

Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study

Volume Two – Detailed Sensitivity Assessments

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Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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1 Introduction to the sensitivity assessment

- 1.1 Sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each character type and any sub-types defined and for the National Scenic Areas (NSA) as explained in Section 3 of Volume One. A summary of sensitivity to all wind energy development typologies is set out for each landscape character type in Volume One. The detailed sensitivity assessment tables in this report consider the following typologies in different landscapes as follows:

LCT's that may be suitable for very large turbines >130m:

Detailed sensitivity assessments for the Very Large typology (turbines >130m high) were only undertaken for landscape character types judged to have a medium or lower sensitivity to large turbines (turbines 80-130m) in the 2012 ABLWECS and/or landscapes where operational wind farms are already located. These are:

- *Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (2)*
- *Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6)*
- *Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6a)*
- *Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6b)*
- *Craggy Upland (7)*

Upland landscapes (LCTs 1, 2, 2a, 6a-c, 7, 6b, 6c, 7, 7c, 7d and 10):

Only the Large and Medium typologies (turbines >50m) are assessed in detail for upland landscapes within Argyll and Bute.

Small scale valleys, glens and coastal moss (LCTs 3, 4, 23):

Detailed sensitivity assessments for larger turbines (>50m high) are not provided for these areas since demand for wind energy developments is very low. However, a summary of sensitivity to all typologies is included in Volume One.

National Scenic Areas (NSAs)

Detailed sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for smaller turbines <50m high only. This accords with Scottish Planning Policy guidance on spatial frameworks which classifies NSAs as falling in Group I - areas where wind farms will not be acceptable.

Mull, Islay, Jura and Bute

These islands were subject to detailed sensitivity assessment in the 2012 study although the brief at that time only required turbines up to 50m high to be considered. Turbines up to 130m have been additionally assessed in 2017 in landscape character types judged to have some scope to accommodate the small-medium typology (turbines 35-50m) in 2012. These landscapes are:

- *Bute Open Ridgeland (5a)*
- *Moorland Plateau (8 – Islay)*
- *Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8 – Islay)*
- *Rocky Moorland (9 -Islay)*
- *High Stepped Basalt (12 - Mull)*

- *Lowland Bog and Moor (15- Islay)*
- *Mull Basalt Lowlands (17)*

Detailed assessment of turbines up to 130m has been undertaken for the islands of Coll, Colonsay and Tiree which were added to the study area for the 2017 revised and updated study.

All other LCTs:

Detailed assessments are provided for the Large, Medium, Small-medium and Small typologies for all other LCTs:

2 Detailed sensitivity assessment of landscape character types

Landscape Character Type 1: Steep Ridgeland and Mountains

Landscape Character Type 1: Steep Ridgeland and Mountains – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of very large typologies (>130m)	Assessment of large typologies (80-130m)	Assessment of medium typologies (50-80m)
<p>Context These steep-sided mountains form a dramatic backdrop north of the Firth of Clyde and to the narrow sea lochs of the Cowal Peninsula, including the Kyles of Bute, where they rise abruptly from, and strongly contrast with, the smooth plane of sea/loch. They are also seen in conjunction with the higher and often craggier mountains of the <i>High Tops</i> (2) within Argyll and Bute at the head of Loch Fyne where they contribute to the scenic quality of the Fjord-like landscape of sheer-sided mountains plummeting to the loch. This landscape merges more gradually with the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6a) on the eastern side of Loch Fyne.</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the 'outer' edges of this character type on steep slopes, prominent hill tops and on the narrow peninsulas extending into the Firth of Clyde, and on the mountains grouped at the head of Loch Fyne, would detract from the dramatic scenic composition of water and steep-sided mountains. Sensitivity is reduced within the interior of this landscape where the dramatic juxtaposition of water and mountains is less evident although larger turbines would be likely to be more visible on skylines. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the 'outer' edges of this character type on steep slopes, prominent hill tops and on the narrow peninsulas extending into the Firth of Clyde, and on the mountains grouped at the head of Loch Fyne, would detract from the dramatic scenic composition of water and steep-sided mountains. Sensitivity is reduced within the interior of this landscape where the dramatic juxtaposition of water and mountains is less evident although turbines may be visible on skylines. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the 'outer' edges of this character type on steep slopes, prominent hill tops and on the narrow peninsulas extending into the Firth of Clyde, and on the mountains grouped at the head of Loch Fyne, would detract from the dramatic scenic composition of water and steep-sided mountains. Sensitivity is reduced within the interior of this landscape where the dramatic juxtaposition of water and mountains is less evident although turbines may be visible on skylines. High sensitivity</p>
<p>Scale The <i>Steep Ridgeland and Mountains</i> generally rise to around 700m but with lower hills occurring on the western and southern fringes of the character type. The higher mountains have a massive scale although the narrow glens and sea lochs which cut into the hills and occasional small</p>	<p>Turbines towards 200m high would dominate smaller hills lying on the western and southern fringes of this LCT. Expansiveness is reduced within the narrow valleys which cut into these hills and where the more pronounced peaks provide enclosure, thus limiting scope to site large numbers of turbines. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>Tall turbines could relate to this large-scale landscape without dominating the height of individual peaks. Expansiveness is reduced within the narrow valleys which cut into these hills and where the more pronounced peaks provide enclosure, thus limiting scope to site large numbers of turbines. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could also relate to this large-scale landscape without dominating the height of individual peaks. Expansiveness is reduced within the narrow valleys which cut into these hills and where the more pronounced peaks provide enclosure, thus limiting scope to site large numbers of turbines. Medium sensitivity</p>

basins occurring between peaks are more contained.			
<p>Landform This landscape comprises mountains and long ridges (some of these very narrow) with steep slopes, patterned with small craggy knolls and deep gullies and occasionally featuring rocky summits. Sea lochs penetrate deep into the hills and extend as long glens with flat floodplains (the largest of these being Glendaruel). Occasional small areas of slacker landform and less precipitous slopes occur at the head of valleys cutting into the lower and generally broader-topped hills.</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the distinctive craggy, irregular landform characteristic of much of these uplands. There would be physical constraints involved in locating turbines on narrow ridges, confined craggy summits and steep hill slopes and it would be difficult to attain a cohesive layout for more extensive developments due to the complexity of landform and rarity of broader areas with a gentler landform. Some very small areas of slacker landform occur and these would be less sensitive to development. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the distinctive craggy, irregular landform characteristic of much of these uplands. There would be physical constraints involved in locating turbines on narrow ridges, confined craggy summits and steep hill slopes and it would be difficult to attain a cohesive layout for more extensive developments due to the complexity of landform and rarity of broader areas with a gentler landform. Some very small areas of slacker landform occur and these would be less sensitive to development. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the distinctive craggy, irregular landform characteristic of much of these uplands. There would be physical constraints involved in locating turbines on narrow ridges, confined craggy summits and steep hill slopes and it would be difficult to attain a cohesive layout for more extensive developments due to the complexity of landform and rarity of broader areas with a gentler landform. Some very small pockets of gentler and less complex landform occur and these would be less sensitive to development. High sensitivity</p>
<p>Landcover Vegetation cover is simple, largely comprising extensive coniferous forestry covering lower steep slopes and with rough grass between scattered boulders, rocky outcrops and traces of birch woodland.</p>	<p>The simple land cover of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology although birch woodland and areas with a more complex pattern such as boulder fields should be avoided. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>The simple land cover of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology although birch woodland and areas with a more complex pattern such as boulder fields should be avoided. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>The simple land cover of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology although birch woodland and areas with a more complex pattern such as boulder fields, should be avoided. Medium-low sensitivity</p>
<p>Built environment These uplands are very sparsely settled with isolated farms and estate houses located on narrow coastal edges and within glens accessible by road. Two operational wind farms are located in this character type.</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement within the interior of this landscape. Large turbines visible on sensitive skylines above small settlements fringing coastal edges and set</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement within the interior of this landscape. Large turbines visible on sensitive skylines above small settlements fringing coastal edges and set</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement within the interior of this landscape. Large turbines visible on sensitive skylines above small settlements fringing coastal edges and set</p>

	within glens could impact on their setting. Medium sensitivity	within glens could impact on their setting. Medium sensitivity	within glens could impact on their setting. Medium sensitivity
Perceptual qualities The difficulty of access to the interior of these uplands can give a strong sense of seclusion in places. Naturalness is accentuated by the ruggedness of the terrain but diminished by extensive coniferous forestry and by the presence of existing wind farm and hydro-electric development in some areas.	Larger turbines could diminish the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the interior of these uplands although the presence of extensive commercial forestry and wind farm development reduces the perception of wildland qualities elsewhere. Effects on the Ben Lui WLA are considered under 'Landscape Values'. High-medium sensitivity	Larger turbines could diminish the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the interior of these uplands although the presence of extensive commercial forestry and wind farm development reduces the perception of wildland qualities elsewhere. Effects on the Ben Lui WLA are considered under 'Landscape Values'. High-medium sensitivity	Larger turbines could diminish the strong sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the interior of these uplands although the presence of extensive commercial forestry and wind farm developments reduces the perception of wildland qualities elsewhere. Effects on the Ben Lui WLA are considered under 'Landscape Values'. High-medium sensitivity
Visual amenity The interior of these mountains are relatively inaccessible and there are limited views from the settled coastal fringes and glens into these areas. 'The Cowal Way' long distance footpath is aligned through this character type although views may be restricted by landform and dense forestry. The narrowness of the sea lochs of Loch Fyne, Loch Striven and the Kyles of Bute allow close views of opposite peninsulas from settlement and roads with steep outer slopes, sharp ridges and hill tops prominent in views. The steep-sided hills on the southern peninsula tips also form a key focus in views from the well-	Although the interior valleys and lower hills of this character type are less visible from external view, the use of very large turbines (which could be around 200m high), the proximity of popularly accessed mountains increases sensitivity to wind farm development even in more visually contained areas. This typology sited on hill tops and steep 'outward' facing slopes on the peninsulas and sea lochs would be highly prominent in views from the Firth of Clyde, Inverclyde and Bute. High sensitivity	Although the interior valleys and lower hills of this character type are less visible from external view, the proximity of popularly accessed mountains increases sensitivity to wind farm development even in more visually contained areas. This typology sited on hill tops and steep 'outward' facing slopes on the peninsulas and sea lochs would be highly prominent in views from the Firth of Clyde, Inverclyde and Bute. High sensitivity	Although the interior valleys and lower hills of this character type are less visible from external view, the proximity of popularly accessed mountains increases sensitivity to wind farm development even in more visually contained areas. This typology sited on hill tops and steep 'outward' facing slopes on the peninsulas and sea lochs would be highly prominent in views from the Firth of Clyde, Inverclyde and Bute. High sensitivity

<p>settled western coast of Inverclyde across the Firth of Clyde, Bute and from the sea. Elevated views across this landscape are also possible from the close-by cluster of Corbetts and Munros located within both Argyll and Bute and the adjacent LLTNP. There are views of higher hill tops on the western boundary of this character type from the Loch Fyne area.</p>			
<p>Landscape values The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park borders this character type to the north-east. Special qualities of 'Argyll Forest' part of the National Park that could potentially be affected by wind farm development in this character type include 'A remote area of high hills and deep glens', 'Arrochar's mountainous and distinctive peaks' and 'The variety of glens'.</p> <p>The Kyles of Bute NSA abuts this character type. Special qualities that could potentially be affected by wind farm development include 'The drama of the Kyles', 'The juxtaposition of human settlement and a wider undeveloped landscape of sea and hills' and 'The ever-changing vistas'.</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the higher ridge of hills which forms the western boundary of the National Park in the Loch Tarsan area could affect the remote qualities of Glen Massan and views from this area. The <i>remote qualities of the high hills</i> of the National Park could be affected by wind farm development sited in this character type (although wind farm developments are already a feature) and it could also intrude on the '<i>spectacular panoramas</i>' from the summits of the Arrochar Alps.</p> <p>Turbines sited on hills, ridges and western slopes on the Strone peninsula which forms the backdrop to the NSA would detract from the focus of the Kyles. They could also intrude on the setting of settlement sited on the coastal fringes of the NSA. <i>Spectacular panoramic views over the Kyles</i> from the A8003 north of</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the higher ridge of hills which forms the western boundary of the National Park in the Loch Tarsan area could affect the remote qualities of Glen Massan and views from this area. The <i>remote qualities of the high hills</i> of the National Park could be affected by wind farm development sited in this character type (although wind farm developments are already a feature) and it could also intrude on the '<i>spectacular panoramas</i>' from the summits of the Arrochar Alps.</p> <p>Turbines sited on hills, ridges and western slopes on the Strone peninsula which forms the backdrop to the NSA would detract from the focus of the Kyles. They could also intrude on the setting of settlement sited on the coastal fringes of the NSA. <i>Spectacular panoramic views over the Kyles</i> from the A8003 north of</p>	<p>Turbines sited on the higher ridge of hills which forms the western boundary of the National Park in the Loch Tarsan area could affect the remote qualities of Glen Massan and views from this area. The <i>remote qualities of the high hills</i> of the National Park could be affected by wind farm development sited in this character type (although wind farm developments are already a feature) and it could also intrude on the '<i>spectacular panoramas</i>' from the summits of the Arrochar Alps.</p> <p>Turbines sited on hills, ridges and western slopes on the Strone peninsula which forms the backdrop to the NSA would detract from the focus of the Kyles. They could also intrude on the setting of settlement sited on the coastal fringes of the NSA. <i>Spectacular panoramic views</i></p>

<p>An APQ covers the western Strone Peninsula, Loch Striven and the western part of the peninsula that Dunoon is located on and the north-eastern part of this LCT. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to include the scenic juxtaposition of mountains and sea lochs.</p> <p>Part of this landscape lies within the Ben Lui WLA. The SNH description of this WLA area notes that it is small in area and comprises a complex range of steep, high and often craggy hills although in places it is characterised by forestry, hydro-electric development and high voltage electricity transmission lines. The description additionally notes that the operational Clachan wind farm already affects the <i>sense of sanctuary</i> experienced from nearby Beinn Bhuidhe which lies within the WLA.</p>	<p>Tighnabruaich would also be affected by turbines sited on the Strone peninsula and on the higher hills around the Loch Striven area. The special qualities of the APQ would be diminished by turbines sited on visually prominent hills.</p> <p>Additional wind farm development in the north-eastern part of this LCT would be likely to further diminish some of the key attributes of wildness experienced in part of the WLA. High to Low sensitivity</p>	<p>Tighnabruaich would also be affected by turbines sited on the Strone peninsula and on the higher hills around the Loch Striven area. The special qualities of the APQ would be diminished by turbines sited on visually prominent hills.</p> <p>Additional wind farm development in the north-eastern part of this LCT would be likely to further diminish some of the key attributes of wildness experienced in part of the WLA. High to Low sensitivity</p>	<p><i>over the Kyles</i> from the A8003 north of Tighnabruaich would also be affected by turbines sited on the Strone peninsula and on the higher hills around the Loch Striven area. The special qualities of the APQ would be diminished by turbines sited on visually prominent hills.</p> <p>Additional wind farm development in the north-eastern part of this LCT would be likely to further diminish some of the key attributes of wildness experienced in part of the WLA. High to Low sensitivity</p>
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Clachan Flats wind farm located within this character type but close to the 'High Top' of Bheinn Bhuidhe and visible at the head of Loch Fyne



The steep-sided narrow ridges of this character type contain the narrow sea lochs of Cowal and are prominent in views from Bute and the Firth of Clyde



The narrow Fjord-like Loch Striven leads the eye into the interior mountains of this character type seen from the north-eastern coast of Bute.



The often rugged and complex landform of this landscape seen close to the boundary with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park from the A83



Sharp ridges and steep slopes combine with the higher mountains of the 'High Tops' to produce highly scenic landscapes at the head of Loch Fyne.



This character type forms a dramatic rugged backdrop to coastal settlements along the Cowal peninsulas and Loch Fyne.

Landscape Character Type 1: Steep Ridgeland and Mountains

Landscape Character Type 2: High Tops

Landscape Character Type 2: High Tops – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large Typologies (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typologies (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Context	The massive peaks and ridges of these mountains are highly visible and form a scenic rugged backdrop to the lower settled loch shores and coastal areas of Argyll and Bute. Many of these mountains have an instantly recognisable form and are important landmark features seen across a wide area. This character type extends imperceptibly to the north and east with the mountainous landscapes of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and Highland region.	Development would detract from the rugged nature and distinctive form of these mountains and would diminish the scenic composition they form with more settled lowland landscapes, lochs and the sea.	High	Development would detract from the rugged nature and distinctive form of these mountains and would diminish the scenic composition they form with more settled lowland landscapes, lochs and the sea.	High
Scale	The <i>High Tops</i> include peaks such as Beinn Cruachan which rises to 1104m. These mountains have a massive scale although the narrow valleys which cut into the mountains, upland basins and corries are strongly contained by steep slopes.	Tall turbines could relate to this large-scale landscape without dominating the height of individual peaks. Expansiveness is reduced within the narrow valleys which cut into these hills and where the more pronounced peaks provide enclosure, thus limiting scope to site large numbers of turbines.	Medium-low	This typology could also relate to this large-scale landscape without dominating the height of individual peaks. Expansiveness is reduced within the narrow valleys which cut into these hills and where the more pronounced peaks provide enclosure.	Medium-low
Landform	These rugged and often complex bulky mountains with multiple ridges, rocky summits and scooped corries, have steep slopes patterned with scree and exposed rock faces. Deep glens are dramatically contained by sheer slopes. Some slacker lower hill	Turbines would significantly detract from the distinctive and diverse landform of these mountains whether sited on them or close-by.	High	Turbines would significantly detract from the distinctive and diverse irregular landform of these mountains whether sited on them or close-by.	High

	slopes occur within valleys and where these mountains abut loch edges and broader glens.				
Landcover pattern	Vegetation cover is simple, largely comprising grass moorland with patchy heather. The landscape is strongly patterned with exposed rock, crags, small lochs and myriad water courses significantly increasing complexity. Coniferous forestry occurs on the edges of this landscape (although is not extensive in relation to the proportion of open ground) and broadleaved woodlands trace burns, gullies and lower slopes.	Turbines of this size, access roads and other ancillary development would detract from the complex surface pattern of water courses, lochs and boulders although grass moorland and coniferous forestry would be less sensitive.	Medium	Turbines of this size, access roads and other ancillary development would detract from the complex surface pattern of water courses, lochs and boulders although grass moorland and coniferous forestry would be less sensitive.	Medium
Built environment	This mountainous area is very sparsely populated with roads and dispersed settlement occurring only on its fringes (against lower Loch Etive) and at the transition with the Mountain Glens (4) character type.	The absence of settlement reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of settlement reduces sensitivity.	Low
Perceptual qualities	An absence of built development and difficulty of access to the interior of these uplands give a strong sense of remoteness in places. The perception of wildness is accentuated by the ruggedness of the terrain. WLAs cover much of this landscape.	Wind farm development would significantly diminish the strong sense of naturalness and remoteness experienced in these mountains.	High	Wind farm development would significantly diminish the strong sense of naturalness and remoteness experienced in these mountains.	High
Visual amenity	These uplands are popular with walkers because of their highly natural and rugged character and the presence of 'Munro' and 'Corbett' hills. The higher summits offer extensive views into the less visited	Although the interior valleys of these hills are less visible from roads and settlement, the popularity of higher hills with walkers increases sensitivity to wind farm	High	Although the interior valleys of these hills are less visible from roads and settlement, the popularity of higher hills with walkers increases sensitivity to wind farm development even in	High

	<p>interior of the hills and the wider area. The West Highland Way is aligned on the eastern edge of this character type. In terms of views to this character type, these mountains are frequently visible in views from roads including main tourist routes and from settlements. Key views include those to these High Tops at the head of Loch Fyne, Upper Loch Creran seen from the A828 and Ben Cruachan seen extensively from the A85 and in the upper Loch Awe/Loch Etive area.</p>	<p>development even in more visually contained and less settled areas.</p> <p>Wind farm development sited on hill tops and ridges within this character type would be highly prominent in views from surrounding settled areas where it would significantly detract from their focus.</p>		<p>more visually contained and less settled areas.</p> <p>Wind farm development sited on hill tops and ridges within this character type would be highly prominent in views from surrounding settled areas where it would significantly detract from their focus.</p>	
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>The Ben Nevis and Glen Coe NSA is largely located within neighbouring Highland area although part of the NSA extends over the northern boundary of Argyll and Bute in the Glen Tulla and Glen Kinglass area. The special qualities of this NSA most likely to be affected by wind turbine development include the '<i>mountain grandeur</i>' and '<i>classic highland vistas</i>' of this landscape.</p> <p>This mountainous area extends into the LLTNP to the east.</p> <p>An APQ designation applies to the remainder of the High Tops character type. The special qualities of the APQ are likely to comprise dramatic mountainous landform and the</p>	<p>Wind farm development would significantly affect the <i>mountain grandeur</i> and <i>classic highland vistas</i> whether sited within the NSA or close to its boundaries where it would affect the wider setting of this extensive mountainous landscape. The APQ and the WLAs covering much of this landscape also increase sensitivity.</p>	<p>High to High-med</p>	<p>Wind farm development would significantly affect the <i>mountain grandeur</i> and <i>classic highland vistas</i> whether sited within the NSA or close to its boundaries where it would affect the wider setting of this extensive mountainous landscape. The APQ and the WLAs covering much of this landscape also increase sensitivity.</p>	<p>High to High-med</p>

	<p>juxtaposition of these mountains with narrow lochs and the sea and with the settled loch fringes which produce a richly scenic landscape composition.</p> <p>The Loch Etive Mountains WLA and the Ben Lui WLA cover much of this landscape.</p>				
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The 'High Tops' seen at the head of Loch Fyne form an extensive mountainous landscape at the border between Argyll and Bute and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park



The complex ridges and tops of Ben Cruachan provide a dramatic backdrop at the head of Loch Awe.



The steep slopes and distinctive peaks of the 'High Tops' seen at the head of upper Loch Creran form a focus seen from the A828.



The distinctive mountains of the 'High Tops' form a key focus in views from roads and from settled loch and coastal fringes within Argyll and Bute.

Landscape Character Type 2: High Tops

Landscape Character Type 2a: Mull High Tops

Landscape Character Type 2a: Mull High Tops – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typologies (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typologies (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Context	The massive peaks and ridges of these mountains are highly visible and form a scenic rugged backdrop to the 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) and the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12). They also form part of the wider seascape context appreciated in views from the sea and from the mainland coast of Argyll and Bute.	Development would detract from the rugged naturalness of these mountains and would diminish the strong contrast and scenic composition they form with more settled lowland landscapes, lochs and the sea. Sensitivity may be reduced in some limited areas where the hills have a less dramatic form.	High	Development would detract from the rugged naturalness of these mountains and would diminish the scenic composition they form with more settled lowland landscapes, lochs and the sea. Smaller turbines would have less of an effect on adjoining landscapes if sited close-by settlement.	High-med
Scale	This landscape can have a massive scale as it includes peaks such as Dun da Ghaoithe, Ben Buie and Beinn Talaidh which rise above 700m. Scale is reduced within the valleys and glens which cut into these mountains. This landscape is very sparsely settled and has few smaller scale features.	This typology could relate to this large scale landscape without dominating the height of individual peaks although smaller turbines could appear out of scale within more expansive areas.	Medium-low	Although this typology would not dominate the height of individual peaks it would appear out of scale within more expansive areas. It would relate better to the smaller scale of settled landscapes at the transition with the adjacent 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17).	Medium-low
Landform	These rugged and often complex bulky mountains with narrow ridges, and defined conical summits have steep slopes patterned with scree and exposed rock faces. Deep glens such as Glen Forsa and Loch Ba are strongly contained by steep slopes. Some slacker and smoother lower hill slopes occur on the outer fringes of this landscape at the transition with the 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) above	This typology would detract from the distinctive and diverse landform of the more complex craggy mountains and steep-sided high peaks and ridges at the core of this landscape. Sensitivity is reduced where lower hill slopes are slacker although these areas are limited in extent and tall turbines may still detract from adjacent more dramatic landform.	High	This typology would detract from the distinctive and diverse landform of the more complex craggy mountains and steep-sided high peaks and ridges at the core of this landscape. Sensitivity is reduced where lower hill slopes are slacker although these areas are limited in extent. There may be increased scope to site smaller turbines to minimise effects on more dramatic landform	High-med

	the Sound of Mull and between Loch Spelve and Lochdon.				
Landcover	Vegetation cover is simple, largely comprising grass moorland. The landscape is strongly patterned with exposed rock, crags and scree. Coniferous forestry occurs on lower hill slopes at the transition with the 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) and within Glen Forsa and Glen More. Broadleaved woodlands are associated with Loch Ba.	Turbines of this size (and the likely limited extent of development in terms of turbine numbers) would have minimal effects on the simple land cover of this provided areas with a more complex patterning of water courses and exposed rock were avoided.	Low	Turbines of this size (and the likely limited extent of development in terms of turbine numbers) would have minimal effects on the simple land cover of this provided areas with a more complex patterning of water courses and exposed rock were avoided.	Low
Built environment	This mountainous area is very sparsely settled. There are few built features with the exception of the A849, which is aligned through this landscape in Glen More and access tracks extend into glens and within forested areas. Two telecomm masts are located on the narrow ridge above Craignure.	There is scope for this typology to be accommodated without significantly affecting settlement although taller turbines could add to the clutter of existing built structures in some limited areas.	Medium-low	There is scope for this typology to be accommodated without significantly affecting settlement. Well-sited smaller turbines would be less likely to add to the clutter of existing built structures.	Low
Perceptual qualities	An absence of built development and the difficulty of access into the interior of these mountains give a strong sense of naturalness and remoteness in places. This perception of wildness is accentuated where the terrain is particularly rugged. The Ben More, Mull WLA covers much of this landscape.	Wind farm development would significantly diminish the strong sense of naturalness and remoteness experienced in these high mountains. Sensitivity would be reduced on the outer fringes of this character type which are often more influenced by forestry and settlement in adjacent character types.	High	Wind farm development would significantly diminish the strong sense of naturalness and remoteness experienced in these high mountains. Sensitivity would be reduced on the outer fringes of this character type which are often more influenced by forestry and settlement in adjacent character types. Smaller turbines closely associated with settlement may be perceived as being less 'industrial' in character.	High-med

<p>Visual amenity</p>	<p>This mountainous area is popular with walkers because of its natural and rugged character. The Corbett hills of Dun da Ghaoithe and Beinn Talaidh lie within this character type and the Munro of Ben More lies adjacent to this character type within the Loch na Keal NSA. These summits, and other elevated ridges and hill tops, provide extensive views over this character type, Mull and the wider seascape. These mountains are highly visible from the A849, a key tourist route on Mull, which is aligned within this character type. Access tracks and footpaths aligned through glens and up and over high passes also provide close views.</p> <p>In terms of views to this character type, key views to these mountains include those down Glen Forsa focusing on Beinn Talaidh at its head, along and across Loch Ba, from the B8035 and A849 to the mountains seen at the head of Loch Scridain, the A848 above Aros Castle and from the Oban/Craignure ferry and the Sound of Mull.</p>	<p>The visual prominence of this mountainous area in views from roads and settlement around Mull and the wider seascape and its popularity with walkers increases sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>Wind turbine development sited on hill tops and ridges within this character type would be highly prominent in views from surrounding settled areas where it would significantly detract from the focus provided by the dramatic mountainous profile which backdrops key views around Mull. Taller turbines sited on lower, less prominent slopes could also intrude on key views to the mountains.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The visual prominence of this mountainous area in views from roads and settlement around Mull and the wider seascape and its popularity with walkers increases sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>Even smaller turbines sited on hill tops and ridges within this character type would be highly prominent. However, there may be increased scope to site smaller turbines on lower, less prominent hill slopes to minimise intrusion on key views to the more dramatic mountains lying at the core of this character type.</p>	<p>High-med</p>
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>An APQ designation covers the majority of this character type on Mull. The north-eastern hill slopes backing the 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) along the Sound of Mull are not</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on prominent hill tops, ridges and slopes would detract from the dramatic backdrop provided by these mountains in key views</p>	<p>High to Low</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on prominent hill tops, ridges and slopes would detract from the dramatic backdrop provided by these mountains in key views</p>	<p>High-medium to Low</p>

	<p>designated. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to comprise the rugged and dramatic landform of the mountains and their contribution to the richly diverse scenery of Mull where they provide a backdrop seen in key views around the island and the wider seascape.</p> <p>This mountainous landscape is also visible from the summit of Ben More which lies within the adjacent Loch na Keal NSA. The special qualities of this NSA focus on the diverse seascape of dramatic coastal scenery and islands.</p> <p>The Ben More, Mull WLA covers the high mountain core of this landscape. The SNH description for this WLA notes that no wind farms are revealed in views from this area and that there are few human artefacts or contemporary land uses in the WLA.</p>	<p>around Mull and the wider seascape. Undesignated lower hill slopes above the Sound of Mull may be less sensitive although turbines of this size sited in this area could still adversely affect key views to the more dramatic mountains.</p> <p>Turbines sited close to the NSA are unlikely to affect its key special qualities although could impact on views from Ben More.</p> <p>Turbines of this size sited within or close-by could diminish the the key attributes of this WLA.</p>		<p>around Mull and the wider seascape. Undesignated lower hill slopes above the Sound of Mull may be less sensitive although tall turbines sited in this area could still adversely affect key views to the more dramatic mountains.</p> <p>Smaller turbines would be unlikely to affect the key special qualities of the NSA or have a significant effect on views from Ben More, as they are more likely to be sited close to existing settlement.</p> <p>This size of turbine is more likely to be sited close to settlement and as such it would have minimal effects on key attributes of the WLA.</p>	
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Distinctive conical peaks, narrow ridges and corries give the High Tops a diverse landform and increase sensitivity.



This landscape can have a strong sense of wildness within the largely unsettled interior



Steep craggy slopes of the High Tops provide a dramatic backdrop to more settled coastal fringes, seen here at Loch Buie.



The A849 swings through the 'High Tops' offering close views of this rugged landscape within Glen More.

Landscape Character Type 2a: Mull High Tops

Landscape Character Types 3 + 4: Hidden and Mountain Glens

Landscape Character Types 3 + 4: Hidden and Mountain Glens – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small/medium typologies (35m – 50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typologies (20m – 35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	These narrow glens are visually isolated from other landscape types, with the exception of the immediate edges of the surrounding upland character types, including the ‘Steep Ridgeland and Mountains’ (1), ‘High Tops’ (2), ‘Craggy Uplands with Settled Glens’ (7a) and the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) which form the upper rim of the glen sides. There is a strong contrast between the settled and farmed floors of these glens and the rugged (and often forested) steep glens sides and skylines of the adjacent upland character types.	The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types although they occasionally comprise the foreground to views of key hills (eg Ben Cruachan seen across the Inverawe area) where the massive scale of the mountains is emphasised by the small size of buildings and more intricate land cover pattern. This contrast would be diminished by this typology.	High-med	The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types although they occasionally comprise the foreground to views of key hills (eg Ben Cruachan seen across the Inverawe area) where the massive scale of the mountains is emphasised by the small size of buildings and more intricate land cover pattern. This contrast could be diminished by larger turbines within this typology although turbines towards the lower height band would be likely to have less of an effect.	Medium
Scale	These glens largely comprise narrow, high-sided valleys with flat floors. The steep valley sides create a high degree of enclosure. The height of the valley sides is most pronounced and dramatic when flanked by the ‘High Tops’ (2). Buildings, individual trees, woodlands and the small field enclosure pattern characteristic of these glens, further reduces scale.	This typology could easily dominate the narrow floor of these glens and appear to ‘fill up’ the more contained and enclosed spaces. The sense of ‘depth’ and often perceived towering scale of some of the more dramatic glens would be diminished by the presence of this typology. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of small buildings which can be fairly densely concentrated in some of these glens eg. Inverawe and Strath Orchy.	High	This typology could easily dominate the narrow floor of these glens and appear to ‘fill up’ the more contained and enclosed spaces. The sense of ‘depth’ and often perceived towering scale of some of the more dramatic glens would be diminished by the presence of this typology However, in places where the glen floor opens out, or widens at a confluence with a side valley, creating a more extensive sense of space, away from more dramatic steeply	High-med

				rising uplands, there is some potential to accommodate this smaller typology provided it is sited to avoid overwhelming the scale of small buildings.	
Landform	<p>The glens are relatively narrow, with flat floors and steep side slopes rising to irregular ridgelines. The ridge between the valley sides and the surrounding uplands usually appears as an abrupt edge. The upper glen sides are defined as lying in the adjacent upland character type in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Lower glen sides can have an irregular and relatively complex topography of craggy outcrops where they lie adjacent to the more mountainous landscapes of the 'High Tops' (2) (eg Glen Fyne and Glen Creran). Other glens have smoother and gentler lower side slopes, eg. Carradale, Strath of Orchy and south of Taynuilt.</p>	<p>The irregular topography along the lower slopes offers opportunities for siting individual turbines related to topographical features, although it would be difficult to relate the larger turbines to the small size of many landform features. The rhythm of the undulating and irregular ridges could be easily disrupted by turbines interrupting the skyline when viewed from the valley floor. An additional effect is likely to be extensive cut and fill creating scarring if access tracks are built across steep slopes.</p>	High	<p>Single or very small clusters of this typology could be accommodated along the smoother, slacker lower glen slopes associated with some of these glens. Steeper slopes would be more sensitive. Turbines sited on distinctive knoll tops would be prominent and would detract from the rugged complex landform found within some of these glens. The rhythm of the undulating and irregular ridges could be easily disrupted by turbines interrupting the skyline when viewed from the valley floor.</p>	High-med
Landcover pattern	<p>Narrow flat glen floors accommodate small pastures sub-divided by belts of mature mixed species trees (a key feature in glens such as Glen Shira, Glen Creran, Carradale and Glen Saddell) or stone walls. Riparian woodland traces the course of rivers and burns. Policy woodlands are a feature in the lower reaches of many of these glens. Some of the glens contain small lochans.</p>	<p>The small size of individual features – from lochans, belts of trees to small woodlands and fields – could be easily dominated by the larger turbines of this typology. Where more extensive and less visually diverse vegetation pattern occurs, generally on lower slopes and towards the head of the glens, there is likely to be more scope for this typology.</p>	High-medium	<p>Smaller scale land cover features would also be sensitive to turbines towards the upper height band of this typology although there is some scope to accommodate this typology to avoid impacting on landscape pattern or individual features. Turbines could be sited to associate with the edges of the side valleys or other topographical features.</p>	Medium

	Coniferous forestry covers most of the glen sides although some rough grassland and broadleaved woodland are also present.				
Built environment	Dispersed farms, crofts and cottages, become sparser towards the heads of the glens. Occasional estate houses are set within the lower glens. Settlement is generally located as point features along the edge of the valley floor. Most of these glens are by-passed by major roads with only minor roads providing 'dead-end' access. The Taynuilt area next to Loch Etive and Strath Orchy are exceptions as the busy A85 is aligned through these landscapes. Historic buildings and archaeological features are evident in these glens.	This typology could easily overwhelm small farms and individual houses, if sited close enough to dominate the setting and the scale of the existing buildings and associated features. This typology could also detract from the way development is characteristically located along the edges of the valley floor, if it is sited on the flat flood plain. This typology could also impact on the setting and the prominence of archaeological and historic features.	High	While this typology could also detract from the way development is characteristically located along the edges of the valley floor if sited on the flat farmed flood plain There may be greater scope to physically accommodate the lower height band turbines of this typology on side slopes and thus enable them to relate to the scale and pattern of larger buildings, settlement groups and farm steadings. The setting of archaeological sites remains sensitive however even to this typology.	High-med
Perceptual qualities	When travelling to the heads of some of the glens on 'dead end' roads, settlement becomes sparse and there is a strong sense of seclusion. The less accessible glens abutting the rugged mountainous landscapes of the 'High Tops' (2) eg Glen Creran, Glen Fyne and Glen Shira have a stronger sense of wildness.	While there can be a sense of seclusion in these glens, there is only a limited sense of remoteness, as the landscape is settled and the glen floor is relatively managed. The upper reaches of the more secluded glens adjacent to the High Tops (2) will be more sensitive to this typology.	Medium	While there can be a sense of seclusion in these glens, there is only a limited sense of remoteness, as the landscape is settled and the glen floor is relatively managed. The upper reaches of the more secluded glens adjacent to the High Tops (2) will be more sensitive to this typology.	Medium
Visual amenity	Views from the A85, A828 and the B842 offer glimpsed views into these glens. The heads of the glens are often the focal point for key views and the irregular shaped skyline	This typology could quickly become visually dominant within smaller spaces associated with narrower glens or if located where it intrudes into the linear views which focus along the length of the glens.	High	Views to the heads of the glens and to the adjacent 'High Tops' (2) are especially sensitive as these are the focal points of views, but there should be some scope to site the smaller turbines towards the lower height band	High-med

	<p>around the rim of the valleys is visually prominent.</p> <p>Glen Shira, Glen Fyne and Glen Creran lie close to 'Munro' and 'Corbett' hills popular with walkers which provide elevated views across these landscapes.</p>	<p>Turbines sited on prominent knolls on lower hill slopes would be intrusive and detract from views to adjacent mountains.</p> <p>The irregular ridges are also sensitive to development perched along the prominent skyline within the adjacent upland character types. Views to the heads of the glens are especially sensitive as these are the focal points of views.</p>		<p>of this typology within broader glens such as Strath of Orchy and the Taynuilt area without impinging on these views.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>All of the 'Mountain Glens' are designated as APQs while the eastern coastal areas of the 'Hidden Glens' is the only part of this character type similarly designated. A rich land use pattern, influenced by policy plantings, historic buildings and coastal character are particularly associated with the 'Hidden Glens' (3). The 'Mountain Glens' (4) feature a strongly contained landform and are dramatically juxtaposed with the 'High Tops' (2).</p>	<p>This typology could adversely affect the scenic composition of the 'Mountain Glens' (4) with the adjacent 'High Tops' (2) (which are also designated APQ). Turbines of this size would be likely to significantly impact on the coastal scenery and rich land use pattern of the lower 'Hidden Glens' (3).</p>	High-Medium to low	<p>Poorly sited turbines of this size could also adversely affect the scenic composition of the 'Mountain Glens'(4) with the adjacent 'High Tops' (2) although there is some scope to site smaller turbines to minimise such impacts. Turbines of this size could also impact on the coastal scenery and rich land use pattern of the lower 'Hidden Glens' (3).</p>	Medium to low



Glen Shira, in common with other Mountain Glens, has a narrow glen floor and is strongly contained by steep slopes



Small fields of pasture and settlement pattern the gently undulating glen floor in the Dalmailly area.



