Blair Hill Wind Farm

Technical Appendix 6.3 – Viewpoint Descriptions

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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Technical Appendix provides baseline viewpoint descriptions, a description of effects and judgement of the scale of effect for each viewpoint. This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with **Figures 6.5** and **6.6** which show the viewpoint locations and the visualisations (**Figures 6.15-6.40** presented in Volume 2) for each viewpoint.

1.1.2 Turbines presented on the visualisations are coloured in accordance with their planning status, as shown on **Figure 6.8**:

- Blue – Proposed Development;
- Green – operational schemes;
- Black – consented schemes;
- Orange – schemes in planning; and
- Magenta – schemes in scoping.

1.1.3 Each visualisation displays the Proposed Development and the extent of cumulative schemes within the wider landscape. The visualisations included broadly follow the sequence of baseline panoramic photos and wirelines, 53.5-degree wirelines, 53.5-degree photomontages and additional night visuals. These vary between viewpoints to take account of the varying visibility of the Proposed Development.

1.1.4 For each viewpoint, only the scale of effect is given. This is because each viewpoint may represent a range of different visual receptors, each with a different level of sensitivity to wind turbine developments. The magnitude and significance of effect is therefore only given in **Chapter 6: Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment**, when judgements are given in relation to specific receptors with an identified level of sensitivity.

2 Viewpoint Descriptions

2.1 VP1: Drumwhirn Cairn, Moor of Barclye (2.6 km, south west)

2.1.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.15**) is located adjacent to Drumwhirn Cairn, within the Moor of Barclye, which is accessible through the recreational landscape of the Wood of Cree. The viewpoint is to the south west of the site and on a localised high point. The viewpoint provides a panoramic view and includes views towards the hills in Galloway Forest to the north east, including Lamachan and Curleywee forming the closest group of hills. Views to the south and west look over the lower lying valley of the River Cree with rolling plateau and moorland landscapes beyond. Operational wind farms are located along much of the skyline in views to the west, with further consented schemes likely to add to this. These visible wind farms are generally located between 12 and 33 km from the viewpoint. Nearby locations within the Moor of Barclye and the southern area of the Wood of Cree, except within woodland or forestry areas, experience similar views. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development would be located beyond the closest low hill at Knockman Wood, which would partially screen turbines 11 to 14. The remainder of the proposed turbines would be clearly and openly visible on slopes to the north east of the cairn, with the landform and forestry woodland screening the bases of the towers from view. The scale of effect would be Large-medium and Adverse. Effects would be High magnitude, Major (**Significant**) and Adverse.

2.1.3 At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The settlement of Newton Stewart to the south forms the main existing light source within views from this vicinity, along with traffic passing along the A714 to the west. There is no existing turbine

lighting within the view, but many of the consented schemes will include lighting. Visitors are unlikely to go to this cairn, or the signposted footpath routes within the Wood of Cree, at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be below -4° and light intensity would reduce to only 10 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km, which is fainter than the brightest stars. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.1.4 Should they be consented, proposals at the planning stage at Garvilland and Knockodhar would extend the existing pattern of wind farms on the horizon in views to the west, with Mid Moile located behind existed and consented wind farms. Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, would form a new feature within the mid-ground of the view to the north-west, and would be seen as a larger element in front of the more distant operational and consented wind farms to the west and north west. Cumulative effects would arise in combination with Glenvernoch Wind Farm, which would be visible as a separate scheme located away from and to the left of the Proposed Development. Due to the slight distance, the turbines at Glenvernoch Wind Farm, which are proposed at 200 m tall, would be perceived as smaller than those within the Proposed Development. At night, cumulative effects would arise with distant clusters of lighting on consented and proposed turbines to the west, as well as with Glenvernoch Wind Farm, which would form a separate cluster of lights. The visibility of the lighting for all of these cumulative schemes would be relatively low due to distance and the angle of Viewpoint 1 below the closest cumulative schemes. During the day the cumulative effects arising from adding the Proposed Development in combination with Glenvernoch Wind Farm would remain as assessed for the Proposed Development alone, Large-medium scale and Adverse. Effects would be High magnitude, Major (**Significant**) and Adverse. At night effects would Small scale and Adverse, given the distance and angle of view to other clusters of aviation lighting. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.2 VP2: Corsbie Road, Newton Stewart (4.5 km, south)

2.2.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.16**) is located on Corsbie Road, on the western edge of Newton Stewart, south of the site and on sloping ground around Hill of Old Hall. Corsbie Road connects the centre of Newton Stewart to Girvan Road on the western edge of the settlement, and broadly runs in an east-west orientation. Douglas Ewart High School and The Merrick Leisure Centre are located to the north of the road and residential properties to the south. It is just outside the western boundary of the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.2.2 This viewpoint is representative of views northwards for residential properties and road users, as well as cyclists and pedestrians along Corsbie Road. The viewpoint provides partially framed views towards the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills to the north east. Nearby tree belts and woodland blocks on the edge of Newton Stewart frame views northwards from along Corsbie Road. Residential properties along the western edge of Newton Stewart, such as those off Muirs Way and Maxwell Drive, are visible in the foreground. Knockman Wood is visible in the middle ground, which is situated adjacent to the southern site boundary. Further to the east, views towards the Site are largely screened by the large buildings of Douglas Ewart High School and The Merrick Leisure Centre.

2.2.3 The Proposed Development would be seen on the rising slopes in the middle distance, in front of the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills. The Proposed Development would not be located on the hills themselves, with the nacelles generally appearing at around the height of the hilltops. Visual receptors along Corsbie Road would have direct views of the Proposed Development between trees and woodland, with the turbines being clearly visible

in front of the hills to the north. The scale of effect would be Medium and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) to Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.2.4 At night lighting on the nacelles would be visible on all lit turbines (see **Figure 6.16**). The settlement of Newton Stewart would form the main existing light source within the foreground of this view. There are other occasional isolated light sources in the direction of the Site. However, there is no existing turbine lighting within the view. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -3 and -4° and light intensity would reduce to between 40 and 10 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km, which is similar to the brightest stars. The scale of effect at night would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.2.5 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.3 VP3: Sustrans National Cycle Route 73/A714 south of Newton Stewart (6.4 km, south)

2.3.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.17**) is located adjacent to Sustrans National Cycle Route (NCR) 73 and adjacent to the A714 at Nether Barr, a residential property and holiday let south of Newton Stewart. NCR 73 connects Newton Stewart with Wigtown, Glenluce and the coastal town of Stranraer, and for this section of the route is located off-road but parallel to the A714. The A714 runs from Girvan on the coast to the north west, through Newton Stewart to Wigtown to the south. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.3.2 This viewpoint is representative of views northwards for cycleway users and occasional glimpsed views for road users, as well as residents of isolated properties. The view looks across farmland in the low lying valley of the River Cree, with woodland becoming prominent on the lower hills on the edges of the river valley and in front of the higher and less vegetated Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills in the distance. Newton Stewart is largely screened from view by woodland, with glimpses of the church spire and occasional taller buildings visible. To the east, hamlets and clusters of farm buildings are a feature at the edges of the valley. To the west of the view, trees along the A714 screen the road from view and limit visibility from the road towards the Site.

