



Beaufort Wind Limited

Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm Repowering

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Volume 4)

Appendix 5.6 – Cumulative Effects of Scoping Sites

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RSK GENERAL NOTES

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides a consideration of the potential cumulative landscape and visual effects that may arise as a result of schemes which have been subject to an EIA Scoping Request, but where no planning application has yet come forward. The Appendix should be read in conjunction with the assessment of Cumulative Effects set out in section 5.9 of the LVIA Chapter. Schemes that are at scoping or at the pre-planning stage have not been considered in the main LVIA Chapter due to the uncertainty that these schemes will come forward and the lack of adequate information about project details.
- 1.1.2 No significant cumulative landscape or visual effects have been identified in relation to the consented or in planning schemes in the assessment set out in section 5.9 of the LVIA Chapter. A review has therefore been undertaken to establish whether any of the scoping proposals might give rise to additional effects that have not been considered as part of the cumulative assessment. This assessment serves as a third scenario to the cumulative assessment which assumes that other consented (but as yet unbuilt) wind farms, all schemes in planning and all in scoping schemes are operational. It is possible that all other schemes that currently at scoping may not be approved and constructed but this scenario assumes all schemes are operational as this presents the 'worst case'.
- 1.1.3 At the time of preparing this LVIA, there are two scoping stage schemes within 20 km of the Site for which a Scoping Request has been made in the last 5 years. These are Musdale and Barachander Wind Farms which are shown on **Figure 5.76**. These proposals were set out respectively as being for 26 no. 200 m turbines and 11 no. 180 m turbines. Both proposals lie within 5 km of the Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm. It is because of their proximity to the Beinn Ghlas Wind Farm and the recent scoping submissions that consideration is given only to Musdale and Barachander Wind Farms within this assessment.

2 CONSIDERATION OF MUSDALE SCOPING PROPOSAL

- 2.1.1 The Musdale Wind Farm site is located 0.8 km to the south of the nearest proposed Beinn Ghlas Repowering turbine (T2). This scheme is situated entirely within LCT 7 Craggy Upland, in which the Proposed Development is also located.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

- 2.1.2 The assessment of cumulative effects in the second scenario (in which other schemes in planning are also considered to be consented and operational) predicted that the additional effect of the Proposed Development on the landscape character of LCT 7 would be of medium magnitude, and the level of effect **Moderate** to approximately 1 km, which would be considered **Not Significant**.
- 2.1.3 In this third cumulative scenario (where other schemes in scoping are also considered to be consented and operational) Musdale wind farm would already be present in the baseline landscape, between the existing Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal wind farms. The proximity of the scheme to the Proposed Development would reduce the influence of it on the character of the landscape so that the addition of the Proposed Development into this new baseline scenario would be of low magnitude. The level of effect would therefore be no greater than **Minor Moderate** and **Not Significant**.

Cumulative Effects on Views and Visual Amenity

- 2.1.4 A Cumulative ZTV (CZTV) has been produced to illustrate the theoretical visibility of the Musdale scheme with the Proposed Development (**Figure 5.77**). There is relatively little difference in the extent of those areas which might have potential for views of both the Proposed Development and the Musdale scheme, except for the area to the immediate north of Beinn Ghlas to approximately 5 km.
- 2.1.5 The location of these schemes in proximity to one another would mean that there would be simultaneous views from a variety of directions and distances, except from very close range to the north of Beinn Ghlas, such as Viewpoints 1, 3, 18 and 19. Viewpoints with simultaneous views include Viewpoints 2, 4-11 and 13-17.
- 2.1.6 Generally, the proximity between the sites in the landscape is such that there would be notable cumulative effects except in views from the east and west, where the two wind farms would appear as a continuation of one another, such as Viewpoints 2, 4, 9 and 11. These effects are considered to be significant. At Viewpoints 2 and 4 the proximity of Musdale wind farm would give rise to significant effects within its own right. At viewpoints 9 and 11 Musdale wind farm would occupy a wider horizontal angle of view than the Proposed Development, and thus is the biggest contributor to the cumulative effect.
- 2.1.7 If Musdale wind farm formed part of the visual baseline against which the Proposed Development were to be constructed, there would be some changes to the previous assessment of effects (see **Table 5.8**) on visual amenity which the Proposed Development would bring about. At viewpoint 2 (see **Figure 5.58**) the medium high magnitude of change and at viewpoint 4 (see **Figure 5.60**) the medium magnitude of change identified in the solus assessment would both be reduced to medium low. The

