



**Beaufort Wind Limited**

# **Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering**

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 4)

Appendix 5.5 – Viewpoint Assessment

663547



**JULY 2025**

**RSK**

## RSK GENERAL NOTES

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1.1 This Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from the 17 viewpoints that were identified in **Appendix 5.4** as having the potential to experience significant effects.
- 1.1.2 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, or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines, as well as giving a comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.3 A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in **Table 1** of this Appendix and is replicated at **Table 5.8** of **Chapter 5** within the EIA Report. Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint. Each viewpoint is illustrated in **Volume 2** of the EIA Report.

## 2 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Viewpoint 2 - Clach Bhadan, Core Path

Baseline				
Grid reference	196905	723339	Elevation (m AOD)	245.2 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	2211 m (T4)	Direction to Proposed Development		North northeast
LPA	Argyll & Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 7 Craggy Upland
Designations	None		Receptor	Walkers and Cyclists
Description of Baseline View				
Looking north, northeast towards the site undulating open moorland with exposed rocky outcrops rises to form the horizon. Existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is seen against the skyline in the background of view. Ben Cruachan is seen in the background of view looking northeast. In successive views looking south the hubs of two and the blades of five Carraig Gheal Wind Farm turbines are seen against the skyline above the intervening rugged moorland.				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	This viewpoint is located on Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) Core Path C171(b) - Kilmore - Loch Nant – Kilchrenan and National Cycle Network Route (NCNR) 78. The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape but does provide view outwards the Wild Land Area (WLA) Loch Etive mountains which is also located within an A&BC Local Landscape Area (LLA). On balance the value of the view for recreational receptions is considered high.	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are generally considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view. However, this route passes between two existing wind farms and within an area of commercial forestry, which would reduce susceptibility to medium.		Medium high
Cyclists				
Magnitude of Change				
As illustrated in the cumulative wireline drawing at <b>Figure 5.39</b> , five of the seven proposed turbines would be theoretically visible above the horizon from this viewpoint. This includes the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of four turbines (T2- T4, and T6), and the blade tips of one other (T1). This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (c. 2.2 km) and would occur at a broadly perpendicular angle to the orientation of the route.				
The proposed turbines occupy a medium to large lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the intermediate landform and as such do not cross into the foreground landscape that provides the landscape setting of the Core Path.				
The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the upland landscape that is set beyond the foreground, and they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the route of the Core Path.				

The magnitude of change is considered to be medium high from this location.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>
Walkers and cyclists would experience a <b>moderate major</b> significant effect.

## 2.2 Viewpoint 3 – Taynuilt Church

Baseline				
Grid reference	200478	730998	Elevation (m AOD)	30.1 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	5254 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South southwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 4 Mountain Glens
Designations	None		Receptor	Visitors, Residents
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking south southwest towards the site the graveyard of Taynuilt Church is seen in the foreground of view backed by mature trees. A composition of woodland and glimpsed agricultural fields are seen in the middle distance. The summit of Cruach Airdeny is seen in the background of view forming the skyline, framed by the trees in the foreground of the view. Five of the existing Beinn Ghlas wind turbines are seen against the skyline in the background of the view.</p> <p>No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint. Similar views would be experienced from nearby residences.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Visitors and Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated Visitors to Taynuilt Church and local residents would place value on the available view which is considered to be high.	Visitors to this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views all be it in the part of the view where several of the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines can be seen but where these comprise an insignificant element of the view.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.40</b>, only five of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven turbines. The turbines would appear above the ridge of high ground that forms the distant backdrop to southerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 5.3 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline, as per the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines. As with the existing development they would not encroach into the rolling, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of the Church.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the Church.</p> <p>The upgrade of existing access tracks may be visible where it follows the line cut by the burn that flows from the site to Barguilean, although much of this part of the access is screened by intervening topography and nearby vegetation.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.</p>				

Significance of Effect
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Visitors and residents would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect which is not considered significant.
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## 2.3 Viewpoint 4 – Creag Ghlasrach

