside on the horizon of the view, while to the right of the view the turbines of Dungavel Wind Farm are visible and form noticeable elements on the horizon. In the south-eastern part of the view the existing turbines of Auchrobert Wind Farm and the individual turbines at North Brackenridge and at High Waterhead Farm are noticeable vertical elements on the horizon. Kype Muir Wind Farm is situated approximately 4.7 km to the south of the viewpoint while Auchrobert Wind Farm is situated over 7 km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

The sensitivity of receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by residential receptors in Strathaven.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the view and will appear to partially overlap with Kype Muir Wind Farm and extend across part of Auchrobert Wind Farm to the south-east. The turbines will be largely screened by the intervening landform, with views restricted to the hubs and blades, with views of only six hubs available, with views further screened by existing trees on the hillside. Although the Proposed Development turbines will introduce additional turbines between these two existing wind farms, they will be situated behind these existing developments and so despite their taller height will appear as smaller components of the view and less prominent compared to these two schemes.

For these reasons the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to both the existing and future baseline scenarios.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by residential receptors in this location, that would not be significant. Considered against the future baseline scenario that would include Kype Muir Extension the Proposed

Development would only reinforce the presence within the view and the level of effect would reduce to **minor** and would not be considered significant.

Viewpoint 7 – A71, bridge crossing Calder Water

Viewpoint 7 is located approximately 10.8 km to the north-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.43**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint has been selected to represent the views that would be experienced by people travelling along the A71 to the south-west of Strathaven.

The viewpoint is taken from the southern parapet of the bridge over Calder Water as the watercourse flows towards the confluence between it and Avon Water. The former railway line embankments and extensive roadside vegetation restrict visibility and direct views towards the medium to large scale regular-shaped, managed grazing fields, bordered by a mix of post and wire fencing and hedgerow boundaries in the middle ground of the view. This pastoral landscape is interspersed with occasional isolated farmhouses and farm buildings. The smooth landform and managed fields on the southern side of Avon Water rise gradually towards the higher ground to the south and the open moorland that blankets the distant hills. These hills also have a smooth gently rounded form and to the south-west are open moorland, while to the south-east they gradually slope down and become covered with coniferous forest plantation.

Wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline experienced in southerly views from this viewpoint. In the centre of the view the existing turbines of Kype Muir Wind Farm are prominent vertical elements that extend above the low hills on the horizon of the view, while to the right of the view the existing turbines of Dungavel Wind Farm are visible and form noticeable elements on the higher ground to the south-west on the north-facing slopes of Dungavel Hill. Kype Muir Wind Farm is situated approximately 4.9 km to the south-east of the viewpoint while Dungavel Wind Farm is situated over 4.7 km to the south-east of the viewpoint.

The sensitivity of receptors in this location is assessed as medium as it represents views experienced by people travelling along the road.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint, the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the view and will partially overlap with Kype Muir Wind Farm which occupies a more prominent position on the distant hills to the south of the viewpoint, positioned closer to the viewpoint in front of the proposed turbines such that despite their taller and larger scale will appear smaller and less prominent in the view.

The turbines will form relatively minor elements within the view and will be partially screened by the intervening landform. Views of the proposed turbines that overlap with Kype Muir will be mainly restricted to the upper parts of the blades although some hubs will be visible. The towers of some of the proposed turbines that extend beyond the westerly edge of Kype Muir will be visible, however some of the turbines will be mostly screened by the landform.

Although the Proposed Development turbines would in theory introduce additional turbines between the existing Kype Muir and Dungavel wind farms where none are currently present, they would not completely infill this gap. However, in due course this gap will be filled by the consented Kype Muir extension which will mean that the Proposed Development turbines will become barely noticeable and will not increase the extent of wind turbine development within the view but will lead to a slight increase to the concentration of wind development seen within the view.

For these reasons the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to the existing visual baseline. Once the consented Kype Muir Extension turbines are constructed it is assessed that the magnitude of change would reduce to very low.

These changes would be seen intermittently by people travelling along the road, when views are not obscured by landform or roadside vegetation and would be seen perpendicular to the road.

Significance of Effect

The Proposed Development would result in a **Minor** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by road users passing this location, with such effects not considered to be significant.

When considered against the future visual baseline it is considered that people travelling along this route will experience **Minor/no effect** resulting from the Proposed Development.

Viewpoint 8 – Black Hill

Viewpoint 8 is located approximately 10.2 km to the north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.44**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the top of Black Hill, a scheduled monument which is a National Trust for Scotland specified viewpoint. Black Hill is the location of a fort and settlement, and its elevated position of approximately 290 m AOD, provides views across the Clyde Valley.

