

Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension

Technical Appendix 6.3: Visual Assessment

Prepared for: **ScottishPower Renewables (UK)
Limited**

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CONTENTS

Technical Appendix 6.3: Visual Assessment.....	3
Selected Viewpoints.....	3
Viewpoint Assessment.....	4
Summary of Findings	17
Table 1: Viewpoints assessed in the LVIA	3
Table 2: Assessment of Effects on Views from Viewpoints	6
Table 3: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment.....	17

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
HH	Hare Hill Wind Farm (existing)
HHE	Hare Hill Wind Farm Extension (existing)
HHR1	Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering and Extension (Phase 1 of the proposed Development)
HHR2	Hare Hill Wind Farm Repowering and Extension (Phase 2 of the proposed Development)
km, m, cm mm	Kilometres, metres, centimetres, millimetres
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SUW	Southern Upland Way
VP1, VP2...	Viewpoint 1, viewpoint 2 (and subsequent numbering)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Technical Appendix 6.3: Visual Assessment

Selected Viewpoints

1.1 This appendix sets out a summary of the findings of effects at selected viewpoints around the Study Area of approximately 25 km from the proposed Development (see **Technical Appendix 6.1**). The selected viewing locations are illustrative snapshots that represent views seen by residents, visitors, walkers etc within the overall experience to being at the places or on the routes around the Study Area. Text relating to the changes to the views is found in other parts of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) where the receptors are considered. Cross referencing to where viewpoints are referred to in the assessments in the main chapter is provided to avoid double counting.

1.2 The viewpoints used for the assessments of visual effects of the existing Hare Hill Windfarm (HH) and Hare Hill Extension Windfarm (HHE) were taken as a starting point for viewpoint selection, with additional or relocated viewpoints selected to represent other parts of the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Hare Hill Windfarm Repowering and Extension (the proposed Development, in two phases, referred to as HHR1 and HHR2), based on initial modelling analysis and fieldwork. All viewpoints have been selected as publicly accessible locations, and all can be used for the assessment of phases and cumulative effects.

Viewpoints in the LVIA

1.3 The viewpoints included in the LVIA and agreed with Dumfries and Galloway and East Ayrshire Council and NatureScot are listed in **Table 1** below and shown on **Figures 6.7a and 6.7b**.

Table 1: Viewpoints assessed in the LVIA

ID	Location	Distance	Discussion
VP1	Auchinleck	14.7 km	Framed views from within this settlement, representing views from the settlement and surrounding area including the A76 and parts of Cumnock.
VP2	Glaisnock Road	8.4 km	Open views from the minor road south of Cumnock, west of New Cumnock, representing open views from roads and settlements north west of the Site.
VP3	A76 New Cumnock	5.0 km	Located on the A76 adjacent to New Cumnock Station, this viewpoint represents views from the settlement, road, railway and areas local to New Cumnock.
VP4	Merkland	4.0 km	This viewpoint is on the minor road on the north side of Nithsdale, representing views across the valley from the north and from the railway (passengers' views).
VP5	A76 Kirkconnel	5.4 km	On the A76 at the west end of Kirkconnel, this location has open views along Nithsdale and can be used to represent views from the settlement, road and the railway.
VP6	Crawick Multiverse Park	10.4 km	This viewpoint is located within the park, which is to the north-east of Sanquhar near Crawick. Although set away from the A76, it can be used to represent views from that road and from the railway that passes the park.
VP7	B741 Knockburnie	8.8 km	This viewpoint is located on the B741 on north facing slopes looking across and down Nithsdale. Representing road users' views and views from west of New Cumnock.

