



Balgray Wind Farm

Appendix 6.5 – Viewpoint Assessment

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1. Appendix 6.5 Viewpoint Assessment

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Technical Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from each of the 17 viewpoints agreed at scoping. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines, 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.
- 1.1.2. A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in **Table 6.5.1** of this Appendix and is replicated at **Table 6.7** of **Chapter 6** within the EIAR. 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 assessment viewpoint is illustrated in **Volume 3** of the EIAR.



1.2. Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint 1 – B723, Croftfoot

1.2.1. Viewpoint 1 is located approximately 1.7 km to the north-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.28**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

1.2.2. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the B723, adjacent to the access to the farmstead 'Blindhillbush' and the residential property, 'Croftfoot'. The viewpoint is situated at an elevation of approximately 139m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.

1.2.3. The viewpoint allows medium-range views to the low ridge to the south-east of Dryfe Water in the direction of the Proposed Development. Agricultural grassland slopes gently down to the river (concealed from view) before rising more steeply on the opposite bank. Areas of woodland are visible on the hillsides. Overhead electricity wires traverse the landscape, and electricity poles and pylons appear above the horizon. In the foreground, a low hedgerow and field gate partially filter the view.

1.2.4. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are therefore assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

1.2.5. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.28**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in close proximity, with the hubs and parts of the towers of three turbines visible (T2, T3 and T6). Only the blades of T1 would be visible, and the blades and parts of the hubs of T4 and T5 visible.

1.2.6. The turbines would all appear above the horizon. From this location, turbines T4, T5 and T6 would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some stacking between turbines T1 and T4. There would be a larger gap between the four turbines to the left of the array and turbines T2 and T3 to the right, however the arrangement still reads as a single group.

1.2.7. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.



- 1.2.8. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears comparable to that of the electricity poles in the existing view, although the turbines would appear at a slightly higher elevation above the horizon than any existing feature in the view. The turbine array would occupy a medium proportion of the view but would be a notable feature, resulting in a **high magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.9. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **major** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 2 – Balgrayhill

- 1.2.10. Viewpoint 2 is located approximately 1.7 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.29**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.11. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the minor road, adjacent to the southern site boundary. The viewpoint is situated at an elevation of approximately 204m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users in this location.
- 1.2.12. The viewpoint allows broadscale sweeping views across rolling farmland towards distant uplands in the north and west. To the north-west of the viewpoint, the existing operational turbines at Harestanes and Minnygap wind farms are visible in the distance.
- 1.2.13. The view towards the north-east in the direction of the Proposed Development is foreshortened by the rising landform. Existing agricultural buildings are visible on the brow of the hill to the right-hand side of the view, whilst an area of woodland is visible on the hillslope to the left. Long-distance views are partially screened by a block of coniferous trees. In the middle-distance and foreground views of post and wire fences and overhead electricity wires and poles traverse the landscape, and electricity poles and pylons appear above the horizon.
- 1.2.14. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **medium sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.15. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.29**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in close proximity, with parts or all of the



towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform.

- 1.2.16. The turbines would all appear above the horizon. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, with a small degree of overlap between turbines T2 and T4 and between turbines T3 and T6.
- 1.2.17. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.18. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears comparable to that of the electricity poles in the existing view, which would be in front of the turbines, although the turbines would appear at a slightly higher elevation above the horizon than any existing feature in the view. The turbine array would occupy a medium high proportion of the view but would be a notable feature, resulting in a **high magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.19. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **major** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 3 – Minor road, Stobohill Cottage

- 1.2.20. Viewpoint 3 is located approximately 1.7 km to the east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.30**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.21. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the minor road, adjacent to Stobohill Cottage to the east of the site. The viewpoint is situated at an elevation of approximately 194m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.
- 1.2.22. The view towards the west in the direction of the Proposed Development is foreshortened by the rising landform, however a longer distance view is available down the road towards the hillside in the south-east.
- 1.2.23. To the right-hand side of the view, the road rises in elevation towards the brow of the hill. Trees line the road on both sides. To the left-hand side of the road, a recently re-planted area of coniferous plantation is visible on the horizon. An area of more mature conifer trees extends across the centre of the view. Overhead electricity wires and telecommunications wires and poles also traverse the landscape, extending above the horizon. In the foreground, a post and wire fence runs adjacent to the road.