2.3.3 The Proposed Development would be seen on the rising slopes in the middle distance, behind much of the woodland on the rising valley sides and in front of the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills. The Proposed Development would not be located on the hills themselves, with the nacelles of most proposed turbines located below the skyline and only blades above the height of the hilltops. Visual receptors travelling north along NCR 73 would have direct views of the Proposed Development above woodland, with the turbines being clearly visible in front of the hills to the north, although not aligned with the orientation of the cycleway. The scale of effect would be Medium and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.3.4 The settlement of Newton Stewart would form the main existing light source within the middle distance of this view, along with properties along the edge of the river valley to the west and cars travelling along both the A714 immediately to the west and the A75 to the east on the opposite side of the valley. There is no existing turbine lighting within the view. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -2 and -3° and light intensity would reduce to between 80 and 40 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. However, the distance from the closest proposed turbine would reduce visibility to be roughly comparable to the brightest stars.

The scale of effect at night would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.3.5 Should it be consented, blades of Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be partially visible to the left of Newton Stewart and behind the landform and woodland vegetation. For these proposed wind turbines, visibility would be of the blades only. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would not be seen in the same area of the view as the Proposed Development and the presence of the blades would have little additional effect on views. At night lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would not be visible. Cumulative in combination effects during the day would remain Medium scale and Adverse (Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse), and at night would remain Medium-small scale and Adverse (Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse).

2.4 VP4: Glenvernoch Fell / Hill of Ochiltree (8.6 km, west)

2.4.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.18**) is located on the Southern Upland Way, west of the site and on the elevated ground at the Hill of Ochiltree. This viewpoint is representative of walkers within the local vicinity, travelling along the Southern Upland Way. Locally, the Southern Upland Way connects Glenvernoch Fell to Glen Trool in the north-east and Craig Airie Fell to the west. The route passes local Lochs such as Loch Ochiltree, Loch Trool and Loch Dee to the north-east.

2.4.2 The viewpoint provides a panoramic view in all directions, including long distance views eastwards towards the site, across the rolling hills in the Southern Uplands range. There are no views of existing wind turbines in views towards the Site. However, in view to the west across the open plateau landscape, existing wind farms are visible across a wide spread of the view, including the closest at Kilgallioch Wind Farm to the west and Airies Fell Wind Farm to the south-west.

2.4.3 The full extent of the Proposed Development would be visible in the middle distance, along the lower hills to the south of the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills and partially in front of Cairnsmore of Fleet, with the base of some turbines located behind local undulations. From this location turbines 1 to 6 would appear on the skyline, with turbines 7 to 14 appearing against the backdrop of rising landform. The scale of effect would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.4.4 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with existing lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. It would be difficult to access the viewpoint without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the west will introduce distant turbine lighting when operational. The lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible as a relatively minor feature on elevated landform. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting would be between 0° and -1° and the light intensity at 2000 to 750 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km, and therefore close to full brightness. However, given the distance from the Proposed Development, the small numer of lit turbines and the requirement for personal lighting, the scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.4.5 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would form a prominent new feature within the foreground of the view, immediately to the east and south-east, and would be seen as a large prominent element of the view. Other schemes that are currently in

planning, such as Garvilland, Mid Moile and Knockodhar wind farms would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines on the moorland plateau to the west.

2.4.6 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be a prominent feature in the foreground of the view and would be notably closer than any of the existing turbines to the west of the Proposed Development. Seen together, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would sit largely in front of the Proposed Development and result in the greatest visual effects. In combination effects during the day would increase to Large scale and Adverse. Effects would be High magnitude, Major (**Significant**) and Adverse. At night, any lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be seen in combination with that on the Proposed Development and would be closer to the viewpoint. The angle of view to any lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would result in some reduction in light intensity. However, the scale of effects would increase to Medium and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.5 VP5: NCR7 on Minor Road North of Glentrool Village (8.0 km, north west)

2.5.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.19**) is located adjacent to Sustrans National Cycle Route (NCR) 7, which runs along a minor road to the north of Glentrool Village. NCR 7 connects Sunderland and Inverness, running along minor roads and through Newton Stewart more locally. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area and Galloway Dark Skies Park. The view is similar but more open than those experienced at the nearby Glentrool Visitor Centre and car park.

2.5.2 This viewpoint is representative of views for local road users, including cyclists on NCR 7. The view looks across rough grassland towards woodland around Glentrool. The location is one of the few locations along this stretch of road where there are views over woodland towards the site. The Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills is visible above the woodland.

2.5.3 The Proposed Development would be partially seen on the rising slopes in the middle distance, behind the woodland around Glentrool. The landform would also partially screen the Proposed Development. Road users and cyclists travelling south along NCR 7 would have partial views of the Proposed Development above woodland, with the turbines appearing of a similar height to the middle distance trees. The scale of effect would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.5.4 At night lighting on the nacelles would be visible on five of the lit turbines, with the remaining screened behind the landform. There would be partial screening of the lit turbines by the woodland when travelling south along the road. This is a largely dark viewpoint, with lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. There is no existing turbine lighting within the view. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -1 and -2° and light intensity would reduce to between 750 and 80 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse due to the distance from the proposed lighting and the effect of intervening vegetation, alongside the effects on dark adaptation due to car headlights/personal lighting. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.5.5 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.6 VP6: Cairnsmore of Fleet (8.6 km, south east)