VP8	Glen Afton	2.3 km	On the minor road within Glen Afton, representing views from within the valley seen by recreational road users.
VP9	Kelloholm Cemetery	6.4 km	Located at the cemetery within Kelloholm, representing views from within the settlement.
VP10	SUW Benbrack	8.6 km	Located on a hill summit on the Southern Upland Way (SUW). Representing views seen by walkers, and from other hills to the south of the study area.
VP11	SUW Whing Head	7.3 km	Located on a hill ridge over which the SUW passes. Representing views seen by walkers, and from other hills to the south-east of the study area.
VP12	SUW Below Conrig Hill	14.7 km	Located on the northern slopes of Nithsdale, on the SUW above Sanquhar yet below the hill pass near Conrig Hill. Representing views seen by walkers, and from upper parts of Sanquhar, as well as views from other hills to the north-east of the study area.
VP13	SUW Lowther Hill	21.2 km	Located on a hill summit on the SUW. Representing views seen by walkers, and from other hills to the east of the study area.
VP14	Blackcraig Hill	1.2 km	Located on a hill summit close to the Site but within the SLA. Representing views seen by walkers, and from other hills close to the Site.
VP15	Cairn Table	14.4 km	Located on a hill summit. Representing views seen by walkers, and from other hills to the north of the study area.
VP16	B743 Limmerhaugh Muir	17.1 km	Located on a minor road across the moorland north of the River Ayr valley, representing distant views from the north of the study area.
VP17	Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	10.0 km	Located on a hill summit north of the Glenkens, representing views from that and other hills to the south-west of the study area. It is noted that the Windy Standard group (including Windy Rig and Afton) are between this hill and the proposed Development site. Changes to the windfarms on the Site are therefore distant and seen beyond other intervening windfarms. Effects are unlikely to be significant and are not considered further. Wireline visualisations are provided for information.

Viewpoint Assessment

1.4 **Table 2** below sets out a summary of the findings of assessment for different phases or scenarios at the different viewpoints. Changes considered include:

- **Phase 1:** the replacement of HH with HHR1 (whilst retaining HHE), in the context of existing¹ wind farms and the existing baseline (for up to nine years);
- **Phase 1 + consented:** the replacement of HH with HHR1 (whilst retaining HHE), in the context of existing and consented wind farms which may be built by the end of the nine year period);
- **Phase 2 + consented:** the replacement of Phase 1 (HHE and HHR1) with Phase 2 (HHR1 and HHR2), in the context of existing and consented wind farms, with the assumption that at least some consented schemes may be built by then;
- **Phase 2 + in planning:** the replacement of Phase 1 (HHE and HHR1) with Phase 2 (HHR1 and HHR2), in the context of existing, consented and proposed wind farms currently in planning, with

¹ Windfarms currently under construction are taken as existing.

the assumption that at least some of those schemes may be built by the time HHR2 is under construction or operational; and

- **Full Development:** the replacement of HH and HHE with HHR1 and HHR2 as if unphased. In the context of the existing baseline.

1.5 As set out in **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual Assessment**, a distant future scenario in which HH and HHE are fully decommissioned prior to construction of either or both of HHR1 or HHR2 is considered too speculative to assess.

Table 2: Assessment of Effects on Views from Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP1 Auchinleck (14.7 km) Figure 6.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framed view from settlement • Existing HH and HHE visible, with blade tips of Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar and Sanquhar II on horizon; High Park Farm in front, and Afton and Pencloe to North Kyle to the south-west • Medium sensitivity due to settlement location, although foreground busy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer larger turbines on the horizon, greater spread and irregular array • HHR1 would introduce turbines of a similar size to those of Sanquhar II • HHE will remain just visible as tips and may go unnoticed • Low change <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethans, its Extension and Kennoxhead 2 (Penbreck), plus Greenburn and others to the south west closer to the viewpoint • Lower change than for addition of Phase 1 and would remain 'low' <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHR2 would be small additional number of turbines within the array of HHR1, and of a similar size • Lower change than for addition of Phase 1 and would reduce size contrasts (with HHE) <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorg and Euchanhead beyond Glen Afton and larger turbines at Greenburn, Pencloe Extension and South Kyle II beyond Greenburn, Breezy Hill further west of North Kyle • Low change resulting from Phase 2 <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer but larger turbines on the part of the horizon occupied by HH and HHE • Irregular array and size contrasts during Phase 1 resolved by Phase 2 • Distance and other windfarms present • Low change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>
VP2 Glaisnock Road (8.4 km) Figure 6.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open views from minor road on east-facing slopes • Views down Nithsdale with wind farms on the southern hills including HH, HHE and Sandy Knowe, High Park Farm in front, Sanquhar II, Afton, and Pencloe to the south. Windfarms to west hidden by adjacent slope • Low sensitivity on minor road with visibility of existing windfarms in the hills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Array of small turbines of HH replaced by fewer larger turbines • Greater separation but also greater total spread • HHE will go unnoticed as tips only • Turbines would be more prominent on that hill, although there is a precedent (Sanquhar II) • Medium change to view overall <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Knowe Extension would be additional turbines on the slopes of Nithsdale. Greenburn turbines may be visible above the viewpoint to the west. Lethans and its Extension will be seen north of Nithsdale. • Lower change than previous scenario given greater numbers of large turbines in baseline but would remain medium <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHR2 would be additional turbines within the array of HHR1, Sanquhar II and Sandy Knowe Extension, and of a similar size. • Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenburn Variation turbines would be larger than those consented, Euchanhead and Lorg would be additional turbines in the cluster to the south-east; the replacement of HHE with HHR2 within the array of HHR1 would be similar to the previous scenario • Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Array of existing small turbines replaced by fewer larger turbines • Greater separation but also greater total spread, albeit between Sanquhar II and Sandy Knowe. • Turbines would be more prominent on the horizon, although there is a precedent • Medium change to view overall <p>Significant (moderate).</p>