Policy plantings and historic buildings feature in many of these sheltered glens



Open pasture within the flat glen floor contrasts with often heavily wooded slopes



Views at the heads of the Hidden Glens in Kintyre take in the edge of the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6)



Views to a rugged mountainous backdrop are a key feature of the Mountain Glens as seen here within Glen Creran

Landscape Character Types 3 + 4: Hidden and Mountain Glens

Landscape Character Type 5: Open Ridgeland

Landscape Character Type 5: Open Ridgeland – Sensitivity assessment of larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This character type forms a transitional landscape between the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) (to which this landscape provides an immediate backdrop) and the higher 'Steep Ridgeland and mountains' (1) of the Cowal area. This landscape is prominent from the Firth of Clyde although it lacks the dramatic upland character of (1) or the richly patterned character of (13). This landscape contributes to the more rural character along the River Clyde west of Glasgow and provides a contrast with the densely developed southern Clyde coast of Inverclyde.	Large turbines sited close to the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) could affect the setting that the hills of the 'Open Ridgeland' provide to this settled and often richly patterned landscape. Turbines of this size would also be likely to detract from the higher hills of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and the 'Steep Ridgeland and Mountains' (1) which form prominent landmark features in views from the south. This size of turbine (and particularly multiple turbines) could diminish the contrast that present exists with more developed urban areas to the east and south.	High	Large turbines sited close to the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) could affect the setting that the hills of the 'Open Ridgeland' provide to this settled and often richly patterned landscape. They could also detract from the higher hills of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and the 'Steep Ridgeland and Mountains' (1) if sited on sensitive ridges although there may be scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise these effects. This size of turbine (and particularly multiple turbines) could diminish the contrast that present exists with more developed urban areas to the east and south.	High-med
Scale	These landscapes form south-west facing hill slopes and the narrow peninsula of Rosneath. They are fairly limited in extent. Relief is relatively low within the Rosneath Peninsula with hills rising to around 200m. The hills near Helensburgh are higher, rising to around 360m on the boundary with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park on the ridge separating Glen	This typology would dominate the scale of the Rosneath Peninsula although would have a better relationship to the larger scale of the hills backing Helensburgh and Cardross. Turbines of this size would dominate small scale features such as buildings and trees located on the fringes of this LCT.	High-medium	This typology would also appear large in relation to the relatively lowly height of the Rosneath Peninsula although turbines of this size would have a better relationship to the larger scale of the hills backing Helensburgh and Cardross. Turbines of this size could dominate small scale features such as buildings and	Medium

	Fruin from the Firth of Clyde basin. Upper slopes and broad ridges are fairly open very with few smaller scale features although settlement fringes the coast of the Rosneath Peninsula.			trees located on the fringes of this LCT although there is increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology to minimise impacts of scale.	
Landform	Broad rounded ridges with a generally smooth landform and gently graded slopes. Occasional lower basins and wider valleys occur, for example, above Helensburgh, and on the western slopes of the Rosneath Peninsula. Steeper slopes rise from Gare Loch.	The simple, gently sloping landform of this landscape generally reduces sensitivity	Medium-low	The simple landform of this landscape generally reduces sensitivity	Medium-low
Land cover pattern	A simple land cover of upland grazing and angular coniferous forestry plantations predominates.	The simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology.	Low	The simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology.	Low
Built environment	This landscape is densely settled on the coast of the Rosneath Peninsula. It also provides a backdrop of hills to Helensburgh and Cardross (which lie within the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13)). Widely dispersed farms are accessed by minor roads on the shallower west-facing middle slopes of the Rosneath Peninsula and within the valleys above Cardross. The extensive military developments of Culpport and Faslane are located at the head of Gare Loch and the north-west coast of the Rosneath Peninsula. A very tall mast on the Rosneath Peninsula and transmission lines aligned on the hills above Helensburgh are prominent features.	This typology could adversely affect the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements in the well-settled coastal areas and the adjacent 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) although some less settled areas would be less sensitive. Turbines of this size could exacerbate the clutter of masts and other built structures present in some areas.	High-med	This typology could adversely affect the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements in the well-settled coastal areas and the adjacent 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) although there may be increased scope to site turbines towards the lower height band to minimise effects. Turbines of this size could exacerbate the clutter of masts and other built structures present in some areas.	Medium

Perceptual qualities	Generally a managed landscape with little sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low
Visual amenity	This landscape is highly visible from many areas around the well-settled Firth of Clyde basin. All sides of the Rosneath Peninsula are visible from coastal settlement, roads along the Firth and the sea lochs, from Bute and Inverclyde and from boats and ferries within the Firth of Clyde. The low peninsula of Rosneath forms the foreground to the more dramatic high peaks of the 'Steep Ridgeland and Mountains' (1). The steep slopes to the NW of Helensburgh and the more gently sloping hills above Cardross are particularly visible from the Port Glasgow and Greenock area. The ridge of high ground above Helensburgh and Cardross forms the boundary of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and contains views from Glen Fruin and other low-lying areas around Loch Lomond.	Turbines of this size would be prominent in views from minor roads and footpaths within the character type. Settlement on the coastal edge of the Rosneath Peninsula would be likely to be less affected due to orientation and the screening provided by rising ground. This typology would be highly prominent from settlement, roads and footpaths and from the sea in the wider Firth of Clyde area and could also impact on views from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park if visible above the ridge of high ground which forms the boundary to the Park or on the Rosneath Peninsula seen from the Strone Peninsula. Turbines of this size sited on the Rosneath Peninsula and steep-sided ridge NW of Helensburgh would intrude on key views to the high peaks of the 'Steep Ridgeland and Mountains' (1) and within the Loch Lomond and National Park.	High	Turbines of this size would be prominent in views from minor roads and footpaths within the character type (settlement on the coastal edge of the Rosneath Peninsula would be likely to be less affected due to orientation and the screening provided by rising ground). This typology would be prominent from settlement, roads and footpaths in the wider Firth of Clyde area and could also impact on views from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park if visible above the ridge of high ground which forms the boundary to the Park or extending above the low ridge of the Rosneath Peninsula, where turbines would intrude on key views to mountain peaks.	High-med
Landscape Values	This landscape is not designated but lies adjacent to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The special qualities of the National Park that could potentially be affected in this location	This typology could impact on views from parts of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park particularly if sited on sensitive skylines above	High-med to Low	This typology could impact on views from parts of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park particularly if sited on sensitive skylines above the	High-med to Low

	<p>include: <i>'The seaside architecture of Kilmun and Blairmore'</i> (and specifically views from this area) and also views from the Loch Lomond area and particularly <i>'The Lowland 'Lake''</i> with its designed landscapes, rolling farmland and estate villages.</p>	<p>the western edge of Loch Lomond or on the Rosneath Peninsula. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type.</p>		<p>western edge of Loch Lomond or on the Rosneath Peninsula. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type</p>	
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Landscape Character Type 5: Open Ridgeland – Sensitivity assessment of smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This character type forms a transitional landscape between the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13) (to which this landscape provides an immediate backdrop) and the higher 'Steep Ridgeland and mountains' (1) of the Cowal area. This landscape is prominent from the Firth of Clyde although it lacks the dramatic upland character of (1) or the richly patterned character of (13). This landscape contributes to the more rural character along the River Clyde west of Glasgow and provides a contrast with the densely developed southern Clyde coast of Inverclyde.	This typology could be sited to minimise prominence and effects on adjacent character types. Multiple turbines of this size could diminish the contrast with nearby urban areas.	Medium	There is increased scope to site this smaller typology to avoid impacts on adjacent character types.	Medium-low
Scale	These landscapes form south-west facing hill slopes and the narrow peninsula of Rosneath. They are fairly limited in extent. Relief is relatively low within the Rosneath Peninsula with hills rising to around 200m. The hills near Helensburgh are higher, rising to around 360m on the boundary with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park on the ridge separating Glen Fruin from the Firth of Clyde basin. Upper slopes and broad ridges are fairly open very with few smaller scale features although settlement fringes the coast of the Rosneath Peninsula.	This typology would have a better scale relationship with the low ridge of the Rosneath Peninsula and would also be less likely to dominate smaller scale features such as buildings.	Medium	There would be increased opportunities to locate the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise effects on the scale of landform and built features.	Medium-low

Landform	Broad rounded ridges with a generally smooth landform and gently graded slopes. Occasional lower basins and wider valleys occur, for example, above Helensburgh, and on the western slopes of the Rosneath Peninsula. Steeper slopes rise from Gare Loch.	The simple, gently sloping landform of this landscape reduces sensitivity	Medium-low	The simple gently sloping landform of this landscape reduces sensitivity	Medium-low
Land cover pattern	A simple land cover of upland grazing and angular coniferous forestry plantations predominates.	The simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology.	Low	The simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology.	Low
Built environment	This landscape is densely settled on the coast of the Rosneath Peninsula. It also provides a backdrop of hills to Helensburgh and Cardross (which lie within the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13)). Widely dispersed farms are accessed by minor roads on the shallower west-facing middle slopes of the Rosneath Peninsula and within the valleys above Cardross. The extensive military developments of Coulport and Faslane are located at the head of Gare Loch and the north-west coast of the Rosneath Peninsula. A very tall mast on the Rosneath Peninsula and transmission lines aligned on the hills above Helensburgh are prominent features.	There are increased opportunities to locate this size of turbine to minimise effects on the scale and setting of settlement. Multiple turbines could still exacerbate the clutter of masts and other built structures present in some areas.	Medium	There is greater scope for accommodating this typology because of its potential to be associated with the scale of larger buildings and farms. Multiple turbines could still exacerbate the clutter of masts and other built structures present in some areas.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	Generally a managed landscape with little sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low
Visual amenity	This landscape is highly visible from many areas around the well-settled Firth of Clyde. All sides of the Rosneath	Turbines of this size located on hill tops or ridges where they would be seen against the sky would be	High-med	There is greater scope for this smaller typology to be sited on lower hill slopes to avoiding	Medium

	<p>Peninsula are visible from coastal settlement and roads along the sea lochs, Bute and Inverclyde. The steep slopes above Helensburgh while the more gently sloping hills above Cardross are particularly visible from the Port Glasgow and Greenock area. This landscape is visible from ferry routes in the Firth of Clyde. The ridge of high ground above Helensburgh and Cardross forms the boundary of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and contains views from Glen Fruin and other low-lying areas around Loch Lomond.</p>	<p>visually prominent. There is scope to site this typology on lower hill slopes and dips in the landscape to benefit from a degree of containment by higher ground thus reducing prominence.</p>		<p>intrusion on key views and to be visually associated with existing buildings so limiting clutter.</p>	
<p>Landscape Values</p>	<p>This landscape is not designated but lies adjacent to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and to the Rosneath Inventory listed designed landscapes.</p> <p>The special qualities of the National Park that could potentially be affected in this location include: <i>'The seaside architecture of Kilmun and Blairmore'</i> (and specifically views from this area) and also views from the Loch Lomond area and particularly <i>'The Lowland 'Lake''</i> with its designed landscapes, rolling farmland and estate villages.</p>	<p>There is increased scope for turbines of this size to be sited to avoid significant impact on views from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and avoid impact on the setting of Inventory listed landscapes.</p>	<p>Medium to low</p>	<p>There is increased scope for turbines of this size to be sited to avoid significant impact on views from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and avoid impact on the setting of Inventory listed landscapes.</p>	<p>Medium to low</p>



Broader upper hill slopes of the Open Ridgeland have a simple pattern of grass moorland and forestry seen above the adjacent Rolling Farmland with Estates (13)



The Open Ridgeland above Helensburgh forms the boundary with the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park



The rugged mountains of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park form a focus beyond this landscape seen from the densely settled Inverclyde area



Settlement fringes the shores of the Rosneath Peninsula and is backed by relatively low hills increasing sensitivity to larger typologies

Landscape Character Type 5: Open Ridgeland

Landscape Character Type 5a: Bute Open Ridgeland

Landscape Character Type 5a: Bute Open Ridgeland – Sensitivity assessment of larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This character type forms a rugged core of small hills and upland plateau encircled by the rich farmland and policies of the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13a) and the 'Coastal Plain' (19a) within the southern part of Bute. In the northern part it comprises a band of defined smooth rounded hills abutting the lower craggy terrain of the Kyles of Bute NSA. These small hills contribute to the scenic diversity of the Bute landscape. They are also important in providing a backdrop to designed landscapes, the settlement of Rothesay (particularly Barone Hill) and the wider setting to the Kyles of Bute NSA. The strongly rural island of Bute contrasts with the more developed Ayrshire coast which accommodates large scale wind turbines and other infrastructure.	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from the Firth of Clyde and from Arran and the mainland coast. They would dominate the small extent and low relief of the island of Bute overall (not just this LCT) and would adversely affect the wider scenic character of the western part of the Firth of Clyde.	High	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from the Firth of Clyde and from Arran and the mainland coast. They would dominate the small extent and low relief of the island of Bute overall (not just this LCT) and would adversely affect the wider scenic character of the western part of the Firth of Clyde.	High
Scale	This landscape comprises relatively low, small hills and undulating ridges rising to between 124m and 278m (the hills are lower in the southern area and with the height differential seen from roads such as the B881 only around 100m) and cut by narrow valleys. Small fields, trees and farms sited on lower slopes provide readily appreciated small scale features. The rolling landform limits scale which is generally medium but increases in the	Turbines of this size would appear overly large in relation to the height of these hills whether sited on summits or on lower slopes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings and trees which are commonly seen on the lower slopes of these hills.	High	Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the height of these hills and ridges particularly those to the south, whether sited on summits or on lower slopes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings and trees which are commonly seen on the lower slopes of these hills. The higher hills in the northern	High

	north where the hills are higher and few small scale features are present.			part of this LCT would be less dominated	
Landform	Rounded and generally well-defined hills with occasional broader areas of undulating plateau in the southern part of Bute, although this is not extensive. A pronounced scarp forms the southern boundary of this character type against Loch Fad. The hills in the north have steep south-facing slopes rising from the broad flat valley between Kames and Ettrick Bays.	This typology would detract from steep containing slopes and more defined hills but could relate better to smoother gentler lower slopes and the broader upland plateau	Medium	This typology would detract from steep containing slopes and more defined hills but could relate better to smoother gentler lower slopes and the broader upland plateau.	Medium
Land cover	This landscape has a diverse land cover of enclosed pastures and woodlands on lower slopes and patchy heather, grass, bracken and gorse scrub on steeper upper slopes and hill tops. Hedges, stone dykes and broadleaved woodlands feature in places, notably on the steep slopes above Loch Fad. Narrow hedge-lined roads cut through valleys and along the edge of lower hill slopes.	This typology would detract from more intricately patterned areas of woodland, moor and scrub and areas with a distinct field enclosure pattern. Areas of more extensive upland grazing would be less sensitive.	Medium	This typology would detract from more intricately patterned areas of woodland, moor and scrub and areas with a distinct field enclosure pattern. Areas of more extensive upland grazing would be less sensitive.	Medium
Built environment	A regular pattern of dispersed farms and houses sited on lower slopes fringing the higher hill ground. This landscape is less settled to the north in upper Glen More. A number of archaeological features occur on the broad upland ridge between Barone and Tarmore Hills.	This typology would appear large in relation to farms, small dwellings and settlements, and could affect their setting if located nearby. Less settled upland areas would be less sensitive although the setting of archaeological and historical features could be affected by this typology in some areas.	High-medium	This typology would appear large in relation to farms, small dwellings and settlements, and could affect their setting if located nearby. Less settled upland areas would be less sensitive although the setting of archaeological and historical features could be affected by this typology in some areas.	High-medium
Perceptual qualities	The managed farmland on the fringes of this character type have little sense of	Wildland character is not pronounced within the more settled and farmed	Medium	The smaller turbines of this typology are more likely to be	Medium

	wildness although the less managed vegetation on the higher hills is more naturalistic and these hills can feel secluded away from roads and settlement.	fringes of these hills. Taller turbines could however impact on the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the less managed upland core in the north.		sited close to settlement and would therefore have less of an effect on the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the upland core in the north.	
Visual amenity	<p>There are limited views into the interior of the southern hills from roads and settlement. Views from the A844 tend to focus on the coast and to Arran although the steep slopes of Eenan and Muirton Hills are a key feature in views from the Ettrick Bay area. In many glimpsed views from roads, only the highest hill tops and farmed edges of the southern area of this character type are visible. There are a number of promoted walking routes including the West Island Way which is aligned through Glen More (providing views of the northern hills) and near Barone Hill.</p> <p>In terms of views to this character type; the summits of the higher northern hills (Torrans Turach and Windy Hill) and the eastern hill slopes north of Kames Bay are seen from the promoted viewpoint over the Kyles of Bute NSA from the A8003. The three distinct rounded summits along the southern-most ridge on Bute (between Tarmore and Barone Hills) are seen from the Ardlamont peninsula. Barone Hill is also prominent</p>	Turbines of this size located on hill tops or upper slopes would form dominant features in views from roads, beaches and the footpaths within Bute. They would also be prominent in views from further afield across the Firth of Clyde and from north Arran. Views from the Kyles of Bute NSA (and particularly the iconic view across the Kyles from the B8003) would be particularly sensitive to intrusion.	High	Turbines of this size located on hill tops or upper slopes would form prominent features in views from roads, beaches and the footpaths within Bute. They could also be highly visible in views from further afield across the Firth of Clyde and from north Arran. Views from the Kyles of Bute NSA (and particularly the iconic view across the Kyles from the B8003) would be particularly sensitive to intrusion.	High

	in views from the ferry on the approach to Rothesay.				
Landscape Values	<p>All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran and the diversity of landscapes across Bute to which these small hills contribute. These hills also frame views down the Kyles of Bute and provide a backdrop to the western coast of the island.</p> <p>The Kyles of Bute NSA abuts the northern boundary of this character type. A key special quality of this NSA is the <i>'The drama of the Kyles'</i>. The sparsely populated nature of northern Bute is also noted in the description of the special quality <i>'The juxtaposition of human settlement and a wider undeveloped landscape of sea and hills'</i></p> <p>The North Arran NSA and WLA lie within 10km of this landscape. The little developed island of Bute contrasts with the Kintyre peninsula seen to the west of the North Arran WLA and NSA which accommodates wind farm developments.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size could affect the special qualities of the Bute APQ. Large turbines sited on the northern part of this LCT could detract from the special qualities of the Kyles of Bute NSA. The wider setting of the North Arran WLA and NSA could also be adversely affected.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size could affect the special qualities of the Bute APQ. Large turbines sited on the northern part of this LCT could detract from the special qualities of the Kyles of Bute NSA. The wider setting of the North Arran WLA and NSA could also be adversely affected.</p>	High

Landscape Character Type Bute Open Ridgeland (5a) – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This character type forms a rugged core of small hills and upland plateau encircled by the rich farmland and policies of the 'Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13a) and the 'Coastal Plain' (19a) within the southern part of Bute. In the northern part it comprises a band of defined smooth rounded hills abutting the lower craggy terrain of the Kyles of Bute NSA. These small hills contribute to the scenic diversity of the Bute landscape. They are also important in providing a backdrop to designed landscapes, the settlement of Rothesay (particularly Barone Hill) and the wider setting to the Kyles of Bute NSA.	Turbines of this size sited on prominent hill tops would affect the scenic backdrop provided by these hills and diminish their openness which contrasts with the more managed lowland landscapes of Bute. They could also impact on the Kyles of Bute NSA if sited on higher hills to the north. Turbines sited in less prominent locations would have a reduced effect although multiple developments would increase clutter and could diminish contrast and wider scenic diversity.	High-med	Unless located on prominent ridges and hill tops, this typology is unlikely to extend significantly into wider views and would therefore be unlikely to have major effects on wider landscape context. Multiple developments towards the upper height band of this typology would increase clutter and could diminish wider scenic diversity although smaller turbines closely associated with settlement would be likely to have less of an effect.	Medium
Scale	This landscape comprises relatively low, small hills and undulating ridges rising to between 124m and 278m (the hills are lower in the southern area and with the height differential seen from roads such as the B881 only around 100m) and cut by narrow valleys. Small fields, trees and farms sited on lower slopes provide readily appreciated small scale features. The rolling landform limits scale which is generally medium but increases in the north where the hills are higher and few small scale features are present.	Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the height of the low hills and ridges particularly those to the south, whether sited on summits or on lower slopes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings and trees which are commonly seen on the lower slopes of these hills. The larger hills either side of Glen More would be less sensitive in terms of scale.	High-med	This typology would be higher than trees and woodlands but could fit more sympathetically with the scale of these hills and with settlement.	Medium
Landform	Rounded and generally well-defined hills with occasional broader areas of	This typology would detract from steep containing slopes and more	Medium	This typology would detract from steep containing slopes and	Medium

	undulating plateau in the southern part of Bute, although this is not extensive. A pronounced scarp forms the southern boundary of this character type against Loch Fad. The hills in the north have steep south-facing slopes rising from the broad flat valley between Kames and Ettrick Bays.	defined hills but could relate better to smoother gentler lower slopes and the broader upland plateau		more defined hills but could relate better to smoother gentler lower slopes, where they could be associated with settlement.	
Land cover	This landscape has a diverse land cover of enclosed pastures and woodlands on lower slopes and patchy heather, grass, bracken and gorse scrub on steeper upper slopes and hill tops. Hedges, stone dykes and broadleaved woodlands feature in places, notably on the steep slopes above Loch Fad. Narrow hedge-lined roads cut through valleys and along the edge of lower hill slopes.	While this typology could have adverse effects on more intricately patterned areas of woodland, moor and scrub and on areas with a distinct field enclosure pattern, more uniform and extensive upland grazing within the higher upland areas would be less sensitive.	Medium-low	There is scope to locate this smaller typology within larger fields but avoiding areas with a distinctive woodland cover and a distinct field enclosure pattern.	Medium-low
Built environment	A regular pattern of dispersed farms and houses sited on lower slopes fringing the higher hill ground. This landscape is less settled to the north in upper Glen More. A number of archaeological features occur on the broad upland ridge between Barone and Tarmore Hills.	This typology would appear large in relation to farms, small dwellings and settlements, and could affect their setting if located nearby. Less settled upland areas would be less sensitive although the setting of archaeological and historical features could be affected by this typology in some areas.	Medium	There is greater scope for accommodating this typology because of its potential to be associated with the scale of larger buildings and farms. Care should still be taken to avoid disrupting the setting of features of historic or archaeological interest in this area.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	The managed farmland on the fringes of this character type have little sense of wildness although the less managed vegetation on the higher hills is more naturalistic and these hills can feel secluded away from roads and settlement.	Wildland character is not pronounced within the more settled and farmed fringes of these hills. Taller turbines could however impact on the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the less managed upland core.	Medium	The smaller turbines of this typology are more likely to be sited close to settlement and would therefore have less of an effect on the sense of naturalness and seclusion experienced in the upland core.	Medium-Low

<p>Visual amenity</p>	<p>There are limited views into the interior of the southern hills from roads and settlement. Views from the A844 tend to focus on the coast and to Arran although the steep slopes of Eenan and Muirton Hills are a key feature in views from the Ettrick Bay area. In many glimpsed views from roads, only the highest hill tops and farmed edges of the southern area of this character type are visible. There are a number of promoted walking routes including the West Island Way which is aligned through Glen More (providing views of the northern hills) and near Barone Hill.</p> <p>In terms of views to this character type; the summits of the higher northern hills (Torrans Turach and Windy Hill) and the eastern hill slopes north of Kames Bay are seen from the promoted viewpoint over the Kyles of Bute NSA from the A8003. The three distinct rounded summits along the southern-most ridge on Bute (between Tarmore and Barone Hills) are seen from the Ardlamont peninsula. Barone Hill is also prominent in views from the ferry on the approach to Rothesay.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size located on hill tops or upper slopes would be visually prominent in views from roads, beaches and the footpaths within Bute. Lower slopes where turbines could be back-dropped by higher ground would be less visually sensitive. They could also be prominent in views from further afield if sited so seen on prominent skylines with views from the Kyles of Bute NSA being particularly sensitive to intrusion.</p>	<p>High-med</p>	<p>There is greater scope for this smaller typology to be sited on lower hill slopes so as to benefit from a degree of screening by the backdrop of higher ground. Views down the Kyles of Bute and hill tops remain sensitive however.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Landscape Values</p>	<p>All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran and the diversity of landscapes across Bute to which these</p>	<p>There may be some limited scope to site turbines of this size to avoid impact on views to and from Arran and the Kyles of Bute.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>There is increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid impact on views of the Kyles of Bute and</p>	<p>Medium</p>

	<p>small hills contribute. These hills also frame views down the Kyles of Bute and provide a backdrop to the western coast of the island.</p> <p>The Kyles of Bute NSA abuts the northern boundary of this character type. A key special quality of this NSA is the <i>'The drama of the Kyles'</i>. The sparsely populated nature of northern Bute is also noted in the description of the special quality <i>'The juxtaposition of human settlement and a wider undeveloped landscape of sea and hills'</i></p> <p>The North Arran NSA and WLA lie within 10km of this landscape. The little developed island of Bute contrasts with the Kintyre peninsula seen to the west of the North Arran WLA and NSA which accommodates wind farm developments.</p>	<p>Turbines sited on higher northern hills and eastern slopes could detract from the special qualities of the Kyles of Bute NSA.</p>		<p>to Arran and on the Kyles of Bute NSA.</p>	
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Open moorland covers the gently undulating ridge tops of this character type



Small and often strongly enclosed fields and farms encircle the higher core of this landscape



The smooth ridges and hills of the Open Ridgeland seen across Ettrick Bay



Broadleaved woodlands covering steep scarp slopes above Loch Fad



The higher hills of the Bute Open Ridgeland are visible from key viewpoints looking south within the adjacent Kyles of Bute NSA



The distinctive three peaks , which include Barone and Kilmory hills, seen from the Ardlamont Point area

Landscape Character Type 5a: Bute Open Ridgeland

Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Very large typology assessment (>130m)	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)
<p>Landscape context This landscape forms a relatively low backdrop of extensively forested hills to the more richly patterned and smaller scale low-lying coastal fringes of the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and the <i>Coastal Plain</i> (19). Visibility of the interior of these uplands from these adjoining character types is very limited although there are occasional more open views from the B8001, the Barr Glen area and from the A83 in the Clachan area. The remote coastal area of this character type between Skipness and Tarbet is also visible from outer Loch Fyne and the Ardlamont Peninsula. There are also long views to the Kintyre uplands from Arran and Gigha. The outer edge hills of these uplands contain the <i>Hidden Glens</i> (3) and form prominent skylines seen from these glens. Smaller scale and more complex hills are commonly found on the fringes of these upland areas and it is these areas that are often highly visible in views from roads and settlement along the coastal edge.</p>	<p>The relatively limited width of the Kintyre peninsula could result in very large turbines being visible from the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> LCT on both the east and west coasts and from both Gigha and Arran thus extending and increasing impact on other landscapes. This typology (which could comprise turbines around 200m high) would dominate the more settled and small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> and <i>Hidden Glens</i> particularly if located close to the outer edges of this upland area and visible on immediately containing skylines. Additional development in the northern part of the Kintyre peninsula (north of Beinn Bhreac) would be likely to have greater effects on Arran, Gigha and surrounding seascapes. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms already sited in this LCT are a key constraint in terms of effects on other landscapes and this is addressed in more detail in the Volume I Report. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Larger typologies sited on the often small and irregular ‘edge’ hills which form a more visible and immediate setting to the settled small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and to the <i>Hidden Glens</i> (3) would affect the presently uncluttered skylines which backdrop these areas. Turbines of this size would need to be located within the ‘interior’ of the uplands and set well back from more sensitive ‘edge’ hills and the rugged coast between Skipness and Tarbet to avoid impact on other landscapes including Gigha and Arran. Additional development in the northern part of the Kintyre peninsula (north of Beinn Bhreac) would be likely to have greater effects on Arran, Gigha and surrounding seascapes. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms already sited in this LCT are a key constraint in terms of effects on other landscapes and this is addressed in more detail in the Volume I Report. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>Larger typologies sited on the small and irregular ‘edge’ hills which form a more visible and immediate setting to the settled small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and to the <i>Hidden Glens</i> (3) would affect the presently uncluttered skylines which backdrop these areas. Turbines of this size would need to be located within the ‘interior’ of the uplands and set well back from more sensitive ‘edge’ hills and the rugged coast between Skipness and Tarbet to avoid impact on other landscapes including Gigha and Arran. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms already sited in this LCT are a key constraint in terms of effects on other landscapes. This issue is addressed in more detail in the Volume I Report. High-medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Scale The interior of the Kintyre uplands forms an extensive undulating</p>	<p>Turbines >150m (and particularly towards 200m high) would be likely to appear overly large in relation to</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the expansiveness of the interior plateau although turbines of this</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the expansiveness of the interior plateau although turbines of this size would</p>

<p>plateau with relief generally between 200-300m but with occasional hills rising to over 400m in the central spine and middle part of the peninsula. Scale is considerably reduced within the more complex irregular small hills found on the outer fringes of this character type and within the narrow glen which cut into the edges of the plateau – including the settled and small scale upper reaches of Barr Glen and Glen Lussa. There are few smaller features such as buildings within the interior plateau although settlement occurs at the transition with the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20).</p>	<p>the relief of the lower northern part of this upland plateau. Turbines of this size would also dominate the scale of the smaller hills and narrow glens on the fringes of this landscape – whether directly sited in these areas or close-by on immediate skylines overlooking the glens for example. Turbines <150m may have a reduced effect on landscape scale in some limited areas. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>size would dominate the scale of the smaller hills and narrow glens on the fringes of this landscape – whether directly sited in these areas or close-by on immediate skylines overlooking the glens for example. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>dominate the scale of the smaller hills and narrow glens on the fringes of this landscape – whether directly sited in these areas or close-by on immediate skylines overlooking the glens for example. There may be increased opportunities to accommodate turbines of this size to minimise effects on smaller scale hills and glens. Medium-low sensitivity</p>
<p>Landform The uplands within the Kintyre peninsula generally form a homogenous undulating plateau – generally lower in the middle - with broad gentle slopes and rounded summits. Occasional more craggy slopes and pronounced hills, such as Beinn an Tuirc, Sgreadan Hill and Beinn Bhreac in the south and Cnoc a Bhaile-shois in the north, protrude above forest. Small interlocking knolly hills are a particular feature close to the coastal edge at the transition with <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and in the arc of hills south of Lussa Loch. The coast between Skipness and Tarbert is steep and rugged with boulder beaches.</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the predominantly simple landform of this gently undulating plateau of broad basins and smooth hill slopes. The well-defined higher hills and their setting are of increased sensitivity and turbines of this size would have a more dominant effect if sited nearby. The small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type and the steep rugged coast between Skipness and Tarbert would be highly sensitive to this typology. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the predominantly simple landform of this gently undulating plateau of broad basins and smooth hill slopes. The more well-defined higher hills and their setting are of increased sensitivity. The small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type and the steep rugged coast between Skipness and Tarbert would be highly sensitive to this typology. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the predominantly simple landform of this gently undulating plateau of broad basins and smooth hill slopes. The more well-defined higher hills and their setting are of increased sensitivity. The small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type and the steep rugged coast between Skipness and Tarbert would be highly sensitive to this typology. Medium-low sensitivity</p>

<p>Landscape pattern A large-scale mosaic of extensive coniferous forestry and open moorland with some blanket bog cover. Dense forestry extends down lower slopes close to the coastal edge and the adjacent <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) in places. Small enclosed pastures occur on lower slopes and valleys at the transition with the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and <i>Hidden Glens</i> (3) and a more extensive band of broadleaved woodland is found along the Skipness to Tarbert coast. Lochs and occasional reservoirs pattern the interior of these uplands</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type. Small fields and broadleaved woodlands found on lower hill slopes and along the coast would be more sensitive. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type. Small fields and broadleaved woodlands found on lower hill slopes and along the coast would be more sensitive. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type. Small fields and broadleaved woodlands found on lower hill slopes and along the coast would be more sensitive. Medium-low sensitivity</p>
<p>Built environment A very sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms and houses located on lower hill slopes at the transition with the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20), <i>Hidden Glens</i> (3) and <i>Bay Farmland</i> (14) and within the narrow glens which cut into the edge of these uplands. Operational and consented wind farms are located within this character type.</p>	<p>The generally sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity within the interior of the upland plateau although more settled small hills and narrow glens (some of these featuring archaeology and historic buildings) on the fringes of this landscape would be more sensitive. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms are a major constraint in this LCT and these are considered in more detail in the Volume I Report. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>The generally sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity within the interior of the upland plateau although more settled small hills and narrow glens (some of these featuring archaeology and historic buildings) on the fringes of this landscape would be more sensitive. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms are a major constraint in this LCT and these are considered in more detail in the Volume I Report. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>The generally sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity within the interior of the upland plateau although more settled small hills and narrow glens (some of these featuring archaeology and historic buildings) on the fringes of this landscape would be more sensitive. Cumulative effects with operational and consented wind farms are a major constraint in this LCT and these are considered in more detail in the Volume I Report. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Perceptual qualities This landscape is difficult to access, particularly in the north, and although a sense of seclusion can</p>	<p>Wildland character is generally not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on the majority of this landscape. The coast between Skipness and</p>	<p>Wildland character is generally not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on the majority of this landscape. The coast between Skipness and</p>	<p>Wildland character is generally not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on the majority of this landscape. The coast</p>

<p>be experienced in many areas, the perception of naturalness is reduced by the presence of extensive commercial forestry and wind farm development. The coast between Skipness and Tarbert has strong wildland qualities because of its ruggedness, naturalness and remoteness.</p>	<p>Tarbert would be highly sensitive to intrusion from this typology – seen on skylines above the coast for example. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>Tarbert would be highly sensitive to intrusion from this typology – seen on skylines above the coast for example. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>between Skipness and Tarbert would be highly sensitive to intrusion from this typology – seen on skylines above the coast for example. Medium-low sensitivity</p>
<p>Visual amenity Views from the A83 and B842 which are aligned close to the Kintyre coast and from coastal settlement into the interior of these uplands are generally restricted by forestry and landform. The small hills and outer slopes on the edge of these upland areas are more visually sensitive often being prominent in views along the coast. Views from the B8001 between Kennacraig and Claonaig are more open due to the elevation of the road and presence of more gentle hill slopes – views from this road focus on the Arran mountains to the east and Jura to the west. Estate and forest tracks provide access to these hills and the long-distance footpath, the Kintyre Way, is aligned within the uplands of Kintyre and close to existing wind farms. Views to this area occur from roads, settlement and ferries from outer Loch Fyne, the Ardlamont</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this character type and restricted visibility of the interior uplands from roads and settlement along the Kintyre coastal edge reduces sensitivity. The ‘edge’ hills which form immediate skylines prominent from the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20), the <i>Hidden Valley</i> (3) and <i>Bay Farmland</i> (14) and also from the narrow settled upper glens, such as Barr Glen and Glen Lussa have an increased visual sensitivity. Highly scenic views to Arran and Jura from the B8001 would be sensitive to intrusion by very large wind turbines. Very Large turbines (and particularly turbines >150m) could be considerably more prominent and incur cumulative effects on views from settlement, footpaths and roads in open views from Arran, Gigha, outer Loch Fyne, Kilbrannan Sound and the West Loch Tarbert area. Views of larger turbines may also be more widespread, seen on both sides of Kintyre and from both Gigha and Arran. Contrasts of scale between</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this character type and restricted visibility of the interior uplands from roads and settlement along the Kintyre coastal edge reduces sensitivity. The ‘edge’ hills which form immediate skylines prominent from the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20), the <i>Hidden Valley</i> (3) and <i>Bay Farmland</i> (14) and also from the narrow settled upper glens, such as Barr Glen and Glen Lussa have an increased visual sensitivity. Highly scenic views to Arran and Jura from the B8001 would be sensitive to intrusion by very large wind turbines. Cumulative effects could occur with operational and consented wind farms in views from Gigha, Arran, the West Loch Tarbert area, outer Loch Fyne, the Kilbrannan Sound and the Kintyre coast. The degree of cumulative effect on views would be dependent on the extent of additional development. (see Volume I Report, 3.10.7 and 4.10.3). High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology is more likely to comprise single or small groups of turbines that would be likely to be located on the more settled outer fringes of this LCT. This location could potentially increase visibility from the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20), the <i>Hidden Valley</i> (3) and <i>Bay Farmland</i> (14) and also from the narrow settled upper glens, such as Barr Glen and Glen Lussa, within this character type have an increased visual sensitivity. Views to Arran and Jura from the B8001 would be sensitive to intrusion. Although more likely to be located on the outer edges of the Kintyre peninsula, turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could have less of an impact from settlement and roads in open views from Arran, Gigha, outer Loch Fyne and the West Loch Tarbert area. They would also be less likely to have a less widespread visual effect. Cumulative effects could occur with newer and recently consented wind farms (featuring larger turbines) in key views where differences in scale were appreciable.</p>