2.6.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.20**) is located at the summit of Cairnsmore of Fleet, the highest peak of the Solway Hills range and a landmark feature at the head of Wigtown Bay. There are 360 degree panoramic views from the top of Cairnsmore of Fleet, across the surrounding hills and towards the lower lying plateau moorlands and drumlin landscapes to the west, and the Solway Firth to the south. In views north and north west from Cairnsmore of Fleet, there are extensive views of existing wind turbine developments, with closest operational wind farms being Aeries at approximately 22.5 km to the west, Blackcraig 24.0 km to the north east. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.6.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the foothills to the north of Cairnsmore of Fleet. All of the Proposed Development would be visible, in front of existing, more distant wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear in front of the landform in the distance, with only blade tips of three proposed turbines breaking the skyline. The scale of effect would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.6.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with Newton Stewart forming a source of light on the lower ground and other lighting limited to distant settlements and isolated dwellings within the view, and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the will introduce distant turbine lighting when commissioned. Visitors would not be able to climb Cairnsmore of Fleet at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The elevation of the viewpoint means that there would be no reduction in lighting intensity due to the angle at which the lights would be viewed. However, there would be a reduction in intensity due to the distance and the small number of lights would form a relatively minor feature in views. The scale of effects would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.6.4 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would form a new feature beyond the Proposed Development, and would be seen as a more distant element of the view, whilst closer than other existing and consented wind farms. Other schemes that are currently in planning, such as Garvilland, Mid Moile and Knockodhar wind farms would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines on the moorland plateau to the west.

2.6.5 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be more distant than the Proposed Development, but closer than any of the existing turbines. Seen together, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would not add notably to the visual effects of the Proposed Development. In combination effects during the day and night would remain Medium-small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.7 VP7: Merrick (11.3 km, north)

2.7.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.21**) is located at the summit of Merrick, the highest peak in south west Scotland and lies at the heart of the Galloway ranges. It provides long distance panoramic 360-degree views across Galloway Forest Park and the wider landscape, towards the lower lying plateau moorlands and drumlin landscapes to the west, as far as the coast. Merrick is popular with walkers, with the most common approach starting at Loch Trool and continues northwards over Benyellary, across the Neive of the Spit to finally terminate at the peak of Merrick. In views north east, west and north west particularly from Merrick, there are extensive views of existing wind turbine developments, with the closest operational wind farms being Mark Hill at approximately 16.6km to the west of Merrick,

Dersalloch 17.9km to the north and South Kyle 20.3km to the north east. It is within the Core Area of the Galloway Dark Sky Par, the Merrick Wild Land Area, Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.7.2 The majority of the Proposed Development would be screened by intervening landform of the lower hills between Merrick and the site to the south. Visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited to the blade tips of two turbines (T2 and T3), which would appear slightly above the landform in the mid-ground. The Proposed Development would not break the skyline. The Proposed Development would be barely perceptible in the day time, forming a much smaller part of a wider panoramic view. The scale of effect would be Small-negligible and Adverse. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.7.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, located within the Core Area of the Dark Sky Park, with lighting limited to that at distant isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles travelling along distant roads in the wider landscape. Lighting on a number of distant consented wind farms will be visible following construction. At night none of the lighting on the nacelles of the Proposed Development would be visible. There would be no change to the lighting in the view. The scale of effect at night would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.7.4 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would form a new feature in the view, to the south-west, and would be seen as a new element that is closer to the viewpoint than existing operational and consented wind farms. Other schemes that are currently in planning, such as Garvilland, Mid Moile and Knockodhar wind farms would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the north, north east and west.

2.7.5 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be a distant new feature, but would be notably closer than any of the existing turbines. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be more visible and prominent than the Proposed Development, resulting in the greatest visual effects. In combination effects during the day would increase to Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. At night, any lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be seen as a new light source in the view and the scale of night time effects would also increase to Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.8 VP8: A75 near Creetown (13.1 km, south east)

2.8.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.22**) is located on the A75, south of the junction with Park Crescent and near to both Creetown Service Station and Castle Cary Holiday Park. The view is typical of this section of the A75 road corridor, where northbound road users are located east of the River Cree and Wigtown Bay, with mid to long distance views of rising landform to the north-west, beyond Newton Stewart. There are views of existing residential development in the base of the valley, south of a large woodland known as Moss of Cree and Kirroughtree Forest. Blades of distant existing operational wind farms are visible above woodland on the opposite side of the river valley and bay in clear conditions. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.8.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on rising landform in the distance, with the blades of all turbines breaking the skyline. The prominence of the turbines towers reduces with the backdrop of rising landform, with only the blade tips of turbines T1, T2, T3, T5 and T7 visible above the skyline. The western and southern areas of the Proposed Development are more visually prominent from this locality. The scale of effect would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.8.3 Existing lighting in this view (see **Figure 6.22**) is mostly a result of vehicles passing along the road and larger light sources at Creetown Service Station and Castle Cary Holiday Park. In the mid-ground, there is lighting at the base of Kirroughtree Forest, associated with isolated properties. There is no street lighting and users of the A75 would be largely focused on the road rather than the wider landscape. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. The lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -1 and -2° and light intensity would reduce to between 750 and 80 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. The distance from the Proposed Development would ensure that the proposed lighting would appear fainter than the brightest stars. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse, due to the distance from the proposed lighting, alongside the effects on dark adaptation due to car headlights/personal lighting. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.8.4 Should it be consented, the proposed Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be visible on the lower ground to the left of the Proposed Development, above the landform and woodland vegetation. Other schemes that are currently in planning, such as Garvilland, Mid Moile and Knockodhar wind farms would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the north west.

2.8.5 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be seen as a separate wind farm to the Proposed Development and slightly more distant. In combination effects during the day would increase to Medium scale and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. At night, any lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be seen as a new light source in the view, although more distant than the Proposed Development. The scale of night time effects would also increase to Medium-small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.9 VP9: Kirkcowan (12.7 km, south-west)

2.9.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.23**) is located at a seating area adjacent to the B733 at the eastern approach to the village of Kirkcowan. This road is the primary road through Kirkcowan and connects to Spittal further to the south-east. This viewpoint is representative of views for road users, nearby residential dwellings and pedestrians who make use of the seating and amenity at this locality. The view looks across the River Bladnoch, with locally undulating landform visible in the foreground and the distant hills of Galloway Forest Park forming a skyline of peaks and valleys in the distance. A line of telegraph poles and fields delineated by stone walls are visible within the foreground, along with agricultural development associated with Low Glasnick Farm.