- 1.2.24. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are therefore assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.25. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.30**, all six of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint in close proximity with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 6.30**, two of the turbines (T3 and T5) would be completely screened by intervening coniferous trees, with the lower parts of turbines T4 and T6 partially screened
- 1.2.26. The turbines would all appear above the horizon, and where visible above the coniferous plantation. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced.
- 1.2.27. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.28. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears comparable to that of the electricity poles in the existing view, and the turbines would appear lower in the view than the overhead wires. Taking into account the existing screening by intervening conifer trees, the turbine array would occupy a medium proportion of the view, resulting in a **high magnitude of change**. However, if the entire conifer plantation were felled, the magnitude of change would remain high and not increase to very high, due to the distance from the Proposed Development.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.29. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **major** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 4 – B723, Sibbaldbie

- 1.2.30. Viewpoint 4 is located approximately 1.9 km to the west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.31**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.31. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the B723, adjacent residential properties within the small settlement of Sibbaldie. The viewpoint



is situated at an elevation of approximately 92m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.

- 1.2.32. The viewpoint allows medium-range views to the hillside to the east of Dryfe Water (concealed from view) in the direction of the Proposed Development. In the foreground, the view extends over the B723 road and roadside hedgerow, allowing glimpsed and filtered views of residential properties in Sibbaldbie glimpsed between deciduous trees on the river bank. Agricultural grassland rises to the east beyond the settlement. Areas of woodland are visible on the hillside and along the horizon. Low voltage electricity and telecommunications wires and poles traverse the landscape, back-clothed against the hillside.
- 1.2.33. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are therefore assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.34. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.31**, the blades of two of the proposed turbines (T3 and T6) would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint in close proximity, with the hub of T6 also visible. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 6.31**, intervening trees would heavily filter views, particularly of the lower lying T6, so that the development would be all but completely from view.
- 1.2.35. The turbines would appear above the horizon, but below the height of the highest intervening trees.
- 1.2.36. Accounting for the heavy filtering by intervening trees, the Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears much smaller than existing features in the view. It would occupy a small proportion of the view, resulting in a **low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.37. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 5 – Boreland

- 1.2.38. Viewpoint 5 is located approximately 2.5 km to the north of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.32**.



Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.39. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the B723, within the small settlement of Boreland. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 141m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.
- 1.2.40. The viewpoint allows medium-range views downhill to the centre of the settlement to the south-west and the hillside beyond. Views towards the south in the direction of the Proposed Development extends over the B723 road towards the residential property of 'The Old Schoolhouse'. Agricultural grassland rises to the south-east beyond the property. Areas of deciduous woodland and conifer plantation are visible on the horizon. Telecommunications wires and poles extend along the roadside and appear above the horizon.
- 1.2.41. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.42. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.32**, the blades of all six of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint in close proximity, with the hubs of T4 and T5 also visible. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 6.32**, intervening trees would heavily filter views so that the turbines would be all but completely screened from view.
- 1.2.43. The turbines would appear above the horizon, but below the height of the intervening trees.
- 1.2.44. Accounting for the heavy filtering by intervening trees, the Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears much smaller than existing features in the view. It would occupy a very small proportion of the view, resulting in a **low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.45. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 6 – Corrie Common

- 1.2.46. Viewpoint 6 is located approximately 3.4 km to the south-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.33**.



Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.47. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the minor road across Corrie Common, adjacent to residential properties. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 237m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.
- 1.2.48. The viewpoint allows broadscale sweeping views in all directions. Views towards the north-west in the direction of the Proposed Development extend along the road towards the existing operational wind turbines at Harestanes and Minnygap wind farms in the far distance. In the middle-distance view, rolling grassland is interspersed with areas of conifer plantation. In the foreground, residential properties are served by telecommunications wires and poles which extend along the road whilst low voltage electricity wires extend across the view and appear above the horizon.
- 1.2.49. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.50. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.33**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in relatively close proximity, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with minimal amounts of the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.51. The turbines would appear above the horizon, but below the height of the intervening overhead wires. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some slight clustering between turbines T1, T3 and T4 and between T5 and T6, but the arrangement still reads as a single group.
- 1.2.52. The ground level infrastructure of the Proposed Development (access tracks, substation building etc.) would be visible from this viewpoint, but the scale of these components would appear less than the existing road and residential building in the foreground view.
- 1.2.53. The turbines, which form the main component of the Proposed Development, would introduce a scale of change that appears comparable to that of the electricity poles in the existing view, and they would appear lower in the view than the overhead wires. The turbine array would occupy a medium to large proportion of the view, resulting in a **medium high magnitude of change**.



