

ScottishPower Renewables

MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm

Appendix 16.3: Coastal Character Baseline and Assessment

Draft report

Prepared by LUC

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ScottishPower Renewables

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Coastal character assessment is the preferred approach to identifying the key characteristics of coastal and marine landscapes in Scotland (SNH, 2017b). A baseline coastal character assessment was undertaken, following NatureScot guidance (SNH, 2017b). This identified regional Coastal Character Areas (CCA) within 40 km of the WDA, encompassing Islay, Jura, Colonsay, Oronsay, Mull and Iona, and part of Tiree. CCAs within the SLVIA Study Area are illustrated on **Chapter 16 Chapter 16 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts (SLVIA)**, Figure 16.11, with theoretical visibility from those areas within a 40 km radius shown on **Chapter 16 SLVIA**, Figure 16.12.

1.2 An assessment of the potential effects on coastal character resulting from the introduction of the Project was undertaken, in line with the methodology presented in **Appendix 16.1**. The assessment considers effects during construction and operation. Effects during construction are presented after operational effects to avoid repetition.

1.3 The assessment is focused on those CCAs where potentially significant effects are considered likely, as detailed in Table 16.5 of **Chapter 16 SLVIA**. An assessment of the potential effects of visible aviation lighting on coastal character is also included. Given the limited nature of other windfarm proposals within the SLVIA Study Area, no cumulative assessment was undertaken. Effects on CCAs are summarised in **Chapter 16 SLVIA**, Table 16.64.

Chapter 2 Coastal Character Baseline and Assessment

CCA 1: South Tiree

Table 2.1 Coastal character baseline for CCA 1: South Tiree

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area is located in the south of Tiree, and includes Hynish Bay and Balephuill Bay. It extends from Rubha Tràigh an Dùin to the east, to Port Bharrapol to the west. The CCA is approximately 35 km to the north of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Indented rocky and uneven coastline with small sandy bays to the east and west; ■ Open, windswept sand dunes in Hynish Bay and Balephuill Bay; ■ Strong contrasts in colour and texture between dunes and the large, fertile arable fields inland; ■ Low profile landform, rising slightly to the west at Carnan Mor (141 m AOD) radar station; ■ Largely undeveloped, apart from the communities of Balephuill, Hynish and Mannal located along the B8065 and B8066 that follows the coast; and ■ Inland lochs and lochans lie to the west with burns that run seaward.
Representative photographs	 <i>Hynish, Tiree</i>
Maritime influence	This area of coastline has open views across the Atlantic to the south and southwest. Indented rocky headlands enclose sheltered sandy bays at Balephuill and Hynish. Skerries and islets can be seen offshore forming rocky outcrops. The radar tracking station at Hynish is a historical landmark that can be seen in views along the coast.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is generally low-lying, with rocky headlands alternating with wide sandy bays at Balephuill and Hynish. Vegetation along the coastal edge consists of heather and grasses. Offshore skerries and small islets contribute to the maritime character. The shoreline is largely undeveloped, although harbours, slipways and the historic

Aspect	Description
	Skerryvore Lighthouse at Hynish are notable features that reflect the area's maritime heritage.
Character of immediate hinterland	The hinterland is gently undulating, with open areas of machair dunes, and grassland extending inland from the bays. Rocky knolls and small lochans are scattered across the landscape to the west. Vegetation is predominantly rough grassland and heath with few trees. Small crofting settlements are dispersed across the hinterland, often set back from the immediate coastal edge, connected by tracks and minor roads.
Extent of human influence	The coastline is predominantly remote, with the small communities of Balephuill, Mannal and Hynish set back from the immediate shoreline. Harbours, slipways and scattered fishing activity are located along the coastline. There are Core Paths through the dunes inland. Tiree airport is located within 2 km of the coastline to the north of Hynish Bay.
Views	There are wide and open views south and west. Offshore skerries and islets provide points of focus in seaward views, particularly around Balephuill Bay and Hynish. From headlands, the views are expansive, while sandy bays are framed by rocky edges and dunes. To the southwest, Skerryvore Lighthouse is visible in distant views. Inland views are generally screened due to the low-lying landform, with settlements and crofting patterns visible across the hinterland.

Table 2.2 Assessment of effects on CCA 1 – South Tiree

CCA 1 – South Tiree	
Sensitivity	The low-lying, open landform, extensive sandy bays (Balephuill and Hynish) and exposure to the Atlantic give this area a strong sense of openness and remoteness. The radar station at Carnan Mor and the Skerryvore Lighthouse are key cultural and historical landmarks within this CCA that increase sensitivity. The coastline is largely undeveloped, predominantly formed of machair, dunes and rocky outcrops. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The CCA is not within any designated landscapes, indicating a medium value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 35 km to the south at its closest point. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread visibility across the coastline. Areas with limited visibility of the Project are to the west and east of headlands, where indentations in the coastline and rocky outcrops screen longer distance views. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 35 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur where there is a change to seaward views, and associated effects on the more perceptual characteristics of the landscape. When visible, the Project would be seen from Balephuill and Hynish Bay and also in views south from the headlands adjoining bays. Aviation lighting may be perceptible in the hours of darkness. Viewpoint 29: Hynish – Tiree (Figure 16.2.29, Appendix 16.4 SLVIA Visualisations) is representative of these views. The Project would be visible on the horizon in distant views. The scale of change is judged to be small. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be low.

CCA 1 – South Tiree	
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant).

CCA 2: The Wilderness and Gribun Rocks

Table 2.3 Coastal character baseline for CCA 2: The Wilderness and Gribun Rocks

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area lies on the northwestern extent of the Ardmeanach peninsula on Mull. It extends across The Wilderness to the edge of Gribun Rocks. This area is part of the Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull National Scenic Area (NSA) ¹ . The CCA is approximately 33 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Rocky coastline strewn with large boulders, arches and caves; ■ Sheer basalt cliffs with a recognisable stepped profile, surrounded by vegetated scree slopes with low, flat-topped headlands; ■ Lava plateau of highly distinctive basalt terraced form created by volcanic eruption from Ben More (dormant); ■ Important geological features of historic interest (MacCulloch's Fossil Tree and Mackinnon's Cave); ■ Medium to large scale landscape; ■ Views of an island-studded sea; and ■ Sense of remoteness and exposure, highlighted by a lack of built development.

¹ NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), 2010. [The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas](#), p84.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	
Maritime influence	Views are expansive to the west and encompass offshore skerries, reefs and the wider Atlantic. Within approximately 10 to 20 km to the north and northwest is the recognisable landform that makes up the islands of Inch Kenneth, Staffa and the Treshnish Isles. Settlement and cultivation are almost entirely absent, contributing towards the sense of remoteness and exposure.
Character of coastal edge	A medium to large scale landscape, with a distinctive and steep profile that rises dramatically from short stretches of grassland at the coastal edge. The coastline consists of rocky headlands, indented gullies cut by burns, basalt cliffs surrounded by rocky scree and large boulders interspersed by sea caves. The coastline is undeveloped and remote, lending itself to its 'Wilderness' title. MacKinnon's Cave and the Fossil Tree are notable geological features.
Character of immediate hinterland	The landform rises steeply from short stretches of grassland at the coastal edge into rugged upland slopes and terraced basalt cliffs. The landform rises to its highest point in

Aspect	Description
	the south to 491 m AOD at Bearraich. Various burns cut through rocky gullies to form waterfalls over cliffs. Vegetation is sparse and wind-swept.
Extent of human influence	Marked as the Wilderness, this area is uninhabited with a lack of human influence. The coast is predominantly inaccessible, however one Core Path (C042 – the Burg Walk, Mull) leads to the Fossil Tree from Burg in the south. Mackinnon's Cave is accessed only via low tide from Gribun in the north.
Views	Views west are open and expansive across the Sea of the Hebrides. Views northwest are framed by the northern tip of the Ardmeanach peninsula, with wider views towards the islands of Ulva, Gometra, Staffa and Inch Kenneth. The Treshnish Isles can be seen in longer distance views.

Table 2.4 Assessment of effects for CCA 2 - The Wilderness and Gribun Rocks

Receptor	CCA 2 – The Wilderness and Gribun Rocks
Sensitivity	The landform is large in scale, with steep basalt cliffs rising from the coastal edge. This area has a strong sense of wildness, with a distinctive geological form and features. There is a strong visual connection between the coastline and sea - offshore skerries, islands and sea contrast against the backdrop of cliffs and large strewn boulders along the immediate hinterland. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This CCA is part of the Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull NSA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 33 km to the southwest at its closest point. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility from the western head of the Ardmeanach peninsula. Theoretical visibility is more limited from the eastern part of the CCA. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 27 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur where there is a change to seaward views, and associated effects on the more perceptual characteristics of the landscape. The Project would be visible from the rugged coastal edge including from the geological attraction of the Fossil Tree. The introduction of an offshore windfarm into the backdrop of views of an “<i>island-studded seascape</i>” would affect this key characteristic of the CCA. However, given the viewing distance of over 30 km, the scale of change is judged to be small. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium. The magnitude of impact is judged to be low from the west-facing coastal edge of the Ardmeanach peninsula and negligible from the northwest facing coast east of the Wilderness.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect from the west-facing coast of the Ardmeanach peninsula and negligible from the northwest facing coast east of the Wilderness.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant from the west-facing coastal edge of the Ardmeanach peninsula and negligible from the northwest facing coast east of the Wilderness).

CCA 3: Loch Scridian

2.2 This area lies on the northern and southern shorelines of Loch Scridian, a large sea loch between the Ardmeanach peninsula and Ross of Mull, on Mull. It extends between Ardtun in the west and Loch Beg in the east. The CCA is within the Central, South & West Mull Local Landscape Area (LLA) and is approximately 30 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point. There is very limited theoretical visibility of the Project from CCA 3 and therefore no coastal character baseline was undertaken. There would be no effect on the CCA.

CCA 4: Sound of Mull

2.3 This area forms part of the north-facing coastline of the Ross of Mull, and includes Loch na Lathaich. It extends between Rubha nan Cearc in the west and Achnahard in the east. The CCA is within the Central, South & West Mull LLA and is approximately 26 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point. There is no theoretical visibility of the Project from CCA 4 and therefore no coastal character baseline was undertaken. There would be no effect on the CCA.

