



Dalfad Wind Farm

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Non-significant Effects

Technical Appendix 4.2 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Non-Significant Effects

Introduction

1. This appendix provides the assessment for landscape character areas and visual receptors where the level of effect is judged to be not significant (Moderate or below).

Landscape Character

LCT 7c East Ayrshire Lowlands (1.3 km, N)

2. As illustrated by Figure 4.4, there are several units of this LCT located to the west of the Site, which encompass the majority of the lower lying land outside of the valleys in the western part of East Ayrshire. This character type effectively continues across the local authority boundary as the South Ayrshire Lowlands. The nearest unit is located to the north and west of the site, encompassing Airds Moss, the village of Auchinleck and rural area to the west of the settlement.
3. The equivalent LCT within the NatureScot landscape character assessment is 66 Agricultural Lowlands – Ayrshire. The LCT is described as covering *"a large area, including most of the Ayrshire Basin to the north of Kilwinning and Irvine. It comprises inland areas on the mainland between the coastal edge and higher moorland to the east."* The NatureScot LCT description sets out the following key characteristics:
 - *"Complex landform, gently increasing in height from the coastal fringe, dissected by many burns and streams draining to incised main river valleys to create an undulating lowland landscape...."*
 - *Generally small to medium scale landscape.*
 - *Landcover is predominantly pastoral, with some arable on lower and better soils.*
 - *Fields often regular in shape and enclosed by beech or hawthorn hedges, with mature hedgerow trees giving the landscape a surprisingly wooded character.*
 - *Settlement pattern historic in origin based upon larger, more self-contained farmsteads set in a hinterland of fields.*
 - *Number of larger towns and villages with historic cores surrounded by more modern development.*
 - *Several major road corridors creating a degree of conflict between the rural character and presence of heavy traffic.*
 - *Dense network of often very rural minor roads.*
 - *Varying landscape character which ranges from very rural to more fragmented and developed landscapes on urban fringes.*
 - *Views tend to be dictated by the local topography and landcover."*
4. The EALWCS identifies susceptibility factors for turbines of 70 m+ for this LCT as set out below:

Criteria	Description	Susceptibility
Scale	Turbines may <i>"appear very large compared with the relatively low relief of occasional small prominent hills."</i> They may <i>"also dominate the small buildings, woodlands and trees which regularly pattern this landscape and provide ready scale references"</i> .	High
Landform	<i>"the generally simple, gently undulating landform of this landscape reduces sensitivity"</i> but turbines could <i>"detract from more complex rolling landform and more defined small hills if sited nearby."</i>	Medium
Landscape Pattern	Turbines could <i>"detract from the rich patterning of fields and woodlands characteristic of many parts of this landscape. Diverse areas of moss and heath would also be sensitive although turbines could relate to simpler more open areas of pasture."</i>	High/medium

Criteria	Description	Susceptibility
Built Environment and Perceptual Qualities	Turbines could <i>"intrude on the setting of small settlements and farms which are closely spaced across this landscape"</i>. Turbines <i>"could affect the perception of rural character"</i> and <i>"accentuate the semi-derelict character of the southern fringes of this character type. Sensitivity is however reduced in relation to the key perceptual qualities of wildness."</i>	High/medium and Medium/low

5. Taking the factors considered above into account, the susceptibility of the LCT is judged to be High/medium. The area encompassing Airds Moss within the Auchinleck unit of the LCT is located within the Uplands and Moorlands LLA, indicating an area of Regional value, and parts of Dumfries House GDL are located within this LCT west of Cumnock, but most of the LCT is undesignated and judged to be of Community value and Medium sensitivity.
6. As illustrated by Figure 4.5 and viewpoint 8, there would be widespread visibility of the turbines from the Auchinleck unit of the LCT. In the closest area, across Airds Moss, the turbines would be openly visible outside of the afforested areas, looking across the intervening valley. Views would be similar to, but closer than, nearby viewpoint 12 which looks from an adjacent LCT across Airds Moss (seen in the middle ground) towards the Site. The perception in this area would be of being near a wind farm and changes to views would be Medium scale. With increasing distance and in the more settled areas, changes to character would reduce to Small scale within approximately 5-7 km as illustrated by viewpoints 5, 6 and 8; reducing to Negligible with greater distance as illustrated by viewpoints 10 and 11, or where there will be closer windfarms as shown by viewpoint 7.
7. Non-negligible changes to character would arise within two units of the LCT; to the east of Auchinleck and at the western end of the area south of Cumnock. A Localised extent of this extensive LCT would be affected and the magnitude of impact would be Medium/small. Taking account of the fact that the greatest impacts on this receptor would arise within the LLA, effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

LCT 9 Lowland River Valleys (4.5 km, NW)

