

Appendix 6.3 Viewpoint Assessment

Contents

Introduction	1
Viewpoint 1 – Braehead, Coalburn	2
Viewpoint 2 – M74 Overbridge	4
Viewpoint 3 – Monument at Douglas Castle (Castle Dangerous)	6
Viewpoint 4 – B7078 south of Lesmahagow	7
Viewpoint 5 – A70 Rigside	8
Viewpoint 6 – Black Hill	9
Viewpoint 7 – Hyndford Bridge	10
Viewpoint 8 – Tinto Hill	11
Viewpoint 9 –Coalburn Road, north of Coalburn	12
Viewpoint 10 – Victory Park, Muirkirk	13
Viewpoint 11 – Cairn Kinney	14
Viewpoint 12 – East of Glespin (on A70)	15
Viewpoint 13 –Auchensaugh Hill	16
Viewpoint 14 – Nether Wellwood (A70)	17
Viewpoint 15 – Cairn Table	18
Viewpoint 16 – Douglas – Crabtree Street	19
Viewpoint 17 – Junction of A70 and Station Road, Douglas	20
Summary of Effects	21

This page is intentionally blank.

APPENDIX 6.3 Viewpoint Assessment

Introduction

This appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the Proposed Development from a selection of 17 viewpoints. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the Proposed Development which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines. A comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts is given for each viewpoint. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

The viewpoint assessment takes into consideration the future baseline scenario in which the consented wind farms at Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead are present in the landscape, as this is a material consideration to the application proposals.

A summary of the sensitivity of the viewpoint, magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect is given in Table A6.3.1 of this Appendix and is replicated at Table 6.6 of the LVIA (EIA Report Volume 1, Chapter 6). Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating carried forward to Table A6.3.1 (replicated at Table 6.6 of Chapter 6) is the rating that represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint. Each assessment viewpoint is illustrated in Volume 4 of the EIA Report.

Viewpoint 1 – Braehead, Coalburn

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the most open views from certain properties at Braehead, Coalburn, orientated in a south-westerly direction. Viewpoint 1, as illustrated within Volume 4 of this LVIA, was taken from a field access track that leaves Bellfield Road and passes to the immediate west of the cul-de-sac of Midfield Road. The viewpoint illustrates the type of views available from the rear aspects of dwellings on Midfield Place, and on Bellfield Road, looking in a southerly direction towards the Proposed Development.

From this viewpoint, the primary experience is that of a view across a remediated colliery landscape which has been restored to a semi-natural state and includes areas of rough grassland and newly planted coniferous trees. In the distance, large blocks of plantation forestry and existing wind turbine development at the Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines and Nutberry Wind Farm can be seen along and atop of the hills, forming the skyline from this location.

In the foreground there is a relatively flat area of unmanaged grassland which then falls away into the former opencast coal site in the middle distance of the view. Vegetation primarily consists of rough, overgrown grasses and some scrub as well as an unmanaged row of deciduous trees. This land forms the location of the consented Douglas West Wind Farm, which would form a prominent feature in the immediate view, once constructed. The Consented Dalquhandy and Consented Cumberhead Wind Farms would also occupy part of the view to the south-west. These schemes are considered as part of cumulative scenario 1 in the main LVIA assessment.

In the middle distance an area of coniferous plantation begins to rise up to the skyline. In the far distance, Henry's Hill is visible, which is also covered in coniferous plantation on the north facing side. The Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension wind turbines are visible at the top of Henry's Hill and follow the contours of the hillside. To the south-west of the viewpoint, the existing Nutberry Wind Farm can be seen beyond vegetation in the near view.

As the viewpoint represents the view from certain residential properties located at Braehead, Coalburn, it is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint the Proposed Development will be clearly visible, and the hubs and blades would be seen above the horizon. It is acknowledged that the turbines would form prominent features in the view to the south-west, and they would be undeniably tall structures in this view in comparison to the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Extension turbines currently seen above the horizon. However, the Proposed Development would appear within a landscape already partially typified by wind energy development. The Proposed Development would occupy a small part of the overall view available and would not appear disproportionately out of scale in the landscape when seen in the context of the simple underlying landscape, as shown at Figure 6.32.

Views from the properties along the southern side of Midfield Road and Bellfield Road would experience direct theoretical views towards the proposed turbines. However, rear garden fences and mature vegetation will filter and interrupt views of the proposed turbines. Views from first-storey windows would experience clearer views above, and through, the lighter density vegetation of the tree canopies. Clearer views towards the Proposed Development are available from the fence line of the local fields as seen in the photomontage for this viewpoint. Such views have been recognised as part of the assessment and considered when determining the overall magnitude of change and the worst-case scenario for the purposes of this LVIA.

The addition of the Proposed Development would result in a high magnitude of change in the view from this location.

Significance of Effect

It is considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **major** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by visual receptors that have clear views in this direction, as represented by this viewpoint. This level of effect is therefore deemed to be significant. However, when cumulative scenario 1 is considered, which includes the consented Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead schemes in the baseline, the additional effect of the Proposed Development turbines on visual receptors in this location would reduce to moderate but would remain significant, as discussed in the main report.

Viewpoint 2 – M74 Overbridge

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views of transient users of the minor road crossing the M74 motorway. The photograph has been taken adjacent to the bridge which crosses over the M74 motorway, on the road which travels between the B7078 towards Douglas Water. This is to demonstrate the availability for clear views which can be gained in the direction of the site from the bridge.