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP3 A76 New Cumnock (5.0 km) Figure 6.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View along Nithsdale from railway bridge within settlement with windfarms on the hills to the south including HH, Sandy Knowe, High Park Farm, Sanquhar II, Afton, Pencloe and Enoch Hill (variation). North Kyle to the west HHE is effectively not visible (one tip low on the horizon) Medium sensitivity due to settlement location, although the foreground is busy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small turbines visible on the horizon to the south-east would be replaced by fewer large turbines. These would form an irregular array, and would be noticeably closer than Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar II, or Pencloe, and larger in the view than High Park Farm. HHE is not visible, no contrast in scale Although there is a precedent for wind energy development on that hill, the change would be medium. <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenburn and Overhill adjacent to North Kyle, and Lethans and its Extension would be to north of Nithsdale the north east Magnitude of change would remain similar to previous scenario <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would be the introduction of three additional blade tips within the array of HHR1 Negligible magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to effect of HHR2 from previous scenario <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to Phase 1 but with 3 more turbine tips visible (those of HHR2) <p>Significant (moderate)</p>
VP4 Merkland (4.0 km) Figure 6.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View across and along Nithsdale in both directions from minor road above railway, with windfarms on the hills to the south including Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar, Sanquhar II, HH, HHE, and High Park Farm. Pencloe is visible to the south-west, windfarms further west are more distant and subject to local screening. Medium sensitivity due to location within 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Array of HH turbines would be replaced by fewer larger turbines of HHR1 HHR1 would form two groups on the horizon opposite to the south Turbines would appear larger than Sandy Knowe, but also closer - some viewers may assume they are of the same size due to perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Sandy Knowe extension would be closer to the viewpoint than Sandy Knowe, additional turbines of Greenburn and Overhill may be visible to the west. Tips of Lethans would be to the north-east of the viewpoint Although there would be more windfarms in the view, HHR1 would be the closest, with a similar magnitude of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would introduce two hubs and two tips between turbines of HHR1, increasing the number of turbine visible on the horizon opposite to the south, but resolving the apparent gap in the array This is conserved to be an improvement to the appearance of the proposed Development low beneficial magnitude of change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Pencloe extension and other windfarms would be visible associated with existing groups, there would be a similar change to the view as a result of HHR2 compared to the previous scenario. <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of small turbines with fewer larger turbines on the horizon opposite Irregular array would be resolved by Phase 2 Distance and other windfarms present Although there is a precedent for wind energy development on the hill opposite, the change from an array of small turbines to a few large turbines would be medium.