8. As illustrated by Figure 4.4, this LCT is comprised of five units which dissect LCT 7c East Ayrshire Lowlands, and often adjoin LCT 10 Upland River Valleys. The nearest instance is located to the northwest and west of the site, encompassing part of the River Ayr Valley and the Lugar Water Valley and part of Cumnock.
9. The equivalent LCT within the NatureScot landscape character assessment is 68 Lowland River Valleys – Ayrshire. The LCT is described as narrow, intimate valleys with smaller rivers and streams which *"all enter narrow, entrenched valleys as they leave the bold landscapes of the uplands and flow towards the coast."* The NatureScot LCT description sets out the following key characteristics:
 - *"Series of incised, narrow river valleys bounded by steep slopes which cross the agricultural lowlands of Ayrshire."*
 - *Complex skylines formed by small interlocking hills within the southern valleys....*
 - *Pastoral farming character with hedgerow field boundaries and valley slopes which are frequently wooded with stands of beech and semi-natural woodland.*
 - *Settlement comparatively limited although there are a number of mills sited alongside rivers, often at bridging points.*
 - *Rich woodland of the river valleys often incorporated into designed landscapes.*
 - *Intimate small scale landscapes which often lie hidden within the wider agricultural lowlands.*
 - *Views tend to be enclosed, short distance and focused along the diverse river valley landscape. There are open elevated views over the valleys from settlements and roads sited on upper slopes."*

10. The EALWCS identifies susceptibility factors for turbines of 70 m+ for this LCT as set out below:

Criteria	Description	Susceptibility
Scale	Turbines could <i>"dominate the intimate to small scale of these predominantly narrow and settled valleys."</i>	High
Landform	Turbines could <i>"detract from narrow incised and particularly contorted sections of these valleys"</i> and <i>"more dramatic rocky gorges and the often complex interlocking landform of small knolly hills which occur on the top of containing side slopes and form prominent skylines."</i>	High/medium
Landscape Pattern	Turbines of <i>"this typology would significantly detract from the richly diverse landscape pattern characteristic of all these river valleys."</i>	High
Built Environment and Perceptual Qualities	<i>"turbines of this size would be likely to significantly affect the setting of settlement and designed landscapes."</i> <i>"The sense of seclusion and perception of historical integrity which can be experienced in many of these valleys could be compromised by turbines of this size."</i>	High and High/medium

11. Taking the factors considered above into account, the susceptibility of the LCT is judged to be High. The River Ayr and Glenmuir water unit of this LCT is largely located within the River Ayr Valley LLA, and encompasses the central part of Dumfries House GDL to the west of Cumnock and is judged to be of Regional value and High/Medium sensitivity. As illustrated by Figure 4.5, other units would be more distant and have limited visibility, such that the magnitude of change to character would be Negligible and they are not considered further.
12. Viewpoints 5, 9 and 10 illustrate views from the part of this LCT which extends westwards from Cumnock, and viewpoint 12 (nearby but in an adjacent LCT) represents the likely changes to views from the LCT along the River Ayr. As indicated by Figure 4.5, visibility from the LCT would be patchy, with local variations in terrain, woodlands and settlement creating breaks in visibility. The valley landscapes are also well vegetated, and trees and hedgerows not included within the ZTV modelling would also further limit views, particularly in summer. Small scale changes to character would arise in the closest and most extensive area of visibility to the east of Sorn, but would be Negligible beyond this area (approximately 7km from the turbines). From the area including Cumnock and extending to the west the limited visibility within the settlement and Dumfries GDL would limit the changes to Negligible scale.
13. Taking account of Small scale changes to views within a Limited (and undesignated) extent of the LCT east of Sorn, the magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible and effects would be **minor, adverse and not significant**.

LCT 15 Upland Basin (4.4 km, southwest)

14. As illustrated by Figure 4.4, there is a single occurrence of this LCT located 4.5 km south-west of the site, encompassing the town of Cumnock and a largely open area to the west and north-west of the town surrounding the headwaters of the River Nith and rising to the south.
15. The equivalent LCT within the NatureScot landscape character assessment is 74 Upland Basin – Ayrshire. The LCT is described as an elevated and exposed landscape which is "shallow and subdued, comprising a series of low, smooth ridges and troughs." The NatureScot LCT description sets out the following key characteristics:
- *"Open basin at the foot of the Southern Uplands, partially enclosed by foothills and moorland plateau. ...*
 - *Comparatively elevated and exposed, reflected in the generally un-wooded character of the landscape.*
 - *Predominantly in agricultural use, with improved pastures enclosed by a mixture of hedges and drystone walls.*
 - *Settlement of New Cumnock forms a highly visible feature in the landscape.*

- *Areas of derelict or damaged land, old railway lines, and pattern of development all comprise the legacy of the area's industrial past. Modern open-cast coal workings also a component of the landscape.*
- *An open, exposed landscape, with extensive views across the basin to the rising ground that encloses it."*

16. The EALWCS identifies susceptibility factors for turbines of 70 m+ for this LCT as set out below:

Criteria	Description	Susceptibility
Scale	<i>Turbines "would appear very large compared with the relatively low relief of small ridges and knolls and would also dominate the small buildings, woodlands and trees which pattern this landscape and provide ready scale references."</i>	High
Landform	<i>Turbines "could relate to simpler, gently graded hill slopes and flatter areas. Smaller landform features including low ridges and knolls would be more sensitive. It may be difficult to achieve an integrated development comprising multiple turbines in more complex areas of disturbed ground."</i>	Medium
Landscape Pattern	<i>Turbines "t would detract from the more diverse areas of woodlands, lochs and wetlands in the north-east. Simple, more open areas of pasture would be less sensitive."</i>	Medium
Built Environment and Perceptual Qualities	<i>Turbines "could exacerbate the fragmented and cluttered nature of this landscape where it is disturbed by open cast mining." "the absence of a strong sense of wildness reduces sensitivity although multiple turbines of this typology could be perceived as accentuating industrial aspects of character."</i>	High/medium and Medium

17. Taking the factors considered above into account, the LCT is judged to be of High/medium susceptibility. There are no designations which indicate increased landscape value within the LCT and it is judged to be of Community value, and Medium sensitivity.
18. As shown by Figure 4.5 and viewpoint 16, the closest part of the LCT to the site would have very limited visibility of the turbines, which would become more visible with distance and increasing elevation. The LCT is surrounded by closer operational and consented wind farms to the west, east and south, and views of the blade tips of the Proposed Development at distances of 6km or more would not noticeably alter the character given this context. The scale of change would be Negligible within and Intermediate extent of the LCT. The magnitude of impact would be Negligible and effects would be **minimal, neutral and not significant**.