Baseline				
Grid reference	191683	722881	Elevation (m AOD)	295.7 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	6065 m (T4)	Direction to Proposed Development		East northeast
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 7 Upland Glens
Designations	At southern edge of Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Walkers
Description of Baseline View				
<p>In open views looking northeast towards the site rugged undulating open moorland is seen rising from the foreground to middle distance where existing Beinn Ghlas wind farm is seen back clothed by Ben Cruachan which forms the skyline in the background of view.</p> <p>In addition to the existing Beinn Ghlas wind turbines, there is potential, limited, visibility of turbines of Carraig Gheal Wind Farm to the east southeast.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape but does provide open views of high points within WLA Loch Etive mountains which is also located within an A&BC LLA and coastal areas of the Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area (NSA) to the north. On balance the value of the view for recreational receptions is considered to be high.	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.41</b>, parts of all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory from this viewpoint. They would be positioned within the middle distance, set within the craggy upland landscape of Creag Ghlasrach. The blades, hubs and parts of the towers of turbines T2 – T4 and T6 would be visible, and the upper tips of turbines T1, T5 and T7. The change would be experienced at approx. 6.1 km away, in an east northeast direction.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the intermediate landform and as such do not cross into the foreground landscape.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the upland landscape.</p> <p>The construction of access tracks and crane pads may also be visible from this location where not obscured by the existing craggy terrain of the site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.</p>				

Significance of Effect
Walkers would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect which is not considered significant.

## 2.4 Viewpoint 5 – Minor road near Barran an Fhraoich, east of Oban

Baseline				
Grid reference	188810	729712	Elevation (m AOD)	75.3 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	9313 m (T4)	Direction to Proposed Development		East southeast
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens
Designations	Teviot Valleys SLA		Receptor	Walkers and Road Users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking east towards the site an undulating landscape comprising rough grassland, pockets of broadleaf woodland and larger areas of conifer plantation extend into the middle distance of view. The open moorland of Beinn Ghlas and Beinn Dearg (right of view) form the skyline in the background of the view.</p> <p>Turbines at the operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm are visible from the viewpoint. Similar views would be experienced from nearby residences.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape but does provide framed and glimpsed views of WLAs and LLAs to the north and east. The viewpoint is located on Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC) Core Path C160(e) - Taynuilt to Oban. On balance the value of the view is considered to be high.	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.		High
Road Users		Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible and are considered as having medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.42</b>, only five of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of T6 and T7 and the upper tips of turbines T3 – T5. The turbines would appear partially obscured by the ridge of high ground that forms the distant backdrop to easterly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 9.3 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline and as such do not encroach into the rolling, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of the settlement.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the settlement.</p>				

The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.

### Significance of Effect

Walkers would experience a **moderate** effect that is not considered significant.

Road users would experience a **minor moderate** effect that is considered not significant.

## 2.5 Viewpoint 6 – Achnacairn

Baseline				
Grid reference	192670	735113	Elevation (m AOD)	21.6 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	9871 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South southeast
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 18 Lowland Ridges and Moss
Designations	None		Receptor	Residents Road users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is situated on a minor road which connects the settlements of Blackcrofts and Achnacairn to the north of Loch Etive. It is situated approximately 10 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The viewpoint allows broad, sweeping views in a south-easterly direction across the gently sloping lowland landscape around the Loch. Low wooded and forested ridges provide a backdrop to the view. Post and wire fences and overhead telecommunication poles and wires are visible within the foreground, whilst the residential property 'Island View Croft' is visible within the middle distance, set within pastoral farmland. Views across the Loch in the east, to the right of the view, are more open.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of south-easterly views experienced by residents and road users in this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it on a promoted tourist route. It is acknowledged however that attractive views are available, which will have local value. The value is assessed as medium high.	Residents are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in south-easterly views and in a part of the landscape where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Road users		Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible and are considered as having medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.43</b>, only two of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blade tips of turbines T5 and T7. The blade tips of these turbines would likely be obscured by intervening vegetation on the horizon, with the remaining turbines screened by landform. The change would be experienced at approx. 9.9 km away.</p>				

The proposed turbines occupy a very small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the horizon and as such do not encroach into the rolling, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of the settlements.

The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible from this location.