<p>Peninsula, Gigha, the west coast of Arran and the Kilbrannan Sound.</p>	<p>turbines could occur if very large turbines were sited close-by operational and consented wind farm developments. The degree of cumulative effect on views would be dependent on the extent of additional development (see Volume I Report, 3.10.7, 4.10.3). High sensitivity</p>		<p>High-medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this character type although it abuts the APQ designated areas on the west and east coasts of the Kintyre peninsula. These APQs are likely to be designated for their diverse coastal scenery and views to Jura and Arran. The North Arran WLA lies within approximately 9km from this landscape. The description for the WLA notes that when compared with forestry and settlement on Arran, wind farm developments on Kintyre "...impose less on wild land qualities due to their distance and small extent." The North Arran NSA lies within 5km of this landscape at its shortest point. While the NSA description does not specifically note views out to Kintyre, one of the special qualities of the NSA is that it is 'an exceptional area for outdoor recreation'.</p>	<p>Very Large turbines visible on prominent skylines above the APQ could have indirect impacts on its special qualities. While there may be some scope however to avoid such impacts by siting turbines well back into the interior of these uplands, turbines >150m could affect the setting of small-scale coastal areas and glens lying within the APQ. The North Arran WLA and views from the NSA could be adversely affected by very large turbines particularly if they were sited close to the eastern Kintyre coast. Cumulative effects with other wind farms are a key constraint (see Section 3 Volume One Report). High-medium to low sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines visible on prominent skylines above the APQ could have indirect impacts on its special qualities. There may be some scope however to avoid such impacts by siting turbines well back into the interior of these uplands. Potential effects on the North Arran WLA and NSA could also be minimised by adopting the same approach to siting although cumulative effects with other wind farms are a key constraint (see Section 3 Volume One Report). Medium to low sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines visible on prominent skylines above the APQ could have indirect impacts on its special qualities. There may be increased scope for this smaller typology to be sited to avoid impacts on the APQ. Medium to low sensitivity</p>



A rare glimpse of the interior of this upland landscape from the A83 south of Kennacraig,



A more complex landform of smaller interlocking hills at the transition with the Bay Farmland (14) character type



The expansive gently undulating plateau seen from Lussa Loch – windfarm development and forestry are key features within these uplands



The outer hills of this landscape form the backdrop and a prominent skyline to the smaller scale Hidden Glens and Rocky Mosaic character types



Wind farm development is a key characteristic of this landscape



The low hills along the western edge of this landscape seen from the Islay ferry

Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6a: Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6a: Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Very large typology assessment (>130m)	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)
<p>Landscape context This landscape forms a backdrop of rugged, largely forested hills to the more diverse and settled low-lying fringes of Loch Fyne and the Kilmichael Glen (<i>Rocky Mosaic</i> LCT 20). It comprises a narrow band of relatively low hills which are orientated to face the narrow inner Loch Fyne and frame views up and down its length. This landscape shares similar landform and landcover characteristics with the adjacent upland areas of the <i>Craggy Upland</i> (7) and <i>Steep Ridgeland and Mountains</i> (1) which results in an increase in expansiveness at these transitions (although Glendaruel within (1) is more sensitive). The Kyles of Bute NSA lies close to part of this landscape.</p>	<p>The narrowness and juxtaposition of this landscape with Loch Fyne and the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) along its shores and elsewhere increases sensitivity to Very Large turbines which would significantly affect the backdrop and setting provided by these uplands to these more sensitive areas. While the smaller scale inner Loch Fyne area, the Kyles of Bute NSA and the Moine Mhor and Kilmichael area would be particularly sensitive to intrusion, turbines of this size (which could be up to 200m high) would also be likely to significantly affect the setting of the broader outer Loch Fyne and could also affect Loch Awe (see also Appendix F Volume I report). High sensitivity</p>	<p>The narrowness and juxtaposition of this landscape with Loch Fyne and the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) character type along its shores and elsewhere increases sensitivity to this typology as turbines of this size would affect the backdrop and setting to these more sensitive areas. The smaller scale inner Loch Fyne area, the Kyles of Bute NSA and the Moine Mhor and Kilmichael area would be particularly sensitive to intrusion. Broader parts of this landscape would be less sensitive in terms of effects on adjoining landscapes. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>The narrowness and juxtaposition of this landscape with Loch Fyne and the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) character type along its shores and elsewhere increases sensitivity to this typology. The smaller scale inner Loch Fyne area, the Kyles of Bute NSA and the Moine Mhor and Kilmichael area would be particularly sensitive to intrusion. Broader parts of this landscape would be less sensitive in terms of effects on adjoining landscapes. High-medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Scale A narrow band of hills rising to around 400m but with relief generally between 200-300m. Complex knolly and craggy landform is particularly found close to the north-western shores of Loch Fyne and in the Portavadie area and this, together with extensive forestry, provides containment and reduces scale. Some broader,</p>	<p>The relief of this landscape is relatively low when viewed from Loch Fyne and its shores and turbines of this size would overwhelm its vertical scale. Turbines of this size would dominate the small knolly hills which border Loch Fyne. Turbines closer to 130m high could relate to the increased scale of broader basins and plateaux at the transition</p>	<p>The relief of this landscape is relatively low when viewed from Loch Fyne and its shores and turbines of this size would appear very large in relation to its vertical scale. The small knolly hills which border Loch Fyne would be dominated by this typology although it could relate to the increased scale of broader basins and plateaux occurring, for example, at the</p>	<p>While turbines of this size would also dominate the scale of the small knolly hills which border the north-west shores of Loch Fyne, smaller turbines within this typology would have less of an effect on vertical scale. There would be increased scope for this typology to be accommodated within broader basins and plateaux at the transition with the <i>Craggy Upland</i> (7)</p>

shallower basins occur at the transition with the Craggy Upland (7) where scale is increased	with the <i>Craggy Upland</i> (7) although 200m high turbines would dominate. High sensitivity	transition with the <i>Craggy Upland</i> (7) High-medium sensitivity	and the Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1). Medium sensitivity
Landform There is a strong NE/SW grain to this upland landscape. Landform is particularly complex between Inveraray and Loch Gair on the NW side of Loch Fyne comprising sharp ridges, steep slopes and a series of distinctive craggy conical peaks. More even slopes occur on SE side of Loch Fyne but with some more complex interlocking craggy hills north of Portavadie in the Creag Mhor area. Some broader upland basins occur where slopes are gentler and relief generally lower in the Loch Glashan area and within higher plateaux at the transition with Craggy Upland (7) and Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1).	The complex small hills, ridges and craggy steep slopes of this landscape would be highly sensitive to this typology. More even hill slopes found on the SE side of Loch Fyne and the simple, gently undulating plateau landform and broader basins of this character type would be less sensitive although these are fairly limited in extent. High-medium sensitivity	The complex small hills, ridges and craggy steep slopes of this landscape would be highly sensitive to this typology. More even hill slopes found on the SE side of Loch Fyne and the simple, gently undulating plateau landform and broader basins of this character type would be less sensitive although these are fairly limited in extent. High-medium sensitivity	The complex small hills, ridges and craggy steep slopes of this landscape would be highly sensitive to this typology. This typology could relate better to the simple gently undulating plateau landform and broader basins of this character type although these are fairly limited in extent. High-medium sensitivity
Landscape pattern A large-scale mosaic of extensive forestry and open moorland with some blanket bog cover. Dense forestry extends down to edge of Loch Fyne in places. Some small areas of broadleaved woodland and pockets of small pastures occur on lower slopes and within valleys at the transition with Rocky Mosaic (20).	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although this typology could affect the open pastures and detract from the more richly patterned broadleaved woodlands generally associated with lower hill slopes. Medium-low sensitivity	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although this typology could affect the open pastures and detract from the more richly patterned broadleaved woodlands generally associated with lower hill slopes. Medium-low sensitivity	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although this typology could affect the open pastures and detract from the more richly patterned broadleaved woodlands generally associated with lower hill slopes. Medium-low sensitivity
Built environment A sparsely settled landscape with clusters of houses and farms (many old townships) located in valleys and lower hill slopes at the transition	The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity although the scale and setting of settlement at	The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity although the scale and setting of settlement at	The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity although the scale and setting of settlement at the transition

<p>with <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20). Transmission lines, masts and forest roads are often prominent features on the NW side of Loch Fyne. Operational wind farms are partially sited in this landscape and in other adjoining upland landscapes.</p>	<p>the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) LCT would be more sensitive to very large turbines. Cumulative effects with operational wind farms are a key constraint and these are considered in more detail in section 3 of the Volume I Report. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) LCT would be more sensitive. Cumulative effects with operational wind farms are a key constraint and these are considered in more detail in section 3 of the Volume I Report. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) LCT would be more sensitive. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Perceptual qualities A sense of seclusion can be experienced in the interior parts of this landscape and on the SW side of Loch Fyne due to its relative inaccessibility. The presence of the A83, transmission lines and greater degree of settlement on the north-west side of Loch Fyne limit true remoteness. Naturalness is not strong due to the extensive commercial forest cover of this landscape.</p>	<p>Qualities of wildness are not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>Qualities of wildness are not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>Qualities of wildness are not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity. Medium-low sensitivity</p>
<p>Visual amenity Views from within this landscape are limited due to its sparsely settled nature and extensive forest cover. The Inveraray Folly provides a rare but popularly accessed elevated viewpoint over this landscape. This landscape forms a highly visible band of hills either side of the narrow inner Loch Fyne, framing views up and down the Loch from settlement, roads, footpaths and recreation areas. More even slopes rise to a containing ridge at the</p>	<p>This typology would dominate prominent skylines seen across and along Loch Fyne from roads, including the promoted tourist route of the A83, and from settlement, where views across the narrow inner loch tend to focus. Cumulative visual effects with operational wind farms in this and adjoining character types could occur particularly along the eastern coast of inner Loch Fyne or from occasional elevated viewpoints accessed by walkers eg Dunardry Hill near the Crinan Canal and the Inveraray Castle folly. Turbines of this size would also be prominent</p>	<p>This typology could also dominate prominent skylines seen across and along inner Loch Fyne from roads, including the promoted tourist route of the A83, and from settlement, where views across the narrow inner loch tend to focus. Cumulative visual effects with operational wind farms in this and adjoining character types could occur particularly along the eastern coast of inner Loch Fyne or from occasional elevated viewpoints accessed by walkers eg Dunardry Hill near the Crinan Canal and the Inveraray Castle folly. While turbines of this size could have a</p>	<p>There may be increased scope to site this smaller typology (which is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines) within areas of lower ground shielded by higher 'edge' hills against Loch Fyne so as to minimise significant visual impact from roads and settlement in surrounding loch shore and valley areas. Cumulative visual impacts could arise with operational wind farms sited in this and adjacent landscapes where different sizes of wind turbine were seen in relative proximity. High-medium sensitivity</p>

<p>boundary with <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) on the SE side of Loch Fyne while to the NW of the loch, a line of pronounced higher hills immediately backing the loch, tend to shield views of lower undulating plateaux behind at the transition with <i>Craggy Upland</i> (7). These uplands appear less prominent when seen from the A83 and from settlement across the broader outer Loch Fyne area. The south-eastern part of this LCT is also visible from the west coast of Bute and the Kyles of Bute NSA. Operational wind farms sited in this and nearby landscapes are a key feature of views from the eastern side of the inner Loch Fyne area and outer Loch Fyne.</p>	<p>even when viewed across the broader outer Loch Fyne and could dominate the skyline of the hills which contain settled loch shores. High sensitivity</p>	<p>reduced impact when viewed across the broader outer Loch Fyne they may still dominate the skyline of hills which contain settled loch shores. High sensitivity</p>	
<p>Landscape values The majority of this landscape is not designated although some of the hills close to Loch Fyne fall within the APQ covering the shores of the loch. The Knapdale and Kyles of Bute NSAs lie in close proximity to parts of this character type</p>	<p>Sensitivity increases where the APQ extends into the character type or lies immediately adjacent to it. Large turbines seen on sensitive skylines could affect the setting of settlements such as Inveraray and views across and along Loch Fyne which are a key characteristic of this APQ. Sensitivity is also increased close to the NSAs where turbines could impact on views. High-medium to Low sensitivity</p>	<p>Sensitivity increases where the APQ extends into the character type or lies immediately adjacent to it. Large turbines seen on sensitive skylines could affect the setting of settlements and views across and along Loch Fyne which are a key characteristic of this APQ. Sensitivity is also increased close to the NSAs where turbines could impact on views. High-medium to Low sensitivity</p>	<p>Sensitivity increases where the APQ extends into the character type or lies immediately adjacent to it. There may be increased scope to site smaller turbines to avoid impacting on sensitive skylines, the setting of settlements and views from the APQ. Sensitivity is also increased close to the NSAs where turbines could impact on views. High-medium to Low sensitivity</p>



This character type forms a narrow band of hills between the settled shore of Loch Fyne and the higher ground of the Craggy Upland (7)



This landscape merges imperceptibly with the Craggy Upland to the north-west but contrasts strongly with the settled smaller scale loch fringes of the Rocky Mosaic



This landscape is extensively forested although small enclosed pastures on lower slopes are important in increasing diversity



This upland landscape forms the backdrop to Loch Fyne and to features such as Inveraray and Lachlan Castle located on the shores of the loch



Distinctive steep-sided small hills within this landscape form a scenic backdrop to views from the A83



The A'Chruach wind farm is located in a basin where the extent of this landscape is broader at the transition between inner and outer Loch Fyne.

Landscape Character Type 6a: Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6b: Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6b: Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Summary description	Very Large typology assessment (>130m)	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)
<p>Landscape context This landscape forms an immediate backdrop of forested hills (with more distant open higher ridges and peaks) to the more richly patterned low-lying and settled coastal fringes of the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20). Visibility of the interior of these uplands from the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) is very limited although there are views north across the narrow strait of West Loch Tarbet and across Loch Caolisport and outer Loch Fyne to this upland area. Smaller scale and more complex hills occur on the fringes of this upland area and it is these areas that are often highly visible in views from roads and settlement along the coastal edge.</p>	<p>Very large turbines sited on the often small and irregular ‘edge’ hills which form a more visible and immediate setting to the settled small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) would dominate these more sensitive coastal fringes. Development located within the ‘interior’ of these uplands and set well back from more sensitive edges would have less of an effect on immediately adjoining coastal fringes although the presently uncluttered backdrop these uplands provide to scenic West Loch Tarbet and Loch Caolisport would be likely to be significantly affected (see also Appendix F Volume One Report). High sensitivity</p>	<p>Larger typologies sited on the often small and irregular ‘edge’ hills which form a more visible and immediate setting to the settled small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) would affect the presently uncluttered skylines which backdrop these more sensitive coastal fringes. In general however, the extensiveness of this character type reduces sensitivity provided development was located within the ‘interior’ of the uplands and set well back from more sensitive ‘edge’ hills and did not intrude on prominent skylines. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>Larger typologies sited on the often small and irregular ‘edge’ hills which form a more visible and immediate setting to the settled small scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) would affect the backdrop and presently uncluttered skylines which backdrop these more sensitive smaller scale settled areas. In general however, the extensiveness of this character type reduces sensitivity provided development were located within the ‘interior’ of the uplands and set well back from more sensitive ‘edge’ hills. There is likely to be increased scope to accommodate the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise effects on adjoining more sensitive landscapes Medium sensitivity.</p>
<p>Scale The Knapdale uplands rise to over 500m in the north-east and there are few smaller landscape features such as buildings within the core of this area. The irregular landform characteristic of these uplands provides containment and reduces scale in places and scale is also much reduced within the more complex irregular smaller hills found</p>	<p>Very large turbines would dominate the smaller hills which form much of this upland plateau. While the interior of this landscape is more expansive, the confined summits of the higher hills (seen across West Loch Tarbet and Loch Fyne) would also be dominated by this typology (which could comprise turbines of around 200m high). High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the larger scale interior plateau although turbines of this size would dominate the scale of the smaller hills fringing these uplands. Turbines sited on or nearby more defined hill summits could dominate their scale. Medium sensitivity.</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the larger scale interior plateau. Turbines of this size would have a better scale relationship to lower hills on the fringes but would appear overly large if sited on smaller hills and perched on hill tops, slopes and ridges immediately adjacent to the coastal edge. Medium-low sensitivity</p>

on the outer fringes of this character type.			
<p>Landform The Knapdale uplands have an irregular and sometimes complex craggy landform comprising higher ridges with a strong SW/NW grain with a series of rugged defined peaks between Stob Odhar and Meall Reamhar. A lower undulating plateau-like area occurs in the SW part of the Knapdale uplands although landform is particularly craggy and complex around Loch a' Bhaillidh and at the transition with the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20).</p>	<p>There are few areas of less complex landform able to accommodate this typology (and particularly multiple turbines). Turbines of this size would significantly detract from the distinctive rugged peaks between Stob Odhar and Meall Reamhar. More complex landform, including the small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type would be highly sensitive to this typology. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>There are few areas of less complex landform able to accommodate this typology (and particularly multiple turbines). Turbines of this size would detract from the distinctive rugged peaks between Stob Odhar and Meall Reamhar. More complex landform, including the small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type would be highly sensitive to this typology. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>There may be increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise effects on more complex landform. The small knolly hills found on the outer fringes of this character type would be highly sensitive to this typology. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Landscape pattern A large scale mosaic of forestry and open moorland with some blanket bog cover. Dense forestry extends down lower slopes to the coastal edge in places. Small areas of broadleaved woodland and small pastures occur on lower slopes and valleys at the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). Lochs pattern the interior of these uplands.</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type. The setting of small lochs and the small open pastures and broadleaved woodland occasionally found on lower hill slopes would be sensitive however. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type. The setting of small lochs and the small open pastures and broadleaved woodland occasionally found on lower hill slopes would be more sensitive. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type. The setting of small lochs and the small open pastures and broadleaved woodland occasionally found on lower hill slopes would be more sensitive. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Built environment A very sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms located on lower hill slopes at the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). The operational wind farm of Allt Dearg and Sronnaire is located within this character type.</p>	<p>The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity. Cumulative effects could arise where different sized turbines were seen together in key views, from the Loch Fyne area for example. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity although cumulative effects could also arise. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>The relatively sparse settlement and presence of existing wind farms and other built infrastructure reduces sensitivity. Cumulative effects could arise if this typology were sited close-by operational wind farms. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Perceptual qualities</p>	<p>The sense of wildness is reduced by the presence of forestry and</p>	<p>The sense of wildness is reduced by the presence of forestry and</p>	<p>The sense of wildness is reduced by the presence of forestry and wind</p>

<p>This landscape is difficult to access and a sense of seclusion can be experienced in many areas. While extensive commercial forest cover and consented wind farm development diminishes the perception of naturalness in parts of this landscape, more visually contained areas unaffected by such development can appear natural.</p>	<p>wind farm development although some areas are likely to feel secluded and more natural. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>wind farm development although some areas are likely to feel secluded and more natural. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>farm development although some areas are likely to feel secluded and more natural. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Visual amenity Views from coastal roads and settlement into the interior of these uplands are generally restricted by woodland and landform. There are views north-west across West Loch Tarbet to these uplands. Estate and forest tracks provide access to these hills although public access is likely to be limited. The small hills and outer slopes on the edge of this upland area are more visually sensitive often being seen in glimpsed views from the B8024 along the coast. There are views to this upland area from settlement and roads in outer Loch Fyne, including Lochgilphead, but also from ferries and recreational watercraft. These uplands form the backdrop to views across Loch Caolisport from the minor road and settlement in the Ellery area within the Knapdale NSA.</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this character type and restricted visibility of the interior uplands from roads and settlement along the coastal edge reduces sensitivity although the 'edge' hills and slopes prominent from the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) are more sensitive. Very large turbines (which could be around 200m high) could increase visibility of wind energy development, affecting key views from the A83 over West Loch Tarbert for example. Turbines of this size could have cumulative effects with operational wind farm development and would be likely to be more prominent in views over outer Loch Fyne and from the Knapdale NSA. High sensitivity</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this character type and restricted visibility of the interior uplands from roads and settlement along the coastal edge reduces sensitivity although the 'edge' hills and slopes prominent from the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) have an increased visual sensitivity. Turbines of this size could have cumulative effects with operational wind farm development and may be visible from settlement and roads and in open views across Loch Fyne and West Loch Tarbet. High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>There is increased scope for this typology to limit impacts on key views and to fit with the size of turbines within existing wind farm developments. The 'edge' hills and slopes prominent from the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) have an increased visual sensitivity however. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>Large turbines seen on sensitive skylines, detracting from complex</p>	<p>Large turbines seen on sensitive skylines, detracting from complex</p>	<p>There is likely to be increased scope to site this typology (which is more</p>

<p>An APQ applies to the western half of the Knapdale area; this adjoining the Knapdale NSA boundary to the north. The key special qualities of the APQ are likely to include diverse coastal scenery and views to Jura. The special qualities of the Knapdale NSA likely to be relevant to this area are ‘<i>Dramatic sea views from the south</i>’</p>	<p>landform or intruding on key views to the coast and Jura would be likely to impact on the special qualities of the APQ. The proximity of this landscape to the Knapdale NSA increases sensitivity to very large turbines as they could intrude on prominent ridges which frame views down Loch Caolisport and detract from views to Jura which are a special quality of the Knapdale NSA. <i>High-medium to Low sensitivity</i></p>	<p>landform or intruding on key views to the coast and Jura would be likely to impact on the special qualities of the APQ. Larger turbines sited on prominent ridges which frame views down Loch Caolisport could detract from key views to Jura which are a special quality of the Knapdale NSA. <i>High-medium to Low sensitivity</i></p>	<p>likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines) to avoid intrusion on sensitive skylines, complex landform and key views to the coast and Jura. Larger turbines sited on prominent ridges which frame views down Loch Caolisport could detract from key views to Jura which are a special quality of the Knapdale NSA. <i>High-medium to Low sensitivity</i></p>
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This landscape has a more complex landform of small knolly hills (often masked by forestry) abutting the smaller scale, settled 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type



The higher hills within the core of this upland landscape form a focus seen from the surrounding settled coastal fringes and also from parts of Loch Fyne.



The lower western part of this landscape forms the foreground to views to Jura seen across West Loch Tarbert



The higher and more rugged open hills seen across a predominantly forested and lower rolling upland plateau in views from West Loch Tarbert

Landscape Character Type 6b: Knapdale Upland Forest Floor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6c: Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 6c: Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The south-western part of this landscape forms a dramatic backdrop of high and rugged steep-sided hills to the smaller scale settled and farmed landscape of the 'Low Coastal Hills' (21). The gentler hill slopes and small rounded hills abutting the 'Bay Farmland (14) and the Rocky Mosaic (20) along the coast and within the Conie Glen are less dramatic although the pronounced peak of Beinn Ghuilean (352m) provides an essential component of the scenic setting to Campeltown. The sheer rugged slopes of the Mull of Kintyre and the east coast combine with exposed seas to produce a highly scenic wider seascape which includes Sanda Island, Ailsa Craig, Arran, SW Scotland and the north coast of Ireland. This landscape contrasts with the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) on the Kintyre peninsula where wind farm development is a key characteristic.	This typology would be likely to impact on the adjacent sensitive small scale settled landscapes of the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) and the <i>Low Coastal Hills</i> (21). The character of the wider seascape context could also be affected by turbines of this size. Turbines of this size would diminish the presently undeveloped character of this landscape and the contrast it provides to upland areas to the north which accommodate many wind farms.	High	This typology could also impact on the adjacent sensitive small scale settled landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) and the Low Coastal Hills (21) although there may be increased scope to site smaller turbines to avoid significant effects on these character types and on the wider seascape character. Turbines of this size could diminish the presently undeveloped character of this landscape although there may be scope to site single and small groups of turbines to minimise effects.	High-medium
Scale and openness	The relief of the rolling interior of uplands is generally between 200-300m but with occasional higher hills such as Beinn Ghuilean and Beinn Bhreac also occurring.	This typology would appear very large in relation to the generally limited relief of the majority of these uplands. It would also overwhelm the size of smaller hills abutting the	High-medium	This typology could relate better to the scale of the interior uplands although turbines of this size would also overwhelm the size of smaller hills abutting the 'Low Coastal Hills	Medium

	Smaller hills fringe this area at the transition with the 'Low Coastal Hills' (21) and 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) and numerous deep narrow valleys cut into these uplands further limiting scale.	'Low Coastal Hills' (21) and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) and the narrow valleys and glens which cut deeply into these uplands.		(21) and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) and the narrow valleys and glens which cut deeply into these uplands.	
Landform	The interior of these uplands has a rolling landform of rounded hills cut by narrow valleys. Occasional pronounced higher hills occur close to the Mull of Kintyre and also include Beinn Ghulean abutting Campeltown Loch. This landscape has a dramatic rugged coastal edge with sheer slopes and deep valleys plunging to the sea at the exposed butt of the Mull of Kintyre. A raised beach forms the coastal edge to the east.	This typology could relate to the simpler rounded hills and broader gentler slopes characteristic of the interior of these uplands. It would however be difficult to site turbines of this size to avoid them detracting from more pronounced hills and the dramatic rugged coastal landform.	High-medium	This typology could also relate to the simple rounded hills and broader slopes of this landscape. There may be increased scope to site this typology to avoid impacts on more sensitive coastal landform and the higher hills.	Medium
Landscape pattern	A large scale mosaic of forestry and open grass and heather moorland. Dense forestry extends down lower slopes close to the coastal edge and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in a few places.	This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type.	Low	This typology could fit with the simple land cover found within the upland interior of this character type.	Low
Built environment	A very sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms located on lower hill slopes at the transition with the Rocky Mosaic (20) and along east coast road. Abandoned farms occur within the forested interior of this landscape. Masts, lighthouse, a memorial and archaeological features occur close to the coast.	The relatively sparse settlement reduces sensitivity although the setting of coastal archaeology and other built features would be sensitive to this typology.	Medium	There may be increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid impacts on the setting of archaeology and other sensitive built features.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	Wildland character is pronounced close to the coast and away from forestry, roads and access tracks. The difficulties in accessing this	Wildland characteristics would be significantly diminished by the introduction of large turbines and ancillary features visible from the	High-medium	Wildland characteristics would be significantly diminished by the introduction of turbines and ancillary features visible from the coastal edge	Medium

	coast (including the long journey to the Mull of Kintyre) increase the sense of remoteness experienced.	coastal edge and on the approach to the Mull of Kintyre by the narrow gated road.		and on the approach to the Mull of Kintyre via the narrow gated road. There may be some scope to site this typology to avoid impact on more sensitive coastal areas.	
Visual amenity	<p>Views from this sparsely settled character type are very limited. Public roads are few, providing single track access to the Mull of Kintyre and through the forested interior in the west and also along the eastern coast. The Kintyre Way long distance footpath extends through this area to Southend and there is non-vehicular access to the lighthouse on the Mull of Kintyre.</p> <p>The high hills towards the Mull of Kintyre and the smaller hills which fringe the southern edge of the densely forested interior hills are highly visible from Southend, the popular beaches and Sanda Island on the south coast. Similarly, the hills on the northern edge of this character type are very visible from Campeltown (Beinn Ghuilean forming a focus in views) and the settled farmland and coast of the Machrinhanish area.</p> <p>Although the interior forested hills are less visible in general, glimpsed views to these areas are possible from the settled Conie Glen and B842. There are distant views to this character type from parts of Arran and the Ayrshire coast.</p>	While turbines of this height could be sited to avoid impacting on views from the limited roads and footpaths within this character type, they would be likely to impact on views from the surrounding settled landscapes of the 'Bay Farmland' (14) and 'Low Coastal Hills' (21) and 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). Very tall turbines would be visible in distant views from Arran and the Ayrshire coast where cumulative visual effects could occur with other wind farms located within the Kintyre peninsula.	High	There may be some limited scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid significantly impacting on views from surrounding more sensitive settled landscapes and minimising cumulative effects in more distant views from Arran and the Ayrshire coast. Prominent hill tops, and particularly those providing the immediate backdrop to the 'Low Coastal Hills' and the coastal edge, would be highly sensitive to this typology.	High-medium

<p>Landscape Values</p>	<p>An APQ covers much of this landscape. Key special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the diverse coastal scenery comprising sandy bays, cliffs and islands – including the contrast between the settled farmed southern coast and the rugged wild coast- and panoramic views over sea and to distant land.</p>	<p>The tall turbines of this typology could detract from the diverse coastal scenery of the APQ if sited within or if visible from the coastal edge and/or intruding on views of the wider seascape.</p>	<p>High to medium</p>	<p>There may be some limited opportunities for this typology to be sited to avoid significant impact on the diverse coastal scenery and on views of the wider seascape.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
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The steep slopes of this landscape form an abrupt edge to the south of the broad flat plain of the Bay Farmland (14) character type



The edge of this upland landscape has a more complex landform of smaller defined hills and forms an immediate backdrop to the Low Coastal Hills (21) character type



The rugged headland of the Mull of Kintyre forms a dramatic feature seen across the Low Coastal Hills (21) character type



The interior of this landscape comprises an upland plateau of smooth rolling hills



The higher open hills and sheer coastal slopes of the Mull of Kintyre has a strong sense of wildness



Extensive coniferous forestry covers much of the interior upland plateau of this landscape

Landscape Character Type 6c: Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 7: Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7: Craggy Upland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Very Large scale typology assessment (>130m)	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)
<p>Landscape context This extensive upland character type forms a backdrop to Loch Awe and the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20). It often merges with the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> character type (6) to the south-east where it has similar elevation, landform and vegetation cover. This character type also forms backdrop hills (some of these notably pronounced) seen at the head of settled glens within the adjacent <i>Craggy Upland with Settled Glens</i> (7a). The outer hills of this landscape also contain the sensitive Moine Mhor area (lying close to the Knapdale NSA) and provide the wider setting to the scenic basin of north Loch Awe (LCT 7C).</p>	<p>Very large turbines (as new or repowered developments) would be likely to impact on the smaller scale settled fringes of Loch Awe (LCT 20) and on the settled glens which about this upland area from the west (LCT 7a). Effects on the shores of Loch Awe, inner Loch Fyne (including the setting of Inveraray and Lachlan Castle), the archaeological rich area of Moine Mhor and the scenic north Loch Awe basin are all key sensitivities. High sensitivity</p>	<p>Large typologies could impact on the smaller scale settled fringes of Loch Awe (LCT 20) and on the settled glens which about this upland area from the west (LCT 7a). Impacts would be reduced if turbines of this size were located in the interior of this type, away from the hills and ridges which form immediate and prominent skylines to these character types. Where this type merges gradually with the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6), this can increase the sense of expansiveness thus reducing sensitivity in terms of this factor (although much of this area is already occupied by wind farms) High-medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could also impact on the smaller scale of the settled fringes of Loch Awe (LCT 20) and on the settled glens which about this upland area from the west (LCT 7a). There is increased scope to site this typology (which is likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines) to minimise effects on surrounding landscapes. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Scale An expansive upland area attaining an average elevation of around 300m but with occasional hills extending to over 500m. The area appears as an undulating plateau dominated by sweeping horizontal scale. On closer inspection, the long ridges which create this impression from afar, contain well defined valleys and scale is reduced in valleys and basins such as those occupied by Loch Avich and Loch Nant.</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the expansiveness of the wide sweep of the interior plateau area. Smaller scale valleys and loch basins would be dominated by turbines of this size. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the expansiveness of the wide sweep of the interior plateau area. Smaller scale valleys and loch basins are more sensitive. Medium-low sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the expansiveness of the interior plateau area with scope to accommodate multiple developments given the geographic extent of the character type. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of narrow valleys although there may be greater scope to avoid significant contrasts of scale. Low sensitivity</p>

<p>Landform A craggy landform with numerous rocky outcrops and a knobbly texture. These uplands are dissected by steep glens to form ridges with an irregular silhouette. More prominent summits rarely occur but include Beinn Chapull (seen from Loch Scammadale), Beinn Dearg seen from Musdale and Beinn Ghlas. While the skyline of hills can appear even from the shores of Loch Awe, occasional low hills (for example Tom an Saighdeir seen from the Blairgour area) are more pronounced while long ridges extend as spurs and subtle promontories into the loch and add to its scenic interest.</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the areas with a less complex craggy landform and away from pronounced higher hills. Narrow rocky ridges and craggy tops are more sensitive as are the low hills and promontories which extend into Loch Awe. Simpler landform generally accords with areas of commercial forest. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the areas with a less complex craggy landform and away from pronounced higher hills. Narrow rocky ridges and craggy tops are more sensitive as are the low hills and promontories which extend into Loch Awe. Simpler landform generally accords with areas of commercial forest. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>This typology could relate to the areas with a less complex craggy landform and away from pronounced higher hills. Narrow rocky ridges are more sensitive as are the low hills and promontories which extend into Loch Awe. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Landcover pattern Open upland moorland predominates but extensive conifer plantations also occur. Lochs pepper this landscape, the largest being Loch Avich, and they tend to be the focus of any settlement with associated field patterns and smaller scale features. Small lochans and knolls create a notably intricate pattern to the south-west of Eredine Forest within the interior plateau.</p>	<p>Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although they would detract from the setting of Loch Avich (Loch Nant already influenced by windfarm development located in close proximity). The more intricate pattern of lochans and craggy knolls in the south-east of this character type are of increased sensitivity. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although they would detract from the setting of Loch Avich (Loch Nant already influenced by windfarm development located in close proximity). The more intricate pattern of lochans and craggy knolls in the south-east of this character type are of increased sensitivity. Medium sensitivity</p>	<p>Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type although they would detract from the setting of Loch Avich (Loch Nant already influenced by windfarm development located in close proximity). The more intricate pattern of lochans and craggy knolls in the south-east of this character type are of increased sensitivity. Medium sensitivity</p>
<p>Built environment This upland area is very sparsely settled with occasional isolated farms on lower slopes within the glens. Any additional settlement tends to be associated with the lochs and along the roads</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity although cumulative effects could occur with operational wind farms particularly if wind farms with significant variations in turbine size were seen in close proximity. This</p>	<p>The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity although cumulative effects could occur with operational wind farms particularly if wind farms with significant variations in turbine size were seen in close proximity. This typology would be compatible with</p>	<p>While the sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity, cumulative effects could arise with operational wind farms. There could be scope to site this typology (which is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines) to minimise cumulative effects associated with</p>

	typology would be notably larger than operational wind farms. High-medium sensitivity	the scale of some operational wind farms. Medium sensitivity	significant variations in turbine size. Medium-low sensitivity
Perceptual qualities Although the presence of extensive forestry extending deep into the interior of these uplands and the existing wind farm development limit the sense of naturalness in places, this upland area is difficult to access and can feel remote. More extensive areas of unmodified upland, often with a complex landform/lochan pattern, are less influenced by forestry and wind farm development and these include the area around Musdale and the plateau south-west of Eredine Forest.	Existing wind farm and forestry diminishes the sense of naturalness in much of this landscape although more extensive areas of unmodified ground have some qualities of wildness. Medium sensitivity	Existing wind farm and forestry diminishes the sense of naturalness in much of this landscape although more extensive areas of unmodified ground have some qualities of wildness. Medium sensitivity	Existing wind farm and forestry diminishes the sense of naturalness in much of this landscape although more extensive areas of unmodified ground have some qualities of wildness. Medium sensitivity
Visual amenity Narrow roads extend alongside Loch Awe, through the valley accommodating Loch Avich and partially accessing the interior at Musdale via Glen Feochan from the west. Views are generally restricted by landform and extensive forestry although breaks in forest/tree cover allow open views across Loch Awe to the higher core (including existing windfarm development) of this character type. Rough tracks (some of these Rights of Way) penetrate these uplands although tend to be sited in valleys thus restricting views. This area is sparsely settled and does not appear to be extensively used for recreation.	The interior of this sparsely settled landscape is not readily visible and it is the skyline of lower 'edge' hills and steep slopes which are most commonly seen from the settled shores of Loch Awe and the minor road along Loch Avich. Turbines of this size sited on higher ridges and on steep slopes seen in key views from roads and settlement on loch shores (both Loch Awe and Loch Fyne) would form dominant features. They could also intrude on the pronounced hills which form focal points at the head of settled valleys. This typology would also be more likely to be seen in conjunction with operational wind farms (see Appendix F Volume One Report)	The interior of this sparsely settled landscape is not readily visible and it is the skyline of lower 'edge' hills and steep slopes which are most commonly seen from the settled shores of Loch Awe and the minor road along Loch Avich. Turbines sited on higher ridges and on steep slopes seen in key views from roads and settlement on loch shores would be visually prominent. Slacker hill slopes and lower, more even skylines are likely to be less prominent although cumulative effects with operational wind farms are a key constraint. Siting turbines within lower areas of plateau with some containment by higher ground is also likely to reduce visibility although the taller turbines of this	This typology which is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines could be sited to minimise effects on sensitive skylines seen from settlement and roads along Loch Awe and in surrounding landscapes. Medium sensitivity

<p>Views into the interior of this landscape are also limited from the wider area. Views from the more densely settled loch shores of Loch Fyne are generally restricted although this landscape is visible from the east side of the inner loch. Views are similarly restricted from the coastal edge (including Loch Etive) by steep hill slopes although there may be greater visibility from the sea. There are long views from the northern shores of Loch Awe, where this area is seen within a wide panorama. Occasional views are possible from the head of the glens which cut into the core area of Craggy Upland from the west and these sometimes focus on key peaks such as Beinn Chapull (seen from Loch Scammadale). Elevated roads offer more extensive views into the interior of the Craggy Uplands, for example the A886 above Strachur. This character type forms the foreground to views from Ben Cruachan and is also visible from other <i>High Tops (2)</i> but at greater distances.</p>	<p>resulting in cumulative effects on views. Siting turbines within lower areas of plateau with some containment by higher ground may reduce intrusion although this typology (which could comprise turbines of around 200m high) would be more likely to increase impact on views from Loch Awe and from surrounding landscapes (see assessment of landscape context above). High sensitivity</p>	<p>typology would be more likely to intrude on views from Loch Awe and other adjoining settled landscapes. More pronounced hills which form focal points at the head of settled valleys are also more sensitive. High-medium sensitivity</p>	
<p>Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this character type. This landscape is visible from parts of the APQ around the head of Loch Awe and from the APQ designated along the shores of Loch Fyne.</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in general as this landscape is not designated. Although operational wind farms are already visible from parts of the APQs, very large turbines sited on prominent skylines seen from inner Loch Fyne and at the head of Loch Awe could affect the setting of</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in general as this landscape is not designated. It does however lie adjacent to APQs although operational wind farm development is already visible from these designated areas. Sensitivity increases where this landscape abuts the APQ and where larger</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in general as this landscape is not designated. It does however lie adjacent to APQs although operational wind farm development is already visible from these designated areas. There is scope to site this typology (which is more likely to comprise single or small</p>

<p>The Loch Etive Mountains WLA and Knapdale NSA lie within approximately 10km and 7km respectively from this landscape.</p>	<p>these scenic and diverse landscapes. Very large turbines sited on the outer edges of these landscapes could adversely affect the setting and qualities of the WLA and NSA. High-medium to low sensitivity</p>	<p>turbines could significantly intrude on key views to or from the APQ. Large turbines sited on the outer edges of these landscapes could adversely affect the setting and qualities of the WLA and NSA. High-medium to low sensitivity</p>	<p>groups of turbines) to minimise effects on the APQ, NSA and WLA. Low sensitivity</p>
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A gradual merging occurs between the Craggy Upland (7) and the Loch Fyne Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6a) .



