



Appendix 5.5

Wild Land Assessment

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5 Wild Land Assessment

5.1 Introduction

1. The purpose of this appendix is to provide an assessment of the potential effects of Carrick Windfarm (the Proposed Development) on the attributes of the Merrick Wild Land Area (WLA).
2. The Site Boundary of the Proposed Development lies approximately 3 kilometres (km) to the north west of the Merrick WLA, and the nearest proposed wind turbine would be 3.6 kilometres (km) to the north west. Through consultation, NatureScot¹ requested that a Wild Land Assessment should be undertaken particularly with reference to impacts on wind turbine aviation lighting upon the special qualities of the WLA and recreational receptors. This appendix responds to this request in accordance with NatureScot's Wild Land Assessment (2020) guidance.
3. On the basis of the potential for significant effects from wind turbine aviation lighting identified during the design and preliminary assessment stages, the Applicant has set out in **Appendix 13.4 Indicative Aviation Lighting Landscape and Visual Impact Mitigation Plan** that the Proposed Development would not be operational without a regional solution to an aircraft detection lighting system being in place. This would mean the lights would only be switched on when an aircraft transits the Site. Given the lights are only required for aircraft flying at night in the vicinity of the Site at altitudes of up to 3000ft above mean sea level, it is anticipated that the lights would be rarely on in this quiet airspace. When they are on, as presented in **Appendix 13.4**, the aviation lights would only be on for approximately 1.5 to 3 minutes, resulting in the aviation lights having short duration visual effects of limited frequency. With this mitigation in place it would remove all significant effects on landscape and visual receptors associated with aviation lighting. Therefore no assessment of turbine aviation lighting effects on the special qualities of the Merrick WLA is necessary.

5.2 Policy and Guidance

4. WLAs describe "Scotland's more natural, remote and uninhabited landscapes whose strength and extent of wildness is considered to be of national importance" (NatureScot, Sept 2020). They are not a statutory designation but are considered a nationally important asset as set out in the National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and should be afforded protection. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) include WLAs in 'Group 2: Areas of significant protection' of their spatial framework advice (SPP, page 39) which requires that any development on wild land must "demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation."
5. Supporting the planning policy, NatureScot have undertaken detailed analysis of Scotland and identified 42 WLAs and provided maps and descriptions of each. Their rationale for allocation of WLA is based on four physical attributes: perceived naturalness of the land cover; ruggedness of terrain; remoteness from public roads, ferries or railway stations; and visible lack of buildings, roads, pylons and other modern artefacts.
6. NatureScot have recently published their final version of technical guidance on 'Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas' (September 2020) which updates the 2017 consultation version. This guidance provides a methodology and general principles based on the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, 2013, Landscape Institute and IEMA (GLVIA3). NatureScot's guidance suggests that a Wild Land Assessment should be undertaken as supplementary to an LVIA, building on the LVIA approach but should not duplicate material that is already captured through the LVIA.

¹ Formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

5.3 Consultation

7. NatureScot identify in their 2020 guidance that "the guidance should only be applied to proposals whose nature, siting, scale or design are likely to result in a significant effect on the qualities of the WLA" (para 5) and advise that "An assessment will only be required where it has been deemed necessary by the competent authority." (para 6).
8. NatureScot's response to the Scoping Opinion and also previous earlier consultation, stated that they felt the potential for significant effects on the Merrick WLA should be assessed with reference to their technical guidance.
9. In response, a detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the Proposed Development's potential visibility within the WLA was issued to NatureScot on 3 June 2020, accompanied by wirelines of the Scoping wind turbine layout from Shalloch on Minnoch and Merrick summit, to confirm that a WLA would be undertaken and that it would focus on the northern part of the WLA and how the views from the summits may affect the perception of the WLA, and consider how this effects the qualities and characteristics of the WLA as a whole.

5.4 Approach

10. The approach to WLA assessment in accordance with NatureScot's 2020 guidance follows a five step process, similar to standard LVIA methodology set out in GLVIA3:
 - define the Study Area and scope of assessment;
 - verify the WLA baseline;
 - assess the sensitivity of the qualities;
 - assess the magnitude of the effects; and
 - judgement of significance of effect.
11. This process has been followed and is presented in the subsequent sections.

5.4.1 Study Area

12. A ZTV (**Figure 5.5.1 Wild Land Assessment ZTV**) had been produced clearly showing the potential visibility within the WLA. The ZTV illustrates that visibility is mainly from the very northern end of the WLA, north of Shalloch of Minnoch. Existing forestry not included on the ZTV may reduce the visibility in this area to some degree. Visibility elsewhere within the WLA is limited to the higher ridgelines and hilltops (including the 'destination summits' of Merrick and Shalloch of Minnoch). There would be very limited visibility from the southern section, south east of Merrick. Within the ZTV, the number of visible wind turbines reduces considerably in areas to the south of Shalloch of Minnoch, where between five and eight wind turbines would be visible, except for the highest points around Mullwharchar in the east where up to 13 wind turbines would be visible.
13. It is therefore considered appropriate to focus the Study Area on the northern end of the WLA but acknowledging the contribution that this area has to the WLA as a whole.

5.4.2 Scope

14. The specific qualities relating to the Merrick WLA will form the starting point of the assessment. Wild land qualities are defined by NatureScot as encompassing both physical attributes and perceptual responses but noting that development outside the WLAs may only impact upon perceptual aspects. The qualities likely to be affected by the Proposed Development – a windfarm 3.6km from the WLA, therefore relate only to the perceptual aspects rather

than physical attributes. In general, this is likely to include the following attributes that apply to all WLAs as set out by NatureScot in paragraph 11 of their guidance:

- a sense of sanctuary or solitude;
- risk or, for some visitors, a sense of awe or anxiety; and
- perceptions that the landscape has arresting or inspiring qualities.

15. These attributes are considered by NatureScot more specifically in relation to each WLA and are presented in **Section 5.5** below.

16. Cumulative effects will also be considered, with reference to the main LVIA Cumulative Assessment in **Chapter 5: LVIA** of the EIAR.

5.5 Baseline

17. Merrick WLA is 82 km² in area and described by NatureScot as consisting of “a range of steep hills, including Merrick (a Corbett) which at 843m is the highest mainland hill in the south of Scotland. Together with several other hills over 600m in height, it forms a ridge with spurs between the tops of Shalloch on Minnoch (another Corbett) and Benyellary, collectively known as ‘The Range of the Awful Hand’. To the east of this, the rocky Dungeon Hills form a slightly lower ridge to the south of the more rounded hill of Mullwharchar. The hills are predominantly open, rolling moorland, but contain some exposed and craggy peaks. These ridges enclose a central swathe of lower-lying, undulating ground containing several natural lochs, forming a corridor that rises over 400m from Loch Trool to Loch Enoch and providing some rugged and sometimes boggy walking. The entire WLA lies within Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) ownership and is surrounded on all sides by extensive forest plantations, predominantly of Sitka spruce.”

18. The key attributes of the Merrick WLA are described as the following:

- a relatively small WLA but with a strong perception of naturalness, few human artefacts and little contemporary land use;
- a WLA that contrasts with the adjacent Forest Park, especially in terms of human activity;
- human elements are widely visible from the tops and outermost slopes but lower-lying areas have a much stronger sense of remoteness; and
- a rugged landscape that provides a surprisingly high degree of physical challenge.

19. These are further discussed in the **Section 5.6** below.

5.6 Assessment

5.6.1 Sensitivity

20. The sensitivity of each of the four attributes identified in **Section 5.5** are considered below. Sensitivity takes into account both the value of the attribute and their susceptibility to the type of development proposed into account. A detailed methodology is set out in **Appendix 5.1 LVIA Methodology**.

21. The WLA is nationally recognised as having a wild character, and it also falls within local landscape designations in South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. It includes the central part of the Galloway Forest Park and Galloway Dark Skies Park Core Area. It is valued for its wild characteristics, and sculptural and rugged landform which contrast against the more active forestry, recreational and commercial pursuits. The overall value is considered as High-Medium.

22. The susceptibility of each attribute to the type of development proposed is considered in more detail below and takes into consideration that the Proposed Development is a windfarm that lies outside the WLA.