#### Significance of Effect

Residents and road users would experience no effect from this viewpoint.

## 2.6 Viewpoint 7 – Ardchattan Priory

Baseline				
Grid reference	197223	734827	Elevation (m AOD)	1.5 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	8257 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic
Designations	Ardchattan Priory GDL		Receptor	Road users and Residents
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking south towards the site Ardchattan Jetty and Loch Etive are seen in the foreground backed by undulating moorland, broadleaf woodland and conifer forest plantation in the middle distance. Open elevated moorland is seen in the background with the ridge between Craugh Airdeny (left of view) and Beinn Ghlas (right of view). Operational Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is seen against the skyline as a relatively distant feature across the centre of the ridge between Craugh Airdeny and the eastern side of Beinn Ghlas.</p> <p>No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint. Similar views would be experienced from nearby residences.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents and visitors	The viewpoint is located within Archattan Priory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL). Its value is considered to be high.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to changes in views. Although Existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is already evident as a relatively distant feature in views looking south.		High
Road users		Users of minor roads are generally considered to be moderately susceptible to change. Road users travelling along this route is considered to be of medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change during daylight hours				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.44</b>, parts of all of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. This would include the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven turbines. The turbines would appear above the ridgeline that forms the distant backdrop to southerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 8.3 km away at an oblique angle to the direction of travel.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline and as such do not encroach into the lower, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of Loch Etive.</p>				

The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the loch shore.

The upgrade of existing access tracks and creation of new tracks and crane pads may intermittently also be visible from this location where not obscured by the existing craggy terrain of the site.

The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.

#### Significance of Effect

Residents, visitors arriving or departing the GDL, and road users would experience a **moderate significant** effect.



## 2.7 Viewpoint 8 - B845

Baseline				
Grid reference	198505	736718	Elevation (m AOD)	151.8 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	10175 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 2 High Tops
Designations	A&BC LLA		Receptor	Road users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking south towards the site a rolling landscape of elevated moorland and broad leaf woodland extends down to Loch Etive backed by elevated undulating broadleaf woodland. Landform continues to rise with a transition from lower to higher elevations of rough grazing, conifer forest plantation and open moorland. The ridge between Craugh Airdeny (left of view) and Beinn Ghlas (right of view) forms the skyline in the background of view. Operational Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is seen against the skyline as a relatively distant feature across the centre of the ridge between Craugh Airdeny and the eastern side of Beinn Ghlas.</p> <p>The existing operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is also visible from the viewpoint. Similar views would be experienced from nearby residences.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is located within an A&BC LLA and is not a promoted tourist route landscape designated. On balance its value is assessed as medium.	Users of minor roads are generally considered to be moderately susceptible to change. Road users travelling along this route are assessed as having medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.45</b>, parts of all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory from this viewpoint. The blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven turbines would be visible. The change would be experienced at approx. 10.2 km away, above the horizon in a southerly direction.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, similar to that occupied by the existing turbines, set back beyond the intermediate landform, with only T8 and 10 appearing forward of the ridgeline.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do encroach into the foreground landscape nearer to the loch shore.</p> <p>The upgrade of existing access tracks and creation of new tracks and crane pads may intermittently also be visible from this location where not obscured by the existing craggy terrain of the site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.</p>				
Significance of Effect				
Road users would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect that is not considered significant.				

## 2.8 Viewpoint 9 – Ben Cruachan

Baseline				
Grid reference	206968	730467	Elevation (m AOD)	1116.5 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	9600 m (T1)	Direction to Proposed Development		West southwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 2 High Tops
Designations	Loch Etive Mountains WLA and A&BC LLA		Receptor	Walkers
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking southwest down towards the site an undulating landscape, with a patchwork of moorland, broadleaf woodland, conifer forest plantation and occasional lochs and lochan, extends into the middle distance. The Firth of Lorn and backdrop summits on the Isle of Mull and Jura are seen in the very background of view.</p> <p>Existing operational Beinn Ghlas wind farm is seen in the middle distance within the centre of view backclothed by landform and vegetation. Operational Carraig Gheal is seen back clothed left of view to the southeast of Beinn Ghlas. No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint.</p>				
Receptor	Value		Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within an A&BC LLA and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The value is considered to be high.		Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the view where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.	High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.46</b>, all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. The turbines would appear in the middle distance of west southwesterly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 9.6 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, and do not appear above the horizon.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale landscape setting of Ben Cruachan.</p> <p>The upgrade of existing access tracks and creation of new tracks and crane pads may intermittently also be visible from this location where not obscured by the existing craggy terrain of the site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				

Significance of Effect
Walkers would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect that is not considered significant.