Moderate Major effect predicted at viewpoint 2 and the **Moderate** effect predicted at viewpoint 4, which were considered **Significant** in the solus assessment would be reduced to **Moderate** effects, which are considered **Not Significant**. This is due to the proximity of Musdale wind farm, which would appear more prominent in the views.

- 2.1.8 At viewpoints 9 and 11 (see **Figures 5.65** and **5.67**), Musdale wind farm would occupy a greater horizontal field of view than the Proposed Development, and thus the medium low magnitudes of change identified in the solus assessment would be reduced to low in this scenario. The **Moderate** effect identified at viewpoint 9 would reduce to **Minor Moderate**, which is considered **Not Significant**.

Cumulative 'sequential' effects

- 2.1.9 The addition of Musdale wind farm into the baseline scenario would introduce cumulative sequential effects to core path C171 – Kilmore – Loch Nant, which would pass through Musdale wind farm. As identified above in relation to viewpoint 2, the **Significant Moderate Major** effect that was identified from this route in the solus assessment would be considered **Moderate** and **Not Significant** due to the presence of existing turbines in views.

3 CONSIDERATION OF BARACHANDER SCOPING PROPOSAL

- 3.1.1 The Barachander Wind Farm site is located 2.4 km to the east of the nearest proposed Beinn Ghlas Repowering turbine (T1). This scheme is situated primarily within LCT 7 Craggy Upland, in which the Proposed Development is also located. The northern extent of the Barachander layout extends into LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

- 3.1.2 The assessment of cumulative effects in the second scenario (in which other schemes in planning are also considered to be consented and operational) predicted that the additional effect of the Proposed Development on the landscape character of LCT 7 would be of medium magnitude, and the level of effect **Moderate** to approximately 1 km, which would be considered **Not Significant**. The predicted magnitude of change to LCT 7a was assessed as low magnitude and the level of effect **Minor Moderate** and **Not Significant**.
- 3.1.3 In this third cumulative scenario (where other schemes in scoping are also considered to be consented and operational) Barachander wind farm would already be present in the baseline landscape, to the east of the existing Beinn Ghlas wind farm. The addition of the Proposed Development into a landscape which already includes wind turbines at Barachander wind farm and Carraig Gheal, would result in a lower magnitude of change on the character of the landscape than was predicted in the second scenario. The addition of the Proposed Development into this new baseline would be of low magnitude and the level of effect on LCT 7 would be no greater than **Minor Moderate** and **Not Significant**.
- 3.1.4 The predicted magnitude of change and level of effect within LCT 7a would be the same as assessed in relation to the second scenario, in which Corr Chnoc and Cruach Clenamachie would serve to establish wind energy as a component of this landscape.

Cumulative Effects on Views and Visual Amenity

- 3.1.5 A Cumulative ZTV (CZTV) has been produced to illustrate the theoretical visibility of the in scoping Barachander scheme with the Proposed Development (**Figure 5.78**). It can be seen in the CZTV that there is relatively little difference in the extent of those areas which might have potential for views of both the Proposed Development and the Barachander scheme, except in views from the west.
- 3.1.6 The location of these schemes in proximity to one another would mean that there would be simultaneous views from a variety of directions and distances, except from very close range. Viewpoints with simultaneous views include viewpoints 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 14 and 18. There would also be views in succession from close range views to the northeast, such as viewpoint 19.
- 3.1.7 Generally, the separation between the sites in the landscape is such that there would not be any notable cumulative effects except in views from the east, such as viewpoint 11 (shown at **Figure 5.66**), where the proposed Beinn Ghlas turbines would appear as an extension to the Barachander Wind Farm to the south. These effects are not considered to be significant.