2.9.2 The towers of the Proposed Development would be partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of the towers and blades of all the turbines would be visible. The blade tips of all turbines would break the skyline and would be visible in the above the rising backdrop of the landform within Galloway Forest Park. The scale of effect would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.9.3 At night, there are local light sources associated with nearby residential development along the B733 (see **Figure 6.23**). The wider landscape to the north-east is generally free from night time lighting. Current lighting within the environment is limited to that arising from nearby properties and vehicles passing along the B733. The B733 is does not have street lights. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the

route. The lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. Figure 6.14 indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -1 and -2° and light intensity would reduce to between 750 and 80 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. The distance from the Proposed Development would ensure that the proposed lighting would appear fainter than the brightest stars. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse, due to the distance from the proposed lighting, alongside the effects on dark adaptation due to car headlights/personal lighting. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.9.4 Should it be consented, the blades of Glenvernoch Wind Farm would be partially visible to the left of the Proposed Development and behind the landform and woodland vegetation. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would not be seen in the same area of the view as the Proposed Development and the presence of the blades would have little additional effect on views. Cumulative in combination effects during the day and night would remain Medium-small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. At night lighting on Glenvernoch Wind Farm would not be visible. Cumulative in combination effects during the day and night would remain Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.10 VP10: NCR73 on Minor Road North of Wigtown (14.0 km, south)

2.10.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.24**) is located along National Cycle Route 73 and the minor road that spurs off the A714 north of Wigtown. This viewpoint is representative of road users and in particular, cyclists travelling along the national cycle route network. The view is generally free from development apart from views of occasional existing development north-east of Culquhirk and telegraph lines which cross the local landscape within the mid-ground. Towards the site, the view looks across rolling hills covered with tussocky grassland, tree belts and smaller blocks of woodland. Distant rising landform within Galloway Forest Park is visible on the undulating skyline. Tree belts within the local context of the viewpoint screen views of parts of the skyline. In views further eastwards, there are views of isolated singular wind turbines along the escarpment of western facing slopes. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.10.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the rising ground of the foothills within Galloway Forest Park. Turbines T7, T9, T11 and T13 would sit entirely below the ridgeline and recede below the higher landform beyond the site. Blade tips of the remaining turbines break the skyline and would be seen above the ridgeline. The towers of all the turbines would be visible. The scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.10.3 Existing night time lighting within the proximity of this viewpoint (see **Figure 6.24**) is predominantly limited to vehicles passing along the minor road and nearby residential development. Lighting associated with isolated wind turbines further eastwards can be glimpse when looking east. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. The lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -1 and -2° and light intensity would reduce to between 750 and 80 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. The distance from the Proposed Development would ensure that the proposed lighting would appear fainter than the brightest stars. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse, due to the distance from the proposed lighting, alongside the effects on dark adaptation due to car

headlights/personal lighting. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.10.4 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.11 VP11: Benniguinea Lookout (14.1 km, east)

2.11.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.25**) is located at Benniguinea Lookout, a local high point that is accessed by a short walk from the parking areas at Clatteringshaws Loch and Visitor Centre. There are 360 degree panoramic views from Benniguinea Lookout, across the surrounding hills and loch, with channelled distant views towards the lower lying landscapes to the north and plateau moorlands and drumlin landscapes to the west. In views north and, to a lesser degree, west from Benniguinea Lookout, there are extensive views of existing wind turbine developments, with closest operational wind farms being Aeries at approximately 30.1k m to the west, and Windy Standard II 25.1 km to the north east. It is within the Galloway Dark Sky Park, Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.11.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the foothills to the north of Cairnsmore of Fleet. All of the Proposed Development would be visible, in front of existing, more distant wind farms. The Proposed Development would appear in front of the landform in the distance, with only blade tips of three proposed turbines breaking the skyline. The scale of effect would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.11.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with Newton Stewart forming a source of light on the lower ground and other lighting limited to distant settlements and isolated dwellings within the view, and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the will introduce distant turbine lighting when commissioned. Visitors would not be able to climb Benniguinea Lookout at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The elevation of the viewpoint means that there would be no reduction in lighting intensity due to the angle at which the lights would be viewed. However, there would be a reduction in intensity due to the distance and the small number of lights would form a relatively minor. The scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.11.4 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would not be visible from this location. Other wind farms in planning, such as Quantans Hill, Windy Standard I Repower, Lorg Revision, Manquhill, Euchanhead and Divot Hill, would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the north and north west. Some of these wind farms in planning would be a similar distance from Benniguinea Lookout to the Proposed Development.

2.11.5 In combination cumulative effects would arise with the extended spread of wind farms to the north and north west of the viewpoint, some of which would be at a similar distance to the Proposed Development. However, the other proposed wind farms in planning would infill the existing pattern of wind farm developments seen from Benniguinea Lookout. In combination effects during both the day would increase to Medium and Adverse due to the further spread of wind turbines within the panoramic view. In combination effects during night would remain Small scale and Adverse due to the distance of the cumulative proposals from the viewpoint. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.12 VP12: Mochrum Lochs Regional Scenic Area, Moor of Drumwall (19.2 km, south west)

2.12.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.26**) is located to the north of the Old Palace of Mochrum, within the Mochrum Lochs Regional Scenic Area. It is located on the side of a minor road, close to local footpaths. The view looks over gently undulating fells and moorlands. There is a large loch and woodland areas to the south of the viewpoint, with further vegetation visible in the middle distance of the view. This viewpoint is representative of road users and visitors to the RSA/LLA. The view is generally free from development apart from stone walls and fence lines, and the buildings at the Old Palace of Mochrum. Towards the site, the view looks across rolling landform covered with tussocky grassland. Distant rising landform within Galloway Forest Park is visible on the distant undulating skyline.

