# TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.3: VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

**Balmeanach Wind Farm**Prepared for: **Balmeanach Wind Farm Limited** 



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### **DOCUMENT REFERENCES**

#### **FIGURES**

Volume 3b and 3c – NatureScot visualisations, Figures 7.16 to 7.35 Volume 3d and 3e – The Highland Council visualisations, Figures 7.36 to 7.55



### 1.0 Introduction

This Technical Appendix sets out the findings of the detailed viewpoint assessment, carried out as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the Proposed Development (the Proposed Development). The findings of the viewpoint assessment are used to inform the overall assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity reported in **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual** of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

An overview of the 20 viewpoints included in the assessment for the Proposed Development, and which were agreed with The Highland Council (THC), are shown on **Figures 7.5a** to **7.5d** (Volume 3a of this EIA Report). Detailed location maps for each viewpoint are also included with the visualisations that have been prepared on **Figures 7.16** to **7.35** in Volume 3b and 3c and **Figures 7.36** to **7.55** in Volume 3d and 3e. NatureScot was provided with the details of the viewpoints. They declined to comment on the detailed selection, however, did confirm that a wireline only view would be satisfactory for Viewpoint 20, Bruach na Frithe in The Cuillins.

The viewpoints were selected to cover points of specific importance including: recognised viewpoints and landmarks, landscape designations (for example National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)), settlements and key transport routes, to inform the likely extent of significant landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. A variety of landscape character types and locations at different directions, distances and elevations from the site have been represented in the selected viewpoints.

An assessment of the potential effects on visual amenity arising from the Proposed Development at each of the agreed viewpoints has been carried out in line with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 2013, Third Edition (GLVIA 3). The existing and predicted views from each of these viewpoints have been described and analysed in order to identify the magnitude of change and the residual effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity. Where applicable, this description includes the Proposed Development infrastructure, including the substation, tracks, crane hardstanding area and borrow pits, as well as the proposed turbines.

The assessment takes account of the potential effects of the Proposed Development in relation to baseline wind farm developments. The wind farm context in the 40km radius Study Area is set out in **Table 1-1** (on the following page of this document) and on **Figures 7.10** and **7.13**. The visibility of cumulative wind farms that comprise the baseline context at each viewpoint is described and relates to both operational and consented wind farm developments. The viewpoint assessment identifies magnitude of change with the addition of the Proposed Development to operational and/or consented wind farms (baseline cumulative scenario).

At the point when the cumulative scenario for assessment was fixed, to enable the preparation of the LVIA, there were no wind farms that were currently under consideration for planning permission within the study area. However, the proposed Skye Reinforcement Project (132kV overhead line) is at application stage and is referred to where relevant. The cumulative scenario for assessment was agreed with THC on 31 January 2023. However, it was continually reviewed up to 31 May 2023 and fixed at this point to enable the preparation of the LVIA and associated Figures and visualisations.

As of 31 May 2023, there are seven wind farm proposals at scoping stage within the study area, which are shown on **Figure 7.13** (Volume 3a). However, they are not shown in the viewpoint figures (wireline visualisations) due to the absence of final design information and lack of certainty that these projects will proceed to an application. These Proposed Developments at EIA scoping stage have been referenced in the viewpoint assessment where appropriate, but specific assessment judgements have not been made due to their uncertainty.



**Status** Wind Farm/Turbine No of **Height of Direction from** Approx. distance **Turbines Turbines to Proposed** from Proposed Development (km) Blade Tip (m) **Development** 9 Beinn Mheadhonach 4 99.5 south east 12 1.3 Ben Aketil and Extension 100.5 west Operational/ Ben Sca and Extension\* 9 135 - 149.90.7 north west Edinbane 18 100 east 0.5 Glen Ullinish 2.8 11 149.9 south Meadale Farm 53.7 south east 11 1 Sumardale Croft 1 79 9.8 south east 9 Beinn Mheadhonach redesign 5 145 south east **EIA Scoping Stage** Ben Crokaig 11 TBC north west 5 42 Breakish 180 4 south east 0.5 Edinbane repowering 19 200 east Glen Ullinish II 53 1 200 south east Land at 4 Edinbane 2 149.9 north 4.2 Waternish 20 200 north west 5.5

Table 1-1: Wind Farm Developments Considered in the LVIA

The 20 viewpoints are illustrated by **Figures 7.16** to **7.35**, Volumes 3b and 3c (NatureScot visualisations) and **Figures 7.36** to **7.54** Volume 3d and 3e (THC visualisations).

For each viewpoint, a viewpoint location plan is provided. This illustrates the viewpoint and surrounding area at a scale 1:25,000. The plan identifies the extent of the view arcs illustrated on the photographic panorama, cumulative wireline and, if relevant, the photomontage. Within the legend of the location plan, the viewpoint information and location description are given. The viewpoint photography was captured between October 2019 and March 2023, the date and time of the photography is included in the Figures for each viewpoint.

Following the location plan, 90° photo-panoramas and wirelines have been provided, the number of which relates to the available cumulative view. For all viewpoints, cumulative wirelines are presented with the Balmeanach turbines shown in blue; existing turbines are shown in black, consented turbines shown in green and proposed turbines in the planning system are in orange.

Photomontages have not been prepared for Viewpoint 18 (Lochmaddy Ferry Route) and Viewpoint 20 (Bruach na Frithe) in agreement with consultees (NatureScot and THC). Viewpoint 18 comprises a view from a moving ferry and Viewpoint 20, whilst very remote, is considered to be too far away from the Proposed Development to provide a meaningful photomontage. The assessment judgements in relation to the Proposed Development are based on the wirelines that have been prepared.

The LVIA **Technical Appendix 7.2: Visualisation Methodology** explains the processes followed to produce the viewpoint illustrations. Guidance published by both NatureScot and THC has informed the methodology used in the preparation of the viewpoint illustrations for the LVIA.

In the viewpoint assessment text, every effort has been made to focus on the key cumulative interactions between the Proposed Development and the most relevant of the existing, consented and in planning developments rather than to describe all the wind farms which are predicted to be visible from any given viewpoint. All of the wind farms included in the cumulative assessment which are predicted to be visible from any given viewpoint are shown in the wirelines. As single turbines of less than 50m to blade tip height have not been included in the assessment (as agreed with consultees), there are some viewpoint locations from where these single turbines may be seen in the photography of the existing view, but these are not shown in the cumulative wireline figures. Where considered relevant these have been factored into the assessment, but in



<sup>\* &#</sup>x27;Ben Sca and Extension' are referred to as 'Ben Sca' throughout this document as the two projects are intrinsically linked.

general terms it is judged that the Proposed Development in conjunction with such small sized, individual turbines, would not result in significant cumulative effects.

Summary tables of the viewpoint assessment for both landscape and visual receptors at each viewpoint are provided in **Chapter 7** of the of the EIA Report.



### 2.0 Viewpoint Assessment

### 2.1 Viewpoint 1: Junction of A863 and minor road to Feorlig (Figure 7.16, Volume 3b and Figure 7.36 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the junction between the A863 and a local road close to Feorlig. It is situated within a rural, crofting, coastal landscape, where Glen Heysdal meets Loch Bracadale. It represents the views of road users travelling along the A863 approximately 4km to the south west of the closest proposed turbine.		
Recognised value	The viewpoint lies on the boundary of the North West Skye SLA, but views towards the site would not be across the SLA.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From the area surrounding this representative viewpoint, key views are towards Loch Bracadale to the west or the distant Cuillin mountains to the south. Within this context, the interior hills form a simple visual backcloth to these foci. They are not particularly distinctive, possessing a simple skyline and gentle slopes that extend from a local pattern of dispersed small-scale houses, agricultural buildings, fields and riparian woodland. Nonetheless, they create an edge that increases the sense of enclosure along the coast and diverts views in opposite directions to emphasise the distinctiveness of other visual elements, features and foci.		
Aketil turbines. These create a striking visual feature, mainly due to their contrast of form and move skyline. Nonetheless, their single line and regular-spacing relates to this simplicity and they avoid important the same of the sam		(when the foci of the bay and the Cuillins are behind), the main focus of the view is the existing Ben isual feature, mainly due to their contrast of form and movement with the simple hill backcloth and d regular-spacing relates to this simplicity and they avoid impinging upon the distinct rounded top of es would be seen behind the right hand side of Ben Aketil Wind Farm, with a similar linear arrangement	
		tance of the existing Ben Aketil turbines due to the simplicity of the hill land cover and a lack of definite	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.		



Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be positioned to the right of the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. It would be clearly separated from these existing and consented developments by the rounded summit of Ben Aketil. The layout of the Proposed Development would differ from the linear layouts of Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms. However, the way in which the two lines of turbines cluster in the view adds to their complexity and, in the same way as these existing and consented developments, the Proposed Development would be seen as a group of turbines on the skyline. The spatial separation between the existing and consented wind farms and the Proposed Development means they would be read as separate developments. the consented Glen Ullinish Wind Farm is positioned to the right of the Proposed Development, but again with clear separation between the consented and proposed turbines.	
	The Proposed Development would comprise a compact cluster of turbines. Whilst there would be some overlapping of blades, the relative height differences between the turbines (due to spacing and distance) would help to retain a degree of simplicity in the appearance of the Proposed Development. This is a transitory receptor and the exact relationship between the turbines would vary with location. The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint by the intervening landform.	
	The creation of a more complex collective wind farm image would appear to diminish the simplicity of the interior hill backcloth. Althou pattern has been established by the existing and consented developments and added to by the Proposed Development.	
	The proposed turbines would be larger than the existing Ben Aketil turbines, but consistent in scale with the wind turbines in the consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish developments. The proposed turbines would appear larger than those in the existing and consented wind farms, partly due to the closer proximity to the viewpoint. However, the lower section of the towers of the proposed turbines would be partially screened by the intervening landform, helping to reduce the apparent size of the structures and provide a degree of visual separation.	
	The Skye Reinforcement electricity transmission project (which is at application stage) would be visible. However, the part of the overhead line that would be seen from this viewpoint comprises wooden poles, which would replace the existing overhead line. Therefore, once operational, there would be limited change compared with the baseline context, which would limit any potential cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development.	
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.	
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.	