This viewpoint was originally selected to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the M74 motorway. However, after analysis of the motorway route, and the anticipated low sensitivity and orientation of the driver's line of sight being away from the turbines resulting in limited opportunities to view the proposed turbines, it was decided that a greater effect would be experienced from the minor road crossing the motorway. When travelling in the vicinity of the viewpoint in a northerly direction along the M74, the Proposed Development would be located behind the receptor. When travelling in a southerly direction, the site would be seen perpendicular to the road in a westerly to south-westerly direction. Beyond the immediate views of the motorway infrastructure, views extend towards a predominantly rural landscape with the landform undulating and rising towards hills in the distance. The view looks across the recently regenerated opencast coal site where the consented Douglas West Wind Farm is located. The vegetation cover consists primarily of grassland which appears to be a combination of managed and unmanaged fields. Individual trees and tree belts are scattered across the landscape. Plantations can be seen in the distance, and cover many of the hill tops in the far distance.

The B7078 runs parallel to the motorway, and although relatively quiet, fast moving vehicles can be seen crossing the landscape along this route as well as the M74. Telegraph poles and overhead wires follow the B7078 and extend into the distance. Several farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, many of which are protected by tree shelter belts. Evidence of quarrying/opencast activity is also visible in the middle distance. A site of large, commercial scale storage/distribution warehouses can be seen from the viewpoint and the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are clearly visible at the top of Henry's Hill. The Nutberry and Galawhistle Wind Farms are also visible within the view.

As this viewpoint represents the view from a minor road, the receptors are considered to be of medium sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

Where gaps in roadside vegetation allow, there would be clear views towards the Proposed Development at a distance of approximately 4.1 km. The proposed turbines would form a prominent feature in the view to the west, but they would be seen in the context of the simple, medium to large scale underlying landscape that already includes commercial scale wind energy development.

All of the Proposed Development turbines would be seen in the view in the same part of the landscape as the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, albeit the Proposed Development turbines would appear closer in the view and thus more prominent. The existing Nutberry and Galawhistle Wind Farms would also be visible in the view, located beyond the Proposed Development, appearing as a smaller element in the landscape and thus a visually separate entity. The three consented wind farms at Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead would also appear in the same angle of view, in the near to middle distance, with Douglas West appearing at closer proximity to the viewpoint than the Proposed Development. These schemes are considered separately in cumulative scenario 1.

Overall, the proposed turbines would form an additional feature in a landscape that is already typified by wind energy development. The proposed turbines would not appear disproportionately out of scale in the view when seen alongside the consented Douglas West turbines in the closer view, as is discussed in cumulative scenario 1.

At this distance, considering the angle of view in which the turbines will be seen from this elevated position, and in the context of the existing view, it is considered that there will be a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

The Proposed Development would result in a medium magnitude of change resulting in a **moderate** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people travelling along the minor road crossing the M74 motorway. This effect is deemed to be significant. This is primarily due to the proximity of the Proposed Development to the viewpoint. It is however recognised that this is a relatively short stretch of the route from Douglas Water to the B7078. It is also recognised that when cumulative scenario 1 is considered, which includes the consented Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead Wind Farms in the baseline, the additional effect of the Proposed Development turbines on the visual receptors in this location would reduce to a non-significant level, as discussed in the cumulative assessment of the main report.

Viewpoint 3 – Monument at Douglas Castle (Castle Dangerous)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from parts of the Douglas Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) where turbines would be visible. The ruin of Castle Dangerous is in close proximity to the location of this viewpoint; however, the viewpoint has not been taken at Castle Dangerous due to the vegetation surrounding the northern and western sides of the castle which restricts views towards the site.

From this viewpoint, views extend across managed grassland, across the Douglas Water valley, to the Long Plantation. A line of telegraph poles and overhead wires run through the base of the valley. The land gently rises from the Douglas Water to the north-west and west with areas of deciduous woodland seen breaking up the appearance of the grass slopes, growing in the shelter of the undulating landform. Areas of coniferous plantation occupy the mid slopes and line the tops of the hill side. The Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are visible above the horizon to the west. The consented Douglas West turbines would be seen in the immediate view, beyond Long Plantation, once constructed, as discussed in cumulative scenario 1, and as shown in the future baseline image at Figure 6.34.

As this viewpoint is representative of an area which is used for recreational purposes and to also visit the ruin of Castle Dangerous, the receptors in this area are considered to be of high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change

From the grounds of Douglas Castle eight of the proposed turbines would be seen to various extents above Long Plantation, to the east of the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines. The turbines would be seen in the same part of the view as, and beyond, the Douglas West turbines, as shown on the future baseline image. The northernmost turbines of the Proposed Development would be located on lower ground beyond the horizon and as such views of these turbines would be limited. The presence of Long Plantation would provide screening to the large proportion of the turbines, and as a consequence they would be seen as blade tips only. The vegetation within the Douglas Water Valley would also provide heavy filtering of views to a number of the proposed turbines when leaves are present, although during winter months these turbines would be partially visible.

The nearest proposed turbine would be seen at a distance of approximately 1.7 km. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines would appear much taller in the view than the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, but they would appear less prominent in the view once the consented Douglas West turbines are constructed and would largely appear at the same scale as the Douglas West turbines.