Significance of Effect

- 1.2.54. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 7 – Rangecastle Hill

- 1.2.55. Viewpoint 7 is located approximately 5.6 km to the north north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.34**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.56. The viewpoint is representative of views available from Rangecastle Hill, a scheduled monument. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 284m AOD and is representative of views experienced by visitors to this monument, which is not located on a core path, but is publicly accessible in accordance with the freedom to roam.
- 1.2.57. The relative elevation of this viewpoint over the surrounding landscape allows broadscale sweeping views in all directions. Views towards the south south-west in the direction of the Proposed Development extend over undulating moorland towards a patchwork of grassland fields interspersed by areas of woodland, which slope gently down to Dryfe Water within a wide, shallow strath. Scattered farmsteads and other residential properties are visible amongst the trees, with other associated infrastructure visible, including roads, and electricity pylons and the Steven's Croft Power station in the distance.
- 1.2.58. In the distance, more rugged upland areas are visible on the horizon. The existing operational turbines at Minsca wind farm are visible in views towards the south.
- 1.2.59. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however as a historical landmark, appreciation of views form part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Visitors to this viewpoint are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.60. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.34**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in relatively close proximity, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with minimal amounts of the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.61. The upper parts of the turbines would appear above the horizon, with lower parts of the turbine towers back-clothed against the landform. From this



location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some stacking between turbines T3 and T6. The arrangement reads as a single group.

- 1.2.62. The ground level infrastructure of the Proposed Development (access tracks, substation building etc.) would be visible from this viewpoint, but the scale of these components would appear less than other existing features in the view.
- 1.2.63. The turbines, which form the main component of the Proposed Development, would introduce a scale of change that appears larger than other features in the view, including the existing Minsca wind turbines. The turbine array would occupy a medium proportion of the view, resulting in a **medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.64. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 8 – Lockerbie

- 1.2.65. Viewpoint 8 is located approximately 5.6 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.35**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.66. The viewpoint is representative of views available from Lockerbie, at the junction between the B7076 and the B7068 on the northern edge of the settlement. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 59m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users in this location.
- 1.2.67. The viewpoint allows medium-range views to the wider landscape beyond the roundabout road junction in the foreground, and associated street furniture including road signs and street-lamps. In the middle-distance view, rooftops of residential and agricultural buildings are visible amongst the trees above intervening hedgerows. Telecommunications wires and poles extend across the view and appear above the horizon. In the distance, the landform rises above the rooftops to form a low ridge, partially covered by areas of woodland with grassland agricultural fields between.
- 1.2.68. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users in this location are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **medium sensitivity** to the change proposed.



Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.69. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.35**, the blades of all six of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint in close proximity, with the hubs of T2 and T3 also visible. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 6.35**, intervening vegetation and street furniture would potentially reduce actual visible.
- 1.2.70. The turbines would appear above the horizon, but below the height of the intervening street furniture. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.71. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears much smaller than existing features in the view. It would occupy a small proportion of the view, resulting in a **low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.72. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 9 – B7068, Bankshill

- 1.2.73. Viewpoint 9 is located approximately 5.9 km to the south south-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.36**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.74. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the B7068 road between Lockerbie and Langholm at Bankshill, near to Tundergarth Village Hall. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 158m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users and residents in this location.
- 1.2.75. The viewpoint allows long-distance views in the direction of travel along the B7068 towards the west south-west. Views towards the north north-west in the direction of the Proposed Development are shorter range, extending across rolling grassland fields marked by stone walls and interspersed with areas of woodland and conifer plantations. Telecommunications wires and poles extend across the view and appear above the horizon. High voltage electricity pylons are visible above the distant horizon.
- 1.2.76. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Road users passing this viewpoint are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed, however residents are considered to have high



susceptibility. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.77. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.36**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in relatively close proximity, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades.
- 1.2.78. The turbines would appear above the horizon, but below the height of the intervening trees and overhead wires. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some slight stacking between turbines T2 and T3 and between T4 and T5, but the arrangement still reads as a single group.
- 1.2.79. Some of the ground level infrastructure at the south-western edge of the Proposed Development (e.g. access track to turbine T2) would be visible from this viewpoint, but the scale of these components would appear less than other existing features in the view. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.80. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears smaller than the electricity poles in the existing view, but larger than the distant pylons. The turbine array would occupy a small to medium proportion of the view, resulting in no greater than a **medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.81. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 10 – Annandale Way, Lochbrow