### 2.2 Viewpoint 2: Upper Edinbane (top road) (Figure 7.17, Volume 3b and Figure 7.37 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the south eastern end of the linear crofting settlement of Edinbane, representing the views of local residential receptors upon elevated, west-facing slopes. It is located approximately 3.2km to the north of the closest proposed turbine and is at the end of the no-through single track road that winds through the settlement. The viewpoint has been selected to represent the view seen by residents of Upper Edinbane.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a landscape designation.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	The views are largely open to the south, west and north west, and limited to the east by the rising landform. The main direction of view is to the hill slopes and skyline on the opposite side of the broad, shallow glen which are simple and undistinctive. These slopes are difficult to scale and appear largely forested, with just a small horizontal band of open moorland visible above. In good visibility conditions, the tips of some of the existing Ben Aketil turbines can be seen rotating above the skyline. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will be seen slightly to the left of the main line of view across the Glen, with the turbines positioned on the ridgeline.		
Additionally, to the south of the main vie		Waternish and the southern end of Loch Greshornish appear as distinctive and prominent features. iew, the existing Edinbane turbines create prominent foci in the sequential view, highlighted by the ar layout and elevation which create variable clusters and lines.	
	In contrast to the simplicity of the opposite hill slopes, the surrounding croft land and glen below appear more patterned with lines of dispersed houses, agricultural buildings, patches of trees, agricultural fields and varied spaces and local foci.		
Sensitivity of visual receptor	Value: Medium Susceptibility: High		
	On account of the value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.		
Residual Visual Effects			
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen across the glen, lying to the right of the consented Ben Sca turbines, visible in the context of the coniferous plantation on the lower hill slopes of Ben Sca and away from key foci of the Waternish hills and Loch Greshornish. The residential properties in Upper Edinbane are primarily focussed towards the south west, whilst the Proposed Development is located to the south. Therefore, the proposed turbines would be seen obliquely to the main direction of view. The proposed		



	turbines would be clearly visible, comprising a compact cluster of turbines between the operational Edinbane Wind Farm and the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm in the simultaneous view. The operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm is also visible within the simultaneous view, but the lower parts of the turbines are screened by the intervening landform from this location with only the blade tips appearing in the view.
	The full extent of proposed Turbines 1 and 2 would be seen, together with the majority of proposed Turbines 3 and 4 further south. The hubs and blades of a further two turbines (Turbine 7 and 6) would also be visible, together with the blades and blade tips of three turbines (Turbines 5, 8, 9 and 10). The Proposed Development would be seen above the skyline and occupy a limited extent of the horizon. The Proposed Development would relate to the presence of existing and consented wind turbines in the view, and above the existing conifer plantation, as such it would appear as a single wind farm cluster or group and would be perceived in the landscape as 'one wind farm' and not appear in isolation or uncharacteristic as a human feature upon the hill slopes. Whilst wind farms are an established part of the view from this location, and the consented Ben Sca development would continue this pattern, the Proposed Development would occupy part of the horizon where wind turbines are currently absent and would extend the horizontal angle occupied by turbines in the view.
	The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape. From this viewpoint the taller turbines of the Proposed Development would appear similar in size to the consented Ben Sca turbines. The scale and layout of the consented and Proposed Development would relate to some degree to the extensive horizontal scale of their surroundings. By being seen partly beyond the skyline, they would appear as part of the distant landscape, rather than seeming to directly impose upon the immediate space surrounding the viewer and the middle ground of the view formed by the glen. Nonetheless, they would seem to diminish the perceived vertical scale of the hill slopes facing this viewpoint.
	The consented Ben Sca turbines and those of the Proposed Development would appear larger than the existing Edinbane turbines, marked most obviously by their difference of rotor diameter and rotation (when orientated towards the viewer) rather than their variation of tip height. The location of the Proposed Development between Edinbane Wind Farm and Ben Sca Wind Farm would infill the gap and help alleviate the difference in scale between the existing and consented wind farms forming a single cluster combining to be read as 'one wind farm'.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure (e.g tracks crane hardstanding areas and substation) would be largely screened from this viewpoint by the intervening landform. However, the line of new tracks on the north facing slopes of Ben Sca would be visible.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be major/moderate adverse and significant.



### 2.3 Viewpoint 3: A863 Road (Figure 7.18, Volume 3b and Figure 7.36 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located along the A863 between Dunvegan and Broadford. It is situated within a rural, crofting landscape near Ullinish, Gearymore and Ose, by Loch Bracadale. It represents the views from visual receptors travelling north along the A87, near to the first point at which the Proposed Development would be visible (screened from further south), located approximately 6.1km to the south of the closest proposed turbine.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies near the boundary of	the North West Skye SLA. However, views towards the site would not be across the SLA.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From the area surrounding this representative viewpoint, key views are towards Macleod's Tables to the north west. Within this context, the interior hills form a simple visual backcloth to these foci. They are not particularly distinctive, possessing a very simple skyline and gentle slopes that extend from the local pattern of crofting settlement, fields and patches of woodland. In addition, no specific summit seems to dominate. They nonetheless create an important interior edge and backcloth that increases the sense of enclosure along the coast and amplifies the prominence and distinctiveness of other foci in contrast.		
	mainly due to their contrast of form and layout which is clearly distinguishable, w Sca turbines will be located between Ber	When looking north from this viewpoint, the main foci are the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms which create distinct visual features, nainly due to their contrast of form and movement with the simple hill backcloth and skyline. Ben Aketil Wind Farm has a very distinctive linear ayout which is clearly distinguishable, whilst the Edinbane turbines are more irregular in layout, elevation and backdrop. The consented Ben ica turbines will be located between Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms. The consented Glen Ullinish Wind Farm lies in closer proximity to the viewpoint and, as a consequence, will be more prominent that the other operational and consented wind farms.	
	It is difficult to perceive the scale and distance of the existing wind turbines due to the simplicity of the hill land cover and the absence of definite size indicators. Their prominence is also variable, tending to be reduced where seen against the sky (apart from during times when highlighted by the sun in contrast to dark skies) and increased where seen back-clothed by land of contrasting colour.		
		ape tend to be small in scale and appear nestled within low-lying and sheltered parts of the irregular	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium	
	On account of recognised value and susc	eptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.	



Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen on the skyline, towards the right hand side of the ridge formed by Ben Aketil and Ben Sca. It would be positioned to the right of the operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm and the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, and to the left of the operational Edinbane Wind Farm. It would be located in a view that is slightly oblique to the direction of travel, but would be clearly visible from this section of the A863. The proposed turbines would be clearly visible, comprising a compact cluster of turbines between the operational Edinbane Wind Farm and the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and help the three wind farms combine to read as 'one wind farm'.	
	All 10 proposed turbines would be seen, with a proportion of the towers, together with hubs and blades of nine turbines visible and the blades only of the tenth turbine. The Proposed Development would be seen above the skyline and occupy a limited extent of the horizon. The Proposed Development would relate to the presence of existing and consented turbines in the view, and as such it would not appear isolated or uncharacteristic as a human feature upon the hill slopes. Whilst wind farms are an established part of the view from this location, the Proposed Development would occupy part of the horizon where wind turbines are currently absent and would extend the horizontal angle occupied by turbines in the view.	
	The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape. From this viewpoint the Proposed Development would appear larger than the Ben Aketil, Ben Sca and Edinbane Wind Farms due to a combination of the closer proximity of the site and the size of the turbines. However, they would appear smaller than the Glen Ullinish turbines due to the relative proximity of this consented development. The scale and layout of the existing and consented wind farms, together with the Proposed Development, would relate to some degree to the extensive horizontal scale of their surroundings. By being seen partly beyond the skyline, they would appear as part of the distant landscape. Nonetheless, they would seem to diminish the perceived vertical scale of the hill slopes of Ben Sca and Ben Aketil facing this viewpoint.	
The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.		
	The Skye Reinforcement electricity transmission project (which is at application stage) would be visible. However, the part of the overhead line that would be seen from this viewpoint comprises wooden poles, which would replace the existing overhead line. Therefore, once operational, there would be limited change compared with the baseline context, which would limit any potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.	
Magnitude of visual effect  On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.		
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.	