From the top of Black Hill, panoramic views of the surrounding landscape are available. The top of the fort includes limited vegetation and is covered by managed grassland. Clear views towards the Clyde Valley consist of primarily undulating pastoral farmland. The condition of this landscape varies with some areas appearing to express less management than others. The field pattern is quite large in size, and it is evident that hedgerows have been removed to increase their size. There is an overall sense that the surrounding area is a working and productive landscape.

Several farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, many of which express the local vernacular in appearance, being made of local stone while being seen in combination with large, modern farm sheds. Larger settlements can be seen scattered along the valley sides. In the direction of the site, several small scale wind turbines can be seen in the valley in the middle distance. Field boundaries are composed of broken hedgerows, and deciduous tree belts. In the distance, the undulating hills are clearly visible, some of which are covered in coniferous plantations. Other human influences also occur within the landscape such as large electricity pylons and overhead lines which cross the land to the north. It is also possible to gain glimpses of the M74 motorway traffic as it passes to the west of this location.

Wind farm development is an established component of the existing visual baseline experienced in views in all directions from this viewpoint. In the direction of the Proposed Development the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension and Nutberry turbines are noticeable yet distant vertical elements that extend above the hills and coniferous plantations on the horizon of the view, while to the south-west the existing turbines of Auhrobert, Kype Muir and Dungavel wind farms are visible and form more noticeable elements on the higher ground to the south-east of the viewpoint, while the existing Whitelee and its two extensions are visible on the horizon to the west of the viewpoint. In addition to these more distant wind farms there are also a number of smaller wind turbines situated in the middle ground in closer proximity to the viewpoint.

As this viewpoint is a recognised vantage point and a historical feature, this viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint atop Black Hill it will be possible to see the Proposed Development at a distance of approximately 10.2 km from the nearest turbine (T19). The proposed turbines will be seen above the horizon, with the proposed turbine towers partly back-clothed by the rising land beyond the site and the coniferous forest plantation.

The Proposed Development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall vista experienced from this recognised viewpoint. It would be seen in combination with the other turbines including the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Nutberry, Galawhistle and numerous single, small scale turbines in the local landscape. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Development would form a noticeable additional feature in the wider landscape, seen within an area which already includes existing wind turbine development. Once the consented Hagshaw Hill Repowering, Douglas West, Cumberhead and Dalquhandy wind farms are constructed, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of these schemes.

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to the existing view. It will introduce additional elements to the view that will occupy a small proportion of the overall view at considerable distance from viewpoint but will increase the lateral extent of wind turbines within the view. However, as the view is already influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not in itself greatly influence the overall visual character.

The magnitude of change would remain as low in the future baseline scenario as due to the orientation of the viewpoint in relation to the Proposed Development and its position relative to the other consented developments, it would still increase the extent of the view occupied by turbines.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors in this location in both the current and future baseline scenario that would be not be considered significant due to the distance of the viewpoint from the site, the wide panoramic views available, and the context in which the site is seen within.

Viewpoint 9 –A70 Rigside

Viewpoint 9 is located approximately 11 km to the east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.45**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the properties located on the north-western side of Rigside. The viewpoint has been taken from the nearest publicly accessible place to the properties which is on the A70 as it travels through Rigside village. In reality, views from the properties towards the Proposed Development would be oblique, partially filtered and interrupted by vegetation in the immediate intervening view.

From this elevated viewpoint, views extend along the urban edge of the A70 towards the undulating agricultural land and pronounced ridgeline. In terms of existing structures, there is a 48.5 m tall wind turbine at Newtonhead Farm in the foreground and a line of large pylons and overhead lines can also be seen crossing the landscape in the distance. In general, farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, with large associated outbuildings. An area of large storage/distribution warehouses are also visible in the middle distance at Poniel.

The existing Nutberry, Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Auchrobert and the more distant Kype Muir turbines can be seen from this location.

As this viewpoint is representative of the views of residents on the western edge of Rigside, the viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view. People who are travelling along the A70 would gain similar views to those experienced by residents located along the A70. However, road users would be considered to be of low sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From the north-western edge of Rigside, the Proposed Development would be clearly visible at a distance of approximately 11 km, but it will not be possible to see the ground level components associated with the site due to the distance from the viewpoint the screening provided by the forestry. The turbine hubs and blades of the Proposed Development would break the skyline of the distant hillside that forms the backdrop to the view and they would be seen in the context of the numerous existing turbines in the landscape. They would be seen to the right of the existing Nutberry turbines. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines would appear taller and slightly larger in scale than the existing turbines present within the wider landscape.