Visual Receptors

Lugar (2.4 km, W)

19. This receptor group includes residents and local road users, who have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
20. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and illustrative view A taken from the bowls green (see Technical Appendix 4.3), visibility from the village would be restricted by nearby rising ground, vegetation and buildings, but there would be occasional glimpses of the proposed turbines from some parts of this linear settlement, including the more elevated end of Thornwood Drive and from the recreation ground between Braehead Place and the football club. Generally, it would be the more distant turbines to the north of the array that are more visible, and more so in winter. Changes to views would be at most Medium scale (more typically Small scale) for a Localised extent of the village, giving rise to giving rise to a Medium/small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

Logan (3.1 km, W)

21. This receptor group includes residents and local road users, who have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. The village and surrounding fields are included within a locally designated non-inventory designed landscape. The description for this notes that the main interests remaining is ecological, including the presence of Ancient Woodland.

22. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoint 4, visibility from the village would be restricted by nearby embankments to the southwest, vegetation and buildings. Glimpsed views would arise where there are longer views over these features, such as from the slightly elevated Glenmuir Crescent (viewpoint 4), looking along Logangate Terrace (see illustrative view B in Technical Appendix 4.3) where it is aligned towards the Site and also as it passes the primary school. Effects would be at most Medium/small scale for a Limited extent of the village, giving rise to giving rise to a Small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

Cumnock – including Netherthird, Barshare and Craigens (4.4 km, W)

23. This receptor group includes residents and local road users, who have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
24. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoints 5 and 6, visibility from this cluster of low-lying settlements would be restricted by nearby vegetation and buildings to occasional views from the more open eastern edges of Barshare and Craigens, and views of some of the turbines from streets which are aligned towards the Site in the southeastern part of the group – most notably, Michie Street in Cumnock (see illustrative view C in Technical Appendix 4.3) Barshare Road in Barshare (see illustrative view D in Technical Appendix 4.3) and Craigens Road in Netherthird (see illustrative view E in Technical Appendix 4.3). Changes to views would be at most Medium scale in the closer more open views, (more typically Small scale) for a Limited extent of the settlements, giving rise to a Medium/small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

Smallburn & Muirkirk (5.7 km, NE)

25. This receptor group includes residents and local road users, who have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
26. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoint 14, visibility from these adjacent settlements would be restricted to more elevated and open areas around the settlement edges by buildings within the settlements and trees along the A70 through Smallburn. Views from the A70 as it passes through the settlements would be markedly more open in winter, with the turbines seen looking along the road to the southwest through much of Smallburn. There would be more limited visibility from Muirkirk, primarily arising where the more elevated sections of the A70 aligns towards the site (see illustrative view F in Technical Appendix 4.3) and glimpses from more elevated peripheral areas such as the southern end of Lovedale Crescent or northern end of Wellwood Street (more so in winter). Changes to views would be at most Medium/Small scale for a Localised extent of the village, giving rise to a Small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

Auchinleck (6.6 km, W)

27. This receptor group includes residents and local road users, who have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
28. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoint 8, visibility from this village would arise from the more elevated north and eastern edges of the settlement. Views would typically be less open than illustrated at the viewpoint, with occasional glimpses of a small number of turbines along aligned streets (such as the top of Old Avenue) or between houses on the settlement perimeter (such as along Ballochmyle Avenue). A more open view is also possible from a brief section of Coal Road as it crosses the railway line on the eastern edge of the settlement (see illustrative view G in Technical Appendix 4.3). Changes to views would be at most Medium/small scale for a Limited extent of the village, giving rise to giving rise to a Small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

Rural area southwest of A76 (5 km, SW)

29. This receptor group includes residents and local road users within the more settled rural area south of Catrine, west of Cumnock and east of Ochiltree, along with the sparser road network and more isolated dwellings to the west and southwest of New Cumnock and users of the Core Paths in this area. This receptor group has a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.

30. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoints 7, 10 and 16, visibility from this area would arise from more elevated open areas where slopes face towards the Site. Small woodlands and other vegetation along with undulating landform would restrict the extent of visibility to small patches and views, where they arise, would often be of blade tips. Changes to views would be at most Medium/small scale in the most open, elevated views from Cairn Road, Glaisnock Road, the road and Core Path that connects these two roads, and Skares Road (approximately 6-7 km southwest) (as represented by viewpoint 7). Elsewhere, including from within the locally designated historic landscape at Glaisnock, changes to views would range between Small and Negligible scale. An Intermediate extent of the receptor group would be affected, giving rise to a Small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

Cairn Table and Wardlaw Hill (5 km, E)

31. This receptor group includes recreational walkers in the locally designated open moorland and hills to the east of the site, including Wardlaw Hill and the Core Paths and summit at Cairn Table. This receptor group have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
32. As illustrated by viewpoint 15 and Figures 4.6 and 4.8, there would be widespread open views of the Proposed Development, along with existing and consented wind farms seen in other directions from the hill summits, and west and north facing slopes, including from two of the Core Paths ascending Cairn Table. From the lower lying areas between the hills (including the track which ascends Wardlaw Hill from Smallburn) and the Core Paths which follow these valleys there would be limited visibility. Visitors to Wardlaw Hill would have closer views of the Proposed Development as they reach the summit and more distant views of the other wind farms, and Medium scale changes to views would arise in this less visited area; Small scale changes would arise at Cairn Table. For walkers using the Core Paths at Cairn Table, the Proposed Development would be seen to the side of the route rather than in front during the ascent and descent and consented wind farms at similar distances will be seen looking ahead when descending. Taking account of these changes to views within an Intermediate extent of the summits and routes; the magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

Visitors to Dumfries House GDL (6.1km, W)

33. This receptor group includes visitors to the formal gardens and parkland which comprises the GDL. The gardens are an important visitor attraction and views are considered to be of National value and High sensitivity.
34. As shown by Figure 4.6 and viewpoint 9, the density of vegetation within the formal gardens and parkland would limit visibility to very occasional glimpses of blade tips, this would be the case in both summer and winter. Some more open views may arise from the paths through the less visited outer areas of the parkland, such as the path leading to Barony A-frame, but tree and vegetation cover is more extensive than modelled by the ZTV and views would be limited to occasional glimpses giving rise to Medium/small to Small scale changes to views from a Limited extent of the views from the designed landscape. The magnitude of impact would be Small/negligible and effects would be **minor, adverse and not significant**.

River Ayr Way (2.9 km, N)

35. This long-distance walking route and associated Core Paths follow the valley of the River Ayr, as shown by Figure 4.6. Locally designated non-inventory designed landscapes are accessible via this route at Dalgain, Daldorch and Sorn Castle, and much of the route passes through locally designated landscapes as shown by Figure 4.2. Walkers using the route have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views.
36. As illustrated by Figure 4.6 and viewpoint 13, the low-lying nature of the route would mean that landform and woodlands would often limit visibility of the Proposed Development, including where the route passes through the designed landscapes near Sorn and Catrine. In addition, tree cover alongside the river would further limit visibility, particularly in summer. As set out at 4.7.12 of the LVIA chapter, beyond 10 km from the turbines, the scale of change to views would be Negligible. Between Catrine and just east of Muirkirk (within 10 km), the main areas of visibility would arise close to where the route crosses the A70 (as represented by viewpoint 13) and to the south of Muirkirk (see illustrative view H in Technical Appendix 4.3). A Localised extent of Medium to Small

scale changes to views would arise in this stretch of the route, giving rise to a Medium/small magnitude of impact. Effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

A76 (5.0 km SW)

37. Users of this single carriage-way main road through the study area would have a Medium sensitivity to changes to views.
38. As illustrated by Figure 4.6, there would be short stretch of visibility to the north-east of New Cumnock (see illustrative view J in Technical Appendix 4.3) where a few blade tips would be visible on the skyline perpendicular to the direction of travel for users travelling in either direction although this would not be particularly noticeable and would give rise to Negligible scale changes to views. For northbound users of this route, the only other notable visibility of the turbines would arise as they approach and cross the railway south of Netherthird, where blades may be seen through vegetation alongside the route and along the skyline which would again be barely noticeable and would give rise to Negligible scale changes to views. Beyond this area, landform, buildings and roadside vegetation would screen views until the proposed turbines are behind the direction of travel.
39. For southbound road users, the first noticeable views would arise intermittently along a 2 km stretch near the junction with the B713 at Catrine (see illustrative view K in Technical Appendix 4.3), where the turbines would be visible in longer views over the roadside hedges and partly screened by intervening trees and woodland, giving rise to Small/negligible scale changes to views. Beyond this area, landform, buildings and roadside vegetation would screen views until the proposed turbines are behind the direction of travel.
40. Changes to views would arise over a Limited extent of the route, giving rise to a Negligible magnitude of impact. Effects would be **minimal, neutral and not significant**.

Designated Landscapes

River Ayr Valley LLA (3.3 km, NW)

41. As shown by Figure 4.2, this extensive local designation extends from near Drongan, along the Ayr Valley to the northwest of the Site, and towards Cumnock to the west of the Site.
42. The summary of character and qualities of the LLA in the East Ayrshire Council Local Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance (LLASG) is as follows: *"Complex and intricate mix of rolling landform, river corridor landscapes, small settlements, deciduous and mixed woodlands, open farmland, and designed landscape of Dumfries House Estate, with the associated range of landscape colours (blues, dull greens, bright greens and annual changes of the farmland colours – ploughed, fresh grasslands, crops). This gives rise to a more intimate landscape character and set of qualities. The boundary is consistent with the Lowland River Valleys, Ayrshire LCT (River Ayr and Lugar River)."*
43. The detailed evaluation of value indicators included at Table 1 of the LLASG indicate that this LLA was identified as being of High 'rank' in relation to a *"rich combination of woodland, rivers and streams, agriculture, valleys and settlements with some localised high points offering panoramic views" including to the moorlands which are both scenic and enjoyed by residents and visitors*; *"landform, deciduous woodland, rivers, water courses, agriculture, pasture, lowland moorland [which] make for a rich and diverse landscape and intricate landscape"*; and the intimate, vegetated setting that it provides to settlements. Medium value aspects are its distinctive character in the context of East Ayrshire; relatively intact condition, and heritage assets in particularly Dumfries House and the Barony A-frame.
44. The assessment below considers effects each of these aspects as being special qualities of the same susceptibility as the 'rank' identified in the LLASG. Other aspects are identified as being of 'Low' rank and as such could not be considered to be special qualities.