Occasional open areas of more complex knolly landform and lochans contrast with forested areas.



There is often a sharp delineation between rough pasture/forestry and the in-by-land of the settled 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) on the shores of Loch Awe



The core of these uplands is only intermittently visible from Loch Awe with immediate skyline ridges providing a backdrop to the settled loch shores- elevated views like this one are rare.



Extensive coniferous forestry and wind farm development are key characteristics of this character type



The Avich Glen provides a rare opportunity to experience part of the interior of the Craggy Upland.

Landscape Character Type 7: Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7a: Craggy Upland with Settled Glens

Landscape character type 7a: Craggy Upland with Settled Glens – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms the transition between the intricate and diverse Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) and the more extensive plateau of the Craggy Uplands (7). The upper parts of the settled glens gradually merge with the Craggy Uplands (7) with occasional more pronounced hills forming focal features, at the head of Glen Scammadale for example. The Glens also link to the coast although the boundary is usually marked by a distinct 'pinch point' of hills and constriction of the valley floor away from the broader alluvial plain and bay. Steep containing ridges form a well defined edge between the coast and this landscape character sub-type.	Large typologies could impact on the smaller scale Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) if sited where they are visible on the skyline of steep containing ridges and rolling plateau areas which form the boundary between these two landscape types. There would however be less of an effect away from these more visible 'edges' and also where the contrast with the more extensive Craggy Upland (7) is not pronounced.	High-med	This typology could also impact on the smaller scale Craggy Coasts and Islands if sited where they are visible on the skyline of steep containing ridges which form the boundary between these two landscape types. There could be increased scope for the smaller turbines of this typology to be sited to avoid impacting on these more visible 'edges'. Areas where the contrast with the more extensive Craggy Upland (7) is not pronounced would be less sensitive.	Medium
Scale and openness	This landscape comprises a number of deep glens separated by craggy steep-sided ridges rising to around 300m with two areas of more plateau-like landform. Scale varies from small within glens such as Glen Lonan, Feochan, Loch Scammadale and Loch Tralaig (where settlement and other landcover features additional influence scale) to medium within broader upland and more undulating plateau areas SE of Connel and NW of Melfort.	Large turbines would dominate the scale of narrow valleys, loch basins and settlement whether sited within them or encroaching on the skyline of containing hills. They would also overwhelm the scale of areas with a more diverse knolly landform and small pronounced hills.	High	This typology would dominate the scale of narrow valleys, loch basins and settlement whether sited within them or encroaching on the skyline of containing hills. Turbines of this size would also overwhelm the scale of areas with a more diverse knolly landform and small pronounced hills. Turbines of this height could relate better to the increased scale of broader plateau areas away from settlement (although effects on the adjacent smaller scale Craggy Coast	High-med

				and Islands' (7b) would need to be minimised).	
Landform	This landscape comprises a series of deep glens contained by steep craggy slopes. Many glens have hummocky terrain interspersed with flat, smooth valley floor and lochs provide contrast and increase the diversity and scenic qualities of these glens. Elsewhere the landform forms an irregular and complex craggy upland plateau with occasional well-defined 'landmark' hills, for example Deadh Choimhead on the edge of Glen Lonan.	Steep sided hills and occasional rocky scarp slopes containing valleys and lochs, more pronounced hills and areas with a particularly complex knolly landform would be highly sensitive to this typology. More even plateau-like areas with fewer distinct landform features would be less sensitive.	High-med	Steep sided hills and occasional rocky scarp slopes containing valleys and lochs, more pronounced hills and areas with a particularly complex knolly landform would be highly sensitive to this typology. More even plateau-like areas with fewer distinct landform features would be less sensitive.	High-med
Landcover pattern	Coniferous forestry covers the more extensive plateau areas of Fearnoch and Raera. Broadleaved woodlands occur within the glens and are notably extensive in the Black Lochs area, on the steep slopes containing Loch Nell and within Glen Scammadale. Areas of wood pasture and mixed policy plantings also feature within the glens together with occasional wetlands and heath. Small fenced and walled fields of smooth pasture cover the flat glen floor. Rough pasture, heather and grass moorland cover craggy hill slopes. Lochs within the glens form landmark features.	Rough textured woodlands, scrub and moorland accentuate the cragginess of the terrain and give a rich diversity to parts of this landscape. Large typologies (and particularly large groups of turbines) would detract from intricately patterned and diverse areas of land cover and from the lochs which form landmark features. Sensitivity is reduced where more uniform and extensive tracts of moorland and coniferous forest occurs.	Medium	Rough textured woodlands, scrub and moorland accentuate the cragginess of the terrain and give a rich diversity to parts of this landscape. Large typologies (and particularly large groups of turbines) would detract from intricately patterned and diverse areas of land cover and from the lochs which form landmark features. Sensitivity is reduced where more uniform and extensive tracts of moorland and coniferous forest occurs.	Medium
Built environment	This area occurs at the transition between the more extensive and sparsely settled Craggy Uplands (7) and the relatively well-settled Craggy Coast and Islands (7b). Settlement is concentrated within the glens, sited on the edge of farmland covering the flatter glen floor. Large estate houses	Large turbines would be likely to impact on the scale and setting of settlement within this landscape sub-type and the adjacent Craggy Coast and Islands (7b).	High	This typology would also be likely to impact on the scale and setting of settlement within this landscape sub-type and the adjacent Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) although there may be some scope to site smaller turbines away from settlement.	High-Med

	and lodges are sited in some of these glens and the area is rich in visible archaeological features. Upland areas separating the glens and some largely forested plateaux areas are less settled.				
Perceptual qualities	Narrow dead-end roads and sparse settlement gives this area a secluded feel. This landscape also has a distinct sense of naturalness away from more extensive commercial forestry where broadleaved woodlands, lochs and moorland combine to give an 'untamed' appearance.	This typology would significantly impact on the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced in some parts of this landscape although more extensive commercially forested areas would be less sensitive.	High-med	This typology would significantly impact on the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced in some parts of this landscape although more extensive commercially forested areas would be less sensitive.	High-med
Visual amenity	The narrow road aligned through Glen Lonan, linking to Loch Nell and the coastal fringe forms NCR 78 and is well-used by cyclists. Dead-end roads provide access up Glens Feochan and Scammadale. Views from roads and settlement within this character type are generally restricted by the incised landform of the glens although they are more open in the Ardconnel area east of Oban. The Fearnoch/Black Lochs area has no public roads although Fearnoch Forest is used for recreation. A section of the A816 lies within this character sub-type in the plateau area around Cruach Rarey although views are limited by landform and forestry. Views along Glen Lonan focus on Ben Cruachan to the east and the mountains of Morven and Mull to the west. Views from the other	The steep slopes and skylines of the hills containing the glens and coastal fringe would be highly sensitive to this typology as they would be seen in close proximity from settlement, roads and footpaths from the settled glens but also from the adjacent 'Craggy Coast and Islands' (7b).	High	Although the steep slopes and skylines of the hills containing the glens and coastal fringe would also be highly sensitive to this typology there may be increased scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise visual intrusion on sensitive skylines and in views from key roads such as the A816.	High-med

	<p>glens are more contained although Beinn Chapull (sited within the adjacent Craggy Upland (7)) forms a focus seen from Loch Scammadale.</p> <p>Views to this landscape are limited from the more settled and frequented coastal fringe to the west as steep hill slopes provide visual containment. There are views to the plateau area around Cruach Rarey from the minor road between Kilmelford and Loch Avich (where it forms the foreground to panoramic views of the coast, sea and islands). More extensive views of this landscape are likely to be possible from elevated viewpoints within the adjacent Craggy Upland (7) to the east although this area is difficult to access.</p>				
Landscape Values	An APQ covers the western part of this character sub-type in the plateau area around Cruach Rarey. This area is extensively forested but is visible in the foreground of views from the Loch Avich road to the coast.	Turbines of this size sited in the designated area would be likely to significantly intrude or detract from views to the coastal area and islands which are likely to form a key special quality of the APQ.	High-med to Low	Turbines of this size sited in the designated area could also significantly intrude on views to the coastal area and islands which are likely to form a key special quality of the APQ.	High-med to Low

Landscape Character Type 7a: Craggy Upland with Settled Glens – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This is a transitional landscape between the intricate and diverse Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) and the more extensive plateau of the Craggy Uplands (7). The upper parts of the settled glens gradually merge with the Craggy Uplands with rare more pronounced hills forming focal features, at the head of Glen Scammadale for example. The Glens also link to the coast although the boundary is usually marked by a distinct 'pinch point' of hills and constriction of the valley floor away from the broader alluvial plain and bay. Steep containing ridges form a pronounced edge between the coast and this landscape character sub-type.	This typology could impact on sensitive skylines above the Craggy Coast and Islands although there is scope to site this typology to avoid such intrusion.	Medium	Even small turbines could impact on sensitive skylines above the Craggy Coast and Islands although there is increased scope to site this typology to avoid such intrusion.	Low
Scale and openness	This landscape comprises a number of deep glens separated by craggy steep-sided ridges rising to around 300m with two areas of more plateau-like landform. Scale varies from small within glens such as Glen Lonan, Feochan, Loch Scammadale and Loch Tralaig to medium within broader upland and more undulating plateau areas SE of Connel and NW of Melfort.	Turbines of this height would dominate the scale of narrow valleys and lochs if sited within them or encroaching on the skyline of containing hills. They would also impact on the scale of more diverse knolly landform. Turbines of this height could relate better to the increased scale of broader plateau areas away from settlement although effects on the adjacent Craggy Coast and Islands' (7b) would need to be minimised.	High-med	Turbines of this height would still dominate the scale of narrow valleys and lochs if sited within them or encroaching on the skyline of containing hills. They could be better accommodated at the transition between the less strongly contained upper glens and the Craggy Upland (7) character type or on the fringes of broader plateau-like areas. There would be increased opportunity to locate single and small groups <3 turbines to minimise impacts on more diverse knolly landform and small hills.	Medium

Landform	This landscape comprises a series of deep glens contained by steep craggy slopes. Many glens have hummocky terrain interspersed with flat, smooth valley floor and lochs provide contrast and increase the diversity and scenic qualities of these glens. Elsewhere the landform forms an irregular and complex craggy upland plateau with occasional pronounced hills, for example Death Choimhead on the edge of Glen Lonan.	Steep sided hills, occasional rocky scarp slopes containing valleys and lochs and more pronounced hills and areas with a particularly complex knolly landform would be sensitive even to smaller typologies although there is increased scope to locate single and small groups of turbines <3 on slacker hill slopes and more even low ridges found within the more plateau-like areas providing they avoided more distinctive landform features.	Medium	There are increased opportunities to relate this smaller typology to small areas of slacker landform and more even low ridges found within broader plateau-like areas providing they avoided more distinctive landform features	Med-low
Land cover pattern	Coniferous forestry covers the more extensive plateau areas of Fearnoch and Raera. Broadleaved woodlands occur within the glens and are notably extensive in the Black Lochs area, on the steep slopes containing Loch Nell and within Glen Scammadale. Areas of wood pasture and mixed policy plantings also feature within the glens together with occasional wetlands and heath. Small fenced and walled fields of smooth pasture cover the flat glen floor. Rough pasture, heather and grass moorland cover craggy hill slopes. Lochs form landmark features.	There is scope to site smaller turbines to minimise impacts on more diverse land cover features. The lochs and small pasture fields are locally sensitive, as turbines could detract from their role as landmark features.	Medium	There is increased scope to site this typology to minimise impacts on more diverse land cover features. The lochs and small pasture fields are locally sensitive, as turbines could detract from their role as landmark features	Med-low
Built environment	This area occurs at the transition between the more extensive and sparsely settled Craggy Uplands (7) and the relatively well-settled Craggy Coast and Islands (7b). Settlement is concentrated within the glens, sited on the edge of farmland covering the flatter glen floor. Large estate houses and lodges are sited in some of these glens and the area is rich in visible	This typology would appear large if sited close to houses and low buildings, but may be less dominant if located close to larger buildings and sheds. Small buildings sited within this type and within the adjacent highly sensitive Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) are therefore sensitive, along with the skyline and slopes of containing	Medium	Although larger than existing buildings sited in this landscape, turbines of this height would be unlikely to significantly impact on their setting provided they were slightly set back yet visually related to built development to create a 'cluster' of built development. The skyline and slopes of containing hills which	Med-low

	archaeological features. Upland areas separating the glens and some largely forested plateau areas are less settled.	hills which provide the immediate setting to settlement.		provide the immediate setting to settlement remain sensitive however.	
Perceptual qualities	Narrow dead-end roads and sparse settlement gives this area a secluded feel. This landscape also has a distinct sense of naturalness away from more extensive commercial forestry where broadleaved woodlands, lochs and moorland combine to give an 'untamed' appearance.	This typology would be less likely to significantly impact on the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced in parts of this landscape provided it were associated with existing settled or forested areas and sited well away from areas with a more pronounced sense of naturalness. Multiple turbines of this height could impact on perceptual qualities.	Medium	This typology would be less likely to significantly impact on the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced in parts of this landscape provided it were associated with existing settlement. These smaller turbines are more likely to be closely associated with existing buildings and the sparse and widely dispersed nature of settlement should limit cumulative effects of multiple turbines on perceptual qualities.	Medium-low
Visual amenity	The narrow road aligned through Glen Lonan, linking to Loch Nell and the coastal fringe forms NCR 78 and is well-used by cyclists. Dead-end roads provide access up Glens Feochan and Scammadale. Views from roads and settlement within this character type are generally restricted by the incised landform of the glens although they are more open in the Ardconnel area east of Oban. The Fearnoch/Black Lochs area has no public roads although Fearnoch Forest is used for recreation. A section of the A816 is aligned in this character sub-type in the plateau area around Cruach Rarey although views are limited by landform and forestry. Views along Glen Lonan focus on Ben Cruachan to the east and the mountains of Morven and Mull to the west. Views from the other	There is some scope to site this typology to minimise visual intrusion on sensitive skylines and in views from key roads such as the A816.	Medium	There is increased scope to site this smaller typology to minimise visual intrusion on sensitive skylines and in views from key roads such as the A816.	Medium

	<p>glens are more contained although Beinn Chapull (sited within the adjacent Craggy Upland (7)) forms a focus seen from Loch Scammadale. Views to this landscape are limited from the more settled and frequented coastal fringe to the west as steep hill slopes provide visual containment. There are views to the plateau area around Cruach Rarey (where it forms the foreground to panoramic views of the coast, sea and islands) from the minor road between Kilmelford and Loch Avich. More extensive views of this landscape are likely to be possible from elevated viewpoints within the adjacent Craggy Upland (7) to the east although this area is difficult to access.</p>				
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers the western part of this character sub-type in the plateau area around Cruach Rarey. This area is extensively forested but is visible in the foreground of views from the Loch Avich road to the coast.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited in the designated area may intrude on views to the coastal area and islands which are likely to form a key special quality of the APQ.</p>	High-med to low	<p>Turbines of this size sited in the designated area could intrude on views to the coastal area and islands which are likely to form a key special quality of the APQ although there may be some scope to site smaller turbines to avoid significant intrusion.</p>	Medium to low



The narrow and secluded Glen Lonan with the rugged hill of Death Choimhead a prominent feature seen from the minor road



Archaeological features, such as the Dun seen in the foreground, tend to be concentrated within the floors and lower hill slopes of the glens.



Narrow glen floors accommodate enclosed pastures, buildings and woodlands and have a small scale



Loch Nell and its associated broadleaved woodlands contributes to the often rich diversity of this landscape



Small hills containing the glens often have a complex craggy character accentuated by woodland, scrub and rocky outcrops



Views often extend down the length of the glens where more distinctive higher hills located in the adjacent Craggy Upland (7) form a focus

Landscape Character Type 7a: Craggy Upland with Settled Glen

Landscape Character Type 7b: Craggy Coasts and Islands

Landscape Character Type 7b: Craggy Coast and Islands - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms a linear coastal band which is predominantly contained inland by steep ridges which create a pronounced boundary with the 'Craggy Upland with Settled Glens' (7a) character type. The consistent presence of the sea forms a unifying element common to several character types. This coast, for example, is inter-visible with more distant and mountainous islands of Mull and Jura producing a highly scenic seascape.	The contribution of this complex and intricate coastal landscape to the wider highly scenic seascape increases sensitivity to larger typologies.	High	The contribution of this complex and intricate coastal landscape to the wider highly scenic seascape increases sensitivity to larger typologies.	High
Scale and openness	This landscape forms a linear coastal band and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. The strongly indented coast and small islands create a landscape of relatively intimate scale. The general relief is between 100-200m but with occasional higher hills also occurring. The very irregular landform provides strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. The landscape becomes more medium scale where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple, especially where it occasionally forms a more gradual	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale coastal features (including islands, peninsulas, bays and narrow sea lochs and sounds). Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the height of the steep-sided hills which largely contain the landward side of this coastal landscape and to occasional higher hills. The well-settled character of much of this landscape increases sensitivity in terms of contrasts of scale with buildings, enclosed farmland and woodland.	High	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale coastal features (including islands, peninsulas, bays and narrow sea lochs and sounds). Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology would also appear large in relation to the height of the steep-sided hills which largely contain the landward side of this coastal landscape and to occasional higher hills. The well-settled character of much of this landscape increases sensitivity in terms of contrasts of scale with buildings, enclosed farmland and woodland. Where the landscape is more medium scale, especially at the transition between this and upland landscape	High-medium

	transition between this type and the more upland interior.			types, then there may be some scope to accommodate this size of turbine.	
Landform	A very complex landform deeply cut by sea lochs and narrow sounds and with a fragmented coastal edge of rocky promontories, islands and occasional beaches. Basalt sills and other distinctive volcanic landforms feature as do raised beaches, coastal cliffs and the broken and angular form of slate strata evident on some islands.	This typology would detract from the strongly indented pattern of sea lochs, peninsulas and islands and the complex craggy landform, occasional knolly hills and distinctive geological features of this landscape.	High	This typology would detract from the strongly indented pattern of sea lochs, peninsulas and islands and the complex craggy landform, occasional knolly hills and distinctive geological features of this landscape.	High
Landcover pattern	Vegetation cover is diverse and complements the craggy complex landform of this landscape. Extensive broadleaved woodland occurs on more sheltered coasts and islands and occasional coniferous plantations cover more extensive upland areas. Policy woodlands, parkland and small enclosed pastures feature at the head of sea lochs on the alluvial fans which merge with the narrow glens defined as the 'Craggy Upland with Settled Glens'(7a). Small lochs form occasional features and these are generally set within the rougher pasture and moorland above the coast. Lower lying land on some islands is crofted with small enclosed pastures.	The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of the coast and islands increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Tall turbines would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands and policy landscapes. More extensive areas of moorland and coniferous plantation may be more able to accommodate larger typologies, although their limited extent will be a constraint. The setting of small lochs would be sensitive to this typology.	High-med	The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of the coast and islands increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Turbines of this size would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands and policy landscapes. More extensive areas of moorland and coniferous plantation are likely to be less sensitive to single and small groups of turbines of this medium sized typology. The setting of small lochs would be sensitive to this typology.	Medium
Built environment	This landscape is relatively well-settled with small villages and dispersed houses and farms concentrated along the more sheltered coastal edges of the mainland and islands and within the lower reaches of valleys which cut	The setting of Oban (widely seen from ferry routes), other smaller settlements and archaeological features would be highly sensitive to this typology. The character of narrow single track roads could be	High	There is slightly increased scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise effects on the setting and scale of settlement. Archaeological features and narrow roads remain sensitive.	High-med

	into the interior of the 'Craggy Upland' (7). Oban forms the largest settlement. Marinas and hotels feature along the coast. This landscape is rich in archaeological features. Narrow winding roads provide access along the peninsulas.	adversely affected by windfarm development of this scale.			
Perceptual qualities	A sense of seclusion can be experienced in parts of this landscape, particularly on the islands, promontories and more exposed western coasts away from settlement and the A816. The rugged and inaccessible sections of coast, broadleaved woodland and rough unmanaged moorland vegetation also instil a strong sense of naturalness.	Some aspects of wildness would be diminished by this typology particularly if sited within the less settled islands and more inaccessible western coastal areas.	High-med	Some aspects of wildness would be diminished by this typology particularly if sited within the less settled islands and more inaccessible western coastal areas.	High-med
Visual amenity	The A816 is aligned through this coastal landscape between Oban and Lochgilphead and is a promoted Tourist Route. Views from this road are constantly changing as it swings around sea lochs with occasional panoramic views of a rich layering of sea and islands backed by the high peaks of Jura and Mull. Views from minor roads (popular with cyclists) along the peninsulas tend to strongly contained by extensive woodland although elevated sections and promontories offer spectacular panoramas, often looking inland along the length of a loch, as well as out to sea. Settlement is generally	This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape. It would also be likely to be visible from the sea. Skylines which form the backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology.	High	This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape. It would also be likely to be visible from the sea. Skylines which form the backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology.	High

	<p>orientated to face the sea with opposite loch shores inter-visible and long views to islands often a feature.</p> <p>There are views to this area from the sea from the Colonsay ferry and from recreational watercraft. More distant views are possible from parts of Mull and Jura although views are limited from the Craggy Upland (7) and Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) which form the hinterland to this coastal area.</p>				
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers this coastal area. Although there is no citation for this APQ, its key qualities include the diversity of form of islands, sea and coast which produces highly scenic seascapes evident in panoramic views from sea and land.</p> <p>This character sub-type also borders the NSAs of Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs and Knapdale. Easdale on Seil and Cullipool on Luing are noted as being <i>prime viewpoints</i> for the NSA.</p> <p>The Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA also lies to the south of this landscape.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from the diverse scenery of this APQ. They could also intrude on key views to the NSA and adversely affect the attributes of the WLA particularly if sited in the southern part of this LCT.</p>	High-med	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from the diverse scenery of this APQ. They could also intrude on key views to the NSA and adversely affect the attributes of the WLA particularly if sited in the southern part of this LCT.</p>	High-med

Landscape Character Type 7b: Craggy Coast and Islands - Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Medium to small scale typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small scale typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape sub-type forms a linear coastal band which is predominantly contained inland by steep ridges which create a pronounced boundary with the 'Craggy Upland with Settled Glens' (7a) character type. The consistent presence of the sea forms a unifying element common to several character types. This coast, for example, is inter-visible with more distant and mountainous islands of Mull and Jura producing a highly scenic seascape.	Where there is a less defined boundary between this type and neighbouring upland types, there may be more potential to accommodate medium to small scale typologies if they are strongly associated with the adjacent types. Multiple turbines of this height could adversely affect the contribution this complex coastal landscape makes to the wider highly scenic seascape.	High-med	Turbines of this size could be sited to minimise intrusion on the wider seascape although multiple turbines would have similar cumulative effects on the wider landscape context.	High-med
Scale and openness	This landscape sub-type forms a linear coastal band and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. The strongly indented coast and small islands create a landscape of relatively intimate scale. The general relief is between 100-200m but with occasional higher hills also occurring. The very irregular landform provides strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. The landscape becomes more medium scale where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple, especially where it occasionally forms a more gradual	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale coastal features (including islands, peninsulas, bays and narrow sea lochs and sounds) but could relate better to the scale of more expansive areas of pasture and moorland away from more intimately scaled coastal areas. This size of turbine would still appear large in relation to smaller islands and if sited close to buildings, areas of small enclosed pasture and woodlands.	High-med	Although turbines of this size would be taller than mature woodland and would appear large in relation to buildings, there is some increased scope to site this typology to avoid significant conflicts of scale.	Medium

	transition between this type and the more upland interior.				
Landform	A very complex landform deeply cut by sea lochs and narrow sounds and with a fragmented coastal edge of rocky promontories, islands and occasional beaches. Basalt sills and other distinctive volcanic landforms feature as do raised beaches, coastal cliffs and the broken and angular form of slate strata evident on some islands.	This typology would detract from the strongly indented coastal edge, islands and complex craggy landform, occasional knolly hills and distinctive geological features of this landscape. There are very few areas of slacker, more even and therefore less complex landform away from more distinctive landform features which could better accommodate turbines of this size	High	This typology could also detract from the strongly indented coastal edge, islands and complex craggy landform, occasional knolly hills and distinctive geological features of this landscape. Although there are very few areas of slacker landform within this landscape, the smaller turbines of this typology (<25m) and particularly single or very small groups of <3 turbines could be sited to detract less from the form and diversity of the more complex landform.	High-med
Landcover pattern	Vegetation cover is diverse and complements the craggy complex landform of this landscape. Extensive broadleaved woodland occurs on more sheltered coasts and islands and occasional coniferous plantations cover more extensive upland areas. Policy woodlands, parkland and small enclosed pastures feature at the head of sea lochs on the alluvial fans which merge with the narrow glens defined as the Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a). Small lochs form occasional features and these are generally set within the rougher pasture and moorland above the coast. Lower lying land on some islands is crofted with small enclosed pastures.	While turbines of this size would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands and policy landscapes, more extensive areas of upland pasture and moorland are less sensitive. The setting of small lochs remains sensitive.	Medium	There would be greater scope to site this smaller typology (and particularly single turbines) to minimise effects on more complex landscape pattern and landmark features.	Medium
Built environment	This landscape is relatively well-settled with small villages and dispersed houses and farms concentrated along the more	There is slightly increased scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise effects on the setting and	High-med	There is greater scope to site this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band <25m) to minimise clutter provided turbines	Medium

	sheltered coastal edges of the mainland and islands and within the lower reaches of valleys which cut into the interior of the Craggy Upland (7). Oban forms the largest settlement. Marinas and hotels feature along the coast. This landscape is rich in archaeological features. Narrow winding roads provide access along the peninsulas.	scale of settlement. Multiple single and small groups of turbines of this size would form pronounced features potentially creating a 'clutter' of built elements in this landscape. Archaeological features remain sensitive.		were sited so associated with existing built development. Although the setting of settlements and archaeological features remains sensitive, there is likely to be greater scope to site smaller turbines to have less of an effect.	
Perceptual qualities	A sense of seclusion can be experienced in parts of this landscape, particularly on the islands, promontories and more exposed western coasts away from settlement and the A816. The rugged and inaccessible sections of coast, broadleaved woodland and rough unmanaged moorland vegetation also instil a strong sense of naturalness.	Some aspects of wildness would be diminished by this typology particularly if sited within the less settled islands and more inaccessible western coastal areas.	Medium	Some aspects of wildness would be diminished by this typology particularly if turbines were sited on the less settled islands and more inaccessible western coastal areas.	Medium
Visual amenity	The A816 is aligned through this coastal landscape between Oban and Lochgilphead and is a promoted Tourist Route. Views from this road are constantly changing as it swings around sea lochs with occasional panoramic views of a rich layering of sea and islands backed by the high peaks of Jura and Mull. Views from minor roads (popular with cyclists) along the peninsulas tend to strongly contained by extensive woodland although elevated sections and promontories offer spectacular	Turbines of this size could intrude on views from roads and settlement. Skylines which form the backdrop to the settled coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology. Although there may be some very limited scope to site turbines of this size to limit visual intrusion it would be difficult to find a site not visible from land or sea.	High	Turbines of this size could intrude on views from roads and settlement. Skylines which form the backdrop to the settled coastal edge remain sensitive even to this smaller typology. There is likely to be slightly greater scope to site turbines of this size to limit visual intrusion.	High-med

	<p>panoramas, often looking inland along the length of a loch, as well as out to sea. Settlement is generally orientated to face the sea with opposite loch shores inter-visible and long views to islands often a feature.</p> <p>There are views to this area from the sea from the Colonsay ferry and from recreational watercraft. More distant views are possible from parts of Mull and Jura although views are limited from the Craggy Upland (7) and Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) which form the hinterland to this coastal area.</p>				
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers this coastal area. Although there is no citation for this APQ, its key qualities include the diversity of form of islands, sea and coast which produces highly scenic seascapes evident in panoramic views from sea and land.</p> <p>This LCT also borders the NSAs of Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs and Knapdale. Easdale on Seil and Cullipool on Luing are noted as being <i>prime viewpoints</i> for the NSA</p> <p>The Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA also lies to the south of this landscape.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from the diverse scenery and small scale of this APQ. They could also intrude on key views to the NSA and adversely affect the attributes of the WLA if sited in the southern part of this LCT.</p>	High-med	<p>There may be increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise effects on diverse scenery and on key views.</p>	Medium



This higher inland hills on the eastern boundary of this character type backdrop the highly scenic Loch Craignish with its complex rocky linear islands



Policy landscapes feature within the sheltered inlets and coasts of this character type



Wetlands and broadleaved woodlands pattern coastal fringes adding to the rich diversity of this landscape



Views to Luing and the distant Scarba, Lunga and Garvellachs NSA from the island of Seil.



Small buildings, woodlands, enclosed pastures and an often complex knolly landform give an intimate scale in many coastal areas.



The Mull High Tops (2a) and Mull Craggy Upland (7e) seen from Seil forms part of the diverse wider seascape.

Landscape Character Type 7b: Craggy Coast and Islands

Landscape Character Type 7c: North Loch Awe Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7c: North Loch Awe Craggy Upland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This upland character type forms a backdrop to northern Loch Awe, its islands and its settled fringes, reclassified as lowland type Rocky Mosaic (20) in this study.</p> <p>The extent of this character type is limited, and feels smaller where it is framed by surrounding higher hills.</p> <p>It also sits at the conjunction of several character types, forming the foreground to the dramatic mountains of the High Tops (2) and Steep Ridgeland and Moorland (1) and the backdrop to a Hidden Glen (4), an area of settled lochside edge which has been reclassified for the purposes of this study as Rocky Mosaic (20) and an area of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6).</p> <p>It shares some characteristics – principally in terms of vegetation pattern – with the adjacent upland types.</p>	<p>Large typologies could impact on the smaller scale of the nearby settled fringes of the adjacent Loch Awe and the settled ‘Mountain Glen’ (4), both of which are overlooked by this type.</p> <p>Large turbines may detract from the diversity and dramatic contrasts in scale and form created by the close proximity of the several different character types which come together in this area, and are frequently seen together in panoramic views which extend over several character types.</p> <p>The relatively limited extent of the long horizontal plateau which makes up this type also further limits the scope for this size of turbine - i.e. there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto neighbouring character types.</p>	High	<p>Large typologies could impact on the smaller scale of the nearby settled fringes of the adjacent Loch Awe and the settled ‘Mountain Glen’ (4) which are overlooked by this type.</p> <p>Large turbines may detract from the diversity and dramatic contrasts in scale and form created by the close proximity of the several different character types which come together in this area, and are frequently seen together in panoramic views which extend over several character types.</p> <p>The relatively limited extent of the long horizontal plateau which makes up this type also further limits the scope for this size of turbine - i.e. there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto neighbouring character types.</p>	High

Scale	This elevated moorland of horizontal ridges abuts steep-sided vertical hills, a contrast which is most dramatic when seen against the hills to the north. This juxtaposition limits the sense of expansive scale of this type, as the sense of horizontal expanse is curtailed by the massiveness of some of the High Tops, such as Ben Cruachan. Elevated to around 200-300m but with the highest ridge of hills extending to over 500m, the area appears as an undulating plateau, but on closer inspection is made up of a more complex series of long slopes, low ridges and valleys which create a medium scale landscape over much of the area.	This typology has the potential to detract from the medium scale of smaller hills and more complex lower slopes, ridges and valleys adjacent to the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20). Turbines of this size could relate better to more expansive upper slopes and upland plateaux.	High-Med	Turbines of this size could relate to the scale of much of this landscape although lower slopes at the transition with the <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) are of increased sensitivity.	Medium
Landform	In many places, this craggy landform is irregular and complex, with numerous rocky outcrops and a knobby texture. However there area areas of long, more even slopes and more gentle gradients	This typology could relate to the areas with a less complex craggy landform, where slopes are more even and less steeply graded.	Medium	This typology could relate to the areas with a less complex craggy landform, where slopes are more even and less steeply graded.	Medium
Landcover pattern	Open upland moorland predominates with some large conifer plantations. Rivers wind their way through some of the elevated glens, and small lochans, often at high elevations punctuate this landscape. There is some additional infrastructure, including tracks and a dammed reservoir (Lochan Shira)	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type. Where there is a more intricate pattern of lochans and craggy knolls sensitivity is increased.	Medium	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within the upland interior of this character type. Where there is a more intricate pattern of lochans and craggy knolls sensitivity is increased.	Medium
Built environment	This upland area is very sparsely settled. There is some additional infrastructure, including tracks and a dammed reservoir (Lochan Shira)	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape type reduces sensitivity to larger typologies	Low	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity to larger typologies.	Low

Perceptual qualities	Although this upland area is difficult to access and can feel remote, the presence of extensive forestry, tracks and the reservoir as well as its overall limited extent combine to limit the sense of naturalness.	Turbines are unlikely to add significantly to the lack of wildness already experienced within this area.	Low	Turbines are unlikely to add significantly to the lack of wildness already experienced within this area.	Low
Visual amenity	<p>'A' class roads, including the A85, smaller roads along Loch Awe, settlements, the railway line, recreational watercraft on Loch Awe and views from surrounding 'Munros' and hill tops ensure that this area is generally widely visible.</p> <p>Key viewpoints include the A class roads and visitor attractions, including Kilchurn Castle and St Conan's Kirk, as well as the dramatic Pass of Brander.</p> <p>Only the more hidden glens are consistently hidden from view, while views from roads are sometimes intermittent, with low landform and woodland providing partial screening. The most dramatic views are those associated with Loch Awe towards the surrounding mountains, including the setting of Kilchurn castle (a key focal point), the Loch Awe islands, views across and along the length of the main Loch and those framed by the steep-sided Pass of Brander.</p>	Turbines sited on skylines above Loch Awe and visible from key viewpoints, including historic sites and major roads as well as settlements are likely to be visually prominent in an area with such wide inter-visibility.	High	<p>Turbines sited on skylines above Loch Awe and visible from key viewpoints, including historic sites and major roads as well as settlements are likely to be visually prominent in an area with such wide inter-visibility.</p> <p>There may be some scope to accommodate smaller turbines within the typology (closer to 50m high) as single and small groups of turbines to minimise visual intrusion on sensitive skylines.</p>	High
Landscape Values	The majority of this character type has been designated as the North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality. This designation reflects the juxtaposition of different landscape	Turbines sited where they would introduce clutter or other visual distraction from the composition of the main elements of this landscape	High-med	Turbines sited where they would introduce clutter or other visual distraction from the composition of the main elements of this landscape	High-med

	types in this area, including the dramatic and rugged mountains, the small scale pattern of settled glens, the presence of the Loch and its islands and the contrasts in scale, relief and landform shape which combine to add to the diversity and associated scenic quality of this landscape.	would detract from its recognised and valued scenic quality.		would detract from its recognised and valued scenic quality.	
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This area of Craggy Upland forms the foreground to highly scenic views to the head of Loch Awe and Ben Cruachan



The intricate pattern of woodland and settlement fringing Loch Awe, seen here from St Conan's Kirk, is backed by the higher ground of this landscape



The lower slopes of this upland area merge gradually with the Mountain Glen (4) character type in the Dalmally area



This landscape provides part of the wider setting to the dramatic juxtaposition of Loch Awe and its islands, Ben Cruachan, settlement and historic features.