- 1.2.82. Viewpoint 10 is located approximately 7.1 km to the west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.37**.
- 1.2.83. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the Annandale Way, one of Scotland's Great Trails, where it passes along a minor road near the farmstead of Lochbrow. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 60m AOD and is representative of views experienced by walkers and other users of this long-distance recreational route which follows the course of the River Annan for 90 km.
- 1.2.84. The location of this viewpoint within a broad valley landscape allows broadscale sweeping views in all directions to the surrounding hills in the distance. Views towards the east in the direction of the Proposed Development extend over gently rolling agricultural grassland towards the low wooded ridge of Auchenroddan Forest in the distance. In the intervening



landscape other areas of woodland and plantations form a patchwork amongst grassland fields. The roof tops of residential and farm buildings at Lochbrow are visible above the landform in the middle distance, with other associated infrastructure visible, including telecommunications poles, low voltage electricity poles and overhead wires.

- 1.2.85. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however it is situated on a recognised recreational route where appreciation of views is part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Users of the Annandale Way are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.86. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.37**, the blades of all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, with parts of the towers and hubs of four turbines visible (T2, T3, T4 and T5). The lower parts of the turbines would be screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.87. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, and even in scale. The arrangement reads as a single group.
- 1.2.88. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.89. The Proposed Development would introduce a small scale of change above the horizon that would occupy a small to medium proportion of the view, resulting in a **low medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.90. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 11 – B7020, Annandale Way

- 1.2.91. Viewpoint 11 is located approximately 8.6 km to the west south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.38**.
- 1.2.92. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the Annandale Way, one of Scotland's Great Trails, where it passes along the B7020 to the north-east of Lochmaben. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 57m AOD and is representative of views experienced by walkers and other users of this long-distance recreational route which follows the course of the River Annan for 90 km.



- 1.2.93. The location of this viewpoint on the edge of a broad valley landscape allows broadscale sweeping views towards the surrounding hills in the distance. Views towards the north-east in the direction of the Proposed Development extend over gently rolling agricultural grassland fields bounded by stone walls and post and wire fences towards a patchwork of farmland, woodland and coniferous plantations. Scattered residential and agricultural buildings are visible between the trees, including at Bridgemuir, and the industrial premises of Steven's Croft Power Station is also visible above the trees in the middle-distance. To the right of the view, the operational turbines at Minsca wind farm are visible above the horizon.
- 1.2.94. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however it is situated on a recognised recreational route where appreciation of views is part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Users of the Annandale Way are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.95. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.38**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in relatively close proximity, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with minimal amounts of the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.96. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, and even in scale. There would be slight clustering between turbines T3 and T5 but overall, the arrangement reads as a single group.
- 1.2.97. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.98. The Proposed Development would introduce a medium scale of change above the horizon that would occupy a small to medium proportion of the view, resulting in a **low medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.99. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 12 – Burnswark Hill Fort

- 1.2.100. Viewpoint 12 is located approximately 8.9 km to the south of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.39**.



Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.101. The viewpoint is representative of views available from Burnswark Hill Fort, a historical landmark and scheduled monument. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 283m AOD and is representative of views experienced by visitors to this monument, which is not located on a core path, but is publicly accessible in accordance with the freedom to roam.
- 1.2.102. The relative elevation of this viewpoint over the surrounding landscape allows broadscale sweeping views in all directions. Views towards the north in the direction of the Proposed Development extend over undulating rough grassland towards a patchwork of rolling agricultural grassland interspersed by areas of woodland. Scattered farmsteads and other residential properties are visible across the middle-distance view, with some energy infrastructure visible, including electricity pylons and Steven's Croft Power Station.
- 1.2.103. In the distance, more rugged upland moorland areas are visible on the horizon. To the left-hand side of the view the existing operational turbines at Harestanes and Minnygap wind farms are visible in views towards the north-west. Towards the centre of the view, the operational turbines at Clyde wind farm are visible above the distant horizon (these are not shown on the wireline at **Figure 6.39** as they lie beyond the 20 km study area).
- 1.2.104. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however as a historical landmark, appreciation of views form part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Visitors to this viewpoint are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.105. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.39**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades. Some of the lower parts of the towers would be screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.106. The tips of the turbine blades would appear above the horizon, with most of the turbines back-clothed against the landform. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some stacking between turbines T4 and T5. However, the arrangement reads as a single group.
- 1.2.107. The ground level infrastructure of the Proposed Development (access tracks, substation building etc.) would be visible from this viewpoint, but the scale of these components would appear less than other existing features in the view.