2.12.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the rising ground of the foothills within Galloway Forest Park. Much of the Proposed Development would be screened from view by the landform, with blade tips of the turbines breaking the skyline and seen above the ridgeline. The towers of most turbines would be largely screened. The scale of effects would be Small-negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.12.3 Existing night time lighting within the proximity of this viewpoint is predominantly limited to vehicles passing along the minor road and isolated residential development. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -1 and -2° and light intensity would reduce to between 750 and 80 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km. At night none of the lighting on the nacelles of the Proposed Development would be visible due to the intervening landform. There would be no change to the lighting in the view. The scale of effect at night would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.12.4 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location, as existing and proposed turbines would be screened behind intervening vegetation and landform, other than occasional glimpses of blade tips. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.13 VP13: Minor Road near Barrhill Station (20.5 km, north west)

2.13.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.27**) is located on the minor road south of Barrhill and Barrhill Station, adjacent to a fenced agricultural storage area. This viewpoint is representative of road users and of more open views than those available from the train station, the railway line or within Barrhill village. The view looks across undulating grazing land with extensive areas of forestry also visible.

2.13.2 The viewpoint provides panoramic views to the south east, with distant views of the hills in the Galloway Park. There are no views of existing wind turbines in views towards the Site. However, in view to the north east and south west, existing wind farms are visible in relatively close proximity to the viewpoint, including Mark Hill 3.6km to the north east and Kilgallioch and Arecleoch (5.0 km and 4.6 km to the south west respectively). Consented wind farms will further add to these existing groupings of wind farms.

2.13.3 The full extent of the Proposed Development would be visible in the distance, along the lower hills to the south of the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills, with the base of some

turbines located behind local undulations. From this location turbines 1 to 3 would appear on the skyline, with turbines 4 to 8 appearing partially in front of the rising landform and turbines 9 to 14 appearing fully against the backdrop of rising landform. The scale of effect would be Small-negligible and Adverse. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.13.4 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, consented schemes to the south west would introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.13.5 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would form a minor element of the view, with only blade tips anticipated to be visible above intervening vegetation. Other schemes that are currently in planning, such as Knockodhar wind farm, would infill the existing pattern of wind farms to the north east. There would be no in combination cumulative effects with Glenvernoch Wind Farm or other wind farms in planning.

2.14 VP14: Southern Upland Way near Artfield Fell (20.6 km, west)

2.14.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.28**) is located on the Southern Upland Way, west of the site and close to Artfield Fell. This viewpoint is representative of walkers within the local vicinity, travelling along the Southern Upland Way. Locally, the Southern Upland Way connects Artfield Fell to Stranraer to the south west and Craig Airie Fell to the north. The route passes through several fells and areas of woodland/forestry.

2.14.2 The viewpoint provides a panoramic view in all directions, across the moors and drumlin landscapes to the west of the site, with the hills of Galloway Forest forming a distant feature in views eastwards. There are a large number of existing wind farm developments located in close proximity to the viewpoint, located predominantly to the north and south, with a smaller number located in the direction of views towards the site, including Airies Fell at a distance of approximately 5 km from the viewpoint. The consented Artfield Forest wind farm will be located between the site and the viewpoint, at a distance of 1.4km from the viewpoint.

2.14.3 The full extent of the Proposed Development would be visible in the distance, along the lower hills to the south of the Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills, with the towers of turbines 11 to 14 located behind local undulations. The scale of effect would be Small-negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.14.4 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. It would be difficult to access the viewpoint without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes nearby will introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. This includes Artfield Forest and Kilgallioch Extension, which will be located close to the viewpoint and between the viewpoint and the Proposed Development. Given the distance from the Proposed

Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.14.5 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would form a new feature in the distance of the view, partly overlapping with the spread of the Proposed Development in the view. Other schemes that are currently in planning, would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines on the moorland plateau, with Garvilland being the most prominent at approximately 5.2 km to the south and forming a slightly separate group from the existing pattern of developments.

2.14.6 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would extend the spread of turbines at a similar distance to the Proposed Development, but the wider extent of wind turbines would remain located behind the more prominent turbines at Artfield Forest. In combination effects during the day would remain Small-negligible scale and Neutral and during the night would remain Negligible scale and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.15 VP15: A746 North of Whithorn (29.1 km, south)

2.15.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.29**) is located on the footway adjacent to the A746 north of Whithorn. This viewpoint is representative of road users and residents of/visitors to Whithorn. The view is generally free from development apart from isolated properties and small scale overhead lines that cross the landscape in the middle distance. Stone walls are also a commonly used field boundary in the view. Towards the site, the view looks across the rolling drumlin landscape, covered with pasture, smaller blocks of woodland and gorse. The local landform forms the skyline for much of the view. Distant rising landform within Galloway Forest Park is visible on the skyline.

2.15.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the rising ground of the foothills within Galloway Forest Park. Only the tips of blades would be seen above the ridgeline, with the rest of the turbines receding below the higher landform beyond the site. The towers of all the turbines would be visible. The scale of effects would be Small-negligible and Adverse. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.15.3 Existing night time lighting within the proximity of this viewpoint is predominantly limited to the settlement behind the viewpoint, vehicles passing along the minor road and nearby isolated residential properties. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.15.4 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.16 VP16: Byne Hill (31.9 km, north west)

2.16.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.30**) at the top of a landmark hill on the coast south of Girvan. It is on a locally promoted walking route from Girvan and provides panoramic views both out to sea and across the plateau moorlands and woodlands west of the site. This viewpoint

is representative of walkers and visitors to this panoramic viewpoint, which is identified as a 360° viewpoint on Ordnance Survey mapping. It is within the Girvan to Ballantrae Coast and Hills Local Landscape Area.

2.16.2 The viewpoint provides a panoramic view in all directions, out to sea and across the moors and drumlin landscapes to the west of the site, with the hills of Galloway Forest forming a very distant feature in views eastwards. There are a large number of existing wind farm developments located in the middle distance of the view, located predominantly to the north east and south, with Assel Valley the closest operational wind farm at a distance of approximately 2.7 km from the viewpoint on the adjacent Laggan Hill.

2.16.3 The full extent of the Proposed Development would be visible in the distance, partially behind undulations in the landform. The towers of several of the proposed turbines would be screened from view. Given the distance from the viewpoint, the scale of effect would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.16.4 This is a largely dark viewpoint when looking towards the site, with lighting in Girvan prominent in views north. Isolated dwellings, more distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape all introduce lighting into the wider landscape. Visitors would not be able to climb Byne Hill at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the south will introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines (with the exception of turbine 1) would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.16.5 Of the schemes currently in planning, Knockodhar would be located approximately 8.0km from Byne Hill, and would be partially located in front of the Proposed Development. Should it be consented, Knockodhar Wind Farm, would form a new feature in the middle distance of the view, partly overlapping with the spread of the Proposed Development in the view. Other schemes that are currently in planning would largely be screened from view or located behind existing operational wind farms in the view.