Special Quality	Susceptibility	Effects
<i>"some localised high points offering panoramic views"</i>	High	As shown by Figure 5.2, the main area of visibility would be between Sorn and the forestry blocks which mark the eastern end of the LLA to the north of the Site. Elsewhere, visibility would be limited, with patchy areas near Catrine and Ochiltree, where changes to views would be Negligible. The area east of Sorn is atypical in the context of the LLA and encompasses the quarry and open hillsides of Tincorn Hill which is located within LCT 18a Plateau Moorlands (unlike the main area of the LLA). Views from this area are illustrated by viewpoint 12 and look out of the LLA towards the Site. Given the nature of the location it is judged that changes to this special quality arising from views of the turbines from Tincorn Hill would be Medium scale within a Localised extent of the LLA. A small number of more distant high points may coincide with streets where people would be present at night, where the proposed lights may be seen in the context of aviation lights on other consented and/or operational turbines, but it is unlikely that people would be present at night at Tincorn Hill, which is the main area of visibility within the LLA. Given this, impacts on this special quality would be expected to be Negligible at night.
<i>"landform, deciduous woodland, rivers, water courses, agriculture, pasture, lowland moorland make for a rich and diverse landscape" and intricate landscape;</i>	High	The combinations of elements within the landscape would not be altered except that views of turbines would be added in some places where these are not already present. As noted above, the main area of visibility at Tincorn Hill does not exhibit this diversity, and the outlook towards the Site largely looks beyond the LLA away from the landscape within. Changes to this quality would be Negligible. This quality is not readily appreciated at night.
<i>"Settlements are nestled into the landscape, contained by landform, hedges and woodland"</i>	High	Visibility of the turbines from Sorn and Catrine is unlikely to arise as shown by Figure 4.6. Changes to this quality would be Negligible. This quality would not be affected by the potential for views of aviation lights.
Distinctive character	Medium	The primary character type associated with this LLA is LCT9 Lowland River Valleys. As set out at paragraph 12 above, Small scale changes to character would arise to the east of Sorn (a Localised extent in the context of the LLA). Otherwise changes to character would be Negligible. This quality is not readily appreciated at night.
Relatively intact condition	Medium	The condition of the LLA would not be altered by views of wind turbines sited beyond the LLA. This quality is not readily appreciated at night.
Presence of heritage assets	Medium	The presence of these heritage assets in the landscape would not be affected by the proposed Development. Both the Barony A-frame and Dumfries House are located to the west of Cumnock, and as indicated by Figure 4.6, would have very limited visibility of the Proposed Development as set out at paragraph 34 above. Changes to this special quality would be Negligible. This quality is not readily appreciated at night.

45. Taking account of the Regional value of the LLA, it is judged to have a High/medium susceptibility and High/medium sensitivity to development of the type proposed.
46. The only notable changes to the special qualities would be Medium scale changes the panoramic views as a result of a Localised extent of changes to views from Tincorn hill, which is an atypical open quarried hillside

within the LLA. The magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

Night-time Effects

Other Settlements within 7 km

47. People moving around the settlements of Lugar, Logan, Cumnock, Netherthird, Barshare, Craighens, Smallburn, Muirkirk and Auchinleck at night would have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. From these settlements, they would see the aviation lights (as shown by viewpoints 4, 5, 6, 8 and 14) in the context of more nearby street lighting. In the more elevated and open views from Auchinleck (viewpoint 8), the flashing light on the single turbine near New Cumnock is readily visible and aviation lights on consented wind farms will also be seen. In channelled views along streets one or more of the aviation lights would be seen, but with nearby streetlights in the foreground. Changes to views would be Small scale for a Localised or Limited extent of each receptor group, increasing to Medium/small in open views from settlement edges (e.g. viewpoints 5 and 6) in very limited areas. Impacts would be and would be Small/negligible magnitude and effects would be **minor, adverse and not significant**.

Other rural areas within 5 km, and southwest of the A76

48. People moving around the rural areas between Cronberry, Auchinleck and Cumnock; along the B743 and around the area between Sorn and the A70; and in the rural area southwest of the A76 at night would have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. Generally these areas are dark at night but lighting at nearby settlements can be prominent, especially from more elevated areas and lighting at farms, on passing vehicles (particularly on the nearby A-roads) and at the Barony chipboard plant are frequently seen.
49. In the more elevated parts of each of these areas, which is also where the Proposed Development is more likely to be seen, lights on consented wind farms will be visible as shown by viewpoints 7, 8 and 12. The Proposed Development would add, at most, three additional red lights seen alongside those on consented schemes or from areas where these will be visible in different directions. This would result in Small scale changes to views for a Localised extent, the magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

A70 (0.7 km NW)

50. Users of this route at night would be primarily focussed on the road and would have a Low sensitivity to changes to views. The most noticeable light sources would be tail lights, headlights and (in places) reflectors along the route, along with streetlighting where the road passes through settlements and outdoor lights on nearby farms and homes. North-east of Lugar, aviation lights on under construction and consented turbines will become an increasingly prominent feature for north-east bound travellers.
51. Seen in this context there would be noticeable views of the aviation lights from streetlit areas for drivers heading towards the Proposed Development from Smallburn and passing Logan, where Negligible scale changes to views would arise. The main changes would be as the route passes the Site, where there would be occasional views of one or two of the aviation lights above the skyline to the south side of the road as illustrated by viewpoint 1 and Figure 4.11. Changes to views would be Medium scale through this stretch, affecting a Localised extent of the route. The magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **minor, adverse and not significant**.