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
	SLA on minor road, with visibility of existing windfarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHE seen as tips, with little visual interaction Although there is a precedent for wind energy development on the hill opposite, the change from an array of small turbines to a few large turbines in an irregular layout would be medium <p>Significant (moderate).</p>	<p>change to the previous scenario</p> <p>Significant (moderate).</p>	<p>Not significant (minor) positive effect.</p>		<p>Significant (moderate).</p>
VP5 A76 Kirkconnel (5.4 km) Figure 6.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View south-west and west up Nithsdale with woodland in the valley and forest plantations on the hill slopes. Sandy Knowe turbines are visible on the opposite slopes to the south east, with Sanquhar and Sanquhar II turbines further south HH and HHE are smaller turbines beyond Sandy Knowe Medium sensitivity due to location at the edge of a settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would replace HH with fewer large turbines beyond and extending slightly to the right of Sandy Knowe HHR1 turbines would appear to be in front of retained HHE turbines, the distance to which it is difficult to judge given Sandy Knowe closer to the viewpoint. No increase in turbine size contrast given the existing appearance of HHE with Sandy Knowe in front Low magnitude of change to the view overall given the closer Sandy Knowe <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Knowe Extension would be additional turbines amongst those of Sandy Knowe, extending that array slightly to the west. Lethans and its Extension would be on the horizon north-west of the valley. Greenburn would be visible in the distance to the west. The relationship of HHR1 with Sandy Knowe and HHE would remain as for the previous scenario <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would be additional turbines beyond Sandy Knowe, its Extension and HHR1, but of a similar size, reducing the contrasts with HHE. This would bring all turbines on the hill slopes to the south west to a similar scale and create a simpler visual image This is considered to be an improvement to the appearance of wind energy development on the southern slopes of Nithsdale Low but beneficial magnitude of change. <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowancraig, Herds Hill, and Cloud Hill would be in front of Sanquhar and Whiteside Similar change compared to the previous scenario <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Development would replace HH and HHE with fewer larger turbines, beyond Sandy Knowe Larger turbines would reduce contrasts in turbine size that exist with Sandy Knowe and create a simpler visual image Low magnitude of change to the view overall given the closer Sandy Knowe <p>Not significant (minor)</p>

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP6 Crawick Multiverse Park (10.4 km) Figure 6.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the belvedere viewpoint Panoramic view across Nithsdale including to arrays of turbines on the hills to the south HH and HHE are seen as small turbines beyond Sandy Knowe on the lower slopes of the valley, with Sanquhar, Sanquhar II, Whiteside and Twenty Shilling Hill on the hills more to the south. North Kyle is visible in the distance to the west Low susceptibility to additional wind energy development on the hills to the south west beyond the valley. Valued as visitor location, and a point within the park where visitors stop to see the view. The sensitivity judged to be high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Development would not lie on the north-south axis of the park HHR1 would replace some of the smaller turbines beyond Sandy Knowe with fewer larger turbines. A few turbines would be further south west beyond Sanquhar These would be of a similar scale to Sanquhar II, and beyond Sandy Knowe on the hilltop beyond, and adjacent to the small turbines of retained HHE The juxtaposition of different turbine sizes would be made more noticeable from this location Whilst the change to HHR1 would not alter the character of the view, or the spread of wind energy development, it would increase the contrasts in turbine size to a degree Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Knowe Extension would be additional turbines on the valley slopes beyond Sandy Knowe Lethans, its Extension and Glenmuckloch would be located on the north side of Nithsdale, west of the viewpoint With more turbines present, the role of HHR1, would be diminished Magnitude of change would decrease but remain low. <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would replace the small turbines of HHE with turbines of a size more in keeping with Sandy Knowe, its extension, HHR1 and Sanquhar II This would simplify the image of multiple turbines on the hills to the south of the valley as they would all be of a similar scale Low but beneficial magnitude of change <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowancraig, Herds Hill and Cloud Hill would be closer to the viewpoint on the opposite side of Nithsdale In this situation, there would be a similar resolution of contrasts in turbine size, but a smaller overall magnitude of change to the view compared to the previous scenario <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 and HHR2 would be seen beyond Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar and Sanquhar II, as fewer larger turbines than at present The proposed Development would not lie on the north south axis of the park Existing contrasts in turbine size would be removed Turbines would form a more continuous array with a smaller gap between turbines than there is between Sanquhar and HHE. Spacing would be wider Although more turbines would be larger, the overall balance of the combined array would be improved without the contrasts in turbine sizes seen at present Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be low <p>Not significant (minor)</p>