2.16.6 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Knockodhar Wind Farm. Knockodhar Wind Farm would be located closer to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development, and be more prominent in the view. In combination effects during the day would increase to Medium-small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. At night effects would increase to Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.17 VP17: A712 south east of Corsock (36.2 km, east)

2.17.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.31**) is located adjacent to the A712 as it rises up towards Milharay Hill, to the south east of Corsock. Views along the road are intermittent due to road side vegetation. The views look across undulating landform, which is predominantly covered with pasture and some forestry, with the southern hills in the Galloway Forest Park forming the more distant horizon. There are isolated properties and low level overhead lines within the view, but limited other development in the view. Existing wind turbine developments to the north west of the viewpoint are largely screened from view by roadside vegetation in the vicinity of the viewpoint.

2.17.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the skyline, amongst the hills in the Galloway Forest Park. Turbines 10 to 14 would be screened from view by landform, with the remainder of the turbines located beyond landform and only five of the turbines having more than blade tips visible. The scale of effect would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.17.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, looking over the Galloway Dark Sky Park. Isolated dwellings within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape would be the main light sources within the view. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. Although lighting on Turbines 1 and 5 of the Proposed Development would be visible above the skyline at a distance, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.17.4 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.18 VP18: Southern Upland Way near Stranraer (37.5 km, south west)

2.18.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.32**) is located on the Southern Upland Way, close to Stranraer. This viewpoint is representative of walkers within the local vicinity, travelling along the Southern Upland Way, as well as local road users. Locally, the Southern Upland Way connects Stranraer to the moorlands west of the site. The view looks down towards the undulating moorland landscapes from the higher ground south of Stranraer, with the skyline formed by the undulating landform of the moors and the woodland across it, and the hills in the Galloway Forest Park forming distant features above the skyline.

2.18.2 The viewpoint provides elevated views towards the moors and drumlin landscapes to the west of the site, with the hills of Galloway Forest forming a distant feature in views north eastwards. There are existing wind farm developments located on the skyline in views towards the site, with consented wind farms likely to add to this pattern, as well as North Rhins located 3.5km to the south west. Existing hedgerows in the foreground, and woodland in the moors and drumlin landscapes, screen some of the existing wind farms from view.

2.18.3 The Proposed Development would be partially visible in the distance, with the towers of Turbines 13 and 14 largely screened behind landform, and the bases of a number of the other proposed turbines also screened. Given the distance from the viewpoint, and the location partially behind existing wind farm developments, the scale of effect would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.18.4 This is a largely dark viewpoint, with lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes nearby will introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.18.5 Of the wind farms currently in planning, the only one likely to be visible from this viewpoint is Garvilland at approximately 15.0 km from the viewpoint. Should it be consented, Garvilland would form a new feature on the skyline between existing wind farms. In combination cumulative effects would arise with Garvilland Wind Farm, which would

extend the spread of turbines on the moors and drumlin landscapes, closer to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development. In combination effects during the day would increase to Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. The Garvilland turbines are unlikely to be lit. In combination effects are night would remain Negligible scale and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.19 VP19: Sandhead (37.8 km, south west)

2.19.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.33**) is located at Sandhead, at a park and seating area overlooking Luce Bay. This viewpoint is representative of residents of and visitors to Sandhead, as well as recreational users of the park area. The view looks across Luce Bay towards the undulating moorland and drumlin landscapes across the Bay, with the hills in the Galloway Forest Park forming distant features on the skyline.

2.19.2 The viewpoint provides open, sea level views towards the moors and drumlin landscapes to the west of the site, with the hills of Galloway Forest forming a distant feature in views north eastwards. There are existing wind farm developments located on the skyline in views towards the site, with consented wind farms likely to extend wind turbine developments across a large proportion of the inland skyline from this location.

2.19.3 The Proposed Development would be partially visible in the distance, with the towers of Turbines 11 to 14 largely screened behind landform, and the bases of a number of the other proposed turbines also screened. Given the distance from the viewpoint, and the location of existing and consented wind farm developments across much of the skyline, the scale of effect would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.19.4 Lighting in Sandhead would be a noticeable light source in nighttime views from this location. Other isolated dwellings and distant settlements within the view and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape would also contribute to nighttime lighting. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes nearby will introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, the closer light sources and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.19.5 Of the wind farms currently in planning, the only one likely to be visible from this viewpoint is Garvilland at approximately 15.0 km from the viewpoint. Should it be consented, Garvilland would form a new feature on the skyline between existing wind farms. In combination cumulative effects would arise with Garvilland Wind Farm, which would extend the spread of turbines on the moors and drumlin landscapes, closer to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development. In combination effects during the day would increase to Small scale and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse. The Garvilland turbines are unlikely to be lit. In combination effects are night would remain Negligible scale and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.20 VP20: Monigaff Parish Church (3.4 km, south)

2.20.1 Viewpoint 20 (see **Figure 6.34**) is located along National Cycle Route 7, at Monigaff Parish Church. This view is representative of road users, cyclists using the Sustrans route, nearby residential dwellings and visitors to Monigaff Parish Church. The view looks across Cumloden Road in the foreground, which is relatively well vegetated with roadside

hedgerows, scrub and linear woodland blocks which run alongside Penkiln Burn. It is within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.20.2 Views towards the hills within Galloway Forest Park are partially filtered by trees and vegetation within the immediate vicinity of the viewpoint. The parking area for Monigaff Parish Church is located on the opposite side of Cumloden Road and nearby residential development, highways lighting and signage are clearly visible within the local context of this viewpoint, demonstrating its location on the edge of Minnigaff/Newton Stewart. In the middle distance there are wooded skylines associated with large expanses of forestry within Wood of Cree and Knockman Wood, which are situated upon higher ground within the undulating landscape north of this viewpoint. Large scale overhead electricity transmission lines and associated pylons are visible in the mid-ground.