CCA 5: Sound of Iona

Table 2.5 Coastal character baseline for CCA 5: Sound of Iona

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area lies on the eastern edge of Iona and also on the western peninsula of the Ross of Mull, with views across the Sound of Iona. It includes St Ronan's Bay and jetties at Fionnphort (Mull) and Baile Mòr (Iona). The coastline forms part of the Central, South and West Mull LLA. The CCA is approximately 21 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Sandy coves, low rocky coastline, deeply indented and articulated coast (predominantly on the Ross of Mull side); ■ Mountainous backdrop in views east towards Mull, including the islands only Munro, Ben More (966 m AOD); ■ Crofting set back from coastal edge; ■ Culturally and historically significant - early ecclesiastical site on Iona which retains a spiritual importance. Tourism to the monastic settlement and Iona Abbey forms a large function of this area; ■ Open, low lying, largely treeless and windswept landscape; and ■ Distinctive large stone walls of rounded granite boulders with a characteristic pinkish tone in the immediate hinterland on the Ross of Mull.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	 <i>View northwest from Fionnphort towards Iona.</i>  <i>View from Iona towards the northeast coastline of the Sound of Iona.</i>
Maritime influence	Views look across the Sound of Iona, over small scale skerries and islets (including Eilean nam Ban, located in the northern length of the Sound). Views southwest are framed by rocky coastline before opening towards the Atlantic. The area is popular for sea kayaking and boat trips to Staffa and the Treshnish Isles departing from the piers at Fionnphort and Iona. Local fishing takes place along the coast. The Mull-Iona ferry route crosses the Sound.
Character of coastal edge	Small scale, indented rocky coastline with uneven rocky outcrops, articulated by small sandy bays. The landscape is wild, rugged and open, backed by coarse textured landform in the immediate hinterland, with small scale farming activity. Settlement on

Aspect	Description
	the Ross of Mull is concentrated toward the headlands, at the tip of the peninsula that overlooks Iona. A disused quarry is located on the western edge of the Ross of Mull peninsula. Settlement on Iona is predominantly around the ferry pier and Baile Mòr.
Character of immediate hinterland	Small scale immediate hinterland uses are generally for farming, landcover consists of peaty marsh and grassy tussocks. Large granite boulders and quartzite tors line the western edge of the Ross of Mull amongst moorland. The monastic settlement and Abbey on Iona is a key focal and historic landmark.
Extent of human influence	The coastline is relatively accessible and well-settled, with minor roads and tracks along the western peninsula of the Ross of Mull. Roads and settlement follow the northeastern edge of Iona, the southeastern edge is more inaccessible. Core paths lead from the ferry port and traverse the coast towards more settled areas, and lead to higher points (Dùn I, 101 m AOD). Despite tourism-related activity, the area feels remote, with a sense of isolation on Iona due to the smaller scale of landform and spiritual symbolism.
Views	There are open and expansive views southwest when looking down the Sound of Iona across the Atlantic. Views across the sound from Iona, and from the mainland of Mull are framed by the rocky terrain of the coastal edge on the east of Iona and west of the Ross of Mull. The contrasting colours of the sea and rock contribute towards the picturesque nature of the journey to Iona. Iona's monastic Abbey is a key landmark in views.

Table 2.6 Assessment of effects for CCA 5: Sound of Iona

Receptor	CCA 5: Sound of Iona
Sensitivity	This is a small scale and highly indented coastline, with some degree of settlement from farmed hinterland. The small scale of the landscape and views across skerries and islets increase the sense of remoteness and Iona's island status. The cultural and heritage significance of the ferry journey over to Iona increases susceptibility. The CCA is of high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The CCA is located within the Central, South & West Mull LLA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 20 km to the southwest at its closest point. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread visibility across the CCA, becoming slightly more intermittent to the northeast. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 39 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur as a result of changes to views looking down the Sound of Iona and associated effects on the more perceptual qualities of the CCA. Viewpoint 21 (Mull-Iona ferry) is representative of these views. The orientation of the sound results in views being channelled either to the northeast or to the southwest, in the direction of the WDA. Views from Iona Abbey would be oblique. When visible, the Project would be seen across the full extent of the seaward horizon where the Sound of Iona opens towards the sea. Some turbine hubs would be partially screened by the landform of the island of Erraid, and the southern extent of Iona. The journey from Mull to Iona on the ferry is spiritually significant for visitors – views towards the Project would affect this key characteristic. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent of effects is judged to be large. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.

Receptor	CCA 5: Sound of Iona
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 6: Iona West Coast – Druim an Aoineidh to Ardionra

Table 2.7 Coastal character baseline for CCA 6: Iona West Coast – Druim an Aoineidh to Ardionra

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This coastal stretch runs along the western edge of Iona that faces the Atlantic Ocean. It extends from the southern headland of Druim an Aoineidh northwards past Spouting Cave, Camas Cuil an t-Saimh and onwards towards Ardionra and Lagandorain at the northern end. The coastline forms part of the Central, South and West Mull LLA. The CCA is approximately 21 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Fragmented coastal edge with numerous offshore rocky outcrops (such as Stac an Aoinidh) islets and skerries, subject to Atlantic swell; ■ Low-lying landform to the north that rises to the south with rocky knolls, moorland and grassland; ■ Caves are part of the geological interest of the area (such as the Spouting Cave); ■ Small sandy coves and beaches (Camas Cùil an t-Sàimh) punctuate the rocky edges, providing occasional sheltered bays; ■ Long views west across open sea, views north towards islands are a key focal point (Staffa and the Treshnish Isles).

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	 <i>View long the northwest coastline of Iona</i>  <i>View south from the vicinity of Giortean Bea</i>
Maritime influence	The coastline is predominantly west and north facing, with open and expansive views across the sea and offshore skerries. The coastline is strongly indented with caves and narrow inlets that provide some enclosure. Within 10-15 km to the north and northwest, the islands of Staffa, Dutchman's Cap and Treshnish Isles are visible landmarks.

Aspect	Description
Character of coastal edge	Rocky outcrops are interspersed with sandy bays of varying size – Camas Cuil an t-Saimh is the largest bay that leads into the Iona Golf Course. Caves are located along the coastal edge, including the Spouting Cave. The rugged geology contributes towards the sense of wildness to the north and south with a backdrop of rough moorland.
Character of immediate hinterland	The hinterland consists of open moorland and scattered crofting fields. Landform gently rises to rocky knolls, rough grazing and maritime grassland, with exposed rocky outcrops. Vegetation is low and wind-pruned, shaped by salt spray and exposure to prevailing southwesterly winds.
Extent of human influence	The shoreline is largely undeveloped to the north and south, with no concentrated settlement along the immediate shore – however, Iona golf course is located in the central stretch of the west coast. The immediate coast and caves are a tourist attraction for water-based sports such as sea kayaking. The landscape is relatively accessible from the centre, with a minor road running west from Balie Mòr.
Views	There are uninterrupted views west across the Atlantic. The rugged coastal edge, offshore skerries and narrow caves (e.g., Spouting Cave) foreground views. The open sea is a large presence in views, with the Treshnish Isles and Staffa a key focal point in the distance.

Table 2.8 Assessment of effects for CCA 6: Iona West Coast – Druim an Aoineidh to Ardionra

Receptor	CCA 6: Iona West Coast – Druim an Aoineidh to Ardionra
Sensitivity	This is a smaller scale CCA with a strong relationship to the sea. The small scale of the landscape and views across skerries and islets increases the sense of remoteness and feeling of being on an island. This indicates a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The CCA is located within the Central, South & West Mull LLA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on this CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 20 km to the southwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates intermittent visibility along the coastal edge, predominantly from the northern extent of Camas Cuil an t-Saimh, and the southern headland of Iona. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 39 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur as a result of changes to seaward views and more perceptual characteristics of the landscape. When visible, the Project would be seen over the rocky and indented coastal edge of Iona, before opening out to the sea. The Project would introduce very large scale windfarm infrastructure on the horizon from parts of a coastline that is relatively unsettled. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent is judged to be medium. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.

Receptor	CCA 6: Iona West Coast – Druim an Aoineidh to Ardionra
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 7: Ross of Mull South

Table 2.9 Coastal character baseline for CCA 7: Ross of Mull South

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	The area lies along the southern edge of the Ross of Mull peninsula, and includes Ardanish Bay. It extends from the tidal island of Erraid in the west to Carsaig Bay in the east. The coastline forms part of the Central, South & West Mull LLA. The CCA is approximately 20 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Heavily indented, rocky coastline interspersed with small sandy bays; ■ Tidal island at Erraid, and numerous rocky off-shore islets of varying scales; ■ Relatively low-lying in the west, rising to steep-sided cliffs in the west at Malcolm's Point, with notable rock formations at Carsaig Arches; ■ Coastal edge rises steeply to boulder-strewn, open moorland, with some woodland in narrow gullies; ■ Remote and relatively inaccessible, with a strong sense of wildness; ■ Largely undeveloped, apart from small settlements set within narrow inlets; ■ On the tidal island of Erraid is a category C listed observatory, built in 1870 as a look-out to Dubh Artach and Skerryvore lighthouses; and ■ Long views south across the Sea of the Hebrides, often framed by the heavily indented coastline, and northwest to Iona.
Representative photographs	

Aspect	Description
	<i>Port Uisken</i>  <i>Spectacular rock formations of the Carsaig Arches</i>  <i>The coast west of Carsaig</i>
Maritime influence	The area is largely south facing, looking across the Firth of Lorne as it opens out into the Sea of the Hebrides. The neighbouring islands of Colonsay and the Garvellachs are approximately 15 km to the south. Indentations in the coastline provide enclosure to small bays, and at the western end of the area the Erraid Sound is more enclosed, separating the Ross of Mull from the tidal island of Erraid. Marine based activities include the ferry between Oban and Colonsay.