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
		Not significant (minor)				
VP7 B741 Knockburnie (8.8 km) Figure 6.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views from north facing slopes across upper Nith valley This location is currently open but is surrounded by young coniferous planting. Trees closer to the road may screen views when mature. This assessment assumes views remain open North Kyle is visible to the north west over plantations. Enoch Hill (variation) is visible higher on the slopes south of the viewpoint HH, HHE, Sanquhar II, and High Park Farm are on the horizon east along the southern slopes of Nithsdale. No turbines of Sandy Knowe or Pencloe are visible from this location Low susceptibility to additional wind energy development on the hills to the east. Within an SLA, medium sensitivity overall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the small turbines on Hare Hill would be removed and replaced by a few large turbines Three turbines and five tips would be seen on the top of Hare Hill, extending northward from where HH was, one turbine and two tips would be visible further south HHR1 would form an irregular array, with a gap and small HHE turbines between, creating contrast in turbine sizes There is a precedent for turbines, and although HHR1 would introduce larger turbines and contrast with retained HHE turbines, the magnitude of change at this location would be low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lethans, its Extension and Kennoxhead Phases I & 2 would be seen beyond Corsencon Hill. In other directions, Greenburn would be east of North Kyle and Overhill, northwards in this view Sandy Knowe Extension would not be visible Contrasts identified for the previous scenario would occur Magnitude of change similar to the previous scenario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would introduce hubs between the two parts of HHR1, resolving a gap in the array Contrasts in turbine sizes with HHE would also be resolved This is considered to be an improvement to the previous phase Low magnitude of change but beneficial <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pencloe Extension would be visible from this location as turbines along the hill slopes eastwards. Greenburn and Overhill variations would be larger turbines than in the consented scenario No change to effect of HHR2 from previous scenario <p>Not significant (minor) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the small turbines on Hare Hill would be removed and replaced by a few large turbines Contrasts in turbine sizes and gaps in the array would not occur There is a precedent for turbines on Hare Hill, and although the proposed Development would introduce larger turbines, the magnitude of change to the panorama from the viewpoint would be low <p>Not significant (minor)</p>

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP8 Glen Afton (2.3 km) Figure 6.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within incised valley with existing HH, HHE, Windy Standard 1, Afton and Sanquhar II (under construction) turbines visible on the high horizons across and up the glen. Within SLA, but relatively few viewers Medium susceptibility to additional wind energy development on the valley. Within an SLA, medium sensitivity overall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small turbines to north-east replaced by three large turbines and one blade tip (T9). HHE is not visible from this location, so no contrasts would occur. Larger scale turbines seen over small valley, in third direction (north as well as to south-west to Afton and Windy Standard 1, and south-east to Sanquhar II). Overall magnitude of change judged to be medium. <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no consented windfarms visible. No change from previous scenario: Low magnitude of change <p>Significant (moderate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two additional rotors of HHR2 would be visible. Low magnitude of change from previous scenario. <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One blade tip of Euchanhead would be seen beyond Sanquhar II up valley to south-east. Two additional rotors of HHR2 would not alter presence of turbines around valley Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small turbines to the north-east of the valley would be replaced by three large turbines and three blade tips. Larger scale over small valley, in third view direction. Turbines would not be new features, but magnitude of change considered to be medium overall. <p>Significant (moderate)</p>
VP9 Kelloholm Cemetery (6.4 km) Figure 6.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located at the cemetery. View is a panorama over Kelloholm, although most views are more screened than this Views north east across valley include two Sunnyside turbines. Southwards up slopes to Sanquhar and Sanquhar II, with Whiteside Hill further south east. Sandy Knowe is westwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would replace some of the smaller turbines beyond Sandy Knowe with fewer large turbines. Two turbines would be seen between Sandy Knowe and Sanquhar HHR1 turbines would appear to be amongst those of Sandy Knowe and would not alter the relationship between HHE and Sandy Knowe turbines in front of it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Knowe Extension would be additional turbines amongst and north-west of Sandy Knowe. Lethans and its Extension would be on the north side of the valley The relationship of HHR1 with Sandy Knowe and HHE would remain as for the previous scenario <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would be additional large turbines beyond Sandy Knowe The removal of HHE would bring all turbines on the hill slopes to the south-west to a similar scale and create a simpler visual image Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowancraig, Herds Hill and Cloud Hill would be south of the viewpoint extending windfarms towards the viewpoint, and across the hill slopes south of the valley Similar change resulting from HHR2 compared to the previous scenario <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Development would replace HH and HHE with fewer larger turbines, beyond Sandy Knowe and Sanquhar Larger turbines would reduce contrasts in turbine size that exist with Sandy Knowe, and create a simpler visual image, and reducing the apparent depth of the turbine array