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view. It will introduce additional elements to the view that will occupy a moderate proportion of the overall view and will increase the lateral extent of wind turbines present within the view between the existing Nutberry and Kype Muir wind farms on the distant hills. However, as the view is already influenced by existing wind farm development the Proposed Development will not strongly influence nor change the existing character of the view.

Although the Proposed Development extends the lateral extent of wind turbines within the view, the introduction of the Douglas West scheme approximately 5.5 km to the south-west, the Dalquhandy scheme approximately 7.7 km to the west south-west within the intervening landscape between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development, together with the consented Broken Cross scheme approximately 2.7 km to the north-west would reduce the magnitude of change of the Proposed Development to low in the future baseline scenario.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline, the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by residents, while road users will experience **minor** effects, as views will be glimpsed and at an oblique angle to the road and experienced intermittently when available. Neither the effects on residents nor road users would be considered significant.

When considered against the future visual baseline, residents would experience **minor** effects due to the increased amount of wind energy development within the foreground of the settlement that would more strongly influence views than the more distant Proposed Development that is situated in a part of the view where there are numerous existing and consented wind farms. The level of effect experienced by road users would reduce but would remain as minor. Effects would not be significant.

Viewpoint 10 – Tinto Hill

Viewpoint 10 is located approximately 18.6 km to the east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.46**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the vantage point of Tinto Hill, which is located at an elevation of approximately 710 m AOD. Clear panoramic views extend across a gently undulating rural landscape.

In the direction towards the site, a large patchwork of plantation covers extensive areas of land in the surrounding landscape. Substantial tree belts also form boundaries to some of the fields. Whilst it is evident that some field hedgerows have been removed to create larger fields. There are farmsteads scattered across the landscape, some with large agricultural sheds. There is a significant sense that surrounding Tinto Hill, the wider area is formed by a combination of rolling moorland as well as a working and productive landscape.

Within the view to the west, towards the site, the existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are visible on the top of Common Hill along with the Nutberry Wind Farm to the right of the view alongside Galawhistle Wind Farm. On clear days when long distance views can be gained, it is possible to see other existing wind farm sites in the far distance including Whitelee. There are also numerous single small scale wind turbines scattered across the rural landscape.

As this viewpoint is representative of a recognised vantage point at the summit of a notable hill in the local landscape, receptors are considered to be of very high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint location, the Proposed Development would be visible in the middle distance, with the Proposed Development forming a noticeable feature in the landscape at a distance of over 18.6 km. The majority of the turbines would be back-clothed by the rising land beyond the site, with the blade tips of 14 turbines visible above the horizon. The proposed turbines would occupy a relatively narrow part of the overall view available and would be seen in the context of other existing wind energy development that extends through the landscape.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in no more than a medium magnitude of change to the existing view, introducing additional elements to a relatively small proportion of the overall view and the sense of openness and scale within the landscape as seen from the summit would be unaffected.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Dalquhandy, Douglas West, Cumberhead and Broken Cross to the west the Proposed Development would result in a low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing baseline, it is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by people visiting this summit, which is not considered significant.

When considered against the future visual baseline the level of effect would reduce to **moderate/minor** and would not be significant.

Viewpoint 11 – Douglas-Hill Street

Viewpoint 11 is located approximately 8 km to the south-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.47**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

The viewpoint has been selected to represent the worst-case views that would be experienced by residents in Douglas. However, it should be noted that such views would only be experienced from properties on the higher ground that borders the eastern edge of the settlement while views from lower elevations within the settlement views will be largely restricted by the surrounding built form, the rising landform to the west of the village and by the intervening vegetation of Long Plantation.

The viewpoint is located on the eastern edge of the settlement on Hill Street and is largely characterised by the built form of the surrounding houses situated along the residential streets that lead downhill into the settlement. North-westerly views are available over the roofs of houses in the foreground, across the Douglas Water valley to the opposite valley side which comprises open grassland at lower elevations, with coniferous plantations blanketing the high ground.

Wind farm development is an established part of the existing visual baseline experienced in south-westerly views from the viewpoint, with glimpses of the existing Hagsaw Hill Extension turbines available in gaps between the properties in the foreground, situated approximately 3.3 km to the west north-west of the viewpoint.

The sensitivity of receptors in this location is assessed as high as it broadly represents views experienced by residential receptors in Douglas.