Aspect	Description
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is relatively low-lying in the west, rising to steep-sided cliffs at Malcolm's Point in the east. The Carsaig Arches at Malcolm's Point are a notable rock formation. The coastline is largely rocky and heavily indented, interspersed with small sandy bays, including at Uisken. There are numerous rocky islets of varying scales. The shoreline is largely undeveloped, apart from occasional small settlements set within narrow inlets. The category C listed observatory on Erraid, built in 1870 as a look-out to Dubh Artach and Skerryvore lighthouses, is a notable landmark.
Character of immediate hinterland	The land rises steeply away from the coast to boulder-strewn open moorland. Woodland is present along some narrow gullies. There are high points at Aird Mor (89 m AOD), Beinn a' Chaol-airigh (126 m AOD) and Maol na Sgurra (102 m AOD). There are some small settlements set back from the coastal edge including at Knockvologan and Ardanish. The small settlement of Carsaig is located along a steep track which descends to Carsaig Bay.
Extent of human influence	The coast is relatively inaccessible and sparsely settled, except where a single track road provides access to the small settlements at Knockvologan, Uisken and Carsaig. On Erraid there is an observatory with a small group of houses for keepers and crews. There are rugged coastal walks from Carsaig, west to Carsaig Arches and east towards Lochbuie.
Views	There are open and uninterrupted views south across the Sea of the Hebrides and the islands of Colonsay, Islay and Jura. The heavily indented coastline provides framed views from sandy bays including at Ardanish and Uisken. From the western end of the area including at Erraid there are views to Iona across the Sound of Iona, and Dubh Artach Lighthouse is visible in distant views to the southwest.

Table 2.10 Assessment of effects for CCA 7: Ross of Mull South

Receptor	CCA 7: Ross of Mull South
Sensitivity	This is rugged coastline, which displays strong qualities of wildness and open views across the sea. This indicates a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The coastline forms part of the Central, South & West Mull LLA indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 20 km to the southwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates an intermittent pattern of visibility, focused on areas of coastline extending from the heavily indented landform. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 41 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur as a result of changes to seaward views and associated effects on the more perceptual characteristics of the landscape. When visible, the Project would be seen in the context of rocky coastline bays across the horizon. Viewpoint 20: Erraid, Mull is representative of these views. The sense of wildness, exposure to the sea and historic landmark of Erraid's lighthouse are key characteristics of this CCA that would be altered by the introduction of large scale windfarm infrastructure into the seascape. The scale of change is judged to be medium from areas with visibility. The geographical extent of effects is judged to be medium.

Receptor	CCA 7: Ross of Mull South
	The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium .
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 8: Staffa and the Treshnish Isles

Table 2.11 Coastal character baseline for CCA 8: Staffa and the Treshnish Isles

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area covers the islands of Staffa and the southern part of the Treshnish Isles (Dutchman's cap / Bac Mòr and the southern extent of Lunga). This area is part of the Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull NSA. The CCA is approximately 35 km to the northeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Uninhabited islands, however there is evidence of Iron Age duns, castles, early human occupation and cultivation; ■ Generally low rocky coastline, rising to cliffs in places. Distinctive profile of columned basalt cliffs and caves (Fingal's Cave) on Staffa; ■ Distinctive silhouette in views from the sea, Iona and Mull mainland – particularly the Dutchman's Cap (Bac Mòr); ■ Special Area of Conservation - popular spots for birdwatching and wildlife that receive daily boat trips. Staffa is a National Nature Reserve and the entire Treshnish Isles are a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); ■ Open views across the Atlantic; ■ Fragmented island coastlines with landmark caves, causeways, rocky promontories and offshore skerries; and ■ Strong sense of being on an island due to close proximity of the sea often with 'all round' views and closeness of the sea.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	 <i>The Treshnish Isles from Iona</i>
Maritime influence	Staffa and the Treshnish Isles have views in all directions. Views to the west and south are largely open and expansive across the sea towards the island of Iona and Loch na Keal. Views to the north and east include the islands of Tiree, Coll and Mull within 10-15 km. The columned basalt cliffs of Staffa and landform of the Dutchman's Cap (Bac Mòr) are notable features. Marine based activities include tourist boat trips to the isles. The marine environment surrounding the islands is part of the Sea of the Hebrides Marine Protected Area.
Character of coastal edge	Small scale low-lying coastline, heavily indented and fragmented with offshore skerries, rocky promontories and caves. Bare rock that rises steeply from the coastland and is topped with moorland grass. There are few trees and a lack of shoreline development. On Staffa, Goat Cave, Clamshell Cave and Fingal's Cave are key focal points (Fingal's Cave is said to be the only sea cave in the world formed entirely out of columnar basalt).
Character of immediate hinterland	The landform on these islands quickly transitions from coastal edge to steeply rising landform and/or cliffs. Dutchman's Cap (Bac Mòr) is distinctive with its steep basalt cliffs and flat, plateau-like top of grassy hinterland. Staffa is characterised by vertical columnar basalt cliffs with only a small expanse of grassy ground at the summit forming the hinterland. Vegetation across the islands is sparse - mainly grassland with no woodland.
Extent of human influence	This area is popular for bird watching and water-based sports such as sea kayaking. Boat trips to Staffa and the Treshnish Isles are common and easily accessible. The islands themselves are currently uninhabited. There are walking paths along the natural causeway leading to Fingal's Cave to the south of Staffa. The islands feel remote due to sparse settlement and exposure to the open sea.
Views	Views from the various islands to others in the group, and views back to the mainland are distinctive, and clearly bounded. Views are panoramic, in all directions, islands are of different shape, size and character – with the Treshnish Isles and Staffa important landmarks.

Table 2.12 Assessment of effects for CCA 8: Staffa and the Treshnish Isles

Receptor	CCA 8: Staffa and the Treshnish Isles
Sensitivity	This is a small scale, rugged and uninhabited coastal area, which displays strong qualities of wildness. Staffa and the Treshnish Isles are incredibly popular for birdwatching tourism. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This area is part of the Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull NSA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located approximately 35 km to the southwest at its closest point. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility from the southern coastal edges of Staffa & the Treshnish Isles. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 31 degrees. Changes to the key characteristics of the CCA would occur as a result of the introduction of the Project into views where the interconnectedness in views and perceptual qualities of Staffa and the Treshnish Isles are a key focal characteristic of this CCA. The landform of Mull and Iona would partially screen the Project (see Viewpoint 24: Staffa) in views from coastal edges, where there is visibility. Due to the viewing distance of approximately 35 km, the scale of change is judged to be small. The geographical extent is judged to be medium. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be low.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant).

CCA 9: Kiloran Bay to Eilean Dubh, Colonsay

Table 2.13 Coastal character baseline for CCA 9: Kiloran Bay to Eilean Dubh

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area encompasses the northern coastline of Colonsay, between Kiloran Bay and Eilean Dubh. The CCA is approximately 17 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ The coastline faces west and northwest toward the open sea and Mull, with the movement and sound of the sea strongly defining its character. ■ The enclosed sandy bay of Kiloran transitions northwards into an exposed, rocky, and indented coastline with small bays, coves, islets, and skerries. ■ Low-lying sands at Kiloran Bay give way to rocky terraces, steep cliffs, and notable landforms such as the overhanging cliff of Meall na Suiridhe. ■ Presence of caves, raised beaches, rocky islets (e.g. Sgeir Leathann), and skerries along the stretch to Eilean Dubh.

Aspect	Description
	■ Minimal human development beyond the small parking area, minor road, and limited properties near the southern end of Kiloran Bay. ■ Hinterland includes dunes, machair, rough pasture, and steep rocky moorland, rising to summits such as Beinn Bheag and Carnan Eoin. ■ Kiloran Bay is popular and accessible to visitors, whereas the northern coastline is more remote, with limited access via tracks to Balnahard Farm and Traigh Ban. ■ Elevated views along the rugged northern coastline.
Representative photographs	 <i>The sandy beach of Kiloran Bay, enclosed by cliffs to the north and the summits of Beinn Bheag (109 m AOD) and Carnan Eoin (143 m AOD). The Ross of Mull is visible in the far distance.</i>  <i>The steep, overhanging cliff of Meall na Suiridhe forms a dramatic coastal feature.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>Rugged, rocky and complex coastline in the vicinity of Eilean Dubh. The Ross of Mull is visible in the far distance.</i>
Maritime influence	This area is orientated to the west and northwest, looking across the open sea and towards Mull. The enclosed sands of Kiloran Bay transition northwards to an exposed and rocky coastline, though indentations, islets and skerries provide enclosure to small bays and coves. The movement and sound of the sea is accentuated by the rocky, exposed coastline, particularly in rough conditions.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is low-lying and sheltered at Kiloran Bay, rising to rocky terraces to the north and steep sided cliffs in places. Caves are present at the northern end of Kiloran Bay and raised beaches, rocky islets and skerries pepper the coastline between here and Eileann Dubh, including Sgeir Leathann. The coastline is largely undeveloped with the exception of the southern end of Kiloran Bay where a minor road, small parking area, and properties are present. The steep overhanging cliff of Meall na Suiridhe is a notable landmark from the access track which leads to Balnahard Farn.
Character of immediate hinterland	At Kiloran Bay, the hinterland comprises dunes, machair and rough pasture though its northern side rises steeply to the rocky summits of Beinn Bheag (109m AOD) and Carnan Eoin (143 m AOD). Between Kiloran Bay and Eilean Dubh the land rises steeply away from the coast to raised beaches, rocky moorland, knolls and promontories such as Meall na Suiridhe, Meall na Monadh and Dun Meadhonach. An area of rough pasture surrounds Balnahard Farm in the small valley of the Sruthan na h-Ulaidhe.
Extent of human influence	Kiloran Bay is an iconic location and well visited by tourists. A small parking area facilitates access, just before a private road that leads to Uragaig. In contrast to the more settled and grazed area around Kiloran Bay, the coastline to the north is more remote though an access track leads inland to Balnahard Farm and the beach at Traigh Ban (see CCA 11). Near Meall na Suiridhe (which features a modern standing stone at its summit) a large whale sculpture is outlined amongst rough pasture and has been partially filled by visitors with stones from the raised beach. Between this point and Eilean Dubh the coastline is indented, rocky and rugged, hemmed in by steep moorland and cliffs which make access more complex.
Views	From Kiloran Bay, framed views extend to the northwest towards the open sea and the Ross of Mull. Numerous high points along the more rugged coastline to the north enable

Aspect	Description
	more elevated views along the coastline and out to sea, though views become locally enclosed due to the variable landform.