## 2.9 Viewpoint 10 – Portsonachan

Baseline				
Grid reference	204900	720837	Elevation (m AOD)	39.8 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	8025 m (T1)	Direction to Proposed Development		Northwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic
Designations	A&BC LLA		Receptor	Residents Road Users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>This viewpoint is located east of the Portsonachan Hotel. Looking northwest towards the site across Loch Awe in the foreground, broadleaf woodland is seen on the northern bank of the loch backed by undulating rising moorland and conifer forest plantation. From left to right the skyline is formed by the ridge between high points Carn Gaibhre, Cruach Airdeny, Cruach Achadh and Beinn Bhreac.</p> <p>One of the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines is seen as a relatively distant feature against the skyline, with the blades of other Beinn Ghlas turbines filtered from view by the plantation forestry on the horizon. Turbines within the existing Carraig Gheal operational wind farm are visible from the viewpoint to the left of the view.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents	The viewpoint is located with an A&BC LLA. Local residents would place value on the available view which is considered to be high.	Residents in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to changes in views. Although Existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is already evident as a relatively distant feature in views looking northwest.		High
Road Users		Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible, and are considered to be of medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.47</b>, parts of all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven turbines. The turbines would appear partially obscured by the afforested ridge of high ground that forms the distant backdrop to north westerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 8.0 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline and as such do not encroach into the lower lying, wooded middle ground of the loch shore.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not loom over the foreground landscape nearer to the settlement.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				

# Significance of Effect

Residents would experience a **moderate** effect that is not considered significant.

Road users would experience a **minor** moderate effect that is not considered significant.

## 2.10 Viewpoint 11 – A819 layby nr Cladich

Baseline				
Grid reference	210624	723093	Elevation (m AOD)	68.3 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	12338 m (T1)	Direction to Proposed Development		West
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 20 Rocky Mosaic
Designations	A&BC LLA		Receptor	Road users
Description of Baseline View				
Looking west towards the site a pasture field is seen in foreground sloping down to broadleaf woodland which partly screens an undulating landscape of open moorland and conifer plantation behind in the middle distance and background of view. The skyline is formed by the elevated ridge in the background of view between Beinn Chapull and Beinn Ghlas. Existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is seen partly against the skyline in the background of the view. Operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is seen against the skyline in the background to the left of Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm. No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint.				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is within an A&BC LLA, although not on a promoted tourist route. Its value is considered to be medium.	Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible, although in this instance the route passes through an A&BC LLA. Road users are considered to be of medium susceptibility.		Medium
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.48</b>, the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory from this viewpoint. The change would be experienced at approx. 12.3 km away, above the horizon in a westerly direction, at an oblique angle to the direction of travel.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the intermediate landform, with only T1 and T2 appearing forward of the ridgeline.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they would appear partially filtered through foreground vegetation.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.</p>				
Significance of Effect				
Road users would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect that is not considered significant.				