Landscape Character Type 7c: North East Loch Awe Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7d: Lorn Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7d: Lorn Craggy Upland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The Lorn Craggy Upland character type occupies a pivotal position adjoining a number of very diverse character types. These uplands form an immediate backdrop to the 'Lowland ridges and moss' (18) (considered within the Lynn of Lorn NSA assessment). They also comprise part of the wider seascape of the Lynn of Lorn and Loch Linnhe. The defined hills of this landscape are seen in conjunction with the 'High Tops' (2) where they form a layered panorama of foreground hills to the mountains at the head of Loch Creran and Glencoe.	The backdrop, contrast and juxtaposition provided by the rugged craggy hills of this character type to diverse lowland, seascape and mountainous landscapes increases sensitivity to this typology.	High	The backdrop, contrast and juxtaposition provided by the rugged craggy hills of this character type to diverse lowland, seascape and mountainous landscapes increases sensitivity to this typology.	High
Scale and openness	This landscape character type extends beyond the boundary of Argyll and Bute to the north, forming a more extensive band of 'Craggy Upland' against Loch Linnhe and the fringes of Glencoe. Individual hills attain heights of between 430m and 879m and are considerably higher than the Craggy Upland found elsewhere. Hills have defined summits and steep slopes and are cut by deep valleys.	While this typology could relate to the vertical scale of these uplands, there are very few areas with a more open and expansive horizontal scale able to accommodate multiple turbines.	Medium	While this typology could relate to the vertical scale of these uplands, there are very few areas with a more open and expansive horizontal scale able to accommodate multiple turbines.	Medium
Landform	Craggy hills are well-defined with steep sides and often sharp summits. Numerous banded rocky outcrops and ledges pattern slopes and tops.	The complex craggy landform of these defined hills and narrow valleys increases sensitivity to this typology.	High	The complex craggy landform of these defined hills and narrow valleys increases sensitivity to this typology.	High

	The hills are dissected by deep narrow valleys and wooded ravines in a distinct NE/SW alignment.				
Landcover pattern	Open upland grass and heather moorland predominates but with coniferous plantation occurring on lower western slopes close to the shores of Loch Linnhe (and, more extensively, to the north in Salachan Glen within Lochaber). Extensive broadleaved woodlands colonise the steep slopes above Loch Creran (Glasdrum Wood) and the narrow valleys which cut into these hills.	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within much of these uplands although they would detract from areas of broadleaved woodland.	Medium	Turbines could fit with the simple land cover within much of these uplands although they would detract from areas of broadleaved woodland.	Medium
Built environment	This upland area is very sparsely settled with occasional isolated estate houses and farms located on lower slopes on the edge of the 'Mountain glens' (4) (Glen Creran) and the 'Lowland ridges and moss' (18) character type.	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity to larger typologies	Low	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity to larger typologies.	Low
Perceptual qualities	Within Argyll and Bute, the interior of these hills is relatively difficult to access and this landscape can feel secluded. It is also little modified with the high rugged hills and extensive broadleaved woodlands increasing the sense of naturalness.	The presence of wildland qualities increases sensitivity to this typology.	High	The presence of wildland qualities increases sensitivity to this typology.	High
Visual amenity	Although accessibility is limited in this largely unsettled landscape the Corbett of Fraochaidh (879m) lies within this character type and is likely to attract climbers. This landscape is widely visible from the A828 and Cycle Route 78 where it backdrops the intricate seascapes of Loch Creran and appears as a visual extension of the 'High Tops' (2)	This typology would be prominent in views from major tourist and recreation routes, settlement and from popular hills and mountains.	High	Although the smaller turbines of this typology may be able to be sited on lower ground surrounded by higher peaks which provide some visual containment from the roads and settlement in the coastal area, there would be relatively close views from popular hills and mountains in this and adjoining character types.	High

	<p>within Glen Creran. The steep wooded slopes and pronounced peak of Beinn Churalain is prominent from the southern side of upper Loch Creran. These hills are also seen in relative proximity from the Appin area (where they form a rugged backdrop to 'framed' views along Loch Laich from the minor road to Port Appin), from the Port Appin to Lismore ferry and from more open sections of the B8045 and settlement on Lismore.</p>				
<p>Landscape Values</p>	<p>This landscape is designated as an APQ. Key special qualities of the APQ include the rugged character of these distinctive hills and their role in providing the backdrop to the wider seascape and part of the panorama of layered hills and mountains to the north and east.</p> <p>This landscape also abuts the Lynn of Lorn NSA. The '<i>small scale low-lying landscape within a vast highland backdrop</i>' is a key special quality of this NSA with the rugged mountains of Lochaber and Glencoe (amongst others) being specifically noted.</p> <p>A small part of the Loch Etive Mountains WLA lies in this LCT.</p>	<p>This typology would directly affect the special qualities of the APQ by detracting from the scenic panorama of dramatic rugged hills and mountains. It would also adversely affect the setting of the Lynn of Lorn NSA, views from this designated area and alter the character of these hills which form part of the '<i>vast highland backdrop</i>' to the NSA. This typology could also adversely affect the attributes of the WLA if sited within it and in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>This typology would directly affect the special qualities of the APQ by detracting from the scenic panorama of dramatic rugged hills and mountains. It would also adversely affect the setting of the Lynn of Lorn NSA, views from this designated area and alter the character of these hills which form part of the '<i>vast highland backdrop</i>' to the NSA. This typology could also adversely affect the attributes of the WLA if sited within it and in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>High</p>



The rugged defined hills of this upland landscape form part of the wider setting to the dramatic mountains of the High Tops (2) character type in upper Loch Creran



Steep-sided and extensively wooded hills form a key focus in views from the A828 near Creagan



These uplands backdrop views from the Lynn of Lorn NSA, seen here on the road between Port Appin and the A828



Small farms, woodlands and pasture pattern the lower hill slopes of this landscape at the transition with the Lowland Ridges and Moss (18) character type

Landscape Character Type 7d: Lorn Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7e: Mull Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 7e: Mull Craggy Upland - Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Medium to small scale typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small scale typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape has a similar craggy landform to the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) (including a similarly diverse coastal edge of cliffs, stacks and buttresses) and there is generally a gradual transition between the two character types.</p> <p>This landscape forms a strongly contrasting craggy rugged backdrop to the flatter 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) in the Lochbuie area although the lower hills with occasional less complex and gentler slopes which back the Lochdon area provide a less dramatic contrast. This landscape (and particularly the high cliffs on the south-east coast abutting the Firth of Lorn) is also inter-visible with the 'Craggy Coast and Islands' (7b) on mainland Argyll and Bute and forms the foreground to the distinctive peaks of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) in these views.</p>	<p>Turbines of this height could adversely affect the wider highly scenic and little developed seascape of mainland coast, islands and Mull around the Firth of Lorn by introducing tall built features visible on the coastal edge from sea and land. Turbines sited on more prominent hills could detract from the backdrop of the mountains of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) seen from the coast and Firth of Lorn but also affect the integrity of the undeveloped and often dramatic coastal edge of Loch Buie. This typology could also detract from the notably rugged and natural backdrop these craggy uplands provide to the settled 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) of Lochbuie. Less prominent hill slopes set well back from more dramatic mountains within (2a) and coast would be less sensitive to this typology.</p>	High-med	<p>There is increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise intrusion on the wider seascape and on the adjoining more dramatic core mountains and the Lochbuie area.</p>	Medium
Scale and openness	<p>These craggy uplands culminate in Druim Fada (405m) in the western peninsula and close to Loch Buie, where relief is higher. Smaller hills occur in the eastern part of this peninsula and at the head of Loch Spelve rising to between 200-300m. The scale of this landscape is generally large to medium but much</p>	<p>There is scope to site this typology to avoid significant impacts of scale although areas with more complex and smaller scale topographical features have an increased sensitivity.</p>	Medium-low	<p>This smaller typology would appear out of scale with higher hills (and is also unlikely to be located in these areas for technical/economic reasons) but could relate to the scale of smaller areas of less complex ground near settlement, which turbines of this size would be less likely to overwhelm.</p>	Medium-low

	reduced within numerous narrow valleys. There are few smaller scale features such as buildings.				
Landform	This landscape forms craggy peninsulas around the sea loch of Loch Spelve. The landform is particularly rugged to the west where steep rocky slopes and buttresses, deeply cut by narrow gorges, contain the southern shore of Loch Uisg and high cliffs about the Firth of Lorn coast. Small pockets of gentler hill slopes occur along the coastal edge of Loch Spelve and on the northern slopes of Carn Ban.	This typology would detract from the complex craggy landform and high cliffs of this landscape. Areas with a less complex landform where turbines of this size could be accommodated are rare.	High-med	This typology could also detract from the complex craggy landform and high cliffs of this landscape. Although there are very few areas of slacker landform within this landscape, the smaller turbines of this typology (single or small groups of <3) could be sited to minimise effects on more complex landform.	Medium
Landcover	Grass and heather moorland predominantly covers this landscape although extensive broadleaved woodlands occur on the lower slopes of Cruach Ardura, the eastern slopes of Carn Ban and within the numerous narrow gorges which cut into the rugged coastal peninsula east of Loch Buie. Mixed policy woodlands are a feature of the Loch Uisg area.	While turbines of this size would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved and mixed policy woodlands, more extensive areas of upland pasture and moorland are less sensitive.	Medium	There would be greater scope to site this smaller typology to minimise effects on more complex landscape pattern and landmark features.	Medium-low
Built environment	This upland area is very sparsely settled with occasional dispersed estate houses set within woodland, farms and the small settlements of Kinlochspelve and Croggan located against the shores of Loch Spelve. The shores of Loch Uisg feature the Victorian Craig Ben Lodge, a church and a number of memorial structures.	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology in terms of limiting effects on scale and setting although turbines of this size located on prominent skylines above settlements (in this and adjacent character types) and in the Loch Uisg area could impact on the setting of settlement and other built features.	Medium-low	The sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity to this typology in terms of limiting effects on scale and setting and there are increased opportunities for smaller turbines to minimise impacts on scale and setting of settlement.	Low

Perceptual qualities	The rugged eastern coast against the Firth of Lorn is difficult to access and has a strong sense of remoteness and naturalness. The perception of wildness is less pronounced along the sparsely settled fringes of Loch Spelve and Loch Uisg although these areas can still feel secluded.	The strong sense of wildness associated with the more exposed and less settled coastal areas would be diminished by this typology and the construction of ancillary development such as tracks. More settled and accessible areas would be less sensitive although the sense of seclusion could be affected by larger turbines.	High-med	Even the smaller turbines of this typology would affect the sense of wildness associated with more exposed and less settled coastal areas. There is greater scope to accommodate the small turbines of this typology to minimise effects on perceptual qualities, particularly if sited close to settlement.	Medium
Visual amenity	The absence of roads and settlement within many parts of this character type limits visibility. There are views from the single track road around Loch Spelve. A narrow single track road is also aligned on the northern shore of Loch Uisg, a scenic small loch strongly contained by steep craggy slopes. Large coniferous trees within policy woodlands form a distinctive profile at the western end of this loch at the 'rim' of knolly land forming the boundary with the alluvial fan of Lochbuie. Views to this landscape are fairly restricted although the two northern areas of this character type are visible from the A849 at the head of Loch Spelve. The high cliffs of this character type are seen from the coastal footpath from Carsaig to Lochbuie, from settlement in the Lochbuie area and from the Firth of Lorn. There are also likely to be views from the summits of the popularly accessed hills within the	This typology would be visible from coastal paths and settlement in the Lochbuie area if sited on the higher area of craggy upland which backs Loch Buie. Turbines of this size located on prominent hills would also be highly visible from the Firth of Lorn and may be seen on the skyline from the minor road along Loch Uisg and the north side of Loch Spelve. Key views up and down Loch Uisg would be highly sensitive to this typology. Lower hill slopes would be less sensitive although areas with a less complex landform (better able to accommodate turbines) are likely to be visible from the A849.	High-med	Turbines of this size would be less intrusive but still visible in a context where very few built structures are present. Although there is greater scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise visual intrusion, the Loch Uisg area, prominent hill tops and highly visible coastal promontories would still be sensitive to all scales of development.	Medium

	adjacent 'Mull High Tops' (2a) over this character type.				
Landscape Values	The western peninsula and the Ardtura area of this character type as designated as part of a more extensive APQ which includes the mountainous core of Mull, the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the Ross of Mull. The special qualities of the APQ in this area are likely to comprise dramatic coastal landform and the contribution made to the wider scenic seascape which includes Loch Buie and the backdrop of mountains.	The dramatic coastline of high cliffs east of Loch Buie, and the scenic juxtaposition between this area, Loch Buie and the mountains lying at the core of Mull could be affected by this typology. The Carn Ban peninsula to the north-east of Loch Spelve is not designated and would be less sensitive in respect of landscape values.	High-med to Low	Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology sited close to settlement are less likely to impact on dramatic coastal scenery and key views to the mountains. The Carn Ban peninsula to the north-east of Loch Spelve is not designated and would be less sensitive in respect of landscape values.	Medium to Low



The dramatically rugged steep coastal edge against Loch Buie - this landscape has a strong sense of wildness in places.



Smoother gently undulating landform at the transition with the Mull High Tops (2a) in the Loch Don area



Extensive oak woodlands are a feature on the lower slopes of Cruach Adura and Carn Ban and on the shores of Loch Uisg



Views to the Mull High Tops (2a) from the shores of Loch Spelve



This landscape comprises a complex landform of steep craggy hill slopes, cut by numerous wooded ravines, and high cliffs against the Firth of Lorn



Views along the scenic Loch Uisg which has an intimate scale due to its strong containment by craggy hill slopes and intricate pattern of woodlands and settlement.

Landscape Character Type 7e: Mull Craggy Upland

Landscape Character Type 8: Moorland Plateau

Landscape Character Type 8: Moorland Plateau – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape forms an extensive and often rugged upland backdrop to lower lying types, including the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22), the sub-type Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) and the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). It is very different to all these types, which are generally more varied in vegetation cover, with farmland a key characteristic, and more settled, as well as being of lower relief. This type provides a contrasting much more remote and undeveloped hinterland of often well-defined hills for these more settled areas.</p> <p>This is the most extensive character type on both Islay and Jura, and much of the interior and more remote coastline of this landscape is difficult to see from other adjacent types. The profile of these uplands is however visible from more distant views, for example from the Rhinns of Islay and also from views from the sea and this landscape is also inter-visible between Jura and Islay.</p>	<p>This extensive landscape type offers some limited scope to accommodate this typology while minimising impact on neighbouring, smaller scale landscape types. However, there would be wider impacts in terms of the composition from more distant views and the pronounced contrast between this and other more managed landscape types, affecting the scenic character of Islay and Jura.</p>	High	<p>This extensive landscape type offers some limited scope to accommodate this typology while minimising impact on neighbouring, smaller scale landscape types. While there could also be wider impacts affecting the scenic character of Islay and Jura as a whole, turbines of this size (and particularly those towards the lower height band) would have a reduced effect.</p>	High-medium
Scale	<p>The most rugged hills within this landscape rise to around 450m-470m, but much of the upland plateau undulates at around 250m, with</p>	<p>The large scale, and often sweeping extent of this landscape creates some scope for this typology although turbines of this size could dominate the vertical scale of smaller</p>	High-medium	<p>The large scale, and often sweeping extent of this landscape, creates scope for this typology although indented stretches of</p>	Medium

	<p>prominent but lower hills reaching 300m-350m, even close to the coast. The landscape is generally hilly, with distinct summits, isolated hills and more complex rugged hill ranges rising out of stretches of more undulating plateau and (especially on Islay) above long, sweeping west-facing slopes. The landscape is predominantly very open moorland with few small-scale features such as buildings. Scale is reduced where the coastline is more indented and features scattered islands and skerries and within more enclosed glens.</p>	<p>well-defined hills, indented stretches of the coast, and enclosed glens.</p>		<p>coastline, and some of the more enclosed glens remain sensitive.</p>	
Landform	<p>Complex, rugged, interlocking hill ranges, glens, gulleys and gently graded slopes, more prominent summits, including rocky outcrops and more extensive areas of plateau, the later particularly around the outskirts of this type, create a landscape of relatively diverse topography. The coast is diverse and often dramatic, with high cliffs on headlands, and a shoreline that varies from extended rocky slabby reaches to rocky indentations with small sandy bays, raised beaches, cliffs, caves and also stretches of coast with scattered islands and skerries.</p>	<p>The more complex, interlocking hill ranges and diverse stretches of coastline are highly sensitive to this typology. More undulating plateaux and gently graded slopes would be less sensitive although larger turbines sited nearby could detract from more complex and pronounced landform features.</p>	High-Medium	<p>The more complex, interlocking hill ranges and diverse stretches of coastline are likely to be sensitive to this typology. However, the undulating plateaux, more gently graded lower slopes and shallow glens are likely to provide scope for this typology as their simple linear form would complement the form of this typology.</p>	Medium
Landcover	<p>Mosaic moorland with wetland extends over the vast majority of this landscape. There are also two large conifer forests west of Port Askaig on</p>	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland with very occasional conifer forests, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could</p>	Medium-low	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland with very occasional conifer forests, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could</p>	Medium-low

	Islay, and a small number of much smaller shelter woods. There are numerous lochans, often lying high up in corries or on ledges on hill slopes.	be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The setting of natural features, in particular the many small lochs are the key sensitivity for this typology.		be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The setting of natural features, in particular the many small lochs are the key sensitivity for this typology.	
Built environment	This landscape is very sparsely settled. There are occasional high up farms, tracks and paths around the periphery of this landscape, often extending up from the more managed Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), but the vast majority of the area is difficult to access and remnants of past settlement are also scarce, although the archaeological site at Finlaggan on Islay is a rare and important exception.	There is likely to be scope to site this typology where it does not impinge upon the setting of settlements and other built features within the largely unsettled character of the Moorland Plateau (8). However, the setting of Finlaggan, including the glen which forms its wider context, and those of other nearby archaeological features are very sensitive to this typology.	Low	There is likely to be scope to site this typology where it does not impinge upon the setting of settlements and other built features within the largely unsettled character of the Moorland Plateau (8). However, the setting of Finlaggan, including the glen which forms its wider context, and those of other nearby archaeological features are very sensitive to this typology.	Low
Perceptual qualities	The <i>Moorland Plateau</i> is experienced as remote and relatively isolated, with an exposed and often secluded coastline and rugged, relatively inaccessible interior. This landscape has a strong sense of naturalness in general although this is reduced where this character type meets the lower-lying Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), and the area occupied by the two conifer blocks above Port Askaig, where the influence of managed and settled landscape forms part of that transition between these two types.	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced widely across this area, including along the coasts. Lower slopes at the transition with more settled landscapes on Islay would be less sensitive.	High	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced widely across this area, including along the coasts. Lower slopes at the transition with more settled landscapes on Islay would be less sensitive.	High
Visual amenity	The outer hill slopes are visible from roads in the adjacent types, as are ridges which appear as prominent	Turbines of this size would be likely to be highly visible in key views across Islay particularly if they intruded on the dramatic profile of	High	While turbines of this size would still be visible in these open landscapes, there are likely to be some limited opportunities to site	High-medium

	<p>skylines. Views are sometimes intermittent, as they can be partially screened by topography and woodland within these adjacent types. Viewed from a distance, the rugged profiles of the higher ranges and hills are prominent and can form the outer limit to views. Key viewpoints include Finlaggan, the Rhinns of Islay, the ferries and roads on both islands (the islands themselves are inter-visible).</p>	<p>higher well-defined hills (and comprised wind farm developments).</p>		<p>this smaller typology (which is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines) to minimise intrusion on key views.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ covers much of this landscape, including the most easterly and northern hills on Islay and all of northern Jura. The key qualities of this APQ include the dramatic and often rugged and remote coastlines, and the dramatic juxtaposition of outcrop hills rising abruptly from lower lying plateaux. The extensive coastal views and the scenic qualities of the wider seascape character are also key features of this APQ. The APQ designated across the northern part of Jura also forms part of the wider setting of the Jura NSA. The Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA covers the majority of this LCT where it occurs on Jura.</p>	<p>Within the APQ, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, as well as the visual drama of the coast and wider seascape. The north Jura area would be additionally sensitive in terms of the wider remote and undeveloped setting it provides to the NSA and due to the presence of the WLA. Sensitivity would be reduced in the undesignated areas where more prominent 'edge' hills could provide some screening and where this landscape lies adjacent to the more settled character types.</p>	High to low	<p>Within the APQ, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, as well as the visual drama of the coast and wider seascape. The north Jura area would be additionally sensitive in terms of the wider remote and undeveloped setting it provides to the NSA and due to the presence of the WLA. Sensitivity would be reduced in the undesignated areas where more prominent 'edge' hills could provide some screening and where this landscape lies adjacent to the more settled character types.</p>	High to low

Landscape Character Type 8: Moorland Plateau – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape forms an extensive and often rugged upland backdrop to lower lying types, including the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22), the sub-type Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) and the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). It is very different to all these types, which are generally more varied in vegetation cover, with farmland a key characteristic, and more settled, as well as being of lower relief. This type provides a contrasting much more remote and undeveloped hinterland for these more settled areas.</p> <p>This is the most extensive character type on both Islay and Jura, and much of the interior and more remote coastline of this landscape is difficult to see from other adjacent types.</p> <p>The profile of these uplands is however visible from more distant views, for example from the Rhinns of Islay and also from views from the sea and this landscape is also inter-visible between Jura and Islay.</p>	<p>This extensive landscape type offers scope to accommodate this typology without impacting directly on neighbouring, smaller scale landscape types.</p> <p>However, there are potential wider impacts in terms of the setting of the coast and islands, composition from more distant views and the pronounced contrast between this and other more managed landscape types.</p>	High-Medium	<p>This extensive landscape type offers scope to accommodate this typology without impacting directly on neighbouring, smaller scale landscape types.</p> <p>However, there are potential wider impacts in terms of the setting of the coast and islands, composition from more distant views and the pronounced contrast between this and other more managed landscape types.</p> <p>There is some increase in scope to accommodate these smaller turbines, which are less likely to be visible from a distance.</p>	Medium
Scale and openness	<p>The most rugged hills within this landscape rise to around 450m-470m, but much of the upland plateau undulates at around 250m, with prominent but lower hills reaching 300m-350m, even close to the coast.</p>	<p>The large scale, and often sweeping extent of this landscape, as well as the openness and backdrop of the expanse of the sea, all combine to create scope for this typology.</p>	Medium-Low	<p>The large scale, and often sweeping extent of this landscape, as well as the openness and backdrop of the expanse of the sea, all combine to create scope for this typology.</p>	Low

	The landscape is generally hilly, with distinct summits, isolated hills and more complex rugged hill ranges rising out of stretches of more undulating plateau and (especially on Islay) above long, sweeping west-facing slopes. The landscape is predominantly very open moorland with few small scale features such as buildings. Scale is reduced where the coastline is more indented and features scattered islands and skerries and within more enclosed glens.	The indented stretches of the coast, and some of the more enclosed glens are more sensitive.		The indented stretches of coastline, and some of the more enclosed glens are the key sensitivities. As the size of turbines is smaller, the impact on scale is likely to be less than the medium-small typology.	
Landform	Complex, rugged, interlocking hill ranges, glens, gulleys and gently graded slopes, more prominent summits, including rocky outcrops and more extensive areas of plateau, the later particularly around the outskirts of this type, create a landscape of relatively diverse topography. The coast is diverse and often dramatic, with high cliffs on headlands, and a shoreline that varies from extended rocky slabby reaches to rocky indentations with small sandy bays, raised beaches, cliffs, caves and also stretches of coast with scattered islands and skerries.	The more complex, interlocking hill ranges and diverse stretches of coastline are likely to be sensitive to this typology. However, the undulating plateaux, more gently graded slopes and shallow glens are likely to provide scope for this typology as their simple linear form would complement the form of this typology.	High-Medium	The more complex, interlocking hill ranges and diverse stretches of coastline are likely to be sensitive to this typology. However, the undulating plateaux, more gently graded slopes and shallow glens are likely to provide scope for this typology as their simple linear form would complement the form of this typology. There is increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology on slightly more gentle hill slopes where they would be back-dropped by higher ground at the transition with more lowland character types.	Medium
Landcover	Mosaic moorland with wetland extends over the vast majority of this landscape. There are also two large conifer forests west of Port Askaig on	The relatively simple land cover, of moorland with very occasional conifer forests, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could	Medium-low	The relatively simple land cover, of moorland with very occasional conifer forests, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could	Medium-low

	Islay, and a small number of much smaller shelter woods. There are numerous lochans, often lying high up in corries or on ledges on hill slopes.	be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The setting of natural features, in particular the many small lochs are the key sensitivity for this typology.		be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The setting of natural features, in particular the many small lochs are the key sensitivity for this typology.	
Built environment	This landscape is very sparsely settled. There are occasional high up farms, tracks and paths around the periphery of this landscape, often extending up from the more managed <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), but the vast majority of the area is difficult to access and remnants of past settlement are also scarce, although the archaeological site at Finlaggan on Islay is a rare and important exception.	There is likely to be scope to site this typology where it does not impinge upon the setting of settlements and other built features within the largely unsettled character of the Moorland Plateau (8). However, the setting of Finlaggan, including the glen which forms its wider context, and those of other nearby archaeological features are very sensitive to this typology.	Low	There is likely to be scope to site this typology where it does not impinge upon the setting of settlements and other built features within the largely unsettled character of the Moorland Plateau (8). However, the setting of Finlaggan, including the glen which forms its wider context, and those of other nearby archaeological features are very sensitive to this typology.	Low
Perceptual qualities	The <i>Moorland Plateau</i> is experienced as remote and relatively isolated, with an exposed and often secluded coastline and rugged, relatively inaccessible interior. This landscape has a strong sense of naturalness in general although this is reduced where this character type meets the lower-lying <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), and the area occupied by the two conifer blocks above Port Askaig, where the influence of managed and settled landscape forms part of that transition between these two types.	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced widely across this area, including along the coasts.	High	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced widely across this area, including along the coasts.	High
Visual amenity	The outer hill slopes are visible from roads in the adjacent types, as are ridges which appear as prominent	There are likely to be some opportunities to site this typology, where it might be less visible or intermittently visible from key	Medium	There are likely to be some opportunities to site this typology, where it might be less visible or intermittently visible from key	Medium-Low

	<p>skylines. Views are sometimes intermittent, as they can be partially screened by topography and woodland within these adjacent types. Viewed from a distance, the rugged profiles of the higher ranges and hills are prominent and can form the outer limit to views. Key viewpoints include Finlaggan, the Rinnns of Islay, the ferries and roads on both islands (the islands themselves are inter-visible).</p>	<p>viewpoints, and where it can avoid key visual sensitivities or be back dropped against rising ground. The high points on skyline ridges are sensitive, as are sustained views from key viewpoints.</p>		<p>viewpoints, and where it can avoid key visual sensitivities or be back dropped against rising ground. The high points on skyline ridges are sensitive, as are sustained views from key viewpoints.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ covers much of this landscape, including the most easterly and northern hills on Islay and all of northern Jura. The key qualities of this APQ include the dramatic and often rugged and remote coastlines, and the dramatic juxtaposition of outcrop hills rising abruptly from lower lying plateaux. The extensive coastal views and the scenic qualities of the wider seascape character are also key features of this APQ. The APQ designated across the northern part of Jura also forms part of the wider setting of the Jura NSA. The Jura, Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs WLA covers the majority of this LCT where it occurs on Jura.</p>	<p>Within the APQ, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, as well as the visual drama of the coast and wider seascape. The north Jura area would be additionally sensitive in terms of the wider remote and undeveloped setting it provides to the NSA and due to the presence of the WLA. Sensitivity would be reduced in the undesignated areas where more prominent 'edge' hills could provide some screening and where this landscape lies adjacent to the more settled character types.</p>	High to low	<p>Within the APQ, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, as well as the visual drama of the coast and wider seascape. The north Jura area would be additionally sensitive in terms of the wider remote and undeveloped setting it provides to the NSA and due to the presence of the WLA. Sensitivity would be reduced for this small typology in the undesignated areas where more prominent 'edge' hills could provide some screening and where this landscape lies adjacent to the more settled character types.</p>	High-med to low



Often relatively inaccessible and remote tracts of coast and hills contrast with more farmed areas of the islands



Dramatic coast and hills are highly visible from the sea, including from the ferry in the Sound of Islay



Archaeological sites, including the highly sensitive setting of Finlaggan, are found on the periphery of this LCT



The high hills frequently form a rugged backdrop to more lowland character types



An operational community wind turbine is sited on the periphery of this landscape and away from the higher and more dramatic core hills



Rough and semi-improved pasture on the lower slopes of these uplands at the transition with LCTs 8a and 16

Landscape Character Type 8: Moorland Plateau

Landscape Character Type 8a: Moorland Plateau with Farmland

Landscape Character Type 8a: Moorland Plateau with Farmland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>These partially settled and farmed ‘foothills’ lie between more expansive, larger scale upland areas and more sheltered farmed glens.</p> <p>This landscape also forms the partially settled and farmed low hills of The Oa peninsula.</p> <p>This landscape is not extensive. Within the glen which stretches from Port Askaig to Bridgend, ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a) forms a linear transition between ‘Moorland Plateau’ (8) and ‘Marginal Farmland Mosaic’ (16). The conjunction of fields and farms forms a gradual transition between these types, but the landform increases in scale and becomes simpler within ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a). The remote high hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8) form a dramatic backdrop to the northern area of this LCT.</p> <p>By contrast, the Oa peninsula is set apart from the rest of the island, and its extent is limited by the surrounding sea. The Oa is a prominent headland and inter-visible with the other landscape types on the island.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type restricts scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent smaller scale landscape types, on the coast and seascape of The Oa or on the rugged and well-defined high hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).</p>	High	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type restricts scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types, on the coast and seascape of The Oa or on the rugged and well-defined high hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8)</p>	High
Scale	<p>This landscape rises to 182m on Cnoc Donn, south east of Bridgend, and generally around 160m across The Oa,</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would dominate the low relief of this landscape and the enclosure created by the</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size would dominate the low relief of this landscape and the enclosure</p>	High

	<p>although there is a prominent highpoint at 202m above towering cliffs at the very southern point of the headland. The landscape is undulating, with dips between low hills creating a deceptively low relief in some elevated glens, where the ridgeline is not much higher than the glen floor, especially on The Oa. The landscape is very open, with few trees, the only substantial woodland being on the north west facing slopes of The Oa. Moorland on The Oa increases openness.</p>	<p>undulating hills especially as experienced within the interior of The Oa.</p>		<p>created by the undulating hills especially as experienced within the interior of The Oa.</p>	
Landform	<p>Hilly ridges, often with rounded landforms, shallow glens and gently graded slopes, occasional more prominent summits, including rocky outcrops. The terrain is rugged on The Oa and more simple within the interior glens. The coastline is diverse, with cliffs and rocky indentations, small bays and cliffs all featured.</p>	<p>The low lying and more regular ridges, gently graded slopes and shallow glens may provide scope for this typology. However, turbines of this size would significantly detract from prominent hill tops and the diverse coast.</p>	High-medium	<p>The low lying and more regular ridges, gently graded slopes and shallow glens may provide scope for this typology. However, turbines of this size would significantly detract from prominent hill tops and the diverse coast.</p>	High-medium
Landcover	<p>Farmland occupies the sheltered slopes and shallow glens within this character type. The fields of improved pasture back onto rough pasture and mosaic moorland at the higher elevations and more exposed coasts. There is moorland on more remote reaches of the headland and conifer forests on the north east facing slopes of The Oa. Small broadleaved woodlands extend inland from the coast south of Port Askaig.</p>	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland, open grassland fields and occasional conifer woodlands, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The small-scale pattern of fragmented and low growing broadleaved woodland south of Port Askaig is sensitive to this typology.</p>	Medium	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland, open grassland fields and occasional conifer woodlands, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity. The small-scale pattern of fragmented and low growing broadleaved woodland south of Port Askaig is sensitive to this typology.</p>	Medium

	There are several large lochans in shallow basins.				
Built environment	<p>This landscape is partially settled with scattered houses and farms except for the moorland and upland grazed areas and the more remote coasts. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against the green of the fields or dark brown of the moorland. This landscape has a number of archaeological sites. The narrow roads link the farms and farm tracks.</p>	<p>The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to dominate the small size of the built features. However, the area is only partially settled, and there may be scope to site turbines where they do not relate to the small size of the buildings. Narrow roads would need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.</p>	High-medium	<p>The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to appear very large in comparison with the small size of the built features. The height of this typology in this open landscape means that the scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have a reduced effect and the area is only partially settled, and there may be scope to site turbines where they do not relate to the small size of the buildings.</p>	Medium
Perceptual qualities	<p>On The Oa, the more inaccessible coast can be experienced as remote, exposed and, combined with the power and dynamism of the sea, is a place where naturalness is a key characteristic. Elsewhere, this area is generally farmed with scattered settlement, tracks and roads, occasional masts and some conifer forest although it lies close to the more remote core hills of <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).</p>	<p>This typology could significantly affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced on The Oa, and particularly along the coast. Sensitivity is reduced elsewhere although turbines of this size could adversely affect the sense of wildness experienced within the more remote and rugged core of the adjacent <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).</p>	High-medium	<p>This typology could significantly affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced on The Oa, and particularly along the coast. Sensitivity is reduced elsewhere although turbines of this size could adversely affect the sense of wildness experienced within the more remote and rugged core of the adjacent <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).</p>	High-medium
Visual amenity	<p>The Oa, a prominent headland, is widely visible from much of Islay.</p>	<p>There are limited opportunities to site this typology where it might be less</p>	High	<p>There are likely to be limited opportunities where it might be less</p>	High

	<p>Travelling through The Oa, whether by car or along some of the coastal walks, interior views are contained by the rolling landform, while views from the coast focus out to sea or along the coast.</p> <p>Key viewpoints include the American Monument and other accessible stretches of coastline.</p> <p>The area of this landscape type which lies between Port Askaig and Bridgend is less widely visible, and views to it from the A846 are at times intermittent, because of the intervening knolls and trees within the <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16). The slopes which contain this glen are more visually sensitive than the slopes which face south east, overlooking less settled areas.</p>	<p>visible from key viewpoints, and where it can avoid prominent skylines, or intruding into key views, for example along the coast.</p> <p>A key sensitivity is the profile of the headland of The Oa, which itself is a focal point from wider views.</p> <p>Hill slopes overlooking the A846 and high points on visually prominent ridges are also sensitive.</p>		<p>visible or intermittently visible from key viewpoints, and where it can avoid prominent skylines, or intruding into key views, for example along the coast.</p> <p>A key sensitivity is the profile of the headland of The Oa, which itself is a focal point from wider views.</p> <p>Hill slopes overlooking the A846 and high points on visually prominent ridges are also sensitive.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ extends along part of the coastline of The Oa. The key qualities of this APQ include the drama of the high cliffs and the diversity of coastal features and landform, the relative remoteness of the coast and the dramatic views along the length of the indented coastline.</p>	<p>Turbines could be sited away from the APQ where they would not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	High-med to Low	<p>Turbines could be sited elsewhere in the LCT where they would not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast</p>	High-medium to Low

Landscape Character Type 8a: Moorland Plateau with Farmland – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>These partially settled and farmed ‘foothills’ lie between more expansive, larger scale upland areas and more sheltered farmed glens.</p> <p>This landscape also forms the partially settled and farmed low hills of The Oa peninsula.</p> <p>This landscape is not extensive. Within the glen which stretches from Port Askaig to Bridgend, ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a) forms a linear transition between ‘Moorland Plateau’ (8) and ‘Marginal Farmland Mosaic’ (16). The conjunction of fields and farms forms a gradual transition between these types, but the landform increases in scale and becomes simpler within ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a).</p> <p>By contrast, the Oa peninsula is set apart from the rest of the island, and its extent is limited by the surrounding sea.</p> <p>The Oa is a prominent headland and inter-visible with the other landscape types on the island.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent smaller scale landscape types, or on the coast and seascape of The Oa.</p>	High	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types, or on the coast and seascape of The Oa.</p> <p>There is some increase in scope to accommodate these smaller turbines where this character type abuts the ‘Marginal Farmland Mosaic’ (16) type, where the vegetation of adjacent farmed fields merges to create a more extensive area of farmland.</p>	High-Medium
Scale and openness	<p>This landscape rises to 182m on Cnoc Donn, south east of Bridgend, and generally around 160m across The Oa, although there is a prominent highpoint</p>	<p>While the openness of this landscape may offer some scope for this typology, the deceptively low relief and the enclosure created by the undulating hills reduces the scale of</p>	High-Medium	<p>There may be scope to accommodate this typology within the openness of this landscape although the deceptively low relief and the enclosure created by the</p>	Medium