Table 2.14 Assessment of effects on CCA 9: Kiloran Bay to Eilean Dubh, Colonsay

Receptor	CCA 9: Kiloran Bay to Eilean Dubh, Colonsay
Sensitivity	This coastline is complex, rugged and irregular, with strong topographical variety. The area has a very strong relationship with the open sea beyond. There is an absence of modern development, and the area is uninhabited except for Balnahard Farm which lies inland. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The coastline is not part of a designated area. However, it has numerous distinctive features, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 16 km to 19 km, in views to the west and southwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from west-facing sections of the coastline. Turbines would appear in the open sea to the west and southwest. The southern turbines of the Project would appear in the same field of view as the west coast of Colonsay. There is little or no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. There would be no theoretical visibility of the turbines from the south side of Kiloran Bay. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 38 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into views towards the open sea and along the west coast of Colonsay. The regular shapes of the turbines would contrast with the irregular forms of the coastline, adversely affecting their perceptual qualities. The Project would also adversely affect the relative lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The scale of change is judged to be large. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be high.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a major and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (major and significant).

CCA 10: East Colonsay (Rubh' a' Geodha to Port a' Chapuill)

2.4 This area comprises the east coast of Colonsay between Traigh Ban in the north and Port a' Chapuill in the south. The CCA is east facing towards Jura. The CCA is approximately 17 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point. There is no theoretical visibility of the Project from CCA 3 and therefore no coastal character baseline was undertaken. There would be no effect on the CCA.

CCA 11: West Colonsay (Tighe Mhoir to Ardskenish)

Table 2.15 Coastal character baseline for CCA 11: West Colonsay (Tighe Mhoir to Ardskenish)

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area encompasses the central west coast of Colonsay, extending between Tighe Moir at the western edge of Kiloran Bay, to the mouth of Traigh nam Barc, south of Ardskenish. The CCA is approximately 12 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Indented, rocky coastline interspersed with some sandy bays; ■ Relatively low-lying south of An Rubha, rising to rugged, steep-sided cliffs to the north, with notable rock formations at Uragaig, including natural arches; ■ Remote and relatively inaccessible between Uragaig and An Rubha, with a strong sense of wildness, particularly when the sea is rough; ■ Lower-lying in the south, with sandy bays enclosed by flat grassland and rocky terraces. Colonsay Golf Course, Colonsay Airstrip and a telecommunications tower above Rubh' Aird Alanais are obvious human influences here; ■ The southwestern peninsula has a sense of seclusion, despite the presence of Ardskenish farmstead. Grass covered sand dunes extend between a long beach at Plaidhe Mhor and the enclosed sandy bay of Traigh nam Barc; ■ The B8086 follows the coastline between the golf course and settlement at Lower Kilchattan, before diverting northeast inland to Upper Kilchattan; ■ Prehistoric forts located on rocky promontories at Dun Tealtaig, Dun Uragaig, and Dun Ghallain; and ■ Long views west to the open sea, and from Uragaig, north towards Mull.
Representative photographs	 <i>Natural arch and rugged sea cliffs looking southwest from Cailleach Uragaig.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>The lower-lying coastline in the south of the character area features small sandy bays, rocky terraces, raised beaches and skerries offshore. The Colonsay Golf Course, Colonsay Airstrip, and minor road network are obvious human influences in this area. View north across Traigh an Tobair Fhuair towards properties at Lower Kilchattan.</i>  <i>The distinctive profile of the Paps of Jura seen from the southwestern peninsula in the vicinity of Ardskenish Farm.</i>
Maritime influence	Views are expansive to the west across offshore skerries, reefs and the wider Atlantic. The Ross of Mull often draws the eye across the open sea to the north, particularly from the northern extent of the character area in the vicinity of Uragaig. Settlement and cultivation are relatively limited, with the influence of the sea keenly felt from promontories such as Dun Uragaig, particularly when the sea is rough.
Character of coastal edge	Distinctive and steep profile, with rugged sea cliffs rising straight from the sea between Uragaig and An Rubha. Lower-lying, more open and expansive between An Rubha and Ardskenish, with sandy bays and numerous skerries offshore.

Aspect	Description
Character of immediate hinterland	Landform rises precipitously to the summits of Beinn Bhreac (139m AOD) and Binnein Riabhach (120 m AOD) south of Uragaig. Low-lying machair and rocky terraces south of An Rubha with occasional rocky knolls, and enclosed by the rocky hills of Beinn nan Caorach (126 m AOD) and the ridgeline of Sliabh Riabhach (80 m AOD) to the north. Sparse vegetation and windswept.
Extent of human influence	Scattered settlement and rough pasture at Uragaig, though overriding sense of naturalness due to the inaccessible sea cliffs and enclosing summits to the south. Obvious human influences south of An Rubha, due to settlement and a wood pole OHL at Lower Kilchattan, the B8086, Colonsay Golf course, Colonsay Airstrip and a prominent telecommunications tower above Rubh' Aird Alanais. Ardskenish Farm and a wood pole OHL brings human influence to the otherwise secluded southwestern peninsula.
Views	Views west are generally open and expansive across the Sea of the Hebrides, often across skerries, though at times partially enclosed by rocky knolls from sandy bays and inlets. The Paps of Jura often draw the eye to the southeast from the southwestern peninsula in the vicinity of Ardskenish. Framed views southwest from Uragaig Bay along the coastline to the open sea, and northwards towards the Ross of Mull from promontories such as Dun Uragaig.

Table 2.16 Assessment of effects on CCA 11: West Colonsay (Tighe Mhoir to Ardskenish)

Receptor	CCA 11: West Colonsay (Tighe Mhoir to Ardskenish)
Sensitivity	This coastline is complex, rugged and irregular, with strong topographical variety. The area has a very strong relationship with the open sea beyond. Modern development is limited and small scale. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The coastline is not part of a designated area. However, it has numerous distinctive features, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 12 km to 16 km, in views to the west and southwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from most sections of the coastline. From northern sections of the coastline, turbines would appear in the same field of view as the west coast of Colonsay, whereas from further south along the coast, turbines would appear ahead in views out to the open sea. There is little or no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 62 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into views towards the open sea and along the west coast of Colonsay. The regular shapes of the turbines would contrast with the irregular forms of the coastline, adversely affecting their perceptual qualities. The Project would also adversely affect the relative lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The scale of change is judged to be large. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be high.

Receptor	CCA 11: West Colonsay (Tighe Mhoir to Ardskenish)
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a major and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (major and significant).

CCA 12: The Strand

Table 2.17 Coastal character baseline for CCA 12: The Strand

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area encompasses the coastline that surrounds the Strand, a tidal causeway that separates Colonsay and Oronsay. The CCA is approximately 13 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Tidal causeway enables access on foot between Colonsay and Oronsay at low tide; ■ Low, predominantly rocky, though occasionally grassy coastline; ■ Coastal edge rises to rocky moorland and knolls, and enclosing hill summits such as Beinn Eibhne (98 m AOD) and Beinn Oronsay (93 m AOD); ■ Sense of shelter and enclosure, due to surrounding landform and a series of islets and skerries such as Eilean Mhugaig and Leac Bhuidhe, with limited views of the open sea; ■ The sheltered, sandy beach of Traigh nam Barc; and ■ Undeveloped other than a few scattered farmsteads, and the B8085 where it terminates at a small parking area at Garvard.
Representative photographs	 <i>Looking south across the Strand to Oronsay at low tide.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>Limited views of the open sea to the west beyond the northern coastline of Oronsay and small islands and skerries.</i>  <i>The rocky summit of Beinn Eibhne (98 m AOD) contributes to the sense of enclosure from the Strand. A property at Poll Gorm and a wood pole OHL below are evidence of limited human influence in the area.</i>
Maritime influence	The area has a dynamic feel due to the influence of the tide, varying from a sandy causeway to a sea inlet. The Strand has a sense of enclosure and shelter due to surrounding landform and a series of islets and skerries at its western edge, with limited views of the open sea. More open views of the sea extend southwest from the sandy bay of Traigh nam Barc. At high tide, access to Oronsay is limited to small boats, one of which is moored near the small car park at Garvard.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is low-lying and largely rocky with occasional small cliffs, though with some intermittent grassy edges, and a sandy bay at Traigh nam Barc. A series of islets and skerries add complexity and interest to the coastline, southwest of the rocky headland of Cuirn Mhora. At low tide, the sandy causeway of the Strand and a layer of dark seaweed is revealed below the high-water mark, contrasting with the grey coloured rocks above. The shoreline is undeveloped except for a small parking area

Aspect	Description
	near Garvard, for those crossing the Strand on foot, and a wood pole OHL which traverses the eastern coastline below Beinn Eibhne, near a lone property at Poll Gorm. A rough track passes below low cliffs near Eilean Fhionnlaidh (visible at low tide), before joining a more clearly defined track as it makes landfall on Oronsay.
Character of immediate hinterland	Aside from a flat area of machair and rough pasture at Garvard, the land generally rises to rocky moorland and knolls, and enclosing hill summits such as Beinn Eibhne (98 m AOD) and Beinn Oronsay (93 m AOD). Trees are absent from the hinterland which is dominated by moorland vegetation.
Extent of human influence	This part of the coast is accessed by the B8085 which terminates near Garvard. A small parking area here is often full, due to the popular walk across the Strand to access Oronsay Priory. Occasional vehicle traffic crosses the strand at low tide, including tractors, RSPB vehicles, and the Post Office van. Properties at Garvard and Poll Gorm are visible, set back from the coastal edge, and a wood pole OHL is visible on the skyline as it traverses the eastern coastline.
Views	Views are generally enclosed by surrounding landform, including the rocky hill summits of Beinn Eibhne (98 m AOD) and Beinn Oronsay (93 m AOD). Views of the open sea from the Strand are limited, though more open views are available from the sandy bay of Traigh nam Barc and rocky knolls such as Cuirn Mhora. From the Strand, the Paps of Jura are visible in the far distance to the southeast above landform in the foreground.

Table 2.18 Assessment of effects on CCA 12: The Strand

Receptor	CCA 12: The Strand
Sensitivity	This is a relatively small scale and highly indented coastline, mostly relatively sheltered from the open sea. Although the track across the Strand is well used by visitors crossing to Oronsay, the area is largely free from modern development. Overall these characteristics indicate high susceptibility to development of the type proposed. The coastline is not part of a designated area. However, its enclosed character has distinctive perceptual qualities and is unique on Colonsay which otherwise has exposed coastlines. These characteristics indicate a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 14 km to 17 km, in views to the west. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from most of the coastline, with the exception of southeast facing sections of the indented coastline. Turbines would appear in the open sea to the west, partially screened by skerries and headlands in the west of Colonsay and Oronsay. There is little or no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 61 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into views towards the open sea. The regular shapes of the turbines would contrast with the irregular forms of the coastline, adversely affecting their perceptual qualities. The Project would also adversely affect the relative lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The scale of change is judged to be large. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large.