Whilst a number of the turbines would be clearly visible in the view towards the north-west, they would appear to relate to a separate landscape which lies beyond the Douglas Castle Policy Grounds. The addition of the turbines to the wider landscape would not prevent an understanding and appreciation of the underlying and surrounding area, nor would they prevent an enjoyment of the characteristics of the local valley landscape.

The addition of the proposed turbines would result in a medium magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

The Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint which is deemed to be significant. Once the Douglas West turbines are constructed however, the visual presence of these turbines in the near view would reduce the prominence of the Proposed Development in the wider landscape and the effects would reduce to a moderate level which is not significant.

Viewpoint 4 – B7078 south of Lesmahagow

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views experienced by motorists travelling along the B7078 between Junction 11 of the M74 and Lesmahagow. This viewpoint is within close proximity to Lesmahagow and has been chosen as a local route that is likely to experience some visibility of the proposed turbines.

The landscape between the viewpoint and the proposed site consists of rough grassland and scattered scrubby vegetation. In the distant views across the plateau farmland is the rising land which includes the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension Wind Farms as well as the operational turbines at Nutberry and Galawhistle. As mentioned previously many of these hills are covered with large blocks of coniferous plantation.

From this viewpoint there are several man-made features within the local landscape. The road itself presents the primary focus of view for motorists with the site located in an oblique field of vision to the south of the road. Large electricity pylons cross the landscape directly behind the viewpoint and cross the B7078 further to the north.

As this viewpoint is representative of views from a local vehicular route, receptors using this road are considered to be of medium sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint location, clear views are available in the direction of the Proposed Development at a distance of approximately 4.5 km. However, the viewpoint is located at a gap in roadside vegetation where open views to the south-west are available whereas ordinarily views towards the turbines from the route as a whole would be intermittently interrupted by roadside vegetation.

The Proposed Development would partially appear above the horizon that forms the backdrop to the view, the turbine towers would be back clothed by the rising land beyond the site. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines would be prominent features in the view towards the south-west and they would appear taller than the existing turbines in the view. However, once the consented Douglas West, Cumberhead and Dalquhandy Wind Farms are constructed, the proposed turbines would appear at a similar scale to these wind farms, seen beyond the Douglas West turbines which would appear closer in the view. These matters are addressed in cumulative scenario 1.

From this viewpoint it is considered that there will be a worst-case medium magnitude of change in the view due to the presence of other wind energy development in the landscape.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would result in a worst case **moderate** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint and route when experienced by people using the B7078. This effect is deemed to be significant, but again the additional effect of the Proposed Development turbines would reduce to a non-significant level once the other consented developments are considered in the baseline of the view.

Viewpoint 5 – A70 Rigside

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the properties located on the north-western side of Rigside. The viewpoint has been taken from the nearest publicly accessible place to the properties which is on the A70 as it travels through Rigside village. In reality, views from the properties towards the Proposed Development would be oblique, partially filtered and interrupted by vegetation in the immediate intervening view.

From this elevated viewpoint, views extend along the urban edge of the A70 towards the undulating agricultural land and pronounced ridgeline which includes the Existing Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines. In terms of existing structures, there is a 48.5 m tall wind turbine at Newtonhead Farm in the foreground and a line of large pylons and overhead wires can also be seen crossing the landscape in the distance. In general, farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, with large associated outbuildings. An area of large storage/distribution warehouses are also visible in the middle distance at Poniel. The Nutberry, Galawhistle and Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines can also be seen from this location.

As this viewpoint is representative of the views of residents on the western edge of Rigside, the viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

People who are travelling along the A70 would gain similar views to those experienced by residents located along the A70. The views available from the A70 would be more direct than that of the properties. However, users of the A70 would be considered to be of low sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From the north-western edge of Rigside, the Proposed Development would be clearly visible at a distance of approximately 6.8 km, but it will not be possible to see the ground level components associated with the site due to distance. The turbine hubs and blades of the Proposed Development would break the skyline of the distant hillside that forms the backdrop to the view and they would be seen in the context of the numerous existing turbines in the landscape. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines would appear taller in scale than the existing turbines present within the wider landscape, but once the consented schemes of Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead Wind Farms are constructed and operational, the Proposed Development would appear similar in scale, as is addressed in relation to cumulative scenario 1.

Overall, it is considered that the addition of the proposed turbines would result in a medium magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that for the residents located on the north-western side of Rigside (assessed as being of high sensitivity to change in the view), there will be a **moderate** level of effect. This effect is considered to be significant, but again the additional effect of the Proposed Development turbines would reduce to a non-significant level once the other consented developments are considered in the baseline of the view.

Viewpoint 6 – Black Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the top of Black Hill, a scheduled monument which is a National Trust for Scotland specified viewpoint. Black Hill is the location of a fort and settlement, and its elevated position of approximately 290 m AOD, provides panoramic views across the Clyde Valley.

From the top of Black Hill, panoramic views of the surrounding landscape are available. The top of the fort includes limited vegetation and is covered by managed grassland. Clear views towards the Clyde Valley consist of primarily undulating pastoral farmland. The condition of this landscape varies with some areas appearing to express less management than others. The field pattern is quite large in size, and it is evident that hedgerows have been removed to increase their size. There is an overall sense that the surrounding area is a working and productive landscape.