2.20.3 The Proposed Development would be seen in the middle distance of the view, located beyond nearby trees and vegetation, within the wider undulating landscape to the north. All of the turbines would break the skyline, rising above the landform, but would be partially screened by nearby trees and vegetation. The turbines would be seen alongside other urban detractors such as electricity pylons which also represent large scale vertical structures within the view. The scale of effects would be Medium and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Not Significant**) to Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.20.4 At night this locality is generally well lit by highways lighting, windows of existing dwellings and passing vehicles along Cumloden Road, which are located in the foreground of the viewpoint. Lighting on the nacelles would be visible on all of the lit turbines, with the tops of trees and the structures of pylons filtering views. Given the lit context of the view and the small number of aviation lights proposed, the scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.20.5 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.21 VP21: Lamachan Hill (3.0 km, north)

2.21.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.35**) is located at the top of Lamachan Hill, the highest of the group of hill tops to the north of the site that form the lower southern edge of the Galloway Hills. The hill is often accessed along with the nearby Larg Hill and Curleywee in hikes from the parking areas at Loch Trool. There are 360 degree panoramic views from the rounded top of Lamachan Hill, across the surrounding hills and lochs, with distant views towards the lower lying plateau moorlands and drumlin landscapes to the west. In views west and, to a lesser degree north and north west, from Lamachan Hill, there are extensive views of existing wind turbine developments, with the closest operational wind farms being Kilgallioch at approximately 17 km to the west. It is within the Core Area of the Galloway Dark Sky Park, Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.21.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the slopes to the south of Lamachan Hill, with the landform of the hill screening parts of the towers from view. All of the Proposed Development would be visible, in a different area of the view from existing wind farm developments. The scale of effect would be Large-medium and Adverse. Effects would be High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse.

2.21.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, being located within the Core Area of the Galloway Dark Sky Park. Newton Stewart forms a source of light on the lower ground and other lighting would be limited to distant settlements and isolated dwellings within the view, and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the north and west will introduce distant turbine lighting when commissioned. Visitors would not be able to climb

Lamachan Hill at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The elevation of the viewpoint means that there would be no reduction in lighting intensity due to the angle at which the lights would be viewed. The scale of effects would be Medium and Adverse, due to the small number of aviation lights proposed. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.21.4 Of the schemes in planning that could potentially result in cumulative visual effects with the Proposed Development, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would be largely screened from view at this location. Other wind farms in planning would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the west, north and north west.

2.21.5 The majority of proposed wind farms in planning would infill the existing pattern of wind farm developments seen from Lamachan Hill. There would also be a minor addition to the view as a result of Glenvernoch Wind Farm, should it be consented, with lighting likely to be visible on some turbines above the landform. On balance, in combination effects during the day would remain Large-medium scale and Adverse (High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse), and at night would remain Medium scale and Adverse (Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse).

2.22 VP22: Millfore (5.4 km, north east)

2.22.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.36**) is located at the top of Millfore, one of the group of hill tops to the north east of the site that form the lower southern edge of the Galloway Hills. This is a less visited peak than the nearby Lamachan Hill. There are 360 degree panoramic views from the top of Millfore across the surrounding hills and lochs, with distant views towards the lower lying plateau moorlands and drumlin landscapes to the south west, including towards Wigtown Bay. In views west and, to a lesser degree north and north west, there are views of existing wind turbine developments between the surrounding hills, with the closest operational wind farms being Kilgallioch at approximately 21.5 km to the west. It is within the Core Area of the Galloway Dark Sky Park, Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.22.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the slopes to the south west of Millfore, with the landform of the hill screening parts of the towers from view. All of the Proposed Development would be visible, with some existing wind farm developments to the west of the site being visible behind the Proposed Development. The scale of effect would be Large-medium and Adverse. Effects would be High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse.

2.22.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, being located within the Core Area of the Galloway Dark Sky Park. Newton Stewart forms a source of light on the lower ground and other lighting would be limited to distant settlements and isolated dwellings within the view, and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the north and west will introduce distant turbine lighting when commissioned. Visitors would not be able to climb Millfore at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The elevation of the viewpoint means that there would be no reduction in lighting intensity due to the angle at which the lights would be viewed. The scale of effects would be Medium and Adverse, due to the small number of aviation lights proposed. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.22.4 Of the schemes in planning that could potentially result in cumulative visual effects with the Proposed Development, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would be located partly behind the Proposed Development and be partially screened by nearby

hills. Other wind farms in planning would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the west, north and north west.

2.22.5 The majority of proposed wind farms in planning would infill the existing pattern of wind farm developments seen from Millfore. There would also be a minor addition to the view as a result of Glenvernoch Wind Farm behind the Proposed Development, should it be consented, with lighting likely to be visible on some turbines around the landform. On balance, in combination effects during the day would remain Large-medium scale and Adverse (High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse), and at night would remain Medium scale and Adverse (Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse).

2.23 VP23: Meikle Millyea (12.3 km, north east)

2.23.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.37**) is located at the top of Meikle Millyea, the southernmost summit of the Rhinns of Kells range. The hill is often accessed as part of a circular walk that takes in other summits in the Rhinns of Kells. There are 360 degree panoramic views from the summit of Meikle Millyea, largely across the surrounding hills and lochs, with distant views towards the lower lying landscapes between the hills. In views west and north west, from Meikle Millyea, there are extensive views of existing wind turbine developments, with the closest operational wind farm being Windy Rig at approximately 19.5 km to the north east. It is within the Galloway Dark Sky Park, Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.23.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the slopes to the south of the Lamachan/Curleywee group of hills, with the landform of the hills largely screening the towers from view. Only Turbines 2, 3 and 6 would break the horizon in these views. The scale of effect would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.23.3 This is a largely dark viewpoint, being located within the Galloway Dark Sky Park. Newton Stewart forms a source of light on the lower ground and other lighting would be limited to distant settlements and isolated dwellings within the view, and vehicles passing along roads in the wider landscape. Whilst none of the currently operational wind farms have turbine lighting, many of the consented schemes to the will introduce turbine lighting when commissioned. Visitors would not be able to climb Meikle Millyea at night without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. The aviation lighting on the Proposed Development would be visible as a new feature along the top of the intervening landform. The elevation of the viewpoint means that there would be no reduction in lighting intensity due to the angle at which the lights would be viewed. However, there would be a reduction in intensity due to the distance and the small number of lights would form a relatively minor feature in views. The scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.23.4 Of the schemes in planning that could potentially result in cumulative visual effects with the Proposed Development, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would be screened from view at this location. Other wind farms in planning would infill or continue the existing pattern of wind turbines to the west, north and north west. Consequently, in combination effects during the day would remain Medium-small scale and Adverse (Medium-low magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse), and at night would remain Small scale and Adverse (Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.24 VP24: Innerwell Fishery approach (21.7 km, south)

2.24.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.38**) is located on the minor road that approaches Innerwell Fishery, close to the banks of Wigtown Bay and Core Paths that run along the side of the Bay. This viewpoint is representative of road users and residents of/visitors to nearby residential properties and recreational users of nearby Core Paths. The view looks across low lying arable farmland in the foreground, with Wigtown Bay located in the middle distance. The Galloway Hills form a prominent feature in views to the north, beyond the Bay. The foreground of the view is generally free from development, apart from isolated properties and small scale overhead lines, with stone walls forming a commonly used field boundary in the view. To the north west, in clear conditions, the extensive existing wind farms on the plateau to the west of the site are visible on the skyline. The viewpoint is located on the edge of the Machars Coast Regional Scenic Area.