Magnitude of Change

The wireline that accompanies this viewpoint illustrates that the Proposed Development turbines will be visible in theory with the hub of only one turbine visible and the blade tips of 12 other turbines visible above the landform to the west of Douglas Water. However, in practice the coniferous woodlands that cover this high ground means that only the very tip of one turbine will be visible above the forest canopy.

The consented Douglas West Wind Farm will be situated approximately 2.3 km to the north-west of the viewpoint and will be positioned on the high ground to the north-west of Long Plantation in much closer proximity to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development which is situated approximately 7 km from the viewpoint.

The Douglas West turbines will appear as tall vertical elements above the hills to the north-west of Douglas and will appear much more prominent in the view, effectively filtering and partially screening views of the Proposed Development turbines which will become barely noticeable situated behind the closer Douglas West turbines.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to the existing view, adding some new elements to the view although the majority of the turbines will be screened by the coniferous plantation.

However, following construction of the Douglas West turbines that will be sited much closer to the viewpoint it is considered that the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would reduce to very low.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by residential receptors in this location that would not be considered significant.

When considered against the future visual baseline the level of effect experienced by residential receptors would reduce to **Minor/no effect** which would not be significant.

Viewpoint 12 – Auchensaugh Hill

Viewpoint 12 is located approximately 10.8 km to the south-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.48**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from a high point located on Auchensaugh Hill at an elevation of approximately 392 m AOD and situated 3.6 km to the south-east of Douglas. Views stretch out across a smooth, open landscape, which then falls into the Douglas Valley before rising again to Common Hill, which forms the backdrop to the view. The landscape is large scale with a relatively clear, simple form, composed mainly of rough grassland.

Views towards the village of Douglas are screened by Pagie Hill while the coniferous plantation of Townhead Wood combine to reduce the visibility in this direction. To the north-west, the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Galawhistle and Hazelside turbines are visible.

From this viewpoint location facing in an easterly direction it is possible to gain views of the B7078 and M74 as they pass through the landscape. A large row of pylons and overhead wires also cross through the landscape.

As this hill may be used for recreational activities and is accessed by a Wider Network path which forms part of the South Lanarkshire Core Paths Plan (Nov 2012), receptors at Auchensaugh Hill are therefore considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development would be visible from Auchensaugh Hill at a distance of approximately 10.8 km, occupying a moderate proportion of the view beyond the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension, Nutberry and Hazelside turbines, with the existing Galawhistle Wind Farm seen to the south-west and the more distant Auchrobert and Kype Muir turbines to the north-west beyond the proposed turbines.

Despite being taller in height than the existing Nutberry turbines they appear relatively similar in scale due to their increased distance from the viewpoint. The proposed turbines are sited within the existing forest plantation within a part of the landscape where wind farms are an established component of the view. As such they appear contiguous with Nutberry Wind Farm and the other adjacent schemes, although it is acknowledged that there would be an increase in the turbine cluster density in the vicinity of the site, but the cluster would occupy a small part of the much wider view available.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to the existing view, introducing noticeable additional elements to the view that will be partly screened by the intervening landform. However, the proposed turbines would still respond well to the scale of the underlying landform, which is relatively simple and large scale, and the proposed turbines would not dominate the landscape at this location.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Hagshaw Hill Repowering that has fewer, taller turbines, Douglas West, Dalquhandy and the consented Cumberhead scheme, the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would reduce to very low. This is because of the increased density of the wind cluster that the consented schemes would introduce that are situated in closer proximity to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development that would reduce the degree of change introduced by the proposed turbines.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors in this location that would not be considered significant due to the context in which the Proposed Development would be seen.

When considered against the future visual baseline, the level of effect experienced by receptors would reduce but would remain minor, due to the increased number of wind farms that would be sited between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development.

Viewpoint 13 – Victory Park, Muirkirk

Viewpoint 13 is located approximately 6.8 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.49**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located on the western edge of Victory Park to allow for views beyond the immediate built form towards the site. The immediate view comprises the public open space with dwellings located on Glasgow Road, Park Avenue and Burns Avenue located immediately beyond. The varied yet simple distant horizon is formed by a number of hills including Hareshaw Hill, Parisholm Hill, and Urit Hill. The hills are covered with upland grassland and moorland vegetation. Woodland and plantation punctuate the mid slopes and dense deciduous woodland covers much of the valley bottom.

The existing turbines of the Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension and Galawhistle wind farms occupy the horizon and form notable vertical features in the view with further Galawhistle turbines also seen slightly set down in the landscape beyond the horizon. The Existing Hagshaw Hill turbines are also visible beyond the horizon.