Several farmsteads are scattered across the landscape, many of which express the local vernacular in appearance, being made of local stone while being seen in combination with large, modern farm sheds. Larger settlements can be seen scattered along the valley sides. In the direction of the site, several small scale wind turbines can be seen in the valley in the middle distance. Field boundaries are composed of broken hedgerows, and deciduous tree belts. In the distance, the undulating hills are clearly visible, some of which are covered in coniferous plantations.

From this vantage point panoramic views are available. On clear days it is possible to see many of the existing wind turbines in the distance which surround the Black Hill vantage point. Other human influences also occur within the landscape such as large electricity pylons and overhead lines which cross the land to the north. It is also possible to gain glimpses of the M74 motorway traffic as it passes to the west of this location.

As this viewpoint is a recognised vantage point and a historical feature, this viewpoint is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint atop Black Hill it will be possible to see the Proposed Development at a distance of approximately 11 km from the nearest turbine. The proposed turbines will be seen above the horizon, with the proposed turbine towers back clothed by the rising land beyond the site.

The Proposed Development would be seen in combination with the other turbines in the panoramic view including the Existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Nutberry, Galawhistle and numerous single, small scale turbines in the local landscape. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Development would form a noticeable additional feature in the wider landscape, seen within an area which already includes existing wind turbine development. Once the consented Douglas West, Cumberhead and Dalquhandy wind farms are constructed, the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of these schemes, as addressed in cumulative scenario 1.

Overall, the addition of the Proposed Development to the view from the summit of Black Hill is not considered to have a detrimental effect upon the appreciation of the wider panoramic views available.

From this viewpoint it is considered that there would be a medium magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the visual amenity experienced by people visiting the high point of Black Hill fort and settlement. This effect is not considered to be significant due to the distance of the viewpoint from the site, the wide panoramas available, and the context in which the site is seen within.

Viewpoint 7 – Hyndford Bridge

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from Hyndford Bridge which forms a historical feature along the A73 and is identified as a recognised viewpoint within the *South Lanarkshire Spatial Framework*. The bridge includes footpaths on either side of a single lane of traffic, operated by a three-way traffic light system.

Views from Hyndford Bridge extend along the River Clyde valley looking across a predominantly rural landscape, comprising primarily of managed grazing land and unmanaged grassland. The River Clyde sweeps through the shallow valley and is relatively wide at this point.

To the south there are views of the A70 as it travels through the River Clyde Valley with a few farmsteads including large agricultural buildings situated at elevated positions along the valley sides. A relatively large proportion of the surrounding land is used for grazing animals and blocks of woodland and belts of coniferous plantation run down the slopes to the south-west, providing texture and contrast to the landscape. In the far distance one hillside is framed by the slopes of the valley with the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines situated on the nearside with the blade tips of some of the Nutberry Wind Farm also visible.

As a road which is used for its scenic qualities as part of the Clyde Valley Tourist Route, and as the bridge itself is a historical feature, this location is considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint location, the Proposed Development would be framed in the distance by the hillsides of the immediate Douglas Water valley. Therefore, when receptors are located on the bridge, views are gained directly along the River Clyde to the Douglas Water valley and towards the far hillside where the proposed turbines are situated.

The ZTV suggests intermittent visibility of the site in the vicinity of Hyndford Bridge, but that up to all of the proposed turbines will be visible from the bridge itself. This is likely to be the case, with the nearest proposed turbine located some 12.5 km from the viewpoint location, but the turbines would be seen in the same part of the view as the existing turbines in the wider landscape. Once the consented turbines in the landscape local to the site are constructed, the Proposed Development would contribute to the cluster of turbines already present in the longer distance view. The Proposed Development would be seen on the hillside directly beyond the consented Douglas West Wind Farm and the Existing Hagshaw Hill turbines that occupy the horizon view.

When crossing Hyndford Bridge, receptors will experience a transient view of the bridge itself and the local landscape beyond it. The proposed turbines are situated almost perpendicular to the direction of the bridge and it is assessed that there will be a very low change on the visual experience of motorists. The worst case scenario will be experienced by pedestrians stopping at one of the turret style features along the south-western footpath to experience the views of Douglas Water valley and the distant hills.

When considering the existing nature of the view, the level of intervening landform and vegetation, and the distance from the site, the addition of the proposed turbines in the view that already includes the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines and Nutberry Wind Farm, would result in a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would result in no greater than a **moderate** level of effect on the visual amenity of those travelling over the Hyndford Bridge. This effect is not deemed to be significant due to the distance between the bridge and the context in which the proposed turbines would be seen.

Viewpoint 8 – Tinto Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the vantage point of Tinto Hill, which is located at an elevation of approximately 710 m AOD. Clear panoramic views extend across a gently undulating rural landscape.

In the direction towards the site, a large patchwork of plantation covers extensive areas of land in the surrounding landscape. Substantial tree belts also form boundaries to some of the fields. Whilst it is evident that some field hedgerows have been removed to create larger fields. There are farmsteads scattered across the landscape, some with large agricultural sheds. There is a significant sense that surrounding Tinto Hill, the wider area is formed by a combination of rolling moorland as well as a working and productive landscape.

Within the view to the west, towards the site, the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are visible on the top of Common Hill along with the Nutberry Wind Farm to the right of the view alongside Galawhistle Wind Farm. On clear days when long distance views can be gained, it is possible to see other existing wind farm sites in the far distance including Whitelee. Other features of the landscape include previously worked, regenerating and operational opencast coal sites and quarries.