## 2.11 Viewpoint 13 – A828, grass verge

Baseline				
Grid reference	190939	736152	Elevation (m AOD)	14.2 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	11680 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		Southeast
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 18 Lowland Ridges and Moss
Designations	None		Receptor	Road users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>This viewpoint is located adjacent to the A828 bus stop south of Benderloch. Looking southeast towards the site the A828 is seen in the foreground contained by a verge of gorse, shrubs and broadleaf trees. Between a gap in the gorse an undulating landscape comprising broadleaf woodland, conifer plantation and open moorland is seen rising to the south. The open elevated moorland of Cruach Clenamacrie forms the horizon in the background of view. Existing Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm is seen against the skyline part screened by the foreground gorse.</p> <p>No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is located on the Argyll Coastal Route and is not located within a designated landscape. On balance the value of the view is considered to be medium.	Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible, however, users of a promoted scenic route are considered to be of high susceptibility.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.50</b>, parts of all of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of T1 - T6, and the blade tips of T7. The turbines would appear partially obscured by the ridge of high ground that forms the distant backdrop to south easterly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 11.7 km away, at an oblique angle to the direction of travel.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline and partially screened by intervening roadside vegetation.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do not encroach into the lower lying middle ground landscape.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				
Significance of Effect				
Road users would experience a <b>minor moderate</b> level of effect that is not considered significant.				

## 2.12 Viewpoint 14 – Beinn Bhreac

Baseline				
Grid reference	199279	740046	Elevation (m AOD)	706.5 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	13566 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 2 High Tops
Designations	Loch Etive Mountains WLA and A&BC LLA		Receptor	Walkers
Description of Baseline View				
<p>Looking south towards the site an undulating landscape with a patchwork of moorland, broadleaf woodland, conifer forest plantation and occasional lochs and lochan is seen extending into the middle distance. The Firth of Lorn and backdrop summits on the Isle of Mull and Jura are seen in the very background of view.</p> <p>Existing operational Beinn Ghlas wind farm is seen in the middle distance within the centre of view backclothed by landform and vegetation. Operational Carraig Gheal is seen back clothed left of view to the southeast of Beinn Ghlas. No other operational wind farms are visible from the viewpoint.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within an A&BC LLA and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The value is considered to be high.	Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the view where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.51</b>, parts of all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. This would include the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of all seven turbines. The turbines would appear in distant southerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 13.6 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, and do not appear much further above the horizon than the existing Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal wind turbines.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with their large scale landscape setting.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				
Significance of Effect				
Walkers would experience a <b>moderate</b> effect that is not considered significant.				



## 2.13 Viewpoint 15 - Core Path C517(b) - Inverawe to Glenkinglass, Loch Etive

Baseline				
Grid reference	205510	735250	Elevation (m AOD)	63.6 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	11713 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		Southwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 2 High Tops
Designations	Loch Etive Mountains WLA and A&BC LLA		Receptor	Walkers
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located on Core Path C517(b) - Inverawe to Glenkinglass on the eastern shore of Loch Etive, between Glen Coe and Inverliver, and is approximately 11.7 km to the northeast of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The viewpoint is elevated above the shoreline, and it allows long range views towards the southwest in the direction of the site. The existing turbines at Beinn Ghlas are visible above the craggy horizon. Areas of forest are visible on lower middle ground to the southwest. Extensive panoramic views are available across Loch Etive, including towards Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA to the northeast.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of south westerly views experienced by walkers visiting this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located on a core path within an A&BC LLA and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The value is considered to be high.	Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in southerly views and in a part of the view where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.52</b>, parts of six of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. This would include the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of turbines T2 – T7. The turbines would appear in distant south westerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 11.7 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, largely set back beyond the ridgeline except for turbines T5 and T7. They do not encroach into the lower, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of Loch Etive.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, nor are they higher than the craggy foreground landscape of the loch shore.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.</p>				

#### Significance of Effect

Walkers would experience a **moderate** effect that is not considered significant as it is at an arbitrary isolated point on the route that is not a recognised vantage point.

## 2.14 Viewpoint 16 – Achnacroish Lismore

Baseline				
Grid reference	185226	740970	Elevation (m AOD)	1 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	19000 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		Southeast
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		Lynn of Lorn NSA
Designations	Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area		Receptor	Residents Visitors
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located on the jetty for the ferry across Loch Linnie from Achnacroish on Lismore to Oban. It is approximately 19 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's loch-side location, it allows extensive panoramic views across the water. Long range views are available towards rugged mountains in the distance to the northeast, and lower landform, including towards the Proposed Development site to the southeast. Properties within Achnacroish overlook this view.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of south-easterly views experienced by residents in Achnacroish and visitors in this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Residents and Visitors	The viewpoint is located within the Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area. The value is considered to be high.	Residents and visitors are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in south-easterly views where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.53</b>, parts of all of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of T1 – T3, and T5 – T7 and the upper tips of turbine T4. The turbines would appear partially obscured by the ridge of high ground that forms the distant backdrop to south easterly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 19 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the ridgeline and partially screened by forestry plantation on the horizon.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant upland landscape, and they do not encroach into the lower lying middle ground coastal landscape.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				
Significance of Effect				

Residents and visitors would experience a **minor moderate** level of effect that is considered not significant.