- **A relatively small WLA but with a strong perception of naturalness, few human artefacts and little contemporary land use.**

23. This attribute identifies that there is a strong sense of naturalness across much of the WLA, particularly within the interior where the influence of commercial forestry plantations is less. ‘Sanctuary and solitude’ are also described as being a characteristic of these lower lying interior areas that contrast against the rocky uplands. The WLA description also highlights that isolated conifer blocks across the WLA contrast with the “sense of naturalness” and diminish “the arresting qualities of the backdrop of rugged hills”.

24. The susceptibility of this attribute to the Proposed Development would relate to the potential to impact upon the ‘sense of naturalness’ across the WLA through visibility of wind turbines as well as where they may be seen to affect the perception of the “arresting qualities of the backdrop of rugged hills”. It is considered that this attribute has a High-Medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development.

- **A WLA that contrasts with the adjacent Forest Park, especially in terms of human activity.**

25. The WLA description of this attribute notes that in contrast to the recreational destination of the Forest Park, the WLA is “much more lightly used, with little obvious recreational provision providing a relatively strong sense of remoteness and solitude.” The recreational use of the surrounding areas is mostly screened from within the WLA, but the description acknowledges the localised impacts of the main walking route to Merrick. It also references the contrast between the forestry plantations that surround the WLA and how these highlight the “inspiring qualities of the rugged mountain backdrop”.

26. The susceptibility of this attribute to the Proposed Development would relate to the potential for it to affect the distinct visual relationship between the forestry plantations that surround the WLA and the open moorland of the WLA. It is considered that this attribute has a Medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development.

- **Human elements are widely visible from the tops and outermost slopes but lower-lying areas have a much stronger sense of remoteness.**

27. This attribute identifies that forestry and operational windfarms are the main human artefacts evident in views from the WLA. It notes that the contrast of the large scale forestry surrounding the moorland hills of the WLA provides a clear visual limit of the WLA extents. It continues to state “operational wind farms can also be seen from the Merrick and other tops. Although most of these are too distant to impose noticeably upon the wild land qualities, they appear as obvious human artefacts and some to the west are sufficiently close or extensive to be clearly visible, so reducing the sense of sanctuary.” The WLA description identifies that the “central swathe of lower-lying moorland and lochs” is enclosed by the surrounding hills of the WLA so that there is very limited visibility of human elements beyond, and that consequently there is a “strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary” within this interior area.

28. Windfarms are an existing feature of views from the WLA. The susceptibility of this attribute to the Proposed Development would relate to where they would have potential to impact on the sense of sanctuary, particularly within the interior area, and considering cumulative effects. The susceptibility of this attribute to the Proposed Development is considered High.

- **A rugged landscape that provides a surprisingly high degree of physical challenge.**

29. This attribute is least relevant to development that is outwith the WLA, but it alludes to the “strong sense of remoteness and sanctuary” that is perceived from the physical challenge of walking within the WLA where there are few formal paths and access from public roads is distant.

30. The susceptibility of this attribute to the Proposed Development would relate to any visibility of the windfarm that would affect the ‘remoteness and sanctuary’ that is perceived from the physical challenge of walking within the

WLA, noting the physical challenge is the key aspect of this attribute. It is considered that this attribute has a Low susceptibility to the Proposed Development.

5.6.2 Magnitude of Change

5.6.2.1 ZTV Analysis

31. The wind turbines of the Proposed Development lie 3.6km at its closest point to the WLA. The ZTV (**Figure 5.5.1 Wild Land Assessment ZTV**) illustrates that the largest area of continuous visibility would be within approximately 6km of the proposed wind turbines. Within this area, it would include Shalloch (545m (above ordnance datum (AOD)) at the western edge, Cairnadoch (475m AOD) and Cornish Hill (467m AOD) at the northern point of the WLA, across to the edge of Sheil Hill (505m AOD) in the east. There would be a large area of no visibility within this northern extent relating to the valley area including Cornish Loch and to the south of it. At approximately 6km from the proposed wind turbines, the land rises to an unnamed hill at 659m AOD which screens views directly south of it until the land rises again at Shalloch on Minnoch (768m AOD), approximately 8km from the proposed wind turbines. The rocky ridgeline to the east of the summit of Shalloch on Minnoch screens any views of the Proposed Development to the east within the WLA, The summit and north west and west upper slopes of Shalloch on Minnoch would have visibility of the Proposed Development but would substantially screen any large areas of visibility further south within the WLA.
 32. Within the wider WLA, the ZTV illustrates that visibility would be along the highest ridgelines and summits. The next closest area of visibility within the WLA would be along a ridgeline west of Tarfessock (697m AOD), and a small area around Macaterick (499m AOD) in the east, both approximately 9.5km from the proposed wind turbines. Approximately 11km south of the proposed wind turbines, there would be a linear area of visibility along the ridgeline west of Kirriereoch Hill (786m AOD) that demarks the border between South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. The ZTV shows that up to eight wind turbines would be visible here, reducing to four or less off the ridgeline. A couple of kilometres further south, there would be visibility from the summit of Merrick and along the ridgeline to the west. Again, this would only be up to eight wind turbines visible, reducing to four or less off the ridgeline. There would also be visibility from Benyellary summit and surroundings which lies close to the western boundary of the WLA, approximately 13.5km from the proposed wind turbines. In the east, there is an area of visibility at Mullwharchar (692m AOD), approximately 13km from the proposed wind turbines, and the higher land to its north, and a smaller linear area of visibility between Hoodens Hill (568m AOD) and edge of The Wolf Slock.
 33. The ZTV indicates visibility of four or less wind turbines across patches east and south east of Kirriereoch Hill, beyond approximately 10km from the proposed wind turbines. Reviewing the ZTV in **Figures 5.1a-b Blade Tip and Hub Height ZTVs** this shows that these areas would be blade visibility only, and unlikely to be discernible at this distance given so few wind turbines would be visible. Taking this into account, there would essentially be no visibility south of the line between Benyellary to the west, Merrick in the centre, and Mullwharchar in the east, approximately 14km from the proposed wind turbines.
- ### 5.6.2.2 Viewpoint Analysis
34. Wirelines and photomontages from Shalloch on Minnoch and Merrick have been produced as part of the **Chapter 5: LVIA** of the EIAR to illustrate the potential visibility of the Proposed Development from these locations. Illustrative cumulative wirelines from the summit of Benyellary are presented in **Figure 5.5.2 Benyellary Illustrative Wirelines and Photo-panorama**. Illustrative wirelines from Mullwharchar, Caignaw, Loch Girvan Eye and Craigasheenie (**Figures 5.5.3-5.5.7**) have also been produced to accompany this appendix.
 35. Viewpoint 5 (**Figure 5.21 Viewpoint 5 – Shalloch on Minnoch**) illustrates the view from Shalloch on Minnoch that lies 6.7km from the proposed wind turbines. A medium-low scale of effect was assessed within **Appendix 5.3 Viewpoint Assessment**. The proposed visible wind turbines would be within a relatively wide extent of the view to the north which is characterised by commercial forestry and wind turbines, and the more settled and active coastal landscapes beyond. It would bring wind turbines closer to the viewpoint than currently exists but would be set back from the immediate upland foreground. The Proposed Development would only be within a small proportion of the overall panoramic views, not affecting the views of the more wild and remote land to the south. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would sit behind the eastern extent of the Proposed Development, appearing as part of the same development. It would increase the density of wind turbines visible within a relatively narrow portion of the view. The in-scoping Knockodhar Windfarm would be behind Clauchrie Windfarm but on lower topography and at 13.3km from the viewpoint would not be particularly noticeable.
 36. Viewpoint 15 (**Figure 5.31 Viewpoint 15 – Merrick**) illustrates the view from Merrick that lies 12.6km from the proposed wind turbines. A low scale of effect was assessed within **Appendix 5.3 Viewpoint Assessment**. This judgment was based on the minimal number of wind turbines potentially visible (4no.) due to the screening by the intervening rugged upland summits including Shalloch on Minnoch, and that they would be seen within a very small proportion of the overall view.
 37. Illustrative wirelines from other locations within the WLA where there would be potential visibility have been produced to accompany this appendix. This includes Benyellary in the south west, Mullwharchar in the east, Caignaw within the south, and Loch Girvan Eye and Craigasheenie in the north east.
 38. The wirelines from Benyellary (719m AOD) (**Figure 5.5.2 Benyellary Illustrative Wirelines and Photo-panorama**) illustrate that the Proposed Development would be at closest 9.95km from the viewpoint, partially hidden by the foreground and distant uplands to the north so that only 6no. wind turbines would be visible. They would be seen in a part of the view between the foothills to the north west and the north where there is limited visibility of any other operational windfarms. To the west of Benyellary, the numerous operational, consented and application windfarms including Arecleoch, Kilgallioch and Chirmorie lie as a large cluster of wind turbines on the plateau moorland with forestry, appearing distant and separate to the foreground rugged landscape. To the north west, the operational Mark Hill Windfarm lies slightly separately, but distant. Slightly further north of Mark Hill, the application Clauchrie Windfarm would be close to the viewpoint and prominent. The proposed Craiginmoddie Windfarm would lie directly west of the Proposed Development and fill the gap between the notable foothills north of Clauchrie Windfarm and the edge of the rugged uplands to the north. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would not be visible from Benyellary due to the screening from intervening landform.
 39. Wirelines from Mullwharchar (692m AOD) (**Figure 5.5.3 Mullwharchar Illustrative Wireline**) illustrate that the Proposed Development would be visible in the same portion of the view as Dersalloch Windfarm and 12 of the 13 wind turbines would be visible, 13km at closest. They would appear generally contained within the interior of the foothills, separately to the Water of Girvan Valley to the east, and the large mass of Shalloch on Minnoch would contain them to the south and south east. They would be noticeable features, but the containment by the landform, distance and in addition potential screening by forestry at the Site would limit significant effects occurring. Craiginmoddie Windfarm would not be visible from this viewpoint. A number of operational, consented and application windfarms lie to the north east of the viewpoint but appear distant and separate to the Proposed Development. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would sit behind and within the eastern extents of the Proposed Development, partially obscured by intervening landform, but appearing as one development.
 40. A view from the small areas of visibility shown within the southern part of the WLA has been included. This is a local high point at Caignaw (645m AOD) (**Figure 5.5.4 Caignaw Illustrative Wireline**), approximately 16km from the nearest proposed wind turbine. The wireline shows that two wind turbines would be visible and the blades of a further four, set back behind the foothills and edge of Shalloch on Minnoch. They would be separate to the rugged uplands that lie across the foreground of the view and appear associated with the foothills to the north. There would be other windfarms potentially visible to the north east including the consented Over Hill Windfarm and application North Kyle Windfarm. It is not considered that significant effects would occur from the Proposed Development at this viewpoint. Six of the hubs and blades of the in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would be visible between the Proposed Development's wind turbines, increasing the number of wind turbines potentially visible within this small portion of the view.
 41. Wirelines of the potential views of the Proposed Development from the north eastern edge of the WLA, south of Cornish Loch, at Loch Girvan Eye and Craigasheenie are illustrated in **Figures 5.5.5-5.5.7**. Loch Girvan Eye sits at approximately 475m AOD to the south west of Craigasheenie, the summit of which is at 539m AOD. To the north west of Loch Girvan Eye, the landform is a gentle upland valley along the water course between Loch Girvan Eye and Cornish Loch. This allows views out to the north, including the commercial forestry plantations which cover much of the foothills in this direction. This therefore also allows a framed view of the Proposed Development. The proposed wind turbines would be prominent at this distance (5.6km at closest) in the skyline, with a backdrop of the more distant hills to the north. The wind turbine blades of the application Craiginmoddie Windfarm would be visible