### 2.4 Viewpoint 4: Roag (Figure 7.19, Volume 3b and Figure 7.39 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on a single-track road that runs through the rural, dispersed crofting settlement of Roag, on the north side of Loch Bracadale. It represents the views of visual receptors along the road and residents within the surrounding crofting settlement, approximately 6.4km to the south west of the closest proposed turbine. These views are variable in elevation and openness due to the irregular, undulating landform.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint is located within the North	h West Skye SLA.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, the main focus of the view is to the south east, passing over Loch Bracadale and a mixed composition of sea, peninsulas, islands and inlets towards the distant and distinctive focal feature of the Cuillin mountains. The surrounding crofting landscape forms the foreground to these views, comprising a mixed pattern of visual elements including agricultural enclosures, dispersed houses, farm buildings, wooden powerline poles and woodland patches. The distinction and complexity of these visual elements is emphasised in contrast to the simplicity of the sea to the south and the interior hills to the north which provide a simple backcloth and skyline.		
visual feature in the distance, r turbines due to the simplicity o beyond the existing wind farm,		towards the interior hills, the main focus is the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm. This creates a striking of the simple linear feature of the skyline. It is difficult to perceive the scale and distance of the wind land cover and a lack of definite size indicators. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will be located turbines being positioned in a relatively consistent pattern and spacing. The relationship between the ree of complexity to the view, partly due to the potential for stacking of turbine blades.	
	The Ben Aketil turbines vary in their prominence, as some appear upon the skyline whilst the towers of two are partially back-clothed b moorland slopes that contrast in colour.		
	The tips of some of the existing Edinbane turbines can be seen to the east, on the southern side of Ben Aketil, but these are not prominent due to appearing lower in the landscape and largely screened by the intervening landform.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: Medium (road users)/High (residents)	
	On account of recognised value and suscusers and high for residents.	reptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high-medium for road	



Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen on the skyline, behind and on the right hand side of the ridge formed by Ben Aketil and Ben Sca. It would comprise a compact cluster positioned to the right of the operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm and the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. It would also be positioned to the left of the operational Edinbane Wind Farm, although the visible extent of this wind farm is limited by in the intervening landform. It would be located in a view that is slightly oblique to the direction of travel, but would be clearly visible from this section of the minor road. It would also be visible, to a variable degree from the slightly dispersed residential properties in Roag.	
The proposed turbines would be clearly visible with 10 proposed turbines seen above the horizon. A proportion of the towers of five turbines would be seen, together with hubs and blades of two turbines and the blades or blade tips of three turbines. Development would relate to the presence of existing and consented wind turbines in the view, as such it would not a uncharacteristic as a human feature upon the hill slopes and would form an extension to the existing and consented clusters single wind farm' in the view. Whilst wind farms are an established part of the view from this location, the Proposed Development of the horizon where wind turbines are currently absent and would extend the horizontal angle occupied by turbines in the second s		
The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape. From this viewpoint the Proposed Develor larger than the Ben Aketil, Ben Sca and Edinbane Wind Farms due to a combination of the closer proximity of the site and the consented Glen Ullinish would also be visible to the south (right) of the Proposed Development but separate from the around the site. The scale and layout of the operational and consented developments, together with the Proposed Development to some degree to the extensive horizontal scale of their surroundings. By being seen partly beyond the skyline, they would seem to diminish the perceived vertical scale of the hill slopes of Ben Scatthis viewpoint.		
The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.		
	The Skye Reinforcement electricity transmission project (which is at application stage) would be visible. However, the part of the overhead line that would be seen from this viewpoint comprises wooden poles, which would replace the existing overhead line. Therefore, once operational, there would be limited change compared with the baseline context, which would limit any potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.	
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.	
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be major/moderate adverse and significant for residents and moderate adverse and not significant for road users. The effect on road users is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.	



### 2.5 Viewpoint 5: A850 (Figure 7.20, Volume 3b and Figure 7.40 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on the A850 main road between Edinbane and Dunvegan to the east and south west respectively, near the watershed of interior hills that separate Lochs Greshornish and Dunvegan. It is situated within a rural landscape, surrounded mainly by conifer plantations and moorland. It represents the views of visual receptors to the north west of the Proposed Development at a distance of 4.6km to the closest proposed turbine. These are mainly road users travelling eastwards along the A850.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a land the north.	Iscape designation and views towards the site do not extend across the Greshornish SLA which lies to	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this viewpoint, views are generally open and elevated. Travelling eastwards, there are distant views towards the distinctive ridge of Trotternish and The Storr to the north east. Closer to the viewpoint, the combined effect of the curve in the road plus the landform dropping away below, directs views out to the south east (this contrasts to views from the A850 further to the west which are framed by local road cuttings and landform undulations, and to views further to the east where the road descends to a lower elevation and southern views are screened by both the landform and forest plantation).		
	Looking south, the main focus of the view is the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm which creates a prominent, striking feature, primarily due many of its wind turbines appearing in line and overlapping. This stacking effect contrasts with the openness of the surrounding landscape at the horizontal emphasis of the landform and skyline. The existing Edinbane Wind Farm is also visible from this viewpoint, edging the view to east but, in contrast to Ben Aketil, its wind turbines appear tucked down low beyond the midground landform horizon, seeming more compin their layout and relationship to the landform. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will be positioned between the two existing wind fare extending from the forestry towards the summit of Ben Sca. The Ben Sca turbines will be in a linear arrangement, comparable with those in Ben Aketil Wind Farm.		
In between the operational and consented wind farms, looking towards the site and the summit of Ben Sca, views padense conifer plantation. This includes some coupes and rides but the plantation is predominantly simple and dense surrounding open ground, most marked at its edges. Beyond and above the conifer plantation that extends across the v band of open moorland hill slopes that continues to the horizon, which includes the summits of Ben Sca and Ben Ake difficult to perceive scale and distance due largely to the simplicity of land cover and lack of distant features of a c settlement visible within the view.		some coupes and rides but the plantation is predominantly simple and dense and contrasts with the at its edges. Beyond and above the conifer plantation that extends across the view, a narrow, horizontal continues to the horizon, which includes the summits of Ben Sca and Ben Aketil. Within this view, it is	
Sensitivity of visual receptor	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium	
On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is		reptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.	

Residual Visual Effects	Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen in the main view to the south east. The proposed turbines would be positioned beyond the ridge formed by Ben Sca and Ben Aketil and the existing conifer plantation on the slopes of this landform. It would be behind the operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, extending between these two developments, and also to the right of Edinbane Wind Farm. As the Proposed Development would be positioned on the far side of the ridge it would be distinguished from the operational and consented wind farms. However, it would intensify the wind farm development in this location. There is a difference in the layout of the Proposed Development compared with the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms but this is not readily apparent from this location due to the intervening ridgeline.		
The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape. However, as they are positioned at a greate Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms, the proposed turbines would appear to be comparable in size with, or smaller than, the to developments and would not be the dominant wind farm in the view. Consistent with the operational and consented turbine relate to the open horizontal space of the surroundings and would diminish the perceived vertical scale of the moorlan markedly with the surrounding coniferous trees.			
	The access tracks predominately form part of the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. A short section of additional new access track is proposed near the ridgeline, which would be visible from this location, but it would be seen adjacent to Ben Sca Wind Farm. The substation would be visible from this location, positioned on the ridgeline to the right of the summit of Ben Sca.		
	The visual effects described above would typically be seen briefly by most visual receptors when travelling along the A850.		
Magnitude of visual effect On account of the effects described above, the magnitude change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.			
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall level of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view. In this instance, the Proposed Development would also be clearly positioned behind the operational Ben Aketil Wind Farm and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, both of which would be more prominent than Balmeanach Wind Farm.		



# 2.6 Viewpoint 6: Junction of A863 and B884 on the south east edge of Lonmore/Dunvegan (Figure 7.21, Volume 3b and Figure 7.41 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the junction between the A863 and B884 single-track road on the south east edge of Dunvegan. It is situated within a predominately rural landscape although on the edge of Dunvegan, and is surrounded by wide open moorland. It represents the views seen by visual receptors travelling along the local road network and by residents on the edge of Lonmore/Dunvegan, located approximately 7.3km to the west of the Proposed Development.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies near the boundary of the North West Skye SLA. However, views towards the site would not be across the SLA.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, there are wide open views over the surrounding simple moorland, back-clothed by the interior hills to the north east. There is a strong horizontal emphasis to the visual composition, mainly due to the stepped landform and skyline. Buildings on the edge of Lonmore lie in the immediate context of the viewpoint, but outside the field of view illustrated in <b>Figure 7.21a</b> (Volume 3b) and <b>Figure 7.41</b> (Volume 3c). The distinctive summits of Macleod's Tables lie to the south west of this viewpoint in the sequential view and are the main foci in views from this location.		
The view from this location eastwards comprises open moorland. The existing Ben Aketil turbines are cle focal feature (especially when highlighted by the sun from the south in contrast to dark skies). These wind to a simple, linear layout which follows the skyline and the horizontal emphasis of the landform. Nonetheless, prominence, as some appear on the skyline whilst the lower parts of more northerly turbines are screened be Ben Sca Wind Farm will be located beyond Ben Aketil Wind Farm, the larger turbines in this consented devisible on the skyline. Again, the lower parts of the Ben Sca turbines would be screened to a greater or lesser of the tips of one of the consented Glen Ullinish turbines would theoretically by visible from this location. Alther if discernible at all, due to it appearing lower in the landscape and largely screened by the intervening landform		d by the sun from the south in contrast to dark skies). These wind turbines appear regularly-spaced in skyline and the horizontal emphasis of the landform. Nonetheless, the Ben Aketil turbines vary in their ine whilst the lower parts of more northerly turbines are screened by the intervening landform. Whilst and Ben Aketil Wind Farm, the larger turbines in this consented development mean they would also be arts of the Ben Sca turbines would be screened to a greater or lesser degree by the intervening landform. Inish turbines would theoretically by visible from this location. Although this would not be prominent,	
Sensitivity of visual receptor Value: Medium Susceptibility: medium (road users)/high (res		Susceptibility: medium (road users)/high (residents)	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium for road users and High for residents.		



Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen largely to the right of the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines. The upper parts of the towers, hubs and blades of three turbines would be seen, together with the blades or blade tips of five turbines. The lower parts of all the proposed turbines would be screened by the intervening landform.	
	The Proposed Development would relate to the presence of the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines. From this location the Proposed Development would continue the repeating pattern of turbines seen on the skyline, with comparable spacing between turbines. The Proposed Development would extend the proportion of the view occupied by wind farm development forming a cluster of wind farms with a small horizontal extension and appear as 'a single wind farm' in the view.	
	The Ben Sca turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape, although relating to the open horizontal space and appearing part of the distant landscape due to being seen beyond the skyline. The proposed turbines would appear slightly larger than the existing B Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines, particularly in terms of their larger rotor diameter. This would reduce the simplicity of their collecting.	
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.	
	The Skye Reinforcement electricity transmission project (which is at application stage) would be visible in the simultaneous view. However, the part of the overhead line that would be seen from this viewpoint comprises wooden poles, which would replace the existing overhead line. Therefore, once operational, there would be limited change compared with the baseline context, which would limit any potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.	
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.	
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be major/moderate adverse and significant for residents and moderate adverse and not significant for road users. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.	



### 2.7 Viewpoint 7: Minor road, Greshornish (Figure 7.22, Volume 3b and Figure 7.42 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on the single-track, no-through road between Greshornish and the A850, by the western shore of Loch Greshornish. It represents the views of road users travelling south along the road from Greshornish. The viewpoint represents visual receptors approximately 6km to the north of the closest proposed turbine. Comparable views may also be possible from parts of the residential and commercial (hotel) properties at Greshornish.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the Greshornis	h SLA.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, the main visual focus is Loch Greshornish and, leading from this, the surrounding crofting landscape and hills beyond. The hill backcloth is simple, undistinctive and has a horizontal emphasis, accentuating other foci in contrast. The hill slopes in the south, facing the viewer, are largely covered in forest plantation which, although simple at a broad level, contrasts in colour, texture and edges with the surrounding open moorland. The hills are difficult to scale due to a lack of definite size indicators.		
	The state of the s	In contrast to the simplicity of the backcloth hill slopes, the crofts and settlement surrounding Loch Greshornish are more patterned and intricate in scale, including houses, agricultural buildings, patches of trees, agricultural fields and electricity poles.	
	The existing Edinbane Wind Farm creates a prominent focal feature seen above the settlement of Edinbane to the south. Its irregular layout and elevation of wind turbines appears complex in places, amplified by the effects of overlapping blade rotation. Some of the Edinbane turbines appear part-way up the hill slopes facing this viewpoint, increasing their prominence (due to colour contrast with the dark backdrop) and imposing upon the small-scale settlement below. At the time the photography was captured the conditions were very still, resulting in the turbines being reflected in Loch Greshornish. However, weather conditions typically disturb the surface of the Loch and reduce the potential for such reflections to occur.		
	In good visibility conditions, the blades and nacelles of the existing Ben Aketil turbines can be seen beyond the skyline on the western side of the Ben Aketil hill top, albeit partly screened by the forest plantation. This has a different layout to Edinbane Wind Farm, being much simpler as a linear feature that follows the landform. Its relationship with the skyline is confused, however, by the profile of the forest plantation.  The consented Ben Sca turbines would also form a prominent linear feature along the skyline. This alignment will relate to the Ben Aketil Wind Farm, although the turbines will be noticeably larger.  When looking south, the foreground of the visual composition is simple, comprising mainly of short, grazed grassland and loch waters. This contrasts to the more irregular stepped landform extending to the west, where local knolls and ridges screen views intermittently/ partially.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: Medium	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.		



Residual Visual Effects	Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen upon the hill backcloth, in the main line of view when looking along Loch Greshornish. In this location, it would relate to the presence of the existing Edinbane and Ben Aketil Wind Farms, and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm in the same sector of view. It would occupy a position between the existing and consented wind farms, effectively filling in the gap between these existing developments forming a cluster and appearing as 'a single wind farm' in the view.		
	The proposed turbines would be clearly visible, adding to the striking array of existing and consented turbines along the skyline. The towers, hubs and blades of Turbines 1 to 4 would be seen, together with the hub and blades of Turbine 6 and the blades or blade tips of five turbines (Turbine 5, and Turbines 7 to 10). Whilst the proposed turbines would be prominent, they would be seen in addition to the consented turbines and the relative change would be limited by the presence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would comprise a compact group of turbines in the view, which would differ from the linear layouts of Ben Sca and Ben Aketil. However, the more linear composition of Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms is compromised to some degree by their overlap in the view.		
	The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape and, as with the existing and consented wind farms, they would seem to diminish the vertical scale of the backcloth hills, although relating to the openness and horizontal emphasis of their surroundings. The proposed turbines would appear larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines. However, they would relate to the size of the consented Ben Sca turbines. The relative separation from the operational Ben Aketil turbines would help to reduce the relationship with the Proposed Development and help to rationalise the apparent differences of size.		
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be largely screened from this viewpoint. The upper parts of the substation and a small section of the access track (on the northern side of the ridgeline) may just be visible. However, these elements would comprise limited elements in the view due to the intervening distance.		
	Whilst the Proposed Development would be prominent from this representative viewpoint, it would typically be seen for only a limited time by most visual receptors when travelling south along the minor road between Greshornish and the A850.		
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.		
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be major/moderate adverse and significant.		

# 2.8 Viewpoint 8: B885 Road (Figure 7.23, Volume 3b and Figure 7.43 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on the B885 road between Portree and Bracadale. It is situated within a rural moorland landscape and represents the views of road users travelling west along the road, approximately 8.9km to the east of the closest proposed turbine.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a landscape of recognised value.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, there are wide, open, elevated views over the surrounding and forestry and moorland, with some local screening provided by landform knolls and ridges. In the sequential view to the west views are to the more settled valley landscape to the north of Portree. There is a strong horizontal emphasis to the visual composition, mainly due to the gently rolling stepped landform and skyline. Within the fore and midground of views, there is a mixed, but relatively simple composition of moorland and forestry. There are few other elements in the simultaneous view west, towards the site.		
	Looking to the west, the horizon is a simple and gently rolling, gradually reducing in elevation to the north. In this direction, the existing Edinbane turbines can also be seen behind the extensive conifer plantation. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm would also be visible, but this would be limited to turbine blades. From a distance and at a broad level, these wind farms appear to relate to the stepped landform, horizontal emphasis and composition of other visual elements, which reduces their individual prominence.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.		
Residual Visual Effects	Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would add to the presence of wind turbines along the ridgeline, including the existing Edinbane Wind Farm, and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would reinforce the existing pattern of turbines extending above the skyline, but with lower parts of the turbines being screened by the intervening landform.		
	The hubs and blades of two of the proposed turbines (Turbines 1 and 3) are predicted to be visible in the wireline, together with the blades of four turbines (Turbines 2, 4, 5 and 6). However, the more southerly turbines (proposed Turbines 3, 4, 5 and 6) would be positioned behind the forestry, which would further limit the visibility of the Proposed Development.		
	The proposed turbines would appear larger than the existing Edinbane turbines. However, because all the wind farms would appear behind a		

	landform horizon (and thus their relative positions are screened), and due to the intervening distance, the perception of this size difference is likely to be limited.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
	Whilst the Proposed Development would be visible from this representative viewpoint, it would typically be seen for a very short duration by people travelling in a westerly direction along this single track road.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant.



# 2.9 Viewpoint 9: Kingsburgh (Figure 7.24, Volume 3b and Figure 7.44 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions				
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the crofting settlement of Kingsburgh, just off the A87 road between Uig and Portree. It represents the views seen by local residents approximately 9.5km to the north east of the Proposed Development. The A87 is located to the east of this viewpoint and views towards the Proposed Development from the road are more intermittent, restricted by the landform adjacent to the west side of the road.			
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a land	This viewpoint does not lie within a landscape of recognised value.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, key views from Kingsburgh are to the west and south west. Whilst similar views over Loch Snizort Beag are available from the A87 in the vicinity of Eyre, the lower elevation limits the potential visibility of the Proposed Development.			
	The elevation of the viewpoint affords relatively open views towards Loch Snizort Beag. However, foreground elements, including farm buildings and localised vegetation present some constraint to such views from locations at Kingsburgh. Within the fore and midground of views, there is a mixed composition of visual elements focused around Loch Snizort Beag, associated with settlement and crofting and a backcloth of stepped moorland hills. These include rocky ridges, shelves and knolls, as well as dispersed houses, patches of woodland, fences and electricity powerlines.			
	Looking to the south west, there is a horizontal emphasis to the visual composition, with a combination of loch, shoreline and stepped landform backcloth. The skyline is, however, irregular in line, partly due to the stepped topography and partly due to patches of conifer plantation in the distance which appears incongruous in colour and texture and distracts from other foci.			
	The hubs and blades of two existing Edinbane turbines are visible, together with the blades or blade tips of up to four other turbines. The blade tips of one Ben Aketil turbine are also theoretically visible although this is not clearly perceivable on site.			
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: High		
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.			
Residual Visual Effects				
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would typically be seen in relatively direct views across the loch in a south westerly direction. Visibility of the Proposed Development is reduced for people travelling along the A87 due to a combination of the lower elevation and intervening landform. Views to the south west would include the blades of eight of the proposed turbines, together with the hub			

	and blades of one turbine, upon the skyline during good visibility conditions. These blades would appear as just one of many visual elements within the visual composition and their contrast in form to the skyline would be partly diminished by the presence of existing conifer blocks and occupy a relatively small horizontal extent of the overall view. The proposed turbines would also be seen in the context of the operational Edinbane Wind Farm and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm forming a cluster of wind farm development seen as 'a single wind farm'. During clear visibility conditions, the rotation of the blades would attract attention and they would distract from the focal qualities of Loch Snizort Beag.  The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the limited extent of the turbines that would be seen in the context of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.