As this viewpoint is representative of a recognised vantage point at the summit of a notable hill in the local landscape, receptors are considered to be of very high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint location, the Proposed Development would be visible in the middle distance. Due to the elevated nature of the viewpoint the towers, hubs and blades of each turbine would be visible.

The Proposed Development would form identifiable features in landscape at a distance of approximately 12.8 km. The large majority of the turbines would be back clothed by the rising land beyond the site, with the blade tips of just two of the turbines located on the highest ground within the site breaking the horizon. The proposed turbines would occupy a relatively narrow part of the overall view available and would be seen in the context of other existing wind energy development on Hagshaw Hill, and within the wider panoramic views available. The proposed turbines would also be seen directly beyond the Douglas West Wind Farm turbines once constructed, and would form part of the overall wind farm cluster north of Douglas. The principal sense of openness and scale within the landscape as seen from the summit of Tinto would not be affected.

Overall, there would be no greater than a low magnitude of change in the view from the summit of Tinto.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would result in a **moderate/minor** level of effect on the view for visitors to the vantage point at Tinto Hill. This level of effect is not significant.

Viewpoint 9 –Coalburn Road, north of Coalburn

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located on Coalburn Road, north of Coalburn at a distance of 3.4 km from the closest proposed turbine. The view comprises the flat open rough grassland in the immediate landscape with the rising land of Common Hill and Henry's Hill forming the backdrop and far horizon. The coniferous plantation in which the site is located is seen in the middle distance of the view, between the open grassland that surrounds Coalburn, and the moorland landscape in which the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Extension turbines are located.

The view is relatively simple. The roof tops of properties located on the northern edge of Coalburn are visible at the head of the road corridor, and the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Extension turbines are seen atop the horizon. The existing Galawhistle and Nutberry turbines are also seen in the distant view. Views from the road are also available to the east and west across the open landscape.

As the viewpoint is representative of views from a minor local road, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high.

Magnitude of Change

The visualisation at Figure 6.40 illustrates that hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible against the skyline in the same part of the view as the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines.

The Proposed Development would introduce turbines in closer proximity to the viewpoint and they would be clearly noticeable and prominent when travelling south along the road towards Coalburn. There would be a high magnitude of change in the view.

On the construction of the consented Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead Wind Farms, the Proposed Development would be seen as part of a much larger cluster of turbines that would occupy the view to the south, as seen on Figure 6.40 (D). The Proposed Development would appear of similar scale in the landscape to these schemes and the overall change in the view would be reduced, as discussed in cumulative scenario 1 of the main assessment.

Significance of Effect

There would be a major visual effect upon receptors using Coalburn Road when travelling south towards Coalburn. The effect is significant. In considering cumulative scenario 1, the visual effect would reduce to moderate due to the context in which the Proposed Development would be seen alongside the consented Douglas West, Dalquhandy and Cumberhead Winds Farms. The consented Douglas West and Dalquhandy turbines would be more prominent in the view, with the Proposed Development located beyond. The moderate visual effect is therefore not considered significant.

Viewpoint 10 – Victory Park, Muirkirk

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located on the western edge of Victory Park to allow for views beyond the immediate built form towards the site. The immediate view comprises the public open space with dwellings located on Glasgow Road, Park Avenue and Burns Avenue located immediately beyond. The varied yet simple distant horizon is formed by a number of hills including Hareshaw Hill, Parisholm Hill, and Urit Hill. The hills are covered with upland grassland and moorland vegetation. Woodland and plantation punctuate the mid slopes and dense deciduous woodland covers much of the valley bottom.

The existing turbines of the Galawhistle Wind Farm occupy the horizon and form notable vertical features in the view with further Galawhistle turbines also seen slightly set down in the landscape beyond the horizon. The Existing Hagshaw Hill turbines are also visible beyond the horizon.

As the viewpoint is located within a public park, the receptors using the space are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in the view.

Magnitude of Change

Up to seven of the proposed turbines would be located in the view north-eastwards from Victory Park, in the same part of the view as the existing Galawhistle Wind Farm. The Proposed Development would be located lower in the landscape than the existing notably visible turbines in the view. Only two of the proposed turbines would be seen to hub height, with the remainder seen as blade tips only.

The Proposed Development would be seen beyond the urban context of the near view in the same part of the far landscape that already features wind energy development. The Proposed Development would reinforce the existing nature of the distant view, with the closest turbine located some 10.6 km away.

Overall, there would be a medium magnitude of change in the view from Muirkirk Park.

Significance of Effect

There would be a **moderate** visual effect experienced by receptors at Muirkirk Park. The effect is not considered to be significant due to the distance of the receptors from the site and the context in which the Proposed Development will be seen in.

Viewpoint 11 – Cairn Kinney

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located at the summit of Cairn Kinney (493 m AOD), which is located part way between the A70 at Glespin and the A76 at Sanquhar. The view from the summit in a northerly direction towards the site comprises an undulating upland grassland landscape punctuated by large areas of commercial plantation.

The view is long reaching and panoramic, and in clear weather conditions views reach beyond Carluke to the north-east, where the existing Black Law Wind Farm can be seen. The Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines are clearly seen in the near landscape, above the horizon formed by Common Hill. The existing Nutberry and Galawhistle Wind Farms are also visible in this view alongside a number of the single turbines located to the north-west of the site.