- 3.1.8 At viewpoints 9 and 11 (see **Figures 5.65** and **5.67**), Barachander wind farm would occupy a greater horizontal field of view than the Proposed Development and would appear closer. Therefore, the medium low magnitudes of change identified in the solus assessment would be reduced to low in this scenario. The **Moderate** effect identified at viewpoint 9 would reduce to **Minor Moderate**, which is considered **Not Significant**

Cumulative 'sequential' effects

- 3.1.9 The addition of Barachander wind farm into the baseline scenario would introduce cumulative sequential effects to the B845 between viewpoint 8 and Bonawe. The medium magnitude of change that was identified from this section of route in the solus assessment would be considered medium low due to the presence of existing turbines at Barachander, which would appear closer and occupy a wider field of view than the Proposed Development. Therefore, the **Moderate** effects predicted from this road would be considered **Minor moderate** and **Not Significant** in this scenario.
- 3.1.10 Barachander wind farm would also be visible within the same views as the Proposed Development from the minor road between the A828 and B845 (represented by viewpoint 7). However, it would be partially screened by intervening landform due to its relatively lower elevation. The **Moderate Significant** effect that was identified in the solus assessment from parts of this road would be considered **Not Significant** in this scenario due to the presence of Barachander wind farm within views.

4 TOTALITY OF THE COMBINED EFFECT OF ALL SCHEMES

- 4.1.1 Consideration has also been given to the overall totality of the effect, when the Proposed Development is considered alongside the other operational, consented, proposed and in scoping schemes, including Musdale and Barachander Wind Farms. Of most relevance to this, is a consideration of the overall direct impact on the two LCTs where a significant effect was identified in the main assessment, which cover the 5 km area around the Proposed Development, namely LCT 7 Craggy Upland, in which the proposed Beinn Ghlas Repowering turbines are located, and the adjacent LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens.
- 4.1.2 The in scoping Musdale Wind Farm, and the majority of the Barachander turbines are located within LCT 7 Craggy Upland. The introduction of these schemes would introduce significant direct effects close to their locations and would introduce significant indirect effects across neighbouring LCTs beyond the immediate vicinity of the turbines. Considered collectively, the direct effects on the character of the LCT introduced by these other schemes would only reinforce the existing characteristic of this landscape as one 'with wind turbines'.
- 4.1.3 The northern extent of Barachander Wind Farm is situated within LCT 7a Craggy Upland with Settled Glens. This would introduce a localised direct significant effect on the LCT as it would establish wind energy as a feature of the landscape.
- 4.1.4 It is acknowledged that the combined overall effect on the character of LCT 7 Craggy Upland, were the Proposed Development and the other schemes consented, would be notable, such that collectively the character area would become one in which the presence of wind farms was a strong characteristic feature. There would generally remain a degree of spacing between the Proposed Development and Barachander Wind Farm in views from the north, such as from viewpoints 3, 7, 8, 14 and 18. However, Musdale Wind Farm would appear as a continuous development with the Proposed Development in long-distance views from the north and east, such as from viewpoints 9, 10, 14 and 17.
- 4.1.5 In some close-distance views, such as from viewpoint 2 (shown at **Figure 5.58**) and viewpoint 4 (**Figure 5.60**), wind energy would become the single dominant characteristic of the landscape which would change the understanding and appreciation of its character. However, the Proposed Development would not be the determining factor in the equation, as the Musdale turbines would have a greater impact without the addition of the proposed Beinn Ghlas Repowering turbines.