Cumulative Effects

52. For each of the receptors and cumulative scenarios, as set out at **Section 4.12 of Chapter 4**, the assessment provided below summarises the main assessment (Scenario 1) and describes any differences.

Landscape Character			
LCT 18a East Ayrshire Plateau Moorlands			
As shown by Figures 4.5 and 4.9 , all three wind farms would be located within this Medium sensitivity LCT. As a result, in any scenario in which Glen Water or The Drum is present, the Site and nearby areas of the LCT would already be affected by the nearby presence of turbines as illustrated by viewpoints 12 and 15.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large scale changes within the Site and the area within 1-2 km; across Dornal Moss and the western slopes of Cairn Hill. Medium scale between 2 km and 4 km to the east and southwest Small scale between 4-6 km to the east and north of the Site.	Medium scale within the Site. Medium/Small scale within 2-4km to the southwest.	Medium scale within the Site. Medium/Small scale within 2-4km to the east.	Medium scale within the Site.
Localised extent	Limited extent	Limited extent	Limited extent
Large/medium magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	Small magnitude
Major/moderate, adverse (significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)

LCT 10 Upland River Valley			
As shown by Figures 4.5 and 4.9 and viewpoint 3, the Proposed Development would be located partly within the edge of this High/medium sensitivity LCT in the Glenmuir Water valley, and Glen Water Wind Farm would be located adjacent to the opposite valley side to the south. As shown by viewpoints 12, 13 and 14, The Drum and the Proposed Development would be seen alongside each other, appearing as a single wind farm in views from the Bellow Water valley to the north. As a result, in any scenario in which Glen Water or The Drum Wind farm is present, the Site and nearby areas of the LCT would already be affected by the nearby presence of turbines.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large scale changes within the Site and within 1 km of the turbines. Medium scale changes elsewhere within the Glenmuir Water and Bellow Water unit. Small scale within the Ayr Valley unit west of Smallburn and Muirkirk.	Medium scale within the Site and within 1km of the turbines. Small scale changes elsewhere within the Glenmuir Water and Bellow Water unit.	Medium scale within the Site and within the Bellow Water valley. Small scale within the Glenmuir water valley to the south and southeast of and within the Ayr Valley unit west of Smallburn and Muirkirk.	Medium scale within the Site. Small scale elsewhere within the Glenmuir water and Bellow Water unit.
Wide extent	Intermediate extent	Wide extent	Intermediate extent
Large/medium magnitude	Small magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	Small magnitude
Major/moderate, adverse (significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)
LCT 7c East Ayrshire Lowlands			
As shown by Figures 4.5 and 4.9 and viewpoints 8 and 12, the Proposed Development and The Drum wind farm would be seen as a single wind farm from the areas of this LCT to the northwest of the Site, and the addition of the Proposed Development if The Drum were already present would not noticeably alter the character. Within the part of the LCT south of Cumnock, as illustrated by viewpoints 5 and 6, this would also be the case. In this area, Glen Water would also be visible at a similar distance to the Proposed Development and would have an influence on the character, which would slightly reduce the degree of change that would arise from adding the Proposed Development.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium scale changes across Airds Moss. Small scale within 5-7 km of the turbines.	Negligible scale	Medium scale changes across Airds Moss. Small scale within 5-7 km to the northwest. Small/negligible scale within 5-7 km southwest.	Negligible scale
Localised extent	Localised extent	Localised extent	Localised extent
Medium/small magnitude	Negligible magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	Negligible magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Minimal, Neutral (not significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Minimal, Neutral (not significant)

Visual Receptors			
Lugar			
In the occasional views out from Lugar above the landform and trees which largely screen the outlook towards the Site, the Proposed Development would be seen in front of the turbines of The Drum, though these would be notably less visible than the Proposed Development. Glen Water Wind Farm is unlikely to be visible.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
At most Medium scale (more typically Small scale)	Medium/small to Small scale	As scenario 1	Medium/small to Small scale
Localised extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Medium/small magnitude	Small magnitude	As scenario 1	Small magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)
Rural area between Cronberry, Auchinleck and Cumnock			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoints 2 and 8, all three wind farms would be seen in the same general direction from this area, with The Drum and the Proposed Development appearing as a single wind farm and Glen Water seen separately along the skyline. In closer views the Proposed Development would be noticeably closer than The Drum, but with distance this perspective would reduce and the Glen Water turbines would also appear to be at a more similar distance and scale.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large/medium, reducing to Medium/small scale with distance	Medium, reducing to Small scale with distance	As scenario 1	Medium, reducing to Small scale with distance
Wide extent	Wide extent	As scenario 1	Wide extent
Medium magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	As scenario 1	Medium/small magnitude
Major/moderate, adverse (significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Moderate, adverse (not significant)
Logan			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoint 4, the Proposed Development and The Drum would appear as a single wind farm with the Proposed Development slightly closer. Where visible, Glen Water would be seen from different places in the settlement which have an outlook to the southeast.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium/small scale	Small scale	As scenario 1	Small scale
Limited extent	Limited extent	As scenario 1	Limited extent
Small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	As scenario 1	Small/negligible magnitude
Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Minor, adverse (not significant)