As the viewpoint is located within a public park, the receptors using the space are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in the view.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development would in theory be visible occupying a small proportion of the view but would be largely screened by the distant hills that form the backdrop to the view with only the upper parts of 10 turbines visible, with three hubs and the upper part of one tower appearing above the landform approximately 6.5 km to the north-east. However, from the viewpoint, views are also partially further screened by properties and surrounding vegetation in the foreground, but as people move around the park views will become available at certain points.

Although taller than the existing turbines at Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension because they are sited further from the viewpoint, the parts of the turbines that are visible appear very similar in size and scale to the other turbines that are already present within available views.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a low magnitude of change to the existing view.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Hagshaw Hill Repowering that has fewer, taller turbines than the current Hagshaw Hill scheme and the consented Cumberhead scheme, the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would reduce but remain as low.

Significance of Effect

There would be a minor visual effect experienced by receptors at Muirkirk Park in both the existing and future baseline scenario which is not considered to be significant due to the distance of the receptors from the site and the context in which the Proposed Development will be seen in.

Viewpoint 14 – Nether Wellwood (A70)

Viewpoint 14 is located approximately 11.4 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.50**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of worst-case views that would be experienced by road users travelling primarily in an easterly direction towards Muirkirk along the A70. The viewpoint is situated on a remnant part of the disused railway directly adjacent to southern edge of the road, as the road drops down into the Ayr valley and continues east towards Muirkirk. The viewpoint is also broadly representative of views that would be experienced in a north-easterly direction by receptors walking along the River Ayr Way, where views are available.

Views stretch out across a smooth, open landscape, which then falls into the Douglas Valley before rising again to Common Hill, which forms the backdrop to the view. The landscape is large scale with a relatively clear, simple form, composed mainly of rough and managed grassland. The backdrop of the view is formed by the smooth rounded hills to the north of the road comprising Middlefield Law, Starpet Rig, Nutberry Hill and Broomerside and Common Hill. These hilltops are mainly open but distant coniferous plantations can be seen on some hills.

The road winds its way through a heavily modified landscape at this location. The land to the south of the road has been subject to open cast mining with bunding and former spoil heaps creating variation in the landform. An area of open water can be seen to the south of the road. The route of the A70 is relatively well treed with belts and blocks of mixed and coniferous trees located along the roadside. This vegetation interrupts the overall visual experience from the road. Larger areas of coniferous plantation can be seen in the middle ground view.

Man-made features can be seen in the near view including an electricity substation and lines of pylons. Wind farm development is an established part of the existing visual baseline experienced in north-easterly and easterly views from the viewpoint, with the existing Galawhistle, Hagsaw Hill Extension, Hagshaw Hill and Nutberry wind turbines visible on the distant hills.

As the viewpoint is located on an 'A' road, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low. The sensitivity of walkers on the River Ayr Way is considered to be high.

Magnitude of Change

The wireline that accompanies this viewpoint illustrates that 12 of the Proposed Development turbines will be visible in theory with the hubs of seven turbines visible above the distant hills, while the landform will largely restrict views to the blade tips of other turbines. The Proposed Development will occupy a small proportion of the view at considerable distance from the viewpoint and will appear as a continuation of the existing wind development already present within the view. Due to their taller height the proposed turbines will appear slightly larger than the existing Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a medium to low magnitude of change to the existing view, adding some new elements to the view although the majority of the turbines will be screened by the landform and woodland plantation.

Although the Proposed Development extends the lateral extent of wind turbines within the view, the introduction of the Hagshaw Hill Repowering scheme and the consented Cumberhead scheme, which are both situated at similar distance from the viewpoint, will increase the concentration of wind turbines within the view, with the magnitude of change reducing to low in the future baseline scenario.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline, road users would experience **minor** effects as views will be glimpsed and at an oblique angle to the road and experienced intermittently when available. Walkers along the

River Ayr Way would experience **moderate to minor** effects as although views would also be experienced intermittently, they would potentially be experienced for a longer duration and be more apparent to walkers. The effects experienced by road users and walkers would not be significant.

Considered against the future baseline scenario, the level effects experienced by road users would reduce to **minor/no effect** and **minor** for walkers.

Viewpoint 15 – Cairn Table

Viewpoint 15 is located approximately 8.3 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIA and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.51**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

The viewpoint is located at the summit of Cairn Table, at 594 m AOD. At the summit is a trig point, a cairn, a war memorial (appearance of an intact stone cairn) and a 360 degree compass viewshed to enable receptors to orientate themselves when at the summit.

Cairn Table is accessed via a footpath that leaves Muirkirk and travels in a southerly direction and thus whilst walking to the summit the Proposed Development is located directly behind the receptor. From the summit there are panoramic and far reaching views in all directions, and the landscape in which the site is located forms a small part of the overall view available.