	<p>at 202m above towering cliffs at the very southern point of the headland. The landscape is undulating, with dips between low hills creating a deceptively low relief in some elevated glens, where the ridgeline is not much higher than the glen floor, especially on The Oa. The landscape is very open, with few trees, the only substantial woodland being on the north west facing slopes of The Oa. Moorland on The Oa increases openness. The coastline is dramatic, with high cliffs on the outer headland, and an indented shoreline with occasional islands.</p>	<p>this landscape, especially as experienced within the interior of The Oa.</p>		<p>undulating hills reduces the scale of this landscape, especially as experienced within the interior of The Oa. This smaller typology is likely to have less impact on landscape scale than the medium-small typology.</p>	
Landform	<p>Hilly ridges, often with rounded landforms, shallow glens and gently graded slopes, occasional more prominent summits, including rocky outcrops. The terrain is rugged on The Oa and more simple within the interior glen. The coastline is diverse, with cliffs and rocky indentations, small bays and cliffs all featured.</p>	<p>The low lying and more regular ridges, gently graded slopes and shallow glens may provide scope for this typology. However, prominent hill tops and the diverse coast are highly sensitive.</p>	Medium	<p>The low lying and more regular ridges are likely to provide scope for this typology. However, prominent hill tops and the diverse coastal edge are highly sensitive.</p>	Medium
Landcover	<p>Farmland occupies the sheltered slopes and shallow glens within this character type. The fields of improved pasture back onto rough pasture and mosaic moorland at the higher elevations and more exposed coasts. There is moorland on more remote reaches of the headland and conifer</p>	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland, open grassland fields and occasional conifer woodlands, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity.</p>	Medium	<p>The relatively simple land cover, of moorland, open grassland fields and occasional conifer woodlands, is likely to provide scope for this typology which could be accommodated without impacting on landscape diversity.</p>	Medium

	forests on the north east facing slopes of The Oa. Small broadleaved woodlands extend inland from the coast south of Port Askaig. There are several large lochans in shallow basins.	The small scale pattern of fragmented and low growing broadleaved woodland south of Port Askaig is sensitive to this typology.		The small scale pattern of fragmented and low growing broadleaved woodland south of Port Askaig is sensitive to this typology.	
Built environment	This landscape is partially settled with scattered houses and farms except for the moorland and upland grazed areas and the more remote coasts. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against the green of the fields or dark brown of the moorland. This landscape has a number of archaeological sites. The narrow roads link the farms and farm tracks.	The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to dominate the small size of the built features. The height of this typology in this open landscape means that the scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. However, the area is only partially settled, and there may be scope to site turbines where they do not relate to the small size of the buildings. Narrow roads might need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.	Medium	The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to appear very large in comparison with the small size of the built features. The height of this typology in this open landscape means that the scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have a reduced effect and the area is only partially settled, and there may be scope to site turbines where they do not relate to the small size of the buildings.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	On The Oa, the more inaccessible coast can be experienced as remote, exposed and, combined with the power and dynamism of the sea, is a place where naturalness is a key characteristic. Elsewhere, this area is generally farmed with scattered settlement, tracks and roads, occasional masts and some conifer forest although it lies	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced on The Oa, particularly along the coast, but elsewhere there is likely turbines of this size could be sited to minimise effects on these qualities.	Medium	This typology could affect the sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced on The Oa, but elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities. As the size of turbines is smaller, the extent of influence is likely to be less than the medium-small typology.	Medium

	close to the more remote core hills of <i>Moorland Plateau (8)</i> .				
Visual amenity	<p>The Oa, a prominent headland, is widely visible from much of Islay. Travelling through The Oa, whether by car or along some of the coastal walks, interior views are contained by the rolling landform, while views from the coast focus out to sea or along the coast. Key viewpoints include the American Monument and other accessible stretches of coastline. The area of this landscape type which lies between Port Askaig and Bridgend is less widely visible, and views to it from the A846 are at times intermittent, because of the intervening knolls and trees within the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). The slopes which contain this glen are more visually sensitive than the slopes which face south east, overlooking less settled areas.</p>	<p>There are likely to be limited opportunities to site this typology where it might be less visible or intermittently visible from key viewpoints, and where it can avoid prominent skylines, or intruding into key views, for example along the coast.</p> <p>A key sensitivity is the profile of the headland of The Oa, which itself is a focal point from wider views. Hill slopes overlooking the A846 and high points on visually prominent ridges are also sensitive.</p>	High-Medium	<p>There may be scope to site this smaller typology where it might be less visible or intermittently visible from key viewpoints, and where it can avoid key sensitivities, such as coastal views and prominent skylines. there is also likely to be more scope for this typology to be located where it can be back-dropped by rising ground.</p> <p>A key sensitivity is the headland of The Oa, which is a focal point in some views.</p> <p>The high points on visually prominent ridges are also sensitive.</p>	Medium
Landscape values	<p>An APQ extends along part of the coastline of The Oa. The key qualities of this APQ include the drama of the high cliffs and the diversity of coastal features and landform, the relative remoteness of the coast and the dramatic views along the length of the indented coastline.</p>	<p>The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines elsewhere in the LCT where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	High-med to Low	<p>The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines (and particularly this smaller typology) where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	Medium to Low



Long low ridges on the Oa, with farms tucked into sheltered, shallow glens



Dramatic cliffs and coastal scenery on the Oa



This landscape in the middle distance, backed by the more remote Moorland Plateau (8) and with the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16) in the foreground



Pasture fields backed by the low relief of the ridges on the Oa

Landscape Character Type 8a: Moorland Plateau with Farming

Landscape Character Type 9: Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9: Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology(50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape is found on the west coast of Islay. The bulk of this type forms the peninsula of the Rinns of Islay.</p> <p>The two remaining areas of this type are small outliers, also coastal in setting, which along with the northern edge of the Rinns, form higher, rocky hills which are the immediate backdrop to adjacent lower lying Marginal Mosaic Farmland (16) and provide a wider context for Sand Dunes and Machair (25).</p> <p>The Rinns is a relatively broad peninsula, combining a wide band of farmed land which extends around the outer edge of a more elevated moorland interior.</p> <p>The two outlying areas are much smaller. They are dominated by rocky moorland and are a pronounced contrast to the surrounding farmland. All these areas are very inter-visible with the other landscape types, especially looking west across the island, where the prominent, rugged hills of the Rocky Moorland (9) are easily identifiable features, even from a distance.</p>	<p>This size of turbine would be visible across much of Islay although the relative isolation of the Rinns part of this LCT could minimise effects on other LCTs if turbines were sited in the south. Large turbines would be likely to intrude on the setting of Loch Gorm (LCT 15a) and on the settled landscapes of the <i>Marginal Mosaic Farmland</i> (16). The limited extent of the two outliers of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p> <p>A key sensitivity to all areas of this <i>Rocky Moorland</i> landscape type is their wider coastal context and contribution to seascape character.</p>	High-medium	<p>The broad extent of the Rhinns of Islay and its relative isolation as a peninsula could allow scope for this typology to be accommodated without impacting directly on adjacent landscape character types.</p> <p>The limited extent of the two outliers severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p> <p>A key sensitivity to all areas of this <i>Rocky Moorland</i> landscape type is their wider coastal context and contribution to seascape character.</p>	Medium
Scale	On the Rinns, the long undulating plateau of the peninsula creates a	This typology would dominate the low relief of this landscape and individual	High	This typology would dominate the low relief of this landscape and	High

	<p>sense of relatively extensive scale. The undulating interior of the Rinns rises to about 125m although there are several isolated summits and groups of hills, the highest of which (Beinn Tart a'Mhill) rises only 100m higher at 232m.</p> <p>The broad coastal farmland is relatively open, but contains more complex rocky outcrops and occasional small river valleys. The indented west coast is also smaller in scale, and more contained around the small bays and inlets.</p> <p>The two outlying areas of this type are much lower in relief and smaller in scale, characterised by small rocky hills, the highest of which is only 92m.</p>	<p>hills. Smaller rocky landforms and coastal features would be highly sensitivity to turbines of this size.</p>		<p>individual hills. Smaller rocky landforms and coastal features would be highly sensitivity to turbines of this size.</p>	
Landform	<p>On the Rinns, the interior plateau is in part gently undulating plateau with some shallow, farmed glens, and punctuated by pronounced hills which rise steeply from the surrounding moor.</p> <p>More complex rocky outcrops along the coast and across the farmed land contrast with the flatter, gently sloping fields and wetland. There are occasional small river valleys.</p> <p>The rocky hills on the two outliers of this type are very irregular in profile, and all the hills are relatively rugged in character.</p> <p>The coastal edge to the east of the Rinns is relatively straight, but the west coast is heavily indented and irregular,</p>	<p>Gently undulating landforms and more extensive gently graded slopes and shallow bowls are likely to provide scope for this typology. However, the steep slopes, rugged profile and the immediate setting of the irregular hills are a key sensitivity. Smaller rocky outcrops, the indented western coastline and the setting of the islands are also sensitive to this typology.</p>	High-med	<p>Gently undulating landforms and gently graded slopes are likely to provide scope for this typology. However, the steep slopes, rugged profile and the immediate setting of the irregular hills are a key sensitivity. Smaller rocky outcrops, the indented western coastline and the setting of the islands are also sensitive to this typology.</p>	High-med

	with fragmented shorelines and islands.				
Landcover	Extensive upland wet heath and large conifer woodlands extend down the interior of the Rinns. This contrasts with the broad swathes of small, improved pasture fields which abut the rocky outcrops around the edge of the Rinns. Scrub can be a particular feature in gulleys and upper valleys. Moorland is extensive along more remote stretches of the coast.	More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology. However, small fields, areas of higher vegetation diversity and features such as islands are all highly sensitive.	Medium	More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology. However, small fields, areas of higher vegetation diversity and features such as islands are all highly sensitive.	Medium
Built environment	The farmed landscape on the Rinns is relatively well settled. The sheltered east and southwest facing coasts are more populated, including small villages such as Port Charlotte and Bruichladdich. On the western side, the farms are located away from the coast in shallow sheltered glens. The moorland interiors are not settled, and neither are the more remote and exposed parts of the coast. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against the green even from a distance. This landscape has a number of archaeological sites, some of which are found in clusters. A simple narrow ring road links the settlements	Turbines of this size would be likely to dominate the setting of coastal settlements. Smaller roads would need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.	High	This typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) would have a less dominant effect on the setting of coastal settlements although would still be detractive. Smaller roads would need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.	High-medium

	The two outliers are sparsely settled, with a single farm and associated tracks.				
Perceptual qualities	A sense of seclusion and even remoteness can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas. This is most apparent on the west coast of the Rinns and on the two outlying areas. Roads and overhead lines extend around the farmed and settled Rinns. The interior of the Rinns also contains large conifer forests, associated tracks, occasional masts and overhead lines.	The largely settled and farmed landscapes around the outer edges of the Rinns ensures that these areas are generally not experienced as remote or wild. This typology could however affect the sense of remoteness experienced along stretches of the less accessible west coast and moorland interiors.	Medium	The largely settled and farmed landscapes around the outer edges of the Rinns ensures that these areas are generally not experienced as remote or wild. This typology could however affect the sense of remoteness experienced along stretches of the less accessible west coast and moorland interiors. However, as the size of turbines is smaller, the extent of influence is likely to be less than the medium-small typology.	Medium
Visual amenity	This landscape, especially the east facing slopes of the Rinns and the prominent hills, is visible from across Islay. Viewpoints include coastal roads, accessible shorelines and settlements elsewhere in the island, and from a number of historic sites of interest. This landscape type forms the outer extent of views from the eastern side of the island, and the rugged hills, either singly or in groups are highly prominent and readily recognisable land mark features, while the long plateau of the Rinns is a prominent skyline. When travelling through this area, however, views tend to focus along the	This typology would be likely to be widely visible from roads and settlements. The setting and rugged outlines of prominent hills in the Rinns and immediate skylines above beaches and headlands on the west coast are especially sensitive to intrusion. Views from the Rinns down to the coast and sea are also highly sensitive. This size of turbine (and particularly multiple turbines) would be likely to intrude on key views to the west across Loch Indaal to the Rinns.	High	This typology would be widely visible from roads and settlements, although there may be scope to reduce intrusion on key views and the coast by locating these smaller turbines in the interior of the Rinns where undulating landform to provide a degree of partial screening. The setting and rugged outlines of the prominent hills within the Rinns, views from the roads on the Rinns down to the coast and sea and the immediate skylines above beaches and headlands are highly sensitive.	High

	coast and out to sea, or across the shallow glens to the hills.				
Landscape values	An APQ extends along the west coast of this character type. The key qualities of this APQ include the diversity of features and landform, the relative remoteness of the coast and the dramatic views along the length of the indented coastline.	The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines elsewhere in the LCT where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.	High-med to Low	The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines (and particularly smaller turbines) where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.	Medium to Low

Landscape Character Type 9: Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape is found on the west coast of Islay. The bulk of this type forms the peninsula of the Rinns of Islay.</p> <p>The two remaining areas of this type are small outliers, also coastal in setting, which along with the northern edge of the Rinns, form higher, rocky hills which are the immediate backdrop to adjacent lower lying Marginal Mosaic Farmland (16) and provide a wider context for Sand Dunes and Machair (25).</p> <p>The Rinns is a relatively broad peninsula, combining a wide band of farmed land which extends around the outer edge of a more elevated moorland interior.</p> <p>The two outlying areas are much smaller. They are dominated by rocky moorland and are a pronounced contrast to the surrounding farmland. All these areas are very inter-visible with the other landscape types, especially looking west across the island, where the prominent, rugged hills of the Rocky Moorland (9) are easily identifiable features, even from a distance.</p>	<p>The broad extent of the Rinns of Islay and its relative isolation as a peninsula allows scope for this typology to be accommodated without impacting directly on adjacent landscape character types.</p> <p>The limited extent of the two outliers severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p> <p>A key sensitivity to all areas of this Rocky Moorland landscape type is their wider coastal context and contribution to seascape character.</p>	Medium	<p>The broad extent of the Rhinns of Islay and its relative isolation as a peninsula allows scope for this typology to be accommodated without impacting directly on adjacent landscape character types.</p> <p>The limited extent of the two outliers limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types although turbines of this size would be likely to have less of an effect.</p> <p>A key sensitivity to all areas of this Rocky Moorland landscape type is its wider coastal context and contribution to seascape character.</p>	Medium-low
Scale and openness	<p>On the Rinns, the long undulating plateau of the peninsula creates a</p>	<p>There may be scope to accommodate this typology within the</p>	Medium	<p>There may be scope to accommodate this typology within</p>	Medium

	<p>sense of relatively extensive scale, although conifer woodlands limit the sense of openness in places. The undulating interior of the Rinns rises to about 125m although there are several isolated summits and groups of hills, the highest of which (Beinn Tart a'Mhill) rises only 100m higher at 232m.</p> <p>The broad coastal farmland is relatively open, but contains more complex rocky outcrops and occasional small river valleys. The indented west coast is also smaller in scale, and more contained around the small bays and inlets.</p> <p>The two outlying areas of this type are much lower in relief and smaller in scale, characterised by small rocky hills, the highest of which is only 92m.</p>	<p>more expansive areas of more open, undulating relief of the interior of the Rhinns.</p> <p>The hills would be likely to appear diminished in size if the larger size of this typology were located nearby. Smaller rocky landforms and coastal features are likely to limit scope for this typology within the settled coastal areas of the Rinns and this typology would also appear very tall compared to the low relief and small hills of the two outlying areas of this character type.</p>		<p>the more expansive areas of more open, undulating relief of the interior of the Rinns.</p> <p>Smaller rocky landforms and coastal features are likely to limit scope for this typology within the settled coastal areas of the Rhinns and this typology would also appear very tall compared to the low relief and small hills of the two outlying areas of this character type.</p>	
Landform	<p>On the Rinns, the interior plateau is in part gently undulating plateau with some shallow, farmed glens, and punctuated by pronounced hills which rise steeply from the surrounding moor.</p> <p>More complex rocky outcrops along the coast and across the farmed land contrast with the flatter, gently sloping fields and wetland. There are occasional small river valleys.</p> <p>The rocky hills on the two outliers of this type are very irregular in profile, and all the hills are relatively rugged in character.</p>	<p>Gently undulating landforms and more extensive gently graded slopes and shallow bowls are likely to provide scope for this typology. However, the steep slopes, rugged profile and the immediate setting of the irregular hills are a key sensitivity. Smaller rocky outcrops, the indented western coastline and the setting of the islands are also sensitive to this typology.</p>	High-med	<p>Gently undulating landforms and gently graded slopes are likely to provide scope for this typology. However, the steep slopes, rugged profile and the immediate setting of the irregular hills are a key sensitivity.</p> <p>Smaller rocky outcrops, the indented western coastline and the setting of the islands are also sensitive to this typology.</p>	High-med

	The coastal edge to the east of the Rinns is relatively straight, but the west coast is heavily indented and irregular, with fragmented shorelines and islands.				
Landcover	Extensive upland wet heath and large conifer woodlands extend down the interior of the Rinns. This contrasts with the broad swathes of small, improved pasture fields which abut the rocky outcrops around the edge of the Rinns. Scrub can be a particular feature in gulleys and upper valleys. Moorland is extensive along more remote stretches of the coast.	More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology. However, small fields, areas of higher vegetation diversity and features such as islands are all highly sensitive.	Medium	More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology. However, small fields, areas of higher vegetation diversity and features such as islands are all highly sensitive.	Medium
Built environment	The farmed landscape on the Rinns is relatively well settled. The sheltered east and southwest facing coasts are more populated, including small villages such as Port Charlotte and Bruichladdich. On the western side, the farms are located away from the coast in shallow sheltered glens. The moorland interiors are not settled, and neither are the more remote and exposed parts of the coast. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against the green even from a distance. This landscape has a number of archaeological sites, some of which are found in clusters.	Within areas of little or no settlement, there is scope to site this typology without impinging on the setting and scale of built features. The height of this typology in the more settled landscapes means that the adverse scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. The setting of villages and small settlements and the setting of archaeology, as features or in clusters, is a further sensitivity. Part of this area is accessible from an A class road, but the smaller roads might need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.	Medium	Within areas of little or no settlement, there is scope to site this typology without impinging on the setting and scale of built features. The height of even this smaller typology in the more settled landscapes means that the adverse scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. The setting of villages and small settlements and the setting of archaeology, as features or in clusters, is a further sensitivity.	Medium

	<p>A simple narrow ring road links the settlements</p> <p>The two outliers are sparsely settled, with a single farm and associated tracks.</p>				
Perceptual qualities	<p>A sense of seclusion and even remoteness can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas. This is most apparent on the west coast and moorland dominated interior of the Rinns and on the two outlying areas.</p> <p>Roads and overhead lines extend around the farmed and settled Rinns. The interior of the Rinns also contains large conifer forests, associated tracks, occasional masts and overhead lines.</p>	<p>The largely settled and farmed landscapes around the outer edges of the Rinns ensures that these areas are generally not experienced as remote or wild.</p> <p>This typology could however affect the sense of remoteness experienced along stretches of the less accessible west coast and moorland interiors.</p>	Medium	<p>The largely settled and farmed landscapes around the outer edges of the Rinns ensures that these areas are generally not experienced as remote or wild.</p> <p>This typology could however affect the sense of remoteness experienced along stretches of the less accessible west coast and moorland interiors.</p> <p>However, as the size of turbines is smaller, the extent of influence is likely to be less than the medium-small typology.</p>	Medium-low
Visual amenity	<p>This landscape, especially the east facing slopes of the Rinns and the prominent hills, is visible from across Islay. Viewpoints include coastal roads, accessible shorelines and settlements elsewhere in the island, and from a number of historic sites of interest.</p> <p>This landscape type forms the outer extent of views from the eastern side of the island, and the rugged hills, either singly or in groups are highly prominent and readily recognisable land mark features, while the long</p>	<p>This typology would be widely visible from roads and settlements, although if located in the interior of the Rinns, this typology would be more readily seen from the eastern side of the island, and have less of a direct visual impact on the coast and the settled shallow glens of the Rinns itself. In the interior, it is also more likely that the undulating landform might limit views.</p> <p>The setting and rugged outlines of the hills are especially sensitive as they are easily recognisable features, and views from the roads on the</p>	High-Med	<p>This typology would be widely visible from roads and settlements, although if located in the interior of the Rinns, this typology would be more readily seen from the eastern side of the island, and have less direct visual impacts on the coast and the settled shallow glens. In the interior, it is also more likely that the undulating landform might limit views.</p> <p>The setting and rugged outlines of the hills are especially sensitive as they are easily recognisable features, and views from the roads</p>	Medium

	<p>plateau of the Rinns is a prominent skyline. When travelling through this area, however, views tend to focus along the coast and out to sea, or across the shallow glens to the hills.</p>	<p>Rinns down to the coast and sea are also highly sensitive.</p>		<p>on the Rinns down to the coast and sea are also highly sensitive. As the size of turbines is smaller, the extent of visual influence is likely to be less than the medium-small typology, although the same sensitivities apply.</p>	
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>An APQ extends along the west coast of this character type. The key qualities of this APQ include the diversity of features and landform, the relative remoteness of the coast and the dramatic views along the length of the indented coastline.</p>	<p>The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines elsewhere in the LCT where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	<p>High-med to Low</p>	<p>The extent of the APQ is relatively narrow and it should be possible to site turbines (and particularly smaller turbines) where they do not impinge on the diversity of coastal features or within views along the coastline. Within the APQ, however, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	<p>Medium to Low</p>



Farmed coastal fringe with small rocky outcrops and scattered settlement



Small farms and more prominent hills as viewed from the west coast



From Bowmore, the Rocky Moorland forms a prominent skyline profile. Small settlements and scattered housing are highly visible on the farmed fringe



The west coast farmed fringe is less settled, but small scale irregular rocky outcrops are prominent



The interior of undulating moorland and forestry



Rocky, small scale indentations along the more rugged west coast

Landscape Character Type 9: Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9a: Small Island Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9a: Small Island Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of large typology (>80m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape predominantly abuts the settled <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> 16a. It also forms an immediate backdrop to the <i>Sandy Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on Colonsay. It is not an extensive landscape and is therefore often inter-visible with the other landscape types on the small islands of Coll and Colonsay.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape and the backdrop and setting it provides to dramatic coasts and settled areas on both islands limits scope for large wind turbines.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape and the backdrop and setting it provides to dramatic coasts and settled areas on both islands limits scope for larger wind turbines to be sited on outer hills and slopes. The core areas of the <i>Rocky Moorland</i> are less sensitive to turbines of this size where they do not provide an immediate backdrop to smaller scale or more diverse landscapes.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>
<p>Scale This landscape is not expansive in area. It has a medium to large scale in general although scale is reduced where it becomes more fragmented at the coast. Individual hills are of relatively low relief, attaining heights of 104m max on Coll and 136m on Colonsay.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape character type, together with the smallness of the islands of Coll and Colonsay, increases sensitivity due to the likely dominating effects of larger heights and numbers of turbines. Individual hills and the more intricate, smaller scale coastal edge would be dominated by turbines of this size.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape character type, together with the smallness of the islands of Coll and Colonsay, increases sensitivity due to the likely dominating effects of larger heights and numbers of turbines. There may be some limited scope to site this typology to minimise effects on individual hills and more intricate, smaller scale coastal edges.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>
<p>Landform On Coll, undulating hilly ground is consistently patterned with rocky outcrops, these becoming more intense on the western side of the island where boulders litter lower slopes at the transition with the <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16a). Landform is smoother on the south-eastern side of Coll, forming less craggy and more sweeping slopes and occasional wet basins and lochs between hills. This character type is more uniformly rocky and complex on Colonsay although</p>	<p>Wind turbines could relate to simpler, smoother hills and shallow basins present on the south-eastern part of this landscape on Coll. On Colonsay, broader, smoother basins and slopes in the northern and eastern parts of this LCT would also be less sensitive. Turbines of this size would however detract from landmark hills and their setting and the more complex craggy landform occurring on the west side of Coll and more extensively across Colonsay.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Wind turbines could relate to simpler, smoother hills and shallow basins present on the south-eastern part of this landscape on Coll. On Colonsay, broader, smoother basins and slopes in the northern and eastern parts of this LCT would also be less sensitive. Turbines would detract from landmark hills and their setting and the more complex craggy landform occurring on the west side of Coll and more extensively across Colonsay, although</p>	<p>High-medium</p>

<p>occasional smoother valleys and slopes are present. On both Coll and Colonsay, where these moorlands abut the sea, the coast is rocky and fragmented with many islands and skerries. Notably dramatic raised beaches and cliffs occur on Colonsay. Occasional hills such as Ben Hough on Coll and Carnan Eoin, Beinn Oronsay and Beinn nan Guidairean on Colonsay, which although not high, form landmark features and offer spectacular views over these islands.</p>			<p>smaller turbines within this typology would have less of an effect.</p>	
<p>Land cover Land cover comprises a grass and heather mosaic with some moss and sedges in boggy areas. Occasional small fenced and walled fields are present on smoother lower slopes and, on Colonsay, within rare valleys such as Balnahard. There is little woodland. Lochs nestle between hills and are larger and more prevalent on Coll.</p>	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover reduces sensitivity although the setting of unmodified lochs, which contribute to the scenic diversity of this landscape, would be more sensitive.</p>	Medium	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover reduces sensitivity although the setting of unmodified lochs, which contribute to the scenic diversity of this landscape, would be more sensitive.</p>	Medium
<p>Settlement Sparsely settled with isolated crofts and small cottages located near the public road and close to the coast on the eastern side of Coll. Solitary farms are associated with pockets of flatter ground within valleys and on lower south-eastern slopes on Colonsay. Many archaeological features occur within this landscape type and include hill top forts, chapels and crannogs.</p>	<p>The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size although the setting of archaeological features may result in local sensitivities.</p>	Medium	<p>The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size although the setting of archaeological features may result in local sensitivities.</p>	Medium
<p>Perceptual qualities A strong sense of seclusion and naturalness can be experienced in this landscape away from managed farmland and minor roads. The rougher terrain, distance from roads and settlement and</p>	<p>The sense of seclusion and naturalness associated with parts of this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of these islands. The introduction of wind turbines of this size into the more secluded parts of this landscape would adversely affect perceptual qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>The sense of seclusion and naturalness associated with parts of this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of these islands. The introduction of wind turbines of this size into the more</p>	High-medium

containment offered by landform on Colonsay increases the perception of wildness in some areas. Masts are located on hills within this landscape on both Colonsay and Coll. Both islands are distant from the Scottish Mainland.			secluded parts of this landscape would adversely affect perceptual qualities.	
<p>Visual amenity</p> <p>This landscape is seen on the approach to these islands by ferry and plane. In views from the sea this landscape forms a multi-layered composition of islands and higher hills. This landscape forms an immediate backdrop to the settled parts of these islands. It also abuts the scenic and popular sandy beaches on Colonsay although it is more distant in views from similarly well-visited beaches on the western coast of Coll. Views from the minor road on the eastern side of Coll focus on Mull and the Treshnish Isles. Many of the higher and singular hills within this character type are accessed by walkers and provide spectacular views across both the islands and beyond. The Balnahard area on Colonsay accommodates well-used walking routes to the remote northern coast.</p>	While the undulating landform of this character type provides opportunity for partial screening, turbines of this size would be likely to have a greater effect on views from roads, ferry, settlement and the coast than the Medium typology on both islands. Views from popularly accessed hills would be significantly affected due to the limited extent of this landscape. Turbines would intrude on views to Mull and the Treshnish Isles if sited between the road and east coast of Coll.	High	There may be increased scope to reduce visual intrusion of this size of turbine particularly if sited on lower ground in the core of these moorlands on Coll. Turbines would intrude on views to Mull and the Treshnish Isles if sited between the road and east coast of Coll. On Colonsay, basins and slopes on the eastern side of the island are less visible from roads, settlement and beaches although turbines sited in these areas would be highly visible on the approach to the island by ferry. Significant effects on views from popularly accessed hills would be unavoidable due to the limited extent of this landscape.	High-medium
<p>Landscape values</p> <p>No scenic designations (or WLAs) apply to this landscape.</p>	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low

Landscape Character Type 9a: Small Island Rocky Moorland - Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape predominantly abuts the settled <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> 16a. It also forms an immediate backdrop to the <i>Sandy Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on Colonsay. It is not an extensive landscape and is therefore often inter-visible with the other landscape types on the small islands of Coll and Colonsay.</p>	<p>There would be increased scope to site this typology to minimise intrusion on adjacent sensitive coasts and settled areas. The core areas of the <i>Rocky Moorland</i> are less sensitive to turbines of this size where they do not provide an immediate backdrop to smaller scale or more diverse landscapes.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Small turbines could be sited to minimise intrusion on adjacent sensitive coasts and settled areas.</p>	<p>Medium-low</p>
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is not expansive in area. It has a medium to large scale in general although scale is reduced where it becomes more fragmented at the coast. Individual hills are of relatively low relief, attaining heights of 104m max on Coll and 136m on Colonsay.</p>	<p>There is increased scope to accommodate this size of turbine to minimise effects on individual hills and more intricate, smaller scale coastal edges.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Small turbines are more likely to be sited on the settled and farmed fringes of these moorlands. Effects on the scale of buildings and other small features could be minimised through careful siting.</p>	<p>Medium-low</p>
<p>Landform Undulating hilly ground is consistently patterned with rocky outcrops, these becoming more intense on the western side of Coll where boulders litter lower slopes at the transition with the <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16a). Landform is smoother on the south-eastern side of Coll, forming less craggy and more sweeping slopes and occasional wet basins and lochs between hills. This character type is more uniformly rocky and complex on Colonsay although occasional smoother valleys and slopes are present. Where these moorlands abut the sea, the coast is rocky and</p>	<p>Wind turbines could relate to simpler, smoother hills and shallow basins present on the south-eastern part of this landscape on Coll. Rare broad valleys such as Balnahard and occasional smoother eastern slopes found on Colonsay would also be less sensitive. This size of turbine (which is more likely to comprise single and very small groups of turbines) could be sited to avoid detracting from landmark hills and their setting and the more complex craggy landform occurring on the west side of Coll and more extensively across Colonsay.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Small turbines are more likely to be sited on the settled and farmed fringes of these moorlands where landform is generally less complex thus reducing impact on this quality.</p>	<p>Medium-low</p>

<p>fragmented with many islands and skerries. Notably dramatic raised beaches and cliffs occur on Colonsay. Occasional hills such as Ben Hough on Coll and Carnan Eoin, Beinn Oronsay and Beinn nan Guidairean on Colonsay, which although not high, form landmark features and offer spectacular views over these islands.</p>				
<p>Land cover Land cover comprises a grass and heather mosaic with some moss and sedges in boggy areas. Occasional small fenced and walled fields are present on smoother lower slopes and, on Colonsay, within rare valleys such as Balnahard. There is little woodland. Lochs nestle between hills and are larger and more prevalent on Coll.</p>	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover reduces sensitivity. There is greater scope to site small-medium turbines to avoid impacting on the setting of lochs</p>	Medium-low	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover reduces sensitivity. There is greater scope to site small turbines to avoid impacting on the setting of lochs.</p>	Medium-low
<p>Settlement Sparsely settled with isolated crofts and small cottages located near the public road and close to the coast on the eastern side of Coll. Solitary farms are associated with pockets of flatter ground within valleys and on lower south-eastern slopes on Colonsay. Many archaeological features occur within this landscape type and include hill top forts, chapels and crannogs.</p>	<p>The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size although the setting of archaeological features may result in local sensitivities.</p>	Medium	<p>This size of turbine is more likely to be located close-by settlement and careful site selection would be needed to avoid dominating small buildings. There is greater scope to site small turbines to avoid impact on the setting of archaeological features</p>	Medium
<p>Perceptual qualities A strong sense of seclusion and naturalness can be experienced in this landscape away from managed farmland and minor roads. The rougher terrain, distance from roads and settlement and containment offered by landform on Colonsay increases the perception of</p>	<p>The sense of seclusion and naturalness associated with parts of this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of these islands. The introduction of wind turbines of this size into the more secluded parts of this landscape would adversely affect perceptual qualities although there is some scope to</p>	Medium	<p>This size of turbine is more likely to be located close-by settlement and would therefore have less of an effect on the perception of wildness. The more remote and less modified core areas of these moorlands remain sensitive however.</p>	Medium-low

wildness in some areas. Masts are located on hills within this landscapes on both Colonsay and Coll. Both islands are distant from the Scottish Mainland.	accommodate this size of turbine within more settled and obviously modified areas.			
<p>Visual amenity</p> <p>This landscape is seen on the approach to these islands by ferry and plane. In views from the sea this landscape forms a multi-layered composition of islands and higher hills. This landscape forms an immediate backdrop to the settled parts of these islands. It also abuts the scenic and popular sandy beaches on Colonsay although it is more distant in views from similarly well-visited beaches on the western coast of Coll. Views from the minor road on the eastern side of Coll focus on Mull and the Treshnish Isles. Many of the higher and more pronounced hills are accessed by walkers and provide spectacular views across the islands and beyond. The Balnahard area on Colonsay accommodates well-used walking routes to the remote northern coast.</p>	<p>There may be increased scope to reduce visual intrusion of this size of turbine particularly if sited on lower ground in the core of these moorlands on Coll. Turbines would intrude on views to Mull and the Treshnish Isles if sited between the road and east coast of Coll. On Colonsay, basins and slopes on the eastern side of the island are less visible from roads, settlement and beaches although turbines sited in these areas would be more visible on the approach to the island by ferry.</p> <p>This typology may be sited close to the settled fringes of this landscape (on more managed farmland for example) and could therefore be more intrusive from roads, the coast and residential properties. Cumulative effects could also occur with existing small turbines sited on the adjacent <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16a)</i>.</p>	High-medium	<p>This typology is likely to be sited close to the settled fringes of this landscape and careful site selection will be necessary to limit intrusion. Cumulative effects on views could also occur with existing small turbines sited on the adjacent <i>Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16a)</i>.</p>	Medium
<p>Landscape values</p> <p>No scenic designations (or WLAs) apply to this landscape.</p>	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low



This landscape forms a gently undulating upland plateau on Coll with rare higher hills



Occasional small lochs sit within shallow basins



On Colonsay, this landscape generally features more pronounced hills



The terrain is also often more rugged and rocky on Colonsay



Occasional smoother basins screened by low hills -seen here on Colonsay



This landscape forms a dramatic coastal edge of exposed headlands and narrow bays.

Landscape Character Type 9a: Small Island Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9b: Low-lying Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9b: Low-lying Rocky Moorland – sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of large typology (>80m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape only occurs on Tiree. It forms a low rocky patterned edge which stands out against the low-lying <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) and is very inter-visible with the other landscape types due to the relative small size of Tiree and its flat, open character.</p>	<p>While the presence of an existing wind turbine at Ruaig reduces sensitivity, much larger and many more turbines would adversely affect the scenic qualities of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25). Development of this nature would also have a greater effect on other LCTs and would dominate the relatively small size of the island of Tiree,</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The presence of an existing wind turbine at Ruaig (similar in size to this typology) reduces sensitivity. While a small extension or a separate small cluster of similar sized turbines would reduce effects on landscape context, significantly more turbines would detract from the scenic qualities of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) and would also have a greater effect on other LCTs and could dominate the island as a whole.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>
<p>Scale This character type forms an area of rocky moorland generally lying below 50m AOD which is very open and exposed. Where this landscape abuts the coast it forms smaller scale bays, headlands and islands. In the west of Tiree, this landscape is not extensive forming small patches of rocky moorland between large expanses of <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26). This landscape is more extensive in the eastern part of Tiree. Small buildings nestle between rocky knolls on the coast and at the transition with the transition with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) and provide highly visible scale references. An existing community turbine (75m high) is a key feature of this landscape.</p>	<p>The small extent of parts of this landscape and the close proximity to small scale settlement on coastal fringes and at the transition with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) increases sensitivity. This typology would also appear much larger than the existing Ruaig turbine.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The small extent of parts of this landscape and the close proximity to small scale settlement on coastal fringes and at the transition with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) increases sensitivity. Turbines towards the upper end of this typology would be more compatible in scale with the existing Ruaig turbine.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>
<p>Landform This landscape forms a low and intensely rocky platform interrupted by occasional</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the more complex knolly landform, particularly evident</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the more complex knolly landform, particularly evident</p>	<p>Medium</p>

higher knolls and rare craggy hills, such as Balpetrish Hill and Beinn Ghott. Wet peaty depressions occur between rocky outcrops and there are occasional areas of smoother moorland. At the coast, this landscape forms intricate small scale inlets, rocky headlands and skerries.	along the coast. Small hills would be dominated by turbines of this size if sited nearby. Smoother basins between knolls would be less sensitive although these are rare and not extensive thus limiting the extent of development that could be accommodated.		along the coast. Small hills would be dominated by turbines of this size if sited nearby. Smoother basins between knolls would be less sensitive although these are rare and not extensive thus limiting the extent of development that could be accommodated.	
Land cover Vegetation cover is mainly wet heath with rough grazing land. Small lochans pepper this landscape with some larger water bodies present in the Gott area.	The generally simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity although careful siting would be necessary to reduce impact on more sensitive lochs.	Medium	The generally simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity although careful siting would be necessary to reduce impact on more sensitive lochs.	Medium
Settlement This landscape is often well settled on its coastal fringes and at the interface with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss (26)</i> in less rocky areas where more intensive grazing is possible. The buildings are a distinctive feature of Tiree, creating a pattern of predominantly white farms and houses which stand out against low rocky outcrops. A landfill site, quarries and a single large community wind turbine are present in this landscape. There are some archaeological features along the coast.	While the less settled core areas of this landscape are less sensitive, larger turbines could have an increased effect on the setting of archaeological features and on the distinctive buildings of Tiree.	High-medium	While the less settled core areas of this landscape are less sensitive, larger turbines could have an increased effect on the setting of archaeological features and on the distinctive buildings of Tiree.	High-medium
Perceptual qualities A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented coastal areas and NW of Kirkapol although in general settlement, roads and infrastructure (including the operational large wind turbine at Ruaig) reduces the perception of wildness.	Effects on perceptual qualities could be minimised through careful siting, in particular, avoiding less settled coasts and less modified parts of this landscape.	Medium-low	Effects on perceptual qualities could be minimised through careful siting, avoiding less settled coasts and less modified parts of this landscape.	Medium-low
Visual amenity This landscape is highly visible from roads and settlement across the low-lying	There is no scope to limit visibility of turbines in this low-lying and open landscape. Large and Very Large	High	There is no scope to limit visibility of turbines in this low-lying and open landscape. While this typology would	High-medium

landscape of Tiree. It is also seen from the ferry and plane.	turbines would have significant effects on views across Tiree and on the approach to the island by ferry or plane. Size differences between the existing Ruaig wind turbine and this typology would be readily appreciable.		also have significant effects on views, turbines towards the upper height band would minimise visual discordancy with the existing Ruiag community wind turbine.	
Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low