Receptor	CCA 12: The Strand
	The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be high .
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a major and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (major and significant).

CCA 13: Oronsay

Table 2.19 Coastal character baseline for CCA 13: Oronsay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area encompasses the coastline of Oronsay, with the exception of its northern coastline (see CCA 12), and includes a number of rocky islets and skerries. The CCA is approximately 12 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Low-lying, indented coastline defined by a mix of rocky promontories, sandy bays, and tidal flats; ■ Access on foot and by vehicle limited to low tide via the Strand (see CCA 12), increasing sense of remoteness and isolation; ■ Dynamic intertidal zone, where shifting sands and muds create constantly changing patterns of land and water; ■ Machair grasslands and dune systems merging with rough grazing inland; ■ Rocky outcrops and skerries punctuate the coast, adding visual texture and sheltering small sandy coves; ■ Historic monastic site of Oronsay Priory (and adjacent farm) situated near the west coast, providing a focal point within an otherwise undeveloped landscape; ■ The prominent landmark of Beinn Oronsay (92 m AOD), rises steeply inland from the northern and western coastlines (see CCA 12); ■ Sparse human presence, limited to residents and workers at the farm (which is operated by the RSPB) and visitors at low tide, contributing to a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; and ■ Expansive views west to the Atlantic, and south and east to Islay and Jura, reinforcing the island's open and exposed character.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	An aerial photograph showing Oronsay Priory, a large stone building complex with multiple gables and a central tower, surrounded by a stone wall. The priory is situated on a grassy hill overlooking the sea. In the background, the coastline and other islands are visible under a blue sky with light clouds. <i>Oronsay Priory and the adjacent farm (operated by the RSPB) are a key focal point for visitors.</i> A wide-angle photograph of a sandy beach (Poll nan Ron) looking out towards the open sea. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The horizon is visible in the distance. <i>Expansive views west to the open sea from Poll nan Ron, south of the Priory.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>The Paps of Jura are an almost constant presence in views from the coastline, seen here from Poll nan Ron. Sheep can be seen grazing on the skyline.</i>
Maritime influence	The coastline is orientated to the east, south and west, looking west towards the Atlantic and south and east towards the neighbouring islands of Islay and Jura within 10 -15 km. The area is highly influenced by the tide, which determines access to the island via the Strand (see CCA 12). Indentations along the coastline provide enclosure to sandy bays, though the overall perception is one of expansiveness and exposure to the sea. Marine based activities include recreational boats and the Colonsay to Islay ferry, as it travels east of the island to the Sound of Jura.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is low-lying and highly indented, alternating between rocky shores and sandy bays. A series of skerries and islets project westwards from the coastline, partially connected by tidal flats and rocky terraces with the exception of Eilean Ghaoideamal, which lies across the sea channel of Caolas Mor to the southeast. The shoreline is undeveloped apart from the Scheduled Monument of Oronsay Priory (and adjacent farm) on the west coast and a small bothy at the southern end of Poll nan Ron. Seal Cottage (so named due to the common sight of grey seals in the bay) is set between dunes and the sandy bay of Traigh Uamha Seilbhe, adjacent to one of several Mesolithic shell mounds found along the east coast.
Character of immediate hinterland	The hinterland is generally low-lying, backing onto sand dunes, machair or rocky moorland and knolls. Beinn Oronsay (93 m AOD) rises steeply from the northern coastline (see CCA 12) and Oronsay Priory, forming a notable landmark.
Extent of human influence	Oronsay can only be accessed on foot and by vehicle at low tide via the Strand (see CCA 12) contributing to a sense of remoteness and isolation. Oronsay Priory and Farm (the latter of which is operated by the RSPB) are obvious signs of human influence near the west coast, with visitors arriving on foot and conservation and farming activities taking place. However, the majority of the coastline evokes an overriding sense of wildness and tranquillity, subject to the natural rhythms of the tide and processes of accretion, weathering and erosion.
Views	There are open and uninterrupted views from the west coast to the Atlantic, often framed by sandy bays or skerries. From the south and east coast the eye is drawn to the neighbouring islands of Islay and Jura, and in particular the Paps of Jura, which are

Aspect	Description
	an almost constant presence in views. The high point of Beinn Oronsay provides extensive panoramic views across Oronsay, Colonsay and the surrounding seascape.

Table 2.20 Assessment of effects on CCA 13: Oronsay

Receptor	CCA 13: Oronsay
Sensitivity	This is a large scale, open and exposed landscape, with a low-lying, indented coastline. The area is sparsely populated and has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquility. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent seascapes and a dynamic tidal zone. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The CCA is not within any designated landscapes, indicating a medium value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 12-17 km, in views to the west. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from the western coastline of the island, with more limited theoretical visibility from the east coast. Turbines would appear in the open sea to the west. There is little or no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 64 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into views towards the open sea. This would affect the strong sense of remoteness and tranquility, a quality which is reinforced by expansive views across the open Atlantic. The scale of change is judged to be large. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be high.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a major and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (major and significant).

CCA 14: Rubha an t-Sailein to Glendebadel Bay, Jura

Table 2.21 Coastal character baseline for CCA 14: Rubha an t-Sailein to Glendebadel Bay, Jura

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area comprises the north coast of Jura, between Rubha an t-Sailein at the mouth of Loch Tarbert and Glendebadale Bay. The area is located within the Jura LLA, and the Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs Wild Land Area (WLA) 5. The CCA is approximately 30 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ The coastline generally faces east and northeast across open sea to Colonsay and Mull, with strong maritime influence and exposure to prevailing winds;

Aspect	Description
	■ The coast is rugged and irregular, featuring cliffs, rocky outcrops, and indentations forming sandy bays and coves; ■ Natural features such as raised beaches, caves, and natural arches are common along the coastal edge; ■ Occasional islets and skerries offshore; ■ The land rises sharply from the shoreline to rugged moorland that features lochs, lochans, gullies, and waterfalls; and ■ The coastline is undeveloped, remote, and wild, with minimal human presence or infrastructure.
Representative photographs	 <i>Sea cliffs and the rugged, remote hinterland of the character area visible at a distance from the Islay to Colonsay ferry. At its southern end the landform dips towards Rubh' an t-Sailein at the mouth of Loch Tarbert, with the Paps of Jura dominating the skyline beyond.</i>
Maritime influence	The area predominantly faces east and northeast, looking across the open sea to Colonsay and Mull. The coastline is open and exposed though indentations provide enclosure to bays. Recreational boats and fishing boats can be seen travelling northeast towards the Gulf of Corryvreckan, and on clear days the Oban to Colonsay and Colonsay to Islay ferries can be seen in the distance.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline is rocky and complex, rising to steep sided cliffs in places. Waterfalls drain over the steep coastal edge or through incised gullies from the hinterland of steep moorland. Raised beaches, caves and natural arches are a consistent feature. A number of sandy bays provide more sheltered aspects such as Shian, Corpach and Glendebade. Skerries and islets are peppered along the coast including Shian Island. The shoreline is entirely undeveloped.
Character of immediate hinterland	The land rises steeply away from the coast to rugged, rocky moorland which is incised by gullies and enclosing knolls and summits. Lochs, lochans and waterfalls are a consistent feature. Trees are absent with moorland vegetation predominant. The hinterland is entirely unsettled.
Extent of human influence	The coast is remote and inaccessible with no road access, meaning that long walks are required across interior moorland to reach it on foot. Other than a bothy at Rubha an t-Sailein, the coastline is absent of any notable human influence, accentuating its

Aspect	Description
	strong sense of wildness. Perceptions of remoteness, naturalness and wildness are predominant here.
Views	There are open and uninterrupted views west and northwest towards Colonsay and Mull. The indented coastline provides framed views from sandy bays. Views extend along the coastal edge from much of the character area though the complex coastline and rugged moorland hinterland can foreshorten views.

Table 2.22 Assessment of effects on CCA 14: Rubha an t-Sailein to Glendebadel Bay, Jura

Receptor	CCA 14: Rubha an t-Sailein to Glendebadel Bay, Jura
Sensitivity	This is a large scale, open and exposed landscape, with a rugged, rocky coastline. The area is largely remote from visible or audible signs of human development. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent seascapes. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area has high scenic quality and rarity, and is located within Jura NSA and Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of over approximately 30 km, in views to the west, beyond Colonsay. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread visibility of the proposed turbines from the CCA. There is no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The proposed turbines would be apparent in the open sea, and would often be seen beyond or alongside the low-lying and rugged landform of Colonsay. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 36 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into distant views towards the open sea. This would detract from the sense of wildness and the lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 15: Loch Tarbert, Jura

Table 2.23 Coastal character baseline for CCA 15 – Loch Tarbert, Jura

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area comprises the northern and southern coastlines of Loch Tarbert, a sea loch which extends approximately 10 km inland and almost separates north and south Jura. The CCA is located in the Jura NSA and Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the

Aspect	Description
	Garvellachs WLA. The CCA is approximately 29 km to the east of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ The loch's form and character are shaped by its orientation toward the sea, with narrowing eastern sections and a broad, open western end more exposed to maritime conditions; ■ The coastal edge features rocky shores, cliffs, and numerous small bays, with raised beaches, caves, and scattered rocky islets adding visual complexity; ■ The coastline is largely untouched by development, with only a few isolated lodges and bothies, contributing to a strong sense of remoteness; ■ The land rises sharply from the coast to inland cliffs and moorland summits, drained by small burns and glens such as Glenbatrick; ■ The landscape is dominated by open moorland vegetation, giving it a wild, exposed, and elemental quality; and ■ Views are focused along and across the loch, with dramatic seaward vistas from the western end toward Oronsay and Colonsay.
Representative photographs	 <i>Glenbatrick Lodge is one of the few signs of human influence on arrival to Loch Tarbert via Evans' walk.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>Looking east from Glenbatrick Bay towards the headland of Rubha a' Bhaillein. Sandy bays, raised beaches and rocky terraces add texture and complexity to the coastal edge.</i>  <i>At its western end, more open views are available to the mouth of the loch and the open sea, towards Oronsay and Colonsay.</i>
Maritime influence	The area is orientated to the north and south to its opposing shorelines. At its eastern end the loch narrows considerably with an increasing sense of enclosure. At points its northern and southern shorelines are barely separated. At its western end the loch increases in width and exposure towards the open sea. Indentations in the coastline form numerous bays of varying scale. Marine based activities include fishing and recreational boats.
Character of coastal edge	The coastal edge is rocky and indented with steep cliffs in places. Indentations enclose lower-lying sandy and pebble strewn bays such as Glenbatrick and An Sailean. There are numerous rocky islets and raised beaches and caves are consistent features along the coastline. The shoreline is undeveloped with the exception of Glenbatrick Lodge on the southern shore, and Cruib Lodge and Ruantallain bothy on the northern shore.