# 2.10 Viewpoint 10: A850/A87 (West of Borve) (Figure 7.25, Volume 3b and Figure 7.45 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the junction between the A850 and A87 road, on the western edge of Borve, between Uig and Portree. It represents the views seen by local residents and road users approximately 9.8km to the east of the Proposed Development. Borve comprises a predominately linear, but rather dispersed settlement positioned on the lower slopes of Bealach a Chaòl-reidh/Creagalain to the east and north east of the viewpoint.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a landscape of recognised value.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, key views from the road junction are across the surrounding moorland and grassland. Road infrastructure, including signage is prominent in the foreground. Properties on the western fringes of Borve are also present in the foreground, on the right hand side of the photograph from this viewpoint.		
	There are relatively open panoramic views across the surrounding landscape from this viewpoint. However, foreground elements, including buildings and localised vegetation present some constraint to such views from locations in the vicinity. The relatively flat moorland and grassland within the fore and midground of views, is back clothed by stepped hills covered by a mosaic of moorland and forestry, together with rocky ridges, shelves and knolls.		
	Looking to the west, towards the site there is a horizontal emphasis to the visual composition. The skyline is, however, irregular in line, partly due to the stepped topography and partly due to patches of conifer plantation in the distance which appears incongruous in colour and texture and distracts from other foci.		
	The hubs and blades of two existing Edinbane turbines are visible, together with the blades or blade tips of up to six other turbines, alt the potential visibility of the blade tips of two of these turbines is very limited. The upper towers, hub and blades of two the consented B turbines, together with the blades of a further three turbines would be seen from this location.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium (road users)/High (residents)	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium for road and high for residents.		
Residual Visual Effects			
Extent and nature of visual	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would typically be seen in relatively direct views to the west, and therefore		

effects	would be most visible for road users heading west on the A850, towards Dunvegan, and residents of the dispersed properties. Views to the west would include the upper part of the tower, hub and blades of Turbine 3, together with the hubs and blades of Turbines 1, 4, 5 and 6, and the blades or blade tips of four of the proposed turbines (Turbine 2, and Turbines 7 to 9). These would be seen upon the skyline during good visibility conditions. These blades would appear as just one of many visual elements within the visual composition and their contrast in form to the skyline would be partly diminished by the presence of existing conifer blocks upon this feature. They would also be seen in the context of the operational Edinbane Wind Farm and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and would not extend the horizontal extent of wind turbines in this location. The rotation of the blades would be visible above the horizontal skyline. However, the proposed turbines would be consistent with the line of existing and consented turbines along this ridgeline. They would be comparable in size and the spacing would be regular, with limited overlapping of turbines in the view.  The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant in relation to residents and moderate/minor and not significant in relation to road users. The effect on residents assessed as being not significant due to the limited extent of the turbines that would be seen in the context of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.



### 2.11 Viewpoint 11: Macleod's Table North/Healabhal Mhòr (Figure 7.26, Volume 3b and Figure 7.46 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located upon Macleod's Table North (Healabhal Mhòr) which is one of two landmark table-top hills in Duirinish. It represents the views of hillwalkers visiting the hilltop and within the surrounding open moorland, approximately 11.3km to the west of the Proposed Development.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the North West Skye SLA and is a popular destination for hillwalking, partly due to its landmark qualities (it also lies within the Duirinish WLA).		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	Views from this viewpoint are elevated and panoramic. As the hilltop is flat, there is not a single, focused vantage point and the most open views over the surrounding landscape tend to be experienced from the outer 'rim' of the table-top. Within this context, this representative viewpoint is on the eastern side of the top where an informal path (publicised on the Walkhighlands website) descends the hill and views face the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms.		
	The view from this hilltop is panoramic and comprises a mixed visual composition including open sea, islands, lochs, mountains and hills, interior moorland and forest, and coastal settlements. There are many distant foci within this composition, including the jagged mountain peaks of the Cuillins, the integrated and semi-enclosed islands and waters of Loch Bracadale, the distinctive island profiles of the Outer Hebrides and Rum, the bright white coral beaches upon the shore of Loch Dunvegan, and dispersed settlements of white croft houses dotted around the coast. Upon the table top, the field of view is horizontal in emphasis as the table top landform provides a broad base to views, mirrored by the sea horizon and wide skies.  Looking eastwards, there are distant views towards the distinctive ridge of Trotternish and The Storr to the north east. Within the midground of this view, the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms create a collective focal feature which the consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish Wind Farm will add to. The prominence of the wind turbines is increased by their colour contrast with a dark backcloth, their regular pattern contrasting to the simplicity of the moorland and the irregular skyline of Trotternish beyond, and their vertical form contrasting to the simple, horizontal emphasis of the topography. Nonetheless, these wind farms appear as just one component within the moorland midground of a wide, open panorama.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.		



Residual Visual Effects	Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the consented and operational wind farms visible within the wide, panoramic view that contains many visual elements and foci. Within this context, it would relate to and appear broadly consistent with the pattern of existing and consented Wind Farms. The position of the Proposed Development relative to this viewpoint means it would not extend the overall extent of turbines within the field of view, but it would intensify the wind farm development in the vicinity of Ben Aketil and Ben Sca.		
	The appearance and layout would be comparable with the operational and consented wind farms, although the layout is more irregular than the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca developments. The spacing of the turbines would be similar to the operational and consented wind farms and the layout would not noticeably increase the complexity of the group of wind farms e.g. it would not introduce or cause overlapping of multiple turbines from this location. The consented Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farms, together with the single operational Summardale Croft and Meadale Farm turbines are also visible further to the right (south) in the view from this location. Similar to the operational and consented wind farms, the Proposed Development would follow the horizontal emphasis of the landform horizons.		
	The proposed turbines would appear larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines. However, they would be comparable with the consented Ben Sca turbines. These differences would be apparent due to the elevated view of the ground in-between these developments (revealing that the larger and wider spaced turbines are not closer to the viewer). However, all the turbines would be seen below the skyline and against a backcloth of receding hills, which combined with the intervening distance would help to limit apparent differences. The complexity of the collective wind farms is established by the operational developments and the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and while the Proposed Development would reinforce this, it would not introduce anything distinctly new or different to the baseline landscape.		
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this location, but at a distance of over 11km this would not be readily discernible from this viewpoint.		
	The Proposed Development would be seen briefly by most visual receptors when circulating the top of Macleod's Table North and in the context of the adjacent consented and operational wind farms. It would also be visible when it would be in the main line of view when descending the hill and when walking between the Tables North and South and across the hill slopes to/from Orbost.		
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.		
Significance of visual effect	The overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate/minor adverse and not significant.		



### 2.12 Viewpoint 12: Fiscavaig (Figure 7.27, Volume 3b and Figure 7.47 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions				
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located at the crofting settlement of Fiscavaig. Fiscavaig comprises a relatively remote, dispersed, linear settlement at the end of the B8009 near the west coast of the Isle of Skye. Whilst the viewpoint is located on the minor road through the settlement this comprises a no through road, and the location has principally been selected to represent views seen by local residents approximately 11.4km to the south of the Proposed Development.			
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the North Wes	This viewpoint lies within the North West Skye SLA.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, key views from Fiscavaig are to the north. The properties within Fiscavaig are frequently orientated to the north or north west, taking advantage of the entrance to Loch Harport. Views from Fiscavaig vary with elevation and landform, with the minor road twisting round the rocky headlands and small valleys.  The location of the viewpoint affords relatively open views towards the entrance to Loch Harport, beyond which is a backcloth of stepped moorland in the central part of the Island. Foreground elements, comprise dispersed residential properties and their curtilage. The local landform and vegetation combines to frame views in a northerly direction, with Fiscavaig Bay and the associated beach occupying the midground of the view, and being the key focal point from this location. Within the midground of views, and in more distant views, there is a mixed composition of visual elements focused around Fiscavaig Bay and on the far side of the entrance to Loch Harport, associated with settlement and crofting and a backcloth of stepped moorland hills. The view also includes rocky ridges and knolls, the rocky coastal edge and intertidal area, and clusters of residential properties at Ardtrek and Ullinish.  Looking to the north, there is a horizontal emphasis to the visual composition, with a combination of loch, shoreline and stepped landform backcloth. The skyline is, however, irregular in line, partly due to the stepped topography and sequence of low hilltops.			
	The line of Ben Aketil turbines comprises a series of regular spaced structures, with the majority of these wind turbines located on the skyline. The consented Ben Sca development continues this line, although the intervening landform would screen a greater proportion of this wind farm. The blades and blade tips of Edinbane wind farm are visible further to the right, and the consented turbines of Glen Ullinish Wind Farm would overlap with these and be more conspicuous due to their size and closer proximity to the viewpoint.			
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High		
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.			



Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen towards the centre of the operational and consented wind farms.  All 10 turbines would be visible, with the towers, hubs and blades of six turbines seen, together with the hubs and blades of four turbines.
	The Proposed Development would typically be seen in relatively direct views across Fiscavaig Bay and the entrance to Loch Harport in a northerly direction. Balmeanch Wind Farm would extend across the gap between the operational and consented wind farms, its layout would differ from the linear form of Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms but would be comparable with the more irregular composition of Edinbane and Glen Ullinish Wind Farms. These turbines would appear as one of many visual elements within the visual composition and they would also be seen in the context of the operational and consented wind farms. During clear visibility conditions, the rotation of the blades would attract attention and they would distract from the focal qualities of Fiscaviag Bay and Loch Harport.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
	The Proposed Development would be seen only briefly by visual receptors travelling along the minor road through Fiscavaig, intermittently screened by local foreground features and influenced by the twisting character of the road, although the primary visual receptors at this location are the local residents. Whilst a number of local residents would experience more static views, the Proposed Development would appear as only a relatively limited element within the overall visual composition and would be consistent with structures that form part of the baseline context.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant. This effect is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.