Receptors at the hill summit are considered to be of high sensitivity to changes in the view.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from the summit of Cairn Kinney, at a distance of approximately 9.9 km. The proposed turbines would appear as a cluster set down in the landscape, back clothed by the land beyond. The proposed turbines would not appear taller than the existing turbines in the view due to their location on lower ground, with only two of the turbines breaking the distant skyline as a result of the moving blade tips.

Once the consented Douglas West turbines are constructed, the Proposed Development would appear in the same part of the view as Douglas West, infilling the gap between the consented turbines and the existing turbines on Hagshaw Hill.

The Proposed Development turbines would increase the clustering of turbines in the mid distance view, and reinforce the presence of commercial wind energy in the landscape to the north of Cairn Kinney. Due to the distance from the site and the wide panoramas available, there would be an overall medium to low magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

The Proposed Development will give rise to a **moderate to moderate/minor** visual effect as experienced from the viewpoint. This effect is not considered to be significant due to distance from the receptor and the context in which the Proposed Development will be seen in the view.

Viewpoint 12 – East of Glespin (on A70)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from the A70 to the east of Glespin. It should be noted that the viewpoint does not portray the view that would be gained from Glespin village itself. The ZTV demonstrates that much of Glespin does not fall within the ZTV, with varying levels of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines on the periphery of the settlement, and therefore this viewpoint has been chosen to demonstrate views gained on the outskirts of the settlement where open views towards the site are available.

This viewpoint is located to the east of Glespin, just east of Jeanfield Bridge, located on the minor road immediately adjacent to the A70. The viewpoint is located at a slightly elevated position overlooking the Douglas Water valley. Views extend past the main road of the A70, to rough pastures beyond. Scrubby vegetation sweeps through the valley floor. As the landform rises beyond the valley floor there is a band of mixed woodland, namely Windrow Wood, as well as uniform blocks of plantation.

Some human influences within the landscape are visible and the primary focus for motorists will be the A70 and associated signposts, a post and wire fence runs along the road side, while telegraph poles and wires cross the landscape. A few lone farmsteads can be seen in the distance and the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, and the existing Galawhistle turbines are visible above the horizon that forms the backdrop to the view to the north.

As this viewpoint is representative of views from a road, receptors using this road are considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the view.

Magnitude of Change

From this viewpoint just the hubs and blades of four of the proposed turbines would be visible above the ridgeline to the north, with the blade tips of a further six just seen above the horizon. They will be seen in the same part of the view as the existing Galawhistle and Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines and they will be located directly beyond the Hagshaw Hill Extension and Hazelside turbine already present in the view. It is acknowledged that the proposed turbines would appear larger in scale than the existing turbines, but they would not appear disproportionately out of scale with the simple and large scale nature of the baseline landscape.

The proposed turbines would be seen at a distance of approximately 3.2 km and the small number of proposed turbines visible would appear as prominent features in the oblique view from the road as receptors travel between Douglas and Glespin but they would be seen alongside the existing turbines that are an established feature of the view.

From this viewpoint location there will be a medium magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

It is therefore considered that the Proposed Development would result in **moderate** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint and the visual amenity experienced by people travelling along the A70 at this point. This effect is not considered to be significant due to the context in which the proposed turbines will be seen.

Viewpoint 13 – Auchensaugh Hill

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from a high point located on Auchensaugh Hill, approximately 392 m AOD, to the south-east of Douglas. Views stretch across a gently undulating shoulder landscape within the uplands, which then falls into the Douglas Valley before rising again to Common Hill, which forms the backdrop to the view. The landscape expresses a relatively clear, monochrome form, composed mainly of rough grasslands.

A line of pylons and overhead wires cross the large scale landscape and fields are separated by post and wire fences. Views towards the village of Douglas are screened by Pagie Hill while the coniferous plantation of Townhead Wood combine to reduce the visibility in this direction. To the north-west, the Existing Hagshaw Hill, Hagshaw Hill Extension, Galawhistle and Hazelside turbines are visible.

From this viewpoint location facing in an easterly direction it is possible to gain views of the B7078 and M74 as they pass through the landscape. A large row of pylons and overhead wires also cross through the landscape.

As this hill may be used for recreational activities and is accessed by a Wider Network path which forms part of the *South Lanarkshire Core Paths Plan* (Nov 2012), receptors at Auchensaugh Hill are therefore considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development would be visible from Auchensaugh Hill at a distance of approximately 6.3 km. The proposed turbines will be seen in the same part of the view as the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension and Hazelside turbines, with the existing Galawhistle Wind Farm seen to the south-west. The Proposed Development would also be seen in the same part of the landscape as the consented Cumberhead and Douglas West Wind Farms, as is discussed separately in cumulative scenario 1. It is acknowledged that there would be an increase in the turbine cluster density in the vicinity of the site, but the cluster would occupy a small part of the much wider view available.

It is acknowledged that there will be a perceptible difference in turbine size between the Proposed Development and the existing turbines in the landscape but, as illustrated in the photomontage presented within Volume 4, Figure 6.44, the proposed turbines would still respond well to the scale of the underlying landform, which is relatively simple and large scale, and the proposed turbines would not dominate the landscape at this location.