Aspect	Description
Character of immediate hinterland	The hinterland is rugged and generally rises steeply to inland cliffs, rocky moorland, lochans and enclosing summits. Numerous watercourses drain into the loch from gullies or glens such as Glenbatrick. Trees are absent with moorland vegetation predominant
Extent of human influence	The coast is relatively inaccessible, with long walks across interior moorland required to reach it on foot. At its eastern end the loch is within 1 km of the A846. Removed from Glenbatrick Lodge, Cruib Lodge, Ruantallain Lodge, or transitory marine activity, there is little human influence, adding to an overriding sense of isolation and wildness.
Views	Views tend to be focused along the coastline, or across the loch to opposing shorelines. From its western end, framed views extend seaward to Oronsay and Colonsay.

Table 2.24 Assessment of effects on CCA 15 – Loch Tarbert, Jura

Receptor	CCA 15 – Loch Tarbert, Jura
Sensitivity	This is a large scale landscape, with a rugged, complex and irregular coastline including many distinctive landform features. The area has very few signs of modern development and is largely remote from visible or audible signs of human development. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent seascapes. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area has high scenic quality and rarity, and is located in Jura NSA and Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA, indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of over approximately 30 km, in views to the west at the end of the sea loch. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread visibility of the proposed turbines from the northern and southern coast of the loch at its wider western end. There is no theoretical visibility where the loch narrows, east of Eilean Aird. There is no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The proposed turbines would be apparent in the open sea at the end of the loch, and would often be seen alongside the rugged and irregular coastline within the CCA. In some views the turbines would fill the Sound. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 38 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into distant views towards the open sea. This would detract from the sense of wildness and the lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The channelled views along the loch towards the open sea would be affected. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium, with the change mainly experienced in the west of the CCA. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 16: Sound of Islay

2.5 This area lies along the east coast of Islay and the west coast of Jura, along the narrow Sound of Islay which runs between the two islands. On the Islay coastline there is very limited theoretical visibility, in the vicinity of Rubha a' Mhail. On the Jura coastline there is some theoretical visibility at the entrance to the Sound, south of Rubha Aird na Sgitheich. The CCA is within locally designated landscapes on Islay and part of the Jura NSA and Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA on Jura. Given the limited theoretical visibility of the Project, no coastal character baseline was undertaken. The effect on the CCA would be negligible and not significant.

CCA 17: Sound of Jura

2.6 This area lies along the east coast of Jura, between Rubha an Tuill in the south and Doir a' Chrorain in the north. The CCA faces east onto the sound of Jura, and is within the Jura NSA. There is no theoretical visibility of the Project from CCA 17 and therefore no coastal character baseline was undertaken. There would be no effect on the CCA.

CCA 18: Sgairail, Islay

Table 2.25 Coastal character baseline for CCA 18: Sgairail, Islay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area lies along the remote northern coast of Islay. It extends for approximately 15 km between Killinallan Point in the southwest and Ruvaal lighthouse in the northeast. The coastline forms part of the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA. The CCA is approximately 18 km to the southeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Similar in geology (quartzite), topography and character to the west Jura coastline; ■ Remote and relatively inaccessible, with a strong sense of wildness; ■ Complex and spectacular coastal scenery between Gortanaoid Point and Ruvaal including sea stacks, natural arches, caves, and narrow inlets; ■ In many places cliffs are set back slightly from the shoreline, with raised beaches and waterfalls; ■ Extensive area of beach and sand dunes in the west, between Killinallan Point and Gortanaoid Point; ■ Rough moorland rises behind the coastal edges; ■ Uninhabited, unfrequented and largely undeveloped, with relatively few traces of modern human influence; and ■ Expansive views towards the open sea and the islands of Oronsay, Colonsay, Mull and Jura.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	 <i>Rocky inlet near Biod nan Sgairbh</i>  <i>Beach east of Gortanaoid Point, with the moorland hinterland of the coastline visible beyond</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>View east towards the coastline from near Ardnave Point</i>
Maritime influence	The area is largely northwest to north facing, looking across open seas towards Oronsay and Colonsay approximately 10 km to the north. Mull is also located to the north, at a distance of approximately 40 km. There are many narrow indentations in the coastline, along with a few wider bays. The ferry between Colonsay and Port Askaig on Islay passes within 1 km of Ruvaal at the northeastern tip of Islay.
Character of coastal edge	Between Gortanaoid Point and Ruvaal, the coastline has a complex mixture of spectacular features including sea stacks, natural arches, caves, and narrow inlets. Between Killinallan Point and Gortanaoid Point in the west of the area, there is an extensive beach and an area of sand dunes.
Character of immediate hinterland	Immediately behind the coast between Ruvaal and Gortanaoid Point there are extensive areas of cliff indicating historic changes in sea level, leaving raised beaches. Above these cliffs, rough moorland slopes rise towards the summits of hills including Sgarbh Breach (364 m AOD) and Sgarbh Dubh (294 m AOD). The smaller hill of Mala Bhose (127 m) is prominent near the coast, in its central section. Further west above the beach and sand dunes near Killinallan, the slopes are much gentler and have pastoral farmland near the sea, with moorland further inland.
Extent of human influence	The entire extent of this coastline is uninhabited and largely undeveloped. In the southwest, there is a farmhouse at Killinallan, with some rough pasture nearby and a track to the ruins at Gortanaoid. In the east of the area, the nearest dwellings are at Bunnahabhain approximately 6 km to the south of Ruvaal. There is an unmanned lighthouse at Ruvaal, and ruins of farms and crofts at a few locations along the coast such as Gortanaoid and Doodlebeg. Otherwise, there are few human influences. The coastline and its hinterland are not heavily visited by walkers, and there are few paths.
Views	There are open and uninterrupted views north across the sea towards the islands of Oronsay, Colonsay and Mull. These views are famed by the complex rock formations and inlets of the coast. There are also views along the coast. From the southwestern section of the coast, Ardnave Point on Islay and Nave Island are visible further west. From the northeastern section of the coast, the rugged west coast of Jura can be seen further to the northeast.

Table 2.26 Assessment of effects on CCA 18 – Sgairail, Islay

Receptor	CCA 18 – Sgairail, Islay
Sensitivity	This is a large scale landscape, with a rugged, complex and irregular coastline including many distinctive landform features. The area has very few signs of modern development and is largely remote from visible or audible signs of human development. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent seascapes. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area has high scenic quality and rarity, of a type unique to northwest Islay and Jura. Also, the area is located in the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 18-24 km, in views to the west and northwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates widespread visibility of the proposed turbines from the entire extent of the coastline. There is no tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The proposed turbines would be apparent in the open sea to the west and northwest of the coastline. Turbines would occupy most of the horizon between Nave Island to the west, and Oronsay and Colonsay to the north/northwest. From western sections of coastline, turbines in the south of the layout would be partially screened by Ardnave Point and Nave Island. From the eastern end of the coastline, turbines in the northeast of the layout would be partially screened by Oronsay. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 59 degrees. The turbines would introduce a notable new feature into views towards the open sea. This would detract from the sense of wildness and the relative lack of modern human influence experienced in this area of coastline. The extensive views towards the open sea, Oronsay and Colonsay would also be adversely affected. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large, extending along the entire coastline. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 19: Loch Gruinart, Islay

Table 2.27 Coastal character baseline for CCA 19 – Loch Gruinart, Islay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area lies along the shores of Loch Gruinart in northern Islay. The loch is oriented in a northerly direction from its head at Gruinart Flats and Craigens in the south, and it is between 1 km and 2 km wide. The east coast extends north for approximately 6 km to Killinallan Point, while the west coast extends for approximately 8 km to Ardnave Point.

Aspect	Description
	The coastline forms part of the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA. The CCA is approximately 16 km to the southeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	- Loch Gruinart separates the Rhinns peninsula in the west from the eastern part of Islay; - Surrounded in places by a strip of low-lying farmland, with rough moorland beyond. An area of wetland surrounds the head of the loch; - Sand dunes line both sides of the loch near its mouth, and at low tide extensive sand flats are exposed in the loch, traversed by sinuous watercourses; - Sparsely settled, with a few farmsteads and houses in the area surrounding the loch, mostly in the south and west; - The RSPB Loch Gruinart Nature Reserve includes the southern end of the loch and the area to its south and west; and - Views are extensive from the west coast and around Ardnave, Point, but more limited from the east coast.
Representative photographs	 <i>Loch Gruinart from Ardnave</i>
Maritime influence	The loch sides are largely east and west facing, looking out into the shallow waters and sand bars in the loch. From the area near Ardnave point the open sea is also visible to the north at the end of the loch, with the islands of Oronsay and Colonsay appearing approximately 12 km beyond. There are few marine-based activities owing to the shallow waters of the loch.
Character of coastal edge	The coastline largely comprises low-lying shallow slopes. On the west coast, pasture farmland extends all the way down to the shore in places, while to the east there are some areas of pasture and rough moorland grass moorland adjacent to the coast, and a minor road runs along the shoreline near Bun-an-Uillt. At the head of the loch there is an area of wetland. On both sides of the loch's mouth there are sand dunes, and on the east side there is also a beach extending to the south of Killinallan Point.
Character of immediate hinterland	The land behind the head of the loch is flat, with wetland near the loch and drained farmland beyond. On the sides of the loch are gentle slopes of farmland and rough moorland, with more extensive areas of moorland on low hills further inland. Within the RSPB reserve to the southwest of the loch there is an area of broadleaf woodland, and there are also small areas of woodland to the south and east of the loch. There is also a

Aspect	Description
	small loch – Arndave Loch – a short distance inland from the west coastline of Loch Gruinart, near its mouth. On both sides of the loch’s mouth there are extensive areas of sand dunes.
Extent of human influence	There are two minor roads running close to the east and west shore of Loch Gruinart, both of which degenerate into tracks before the mouth of the loch is reached. These roads begin from the B8017 which runs close to the head of the loch. There are numerous farmsteads and other houses on these roads, mainly on the west and south sides of the loch, but the only occupied habitation on the lochside is at Bun-an-aillt in the east. Surrounding the loch are numerous ancient sites including the remains of earthworks, a hut circle and a cross.
Views	From the east side of the loch, views largely consist of the loch in the foreground, with farmland and low moorland hills beyond. The horizon is low and the sky dominates views. From the west side of the loch, distant views are more extensive, with hills including Beinn Bhreac (286 m AOD) and Sgarbh Dubh (294 m AOD) appearing on the skyline to the east and northeast. Near the northwest end of the loch near Ardnave Point, the open sea becomes more visible, with islands including Oronsay, Colonsay and Jura being seen to the northeast, and Mull in the far distance beyond Colonsay.