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
	with small turbines of HH and HHE beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium sensitivity due to location within settlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low magnitude of change to the view overall given the presence of Sandy Knowe <p>Not significant (minor)</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low magnitude of change to the view overall given the closer Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar and Sanquhar II Windfarms <p>Not significant (minor)</p>
VP10 SUW Benbrack (8.6 km) Figure 6.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panoramic views from summit, with multiple wind farms visible on the Southern Uplands • Wether Hill 3km south of the viewpoint. Windy Rig is approximately 6km west of the viewpoint • Northwards, Sanquhar II is closest to the viewpoint, approximately 5 km away and extending from north-west to north east. Whiteside and Sanquhar Windfarms are at a similar distance from the viewpoint compared to Afton, Pencloe, and the Windy Standard group. HH and HHE are further away • Medium sensitivity due to location on summit as part of a long distance route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHR1 would introduce a group of 15 turbines around the retained HHE turbines, beyond Sanquhar II. HHR1 would appear to be in front of HHE turbines, contrasts in scale would be read as perspective and relative distance • HHR1 would increase the prominence of windfarms on the horizon, but would not alter the character of the wider panorama of hills with windfarms • Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manquhill Hill, and Cornharrow Variation would be nearby to the south, with Shepherd's Rig further west • Introduction of HHR1 would be additional wind turbines beyond Sanquhar II, with not change from previous scenario: Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HHR2 would be turbines of a similar size and location to HHR1, also beyond the turbines of Sanquhar II • Smaller turbines of HHE would be removed • Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appin and Lorg would be closer to the viewpoint than Sanquhar II, at approximately 3.5km away • Introduction of HHR2 beyond several windfarms would be a low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Development would replace small and distant windfarms with a group of larger turbines that are and appear to be closer. These, however would be seen further from the viewpoint than existing windfarms including Sanquhar II • Overall low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP11 SUW Whing Head (7.3 km) Figure 6.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panoramic views from a ridge, views of multiple wind farms on surrounding hills Whiteside Hill and Sanquhar II are the closest windfarms at approximately 2.5 km away. Twentyshilling Hill is approximately 3.5km south east of the viewpoint, Sanquhar is approximately 5km away north of Whiteside. Other existing windfarms are mostly to the west and south-west of the viewpoint HH and HHE, are beyond Whiteside and Sanquhar Medium sensitivity due to location on the SUW long distance route 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would introduce turbines beyond Whiteside, Sanquhar II, and Sanquhar, but in front of the retained HHE turbines. They would appear to be of a similar scale to those closer to the viewpoint, but larger than HHE HHR1 would appear to be between Sanquhar and HHE turbines in terms of distance from the viewer, with contrasts in scale would be read as perspective and relative distance Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manquhill Hill, and Cornharrow Variation would be beyond Sanquhar II to the south, and Lethans and its Extension would be beyond Nithsdale north-westwards Introduction of HHR1 would be additional wind turbines beyond Whiteside, Sanquhar and Sanquhar II Smaller turbines on Hare Hill would be reduced in number (with HHE retained) Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would be turbines of a similar size and location to HHR1 Smaller turbines of HHE would be removed Low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cloud Hill would be closest to the viewpoint at approximately 1.5km, with Rowancraig and Herds Hill beyond Introduction of HHR2 beyond these windfarms, would be a low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Development would replace small and distant windfarms with a group of larger turbines that are and appear to be closer. These, however would be seen further from the viewpoint than existing windfarms Overall low magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>
VP12 SUW below Conrig Hill (14.7 km) Figure 6.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panoramic view across Nithsdale from the northern slopes, on the SUW above Brandleys Cottage, but below the pass by Conrig Hill Nithsdale has windfarms on the southern slopes and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would be of larger turbines than Sandy Knowe, and on the hilltop extending from Sanquhar II, yet adjacent to small HHE turbines The juxtaposition of different turbine sizes would be noticeable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenmuckloch and Lethans, and Lethans Extension would be located on the north side of Nithsdale, west of the viewpoint. Sandy Knowe extension turbines would be amongst those of Sandy Knowe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would replace the small turbines of HHE with turbines of a size more in keeping with HHR1 and Sanquhar II This would simplify the image of multiple turbine sizes on the hills to the south of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowancraig, Herds Hill and Cloud Hill would be to the south in front of Sanquhar and Whiteside In this situation, there would be a similar resolution of contrasts in turbine size around Hare Hill, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 and HHR2 would be seen beyond Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar II and Sanquhar, as fewer larger turbines over the hilltop than at present Existing contrasts in turbine size would be altered with larger