From this viewpoint on Auchensaugh Hill, there would be a medium magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

The Proposed Development would result in a **moderate** level of effect on the views and visual amenity experienced by people visiting this location. This effect is not considered to be significant due to the context in which the Proposed Development will be seen.

Viewpoint 14 – Nether Wellwood (A70)

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is located on the A70 at Nether Wellwood looking generally north-east towards Muirkirk. The road winds its way through a heavily modified landscape at this location. The land to the south of the road has been subject to open cast mining with bunding and former spoil heaps creating variation in the landform. An area of open water can be seen to the south of the road.

The route of the A70 is relatively well treed with belts and blocks of mixed and coniferous trees located along the roadside. This vegetation interrupts the overall visual experience from the road. Larger areas of coniferous plantation can be seen in the middle ground view. Man-made features can be seen in the near view including an electricity substation and lines of pylons. Two of the existing Galawhistle turbines are visible above the far horizon, and the consented Cumberhead turbines would also be visible in the landscape, once constructed.

Longer distance views are also available, particularly to the south-east. The land massifs of Cairn Table and Wardlaw Hill form the backdrop to the view. The outline of Common Hill is also visible beyond the block of trees in the near view.

As the viewpoint is located on an 'A' road, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development would be barely visible, at a distance of approximately 15.3 km, due to the presence of existing coniferous woodland in the intervening landscape.

Overall, the addition of the Proposed Development to the view from the A70 at Nether Wellwood would give rise to no greater than a very low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Taking into consideration the low sensitivity of the receptors using the A70, and the very low magnitude of change in the view, there would be no greater than a **minor / no effect** upon visual effect which is not significant.

Viewpoint 15 – Cairn Table

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

The viewpoint is located at the summit of Cairn Table, which is 594 m AOD. At the summit is a trig point, a cairn, a war memorial (appearance of an intact stone cairn) and a 360 degree compass viewshed to enable receptors to orientate themselves when at the summit.

Cairn Table is accessed via a footpath that leaves Muirkirk and travels in a southerly direction and thus whilst walking to the summit the site is located directly beyond the receptor. From the summit there are panoramic and far reaching views in all directions, and the landscape in which the site is located forms a small part of the overall view available.

The view in the direction towards the site would be experienced by receptors at the summit and by those walking back in a northerly direction to the car park at Muirkirk. The view comprises an undulating landscape in which wind energy development is already a feature. The upland landform of Common Hill forms the middle ground view with long distance views experienced as far as the Pentland Hills.

As the summit of Cairn Table features a compass viewshed to assist in experiencing the view, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be very high.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development would be seen in the middle distance view from the summit of Cairn Table, beyond the ridgeline of Common Hill that forms the near horizon. It is acknowledged that a small number of the turbines would appear prominent above the horizon, seen against the skyline, with the turbines located on lower ground within the site seen back clothed by the landform beyond.

It is acknowledged that there would be a perceptible difference in scale of turbines in the view with the proposed turbines seen beyond the Existing Hagshaw Hill turbines, and the proposed turbines would be prominent in comparison. However, there are already several wind farms visible in the view from Cairn Table, all of which are of various heights, and whilst the proposed turbines would further contribute to the existing varying nature of wind energy development in the middle distance, including the Galawhistle and Nutberry turbines, this forms only part of a much wider panoramic view from this location, which will also include the consented Kennoxhead and Penbreck turbines in the foreground of the views towards the east and south-east.

Overall, there would be a medium magnitude of change in the view experienced by receptors looking north from the summit of Cairn Table.

Significance of Effect

Considering the very high sensitivity of receptors at the viewpoint location, and the medium magnitude of change in the view, there would be a **moderate** effect upon visual amenity as experienced at the summit of Cairn Table. This effect is not however considered to be significant due to the distance of the Proposed Development from the viewpoint location, the wide panoramas available, and the context in which the proposed turbines are seen within.

Viewpoint 16 – Douglas – Crabtree Street

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

This viewpoint is representative of the views from residential receptors located on the north-western edge of Douglas located on Crabtree Street. The photograph was taken at a publicly accessible location in the gateway to the playing fields to allow for a worst case open aspect view towards the site. In reality, the view from the properties is likely to be interrupted by vegetation in the immediate view.

Views extend in a north-westerly and westerly direction across well maintained playing fields beyond the small club house located in the foreground of the view. The grassy banks of the Douglas Water can be seen cutting through the valley bottom with the land on the other side of the bank gently rising up to Long Plantation. Blocks of deciduous woodland break up the rough grazing grassland. Long Plantation runs up and along the opposing valley hillside and extends along most of the sky line. The Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, and the Hazelside Farm turbine, are visible to the west, as is the moorland in which they are located.

As this viewpoint is representative of the views from residential properties, the receptors are considered to be of high sensitivity to change in the view.

Magnitude of Change

The ZTV suggests that up to all of the proposed turbines would be visible from this viewpoint. In reality, views of the turbines would be more restricted than is suggested. The nearest proposed turbine is located approximately 2.4 km to the north-west.

As can be seen in the visualisation at Figure 6.47, eight of the proposed turbines would be visible beyond Long Plantation, with turbines T5, T9, and T13 being the most noticeable. The proposed turbines would be seen to the north of the existing cluster of Hagshaw Hill turbines in the view and would extend the array across the skyline. However, the vegetation in the immediate view would also interrupt views of at least four of the turbines, with a further turbine seen as moving blade tips only.