to the north west, and the in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would be partially visible to the north behind the Proposed Development.

42. From the slightly higher western slopes of Craigasheenie and its summit, the elevation provides distant open views across the landscape to the north west, north and north east. This includes the existing Hadyard Hill and Dersaloch Windfarms. The Proposed Development will be a prominent feature in the views to the north. In combination with the application Craiginmoddie Windfarm, wind turbines would become a defining feature of the views in this direction. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm would lie behind the eastern extents of the Proposed Development, intensifying the presence of wind turbines within this section of the view, appearing as part of the same development.

5.6.2.3 Attribute assessment

43. Taking into account the viewpoint assessment, and consideration of the limited extent of visibility, the following assessment in **Table 5.5.1** has been undertaken on the effects on the four relevant attributes of the WLA including cumulative assessment.

Attribute	Sensitivity	Assessment
1. <i>A relatively small WLA but with a strong perception of naturalness, few human artefacts and little contemporary land use</i>	High-Medium	<p>The Proposed Development would be visible in close proximity to the northern end of the WLA (within 3km of the northern boundary, 6km from the nearest proposed wind turbine), where it would increase the influence of wind turbines in the views of the forested foothills and have an effect on the perceived naturalness of this area. There is a clear separation between the rugged uplands of the WLA and where the Proposed Development lies denoted by the commercial forestry, lower landform and features such as the local roads, properties and pylons with overhead line. These existing influences from human artefacts and activity make the northern end of the WLA less sensitive than elsewhere within the WLA. Views from this northern end also include the coastal and inland settlements to the north and north west.</p> <p>Elsewhere within the WLA, the Proposed Development would be visible from locations which are the most elevated and would have panoramic and far reaching views including forestry and existing windfarms. It would not add additional areas of visibility within the WLA except in the north. There would be no visibility from the low-lying interior areas which have the greatest sense of 'sanctuary and solitude'.</p> <p>The scale of effect on this attribute of the WLA is considered to be High-Medium over a wide (high) extent of the northern end within 6km of the proposed wind turbines.</p> <p>Considering the WLA as a whole, the effects within the northern part of the WLA would occupy approximately 7% of the overall WLA, and areas of visibility elsewhere would be very limited, distant and within the context of existing windfarms within panoramic views. The windfarm would not affect the sanctuary and solitude of the interior areas and would not affect the 'arresting qualities' of the backdrop of the rugged hills.</p> <p>The scale of effect on this attribute of the WLA as a whole would be Low over a localised (low) extent.</p>

Attribute	Sensitivity	Assessment
		<p>Considering cumulative effects, the application Clauchrie and Craiginmoddie Windfarms would have most potential to create significant effects with the Proposed Development on this attribute of the WLA. Clauchrie Windfarm is closer to the western side of the WLA and has a wider extent of potential visibility along this side. It would not generally be visible from the northern end where the Proposed Development would be most visible. Potential cumulative effects would largely relate to the combined and sequential visibility from the summits and ridgelines to the south. Craiginmoddie Windfarm would be visible in similar locations to the Proposed Development with slightly less influence to the east.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development and Craiginmoddie Windfarm to Clauchrie Windfarm would extend the presence of large scale wind turbines in close proximity to the north of the WLA, so that there would be sequential and successive cumulative effects on the perceptual qualities of the north and western aspects of the WLA. They would have no influence on the secluded interior of the WLA.</p> <p>The scale of cumulative effect on this attribute would be Medium-Low across a localised (low) extent of the WLA as a whole.</p> <p>The in-scoping Knockodhar Windfarm lies close to Clauchrie Windfarm, but further from the WLA and on lower topography. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm lies directly north of the Proposed Development and slightly further from the WLA. Both in-scoping windfarms would increase the density of visible wind turbines within their respective locations in combination with the application windfarms and the Proposed Development. They do not notably increase the horizontal extent of visible wind turbines from the WLA or bring any wind turbines closer to the WLA. Taking this into account, it is not considered that cumulative effects on this attribute would increase from that assessed above with the application windfarms.</p>
2. <i>A WLA that contrasts with the adjacent Forest Park, especially in terms of human activity.</i>	High	<p>The Proposed Development would clearly lie within the commercial forestry area that lies adjacent to the WLA and would not straddle or extend into the WLA. It would retain development within an area that is characterised by existing forestry and windfarms and would only have a visual influence on a small area of the WLA, whilst clearly associated within the forested foothills. It is considered that it would not affect the distinct visual relationship between the forestry plantations that surround the WLA and the open moorland of the WLA, and the "inspiring qualities of the rugged mountain backdrop" would be retained. It is considered that the scale of effect on this attribute would be Negligible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development in combination with Craiginmoddie or other application and in-scoping windfarms would not change the effects assessed above.</p>
3. <i>Human elements are widely visible from the tops and outermost slopes but lower-</i>	Medium	<p>The remoteness and sanctuary of the lower-lying interior areas of the WLA would not be affected by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would only be visible from locations where other human elements are seen, including operational windfarms. It would introduce large scale wind turbines closer to the northern</p>