- 1.2.108. The turbines, which form the main component of the Proposed Development, would introduce a scale of change that appears larger than other features in the view, but overall, the turbine array would occupy a small proportion of the view, resulting in a **low medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.109. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 13 – A709 west of Lockerbie (bridge over River Annan)

- 1.2.110. Viewpoint 13 is located approximately 9.1 km to the south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.40**.
- 1.2.111. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the A709 road west of Lockerbie. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 45m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users between Lockerbie and Lochmaben.
- 1.2.112. The location of this viewpoint within a broad valley landscape allows broadscale sweeping views towards the surrounding hills in the distance. Views towards the north-east in the direction of the Proposed Development extend over the roadside hedgerow towards a flood defence bund within a low-lying pastoral field. Woodland in the River Annan valley landscape partially screens views of the rolling hillsides in the distance. Scattered farmsteads and residential properties are visible as glimpses between the trees. The industrial premises of Lockerbie Creamery is visible as a prominent feature to the left of the view.
- 1.2.113. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value. The value of the view is therefore considered medium. Users of the A roads are considered to have a low susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **medium sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.114. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.40**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in relatively close proximity, with the upper parts of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades, with the lower parts of the towers screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.115. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, and even in scale. The arrangement reads as a single group.



- 1.2.116. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.117. The Proposed Development would introduce a small to medium scale of change above the horizon that would be experienced at a very oblique angle to the direction of travel along this road. The Proposed Development would occupy a small proportion of the view, resulting in a **medium low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.118. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 14 – Romans & Reivers

- 1.2.119. Viewpoint 14 is located approximately 15.5 km to the north of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.41**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.120. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the Romans and Reivers long-distance walking route, one of Scotland's Great Trails. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 540m AOD and is representative of views experienced by walkers and other users of this 84 km long-distance recreational route.
- 1.2.121. The elevation of this viewpoint on a south-facing slope allows long-distance views in the direction of the Proposed Development. Views towards the south extend over moorland fells, incised by the narrow Dryfe Water glen. In the middle-distance view, layers of hilltops covered in coniferous forestry and agricultural grassland slope down towards the Solway Firth. In the far distance, the landform rises to the south the firth.
- 1.2.122. To the right-hand side of the view, a telecommunications mast appears above the horizon in the middle-distance.
- 1.2.123. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however it is situated on a recognised long-distance route where appreciation of views is part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Users of the Romans and Reivers route are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.



Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.124. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.41**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades. Some of the lower parts of the towers would be screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.125. Due to the elevation of the viewpoint, the turbines would appear back-clothed against the landform. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some stacking between turbines T2 and T6. However, the arrangement reads as a single group.
- 1.2.126. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.127. The Proposed Development would introduce a scale of change that appears larger than forestry trees in the view, but smaller than the telecommunications mast. The turbine array would occupy a small proportion of the overall view, resulting in a **low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.128. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 15 – Southern Upland Way

- 1.2.129. Viewpoint 15 is located approximately 16.6 km to the north-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.42**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.130. The viewpoint is representative of views available from the Southern Upland Way long-distance walking route, one of Scotland's Great Trails. It is situated near to Beattock Hill Fort at an elevation of approximately 239m AOD and is representative of views experienced by walkers and other users of this 344 km long-distance recreational route.
- 1.2.131. The elevation of this viewpoint on a south-facing slope allows long-distance views in the direction of the Proposed Development. Views towards the south-east extend over farmland and rough grassland, crossed with stones walls towards a low undulating ridge in the distance. In the middle-distance, small areas of conifer plantation and mixed woodland filter distant views of hillsides covered in a patchwork of coniferous forestry and agricultural grassland. In the centre of the view, the existing operational turbines at Minsca wind farm are visible on the distant horizon. Low voltage electricity poles and overhead wires cross the view in the foreground.



- 1.2.132. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, however it is situated on a recognised long-distance route where appreciation of views is part of the experience. The value of the view is therefore considered medium high. Users of the Southern Upland Way route are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.133. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.42**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades.
- 1.2.134. The turbines would appear above the horizon. From this location, the turbines would appear relatively evenly spaced, except for T1 which would be stacked behind T4 from this viewpoint.
- 1.2.135. The ground level infrastructure of the Proposed Development (access tracks, substation building etc.) would be visible from this viewpoint, but the scale of these components would appear less than other existing features in the view.
- 1.2.136. The turbines, which form the main component of the Proposed Development, would introduce a scale of change that would appear in the same line of sight as the existing wind farm at Minsca. The turbine array would occupy a small proportion of the overall view, resulting in a **low magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.137. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.