Cumnock – including Netherthird, Barshare and Craigens

As illustrated by **Figure 4.9** and viewpoints 5 and 6, the Proposed Development and The Drum would appear as a single wind farm with the Proposed Development slightly closer. Glen Water would be seen in a separate location along the skyline from open places at the edges of the settlements. There may also be some glimpsed views of Glen Water from streets aligned towards that site, but these would be different aligned views from those where The Drum and the Proposed Development would be seen.

Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
At most Medium scale in the closer more open views, (more typically Small scale)	Small scale	As scenario 1	Small scale
Limited extent	Limited extent	As scenario 1	Limited extent
Medium/small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	As scenario 1	Small/negligible magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Minor, adverse (not significant)

B743 and rural area between Sorn and A70

As illustrated by **Figure 4.9** and viewpoints 12 and 13, the Proposed Development and The Drum would appear as a single wind farm with the Proposed Development slightly closer to the western part of this area. Glen Water would be less frequently visible, at a greater distance and often partly screened by landform and/or the forestry at Airds Moss.

Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium scale between viewpoint 12 and the A70	Small scale	As scenario 1	Small scale
Intermediate	Intermediate	As scenario 1	Intermediate
Medium magnitude	Small magnitude	As scenario 1	Small magnitude
Major/moderate, Adverse (significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)

Smallburn and Muirkirk

As illustrated by **Figure 4.9** and viewpoint 14, the Proposed Development and The Drum would appear as a single wind farm with the Proposed Development slightly more distant. Glen Water would not be visible.

Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium/small scale along the A70 in Smallburn and from open edges of the villages.	Small scale	As scenario 1	Small scale
Localised extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	As scenario 1	Small/negligible magnitude
Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Minor, adverse (not significant)

Auchinleck			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoint 8, where they are visible the Proposed Development and The Drum would appear as a single wind farm. Glen Water would be seen separately along the skyline at a similar distance.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium/small scale changes to views from the more elevated east and north edges of the settlement.	Small scale	As scenario 1	Small scale
Localised extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	As scenario 1	Small/negligible magnitude
Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Minor, adverse (not significant)
Rural area southwest of A76			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoints 7, 10 and 16, the Proposed Development and The Drum would be seen as a single wind farm from this area. Glen Water would be seen separately and would be more distant from the areas west of Cumnock but would be the closer and more visible of the developments from the southern parts of this area.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
At most Medium/small scale in the most open, elevated views within 6-7 km southwest). Small to Negligible scale elsewhere.	Small scale in the most open, elevated views within 6-7 km southwest). Negligible scale elsewhere	As scenario 1	Small scale in the most open, elevated views within 6-7 km southwest). Negligible scale elsewhere
Intermediate extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	As scenario 1	Small/negligible magnitude
Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Minor, adverse (not significant)
Cairn Table and Wardlaw Hill			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoint 15, all three wind farms would be seen from the summits, with the Proposed Development and The Drum seen as a single wind farm from this upland area, with The Drum turbines appearing closer. Glen Water would be seen slightly to one side and slightly further away. From the paths ascending the northern slopes, Glen Water Wind Farm would not be visible.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium scale at Wardlaw Hill, reducing to Small at Cairn Table	Small/negligible scale at Wardlaw Hill, reducing to Negligible at Cairn Table	Small scale at Wardlaw Hill, reducing to Small/negligible at Cairn Table	Small/negligible scale at Wardlaw Hill, reducing to Negligible at Cairn Table
Intermediate extent	Localised extent	Intermediate extent	Localised extent
Medium/small magnitude	Negligible magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	Negligible magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Minimal, neutral (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	Minimal, neutral (not significant)

River Ayr Way			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoints 13 and 14 (which is not on the route, but shows a nearby view from Smallburn), the Proposed Development and The Drum would be seen as a single wind farm. Glen Water would not be visible (or would be barely visible) from the route.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium to Small scale changes to views between where the route crosses the A70 and south of Muirkirk	Medium/small to Small scale	As scenario 1	Medium/small to Small scale
Localised extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Medium/small magnitude	Small magnitude	As scenario 1	Small magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)
A70			
As illustrated by Figure 4.9 and viewpoints 1 and 13 and 14 (which are not on the route but nearby), The Drum and the Proposed Development would be seen as a single development from this route, with the Proposed Development being notably closer in the closest views, and The Drum being closer in views from Smallburn and Muirkirk. Glen Water Wind Farm would not be visible (or would be barely visible) from the route.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large and Large/medium scale changes to views between Boghead and Lugar. Small scale passing through Smallburn and passing Logan from the west.	Medium scale changes to views between Boghead and Lugar. Small scale passing Logan from the west. Small/negligible scale passing through Smallburn.	As scenario 1	Medium scale changes to views between Boghead and Lugar. Small scale passing Logan from the west. Small/negligible scale passing through Smallburn.
Localised extent	Localised extent	As scenario 1	Localised extent
Large/medium magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	As scenario 1	Medium/small magnitude
Major/moderate, adverse (significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	As scenario 1	Moderate, adverse (not significant)