Attribute	Sensitivity	Assessment
<i>lying areas have a much stronger sense of remoteness.</i>		<p>extents of the WLA than existing, which would have potential to reduce the 'sense of sanctuary' in this area. As discussed in the first attribute above, the sense of sanctuary in this northern aspect is arguably less than elsewhere in the WLA due to the proximity to existing human artefacts and activity.</p> <p>The scale of effect on this attribute of the WLA is considered to be Medium over a wide (high) extent of the northern end within 6km of the proposed wind turbines.</p> <p>Considering the WLA as a whole, the effects within the northern part of the WLA would occupy approximately 7% of the overall WLA area, and areas of visibility elsewhere would be very limited, distant and within the context of existing windfarms within panoramic views. The windfarm would not affect the sanctuary and remoteness of the interior areas.</p> <p>The scale of effect on this attribute of the WLA as a whole would be Low over a localised (low) extent.</p> <p>Considering cumulative effects, the application Clauchrie and Craiginmoddie Windfarms would have most potential to create significant effects with the Proposed Development on this attribute of the WLA. Clauchrie Windfarm is closer to the western side of the WLA and has a wider extent of potential visibility along this side. It would not generally be visible from the northern end where the Proposed Development would be most visible. Potential cumulative effects would largely relate to the combined and sequential visibility from the summits and ridgelines to the south. Craiginmoddie Windfarm would be visible in similar locations to the Proposed Development with slightly less influence to the east.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development and Craiginmoddie Windfarm to Clauchrie Windfarm would extend the presence of large scale wind turbines in close proximity to the north of the WLA, so that there would be sequential and successive cumulative effects on the perceptual qualities of the north and western aspects of the WLA, reducing the sense of sanctuary within these areas. They would have no influence on the secluded interior of the WLA. The scale of cumulative effect on this attribute would be Medium-Low across a localised (low) extent of the WLA as a whole.</p> <p>The in-scoping Knockodhar Windfarm lies close to Clauchrie Windfarm, but further from the WLA and on lower topography. The in-scoping Knockcronal Windfarm lies directly north of the Proposed Development and slightly further from the WLA. Both in-scoping windfarms would increase the density of visible wind turbines within their respective locations in combination with the application windfarms and the Proposed Development. They do not notably increase the horizontal extent of visible wind turbines from the WLA or bring any wind turbines closer to the WLA. Taking this into account, it is not considered that cumulative effects on this attribute would increase from that assessed above with the application windfarms.</p>

Attribute	Sensitivity	Assessment
4. <i>A rugged landscape that provides a surprisingly high degree of physical challenge.</i>	Low	<p>The perception of 'remoteness and sanctuary' from the physical challenge of walking within the WLA would be most likely to occur within the enclosed interior parts of the WLA which would not be affected by views of human elements within the wider landscape. Views from summits or ridgelines would not necessarily provide sanctuary where the panoramic long distance views include an array of features including commercial forestry, windfarms, towns and industry. The Proposed Development would not affect the secluded parts of the WLA and would occupy a small part of the panoramic long distant views from summits. The Proposed Development is close to the northern aspects of the WLA where the topography is lower, open and less demanding than elsewhere within the WLA. The Proposed Development would not be a fundamental change to the perception of remoteness and sanctuary gained from the physical challenge of walking within the WLA. The scale of effect on this attribute of the WLA as a whole would be Negligible.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be seen in succession with Clauchrie and Craiginmoddie Windfarms, occupying a large proportion of the views to the west and north, although in the context of expansive panoramic views and not from the secluded interior of the WLA where this attribute is focused on. The Proposed Development combined with Craiginmoddie Windfarm and in addition to Clauchrie would not be a fundamental change to the perception of remoteness and sanctuary gained from the physical challenge of walking within the WLA. The scale of cumulative effect on this attribute of the WLA as a whole would be Negligible.</p> <p>The in-scoping Knockodhar and Knockcronal Windfarms would not be seen from the secluded interior of the WLA. Both in-scoping windfarms would increase the density of visible wind turbines within their respective locations in combination with the proposed windfarms and the Proposed Development. They do not notably increase the horizontal extent of visible wind turbines from the WLA or bring any wind turbines closer to the WLA. Taking this into account, it is not considered that cumulative effects on this attribute would increase from that assessed above with the application windfarms.</p>

Table 5.5.1: WLA Assessment

5.7 Summary

44. The nearest wind turbines of the Proposed Development lie at closest 3.6km from the northern end of the WLA. The extent of visibility within the WLA is largely contained to within 6-7km from the Proposed Development due to the rising landform which screens views of the full extent of the Proposed Development from the rest of the WLA. This main area of visibility accounts for approximately 7% of the WLA as a whole.
45. The Proposed Development would have no effects on the secluded and remote interior of the WLA, a key quality of all the attributes, particularly no.2 and no.4. The Proposed Development would potentially have an effect upon the qualities of naturalness within the northern end of the WLA where the wind turbines are in closer proximity. This

northern part is however the least remote and secluded part of the WLA due to the existing influences from human artefacts and activity (forestry, settlement and existing windfarms) within close proximity.