### 2.13 Viewpoint 13: A87 Road near Cuidrach (Figure 7.28, Volume 3b and Figure 7.48 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on the A87 road between Uig and Portree. It is situated within a rural, crofting, coastal landscape and represents the views of road users travelling south along the road and from within the surrounding dispersed crofting settlements, approximately 11.9km to the north east of the closest proposed turbine.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint does not lie within a landscape of recognised value.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, there are open, elevated views over the surrounding moorland and sea, with some local screening provided by landform knolls and ridges. To the south, the main focus is the distant angular profile of the Cuillin mountains.		
	Within the fore and midground view there is a mixed and irregular composition of visual elements including rocky ridges, shelves and key well as grassland, patches of woodland, and electricity powerlines. At this location, although not included in the photography due to this was captured, there are two small farm/domestic scale wind turbines.  Looking to the south west, the key foci on the skyline are the distinctive hills of Macleod's Tables. In this direction, the existing Ben Al Edinbane turbines can be seen in addition to extensive conifer plantations. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm would be seen in front of Aketil turbines. From a distance and at a broad level, these wind farms appear to relate to the stepped landform, horizontal emphasis ar composition of other visual elements, which reduces their individual prominence. Nonetheless, the most northerly of the Ben Aketil Sca turbines do intrude slightly on the focus of Macleod's Tables. To the left side of the wider 90 degree view the consented Mheadhonoch wind farm will also be visible as a group of four turbines on the skyline.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.		
Residual Visual Effects			
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen as one of many visual elements and foci within the visual composition, including the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms, and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would continue the line of turbines on the skyline and would largely extend across the gap between the baseline wind farms. Whilst the layout of the Proposed Development is more irregular than the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farm, the relative positions of the turbines in these two developments increases the complexity of vertical elements with the view. In addition, the spacing of the proposed turbines is relatively even		



	from this location and it would not appear incongruous in relation to the operational and consented developments. The Proposed Development would also not would encroach on the Macleod's Tables or the Cuillin mountains in the view.
	As with the consented Ben Sca turbines, the proposed turbines would appear noticeably larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines but, because all the wind farms would appear behind a landform horizon (and thus their relative positions are screened), they are likely to be perceived as being closer in height. The tower height difference between the consented turbines and Proposed Development would not be discernible due to the distance to the site and the screening of lower parts of the turbines by intervening landform.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
	Whilst the Proposed Development would be clearly visible from this representative viewpoint, it would typically be seen only briefly by people travelling along the A87.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant.



# 2.14 Viewpoint 14: Totaig (Figure 7.29, Volume 3b and Figure 7.49 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on a single-track road through Totaig, a small coastal, crofting settlement. This is a rural area where the local landscape comprises a small-scale patchy pattern of crofting fields, dispersed houses and woodland. Whilst the viewpoint is located on the road It represents the views of visual receptors travelling along the road southwards and within the crofting settlement at a distance of approximately 14.3km from the site.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint is located within the North West Skye SLA. There are also distant views to the Dunvegan Castle GDL.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, open views focus upon Loch Dunvegan to the east within the midground, back clothed by simple, stepped landform slopes. Together, these convey a prevailing horizontal emphasis to the view, although there are some key point foci, including islands within the loch, Dunvegan Castle on the opposite shore and the distinctive profile of the Cuillin mountains to the south.		
	In contrast to the wide open, horizontal midground, the foreground visual composition mainly comprises a small scale and intricate pattern of undulating landform horizons, croft fields, woodland, and croft houses and steadings, creating variable spaces and local foci and framing.		
	In the same direction of view as Dunvegan Castle, the existing Ben Aketil turbines are visible, although these are not highly prom their distance, alignment with the stepped landform and due to being seen upon a lower section of the visible skyline. The wind tur regularly spaced in a simple, linear layout. The consented Glen Ullinish turbines would be seen further to the right, together w distant consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines and operational Summardale Croft and Meadale Farm single turbines.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: Medium (road users)/High (residents)	
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high-medium for road users and high for residents.		
Residual Visual Effects			
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines. All 10 of the proposed turbines would be theoretically visible, although only four would be clearly seen as the six would be largely screened by the intervening landform, with only blades or blade tips visible.		

	The Proposed Development would be fairly evenly spaced with limited overlapping of turbines. There would also be limited overlapping of turbines with the baseline developments and, together, they would appear as one combined feature in the landscape. The proposed turbines would appear larger than the Ben Aketil turbines resulting in a slightly more complex wind farm image. Nonetheless, this would not seem significant within the context of the wide open view across Loch Dunvegan. Rather, the collective wind farm would primarily appear as just one visual element of many within the visual composition and relate to the horizontal hill backcloth and loch, separating it from other key visual foci.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.
	The Proposed Development would be seen only briefly by visual receptors travelling along the minor road through Totaig, intermittently screened by local foreground features. Whilst a small number of local residents would experience more static views, the Proposed Development would appear as a relatively minor element within the visual overall composition and it would reinforce an existing pattern of wind farm developments that form part of the baseline context rather than add anything new.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate adverse and not significant for residents and moderate/minor adverse and not significant for road users. The effect on residents is assessed as being not significant due to the relative prominence of the existing and consented wind farms. The Proposed Development would reinforce this established pattern of wind farm development, but it would not introduce elements that are not part of the baseline view.



# 2.15 Viewpoint 15: The Storr (Figure 7.30, Volume 3b and Figure 7.50 Volume 3c)

<b>Baseline Conditions</b>			
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on The Storr, a hilltop that forms part of the Trotternish Ridge. It is situated on the western edge of the distinctive landslip landform that includes the Old Man of Storr rock pinnacle. Consequently, visibility is screened further to the east. The viewpoint represents the views of hillwalkers (and a smaller number of mountain bikers) visiting the hilltop and the ridge that extends to the north and south. It represents visual receptors approximately 16.4km to the north east of the closest proposed turbine.		
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA and is a popular destination for hillwalking (partly due to the attraction of the Old Man of Storr which is passed en route). It also lies on the route of the Skye Trail.		
Nature of view, including susceptibility	Views from this representative viewpoint are elevated and panoramic. They are directed all around, but the main foci are: to the north and south along the Trotternish Ridge (and its distinctive landslip geomorphological features); south to the Cuillin mountains; and east out to sea, islands and the mainland beyond. Within this context, views do not tend to focus towards the Proposed Development site to the south west, although Macleod's Tables are notable landmarks in this direction in the distance. Nonetheless, some hillwalkers' views are likely to be focused in this direction if they descend The Storr via the southern path to the Old Man of Storr public car park (route publicised on the Walkhighlands website).  When looking to the south west from this viewpoint, the site is at a relatively low elevation, within a mixed composition of moorland, forest plantations, settlements and landform horizons. The existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms can clearly be seen in good visibility conditions, against the backcloth of the landscape. Similar points are applicable to the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, which would be positioned in front of Ben Aketil Wind Farm and Glen Ullinish Wind Farm, which would be positioned to the left of the other wind farms. Further to the left of the view, the four consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines will be visible, positioned below the skyline.		
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High	
On account of recognised value and susceptibility described a		ceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.	
Residual Visual Effects			
Extent and nature of visual effects	•	e Proposed Development would be seen as just one element within a wide panorama that contains d turbines would not be visually prominent and would not be seen within the main directions of views	

	from The Storr (i.e. to the Trotternish Ridge, to the Cuillin mountains and out to sea).
	The Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the operational Edinbane Wind Farm as well as the operational Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish turbines. The Proposed Development would increase the collective extent of turbines within the field of view. However, as the Proposed Development would reinforce an established pattern of development in the landscape and the separation distance from the viewpoint is over 16km, the extent of this increase would be small. The more irregular layout of the proposed turbines would be consistent with the operational Edinbane Wind Farm. The layout would differ from the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca Wind Farms, however as these are positioned with one in front of the other, they are appear more irregular in form. Collectively these existing and consented wind farms follow the emphasis of the landform horizons. The horizontal extent of the view containing wind turbines would not be extended.
	The proposed turbines would appear larger in the view than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines, although they would be comparable with the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm turbines. In relation to Ben Aketil, the difference in scale and spacing would not appear incompatible, partly due to the intervening distance and partly as the bases of the majority of the baseline turbines are partially screened by the intervening landform. The difference in scale with the existing Edinbane turbines would be more obvious due to the relative proximity of the existing wind farm and Proposed Development in the view. The difference in the tower height between the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and the Proposed Development would not be discernible due to the intervening distance.
	As with the existing and consented developments, the proposed turbines would be seen against the hill backcloth. Whilst they would be seen in the same direction as the Macleod's Tables, they would not appear to encroach on these landmarks more than the existing and consented wind farms.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this location, but at a distance of over 11km this would not be readily discernible from this viewpoint.
	The Proposed Development would be seen for a limited time by most visual receptors on The Storr, although it would be in the main line of view when descending the south western side.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight-negligible.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor and not significant.