## 2.15 Viewpoint 17 – Ben Starav

Baseline				
Grid reference	212574	742708	Elevation (m AOD)	1049 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	21953 m (T1)	Direction to Proposed Development		Southwest
LPA	Highland Council	Landscape Character Type		233 – Mountain Massif - Lochaber
Designations	Ben Nevis & Glen Coe NSA, Loch Etive mountains WLA,		Receptor	Walkers
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located on the peak of Ben Starav, approximately 22 km to the northeast of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's elevated location, it allows extensive panoramic views in all directions, allowing long range views across mountain slopes down to Loch Etive in the direction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The backdrop to the view is provided by distant peaks rounded and conical hills that provide foci to the view.</p> <p>The existing operational Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is partially visible within the existing view to the left of Beinn Ghlas.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of south-westerly views experienced by walkers visiting this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Walkers	The viewpoint is located within the Ben Nevis and Glencoe NSA and the Loch Etive Mountains WLA. The value is considered to be high.	Walkers are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in south westerly views, albeit in a part of the landscape where existing wind farms are visible.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.54</b>, all seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. The turbines would appear in the middle distance of west south westerly views. The change would be experienced at approx. 22 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view, and do not appear above the horizon.</p> <p>The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view, than those which are existing, but they do not loom down over the lower 'Mountain Glens' loch side landscape setting of Taynuilt. The turbines appear connected with their large scale 'Craggy Upland' landscape setting and separated from the 'High Tops' landscape of Ben Cruachan.</p> <p>The upgrade of existing access tracks and creation of new tracks and crane pads may intermittently also be visible from this location where not obscured by the existing craggy terrain of the site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be medium low from this location.</p>				

Significance of Effect
Walkers would experience a <b>minor moderate</b> level of effect that is not considered significant.

## 2.16 Viewpoint 18 – Bonawe Jetty, Taynuilt

Baseline				
Grid reference	201029	732739	Elevation (m AOD)	1 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	7033 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South southwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 4 Mountain Glens
Designations	None		Receptor	Visitors / Recreational Receptors
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at Bonawe Jetty, to the north of Taynuilt, on the shore of Loch Etive. The jetty forms part of the B845 road, which formerly connected the north and south shores of Loch Etive via a ferry (no longer in use). The jetty is currently used for fishing and launching private boats. It is approximately 7 km to the north northeast of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Due to the viewpoint's loch-side location, it allows extensive panoramic views across the water to the west. Long range views are available to the southwest of distant craggy summits. Views towards the site in the south southwest are partially restricted by trees close to the shore, and a boat shed, whose roofline extends above the horizon.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of south southwesterly views experienced by visitors to this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Visitors / Recreational receptors	The viewpoint is not located within a designated landscape, but it does provide views outwards towards Local Landscape Area (LLA). On balance the value of the view for recreational receptions is considered to be high.	Visitors and recreational receptors in this location are considered to be highly susceptible to the proposed change that would be experienced in south southwesterly views and in a part of the view where there are no other consented or operational wind farms.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.55</b>, parts of all of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory. This would include the blades, hubs and parts of the towers of turbines T3 - T6 and the blade tips of T1 and T2. The turbines would appear in south south westerly views at approx. 7 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view, similar to that occupied by the existing Beinn Ghlas turbines. The proposed turbines are largely set back beyond the ridgeline except for turbines T5 and T7. They do not encroach into the lower, wooded middle ground that provides the landscape setting of Loch Etive.</p>				

The turbines introduce larger scale elements into the view than those which are existing, but they do not conflict with the large scale of the distant Craggy Upland landscape.