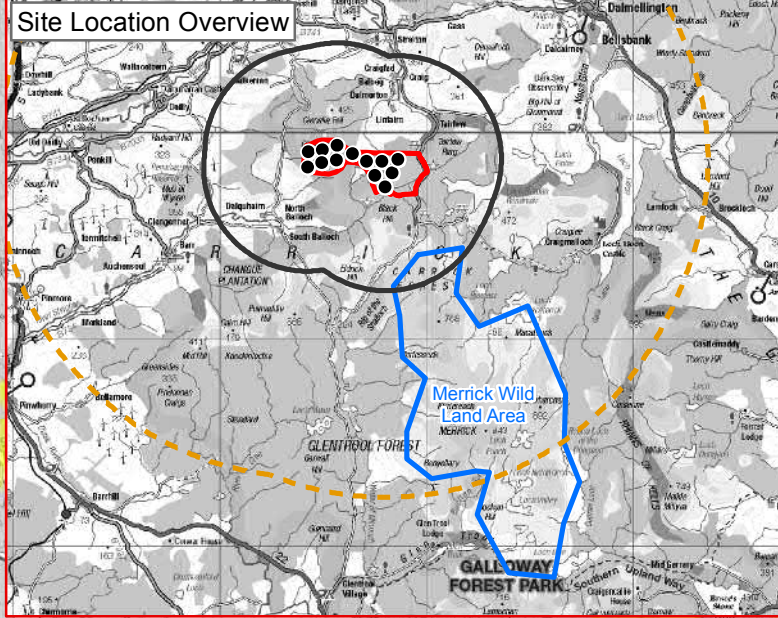
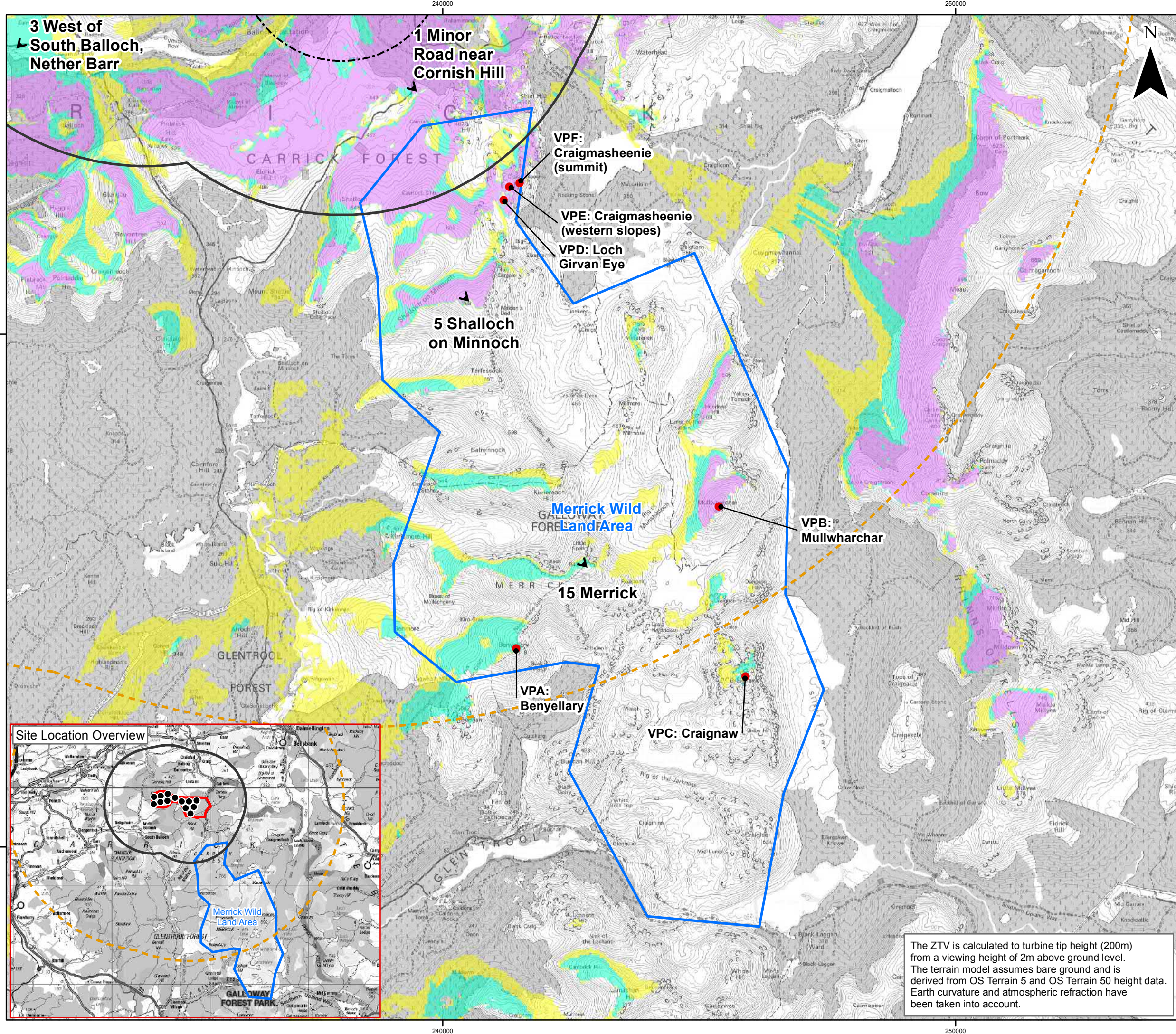
46. In combination with the application Craiginmoddie Windfarm, the presence of large scale windfarms in proximity to the northern end of the WLA would increase, and combined cumulative effects would occur on the naturalness qualities within this area identified within attributes no.1 and no.3. In addition to the application Clauchrie Windfarm, the Proposed Development (and Craiginmoddie Windfarm) would have potential for a wider influence across the western and northern extents of the WLA on the perception of naturalness but generally from the higher summits and ridgelines rather than the more secluded and remote interior. The combined effects of the Proposed Development with the in-scoping Knockcronal and Knockodhar Windfarms would not change the effects assessed for it on its own or with other application windfarms due to their locations further away from the WLA and within the same horizontal extents as the Proposed Development and Clauchrie Windfarm respectively.
47. Taking into account the scale of effect assessed on the four attributes and associated sensitivity levels, the significance of effect on the WLA as a whole is considered at most **Moderate-Minor** and **Not significant**. The Proposed Development would not significantly affect the attributes and qualities of the Merrick WLA as a whole and the overall naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary would be retained. There would be localised significant effects within a very small part of the northern end of the WLA where effects are moderated by the existing external influences on naturalness and remoteness. Cumulative effects with Craiginmoddie and Clauchrie Windfarms would increase the influence of wind turbines on the western and northern aspects of the WLA creating localised significant effects in these areas. There would be no effects or cumulative effects on the secluded interior of the WLA.

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- Legend**
- Proposed Wind Turbine
 - Viewpoint
 - Illustrative Viewpoint
 - 2km Buffer from Proposed Turbines
 - 5km radius buffer
 - - - 15km radius buffer
 - ▭ Merrick Wild Land Area
- Number of Wind Turbines Visible**
- 1 - 4
 - 5 - 8
 - 9 - 13

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 Ordnance Survey Licence 0100031673.
 0 1.25 2.5 Km

Rev	Date	By	Comment
E	21/10/2021	MAL	Fifth Issue
D	01/10/2021	JO	Fourth Issue
C	01/08/2021	MC	Third Issue
B	17/11/2020	PM	Second Issue.
A	20/10/2020	BG	First Issue.



Carrick Windfarm
 Figure 5.5.1: Wild Land Assessment ZTV

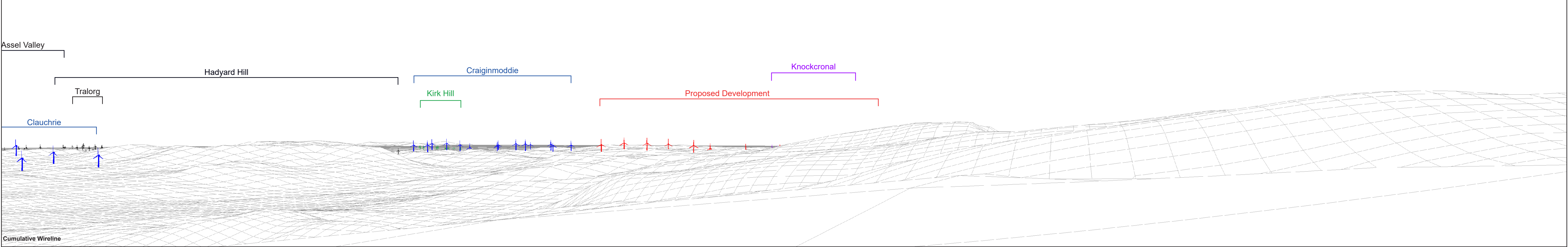
Drg No	CARRICK-WSP-I-081
Rev	E
Date	21/10/2021
Scale	1:70,000 @ A3

The ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height (200m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 5 and OS Terrain 50 height data. Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account.



Existing View - Daytime

This image provides landscape and visual context only

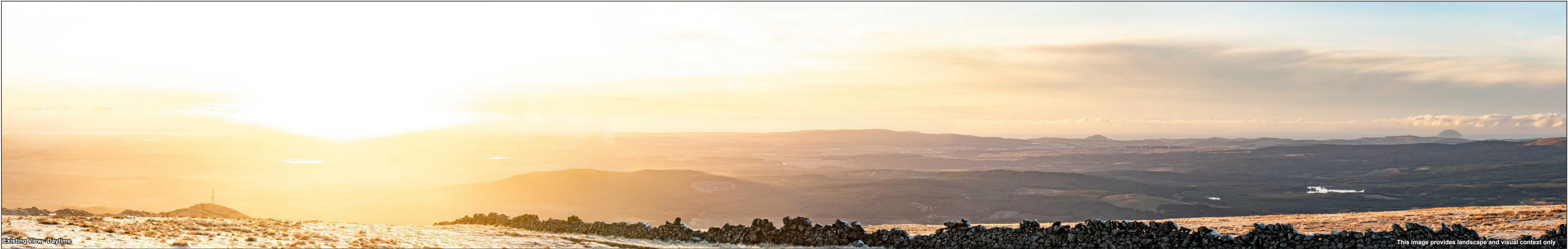


Cumulative Wireline

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241416, 583846	Horizontal Field of View: 90° (cylindrical projection)	Photographic Equipment: Nikon D750, 50mm Lens	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 1.5m	Nearest Turbine: 9.95km	Date and Time Taken: 30/11/2019, 15:34	Image Size: 820 x 130mm
Direction of View: 344°	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	Camera Height: 1.5m AGL	

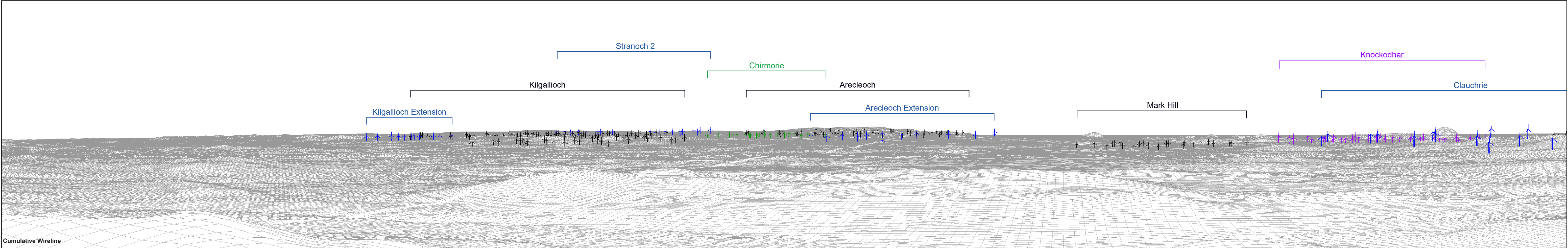
Legend:		
■ Proposed Development	■ Consented Windfarms	■ Scoping Windfarms
■ Operational Windfarms	■ Application Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.2a
Illustrative Viewpoint : Benyellary
Carrick Windfarm