## 2.16 Viewpoint 16: Ben Tianavaig (Figure 7.31, Volume 3b and Figure 7.51 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions		
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is located on the top of Ben Tianavaig, a distinctive hill that forms part of the geological feature of the Trotternish Ridge but is split from this by the sea inlet at Portree. It represents the views seen by hillwalkers, approximately 17.5km to the east of the closest proposed turbine.	
Recognised value	The viewpoint lies within the Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA and is a popular hill top for walking (via a good path from Camustianavaig).	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	Views from this representative viewpoint are elevated and panoramic. As the hill projects out from the east coast, surrounded by sea on three sides, it offers a remarkable vantage point for many different landscape and seascape character types and striking vertical and horizontal features within the surrounding area. Although views are open in all directions, key foci are: the Cuillin mountains to the south; Storr and the Trotternish Ridge to the north; across the sea to Raasay (and the mainland mountains beyond) to the east; and Portree and its adjacent bay to the north west. Within this context, views do not tend to focus upon the Proposed Development site, although the existing Edinbane turbines are clearly visible within the interior backdrop to Portree.	
	The visual composition seen from this location is complex, made up a variety of natural, built and cultural visual elements, including mountains, the sea, islands, settlements, woodland plantations, moorland, fish-farms, telecommunication masts and powerlines. Within this composition, the existing Edinbane turbines are highlighted by their contrast of form and colour against the dark moorland/ forest backdrop. Additionally, their irregular layout seen as two separated groups of turbines at variable elevations contrasts to the simple and horizontal emphasis of the surrounding landscape. The Ben Aketil turbines are not as clearly visible from this viewpoint due to the intervening landform. The consented Ben Sca turbines will be visible, present towards the centre of the Edinbane turbines. The consented Beinn Mheahhonach Wind Farm will be visible on the skyline in the wider 90 degree view, in the distance, and set apart from the cluster of wind farms located near Edinbane.	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.	
Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be located largely to the left of the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, behind the southern turbines of Edinbane Wind Farm. The proposed turbines would be set within the group of existing turbines and would not increase the horizontal extent of the view occupied by wind farm development. The proposed turbines would be largely seen against the landscape although the blades and blade tips of the 10 turbines, together with the hubs of three of the turbines, would extend above the skyline. The	

	Proposed Development would also appear as just one of many features within the view and many of the other features have much stronger focal qualities.
	The Proposed Development would appear to relate to the baseline wind farm development, particularly the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and existing Edinbane Wind Farm. The spacing of the turbines would relate to the baseline wind farms, particularly the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and whilst the more irregular layout of the Proposed Development would differ from the linear layout of Ben Sca Wind Farm it would not appear incongruous in the overall composition of turbines. The Proposed Development would also add more coherence to a collective wind farm image by appearing to bridge the central gap within the Edinbane Wind Farm that is apparent from this viewpoint. It would also reinforce a collective linear feature that relates to the horizontal emphasis of the landform.
	The wind turbines, collectively, would appear as large structures within the landscape and, due to a lack of surrounding size indicators, may seem to diminish the perceived extent of the interior moorland and forest between the site and Portree. However, the prominence of the proposed turbines would be limited due to the intervening distance, context in terms of the existing wind farms and consented Ben Sca Wind Farm and, to a lesser degree, the screening provided by the intervening landform.
	Elements of Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this location, but at a distance of over 17km these would not be readily discernible from this viewpoint.
	The Proposed Development would be seen for a limited time by most visual receptors on Ben Tianavaig and will not be in the main line of view when ascending/ descending along the main path from Camustianavaig.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight-negligible.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant.



# 2.17 Viewpoint 17: Uig (Idrigill) (Figure 7.32, Volume 3b and Figure 7.52 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions		
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This viewpoint is located at Idrigill, on the south facing slopes above Uig. It is positioned at the junction between a minor road within the settlement and the A855, which continues north around the northernmost part of the Isle of Skye. It represents the views seen by residents and road users, approximately 17.3km to the north of the closest proposed turbine.	
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the Trotternish and Tianavaig SLA.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, there are open views over Uig Bay and Loch Snizort beyond. The elevation of the viewpoint affords open, panoramic and distant views of the surrounding sea, towards Skye in the far distance. The sea cliffs and land south of Uig Bay are clearly visible and to the right with the long ridge of Waternish in the distance.	
	The landscape surrounds this viewpoint, and the steeply rising land to the south provides a degree of enclosure, despite the long distance view to the south. There is a clear horizontal emphasis to the view of the land, with series of interlocking cliffs and ridges extending into the bay and loch. The houses in Idrigill and Uig, and also in South Cuil on the far side of Uig bay comprise scale references that allow the height of the cliffs and ridges to be judged. The pier and ferry terminal is a distinctive element in Uig Bay, noting that at the time the viewpoint photography was captured the pier was undergoing maintenance work. It is a diverse view, containing multiple elements that draw the eye.	
	The operational Edinbane and Ben Aketil Wind Farms are visible at this distance as will be the case for the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. However, they are generally seen in the wide panorama and good visibility is needed to place them clearly. The Ben Aketil turbines appear in a neat, balanced row on the horizon, whereas Edinbane appears in a more irregular formation on the rolling landform upon which they sit. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will have a comparable appearance to the Ben Aketil Wind Farm, with an evenly spaced row of turbines on the ridge, but the turbines will appear larger due to proximity and turbine size. The combination of Ben Aketil and Ben Sca turbines in the view will result in these developments having a more irregular appearance overall due to the relative spacing of the turbines and the size differences.	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: Medium (road users)/High (residents)
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium for road users and high for residents. The sensitivity judgement for road users places an emphasis on the number and complexity of human elements in the view at this particular location.	

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen as one small visual element within the wide, low-lying panoramic view southwards across Skye. The proposed turbines would also clearly be set beyond the cliffs and coastal landform on the south side of Uig Bay, helping to provide a degree of separation.
	The operational Edinbane turbines would be seen to the left and the combination of the operational Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines to the right of the Proposed Development. From this location the Proposed Development would occupy the gap between the baseline wind farm development and, whilst it would intensify the wind farm development, it would not increase the overall horizontal extent of the view occupied by turbines. The layout of the Proposed Development would be broadly consistent with the baseline wind farms, although the more irregular layout, compared with the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca developments would be apparent. However, the relative placement of the Ben Aketil turbines and the consented Ben Sca turbines increases the collective complexity of the two developments. The Proposed Development, combined with baseline wind farms would reinforce the linear feature of the repeating turbines following the skyline.
	The proposed turbines would appear consistent in size with the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, although they would appear larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines. However, the separation distance from the viewpoint would reduce the apparent size difference of the Proposed Development. In addition, due to the intervening landform the Proposed Development would appear to be closer that the operational wind farms.
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would not be readily discernible at a distance of over 17km.
	The Proposed Development would be seen only briefly by visual receptors travelling along the minor road through Idrigill, intermittently screened by local foreground features. Whilst a small number of local residents would experience more static views, the Proposed Development would appear as a relatively minor element within the visual composition and it would reinforce an existing pattern of wind farm developments that form part of the baseline context rather than add anything new.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight – negligible.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be moderate/minor adverse and not significant for residents and minor adverse and not significant for road users.



## 2.18 Viewpoint 18: Uig – Lochmaddy Ferry Route (Figure 7.33, Volume 3b and Figure 7.53 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions		
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This viewpoint is located on a ferry on the Lochmaddy route, a publicly accessible location used by residents and visitors to Skye. As the ferry moves into open water, it offers open views to the south towards Skye. At the time of undertaking the fieldwork for the LVIA for the Proposed Development the ferry was not in operation due to construction work taking place on the pier. However, observations were made from this ferry route for the LVIA of the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm. From within the ferry, views out are most likely from the external seating area at the rear of the ship, whereas the interior of the ferry offers less opportunity for views out as windows are relatively small in size. Despite fair weather during the survey undertaken for the previous LVIA, it was noted that, although some passengers opted to sit outside to take in views, a significant majority of passengers stayed inside. This viewpoint is at a location where the Proposed Development would be most clearly visible, within Loch Snizort. The viewpoint is located 17.1km north of the closest proposed turbine.	
Recognised value	This viewpoint is not within a designated landscape.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	From this representative viewpoint, there are open views over the surrounding sea, back towards Skye in the far distance. The viewpoint is within Loch Snizort and although there is open sea to the north, land is visible to the west (Waternish), east (Trotternish) and south (Greshornish and the site area).	
	Despite there being variation in the shape and height of the Skye coastal landscape, it wraps around the viewpoint to a wide extent as it is broadly low-lying with a clear horizontal emphasis to the view of the land. Scale references are difficult to identify in the landscape as there few clearly visible references, such as settlements. Land to the west (Waternish and the Ascrib Islands) and east (Trotternish) appear much closer and contrast clearly with the site area to the south, which is noticeably further away.	
	The operational Edinbane and Ben Aketil Wind Farms are visible at this distance as will be the case for the consented Ben Sca V However, they are generally seen in the in the wide panorama and good visibility is needed to place them clearly. The Ben Aketil turbi in a neat, balanced row on the horizon, whereas Edinbane appear in a scattered formation on the rolling landform upon which the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will have a comparable appearance to Ben Aketil Wind Farm, with an evenly spaced row of turbines or but the turbines will appear larger due to proximity and turbine size. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm is also visible location, to the left of the cluster of wind farms near Edinbane, although the majority of the turbines will be screened by the I landform.	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: Medium	Susceptibility: Medium
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be medium.	

