

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 7.3: VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

Balmeanach Wind Farm
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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.

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

Status	Wind Farm/Turbine	No of Turbines	Height of Turbines to Blade Tip (m)	Direction from Proposed Development	Approx. distance from Proposed Development (km)
Operational/ Consented	Beinn Mheadhonach	4	99.5	south east	9
	Ben Aketil and Extension	12	100.5	west	1.3
	Ben Sca and Extension*	9	135 – 149.9	north west	0.7
	Edinbane	18	100	east	0.5
	Glen Ullinish	11	149.9	south	2.8
	Meadale Farm	1	53.7	south east	11
	Sumardale Croft	1	79	south east	9.8
EIA Scoping Stage	Beinn Mheadhonach redesign	5	145	south east	9
	Ben Crokaig	11	TBC	north west	5
	Breakish	4	180	south east	42
	Edinbane repowering	19	200	east	0.5
	Glen Ullinish II	53	200	south east	1
	Land at 4 Edinbane	2	149.9	north	4.2
	Waternish	20	200	north west	5.5

* 'Ben Sca and Extension' are referred to as 'Ben Sca' throughout this document as the two projects are intrinsically linked.

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

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	<p>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.</p> <p>When looking north from this viewpoint (when the foci of the bay and the Cuillins are behind), the main focus of the view is the existing Ben Aketil turbines. These create a striking visual feature, mainly due to their contrast of form and movement with the simple hill backcloth and skyline. Nonetheless, their single line and regular-spacing relates to this simplicity and they avoid impinging upon the distinct rounded top of Ben Aketil. The consented Ben Sca turbines would be seen behind the right hand side of Ben Aketil Wind Farm, with a similar linear arrangement and spacing.</p> <p>It is difficult to perceive the scale and distance of the existing Ben Aketil turbines due to the simplicity of the hill land cover and a lack of definite size indicators.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The creation of a more complex collective wind farm image would appear to diminish the simplicity of the interior hill backcloth. Although this pattern has been established by the existing and consented developments and added to by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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'.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be medium.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be major/moderate adverse and significant.</p>

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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'.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 West Skye SLA.
Nature of view, including susceptibility	<p>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.</p> <p>When looking north from this viewpoint towards the interior hills, the main focus is the existing Ben Aketil Wind Farm. This creates a striking visual feature in the distance, relating to the simple linear feature of the skyline. It is difficult to perceive the scale and distance of the wind turbines due to the simplicity of the hill land cover and a lack of definite size indicators. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm will be located beyond the existing wind farm, with the turbines being positioned in a relatively consistent pattern and spacing. The relationship between the two wind farm developments adds a degree of complexity to the view, partly due to the potential for stacking of turbine blades.</p> <p>The Ben Aketil turbines vary in their prominence, as some appear upon the skyline whilst the towers of two are partially back-clothed by moorland slopes that contrast in colour.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would be clearly visible with 10 proposed turbines seen above the horizon. A proportion of the towers, hubs and blades of five turbines would be seen, together with hubs and blades of two turbines and the blades or blade tips of three turbines. The Proposed Development would relate to the presence of existing and consented wind turbines in the view, as such it would not appear isolated or uncharacteristic as a human feature upon the hill slopes and would form an extension to the existing and consented cluster appearing as 'a single wind farm' in the view. 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.</p> <p>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. The consented Glen Ullinish would also be visible to the south (right) of the Proposed Development but separate from the group of wind farms around the site. The scale and layout of the operational and consented developments, 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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>The proposed turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape. However, as they are positioned at a greater distance than Ben Aketil and Ben Sca Wind Farms, the proposed turbines would appear to be comparable in size with, or smaller than, the turbines within these developments and would not be the dominant wind farm in the view. Consistent with the operational and consented turbines, their scale would relate to the open horizontal space of the surroundings and would diminish the perceived vertical scale of the moorland hills and contrast markedly with the surrounding coniferous trees.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The visual effects described above would typically be seen briefly by most visual receptors when travelling along the A850.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Ben Sca turbines would appear as large structures within the landscape, although relating to the open horizontal space and appearing as part of the distant landscape due to being seen beyond the skyline. The proposed turbines would appear slightly larger than the existing Ben Aketil and consented Ben Sca turbines, particularly in terms of their larger rotor diameter. This would reduce the simplicity of their collective image.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>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.</p>

effects	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Orbst.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would typically be seen in relatively direct views across Fiscavaig Bay and the entrance to Loch Harport in a northerly direction. Balmeanach 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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Within the fore and midground view there is a mixed and irregular composition of visual elements including rocky ridges, shelves and knolls, as well as grassland, patches of woodland, and electricity powerlines. At this location, although not included in the photography due to the date this was captured, there are two small farm/domestic scale wind turbines.</p> <p>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 Aketil and Edinbane turbines can be seen in addition to extensive conifer plantations. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm would be seen in front of the Ben Aketil turbines. From a distance and at a broad level, these wind farms appear to relate to the stepped landform, horizontal emphasis and mixed composition of other visual elements, which reduces their individual prominence. Nonetheless, the most northerly of the Ben Aketil and Ben Sca turbines do intrude slightly on the focus of Macleod’s Tables. To the left side of the wider 90 degree view the consented Bheinn Mheadhnoch wind farm will also be visible as a group of four turbines on the skyline.</p>
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

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant.</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the same direction of view as Dunvegan Castle, the existing Ben Aketil turbines are visible, although these are not highly prominent due to their distance, alignment with the stepped landform and due to being seen upon a lower section of the visible skyline. The wind turbines appear regularly spaced in a simple, linear layout. The consented Glen Ullinish turbines would be seen further to the right, together with the more distant consented Beinn Mheadhonach turbines and operational Summardale Croft and Meadale Farm single turbines.</p>
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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would be screened from this viewpoint.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be slight.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>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.</p>

	<p>from The Storr (i.e. to the Trotternish Ridge, to the Cuillin mountains and out to sea).</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight-negligible.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor and not significant.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Magnitude of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the magnitude of change for the Proposed Development is judged to be slight-negligible.</p>
<p>Significance of visual effect</p>	<p>On account of the effects described above, the overall visual effect of the Proposed Development is judged to be minor adverse and not significant.</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 than the operational wind farms.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would not be readily discernible at a distance of over 17km.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Proposed Development infrastructure would not be readily discernible at a distance of over 17km.</p> <p>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.</p>
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.

Residual Visual Effects	
Extent and nature of visual effects	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint it would not be discernible due to the intervening distance.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Ben Aketil and Edinbane Wind Farms differ in their appearance from this viewpoint, with Ben Aketil seeming to comprise a concentrated cluster and single wind turbine outliers (due to intervening landform screening) and Edinbane appearing spread along a line. The consented Ben Sca Wind Farm would be comparable with Ben Aketil Wind Farm, comprising a concentrated cluster of turbines. The consented Glen Ullinish 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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Whilst the Proposed Development infrastructure would be theoretically visible from this viewpoint it would not be discernible due to the intervening distance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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