Table 2.28 Assessment of effects on CCA 19 – Loch Gruinart, Islay

Receptor	CCA 19 - Loch Gruinart, Islay
Sensitivity	The enclosed loch shores form a relatively intimate landscape, although also feeling open in character owing to the low horizons and open views. There is some evidence of small scale human influence around the loch. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area is located in the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 15-25 km, in views to the west and northwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates limited theoretical visibility of the Project from the east side of the loch. The proposed turbines would be visible on the skyline to the northwest behind the northern Rhinns peninsula, and may therefore be perceived as an onshore wind farm rather than an offshore development. There is no theoretical visibility of the Project from the west coast of the loch, except for the area near Ardnave Point at the northwest tip. From this area, the Project would be visible in the open sea to the northwest, with the northeasternmost turbines partially screened by Nave Island a short distance offshore. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 65 degrees. The Project would introduce a notable new feature to views from the eastern shore, which would detract from the intimate character of this section of coast. The Project would also adversely affect views towards the open sea from the area around Ardnave Point. The scale of change is judged to be small from the east shore of the loch and at Ardnave Point. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium, extending along the east coast and the northern tip of the west coast, but not most of the west coast. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be low.

Receptor	CCA 19 - Loch Gruinart, Islay
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect, experienced from the east side of the loch and at Ardnave Point. There would be no effect from the west side of the loch.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant from the east side of the loch, no effect from the west side of the loch).

CCA 20: Ardnave Point to Rhinns Point, Islay

Table 2.29 Coastal character baseline for CCA 20: Ardnave Point to Rhinns Point, Islay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area extends along the west coast of the Rhinns peninsula in the west of Islay. The distance between its two extremities of Ardnave Point in the north and Rhinns Point in the south is approximately 25 km as the crow flies, but the actual coastline is considerably longer owing to the numerous bays and headlands. Except for a short section near Rhinns Point, the coastline forms part of the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA. The CCA is approximately 15 km to the southeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ At the outer edge of the British Isles – and Europe – and exposed to the force of the Atlantic Ocean. ■ Most of the coast is west or northwest facing, but there are also southerly facing sections. ■ Extensive, rugged areas of sea cliffs and narrow inlets, wild in character and with distinctive feature such as Dun Bheolain headland. ■ Occasional wide sandy bays such as those at Sanaigmore, Saligo, Machir and Lossit. ■ Offshore islands of Nave at the northern end of the coastline, and Orsay and Eilean Mhic Coinnich at the southern end, but not in between these points. ■ Coastal hinterland of rough moorland and areas of pasture. ■ Conjoined villages at Portnahaven and Port Wemyss at the southern end of the coast. Numerous scattered farmsteads and small groups of houses further north, usually a short distance inland from the coast. ■ Rich in historic sites including ancient forts, settlements and standing stones. ■ Open views out to the Atlantic Ocean, with long-distance views northeast towards Colonsay and Mull, and southwest towards Ireland.

Aspect	Description
Representative photographs	 <i>View north from Saligo Bay towards Dun Bheolain, with its distinctive shape sometime likened to Sydney Opera House. Note also the farmsteads a short distance inland.</i>  <i>View north across Machir Bay from Creag Bealach na Cailich.</i>

Aspect	Description
	 <i>A section of the complex, rocky coastline between Sanaigmore and An Clachan.</i>
Maritime influence	Between Ardnave Point in the northeast and the headland of An Clachan, the coastline mainly faces northwest, while the coastline between An Clachan and Rhinns Point in the south is mainly west facing, except for a few south-facing sections. The coastline is at the outer edge of the British Isles and is exposed to the force of the Atlantic Ocean. There are numerous bays and inlets which are slightly more sheltered than the headlands between, but most of these bays still have a wild and exposed character. In terms of activities immediately, Machir Bay is a popular surfing venue. There is little activity on this open sea, except for occasional fishing boats.
Character of coastal edge	Near Ardnave Point, Nave Island and reefs to its south shelter an area of beaches and sand dune, before the coastline becomes rocky but still low-lying until Sanaigmore Bay. To the west for a few kilometres either side of An Clachan headland there are sections of large and complex cliffs. Dun Bheolain headland near Smaull forms the southern end of this section and is particularly prominent with its distinctive ‘Sydney Opera House’ profile. To the south there are lower rocky headlands between the wide sandy bays at Saligo and Lossit and the narrower inlet of Kilchiaran Bay, south of which there are cliffs and steep coastal slopes leading round to Lossit Bay. Further south again, the coastline turns to the southeast at Rubhan a Faing. On this southwest facing section of coastline, and the offshore islands of Eilean Mhic Coinnich and Orsay shelter the coastal villages of Portnahaven and Port Wemyss, and beyond a line of low cliffs leads to the southern end of the coastline at Rhinns Point.
Character of immediate hinterland	Much of the hinterland comprises rough moorland. In places, slopes rise steeply towards hill summits a short distance inland, such as Cnoc Uamh nam Fear (128 m AOD), Creag Bealach na Cailich (139 m AOD) and Beinn Seasaimh (139 m AOD). Along the coast near Ardnave Point and behind the sandy bays at Sanaigmore, Saligo, Machir and Lossit there are sand dunes immediately behind the coastline, and pasture beyond. There are also fields near the coast around Portnahaven in the south.
Extent of human influence	The village of Portnahaven is clustered around a small inlet on the south coast of the area, while Port Wemyss is within 1 km to the southeast. These villages are sheltered by Orsay island, which has an unmanned lighthouse and the remains of a chapel. Further north, the immediate coastline is uninhabited, and the hinterland is sparsely settled, with isolated houses and farmsteads mainly located near the larger bays along the coast. At Kilchoman near Machir Bay there is a distillery and a few houses near the ruined church. Single track roads run slightly inland, with offshoots reaching the coast in

Aspect	Description
	a few places such as the B8018 to Sanaigmore in the north, while the A847 terminates at Portnahaven in the south. The area is rich in ancient monuments including forts at Dun Bheolain and Beinn a' Chasteil, standing stones at Ballinaby, a chapel at Kilchiaran, and many other sites. More modern developments include the prominent communications masts on Creag Bealach na Caillich.
Views	The open sea dominates views, and there are also views along the coast, especially from more elevated points. From the north of the area, islands including Colonsay, Mull are visible, while from further south, the north coast of Ireland can be seen to the southwest. From the southern extremity of the coastline near Rhinns Point, the Oa peninsula is visible to the southeast. However, from most of the coastline there are uninterrupted views west towards the vast extent of the Atlantic Ocean. From the hills behind the coastline, there are also views east across Islay and towards Jura.

Table 2.30 Assessment of effects on CCA 20: Ardnave Point to Rhinns Point, Islay

Receptor	CCA 20: Ardnave Point to Rhinns Point, Islay
Sensitivity	This landscape is complex and irregular, with strong topographical variety and distinctive landform features. Modern development is small in scale, while there are numerous ancient monuments along the coastline. These factors indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area has rugged and distinctive features and a perception of wildness. It is located in the North & West Islay (Coast) LLA indicating a high value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 15-30 km, in views to the north and northwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from the majority of the CCA. From north and northwest facing sections of the coastline there is widespread theoretical visibility, but from west and south facing sections visibility is more limited, as turbines would be partially or entirely screened by the Rhinns coastline itself. There is very limited tree cover so actual visibility would be similar to theoretical visibility. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 71 degrees. The introduction of the Project into views out towards the open sea would adversely affect the sense of being at the edge of the British Isles. It would also affect the sense of wildness experienced on the more rugged and remote sections of coast. Views along the coast towards distinctive features including the Dun Bheolain headland would also be adversely affected by the presence of turbines appearing alongside. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large, as the proposed turbines would be at least partially visible from many sections of the coastline. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be medium.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a moderate and significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (moderate and significant).

CCA 21: Loch Indaal, Islay

Table 2.31 Coastal character baseline for CCA 21: Loch Indaal, Islay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area extends from Rhinns Point along the southeast coast of the Rhinns peninsula of Islay and around the shores of Loch Indaal. After tracing the eastern shore of the loch, this section of coastline terminates at Laggan Point. The CCA is approximately 25 km to the southeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ The shores of the loch are relatively sheltered but have an open, spacious character with wide horizons; ■ Different sections of the area face southeast, south and northwest; ■ Well-developed and populated relative to most other sections of coast on Islay, with settlements including Bowmore, Bridgend, Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte; ■ Rocky in some sections at the shore, but without high sea cliffs. Areas of tidal sandflats at the head of the loch near Bridgend; ■ Low-lying hinterland includes farmland and some areas of rough moorland; ■ Roads run along most of the coast, except between Bridgend and Laggan Point; ■ Rich in historic sites including chapels, cairns and a standing stone near Uiskentuie; and ■ Wide ranging views across Loch Indaal and beyond to distant hills and the open sea, especially from the western shore.
Representative photographs	 <i>Loch Indaal from Port Charlotte</i>
Maritime influence	Most of the coastline faces across the relatively sheltered waters of Loch Indaal. This sheltered character is most evident on the eastern and northern shores of the loch, which are closest to the head of the loch at Bridgend. The character of the western shore feels more exposed, including at the northern end away from the open sea. Further along this shore, between the mouth of Loch Indaal and Rhinns Point, the influence of the open sea is even stronger, although the cliffs of the Oa peninsula are visible in the distance across Laggan Bay. There is a small harbour at Bowmore, and a few fishing vessels ply the waters of the loch and open sea beyond.