Residual Visual Effects		
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would be seen as a relatively small visual element within the wide, low-lying panoramic view of Skye. The turbines would also be located to the south of Loch Greshornish, with the Waternish and Trotternish strips of land coming closer to the viewpoint.	
	The operational Edinbane turbines would be seen to the left and the combination of the operational Ben Aketil and Ben Sca turbines to the right or the Proposed Development. From this location the Proposed Development would occupy the gap between the baseline wind farm development and, whilst it would intensify the wind farm development, it would not increase the overall horizontal extent of the view occupied by turbines. The layout of the Proposed Development would be broadly consistent with the baseline wind farms, although the more irregular layout, compared with the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca developments would be apparent. However, the relative placement of the Ben Aketil turbines and the consented Ben Sca turbines increases the collective complexity of the two developments. The Proposed Development, combined baseline wind farms reinforce the linear feature of the repeating turbines following the skyline.	
	The proposed turbines would appear consistent in size with the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, although they would appear larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines. However, the separation distance from the viewpoint would reduce the apparent size difference and the Proposed Development. In addition, due to the intervening landform the Proposed Development would appear to be closer than the operational wind farms.	
	The Proposed Development infrastructure would not be readily discernible at a distance of over 17km.	
	Whilst the Proposed Development would be visible from this representative viewpoint, it would be seen for a small duration of the ferry journey and by passengers choosing to sit outside on the rear deck of the ship, or obliquely through windows of internal spaces.	
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight – negligible.	
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant for ferry users.	



## 2.19 Viewpoint 19: Beinn Edra (Figure 7.34, Volume 3b and Figure 7.54 Volume 3c)

Viewpoint 19: Beinn Edra		
<b>Baseline Conditions</b>		
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is on Beinn Edra, which is one of the hill tops along the northern part of the Trotternish Ridge. It is located on the edge of steep cliffs and landslip features that fall sharply to the east (screening visibility towards the Proposed Development site from further east). The viewpoint represents the views of hillwalkers upon the hilltop and along the ridge to the north and south. It represents visual receptors approximately 18.8 km to the north east of the closest proposed turbine.	
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within the Trotternish NSA. The hilltop is a destination for hillwalking (see Walkhighlands website) and lies on the route of the Skye Trail.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	Views from this representative viewpoint are elevated and panoramic, although contrasting sharply between the west and east, either side of the scalloped spine of the Trotternish Ridge running north – south. To the east, key views follow the edge of the ridge and focus on its many geomorphological features such as cliffs, pinnacles, mounds and lochans, before extending to the crofting settlements along the coast and out to sea. In contrast, to the west, the visual composition is simpler and has a more horizontal emphasis, with convex slopes in the foreground descending gradually to the coastal plain, west coast and Uig Bay, and offshore islands and peninsulas.	
	Views do not tend to be directed towards the Proposed Development site to the south west, although the distant landmarks of Macleod's Tables are seen in the same direction. Within these views, the proposed site appears at relatively low elevation, within a mixed composition of interior moorland, forest plantations, crofting settlements and landform horizons within the midground. The existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms can clearly be seen within this composition in good visibility conditions, their prominence increased by their colour contrast with the dark, hill backcloth. Their distinctive vertical forms stand out in contrast to the simple moorland surroundings, although their collective linear form relates to the horizontal emphasis of the landform. Ben Aketil appears the more obvious of the two wind farms due to its regular pattern and being seen closer in line to the Macleod's Tables. This also will be the case for the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, being closely aligned with Ben Aketil Wind Farm. The consented Glen Ullinish Wind Farm will be located further south, to the left of Edinbane Wind Farm. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm will also be visible to the left of the view in the distance and seen as a separate wind farm development from the cluster located around Edinbane.	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.	



Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would not be seen in the main direction of views along the Trotternish Ridge. When seen, it would appear as just one element in the distance within a mixed composition of visual elements. In particular, it would appear to relate to the presence of the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms, and the consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish Wind Farms.
	The Proposed Development would not increase the collective extent of the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms, and consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish Wind Farms within the field of view. It would be seen largely behind Edinbane Wind Farm and would be consistent with the relatively irregular layout of this operational development. The overlap between the Proposed Development with the existing Edinbane Wind Farm would, however, result in a more complex collective image. The majority of the vertical extent of the proposed turbines would be visible, with the turbines almost entirely seen against a combination of the landscape and the sea beyond i.e. the turbines would be seen below the skyline, with the potential exception of the blade tips of two turbines.
	The consented Ben Sca turbines and proposed turbines would appear larger in the view than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines. Whilst this difference may be discernible it would, however, not appear conspicuous, partly because of the 18km distance of the wind farm from this viewpoint.
	Whilst the Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint it would not be discernible due to the intervening distance.
	The Proposed Development would usually be seen for a limited time by most visual receptors at this viewpoint and it would not typically be in the main line of view when walking to or from this viewpoint.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight – negligible.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor and not significant.



## 2.20 Viewpoint 20: Bruach na Frithe (Figure 7.35, Volume 3b and Figure 7.55 Volume 3c)

Baseline Conditions		
Location, pattern of visibility and key visual receptors	This representative viewpoint is on the summit of Bruach na Frithe, one of the Munro peaks along the Cuillin Ridge. Steep slopes fall sharply either side of the ridge, meaning that visibility towards the Proposed Development site is screened from further east. The viewpoint represents the views of hillwalkers and rock climbers upon the mountain top and along the ridge, approximately 23.7km to the south of the closest proposed turbine.	
Recognised value	This viewpoint lies within The Cuillin Hills NSA. The hill is a Munro and popular destination for hillwalking (see Walkhighlands website). It also lies within the Cuillin WLA.	
Nature of view, including susceptibility	Views from this representative viewpoint are elevated and panoramic. The main focus of the views is the Cuillin mountains themselves, set against a backdrop of the open sea to the west. Within this range of mountains, there are many superlative landscape features, such as angular mountain peaks, crags, cliffs and corries perched high above deeply carved u-shaped strath and lochans. In contrast, views to the north, away from the Cuillins, pass over a strikingly different open and gently undulating landform with a horizontal emphasis. In the foreground, this area is primarily covered by extensive moorland and forest plantation but, beyond Glens Brittle and Drynoch, there are views to a wide array of human elements including masts, agricultural enclosures, roads, wind farms, houses and settlements (including Portree).	
	The Proposed Development site appears unremarkable from this viewpoint, being at relatively low elevation and within a mixed composition of interior moorland, forest plantations, croft ground and interlocking landform horizons. For this reason, views do not tend to be steered in this direction to the north, although the existing Edinbane and Ben Aketil Wind Farms can be seen in good visibility conditions, and similar would be the case for the consented Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farms.	
	The colour of the baseline wind farms contrasts with vegetation backcloth when sunlit and their form differs from the simplicity of the moorland surroundings. Nonetheless, these wind farms do not seem imposing from this viewpoint as they appear clearly distant, beyond many other human elements which are closer and more extensive.	
	The Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms differ in their appearance from this viewpoint, with Ben Aketil seeming to comprise a concentrate cluster and single wind turbine outliers (due to intervening landform screening) and Edinbane appearing spread along a line. The consented Be Sca Wind Farm would be comparable with Ben Aketil Wind Farm, comprising a concentrated cluster of turbines. The consented Glen Ullini: Wind Farm will have a more linear appearance from this viewpoint, although with some of the turbines clustering together. The consented Beinn Mheadhonach Wind Farm will comprise a line of four turbines in front of the other wind farms in the view.	
Sensitivity of visual resource	Value: High	Susceptibility: High
	On account of recognised value and susceptibility described above, the sensitivity of the visual receptor is judged to be high.	



Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	From this representative viewpoint, the Proposed Development would not be seen in the main direction of views into the Cuillin mountains. Conversely, it would be visible when looking away from these into the far distance to the north. Here, it would appear as just one element of a mixed composition of many visual elements and appear to relate to the presence of the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms as well as the consented Ben Sca, Glen Ullinish and Bein Mheadonach Wind Farms. Like these, the visibility of the proposed turbines would be apparent due to their contrast of colour (particularly when sunlit) and form with the simple moorland and forest backcloth. The very large scale mountain context of the viewpoint dominates the view from this location and this would be unchanged, with the Proposed Development comprising a small part of extensive, open and panoramic views.
	The Proposed Development would be seen alongside the consented Ben Sca Wind Farm, partly behind the existing Edinbane and consented Glen Ullinish and Beinn Mheadonach Wind Farms. It would also be seen in front of and between the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca Wind Farms. In this position, it would increase the cohesion of the collective group and not increase the overall extent of turbines in the view, but it would result in a slightly more complex combined wind farm image, by increasing the overall intensity of turbines in this part of the view.
	The Proposed Development would be seen in good visibility conditions but it would not seem imposing upon visual receptors at this viewpoint due to appearing clearly distant and relatively concentrated, and further than existing human elements within the view which are closer and more extensive. Although the proposed turbines would be larger than the existing Ben Aketil and Edinbane turbines, this difference would not be obvious from this viewpoint, at a distance of over 23km away. The proposed turbines would also be consistent in height with the consented Ben Sca and Glen Ullinish Wind Farms.
	Whilst the Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint it would not be discernible due to the intervening distance.
	The Proposed Development would usually be seen for a limited time by most visual receptors at this viewpoint, although it may be viewed repeatedly whilst moving around the northern arc of the Cuillin ridge.
	The Skye Reinforcement electricity transmission project (which is at application stage) would be visible. However, the part of the Proposed Development that is closest to this viewpoint would comprise buried cables, limiting change to the view from this location. The proposed sections of overhead line are illustrated in the wirelines prepared for this viewpoint. However, these would be distant and form very limited elements in the view from this location due to the relative size of the structures and the intervening distance. Therefore, once operational, there would be limited change compared with the baseline context, which would limit any potential cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.
Magnitude of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be negligible.
Significance of visual effect	On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor and not significant.







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