Cumulative Effects on Special Qualities of Uplands and Moorlands LLA

<i>"Dramatic, large-scale, simple rolling hills which act as the backdrop to East Ayrshire in the east and south, contrasting strongly with the valleys and open agricultural areas."</i>			
From the areas affected by the Proposed Development, the Proposed Development would be seen in front of The Drum, with the two wind farms appearing as a single wind farm as shown by viewpoints 7, 8 and 12. Glen Water would be seen slightly to one side, and typically would be more distant.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large/medium scale changes to views of moorland backdrop from lower lying areas within 7 km to the west	Medium/small to Small scale changes	As scenario 1	Medium/small to Small scale changes
Intermediate extent	Intermediate extent	As scenario 1	Intermediate extent
<i>"striking moorland character"</i>			
The Drum would be located in the forestry to the east of the Site and adjacent to the open moorland of the LLA, such that the addition of the Proposed Development would not markedly alter the influence of turbines in that closest part of the moorland. Glen Water would be adjacent to the LLA boundary to the south, giving rise to character changes in the nearest parts of the moorland within the LLA such that the Proposed Development would be added to a baseline already partly influenced by a nearby wind farm.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large and Medium scale changes to the moorland character within 4 km, and Small scale changes to 6 km	Small scale within 2-4 km to the southeast and across Airds Moss.	Medium scale within the Site and across Airds Moss. Medium/Small scale within 2-4 km to the east.	Small scale across Airds Moss.
Localised extent	Limited extent	Limited extent	Limited extent
<i>"some perception of wildness due to lack of access"</i>			
The presence of either Glen Water or The Drum would reduce the perception of wildness in the areas of the LLA closest to the Site.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Small scale changes within 5 km to the east across the west-facing slopes of Wardlaw Hill and Dornal Moss	Negligible.	Negligible.	Negligible.
Limited extent	N/A	N/A	N/A

<i>"recreational use"</i>			
The presence of either Glen Water or The Drum may reduce the enjoyment of recreational access for those who dislike views of wind farms. The addition of the Proposed Development would only notably alter that where one of the other two wind farms would not be visible – the northern slopes of Wardlaw Hill where Glen Water Wind Farm would not be seen.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Small scale changes within 5 km to the east across the west-facing slopes of Wardlaw Hill, Airds Moss and uplands within 5 km north	Negligible.	Small scale changes across the northern slopes of Wardlaw Hill.	Negligible.
Localised extent	N/A	Limited extent	N/A
Effects on LLA			
The assessment below considers the identified effects on each special quality for each scenario together.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Large/medium magnitude	Small magnitude	Medium/small magnitude	Small magnitude
Major/moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, Adverse (not significant)	Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, Adverse (not significant)

Cumulative Effects on Special Qualities of River Ayr Valley LLA

53. Only one of the special qualities of this LLA would experience more than negligible impacts from the Proposed Development and is considered below.

<i>"some localised high points offering panoramic views"</i>			
As illustrated by nearby viewpoint 12, the Proposed Development and The Drum would be seen as a single development from Tincorn hill, with Glen Water being more distant and adjacent. The degree of change to the quality of panoramic views within the LLA would be reduced when adding the Proposed Development to a baseline already including one or both wind farms.			
Scenario 1	Scenario 2D	Scenario 2G	Scenario 3
Medium scale changes to this quality at Tincorn Hill	Small scale changes to this quality at Tincorn Hill	Medium/small scale changes to this quality at Tincorn Hill	Small/negligible scale changes to this quality at Tincorn Hill
Localised extent	Localised extent	Localised extent	Localised extent
Medium/small magnitude	Small/negligible magnitude	Small magnitude	Negligible magnitude
Moderate, adverse (not significant)	Minor, adverse (not significant)	Moderate/minor, adverse (not significant)	Minimal, Neutral (not significant)

Cumulative Effects with Glen Water Wind Farm at night (Scenario 2G and 3)

Cronberry

54. As shown by viewpoint 2, one of the lights at Glen Water would be visible, and the three lights on the Proposed Development would be seen noticeably closer and higher above the skyline. The magnitude of impact would be Medium/small and effects would be **moderate, adverse and not significant**.

Other rural areas within 5 km, and southwest of the A76

55. In the more elevated parts of each of these areas, which is also where the Proposed Development is more likely to be seen, the lights on Glen Water Wind Farm would also be visible as shown by viewpoints 7, 8 and 12 and **Figure 4.12**. In closer and/or lower lying areas, only the Proposed Development is likely to be seen, as shown by viewpoints 2 and 13. Changes to views would be Medium scale for a Limited extent of these receptor groups where new views of aviation lighting would be introduced and Negligible scale elsewhere where both Glen Water and the Proposed Development would be seen at similar proximity in addition to the more distant consented wind farm aviation lights. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be **moderate/minor, adverse and not significant**.

A70 (0.7 km NW)

56. As shown by **Figure 4.12** and viewpoint 1, the lights on Glen Water Wind Farm would typically not be seen from this route and effects would be the same as for the Proposed Development alone.