Landscape Character Type 9b: Low-lying Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape only occurs on Tiree. It forms a low rocky patterned edge which stands out against the low-lying <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) and is very inter-visible with the other landscape types due to the relative small size of Tiree and its flat, open character.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited close-by the existing turbine at Ruaig would increase effects on the scenic qualities of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25). The differences in turbine size would be detractive, introducing an element of clutter which would contrast with the striking simplicity of wide sandy beaches such as Gott Bay. There may be some limited scope to site single or very small groups of turbines of this size away from more sensitive coastal areas (and from the existing Ruaig wind turbine) to minimise effects on landscape context. This size of turbine is less likely to dominate the size of the island.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>	<p>Small turbines are more likely to be sited closer to settled areas. While care should be taken to avoid a cluttered effect arising with the existing Ruaig wind turbine (which could adversely affect the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i>) there is some limited scope to accommodate small turbines without significantly affecting other LCTs and Tiree. (Cumulative effects with the established pattern of turbines generally <20m in the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> and with the Ruaig wind turbine and any other larger turbines would need to be carefully considered however)</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Scale This character type forms an area of rocky moorland generally lying below 50m AOD which is very open and exposed. Where this landscape abuts the coast it forms smaller scale bays, headlands and islands. In the west of Tiree, this landscape is not extensive forming small patches of rocky moorland between large expanses of <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26). This landscape is more extensive in the eastern part of Tiree. Small buildings nestle between rocky knolls on the coast and at the transition with the transition with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) and provide highly visible scale references. An existing community</p>	<p>The small extent of parts of this landscape and the close proximity to small scale settlement on coastal fringes and at the transition with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) increases sensitivity. This typology would be less compatible in scale with the existing Ruaig turbine although there is some limited scope to site turbines of this size in more distant parts of this LCT to avoid impact.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>	<p>This size of turbine would still appear large in relation to the small size of buildings on Tiree if sited very close-by. Small turbines (and particularly those towards the lower height band of this typology) set back from, but visually associated with, more settled areas could minimise effects on scale (see Siting and Design Guidance for Smaller Turbines in ABLWECS Volume One Report).</p>	<p>Medium</p>

turbine (75m high) is a key feature of this landscape.				
<p>Landform This landscape forms a low and intensely rocky platform interrupted by occasional higher knolls and rare craggy hills, such as Balpetrish Hill and Beinn Ghott. Wet peaty depressions occur between rocky outcrops and there are occasional areas of smoother moorland. At the coast, this landscape forms intricate small scale inlets, rocky headlands and skerries.</p>	This typology would detract from more complex knolly landform and the more intricate landform evident along the coast. Smoother basins between knolls would be less sensitive although these are rare and not extensive thus limiting the extent of development that could be accommodated.	High-medium	There is increased scope to site small turbines in smoother pockets of land between rocky knolls. The more intricate landform of the coast would be sensitive to all typologies however.	Medium
<p>Land cover Vegetation cover is mainly wet heath with rough grazing land. Small lochans pepper this landscape with some larger water bodies present in the Gott area.</p>	The generally simple land cover of this landscape reduces sensitivity although careful siting would be necessary to reduce impact on more sensitive lochs.	Medium	This typology is more likely to be associated with settlement thus minimising effects on more sensitive areas of landcover.	Medium-low
<p>Settlement This landscape is often well settled on its coastal fringes and at the interface with the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26) in less rocky areas where more intensive grazing is possible. The buildings are a distinctive feature of Tiree, creating a pattern of predominantly white farms and houses which stand out against low rocky outcrops. A landfill site, quarries and a single large community wind turbine are present in this landscape. There are some archaeological features along the coast.</p>	There is some scope to locate this size of turbine in less settled parts of this landscape to minimise effects on the setting of archaeology and buildings.	Medium	This typology is more likely to be located in more settled areas and while careful siting would be necessary to minimise effects on archaeology and particularly distinctive buildings, turbines towards the lower height band would generally have less of a dominating effect.	Medium
<p>Perceptual qualities A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented coastal areas and NW of Kirkapol although in general settlement, roads and infrastructure (including the operational large wind turbine at Ruaig) reduces the perception of wildness.</p>	Although development could affect the sense of seclusion experienced in parts of this landscape, elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.	Medium-low	Turbines of this size are more likely to be associated with settlement and this, together with their reduced size, would minimise effects on more secluded and less modified areas.	Low

<p>Visual amenity This landscape is highly visible from roads and settlement across the low-lying landscape of Tiree. It is also seen from the ferry and plane.</p>	<p>The openness of this landscape limits scope to minimise visibility of wind turbines. While this size of turbine would have less of a significant effect on views than larger typologies, careful siting would be needed to avoid direct comparisons of scale with the existing Ruaig wind turbines (75m high).</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Even small turbines would be clearly visible in this open and low-lying landscape. Provided small turbines were visually associated with buildings (as evident in the <i>Inland Machair and Moss LCT</i>) and set well away from larger turbines then visual effects would be reduced. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have less of an effect on views (and could also avoid cumulative effects with the existing small farm wind turbines which are largely <20m high)</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.</p>	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	<p>Low</p>



Existing community wind turbine located in the north-eastern part of this LCT



This landscape forms a low rocky edge seen against the smoother Inland Machair and Moss LCT



Occasional small hills punctuate the low rocky platform of this landscape



Patches of wetland are interspersed with rocky knolls



Small traditional houses hunkered down between rocky knolls on the outer fringes of this landscape



This landscape forms an intricate fragmented coastline

Landscape Character Type 9b: Low Lying Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9c: Cnoc and Lochan Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 9c: Cnoc and Lochan Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of large typology (>80m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape only occurs on the north-eastern tip of Coll where it forms an intensely rocky edge against the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> on the west coast of this island. It is also juxtaposed against the <i>Small Island Marginal Mosaic (16a)</i> on its south-western edge. Although the interior of this landscape is not easily seen the outer edges are highly visible from the settled and popular west coast of Coll. The low-lying nature and small extent of Coll results in this landscape being inter-visible with the other landscape types on the island.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on the outer edges of this landscape would significantly affect the backdrop and scenic contrast this intensely rocky landscape provides to sandy beaches on the west coast of Coll.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on the outer edges of this landscape would significantly affect the backdrop and scenic contrast this intensely rocky landscape provides to sandy beaches on the west coast of Coll.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is of very low relief, barely rising above 70m. Where this landscape abuts the coast it forms a hard rocky coastline with some rocky islands in the north-east. The tight and complex pattern of rocky knolls provides strong containment and an intimate scale.</p>	<p>This size of turbine would dominate the small landform features of this landscape and its intimate scale.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>This size of turbine would dominate the small landform features of this landscape and its intimate scale.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Landform The tight pattern of intensely undulating small cnocs (rocky knolls), dips and numerous loch basins, together with the dominance of exposed rock, creates a distinctly coarse-textured and complex landscape. This landscape forms an often convex, rocky cliff face along the south-eastern coast of Coll with a more fragmented pattern of skerries present on</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the intricate rocky landform of this landscape. It would be difficult to attain a satisfactory design layout for multiple turbines due to the complexity of the landform. Construction of access tracks and turbine foundations would additionally be likely to incur significant landscape and visual impacts.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the intricate rocky landform of this landscape. It would be difficult to attain a satisfactory design layout for multiple turbines due to the complexity of the landform. Construction of access tracks and turbine foundations would additionally be likely to incur significant landscape and visual impacts</p>	<p>High</p>

the north-eastern tip and where rocky outcrops interrupt the smoother machair on the north-western coast of the island. landscape.				
Land cover Numerous small lochans fill narrow gorges and contribute to the complexity of the landscape. The extent of rock present in this landscape restricts vegetation to patchy heather, low grasses and occasional areas of bog in small dips.	While vegetation cover is relatively sparse and simple, the intricate pattern of lochans and exposed rock increases sensitivity.	Medium	While vegetation cover is relatively sparse and simple, the intricate pattern of lochans and exposed rock increases sensitivity.	Medium
Settlement This landscape is largely uninhabited with settlement limited to occasional croft houses tucked between rocky knolls at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) and within rare broader glens and inlets.	The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size	Low	The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size	Low
Perceptual qualities This rough and largely uninhabited landscape is difficult to access and a strong sense of wildness can be experienced within its remote interior. This is corroborated by SNH's 2014 Relative Wildness in Scotland map.	The seclusion and naturalness associated with this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of Coll. The introduction of wind turbines to this landscape would significantly diminish the perception of wildness.	High	The seclusion and naturalness associated with this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of Coll. The introduction of wind turbines to this landscape would significantly diminish the perception of wildness.	High
Visual amenity The edges of this landscape are highly visible from the coast road on the west side of Coll. The coastal edge of this landscape is also seen from the ferry to and from the island. Views from within this landscape are strongly contained by the landform	Visual sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement and promoted footpaths in this landscape. Turbines of this size would however be likely to significantly intrude on views from the road along the west coast of Coll and from the ferry.	High-medium	Visual sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement and promoted footpaths in this landscape. Although there would be likely to be visibility from the road along the west coast of Coll and from the ferry, the undulating landform may limit intrusion of smaller turbines.	Medium
Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low

Landscape Character Type 9c: Cnoc and Lochan Rocky Moorland – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape only occurs on the north-eastern tip of Coll where it forms an intensely rocky edge against the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> on the west coast of this island. It is also juxtaposed against the <i>Small Island Marginal Mosaic (16a)</i> on its south-western edge. Although the interior of this landscape is not easily seen the outer edges are highly visible from the settled and popular west coast of Coll. The low-lying nature and small extent of Coll results in this landscape being inter-visible with the other landscape types on the island.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on the outer edges of this landscape would significantly affect the backdrop and scenic contrast this intensely rocky landscape provides to sandy beaches on the west coast of Coll.</p>	High-medium	<p>Turbines of this size sited on more prominent knolls on the outer edges of this landscape would significantly affect the backdrop and scenic contrast this intensely rocky landscape provides to sandy beaches on the west coast of Coll. There may be increased scope to site single turbines of this size on lower ground at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> to minimise effects</p>	Medium
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is of very low relief, barely rising above 70m. Where this landscape abuts the coast it forms a hard rocky coastline with some rocky islands in the north-east. The tight and complex pattern of rocky knolls provides strong containment and an intimate scale.</p>	<p>This size of turbine would dominate the small landform features of this landscape and its intimate scale.</p>	High	<p>This size of turbine is likely to be sited close to settlement. Turbines of this size would still appear overly large in relation to the small cnochs of this landscape. Turbines around 20m would have less of a dominant effect.</p>	High-medium
<p>Landform The tight pattern of intensely undulating small cnochs (rocky knolls), dips and numerous loch basins, together with the dominance of exposed rock, creates a distinctly coarse-textured and complex landscape. This landscape forms an often convex, rocky cliff face along the south-eastern coast of Coll with a more fragmented pattern of skerries present on the north-eastern tip and where rocky</p>	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the intricate rocky landform of this landscape. Construction of access tracks and turbine foundations could incur significant landscape and visual impacts.</p>	High	<p>Turbines would significantly detract from the intricate rocky landform of this landscape. Construction of access tracks and turbine foundations could incur significant landscape and visual impacts</p>	High

outcrops interrupt the smoother machair on the north-western coast of the island. landscape.				
Land cover Numerous small lochans fill narrow gorges and contribute to the complexity of the landscape. The extent of rock present in this landscape restricts vegetation to patchy heather, low grasses and occasional areas of bog in small dips.	While vegetation cover is relatively sparse and simple, the intricate pattern of lochans and exposed rock increases sensitivity.	Medium	While vegetation cover is relatively sparse and simple, the intricate pattern of lochans and exposed rock increases sensitivity.	Medium
Settlement This landscape is largely uninhabited with settlement limited to occasional croft houses tucked between rocky knolls at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) and within rare broader glens and inlets.	The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size	Low	The sparseness of settlement reduces sensitivity to turbines of this size	Low
Perceptual qualities This rough and largely uninhabited landscape is difficult to access and a strong sense of wildness can be experienced within its remote interior. This is corroborated by SNH's 2014 Relative Wildness in Scotland map.	The seclusion and naturalness associated with this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of Coll. The introduction of wind turbines to this landscape would significantly diminish the perception of wildness.	High	The seclusion and naturalness associated with this landscape is accentuated by the remoteness of Coll. The introduction of wind turbines to this landscape would significantly diminish the perception of wildness.	High
Visual amenity The edges of this landscape are highly visible from the coast road on the west side of Coll. The coastal edge of this landscape is also seen from the ferry to and from the island. Views from within this landscape are strongly contained by the landform	Visual sensitivity is reduced due to the absence of settlement and promoted footpaths in this landscape. Although there would be likely to be visibility from the road along the west coast of Coll and from the ferry, the undulating landform may limit intrusion of smaller turbines.	Medium	Although smaller and therefore potentially less visually intrusive, this size of turbine is more likely to be located close to settlement on the outer fringes of this landscape. There is increased scope to site smaller turbines to minimise widespread visibility	Medium-low
Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low



The merging of dunes and the rocky knolls of this landscape



The fragmented north-western edge of this landscape is seen from the narrow coast road



Some settlement lies on the north-western fringes of this landscape although the interior is uninhabited and has a strong sense of naturalness and seclusion



The eastern coast appears unpenetrable, forming a convex low rocky edge

Landscape Character Type 9c: Cnoc and Lochan Rocky Moorland

Landscape Character Type 10: Upland Parallel Ridges

Landscape Character Type 10: Upland Parallel Ridges – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape is limited in extent and lies at a pivotal point between a number of surrounding landscape character types. The hills and ridges of this character type form a backdrop and strong contrast to the highly sensitive smaller scale, settled and richly diverse landscapes of the 'Craggy Coasts and Islands' (7b), the 'Flat Moss and Mudflats' (23) and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in the Loch Awe area. The contrast between character types is less obvious where this landscape merges more gradually with the adjacent 'Craggy Upland'(7) to the east	This typology would significantly impact on the 'Craggy Coasts and Islands' (7b), the 'Flat Moss and Mudflats' (23) and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in the Loch Awe area where it would be likely to be prominent on skylines. While sensitivity would be reduced to the east at the transition with the more extensive 'Craggy Upland' (7) although turbines of this size may still be visible from adjacent more sensitive areas.	High	This typology would significantly impact on the 'Craggy Coasts and Islands' (7b), the 'Flat Moss and Mudflats' (23) and the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in the Loch Awe area where it would be likely to be prominent on skylines. Sensitivity would be reduced to the east at the transition with the more extensive 'Craggy Upland' (7).	High-med
Scale and openness	Relief ranges from between 200m and 350m although the very irregular craggy landform provides strong containment limiting scale. Hills are predominantly small and defined. Scale increases to medium at the transition with the 'Craggy Upland'(7) character type.	Large turbines would dominate the scale of complex small hills, narrow ridges and intimately scaled valleys.	High	Large turbines would dominate the scale of small hills, narrow ridges and intimately scaled valleys. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would relate better to less complex landform where scale is reduced and hills are larger.	High-med
Landform	Long parallel ridges cut by narrow valleys are aligned in a SW/NE grain – this being more pronounced at the coast. Ridge-tops are patterned with rocky outcrops and the landform has an overall complex and knobbly texture. A series of more distinctive hills with conical-shaped peaks lie to	This typology would detract from more complex craggy landform and the occasional pronounced hills of this landscape. Sensitivity is reduced away from more distinctive hills, the coastal edge and where the parallel alignment of ridges is less pronounced.	High-med	This typology would detract from more complex craggy landform and the occasional pronounced hills of this landscape. Sensitivity is reduced away from more distinctive hills, the coastal edge and where the parallel alignment is less pronounced.	High-med

	the west of Loch Awe. This character type abuts Loch Craignish forming a steep rocky coastal edge.				
Landcover pattern	Rough pasture, heather and grass moorland form a patchy cover on craggy hill slopes. Coniferous forestry occurs in seemingly inaccessible areas, including mixed woodland on steep coastal slopes. Areas of wetland are present in narrow valleys and dips between craggy hills. Semi-improved pasture and traces of broadleaved trees pattern south facing slopes above the 'Flat Moss and Mudflats' (23) character type and the hill slopes containing Kilmartin Glen.	Rough textured woodlands, scrub and moorland accentuate the craggy terrain and give a rich diversity to parts of this landscape although coniferous plantations are dense and uniform. Large typologies (and particularly large groups of turbines) would detract from intricately patterned and diverse areas of land cover although sensitivity is reduced where forestry is more extensive.	Medium	Rough textured woodlands, scrub and moorland accentuate the craggy terrain and give a rich diversity to parts of this landscape although coniferous plantations are dense and uniform. Large typologies (and particularly large groups of turbines) would detract from intricately patterned and diverse areas of land cover although sensitivity is reduced where forestry is more extensive.	Medium
Built environment	This is a sparsely settled character type with dispersed farms sited on hill slopes lying on the southern fringes of this landscape above Moine Mhor and on the slopes above the glens of Kilmartin and Domhain. The fringes of this character area are rich in archaeological features including castles, standing stones, cairns and hill forts.	Although the sparsely settled nature of this landscape reduces sensitivity, the limited extent of the character type could result in this typology having a significant influence on the setting and scale of settlement and archaeology sited on fringing hill slopes and in adjacent relatively well-settled character types.	High	There may be some limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid significant influence on the setting and scale of settlement and archaeology sited on fringing hill slopes and in adjacent relatively well-settled character types.	High-med
Perceptual qualities	The upland core and coastal edge of this landscape is largely unsettled, difficult to access due to the rugged terrain and can quickly feel secluded even when relatively close to the A816 and settlement. Forestry diminishes naturalness in places. Where this landscape lies close to the archaeologically rich glens of Kilmichael and Kilmartin a strong sense of place can be experienced.	This typology would significantly impact on the sense of seclusion, naturalness and the strong sense of place experienced in parts of this landscape although more extensively forested areas within the core of these uplands would be less sensitive.	High-med	This typology would significantly impact on the sense of seclusion, naturalness and the strong sense of place experienced in parts of this landscape although more extensively forested areas within the core of these uplands would be less sensitive.	High-med

<p>Visual amenity</p>	<p>Views from within this landscape are restricted by the tight configuration and containment of the landform. The A816 tourist route is aligned through this landscape although views are restricted by landform and woodland. The rough terrain limits accessibility of hill tops which provide panoramic views. Views from settlement sited on fringing hill slopes focus outwards away from the core of this landscape. Views to this landscape are however significant particularly from the flat open landscape of Moine Mhor where the Upland Parallel ridges to the north form a rugged backdrop. This landscape is also important in views from archaeological features in the glens of Kilmartin and Kilmichael and Moine Mhor which form a focus for visitors. The distinctive hills to the west of Loch Awe form a highly visible backdrop to the settled loch fringes around Ford while the coastal edge is highly visible from the settled south-east facing shore of Loch Craignish which is a focus for recreation and sailing.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this character type would result in turbines of this size being highly visible on steep slopes and skylines of the hills abutting Moine Mhor, Loch Craignish, Loch Awe and the glens of Kilmartin and Kilmichael. The close proximity of settlement, major roads, well-visited archaeological features, wider historic landscape and popular recreational areas (including the coast and sea) increases sensitivity to this typology.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Although the steep slopes and skylines of the hills containing the glens and coastal fringe would also be highly sensitive to this typology there may be very limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise visual intrusion on sensitive skylines and in views from key roads such as the A816. The close proximity of settlement, major roads, well-visited archaeological features, wider historic landscape and popular recreational areas (including the coast) however still increases sensitivity to this typology.</p>	<p>High-med</p>
<p>Landscape Values</p>	<p>The southern part of this character type lies close to the Knapdale NSA. The special qualities of the NSA include Loch Crinan which is described as being... <i>'enclosed on its north side by a series of miniature glens and hills, echoing the scale of Knapdale to the south but offering a gentle open cultivated contrast to the</i></p>	<p>This typology would be likely to significantly impact on views from the northern part of the NSA in the Moine Mhor area where turbines of this size would be likely to be prominent on skylines. The setting to historical and cultural features within the NSA could be adversely affected.</p>	<p>High-Med to low</p>	<p>This typology would be likely to significantly impact on views from the northern part of the NSA in the Moine Mhor area where turbines of this size would be likely to be prominent on skylines. The setting to historical and cultural features within the NSA could be adversely affected.</p>	<p>High-Med to low</p>

	<p><i>forest...the historic and cultural interest of this landscape adds a further dimension to the scene</i>'. This NSA is also described as being 'a <i>landscape of skylines</i>' and the '360 degree views from Dunadd' are also noted as are the 'finest examples of prehistoric features in the Glens of Kilmichael and Kilmartin' which also include later elements of field patterns, castles, pre-improvement settlements and designed landscapes.</p> <p>The western part of this character type also lies within an APQ although the distinctive group of hills backing Loch Awe are not designated. The scenic qualities of the APQ include the fragmented coast and islands, the strong contrast of this complex upland landscape with Moine Mhor and Loch Crinan and the setting it provides to Kilmartin Glen.</p>	<p>Direct effects would additionally occur on the complex landform and coastal edge of this landscape if this typology were sited within the area designated an APQ.</p>		<p>Direct effects would additionally occur on the complex landform and coastal edge of this landscape if this typology were sited within the area designated an APQ.</p>	
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The wooded slopes of this character type forms a backdrop to the renowned archaeological features of Kilmartin and Kilmichael Glens



This landscape also forms the backdrop to the Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) and the flat plain of Moine Mhor within the Knapdale NSA



Forestry tends to mask the complex craggy landform of these hills – the undulating skyline of these hills mirrors that found within the Knapdale NSA to the south



This landscape has a complex landform of long parallel ridges and occasional pronounced peaks adjacent to Ford at the end of Loch Awe.

Landscape Character Type 10: Upland Parallel Ridges

Landscape Character Type 11: Boulder Moors

Landscape Character Type 11: Boulder Moors - Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The Ross of Mull comprises a long narrow peninsula and this character type is relatively isolated being located on the western tip of this peninsula. The coastal area of this character type is however seen in conjunction with the Isle of Iona where the distinctive and contrasting geologies of the two can be appreciated. The craggy outcrops on the northern coast of this landscape sharply contrast with the smoother raised beaches and lower hill slopes of the 'Basalt Lowland' (17) seen across Loch an Lathaich although a more gradual transition between the two types occurs in the Loch Assapol area. This character type is also seen in conjunction with Loch Scridain and the dramatic cliffs of Ardmeanach in views from the B849.	Turbines of this height would detract from the distinct contrast that occurs in the Loch Na Lathaich area between this character type and the Basalt Lowlands (17) and also with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) of the dramatic Ardmeanach peninsula. Sensitivity would be reduced where a more gradual transition occurs between the Basalt Lowlands (17) and this character type to the south where the relief is similar and the pattern of small rocky outcrops less pronounced.	Medium	Turbines of this height would be less likely to impact on adjacent character types providing they were sited to avoid key views on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and across Loch Na Lathaich.	Medium-low
Scale and openness	This landscape is characterised by numerous small rocky knolls and larger outcrop hills. Flat moorland between these rocky outcrops (together with the low relief of the small knolls) give an open character in parts although closer to the coast where the outcrops tend to be smaller and more numerous, containment is stronger and scale reduced. Small houses and stunted trees provide ready scale references	This typology would dominate the very small rocky knolls and low buildings characteristic of much of this landscape. Turbines of this size would also appear large in relation to the higher outcrop hills found in the south and east.	High	This typology would also dominate the very small rocky knolls and low buildings characteristic of much of this landscape but would have a better scale relationship to the larger outcrop hills and more open and extensive moorland found in the south and east.	High-med

	seen from the A849. Scale is increased where broader hills and rocky ridges occur in the south and east rising to approximately 120m.				
Landform	A gently undulating to flat moorland plateau frequently broken by small rocky knolls of pink coarse-grained and open jointed blocky granite. The coastline is deeply indented with beaches of sand and shingle in rounded coves and narrow inlets. Numerous rocky islands pepper the coastal edge and these have a similar landform to the moorland knolls. The pattern of small rocky knolls tends to be more complex and interlocking along the coast, for example in the Kintra area. Larger rocky hills occur towards the south-east of this character type and these feature longer ridges separated by smaller areas of flat moorland. Narrow valleys cut into these hills and small pockets of flatter ground occasionally occur.	This typology would detract from the distinctive pattern of small rocky knolls and the diverse coastline. The more extensive areas of craggy upland found to the south and east where the rock patterning is less complex and flatter moorland adjacent to broader higher hills would be less sensitive.	High-med	This typology would detract from the distinctive pattern of small rocky knolls and the diverse coastline. The more extensive areas of craggy upland found to the south and east where the rock patterning is less complex and flatter moorland adjacent to broader higher hills would be less sensitive.	High-med
Land cover	Flatter areas comprise peat bog and grasses and heather moorland. Patchy grass and heather also occurs on rocky outcrops and hills while stunted birch woodland colonises the sheltered slopes of the outcrops. Small lush green pastures set close to settlement are enclosed by distinctive large stone walls of rounded granite boulders. Occasional lochs sit in shallow basins within the moorland areas.	The small enclosed pastures are a rare and distinctive feature and would be sensitive to this typology sited within or close-by. Moorland is less sensitive although the setting of occasional lochs should be avoided.	Medium	The small enclosed pastures are a rare and distinctive feature and would be sensitive to this typology sited within or close-by. Moorland is less sensitive although the setting of occasional lochs should be avoided.	Medium

Built environment	Dispersed settlement generally occupies sheltered locations at the foot of rocky knolls and is also set within coves or narrow inlets along the coast – for example Kintra and Fionnphort. Numerous wood pole lines are a feature of the more settled parts of this landscape and there are also some small wind turbines. Occasional archaeological features are evident including standing stones and forts.	This typology could affect the setting of settlement and archaeological features. Turbines could add to the built clutter of existing small turbines and wood pole lines in the more settled parts of this landscape.	High-med	There are greater opportunities to site this smaller typology to avoid impacts on the setting of settlement. Turbines could add to built clutter in the more settled parts of this landscape and archaeological features remain sensitive.	Medium
Perceptual qualities	Although the Ross of Mull is relatively well-frequented by visitors on route to Iona, a strong sense of remoteness and naturalness can be experienced within some of the less accessible and developed coastal areas.	Taller turbines could intrude on more remote and undeveloped coastal areas if poorly sited.	High-med	There is likely to be greater scope to accommodate this smaller typology to avoid impacts on more sensitive coastal areas.	Medium
Visual amenity	Key views from within this character type are from the A849, settlement, beaches and campsites. These views are generally open and extend over much of the more settled and lower part of this character type. Long views from the A849 and settlement at Aridhglas focus along Loch Poit na h-I into the more extensive area of moorland. The rim of complex rocky knolls visible along the northern coast is also a feature seen from this road. In terms of wider views, this landscape forms a low foreground to dramatic views across open sea to the high cliffs of Ardmeanach and distant Staffa and views to Iona Abbey are a	The openness of much of this low-lying landscape and the presence of well-used roads, settlement and areas used for recreation increases sensitivity to larger turbines. Larger turbines would have a greater potential intrusion on key views to Iona, Ardmeanach and the wider seascape.	High	There may be increased opportunities to locate these smaller turbines to minimise visual impact on more settled and frequented parts of this character type and on key views.	High-med

	<p>key feature from Fionnphort and the western coastal edge. This character type is seen in views from the A849 from the 'Basalt Lowlands' (17) at Loch Na Lathaich. Views to this character type from the well-visited Abbey and eastern coast of Iona are also important due to their close proximity.</p>				
Landscape Values	<p>This landscape is designated as an APQ. Key special qualities are likely to be the distinctive knolly landform and rugged coastal edge of this landscape and the contribution it makes to the scenic diversity of the wider seascape which is appreciated in views from this low-lying area.</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the distinctive landform and coast of this landscape and could also intrude on views of the highly scenic wider seascape. Impacts could be minimised by siting turbines in less complex areas and away from key views of the wider seascape.</p>	High-med	<p>There is increased scope to site this typology to avoid effects on more distinctive landform and the coast and to minimise intrusion on key views of the wider seascape.</p>	Medium



The distinctive knolly pink granite geology of this landscape is instantly appreciated in views from the A849 on the approach to the Ross of Mull



Small lush green pastures enclosed by boulder walls contrast strongly with rough open moorland and rocky outcrops



A repeated pattern of rocky knolls and buildings give a small scale to settled areas – wood pole lines stand out in this open landscape and appear tall in relation to the size of buildings



Views to Iona Abbey from the western coastal edge of this landscape



More expansive areas of moorland are set back from the more intimately scaled coastal edge and are edged by low, but more extensive hills to the east.



Parts of the unsettled northern and southern coasts of this landscape have a strong sense of wildness

Landscape Character Type 11: Boulder Moors

Landscape Character Type 12: High Stepped Basalt

Landscape Character Type 12: High Stepped Basalt – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms a more expansively scaled backdrop to the coastal fringes of the <i>Mull Basalt Lowlands</i> (17) where an often gradual merging occurs between the two character types. Part of this landscape also lies next to the <i>Mull High Tops</i> (2a) and is principally seen in conjunction with these mountains in the Loch Scridain area. The Ardmeanach Peninsula is one of the most prominent and dramatic parts of this character type and plays an important role in wider seascape character. The higher hills of the north-western part of this landscape contain Loch Tuath and Loch na Keal.	Turbines of this size would impact on the setting of Loch na Keal area and dramatic coastal scenery if sited in the Ardmeanach area. They would also significantly affect the setting of the <i>High Tops</i> (2a) seen at the head of Loch Scridain. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could be sited on lower ground in the Loch Frisa area to avoid intrusion on the skyline of containing ridges and hills seen from Loch na Keal, Loch Tuath and islands including Ulva. Large turbines could however affect smaller scale and more complex coastal areas within the adjacent <i>Mull Basalt Lowlands</i> (17), particularly if located on the periphery of this landscape in the Brolass and Loch Frisa area.	High	Turbines of this size would impact on the setting of Loch na Keal area and dramatic coastal scenery if sited in the Ardmeanach area. They would also significantly affect the setting of the <i>High Tops</i> (2a) at the head of Loch Scridain. This typology could be sited away from higher ground in the Loch Frisa area to avoid intrusion on the skyline of containing ridges and hills seen from Loch na Keal, Loch Tuath and islands including Ulva. Smaller scale and more complex coastal areas within the adjacent <i>Mull Basalt Lowlands</i> (17) would still be sensitive to turbines of this size located on the periphery of this landscape in the Brolass and Loch Frisa area.	High-medium
Scale	This landscape forms ridges and hills rising to over 400m to the north-east of Loch Frisa and on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and with hills consistently attaining heights of between 200 to 300m elsewhere. It is a medium to large scale landscape in general although scale is reduced where the landform is particularly complex and where narrow valleys	This typology could fit with the scale of broader hills slopes and ridges although it would appear large in comparison with smaller individual landform features.	High-medium	This typology could fit with the scale of broader hills slopes and ridges although it would appear large in comparison with smaller individual landform features.	High-medium

	cut into the hills. This landscape is very sparsely settled with few buildings providing small scale features although individual landform features, such as cliffs and defined craggy hill tops can be relatively small.				
Landform	The basalt plateau of this landscape has weathered to form flat terraces separated by linear bands of rock faces in a 'stepped' formation. The landform however varies and is particularly complex with steep stepped slopes and cliffs occurring on the south-western points of the Ardmeanach peninsula above Loch Scridain and on the southern coast of the Ross of Mull to the west of Carsaig. Smoother, gentler slopes occur in the Brolass area and to the east of Tioran and the stepped profile and rocky outcrops are even less pronounced either side of Loch Frisa where smoother hill slopes and broader flattened ridges occur.	The more complex craggy stepped landform and cliffs found on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the south coast west of Carsaig would be highly sensitive to this typology. Smoother, gentler hill slopes and broader flattened ridges in the Loch Frisa and Brolass areas would be less sensitive.	Medium	The more complex craggy stepped landform and cliffs found on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the south coast west of Carsaig would be highly sensitive to this typology. Smoother, gentler hill slopes and broader flattened ridges in the Loch Frisa and Brolass areas would be less sensitive.	Medium
Land cover	Bare rock on steeper slopes and with grass moorland on lower slopes and broader ridges. Extensive coniferous forest generally covers the smoother slopes and valleys of this landscape.	This typology could be accommodated without significant impact on land cover.	Low	This typology could be accommodated without significant impact on land cover.	Low
Built environment	This landscape is very sparsely settled with dispersed farms and houses mainly sited at the transition with the 'Basalt Lowland' (17) character type. There are few roads	Sensitivity to this typology is reduced due to the absence of settlement in most of this character type although the setting of Tioran/Killimore and	Medium-low	This smaller typology would be likely to have a reduced impact on nearby settlement although the setting of archaeological features remains sensitive.	Low

	and tracks providing access. The Tioran/Killiemore area on the north side of Loch Scridain comprises the only settlement within this character type. Archaeological features include old settlements and the fort on The Burg (Ardmeanach).	archaeological features in The Burg area would be sensitive.			
Perceptual qualities	The western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast of the Brolass area have a strong sense of wildness due to their natural, undeveloped character, rugged terrain and limited accessibility. Long coastal footpaths to the Carsaig Arches and the Fossil Tree on Ardmeanach provide this experience of wildness. Forestry in other areas limits the sense of naturalness although these landscapes can often feel quite secluded due to the absence of roads and settlement.	This typology could impact on the strong sense of wildness experienced in the western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast west of Carsaig if sited so visible on skyline ridges, steep slopes or even on the approach to these areas. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type and particularly in the areas more influenced by forestry.	High-medium	This typology could impact on the strong sense of wildness experienced in the western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast west of Carsaig if sited so visible on skyline ridges, steep slopes or even on the approach to these areas. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type and particularly in the areas more influenced by forestry.	High-medium
Visual amenity	The sparsely settled nature of this character type and limited accessibility restricts visibility from within this character type. There are few roads sited within this character type – the Salen to Dervaig road and the road to Carsaig both have very contained views. Views inland from the coastal footpath to Carsaig Arches are strongly contained. The coastal footpath on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the B8035 features more open views across Loch	Turbines of this size sited on the steep open slopes of the Ardmeanach Peninsula would be highly intrusive from roads, coastal footpaths and settlement and would affect the setting of Loch na Keal. While turbines sited on lower ridges and hill slopes in the Loch Frisa area would be more visually contained they would be highly visible from the B8073, the minor road from Glen Aros and potentially from Dervaig. Turbines sited on higher ridges in the	High	Turbines sited on the steep open slopes of the Ardmeanach Peninsula would be highly intrusive from roads, coastal footpaths and settlement and on Loch na Keal. While this typology sited on lower ridges and hill slopes in the Loch Frisa area would be more visually contained and less intrusive than larger turbines, they could be visible from the B8073, the minor road from Glen Aros and potentially also from Dervaig. Turbines sited	High-medium

	<p>Scridain to the Brolass area. Forest cycling and walking routes are present in the Loch Frisa area. Views to the Loch Frisa and Brolass area are relatively limited from adjacent character types and especially from the key routes of the A848 and A849. There are likely to be views of the higher ridges NE of Loch Frisa from the Sound of Mull and Movern. The Ardmeanach Peninsula is the most visible part of this character type being seen from the A849 and the 'Basalt Lowlands' (17) on the south coast of Loch Scridain.</p>	<p>Loch Frisa area would significantly intrude on views from roads, settlement and boats in the adjacent Loch na Keal and islands. Turbines sited in the Brolass area could be visible from the promoted 'Scenic Route' of the B8035 and the coastal path to The Burg on the Ardmeanach Peninsula. This typology would also be likely to be visible from sensitive coastal areas on the Ross of Mull and also from the Firth of Lorn.</p>		<p>on higher ridges in the Loch Frisa area would also significantly intrude on views from the adjacent Loch na Keal and islands although there may be increased scope to site this smaller typology to avoid intrusion. Turbines sited in the Brolass area could be visible from the promoted 'Scenic Route' of the B8035 and the coastal path to The Burg on the Ardmeanach Peninsula. This typology could also be visible from sensitive coastal areas on the Ross of Mull and also from the Firth of Lorn.</p>	
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers the Brolass and Ardmeanach areas. The special qualities of these areas are likely to comprise dramatic coastal landform and the contribution to the wider scenic seascape which includes Loch Scridain and the mountains at the core of Mull. The north-western part of the Loch Frisa area adjoining the Loch na Keal NSA is also designed as an APQ, presumably as higher ground forms the backdrop and defines the viewshed to the NSA. Other parts of the Loch Frisa area are not designated.</p> <p>This character type is found extensively within the Loch na Keal NSA where it forms particularly</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the APQ on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain would significantly impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and on the dramatic coast and landform of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the Carsaig coast. Parts of the Brolass area are less sensitive because of their limited role in providing the setting to other landscapes within the APQ. The slopes providing the backdrop to the Loch na Keal NSA north of Loch Tuath, and designated as an APQ, would be sensitive to this typology and turbines should be sited so not visible above the ridges containing the Loch na Keal NSA.</p>	High to Low	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the APQ on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain would significantly impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and on the dramatic coast and landform of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the Carsaig coast. Parts of the Brolass area are less sensitive because of their limited role in providing the setting to other landscapes within the APQ. The slopes providing the backdrop to the Loch na Keal NSA north of Loch Tuath, and designated as an APQ, would be sensitive to this typology and turbines should be sited so not visible above the ridges containing the Loch na Keal NSA.</p>	High to Low