Existing View - Daytime

This image provides landscape and visual context only

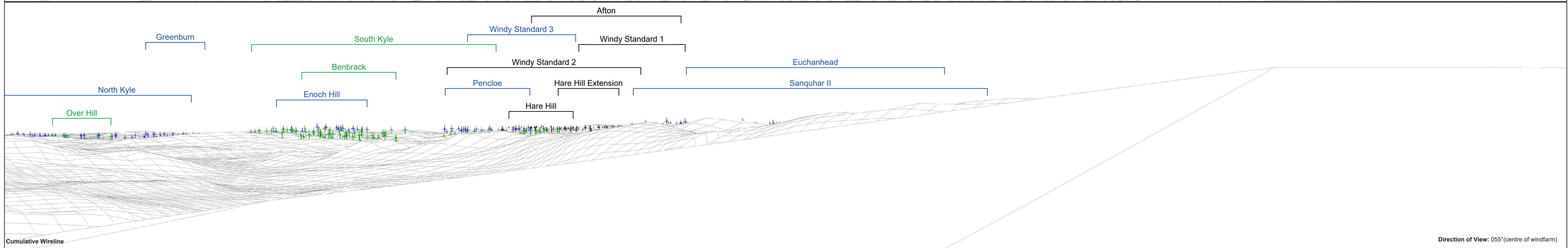
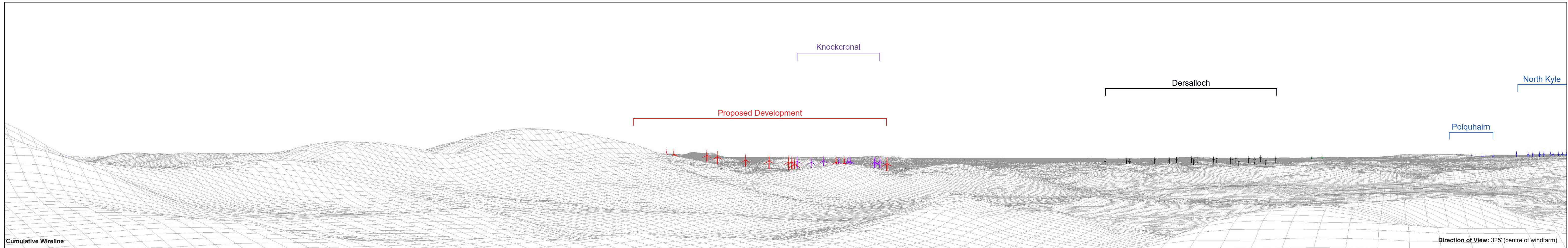


Cumulative Wireline

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241416, 583846	Horizontal Field of View: 90° (cylindrical projection)	Photographic Equipment: Nikon D750, 50mm Lens	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 1.5m	Nearest Turbine: 9.95km	Date and Time Taken: 30/11/2019, 15:34	Image Size: 820 x 130mm
Direction of View: 254°	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	Camera Height: 1.5m AGL	

Legend:		
■ Proposed Development	■ Consented Windfarms	■ Scoping Windfarms
■ Operational Windfarms	■ Application Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.2b
Illustrative Viewpoint : Benyellary
Carrick Windfarm

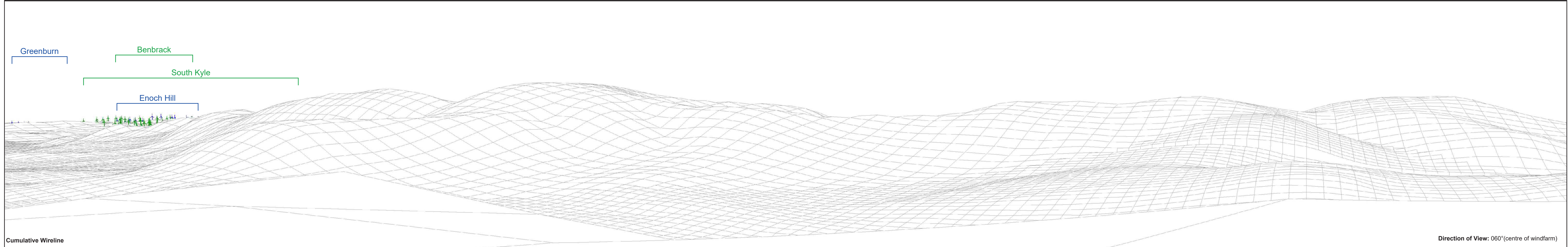
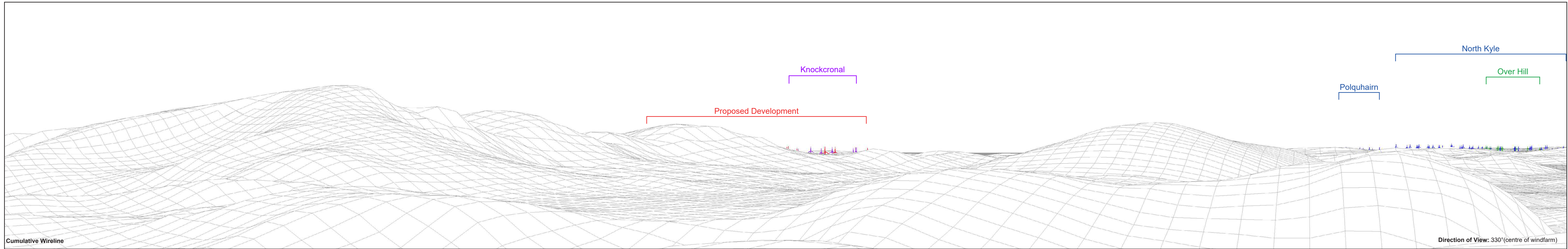


Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 245375, 586647	Horizontal Field of View: 90° (cylindrical projection)	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 1.5m	Nearest Turbine: 12.96km	Image Size: 820 x 130mm
	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	

Legend:

■ Proposed Development	■ Consented Windfarms	■ Scoping Windfarms
■ Operational Windfarms	■ Application Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.3
 Illustrative Viewpoint : Mullwharchar
Carrick Windfarm

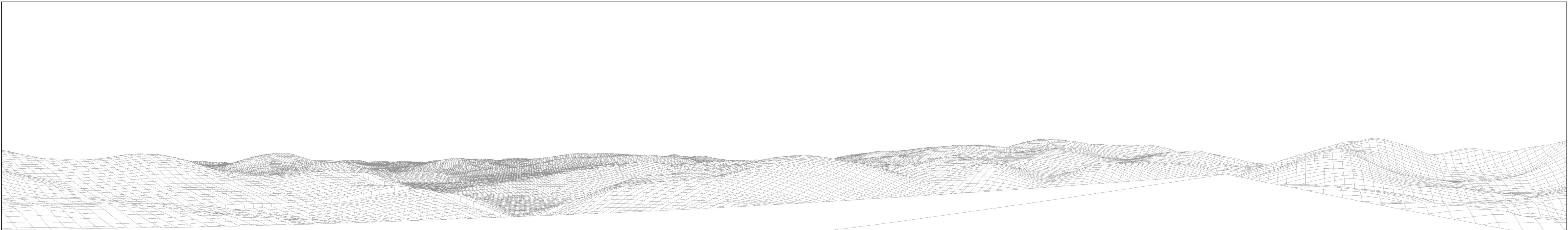


Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 245896, 583349	Horizontal Field of View: 90° (cylindrical projection)	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 1.5m	Nearest Turbine: 16.04km	Image Size: 820 x 130mm
	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	

Legend:

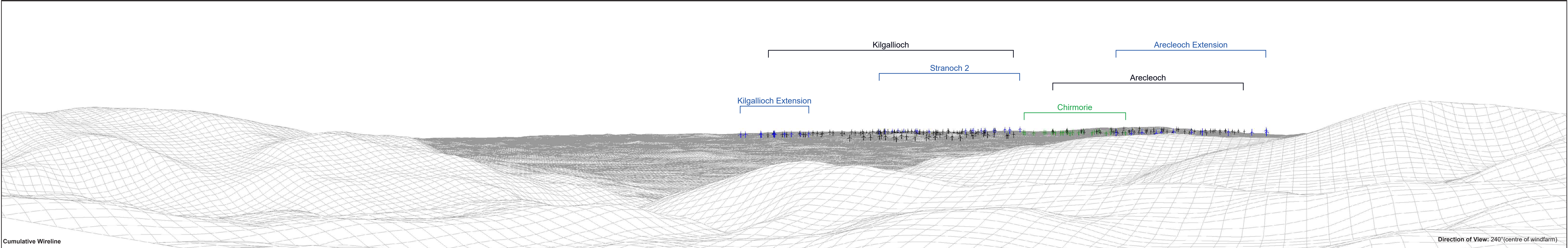
█ Proposed Development	█ Consented Windfarms	█ Scoping Windfarms
█ Operational Windfarms	█ Application Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.4a
 Illustrative Viewpoint : Craignaw
Carrick Windfarm



Cumulative Wireline

Direction of View: 150°(centre of windfarm)



Cumulative Wireline

Direction of View: 240°(centre of windfarm)

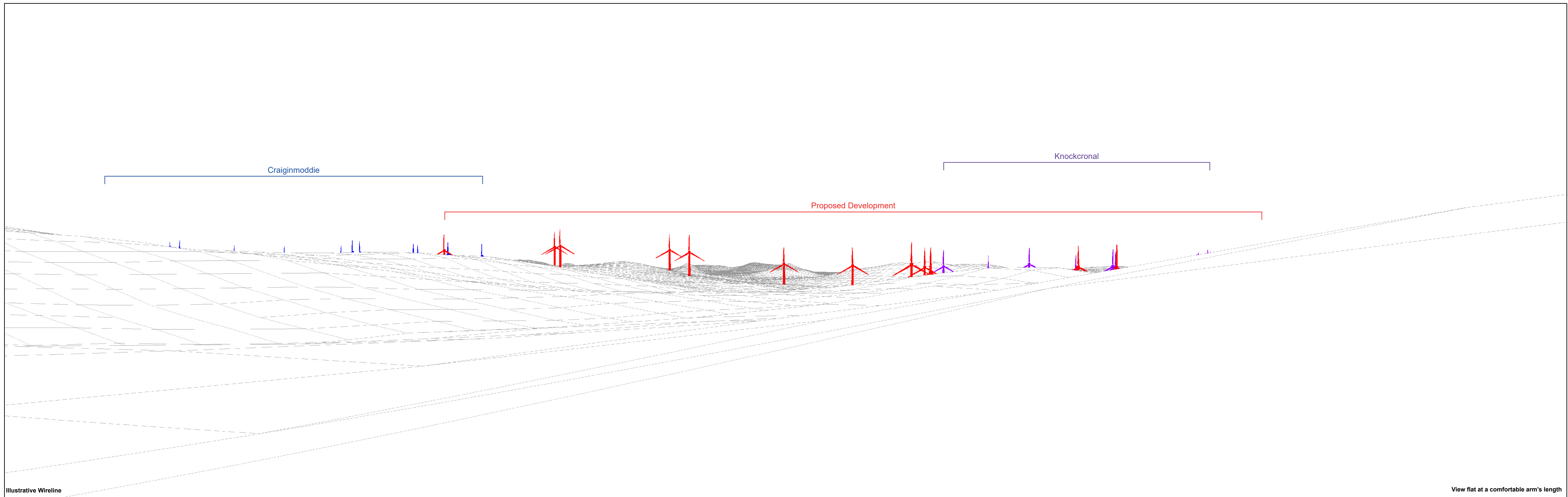
Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 245896, 583349
Eye Level: 1.5m

Horizontal Field of View: 90° (cylindrical projection)
Nearest Turbine: 16.04km
Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm

Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Image Size: 820 x 130mm

Legend:
█ Proposed Development █ Consented Windfarms █ Scoping Windfarms
█ Operational Windfarms █ Application Windfarms

Figure 5.5.4b
Illustrative Viewpoint : Craignaw
Carrick Windfarm



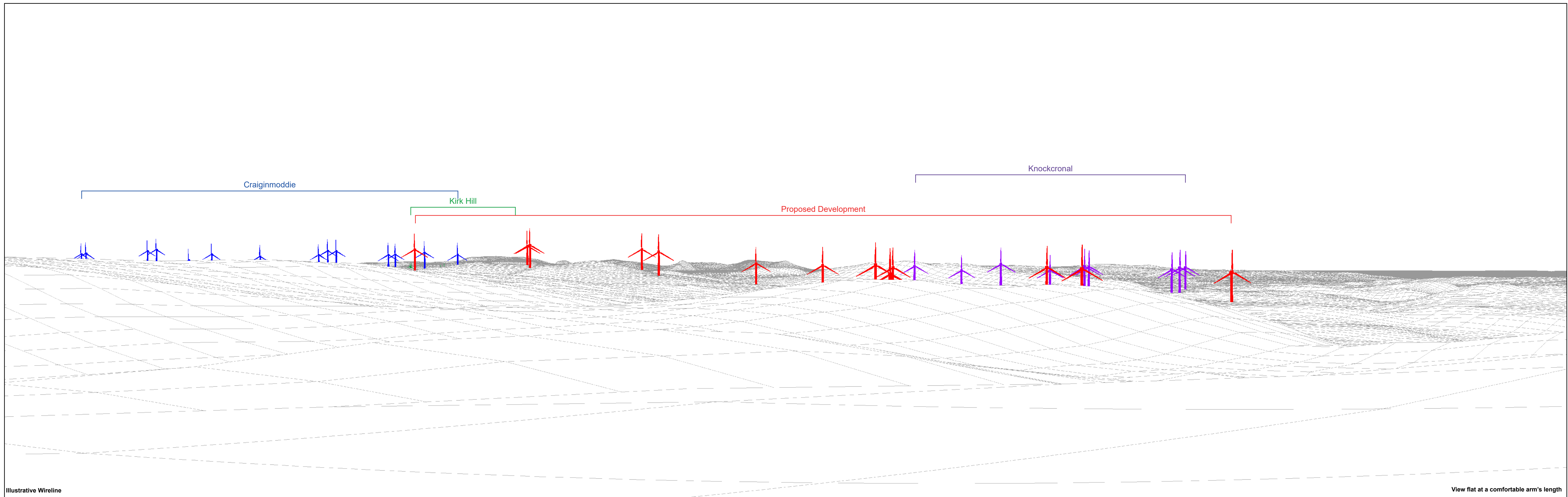
Illustrative Wireline

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241280, 592700	Horizontal Field of View: 53.5° (planar projection)	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 477.9m	Nearest Turbine: 5.6km	Image Size: 820 x 260mm
Direction of View: 320°	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	

Legend:	
■ Proposed Development	■ Scoping Windfarms
■ Application Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.5
Viewpoint : Loch Girvan Eye
Carrick Windfarm