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
	<p>hills to the south. Twenty Shilling Hill and Whiteside are closest to the south. Sanquhar II and Sanquhar are further west, with Sandy Knowe on lower slopes. HH and HHE are seen as small turbines on the hilltop beyond Sandy Knowe. North Kyle is visible in the distance to the west</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low susceptibility to additional windfarms on the hills to the south-west beyond the valley. Medium sensitivity due to location on the SUW. 	<p>from this elevated location and would be difficult to resolve by perspective. T9 would be seen as one large turbine amongst the smaller HHE turbines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the change to HHR1 would not alter the character of the view (replacing turbines amongst turbines), it would increase the contrasts in turbine size and create a degree of imbalance in the array of windfarms to the south-west Given the distance to the Site, and the presence of multiple groups of turbines in the wider panorama, the magnitude of change is judged to be low overall <p>Not significant (minor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With more turbines present, the role of HHR1 would be diminished. Magnitude of change would be reduced, but would remain low <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<p>valley as they would all be of a similar scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low but beneficial magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect.</p>	<p>but a smaller overall magnitude of change as a result of HHR2 amongst more windfarms</p> <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect</p>	<p>turbines on the higher hills beyond Sandy Knowe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines would form a more continuous array with a smaller gap between turbines than there is between Sanquhar and HHE. Spacing of turbines over Hare Hill would be wider Although more turbines would be larger, the combined array would have reduced contrasts in turbine sizes compared with the present Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be low <p>Not significant (minor)</p>
VP13 Lowther Hill (21.2 km) Figure 6.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panoramic views across the Southern Uplands with multiple windfarms visible and in all directions. To the west beyond Nithsdale multiple windfarms include HH and HHE as small 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would be of two groups of turbines, the northern group above Sandy Knowe, the southern group beyond Sanquhar. T9 would be one large turbine amongst small HHE turbines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Knowe Extension turbines would be amongst those of Sandy Knowe Lethans, its Extension and the Kennoxhead group would be located on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would replace the small turbines of HHE with fewer turbines of size and spacing more in keeping with HHR1, Sanquhar II, and Sandy Knowe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowancraig, Herds Hill and Cloud Hill would be to the south in front of Sanquhar and Whiteside. Euchanhead, Lorg and Appin would increase the number of turbines on the hills to the east. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 and HHR2 would be seen beyond Sandy Knowe, Sanquhar and Sanquhar II, as fewer larger turbines over the hilltop than the existing HH and HHE

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
	<p>turbines beyond Sandy Knowe and Sanquhar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low susceptibility to additional windfarms on the wider hills. <p>Medium sensitivity due to location on the SUW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The juxtaposition of different turbine sizes would be legible from this elevated location, with contrasts between adjacent turbine groups Whilst the change to HHR1 would not alter the character of the view (replacing turbines amongst turbines), it would increase the contrasts in turbine sizes between windfarms to the south-west. Given the distance to the Site, and the presence of multiple groups of turbines in the wider panorama, the magnitude of change is judged to be low overall <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<p>the north side of Nithsdale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With more turbines present, the role of HHR1 would be diminished, but would still draw attention to the small size of HHE. Windy Standard 1 Repower would also replace smaller with larger turbines in the distance Magnitude of change would remain low overall <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would simplify the image of multiple windfarms in this direction as they would all be of a similar scale Low but beneficial magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would be a similar resolution of contrasts in turbine size around Hare Hill to the previous scenario, but a smaller overall magnitude of change as a result of HHR2 amongst more windfarms <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing contrasts in turbine size would be altered with larger turbines over Hare Hill more in keeping with other windfarms Turbines would form a more continuous array. Spacing would be wider than for HH and HHE Although more turbines would be larger, the combined array would have reduced contrasts in turbine sizes compared with the present Overall, the magnitude of change is judged to be low <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>
VP14 Blackcraig Hill (1.2 km) Figure 6.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the cairn on Blackcraig Hill at approximately 720m AOD. Medium sensitivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Significant (moderate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Significant (moderate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (minor) positive effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (minor) positive effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Significant (moderate)
VP15 Cairn Table (14.4 km) Figure 6.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the trig point on Cairn Table at 593m AOD Medium sensitivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (negligible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (negligible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (negligible) positive effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (negligible) positive effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Chapter 6: Not significant (negligible)