Viewpoint 16 – B723, north-east of Boreland

- 1.2.138. Viewpoint 16 is located approximately 3.9 km to the north north-east of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.43**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.139. The viewpoint is representative of views available from a layby on the B723 to the north-east of Boreland. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 215m AOD and is representative of views experienced by road users in this location.
- 1.2.140. This viewpoint allows long-distance views in the direction of the Proposed Development. Views towards the south-east extend over rolling grassland incised by Boreland Burn, towards an undulating ridge in the distance. In the middle-distance, scattered areas of woodland and conifer plantation are



interspersed with farmsteads and pastoral fields. Electricity pylons cross the view in the distance, occasionally breaking above the horizon.

- 1.2.141. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, therefore the value of the view is considered medium. Users of 'B' roads that do not form part of a recognised recreational route are considered to have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **medium sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.142. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.43**, all six of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, in relatively close proximity, with parts or all of the towers visible, along with their hubs and blades. Some of the lower parts of the towers would be screened by intervening landform.
- 1.2.143. From this location the turbines would appear above the horizon and would appear relatively evenly spaced, but there would be some clustering between turbines T2 and T5 and between turbines T3 and T6. However, the arrangement reads as a single group.
- 1.2.144. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.145. The Proposed Development would introduce a medium scale of change that would occupy a medium proportion of the overall view, resulting in a **medium high magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.146. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect that would be considered **significant**.

Viewpoint 17 – Footpath east of Lockerbie

- 1.2.147. Viewpoint 17 is located approximately 6.3 km to the south south-west of the nearest turbine. Visualisations are presented at **Volume 3** of the EIAR and the viewpoint location illustrated on **Figure 6.44**.

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

- 1.2.148. The viewpoint is representative of views available from a core path to the east of Lockerbie. It is situated at an elevation of approximately 141m AOD and is representative of views experienced by walkers in this location.
- 1.2.149. The relative elevation of this viewpoint above the surrounding landscape allows broadscale views in all directions. Views in the direction of the



Proposed Development to the north north-east extend over gently sloping farmland. In the middle-distance, scattered areas of woodland and conifer plantation are interspersed with farmsteads and single residential properties.

- 1.2.150. The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic value, therefore the value of the view is considered medium. Users of footpaths and core paths are considered to have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed. Receptors at this viewpoint are assessed as having **high sensitivity** to the change proposed.

Magnitude of Change

- 1.2.151. With reference to the wireline at **Figure 6.44**, the blades of four of the six proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, with the hub of T4 theoretically visible. However, with reference to the photomontage at **Figure 6.44**, the intervening trees would screen the hub of T4 from this viewpoint.
- 1.2.152. From this location the turbine blades would appear above the horizon and would appear relatively evenly spaced.
- 1.2.153. It is not anticipated that the ground level components of the Proposed Development would be visible from this viewpoint. Therefore, the magnitude of change described below relates to the turbines only.
- 1.2.154. The Proposed Development would introduce a low scale of change that would occupy a small proportion of the overall view, resulting in a **low medium magnitude of change**.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.155. It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate minor** level of effect that would be considered **not significant**.



1.3. Summary of Effects

Table 6.5.1: Summary of Operational Effects on Assessment Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
1 - B723, Croftfoot	High	High	Major	Yes
2 - Balgrayhill	Medium	High	Major	Yes
3 - Minor road, Stobohill Cottage	High	High	Major	Yes
4 - B723, Sibbaldbie	High	Low	Moderate/ minor	No
5 - Boreland	High	Low	Moderate/ minor	No
6 – Corrie Common	High	High- Medium	Moderate	Yes
7 - Rangecastle Hill	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
8 - Lockerbie	Medium	Low	Minor	No
9 - B7068, Bankshill	High	Medium	Moderate	No
10 - Annandale Way, Lochbrow	High	Medium - low	Moderate/ minor	No
11 - B7020, Annadale Way	High	Medium - low	Moderate/ minor	No
12 - Burnswark Hill Fort	High	Medium - low	Moderate/ minor	No
13 - A709 west of Lockerbie (bridge over River Annan)	Medium	Medium - low	Moderate/ minor	No
14 - Romans & Reivers	High	Low	Minor	No
15 - Southern Upland Way	High	Low	Minor	No
16 - B723, north-east of Boreland	Medium	High- Medium	Moderate	Yes
17 - Footpath, east of Lockerbie	High	Medium - low	Moderate/ minor	No





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