2.24.2 The Proposed Development would be visible on the rising ground of the foothills within Galloway Forest Park, partly seen above the ridgeline and partly set against the higher landform beyond the site. The towers of all the turbines would be visible. The scale of effects would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.24.3 Existing night time lighting within the proximity of this viewpoint is predominantly limited to vehicles passing along the minor roads and isolated residential development. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. Given the distance from the Proposed Development, and the location of the viewpoint outside the 20km study area for nighttime assessment, even though the lit turbines would all be theoretically from this viewpoint, the aviation lighting would be barely visible on distant elevated landform and the scale of effects would be Negligible and Neutral. Effects would be Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral.

2.24.4 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm, currently at the scoping stage, would form a new feature in the distance of the view, slightly further from the viewpoint than the Proposed Development. Other schemes that are currently in planning would infill the existing pattern of wind turbines on the moorland plateau.

2.24.5 In combination cumulative effects would arise with Glenvernoch Wind Farm. Glenvernoch Wind Farm would a further group of turbines slightly further from the viewpoint than the Proposed Development, but closer than the existing operational wind farms. In combination effects during the day would increase to Medium-small scale and Adverse due to the additional cluster of wind farms that would be visible (Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse), and at night would remain Negligible scale and Neutral due to the distance to Glenvernoch Wind Farm (Negligible magnitude, Minimal (**Not Significant**) and Neutral).

2.25 VP25: Penninghame Estate pond (4.2 km, south west)

2.25.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.39**) is located adjacent to the parking area at Penninghame Estate pond, which is a Forestry Scotland publicly accessible recreational facility with waymarked walking routes. It is located within the Castle Stewart Non Inventory Garden/Designed Landscape and is accessed from the A714. It is just outside the western boundary of the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.25.2 This viewpoint is representative of views for recreational visitors to the Non Inventory Garden/Designed Landscape and specifically the walks at the pond. The view looks over forestry woodland of varying ages, with locations closer to the ponds having views largely screened by mature woodland. The location is one of the few locations within the

recreational area where there are views over woodland towards the site. The Lamachan / Curleywee group of hills is just visible above the woodland.

2.25.3 The Proposed Development would be partially seen on the rising slopes in the distance, behind the woodland between the viewpoint and the site. The landform would also partially screen the Proposed Development, particularly the lower sections of towers. Recreational visitors to Penninghame Estate pond would have partial views of the Proposed Development above woodland. The scale of effect would be Medium and Adverse. Effects would be Medium magnitude, Moderate (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.25.4 This is a dark viewpoint, with lighting limited to that at the isolated dwellings and vehicles passing along the A714. There is no existing turbine lighting within the view. It would be difficult to access the viewpoint without the need for personal lighting, which would affect dark adaption due to the very close light source. At night lighting on the nacelles would be visible on all of the lit turbines, with the tops of trees filtering views. The scale of effect at night would be Small and Adverse. Effects would be Low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.25.5 No cumulative schemes would be visible from this location. In combination cumulative effects would not arise at this location.

2.26 VP26: Challoch Church (4.0 km, west)

2.26.1 This viewpoint (see **Figure 6.40**) is located at the entrance to Challoch Church, adjacent to the A714. The viewpoint provides views across the valley of the River Cree towards the hills in Galloway Forest to the north east and east, including Lamachan and Curleywee forming the closest group of hills. Views to the north and south along the corridor of the A714, with views to the west obstructed by Challoch Church. There are no operational wind farms currently visible from this location or from much of this stretch of the A714 due to the landform to the west. The viewpoint is just outside the western boundary of the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area.

2.26.2 The Proposed Development would be located beyond the closest low hill at Knockman Wood, which would partially screen Turbines 7, 9 and 11 to 14, with the woodland adding further to the screening. The remainder of the proposed turbines would be clearly and openly visible on slopes to the north east of the church, with the landform screening the bases of the towers from view. The scale of effect would be Large-medium and Adverse. Effects would be High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse.

2.26.3 Traffic passing along the A714 forms the main existing light source within views, with some lighting from the settlement of Newton Stewart to the south visible and lighting from isolated properties in the landscape. There is no existing turbine lighting within the view. Dark adaption would be affected by car headlights travelling along the road and the need to use personal lighting for pedestrians and cyclists due to the unlit nature of the route. **Figure 6.14** indicates that from this location the vertical angle of the viewpoint from the aviation lighting will be between -3 and -4° and light intensity would reduce to between 40 and 10 candela in conditions where visibility is less than 5km, which is similar to the brightest stars. At night, lighting on the nacelles of the six lit turbines would be visible. The scale of effect at night would be Medium-small and Adverse. Effects would be Medium-low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse.

2.26.4 Should it be consented, Glenvernoch Wind Farm would form a new feature in views to the north in the vicinity of this viewpoint, with blade tips likely to be visible from the church and road, between mature trees. They would be seen at a similar distance to the Proposed Development, but with more intervening vegetation. Cumulative effects would arise in combination with Glenvernoch Wind Farm, which would be visible as a separate scheme located in a different direction of view to the Proposed Development. During both the day

and night the cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development in combination with Glenvernoch Wind Farm would remain as assessed for the Proposed Development alone, Large-medium scale and Adverse during the day (High-medium magnitude, Major-moderate (**Significant**) and Adverse) and Medium-small scale and Adverse (Medium-low magnitude, Slight (**Not Significant**) and Adverse) at night, given that the Proposed Development would remain the most prominent in views.