Viewpoint	Existing view and sensitivity	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1+ consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP16 Limmerhaugh Muir (17.1 km) Figure 6.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from north side of River Ayr valley with a panorama over low-lying, settled landscape to distant hills with windfarms HH and HHE are seen on the horizon between Sanquhar Windfarm and Afton and Pencloe Windfarms. Sanquhar II turbines are under construction behind HH and HHE Noth Kyle is approximately 13km away to the south west Within an SLA, medium sensitivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR1 would introduce fewer larger turbines on the horizon, in two groups with smaller turbines of HHE remaining low on the horizon between HHR1 turbines would be similar to Sanquhar II turbines, but larger and appear closer than turbines of Sanquhar, Afton or Pencloe Given the distance and presence of other windfarms in the view, magnitude of change to the panorama is judged to be low <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lethans, its Extension and Kennoxhead Extension 2 would be to the south-east, Greenburn would be to the south west closer to the viewpoint than North Kyle. Sanquhar II would be large turbines between Afton and HHE and beyond Sanquhar HHR1 would introduce turbines to a similar situation as the previous scenario. With an increase in windfarms in the landscape the magnitude of change would be reduced slightly but would remain low <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HHR2 would introduce a small number of additional turbines within the array of HHR1 and Sanquhar II, and of a similar size The gap between groups of HHR1 turbines would not occur, nor would contrasts in turbine sizes Low but beneficial magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible) positive effect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drum Windfarm would be close to the viewpoint to the south-east (approximately 5km away) Greenburn and Overhill variations would increase turbine sizes around North Kyle, and several additional windfarms would create a denser array of turbines on the distant hills to the south HHR2 would introduce a few additional turbines and resolve contrasts as per the previous scenario, but in the context of more turbines in the wider landscape Low but beneficial magnitude of change <p>Not significant (negligible) positive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Development would introduce fewer larger turbines on the horizon south of the viewpoint, in front of Sanuqhar II and between Sanquhar and Afton-Pencloe The irregular array and size contrasts during Phase 1 would not occur Distance and the presence of other windfarms mean that magnitude of change would be low <p>Not significant (negligible)</p>
VP17 Cairnsmore of Carsphairn (10.0 km) Figure 6.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With intervening existing windfarms, significant effects are unlikely, not assessed 					

Summary of Findings

1.6 **Table 3** below sets out the findings of the assessment of visual effects from viewpoints. It identifies significant effects, and where positive effects have been identified. Where judgements are not listed, they are not found to be significant (see assessments above). Changes found to be positive relative to the scenario before are noted.

Table 3: Summary of Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint	Phase 1 + existing	Phase 1 + consented	Phase 2 + consented	Phase 2 + in-planning	Full Proposed Development + existing
VP1 Auchinleck	-	-	-	-	-
VP2 Glaisnock Road	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	-	-	Significant (moderate)
VP3 A76 New Cumnock	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	-	-	Significant (moderate)
VP4 Merkland	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	positive	positive	Significant (moderate)
VP5 A76 Kirkconnel	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP6 Crawick Multiverse Park	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP7 B741 Knockburnie	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP8 Glen Afton	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	-	-	Significant (moderate)
VP9 Kelloholm	-	-	-	-	-
VP10 SUW Benbrack	-	-	-	-	-
VP11 SUW Whing Head	-	-	-	-	-
VP12 SUW below Conrig Hill	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP13 Lowther Hill	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP14 Blackcraig Hill	Significant (moderate)	Significant (moderate)	positive	positive	Significant (moderate)
VP15 Cairn Table	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP16 Limmerhaugh Muir	-	-	positive	positive	-
VP17 Cairnsmore of Carsphairn	-	-	-	-	-