Aspect	Description
Character of coastal edge	Along the east coast of the Rhinns (which includes the west coast of Loch Indaal), there are innumerable small indentations but no large inlets. In most places rough moorland grass and pasture descend directly to the shore where there are low-lying rocks. In contrast, the northern and eastern shorelines of the loch are largely sandy. At the head of the loch near Bridgend there are large tidal sandflats, and an area of wetland adjacent to the shore. Between Garbreck and Laggan Point along the outer east shore of the loch, the coastline becomes rockier again, with sandstone outcrops at the shore below rough pasture and moorland.
Character of immediate hinterland	Along most of the coastline, the immediate hinterland comprises moorland and pasture on shallow slopes. There are no hill summits close to this section of the coast, but there is a distinctive low ridge at Cnoc Iolairean (29m AOD) close to the northwest shore. At the head of the loch near Bridgend, there is wetland adjacent to the shore and an area of broadleaf woodland beyond.
Extent of human influence	This section of coastline is relatively well developed and populated, compared with most other areas on Islay. Bowmore, which is the largest settlement on Islay, is located on the east side of Loch Indaal, and Bridgend is located slightly inland from the head of the loch in the northeast. Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte are on the west side of the loch. There are also numerous individual properties along the loch shores, except in the southeast where the outer loch shore between Garbreck and Laggan Point is uninhabited. The A846 and A847 run along the loch shore or close to it between Bowmore and Port Charlotte, and then the A847 runs slightly further inland further southwest to Portnahaven, with isolated properties and the hamlet of Nerrabus adjacent to the road. There are distilleries and associated infrastructure at Bowmore and Bruichladdich, which are popular tourist attractions. The round church at Bowmore is also a notable landmark. There are numerous ancient sites on the area such as chapels and cairns, and a standing stone near Cnoc Iolairean.
Views	Owing to the absence of high hills close to the coast, views tend to be expansive and open with low horizons. From the north and east shores of Loch Indaal, the loch dominates foreground views, and the distinctive whaleback form of Beinn Tart a' Mhaill (232 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)) is prominent in the distance on the Rhinns. Views from the west side of the loch and along the Rhinns are even more expansive, looking across the loch towards the highest Islay hills including Berinn Bheigier (491 m AOD) and the Paps of Jura (785 m AOD). These views also include the Oa peninsula to the southeast across Laggan Bay, and the open sea beyond.

Table 2.32 Assessment of effects on CCA 21: Loch Indaal, Islay

Receptor	CCA 21: Loch Indaal, Islay
Sensitivity	The shores of the loch are relatively sheltered but have an open character with wide horizons. The area is relatively developed and populated in comparison to other sections of coastline on Islay. These characteristics indicate a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. The area is not located in any designated landscapes. However, the shores around the relatively sheltered waters of Loch Indaal have their own landscape and perceptual qualities that complement the more rugged, exposed coasts prevalent in other parts of Islay. Overall, the landscape is of medium value. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be medium.

Receptor	CCA 21: Loch Indaal, Islay
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The proposed turbines would be seen at distances of approximately 23-28 km, in views to the northwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates no theoretical visibility of the Project from the southeast facing Rhinns coastline along the west of Loch Indaal. There is theoretical visibility of the Project from most of the northern and eastern shores of Loch Indaal, with a few small sections (e.g. around Bowmore) having more widespread visibility. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 34 degrees. From the eastern shore, turbines would be visible across the loch in the distance to the northwest. The turbines would appear above the low moorland of the Rhinns peninsula. Viewpoint 6: Bowmore Church, Islay is representative of these views. In views southwest towards the open sea from the northern shore of the loch, the Project would not be visible, but turbines would be visible as a distant backdrop in some views northwest along the shore. The introduction of the Project into distant views from parts of the coastline would not notably affect its key characteristics. The Project would be visible in the context of existing development around the loch, such as distillery infrastructure at Bruichladdich. The scale of change is judged to be small. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be medium. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be low.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect from the south side of the loch, with no effect from the north side of the loch.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant from the south side of the loch, no effect from the north side of the loch).

CCA 22: Laggan Bay, Islay

Table 2.33 Coastal character baseline for CCA 22: Laggan Bay, Islay

Aspect	Description
Location and extent	This area extends southwest from Laggan point in the north, along Laggan Bay. At Kintra the coastline turns southwest along the Oa peninsula where it passes outside the 40 km Study Area near Dun an Fhithich. The section of coastline on the Oa forms part of the South-West Islay LLA. The CCA is approximately 30 km to the southeast of the WDA at its closest point.
Key Characteristics	■ Broadly west facing for more of its length, except for sections on either side of Laggan Bay; ■ Big Strand beach at Laggan Bay is the longest beach on Islay, extending for approximately 8km; ■ Rugged and complex coastline along the Oa peninsula west of Kintra, with numerous sea cliffs, narrow inlets, caves, waterfalls and sea stacks; ■ The area adjacent to Laggan Bay is relatively developed although sparsely populated. The Oa coastline is uninhabited, and feels wild and remote;

Aspect	Description
	■ Islay Airport is adjacent to Laggan Bay and there is also a hotel and golf course in this area; ■ Hinterland includes areas of sand dunes behind Laggan Bay, and rough moorland and pasture elsewhere; and ■ Numerous historic sites near the Oa section of coast, including an abandoned settlement at Tockmal.
Representative photographs	 <i>View southwest towards the Soldier's Rock sea stack near Slochd Maol Doiridh</i> 

Aspect	Description
	<i>View northeast from near the Soldier's Rock. Big Strand beach at Laggan Bay is visible in the distance, with hills including Beinn Bhan beyond.</i>
Maritime influence	Most of the coastline forms the edge of Laggan Bay, with the northern and southern edges framing the ends of the long beach running along the bay. The southwestern section of coastline along the Oa is much more exposed to the open sea.
Character of coastal edge	To the northwest of Laggan Bay, just east of Laggan Point, there is a short section of sea cliffs and low rocky outcrops. The coastline then turns southwards along the Big Strand beach, whose expanse of sand is only interrupted briefly by rocks at Knockangle Point. Beyond Kintra at the southern end of the bay and beach, the coast turns west onto the Oa peninsula where it becomes much more rugged and complex in form. On this spectacular section of coast there are numerous sea cliffs, narrow inlets, caves, waterfalls, and sea stacks including Soldier's Rock.
Character of immediate hinterland	There are areas of sand dunes near the northern and southern ends of Big Strand beach, with a golf course on the southern area. Otherwise, the immediate hinterland of Laggan comprises a mixture of low-lying pasture and rough moorland. A few watercourse meander through this area to reach the sea at the beach. There is an extensive conifer plantation near Kintra, and smaller areas of broadleaf woodland slightly further from Kintra at the northern edge of the Oa. Landcover on the Oa is mainly very rough moorland, with a few areas of pasture.
Extent of human influence	The area around Laggan Bay has extensive human influences, although it is sparsely populated. These influences include Laggan Farm in the northwest, Islay Airport, Machrie Hotel and Golf Course, and cottages at Kintra. Further inland the A846 runs dead straight parallel to the beach for approximately 10 km, and there are properties and businesses at Glenegedale by this road near the airport. On the Oa peninsula, the area near the west coast is uninhabited and there are only a few rough paths. However, there are extensive remains of past human activity and habitation, including a fort, hut circle standing stone, earthwork and abandoned settlements including Tockmal.
Views	Views out to sea from Laggan Bay are framed by the peninsulas of the Rhinns to the northwest and the Oa to the south. While these views feel expansive, the peninsulas restrict views of the open sea beyond. From the coastline of the Oa west of Kintra, there are views northeast along the spectacular coastline towards Laggan Bay, with hills such as Beinn Bhan (471 m AOD) visible beyond. Further along the Oa, views west towards the open sea open out, while the Rhinns peninsula is visible to the northwest.

Table 2.34 Assessment of effects on CCA 22: Laggan Bay, Islay

Receptor	CCA 22: Laggan Bay, Islay
Sensitivity	This CCA is a landscape of contrasts. The broad sweep of Laggan Bay has a simple, regular form, whereas the Oa coastline is complex, rugged and irregular. The area around Laggan Bay is well developed with an airport, hotel complex and golf course, while the Oa coastline and hinterland is uninhabited and feels remote. The characteristics of the Oa section of coastline indicate a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed, while Laggan Bay is of medium susceptibility. The area contains both the longest beach in the Hebrides (Big Strand) and distinctive sea cliffs and stacks on the Oa. Furthermore, the Oa coastline is located in the South-West Islay LLA. Landscape value is considered to be high. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be high.

Receptor	CCA 22: Laggan Bay, Islay
Magnitude of impact (operation)	There would be no direct effects on the CCA. The Project would be located in offshore waters approximately 25-35 km to the northwest. The ZTV in Chapter 16 SLVIA, Figure 16.12 indicates no visibility of the Project from the northwest end of Laggan Bay. From Big Strand beach and most of the Oa coastline, the Project would be partially visible on the skyline in views to the northwest. Turbines would appear beyond the landform of the Rhinns of Islay. The Project would occupy a maximum horizontal angle of view of approximately 32 degrees. The Project would add to the extent of human influence in views, which would decrease the sense of wildness and remoteness experienced on the Oa coastline. However, the distance, and the presence of existing, closer infrastructure such as Islay Airport, would reduce the perceived effect of the Project. Due to viewing distance and the expansive nature of views to the north, west and south, the scale of change is judged to be small. The geographical extent of the change is judged to be large, extending along Big Strand beach and the western coastline of the Oa. The overall magnitude of impact is judged to be low.
Effect significance (operation)	Combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact would result in a minor and not significant effect.
Magnitude of impact and significance (construction)	The magnitude of impact and significance of effect would be comparable to the operational effect (minor and not significant).