Illustrative Wireline

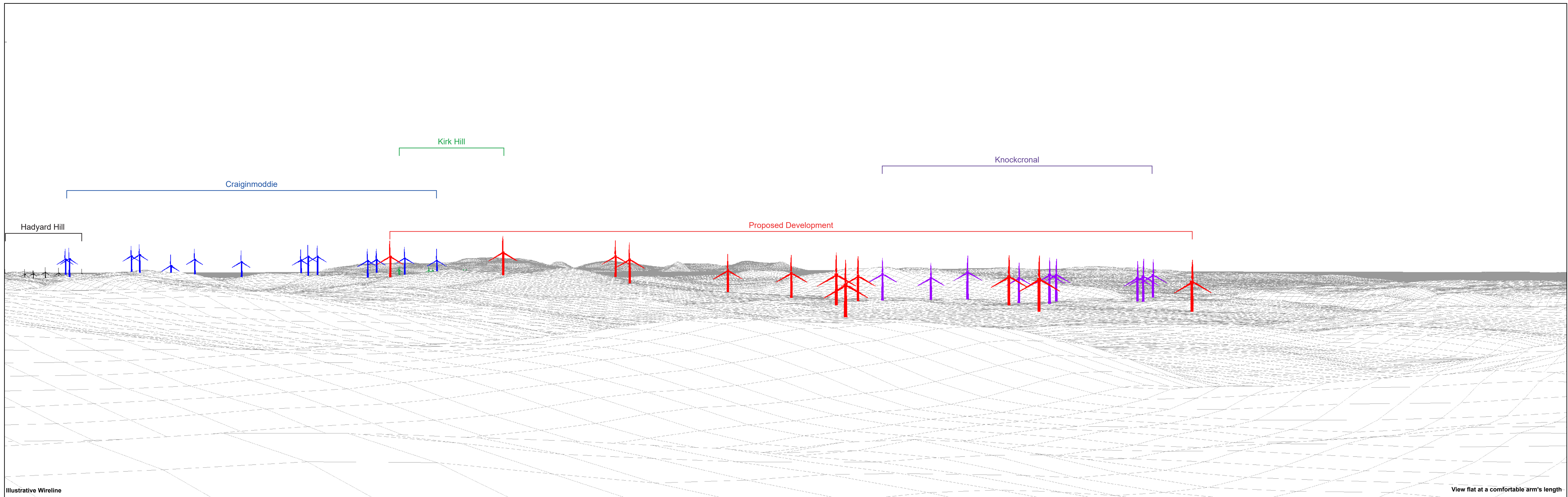
View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241332, 592860	Horizontal Field of View: 53.5° (planar projection)	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 489.1m	Nearest Turbine: 5.5km	Image Size: 820 x 260mm
Direction of View: 310°	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	

Legend:

■ Proposed Development	■ Scoping Windfarms
■ Application Windfarms	■ Consented Windfarms

Figure 5.5.6
Viewpoint: Craigmashenie (western slopes)
Carrick Windfarm



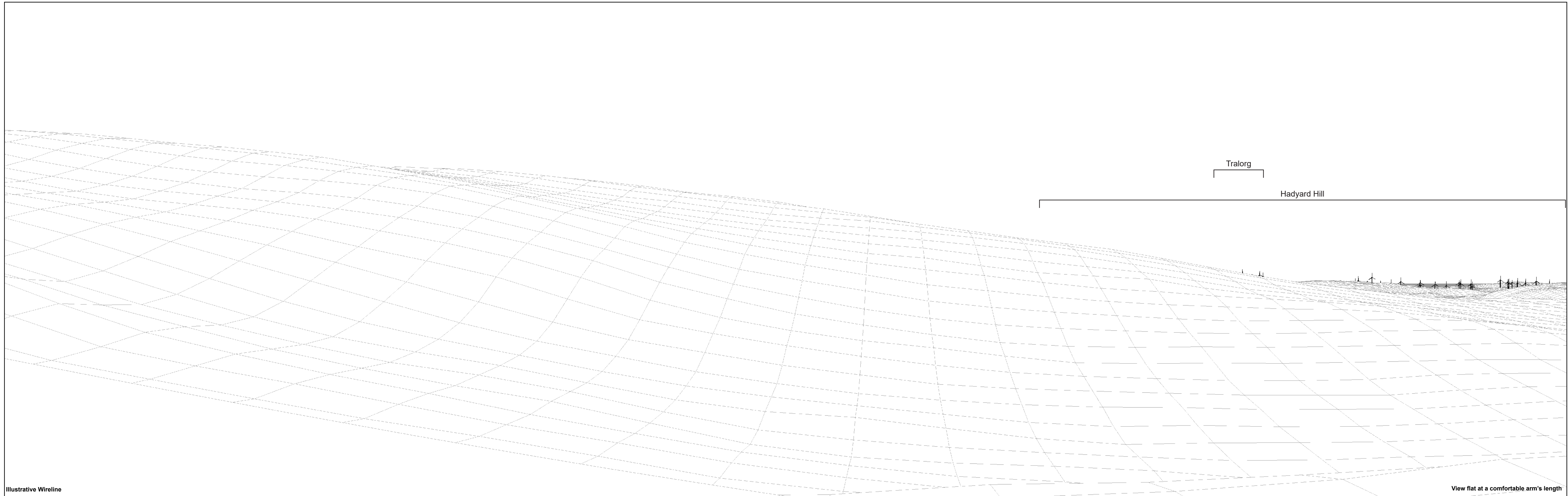
Illustrative Wireline

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241474, 592918	Horizontal Field of View: 53.5° (planar projection)	Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
Eye Level: 540.5m	Nearest Turbine: 5.5km	Image Size: 820 x 260mm
Direction of View: 320°	Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm	

Legend:		
■ Proposed Development	■ Scoping Windfarms	■ Operational Windfarms
■ Application Windfarms	■ Consented Windfarms	

Figure 5.5.7a
Viewpoint: Craigmashennie (summit)
Carrick Windfarm



Illustrative Wireline

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

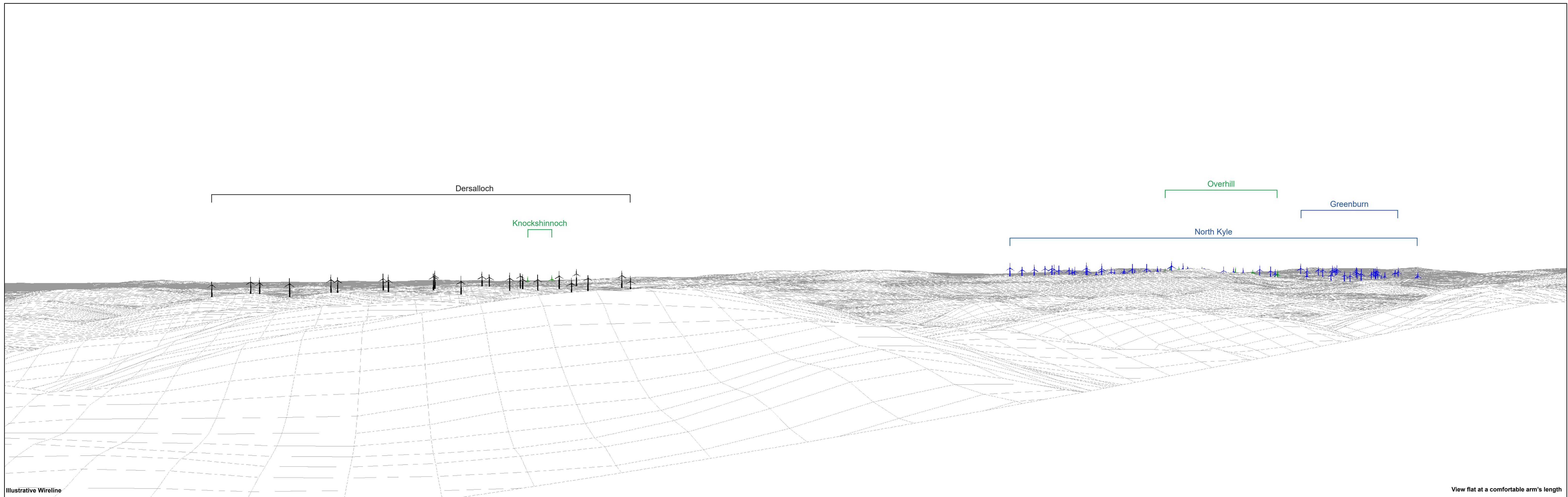
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 Eye Level: 540.5m
 Direction of View: 266.5°

Horizontal Field of View: 53.5° (planar projection)
 Nearest Turbine: 5.5km
 Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm

Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
 Image Size: 820 x 260mm

Legend:
 ■ Operational Windfarms

Figure 5.5.7b
 Viewpoint: Craigmashenie (summit)
Carrick Windfarm



Illustrative Wireline

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint OS Grid Reference: 241474, 592918
 Eye Level: 540.5m
 Direction of View: 013.5°

Horizontal Field of View: 53.5° (planar projection)
 Nearest Turbine: 5.5km
 Principal Viewing Distance: 812.5mm

Paper Size: 841 x 297mm
 Image Size: 820 x 260mm

Legend:
 — Operational Windfarms
 — Application Windfarms
 — Consented Windfarms

Figure 5.5.7c
 Viewpoint: Craigmashenie (summit)
Carrick Windfarm