The view in the direction towards the site would be experienced by receptors at the summit and by those walking back in a northerly direction to the car park at Muirkirk. The view comprises an undulating landscape in which wind energy development is already a feature comprising numerous existing wind farms that include Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension and Nutberry wind farms in the middle distance and the more distant Auchrobert and Kype Muir wind farms near the left hand edge of the view, as well as numerous other single turbines. The upland landform of Common Hill forms the middle ground view with long distance views experienced as far as the Pentland Hills.

As the summit of Cairn Table features a compass viewshed to assist in experiencing the view, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be very high.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development occupy a moderate proportion of the view and would be seen in the middle distance, to the north-west of the ridgeline of Common Hill and the existing Galawhistle, Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines. The Proposed Development will extend wind development across an additional part of the view, but only within a part of the view that already features a number of existing wind farms, with the upper parts of the towers, hubs and blades seen above the hills.

It is acknowledged that there would be a perceptible difference in the scale of the proposed turbines compared to the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension and Galawhistle turbines, and the proposed turbines would be more prominent. However, there are already several wind farms visible in the view from Cairn Table, all of which are of various heights, and whilst the proposed turbines would further contribute to the existing varying nature of wind energy development in the middle distance, including the Galawhistle and Nutberry turbines, this forms only part of a much wider panoramic view from this location, which will also include the consented Kennoxhead and Penbreck turbines in the foreground of the views towards the east and south-east.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view, introducing prominent additional elements to the view. However, as the view is already strongly influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not greatly influence the overall character of the view.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Dalquhandy, Cumberhead, Douglas West and the larger and more prominent Hagshaw Hill Repowering turbines and Kype Muir Extension to the west, the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would reduce to low as the Hagshaw Hill Repowering turbines appear more visually prominent on the horizon, compared to the Proposed Development turbines that appear similar in scale to the Cumberhead turbines and appear as integral with this consented development.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline, receptors at this viewpoint location would experience **moderate** effects which would be significant. However, considered against the future baseline scenario the overall level of effect would remain as **moderate** but effects would no longer be considered significant.

Viewpoint 16 – Cairn Kinney

Viewpoint 16 is located approximately 11.9 km to the south of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.52**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located at the summit of Cairn Kinney (493 m AOD), which is located part way between the A70 at Glespin and the A76 at Sanquhar. The view from the summit in a northerly direction towards the site comprises an undulating upland grassland landscape punctuated by large areas of commercial plantation.

The view is long reaching and panoramic, and in clear weather conditions views reach beyond Carluke to the north-east, where the existing Black Law Wind Farm can be seen. The existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Galawhistle and Nutberry turbines are clearly seen in the near landscape, above the horizon formed by Common Hill, along with a number of the single turbines dotted across the wider landscape.

Receptors at the hill summit are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in the view.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a moderate proportion of the set beyond the existing Galawhistle and Nutberry wind farms and at distance of over 11.9 km. The turbines will form noticeable vertical elements on the skyline on the higher ground that forms the backdrop to the view. Some of the proposed turbines would be positioned to the north of the distant landform and so would be partly screened by topography, while the coniferous woodland would further screen parts of the turbine towers. Despite their taller height, due to their increased distance from the viewpoint compared to the closer Galawhistle and Nutberry turbines, the proposed turbines would appear similar in scale and contiguous with them.

Assessed against the existing visual baseline it is considered that the Proposed Development will result in a medium magnitude of change to the existing view, introducing additional elements to the view. The Proposed Development turbines would increase the clustering of turbines in the mid distance view and reinforce the presence of commercial wind energy in the landscape to the north of Cairn Kinney. However, as the view is already strongly influenced by the existing wind farm development the change will not greatly influence the overall character of the view.

Considered against the future visual baseline that will include the consented schemes of Cumberhead, Douglas West and the larger and more prominent Hagshaw Hill Repowering turbines and Kype Muir Extension to the west, as well as Kennoxhead in much closer proximity to the viewpoint, the magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development would reduce to low as the Hagshaw Hill Repowering turbines appear more visually prominent on the horizon, compared to the Proposed Development turbines that appear similar in scale to the Cumberhead turbines and appear as integral with this consented development.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by receptors in this location that would not be considered significant due to the context in which the Proposed Development would be seen.

When considered against the future visual baseline, the level of effect experienced by receptors would reduce to **minor** due to the increased number of wind farms that would be sited closer to the viewpoint and more strongly influence the character of views.