The upgrade of existing access tracks may intermittently also be visible where it follows the line cut by the burn that flows from the site to Barguilean.

The magnitude of change is considered to be medium from this location.

#### Significance of Effect

Visitors and recreational receptors would experience a **moderate** level of effect that is not considered significant.



## 2.17 Viewpoint 19 – Glen Lonan Road

Baseline				
Grid reference	199202	729218	Elevation (m AOD)	85.7 m AOD
Distance to nearest turbine	3069 m (T7)	Direction to Proposed Development		South southwest
LPA	Argyll and Bute Council	Landscape Character Type		LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens
Designations	None		Receptor	Cyclists Road users
Description of Baseline View				
<p>The viewpoint is located at the point where the proposed access track to the site from the A85 crosses Glen Lonan Road, which is a Sustrans cycle network route. It is approximately 3 km to the north northeast of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Views towards the south southwest in the direction of the site, extend across rolling grassland with shrub vegetation towards a craggy wooded horizon. In the foreground, gates and fences and an existing service reservoir detract from the view. Overhead electricity poles and wires cross the landscape and break the horizon.</p> <p>There are no other wind farms currently present within the existing view.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of southerly views experienced by cyclists and road users passing through this location.</p>				
Receptor	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity
Cyclists	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities; however, it is located on a promoted Sustrans route. Its value is assessed as high.	Recreational receptors, whose attention is focused on their surroundings, are considered to be of high susceptibility to changes in the view.		High
Road users		Users of minor roads minor roads which appear to be used for recreational activities or the specific enjoyment of the landscape are generally assessed as having high susceptibility.		High
Magnitude of Change				
<p>With reference to the wireline that accompanies this viewpoint at <b>Figure 5.56</b>, only three of the seven proposed turbines would be visible in theory, which would be limited to the blade tips of turbines T5 - T7, with the remaining turbines screened by landform. The change would be experienced at approx. 3 km away.</p> <p>The proposed turbines occupy a very small lateral extent of the view, set back beyond the horizon and as such do not encroach into the rolling, wooded middle ground view.</p> <p>The magnitude of change is considered to be low from this location.</p>				

#### Significance of Effect

Cyclists and road users would experience a **minor moderate** level of effect that is not considered significant.

**Table 1 – Summary of Visual Effects during Operation**

Viewpoint	Approx. Distance to the Nearest Turbine	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
1 - Minor road, Lonan	3.4 km northeast	High	No change	No effect	No
2 - Clach Bhadan, Core Path	2.2 km south	Medium high	Medium high	<b>Moderate Major</b>	<b>Yes</b>
3 - Taynuilt Church	5.3 km northwest	High	Medium	Moderate	No
4 - Creag Ghlasrach	6.1 km southwest	High	Medium	Moderate	No
5 - Minor road near Barran an Fhraoich, east of Oban	9.3 km northwest	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
6 - Achnacairn	9.9 km northwest	High	Negligible	No effect	No
7 - Ardchattan Priory	8.3 km north	High	Medium	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Yes</b>
8 - B845	10.2 km north	Medium	Medium	Moderate	No
9 - Ben Cruachan	9.6 km northeast	High	Medium low	Moderate	No
10 - Portsonachan	8.0 km southeast	High	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
11 - B840 layby nr Cladich	12.3 km west	Medium	Medium low	Minor Moderate	No
12 - A816 layby / parking near Knipoich	13.0 km east	Medium high	Negligible	No effect	No
13 - A828, grass verge	11.7 km northwest	Medium	Low	Minor Moderate	No
14 - Beinn Bhreac	13.6 km north	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No
15 – Core Path C517(b) – Inverawe to Glenkinglass, Loch Etive	11.7 km northeast	High	Medium	Moderate	No
16 – Cachnacraish Lismore	19.0 km northwest	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No
17 – Ben Starav	22.0 km northeast	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No
18 – Bonawe Jetty, Taynuilt	7.0 km northeast	High	Medium	Moderate	No
19 – Glen Lonan Road	3.1 km northeast	High	Low	Minor Moderate	No

**Bold** text indicates a significant effect