The turbines that are visible will break the skyline and will appear taller than the Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines, but once the consented Douglas West turbines are constructed, the proposed turbines would appear directly beyond these further turbines, as is discussed in cumulative scenario 1. The three prominent Proposed Development turbines would appear similar in scale to the Douglas West turbines and as such the nature of the view would be reinforced.

From this viewpoint location there would be a medium magnitude of change to the view.

Significance of Effect

There would be a **moderate** level of effect on the views from this viewpoint which is considered to be significant. However, the Proposed Development would be clearly visually separated from the village and the intervening valley landscape of the Douglas Water, and once the Douglas West Wind Farm is constructed, the proposed turbines would be located beyond these turbines. It should also be noted that the view is only representative of a small area on the edge of Douglas and there are relatively few places within the village where such open views can be obtained.

Viewpoint 17 – Junction of A70 and Station Road, Douglas

Nature and Sensitivity of the Baseline View

The viewpoint is located on Station Road, Douglas, close to the junction with the A70. The existing view looks over the Douglas Water valley towards Common Hill and the site of the original Hagshaw Hill Wind Farm. The valley bottom comprises pastoral land grazed by both cattle and sheep. The farmsteads of Scrogton and Scrogtonhead are seen on the lower mid slopes of the valley. Larger areas of deciduous and mixed woodland also occupy the mid valley slopes, including Windrow Wood which has a strong visual presence, with coniferous plantation occupying the upper slopes alongside rough grassland and moorland.

The viewpoint is representative of views of receptors using the A70 on the south western edge of Douglas, and Station Road, a minor road leading to a number of farmsteads at Douglas West. As the view is also representative of a small number of residential receptors on the outskirts of Douglas, as well as receptors using a minor road, the sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high.

Magnitude of Change

The Proposed Development would be seen above the horizon at a distance of approximately 2.6 km. At least four of the proposed turbines would form visually prominent features in the landscape, as one travels in a north-westerly direction along Station Road, seen in the direct view beyond the near horizon. In views from the A70 the Proposed Development would be seen in the slightly oblique angle of view when travelling out of Douglas towards Glespin. When travelling towards Douglas, the proposed turbines would be located behind the receptor at the point of the junction with Station Road.

The visualisation at Figure 6.48 shows the appearance of the Proposed Development in the context of the valley. The proposed turbines would be prominent features in the view, and they would be seen directly alongside the smaller, Existing Hagshaw Hill and Hagshaw Hill Extension turbines. When constructed, the Douglas West turbines will also appear as notable features in the angle of view towards the site. As considered separately in cumulative scenario 1, in the context of the Douglas West turbines which would appear similar in scale in the view (and closer), the effect of the addition of the Proposed Development, would be reduced.

Although the proposed turbines would appear prominent, they would not dominate the landscape. They would appear beyond the near horizon, in the context of a relatively simple landscape, associated with the upland moorland rather than the lower lying valley.

Overall, there would be a medium magnitude of change in the view from the junction of Station Road and the A70.

Significance of Effects

There would be **moderate** visual effects upon receptors using Station Road and nearby residential receptors. The effect would be significant. In terms of receptors using the A70, there would be a moderate/minor visual effect which is not considered to be significant.

In considering cumulative scenario 1, the Proposed Development would be seen beyond the consented Douglas West turbines in the near view and would form part of the larger wind farm cluster in the local landscape. The Proposed Development would appear of similar scale to the consented turbines in the view. The visual effect would be moderate and not significant.

Summary of Effects

Table A6.3.1 - Summary of Operational Effects on Assessment Viewpoints

Name/Receptor	OS Grid Ref	Distance to nearest turbine	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significance
1. Braehead, Coalburn	281527, 634520	1,820 m (T12)	High	High	Major	Significant
2. M74 Overbridge	284424, 635419	4,095 m (T12)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
3. Monument at Douglas Castle	284112, 631743	1,734 m (T9)	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
4. B7078 south of Lesmahagow	283120, 637377	4,504 m (T4)	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Significant
5. A70 Rigside	287708, 635192	6,822 m (T12)	High (residential receptors)	Medium	Moderate	Significant
6. Black Hill	283198, 643552	10,999 m (T12)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
7. Hyndford Bridge	291488, 641453	12,506 m (T7)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
8. Tinto Hill	295316, 634372	12,857 m (T7)	Very High	Low	Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
9. Coalburn Road, north of Coalburn	281190, 636124	3,419 m (T12)	High	High	Major	Significant

10. Victory Park, Muirkirk	269388, 627320	10,672 m (T1)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
11. Cairn Kinney	278468, 621429	9,938 m (T1)	High	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate/Minor	Not Significant
12. East of Glespin (on A70)	282035, 628719	3,240 m (T9)	Low	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
13. Auchensaugh Hill	285330, 627198	6,322 m (T9)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
14. Nether Wellwood (A70)	264995, 625824	15,308 m (T1)	Low	Very Low	Minor/No effect	Not Significant
15. Cairn Table	272410, 624235	9,877 m (T1)	High	Medium	Moderate	Not Significant
16. Douglas	283575, 631020	2,466 m (T13)	High	Medium	Moderate	Significant
17. Junction of A70 and Station Road, Douglas	283297, 630323	2,687 m (T13)	High (residential receptors)	Medium	Moderate	Significant