Viewpoint 17 – Hyndford Bridge

Viewpoint 17 is located approximately 16.2 km to the north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.53**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from Hyndford Bridge which forms a historical feature along the A73 and is identified as a recognised viewpoint within the South Lanarkshire Spatial Framework. The bridge includes footpaths on either side of a single lane of traffic, operated by a three-way traffic light system.

Views from Hyndford Bridge extend along the River Clyde valley looking across a predominantly rural landscape, comprising primarily of managed grazing land and unmanaged grassland. The River Clyde sweeps through the shallow valley and is relatively wide at this point.

To the south there are views of the A70 as it travels through the River Clyde Valley with a few farmsteads including large agricultural buildings situated at elevated positions along the valley sides. A relatively large proportion of the surrounding land is used for grazing animals and blocks of woodland and belts of coniferous plantation run down the slopes to the south-west, providing texture and contrast to the landscape. Distant hills provide the backdrop to the view with the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines situated on the nearside with the blade tips of some of the Nutberry Wind Farm barely perceptible in the far distance.

As a road which is used for its scenic qualities as part of the Clyde Valley Tourist Route, and as the bridge itself is a historical feature, this location is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a small proportion of the view in the far distance and would be situated to the right of the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, and Nutberry wind farms and would extend the lateral extent of this established cluster but would appear connected with it. The forest plantation will screen all ground-level components from view, limiting views to the upper parts of towers, hubs and blades. Further screening will be provided by the existing woodland blocks in the foreground of the view. At over 16 km from the viewpoint, the turbines will form barely perceptible vertical elements on the skyline on the higher ground to the west that forms the backdrop to the view situated beyond the Eastertown Wind Cluster of three turbines that is situated nearer to the viewpoint to the west of Douglas Water.

Considered against the existing baseline, when crossing Hyndford Bridge, road users will experience a transient, glimpsed view from the bridge across the local landscape beyond it. The proposed turbines are situated almost perpendicular to the direction of the bridge and it is assessed that there will be a very low magnitude of change to the view experienced by road users. Pedestrians stopping at one of the turret style features along the south-western footpath to experience the views of Douglas Water valley and the distant hills would experience a low magnitude of change due to the existing nature of the view, the level of intervening landform and vegetation, the distance from the site the addition of the Proposed Development turbines into the view that already includes the existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, Nutberry Wind Farm and the closer wind cluster at Eastertown.

Considered against the future baseline scenario that would include the consented Broken Cross Wind Farm that comprises 10 turbines with a blade tip of 149.9 m that would be situated on the eastern side of the M74, much closer to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change would reduce to very low for pedestrians as well.

Significance of Effect

Considered against the existing visual baseline the Proposed Development would result in **Minor/no effect** to the views and visual amenity experienced by road users that would not be considered significant. It is assessed that pedestrians would experience **minor** effects that are also not considered significant.

Considered against the future visual baseline the level of effect experienced by both types of receptors would be **Minor/no effect**.

Viewpoint 18 - Loudoun Hill

Viewpoint 18 is located over 13.5 km to the north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at Volume 4 of the EIAR and this view is illustrated on **Figure 6.54**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint represents views experienced by visitors to this nationally important battlefield which was the scene of the Battle of Loudoun Hill in 1307 between Scottish forces led by King Robert the Bruce who defeated the English. The hill formation and the landscape to its immediate south-west, south and south-east is included on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields (BTL 36). It is also the site of the Spirit of Scotland sculpture set at the foot of the hill. The hill is a granite, volcanic plug that protrudes above the lower lying farmland that surrounds it.

The viewpoint is situated at an elevation of approximately 316 m AOD on top of the hill that rises on the northerly edge of the River Irvine. Its elevation above the surrounding landscape allows sweeping and panoramic views in all directions across parts of East Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire. Views in a south-easterly direction from the hill are characterised by a combination of the pastoral fields in the foreground, stretching along the southern side of the River Irvine, with large-scale fields bordered by post and wire fencing, occasional belts of trees and scattered properties dotted across the landscape. The foreground grazing fields give way to areas of rougher grassland and moorland which gradually rise towards the distant hills that form the backdrop to the view, with their smooth rounded, gently rolling form partly covered by coniferous plantations. Dungavel Hill at 457 m AOD forms a notable high point in the centre of the view, while in the right hand part of the view there are longer range views towards higher ground to the south.

A number of wind farms are present in the existing visual baseline experienced in south-easterly views from the viewpoint. The Dungavel turbines, situated approximately 6.2 km to the east, are noticeable vertical elements that extend above the hillside on the horizon of the view, while to the left hand part of the view the existing turbines of Kype Muir Wind Farm, situated approximately 9.7 km to the east, are visible and form noticeable elements on the distant horizon. In the right hand part of the view the existing Bankend Rig turbines are visible, sat between higher ground and back-clothed against the surrounding landform.

The sensitivity of receptors in this location is assessed as high as it represents views experienced by visitors to this local landmark.

Magnitude of Change

With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint the Proposed Development once constructed will occupy a small proportion of the view to the south of the existing Kype Muir turbines and overlapping with the existing Dungavel turbines. Thirteen of the proposed turbines will be visible in theory, forming small elements. However, views will be partially screened by the coniferous woodland on the hilltops, with the existing turbines at Dungavel Hill further filtering views of the proposed turbines. At over 13 km from the viewpoint it is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a very low magnitude of change.

The future visual baseline scenario includes the consented Kype Muir Extension, which would be situated approximately 8 km to the south-east of the viewpoint between Kype Muir and Dungavel wind farms. Once constructed this would further filter views of the Proposed Development turbines. However, the magnitude of change would remain as very low.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in **Minor/no effect** to the views and visual amenity experienced by visitors to this location in both the current and future baseline scenario and effects would not be considered significant.

Summary of Effects

Table A6.3.1 - Summary of Operational Effects on Assessment Viewpoints

| Name | Distance to nearest turbine | Receptor Type | Sensitivity of the Receptor | Existing baseline | | | Future baseline | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | | | | Magnitude of Change | Level of Effect | Significant | Magnitude of Change | Level of Effect | Significant |
| 1. Coalburn, Coalburn Road | 4.7 km (T20) | Residential | High | Medium | Moderate | Yes | Medium | Moderate | No |
| | | Road users | Medium | Medium | Moderate | No | Medium | Moderate | No |
| 2. M74 Overbridge | 7.8 km (T21) | Road users | Medium | Medium | Moderate | No | Low/ Medium | Moderate/ Minor | No |
| 3. Lesmahagow-Hillcrest | 6 km (T19) | Residential | High | Medium | Moderate | Yes | Medium | Moderate | No |
| 4. Minor road, Brackenridge | 3.6 km (T19) | Residential | High | High | Major | Yes | High | Major | Yes |
| | | Road users | Medium | High | Moderate/ Major | Yes | High | Moderate/ Major | Yes |
| 5. Sandford, School Road | 7.7 km (T16) | Residential | High | Very Low | Minor/No Effect | No | Very Low | Minor/No Effect | No |
| 6. Strathaven, War Memorial | 10.1 km (T16) | Residential | High | Low | Moderate/ Minor | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 7. A71, bridge crossing Calder Water | 10.8 km (T10) | Road users | Medium | Low | Minor | No | Very Low | Minor/ No effect | No |
| 8. Black Hill | 10.2 km (T19) | Visitors | High | Low | Minor | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 9. A70 Rigside | 11 km (T21) | Residential | High | Medium | Moderate | No | Low | Minor | No |
| | | Road users | Low | Medium | Minor | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 10. Tinto Hill | 18.5 km (T21) | Visitors | Very High | Medium | Moderate | No | Low | Moderate/ Minor | No |

| Name | Distance to nearest turbine | Receptor Type | Sensitivity of the Receptor | Existing baseline | | | Future baseline | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | | | | Magnitude of Change | Level of Effect | Significant | Magnitude of Change | Level of Effect | Significant |
| 11. Douglas-Hill Street | 8 km (T21) | Residential | High | Low | Minor | No | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No |
| 12. Auchensaugh hill | 10.8 km (T21) | Visitors | High | Low | Minor | No | Very Low | Minor | No |
| 13. Victory Park, Muirkirk | 6.8 km (T1) | Visitors | High | Low | Minor | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 14. Nether Wellwood (A70) | 11.4 km (T1) | Road users | Low | Medium/Low | Minor | No | Low | Minor/No Effect | No |
| | | Walkers | High | Medium/Low | Moderate/Minor | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 15. Cairn Table | 8.3 km (T1) | Walkers | Very High | Medium | Moderate | Yes | Low | Moderate | No |
| 16. Cairn Kinney | 11.9 km (T1) | Walkers | High | Medium | Moderate | No | Low | Minor | No |
| 17. Hyndford Bridge | 16.2 km (T19) | Road users | Medium | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No |
| | | Pedestrians | High | Low | Minor | No | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No |
| 18. Loudoun Hill | 13.5 km (T17) | Visitor | High | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No | Very Low | Minor/No effect | No |