	<p>pronounced and dramatic coastal cliffs as well as rugged islands. The steep south-western Ardmeanach Peninsula forms part of the wider setting to this NSA.</p> <p>The Ben More, Mull WLA covers a small part of this LCT on the Ardmeanach peninsula. The SNH description of this WLA notes that there are no views of wind farms.</p>	<p>Wind turbines sited in the Ardmeanach area of this LCT would adversely affect the key attributes of this WLA given the absence of large scale human artefacts in the surrounding western area (noted in the SNH description of this WLA)</p>		<p>Wind turbines sited in the Ardmeanach area of this LCT would be likely to adversely affect the key attributes of this WLA given the absence of large scale human artefacts in the surrounding western area (noted in the SNH description of this WLA)</p>	
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Landscape Character Type 12: High Stepped Basalt – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms the backdrop to the coastal fringes of the 'Mull Basalt Lowlands' (17) where an often gradual merging occurs between the two character types. It also lies next to the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) and is principally seen in conjunction with these mountains in the Loch Scridain area. The Ardmearach Peninsula is the most visible part of this character type and plays an important role in wider seascape character. This landscape abuts the Loch na Keal NSA.	This typology could impact on the Loch na Keal NSA if sited on higher ridges and slopes in the Loch Frisa and Ardmearach areas. It could also affect the setting of the 'High Tops' (2a) at the head of Loch Scridain if sited close-by and in prominent locations seen in key views. The contrast between the 'Mull Basalt Lowland' (17) in the Loch Frisa area and within the less settled inland valleys defined as (17) in the Broilass area is less pronounced and the relative isolation and large extent of these areas would also minimise the effects of this typology on adjacent character types.	Medium	This typology could impact on the Loch na Keal NSA and on wider seascape character if sited on higher ridges and slopes in the Loch Frisa and Ardmearach areas. It could also affect the setting of the 'High Tops' (2a) at the head of Loch Scridain if sited close-by and in prominent locations seen in key views. The contrast between the 'Mull Basalt Lowland' (17) in the Loch Frisa area and within the less settled inland valleys defined as (17) in the Broilass area is less pronounced and these areas offer increased opportunities, especially for the small turbines of this typology which could be associated with existing built development within (17).	Medium
Scale and openness	This landscape forms ridges and hills rising to over 400m to the north-east of Loch Frisa and on the Ardmearach Peninsula and with hills consistently attaining heights of between 200 to 300m elsewhere. It is a medium to large scale landscape in general although scale is reduced where the landform is	This typology could fit with the scale of broader hills slopes and ridges although it would appear large in comparison with smaller individual landform features.	Medium-low	This typology could also fit with the scale of this landscape although the smaller turbines of this typology could appear out of scale with broader more open areas and would be better if visually associated with smaller	Medium-low

	particularly complex and where narrow valleys cut into the hills. This landscape is very sparsely settled with few buildings providing small scale features although individual landform features, such as cliffs and defined craggy hill tops can be relatively small.			scale features such as settlement.	
Landform	The basalt plateau of this landscape has weathered to form flat terraces separated by linear bands of rock faces in a 'stepped' formation. The landform however varies and is particularly complex with steep stepped slopes and cliffs occurring on the south-western points of the Ardmeanach peninsula above Loch Scridain and on the southern coast of the Ross of Mull to the west of Carsaig. Smoother, gentler slopes occur in the Brolass area and to the east of Tioran and the stepped profile and rocky outcrops are even less pronounced either side of Loch Frisa where smoother hill slopes and broader flattened ridges occur.	The more complex craggy stepped landform and cliffs found on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the south coast west of Carsaig would be highly sensitive to this typology. Smoother, gentler hill slopes and broader flattened ridges in the Loch Frisa and Brolass areas would be less sensitive.	Medium	The more complex craggy stepped landform and cliffs found on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the south coast west of Carsaig would be highly sensitive to this typology. Smoother, gentler hill slopes and broader flattened ridges in the Loch Frisa and Brolass areas would be less sensitive.	Medium
Land cover	Bare rock on steeper slopes and with grass moorland on lower slopes and broader ridges. Extensive coniferous forest generally covers the smoother slopes and valleys of this landscape.	This typology could be accommodated without significant impact on land cover.	Low	This typology could be accommodated without significant impact on land cover.	Low
Built environment	This landscape is very sparsely settled with dispersed farms and houses mainly sited at the transition with the 'Basalt Lowland' (17) character type. There are few roads and tracks providing access. The Tioran/Killiemore area on the north	Sensitivity to this typology is reduced due to the absence of settlement in most of this character type although the setting of Tioran/Killiemore and archaeological features in The Burg area would be sensitive.	Medium-low	This smaller typology would be likely to have a reduced impact on nearby settlement although the setting of archaeological features remains sensitive.	Low

	side of Loch Scridain comprises the only settlement within this character type. Archaeological features include old settlements and the fort on The Burg (Ardmeanach).				
Perceptual qualities	The western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast of the Brolass area have a strong sense of wildness due to their natural, undeveloped character, rugged terrain and limited accessibility. Long coastal footpaths to the Carsaig Arches and the Fossil Tree on Ardmeanach provide this experience of wildness. Forestry in other areas limits the sense of naturalness although these landscapes can often feel quite secluded due to the absence of roads and settlement.	This typology could impact on the strong sense of wildness experienced in the western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast west of Carsaig if sited so visible on skyline ridges, steep slopes or even on the approach to these areas. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type and particularly in the areas more influenced by forestry.	Medium	This typology could impact on the strong sense of wildness experienced in the western part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the southern coast west of Carsaig if sited so visible on skyline ridges, steep slopes or even on the approach to these areas. Sensitivity would be reduced elsewhere within this character type and particularly in the areas more influenced by forestry.	Medium
Visual amenity	The sparsely settled nature of this character type and limited accessibility restricts visibility from within this character type. There are few roads sited within this character type – the Salen to Dervaig road and the road to Carsaig both have very contained views. Views inland from the coastal footpath to Carsaig Arches are strongly contained. The coastal footpath on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the B8035 features more open views across Loch Scridain to the Brolass area. Forest cycling and walking routes are present in the Loch Frisa area.	Turbines of this size sited on the steep open slopes of the Ardmeanach Peninsula would be highly visible. They could also intrude on views from the adjacent Loch na Keal area if located on higher ridges where they appear on the skyline. Turbines sited in the Brolass area could be visible from the promoted 'Scenic Route' of the B8035 and the coastal path to The Burg on the Ardmeanach Peninsula although lower hill slopes and especially those facing away from Loch Scridain would be likely to be less sensitive. Lower ridges and hill slopes in the	High-med	Turbines of this size sited on the steep open slopes of the Ardmeanach Peninsula would be less intrusive but still visible in a context where very few built structures are present. There is greater scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology in the eastern parts of the Ardmeanach area where they could be visually associated with settlement and woodland. However even small turbines could intrude on views from the adjacent Loch na Keal area if located on higher ridges where	Medium

	Views to the Loch Frisa and Brolass area are relatively limited from adjacent character types and especially from the key routes of the A848 and A849. There are likely to be views of the higher ridges NE of Loch Frisa from the Sound of Mull and Movern. The Ardmeanach Peninsula is the most visible part of this character type being seen from the A849 and the 'Basalt Lowlands' (17) on the south coast of Loch Scridain.	Loch Frisa area are also less visually sensitive.		they appear on the skyline. There may be increased scope to site the small typology to minimise visual intrusion in the Brolass and Loch Frisa areas.	
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers the Brolass and Ardmeanach areas. The special qualities of these areas are likely to comprise dramatic coastal landform and the contribution to the wider scenic seascape which includes Loch Scridain and the mountains at the core of Mull. The north-western part of the Loch Frisa area adjoining the Loch na Keal NSA is also designed as an APQ, presumably as higher ground forms the backdrop and defines the viewshed to the NSA.</p> <p>This character type is found extensively within the Loch na Keal NSA where it forms particularly pronounced and dramatic coastal cliffs as well as rugged islands. The steep south-western Ardmeanach Peninsula forms part of the wider setting to this NSA.</p> <p>The Ben More, Mull WLA covers a small part of this LCT on the Ardmeanach peninsula.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the APQ on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain could impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and on the dramatic coast and landform of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the Carsaig coast. Parts of the Brolass area are less sensitive because of their limited role in providing the setting to other landscapes within the APQ. The slopes providing the backdrop to the Loch na Keal NSA north of Loch Tuath, and designated as an APQ, would be sensitive to this typology and turbines should be sited so not visible above the ridges containing the Loch na Keal NSA.</p> <p>Wind turbines sited in the Ardmeanach area of this LCT would adversely affect the key attributes of this WLA given the absence of large scale human artefacts in the</p>	High-med to Low	There may be increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise intrusion on views from the Loch Scridain area to the mountains at the head of the loch. Turbines of this size would still impact on the character of the more dramatic coast and landform of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the Carsaig coast however although small turbines towards the lower height band could be accommodated in association with settlement to the east. Parts of the Brolass area are less sensitive to this typology because of their limited role in providing the setting to other landscapes within the APQ. The slopes providing the backdrop to the Loch na Keal NSA north of Loch Tuath, and designated as an APQ, would be sensitive to	Medium to Low

		surrounding western area (noted in the SNH description of this WLA)		<p>larger turbines although there is increased scope to site small turbines on lower slopes and associated with settlement to minimise intrusion.</p> <p>Wind turbines sited in the Ardmeanach area of this LCT would adversely affect the key attributes of this WLA given the absence of large scale human artefacts in the surrounding western area (noted in the SNH description of this WLA)</p>	
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Although this landscape is generally sparsely settled, small areas of settlement and pasture are associated with gentler lower hill slopes



The dramatic sheer stepped rocky slopes of the Ardmeanach Peninsula seen from the A849



Broader, less complex hill slopes occur in the Brolass area although occasional hill tops have distinct stepped rocky banding



The southern coast of this landscape west of Carsaig Bay is rugged and remote



The Loch Frisa area is extensively forested and visually contained and generally has a less complex landform than found along the coast of this character type



The higher hills to the south-west of Loch Frisa form a backdrop to the Loch na Keal NSA

Landscape Character Type 12: High Stepped Basalt

Landscape Character Type 13: Rolling Farmland and Estates

Landscape Character Type 13: Rolling Farmland and Estates – Sensitivity assessment of larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This low-lying character type is found in three small areas on the edge of the Firth of Clyde and is backed by the higher ground of the Open Ridgeland (5) or the Steep Ridgeland and mountains (1). The rich pattern of woodlands, parkland, farmland and settlement contrast with the simple character of forested or moorland covered hills and contribute to the wider scenic qualities of the Firth of Clyde within its broad open basin and narrow sea lochs. This character type is particularly important in marking a more rural character along the River Clyde west of Glasgow and a contrast with the densely developed southern Clyde coast of Inverclyde	Large turbines sited on the peninsula tips of Toward and Rosneath and in the Cardross area would be highly visible and detract from the rich, highly patterned character of these landscapes which are rare in the wider context of the Firth of Clyde and Glasgow conurbation. This size of turbine (and particularly multiple turbines) would also diminish the contrast between urban and rural on the western edge of Glasgow.	High	Large turbines sited on the peninsula tips of Toward and Rosneath and in the Cardross area would be highly visible and detract from the rich, highly patterned character of these landscapes which are rare in the wider context of the Firth of Clyde and Glasgow conurbation.	High
Scale and openness	These landscapes are confined to peninsula tips and a narrow coastal edge and are limited in extent. They have a relatively low relief with rounded hills rising to around 128m (Gallow Hill on the Rosneath Peninsula) and hill slopes gradually rising to around 100m at the transition with the more expansive Open Ridgeland (5). Fields, trees, farms and extensive wooded policies pattern this landscape and provide ready scale references. The rolling landform limits scale which is generally medium	Turbines of this size would appear very large in relation to the height of low hills and the limited extent of these landscapes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings, trees and woodlands.	High	Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the height of low hills and the limited extent of these landscapes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings, trees and woodlands.	High

	reducing to small where woodland provides containment.				
Landform	Broad rounded ridges with occasional steep banks, knolls and conical outcrop hills. Gently rolling hill slopes are cut by well-defined valleys. The coastal margin is flat with sandy bays contained by rounded rocky promontories along the Firth of Clyde.	The gently sloping landform of much of this landscape reduces sensitivity although turbines of this size would detract from small knolly hills and the more diverse coastal edge.	Medium	The gently sloping landform of much of this landscape reduces sensitivity although turbines of this size would detract from small knolly hills and the more diverse coastal edge.	Medium
Land cover pattern	These landscapes have a richly diverse land cover of hedged and walled fields, field and avenue trees and shelterbelts and policy woodlands and designed landscapes associated with the Rosneath, Geilston/Cardross and Castle Toward estates. Some scrub and wetland occurs close to the coast.	Turbines of this size would detract from the distinct pattern of policy woodlands, areas with a stronger field enclosure pattern and the setting of designed landscapes.	High	Turbines of this size would also detract from the distinct pattern of policy woodlands and areas with a stronger field enclosure pattern. More open areas of pasture and coniferous forestry at the transition with the Open Ridgeland (5) LCT would be less sensitive and there may be increased scope to locate turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid impacts on designed landscapes.	High-med
Built environment	This landscape is densely settled in the Helensburgh area. The Rosneath Peninsula and Toward Point are also relatively well-settled with large farms dotted fairly evenly across the landscape. Castles, mansion houses and historic towns such as Cardross are key landmark features. Masts are visually prominent on small hill tops (Gallow Hill, Rosneath Peninsula) and lower hill slopes within the adjacent	This typology would dominate the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements in this well-settled area. It would also affect the setting of designed landscapes and historic built features if located within their landscape setting. Turbines of this size could exacerbate the clutter of masts present in some areas.	High	This typology would dominate the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements in this well-settled area. It would also affect the setting of designed landscapes and historic built features if located within their landscape setting. Turbines of this size could exacerbate the clutter of masts present in some areas	High

	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1) character type backing Toward Point.				
Perceptual qualities	Generally a managed landscape with little sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low
Visual amenity	These areas are highly visible from many areas around the well-settled Firth of Clyde. The Helensburgh area is closely visible from the A814 and railway but also from the A78, Port Glasgow and Greenock on the south side of the Inner Firth of Clyde. The Rosneath Peninsula area of this character type is highly visible from Greenock and from the Helensburgh area and from roads and footpaths. Toward Point is less easily accessible but seen from the A815 and from the eastern side of Bute, including Rothesay. All these landscapes are highly visible from ferry routes in the Firth of Clyde.	Turbines of this size would be visually prominent in views from roads, footpaths and settlement within the character type but also from ferry routes and the wider Firth of Clyde coast.	High	Turbines of this size would be visually prominent in views from roads, footpaths and settlement within the character type but also from ferry routes and the wider Firth of Clyde coast.	High
Landscape Values	The western side of Toward Point along Loch Striven is designated an APQ. Key special qualities of this APQ are the scenic juxtaposition of narrow sea lochs, steep-sided hills and richly patterned policies and farmland on Toward Point and Bute. Castle Toward designed landscape is Inventory listed and particularly noted for its scenic importance in the Inventory.	Turbines of this size would significantly affect the special qualities of the APQ and the integrity and setting of Inventory listed designed landscapes if sited within or close-by. Sensitivity would be reduced within the Helensburgh area which is not designated.	High-med to Low	Turbines of this size would significantly affect the special qualities of the APQ and the integrity and setting of Inventory listed designed landscapes if sited within or close-by. Sensitivity would be reduced within the Helensburgh area which is not designated.	High-med to Low

Landscape Character Type 13: Rolling Farmland and Estates – Sensitivity assessment of smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This low-lying character type is found in three small areas on the edge of the Firth of Clyde and is backed by the higher ground of the Open Ridgeland (5) or the Steep Ridgeland and mountains (1). The rich pattern of woodlands, parkland, farmland and settlement contrast with the simple character of forested or moorland covered hills and contribute to the wider scenic qualities of the Firth of Clyde within its broad open basin and narrow sea lochs. This character type is particularly important in marking a more rural character along the River Clyde west of Glasgow and a contrast with the densely developed southern Clyde coast of Inverclyde	Turbines of this size sited on the peninsula tips of Toward and Rosneath and in the Cardross area would still be highly visible and detract from the rich, highly patterned character of these landscapes which are rare in the wider urban context of the Firth of Clyde and Glasgow conurbation. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology may have less of an effect on landscape context if sited at the transition with the 'Open Ridgeland' (5) which is more extensive and simpler in character although multiple turbines would increase built clutter and could significantly diminish the contrast with more urban landscapes.	Medium	Unless located on prominent ridges, hill tops and coastal areas, this typology is unlikely to extend significantly into wider views and would therefore be unlikely to have major effects on wider landscape context. Multiple developments would increase clutter and diminish wider scenic diversity	Low
Scale and openness	These landscapes are confined to peninsula tips and a narrow coastal edge and are limited in extent. This landscape has relatively low relief with rounded hills rising to around 128m (Gallow Hill on the Rosneath Peninsula) and hill slopes gradually rising to around 100m at the transition with the more expansive Open Ridgeland (5). Fields, trees, farms and extensive wooded policies pattern this landscape and provide ready scale references. The	Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the height of low hills and the limited extent of these landscapes. They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings, trees and woodlands although turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could relate to the increased scale of broader and more open hills slopes at the transition with more expansive	High-med	This typology would be higher than buildings, trees and woodlands but could fit more sympathetically with the scale of the landform.	Medium

	rolling landform limits scale which is generally medium reducing to small where woodland provides containment.	upland landscapes and away from smaller scale features.			
Landform	Broad rounded ridges with occasional steep banks, knolls and conical outcrop hills. Gently rolling hill slopes are cut by well-defined valleys. The coastal margin is flat with sandy bays contained by rounded rocky promontories along the Firth of Clyde.	The gently sloping landform of much of this landscape reduces sensitivity although turbines of this size would detract from small knolly hills and the more diverse coastal edge.	Medium	The gently sloping landform of much of this landscape reduces sensitivity and turbines of this size could be sited to relate to smaller landform features although the more diverse coastal edge should be avoided.	Medium-low
Land cover pattern	These landscapes have a richly diverse land cover of hedged and walled fields, field and avenue trees and shelterbelts and policy woodlands associated with the Rosneath, Geilston/Cardross and Castle Toward estates. Some scrub and wetland occurs close to the coast.	Turbines of this size would detract from the distinct pattern of policy woodlands and areas with a stronger field enclosure pattern. More open areas of pasture and coniferous forestry at the transition with the Open Ridgeland (5) and Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1) LCTs would be less sensitive and there may be increased scope to locate this typology in some limited areas to avoid impacts on designed landscapes.	High-med	There is some scope to locate this typology within larger fields and more open areas at the transition with more extensive character types to avoid detracting from distinctive woodland and field patterns and designed landscapes.	Medium
Built environment	This landscape is densely settled in the Helensburgh area. The Rosneath Peninsula and Toward Point are relatively well-settled with large farms dotted fairly evenly across the landscape. Castles, mansion houses and historic towns such as Cardross are key landmark features. Masts are visually prominent on small hill tops (Gallow Hill Rosneath Peninsula) and lower hill slopes within the adjacent	This typology could dominate the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements if located nearby although there may be some limited scope to locate these smaller turbines in some areas to avoid such impact. This typology would affect the setting of designed landscapes and historic built features if located within their landscape setting. Turbines of this size could	High-med	There is greater scope for accommodating this typology because of its potential to be associated with the scale of larger buildings and farms. Care should still be taken to avoid disrupting the setting of features of historic or archaeological interest in this area. Multiple turbines towards the higher height band of this typology associated with every farm	Medium

	Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1) character type backing Toward Point.	exacerbate the clutter of masts present in some areas.		would quickly overwhelm and would exacerbate built clutter in some areas.	
Perceptual qualities	Generally a managed landscape with little sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low
Visual amenity	These areas are highly visible from many areas around the well-settled Firth of Clyde. The Helensburgh area is closely visible from the A814 and railway but also from the A78, Port Glasgow and Greenock on the south side of the Inner Firth of Clyde. The Rosneath Peninsula area of this character type is highly visible from Greenock and from the Helensburgh area and from roads and footpaths. Toward Point is less easily accessible but seen from the A815 and from the eastern side of Bute, including Rothesay. All these landscapes are visible from ferry routes in the Firth of Clyde.	Turbines of this size would be visually prominent in views from roads and coastal areas within the character type.	High	There is scope for this smaller typology to be sited on lower hill slopes, which are back-dropped by the less prominent gentler slopes of the Open Ridgeland (5) in the Helensburgh/Cardross area to minimise visual intrusion from roads, settlement and on more prominent skylines.	High-med
Landscape Values	The western side of Toward Point along Loch Striven is designated an APQ. Key special qualities of this APQ are the scenic juxtaposition of narrow sea lochs, steep-sided hills and richly patterned policies and farmland on Toward Point and Bute. Castle Toward designed landscape is Inventory listed and particularly noted for its scenic importance in the Inventory.	Turbines of this size would significantly affect the special qualities of the APQ and the integrity and setting of Inventory listed designed landscapes if sited within or close-by. Sensitivity would be reduced within the undesignated Helensburgh area of this LCT.	High-med to Low	While sensitivity would be reduced for this typology, the integrity and setting of Inventory listed designed landscapes is a key constraint in the Toward Point area. The lower height band of this typology would be likely to have less of an effect on the special qualities of the APQ.	Medium to Low



Policy woodlands and rolling pastures fringe the inner Firth of Clyde around Cardross



Narrow wooded valleys at the transition with the 'Open Ridgeland' (5) within the inner Firth of Clyde



The wooded policies of Toward Castle designed landscape on Toward Point seen from Bute.



This character type covers the tip of the Rosneath Peninsula and is highly visible from the Inverclyde coast

Landscape Character Type 13: Rolling Farmland with Estates

Landscape Character Type 13a: Bute Rolling Farmland and Estates

Landscape Character Type 13a: Bute Rolling Farmland and Estates – Sensitivity assessment of smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape of well-settled, gently rolling farmland with extensive policy woodlands contrasts with the small rugged hills of the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a) and the flatter and more open 'Bute Coastal Plain' (19a). A distinctive steep wooded scarp forms the southern boundary with 5a above Loch Fad although the transition between these character types is more gradual west of Port Bannatyne. This character type contributes to the overall landscape diversity of Bute although it is less prominent within the wider Firth of Clyde because of its low-lying nature.	Turbines sited close to the abrupt scarp edge above Loch Fad would detract from this feature and the contrast that occurs between the more rugged 'upland' character of (5) and the low rolling farmland of this character type. Turbines sited elsewhere in this character type would have less of an effect on landscape context although multiple developments would increase clutter and diminish contrast and wider scenic diversity.	Medium	Turbines of this size sited close to the abrupt scarp edge would also detract from this feature. They would not have a significant effect on landscape context if sited elsewhere. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would not extend significantly into wider views within the Firth of Clyde and would have fewer cumulative effects associated with multiple developments.	Low
Scale and openness	This character type has a low elevation with rounded hills rising to around 120m in height. Small fields, trees, farms and extensive wooded policies pattern this landscape and provide ready scale references. The rolling landform limits scale which is generally medium reducing to small where woodland and more rolling landform increases containment. Scale increases where this character type abuts the higher hills of the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a).	Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the height of low hills and the limited expanse of open ground (particularly in the case of multiple turbines of this size). They would also dominate small scale features such as buildings, trees and woodlands if sited close-by. Broader lower hill slopes at the more gradual transition with the larger scale hills of the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a) would be less sensitive in respect of scale.	High-med	This typology would be higher than trees and woodlands but could fit more sympathetically with the scale of the landform and other features.	Medium
Landform	A softly rolling landform of low indistinct hills cut by shallow valleys. Occasional knolly areas occur on some hill slopes. The rocky narrow coastal edge is	The absence of distinctive landform features reduces sensitivity although the coastal edge and more complex knolly landform should be avoided.	Medium	The absence of distinctive landform features reduces sensitivity although the coastal	Medium

	generally even but with some notable promontories and bays.			edge and more complex knolly landform should be avoided.	
Land cover	This landscape has a richly diverse land cover of small hedged pastures, extensive policy woodlands and designed landscapes associated with Ascog, Kames Castle and Mount Stuart estate. Lochs Fad, Quien and Ascog are landmark features	Turbines of this size could detract from the small scale pattern of rolling pastures and woodlands and the setting of small lochs in some areas. Areas with a less distinct enclosure and woodland pattern would be less sensitive. This typology could also affect the setting of designed landscapes (although views from these landscapes are likely to be limited by dense tree cover).	High-med	There is increased scope to locate the smaller turbines of this typology within larger fields and avoiding distinctive woodland and field patterns and designed landscape features.	Medium
Built environment	Densely settled on the eastern coast between Rothesay and Ascog. Well-settled elsewhere with an even dispersal of small farms lying beyond the boundaries of the extensive wooded policies of Mount Stuart	This typology could dominate the scale and setting of farms, small dwellings and settlements particularly in the well-settled coastal fringes of this landscape. It could also affect the setting of historic built features if located within their landscape setting and intruding on key views to and from them. The well-settled nature of these landscapes increases sensitivity to this typology.	High	There is greater scope for accommodating this typology because of its potential to be associated with the scale of larger buildings and farms. Care should still be taken to avoid disrupting the setting of features of historic or archaeological interest in this area.	Medium
Perceptual qualities	This is a managed landscape with little sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and there would therefore be little effect on this sensitivity.	Low
Visual amenity	Views from the A844 and settlement on the east coast focus towards the sea and away from the interior farmland of this character type. Views are also limited by extensive woodland and the rolling nature of the landform although	Turbines of this size located on higher ground or upper slopes would be visually prominent in views from roads and more elevated footpaths across Bute. Close views from the A844 and from the densely settled	High	There is greater scope for this smaller typology (and particularly turbines <25m) to be sited on lower hill slopes to limit intrusion on more prominent skylines and to	High-med

	<p>narrow roads cross this area and are well-used by cyclists. The West Island Way footpath is aligned through this character type. The B881 features dramatic framed views to Arran. Wider views to this character type are possible from more elevated areas, for example Barone Hill on Bute. Although this character type is low lying and less visually prominent in views from mainland North Ayrshire and Great Cumbrae, it forms the foreground to the focus of the northern mountains of Arran in these views.</p>	<p>coastal fringe would be limited by landform and woodland. This typology would be likely to be visible from Great Cumbrae and the North Ayrshire coast in the wider Firth of Clyde area (seen at distances >9km from the mainland coast) and from the ferry on the approach to Rothesay. Poorly sited turbines could intrude on key views to Arran and landmark features such Lochs Fad, Quien and Ascog, the designed landscape of Mount Stuart and the scarp woodlands above Loch Fad.</p>		<p>benefit from screening by woodland and the rolling landform in minimising views from roads and more settled coastal areas and visitor attractions. Landmark features remain sensitive even to small turbines.</p>	
Landscape Values	<p>All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran and the diversity of landscapes across Bute to which this landscape of rich rolling farmland, extensive wooded policies and settlements makes a strong contribution.</p> <p>Mount Stuart designed landscape is Inventory listed. It rates as 'outstanding' in many categories and is described as making a '<i>significant contribution to the surrounding scenery particularly to the east</i>'</p>	<p>There may be some limited scope to site turbines of this size to avoid impact on key views to Arran. The integrity of the rich rolling farmland and policies of this landscape could be diminished by turbines of this size (and particularly multiple turbines) and the setting of settlements could also be affected.</p> <p>Turbines of this size could impact on views to Mount Stuart from the Firth of Clyde and mainland particularly if visible on rising ground directly behind the designed landscape.</p>	High-med	<p>Smaller turbines closely associated with existing buildings would be likely to have less of an effect on the integrity of farmland and policies. There would also be increased scope to site this typology to avoid significant intrusion on key views and the setting of settlements and the designed landscape of Mount Stuart.</p>	Medium



Historic buildings and their associated designed landscapes form a key characteristic of this landscape with the Mount Stuart estate featuring extensive policy woodlands



Lush green enclosed fields, woodlands and small white farms regularly pattern this gently rolling landscape and contribute to its predominantly small scale.



This landscape forms a low pastoral foreground to dramatic views to the high peaks of Arran from the B881



Lochs form landmark features within rolling farmland. The higher ground of the Bute Open Ridgeland (5a) lying at the core of the island forms a backdrop to this landscape.

Landscape Character Type 13a: Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates

Landscape Character Type 14: Bay Farmland

Landscape Character Type 14: Bay Farmland – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>The <i>Bay Farmland</i> forms a fairly extensive landscape contained to the north and south by the higher ground of the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) and the <i>Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6c). Smaller scale and more complex hills on the fringes of the adjoining <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) to the north and the pronounced peak of Beinn Ghuilean (352m) to the south are highly visible in views from roads and settlement within the Bay Farmland.</p> <p>This landscape also borders the more complex and naturalistic <i>Sand dunes and machair</i> (25) character type and the smaller scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) around Campbeltown Loch. Wind farm development located in the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) is visible in relatively close proximity from this landscape and is generally associated with a more expansive upland and sparsely settled landscape.</p>	<p>Larger typologies sited within this settled and intensively farmed landscape could intrude on the setting of Campbeltown and the dunes and machair of Machrihanish Bay. They could diminish the contrast between this low-lying land and the verticality of the adjacent hills. Larger turbines could also intrude on the backdrop provided by the smaller and more complex hills fringing the LCT 6 and 6c. Cumulative impacts could occur with operational and consented wind farms (Beinn an Tuirc I, II and III and Tangy I-III) sited in LCT 6 with this typology being contrary to the established association of larger turbines with less settled and more expansive landscapes.</p>	High	<p>There may be increased scope to accommodate turbines towards the lower height band of this typology within this fairly extensive landscape character type to minimise effects on adjoining more sensitive landscapes. Nevertheless, this size could diminish the contrast between this low-lying land and the verticality of the adjacent hills and, depending on siting, intrude into the backdrop provided by the smaller and more complex hills fringing the LCTs 6 and 6c. Cumulative impacts could also occur with operational and consented wind farms sited in LCT 6 although there may be opportunities to minimise these through the use of smaller turbines within this typology and careful siting and design.</p>	High-Med
Scale	<p>A broad flat and open landscape particularly in the west but with more containment in the east where the landform becomes more undulating. This landscape is well-</p>	<p>Although this landscape is very open in places, the regular pattern of small farms, settlements, occasional low hills and other low features across this landscape</p>	High-med	<p>Although this landscape is very open in places, the regular pattern of small farms, settlements, occasional low hills and other low features across this landscape increases sensitivity to</p>	High-med

	settled with many scale references such as buildings and trees.	increases sensitivity to this typology which could easily dominate small features.		this typology which could easily dominate small features.	
Landform	The flat plain to the west rises to form a smooth transition with the dunes of Machrihanish Bay. Landform is more undulating with smooth rounded slopes and occasional distinctive flattened drumlin-like knolls in the east.	This typology could relate to the flat and gently undulating landform although rounded outcrop hills and drumlin-like knolls are more sensitive.	Medium	This typology could relate to the flat and gently undulating landform although rounded outcrop hills and drumlin-like knolls are more sensitive.	Medium
Landcover	Large fields are generally divided by post and wire fences thus contributing to the openness of parts of this landscape. Areas of bog and damp grassland occur between rounded knolls and in more expansive flatter areas and are often fringed by gorse scrub. There is very little woodland with occasional clumps of near farmsteads.	This typology could fit with the simple land cover of this character type.	Low	This typology could fit with the simple land cover of this character type.	Low
Built environment	A regular pattern of small farms and houses occur across this landscape. Occasional larger sheds and industrial buildings are located to the west and are particularly concentrated around the airfield. Small sand and gravel works also feature. This landscape is crossed by narrow minor roads and the A83 and B843 are aligned on the edges of the plain.	The presence of larger industrial elements, especially around the airfield, reduces sensitivity although this character type is well-settled and this typology would affect the setting of settlement and the generally rural character of most of this landscape.	High-Med	The presence of larger industrial elements, especially around the airfield, reduces sensitivity although this character type is well-settled and this typology would affect the setting of settlement and the generally rural character of most of this landscape.	High-Med
Perceptual qualities	This landscape is well-settled and managed with no distinct sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low
Visual amenity	This open low-lying landscape is highly visible from the A83 and	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from roads and	High	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from roads and settlement in	High

	B843 and from settlement which is evenly spread across the area. There are elevated views across this landscape from minor roads, the B842 and settlement within the adjacent LCTs 6, 6c and from the settlement of Machrihanish and golf course. Views from Machrihanish Beach are restricted by intervening sand dunes. Operational and consented wind farms located in LCT 6 are clearly visible from this landscape.	settlement in this open landscape. They would also intrude on panoramic views from elevated roads and settlement in LCTs 6, 6c and 20. There would be cumulative visual effects with the operational and consented wind farm developments sited in LCT 6.		this open landscape. They would also intrude on panoramic views from elevated roads and settlement in LCTs 6, 6c and 20. There would be cumulative visual effects with the existing Tangy and Beinn an Tuirc wind farm developments.	
Landscape Values	No landscape designations apply to this landscape. An APQ is designated to the south of this character type on the Mull of Kintyre.	The absence of landscape designations reduces sensitivity. Turbines located in the Bay Farmland character type would be unlikely to indirectly impact on the sensitive coastal areas and high hills which are key special qualities of the adjacent Mull of Kintyre APQ.	Low	The absence of landscape designations reduces sensitivity. Turbines located in the Bay Farmland character type would be unlikely to indirectly impact on the sensitive coastal areas and high hills which are key special qualities of the adjacent Mull of Kintyre APQ.	Low

Landscape Character Type 14: Bay Farmland – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>The <i>Bay Farmland</i> forms a fairly extensive landscape contained to the north and south by the higher ground of the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) and the <i>Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6c). Smaller scale and more complex hills on the fringes of the adjoining <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) to the north and the pronounced peak of Beinn Ghuilean (352m) to the south are highly visible in views from roads and settlement within the Bay Farmland.</p> <p>This landscape also borders the more complex and naturalistic <i>Sand dunes and machair</i> (25) character type and the smaller scale <i>Rocky Mosaic</i> (20) around Campbeltown Loch. Wind farm development located in the <i>Upland Forest Moor Mosaic</i> (6) is visible in relatively close proximity from this landscape and is generally associated with a more expansive upland and sparsely settled landscape.</p>	<p>There is some limited scope to accommodate this typology within this fairly extensive landscape to minimise effects on the complex small hills on the edge of LCTs 6 and 6c and on the setting of Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay. Cumulative effects with large turbines sited in LCT 6 could be minimised by limiting the number of turbines of this size in this landscape.</p>	Medium	<p>There is some limited scope to accommodate this typology within this fairly extensive landscape to minimise effects on the complex small hills on the edge of LCTs 6 and 6c and on the setting of Campbeltown and Machrihanish Bay. The smaller turbines of this typology would be likely to minimise cumulative effects with wind farms located in LCT 6.</p>	Medium-low
Scale and openness	<p>A broad flat and open landscape particularly in the west but with more containment in the east where the landform becomes more undulating. This landscape is well-settled with many scale references such as buildings and trees.</p>	<p>Turbines of this height would still appear very large in relation to small buildings and trees but there are some limited opportunities to site this typology on less well-settled lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Upland Forest</p>	Medium	<p>Turbines of this height would still appear large in relation to small buildings and trees but there are opportunities to site this typology on less well-settled lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6 +6a) and where the</p>	Med-low

		Moor Mosaic' (6 +6a) and where the landform is less undulating and containment less strong.		landform is less undulating and containment less strong.	
Landform	The flat plain to the west rises to form a smooth transition with the dunes of Machrihanish Bay. Landform is more undulating with smooth rounded slopes and occasional distinctive flattened drumlin-like knolls in the east.	This typology could relate to the simple flat to gently undulating landform although rounded outcrop hills and drumlin-like knolls are more sensitive.	Medium	This typology could relate to the simple flat to gently undulating landform although rounded outcrop hills and drumlin-like knolls remain sensitive.	Med-Low
Landcover pattern	Large fields are generally divided by post and wire fences thus contributing to the openness of parts of this landscape. Areas of bog and damp grassland occur between rounded knolls and in more expansive flatter areas and are often fringed by gorse scrub. There is very little woodland with occasional clumps of near farmsteads.	This typology could fit with the simple land cover of this character type.	Low	This typology could fit with the simple land cover of this character type.	Low
Built environment	A regular pattern of small farms and houses occur across this landscape. Occasional larger sheds and industrial buildings are located to the west and are particularly concentrated around the airfield. Small sand and gravel works also feature. This landscape is crossed by narrow minor roads and the A83 and B843 are aligned on the edges of the plain.	This typology (and particularly multiple turbines) could affect the setting of small farms, individual houses and small settlements. Turbines of this size could increase the clutter of disparate built elements within this landscape if poorly sited.	Medium	There is greater scope for accommodating this typology because of its potential to relate to the scale of larger buildings, settlement groups and farm steadings. Turbines <25m could be closely associated with existing buildings thus minimising the clutter of built elements in this open landscape.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	This landscape is well-settled and managed with no distinct sense of remoteness or naturalness.	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low

Visual amenity	This open low-lying landscape is highly visible from the A83 and B843 and from settlement which is evenly spread across the area. There are elevated views across this landscape from minor roads, the B842 and settlement within the adjacent Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6 + 6b) and from the settlement of Machrihanish and golf course. Views from Machrihanish Beach are restricted by intervening sand dunes. Operational and consented wind farms lie in close proximity to this landscape.	Although this typology would be likely to have a much reduced visual impact in comparison with larger typologies, turbines of this size would still be highly visible from roads and settlement in this open landscape. Turbines of this size would be less likely to intrude on panoramic views from elevated roads and settlement in LCTs 6+6c. Cumulative visual effects with the operational and consented Tangy and Beinn an Tuirc wind farm developments could be minimised by careful siting.	High-med	Turbines of this size would also be visible from roads and settlement in this open landscape although would be less intrusive. Cumulative visual effects with operational and consented wind farm developments could be minimised by careful siting. There would be greater scope to accommodate multiple turbines towards the lower height band of this typology.	Medium
Landscape Values	No landscape designations apply to this landscape. An APQ is designated to the south of this character type on the Mull of Kintyre.	The absence of landscape designations reduces sensitivity. Turbines located in the Bay Farmland character type would be unlikely to indirectly impact on the sensitive coastal areas and high hills of the adjacent Mull of Kintyre APQ which are key special qualities.	Low	The absence of landscape designations reduces sensitivity. Turbines located in the Bay Farmland character type would be unlikely to indirectly impact on the sensitive coastal areas and high hills of the adjacent Mull of Kintyre APQ which are key special qualities.	Low



The landform of this broad plain is more varied to the east where occasional low drumlins occur. More complex rolling on the northern fringes of this character type are seen in the backdrop to this view.



Gentler, more even hill slopes at the transition with the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) to the south



while this landscape has an open and expansive character, sensitivity to larger typologies is increased due to the regular pattern of houses and farms



The broad low-lying plain of this character type, seen from the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6), features a number of large industrial buildings

Landscape Character Type 14: Bay Farmland

Landscape Character Type 15: Lowland Bog and Moor

Landscape Character Type 15: Lowland Bog and Moor – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology >80m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This low-lying landscape forms a transition between the sea and the more elevated, but still relatively low, relief of the <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16). This type also provides a backdrop to the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) in Laggan Bay. It is generally narrow in extent, and linear in shape, although there is a wider stretch associated with the River Laggan and the Duich River south of Bowmore.</p> <p>The extensive wetland contrasts strongly with neighbouring <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), which is generally farmland with some moor. In some areas, however, the farmed land of this type merges with the farmed land of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). The Lowland Bog and Moor (15) is visible as a narrow foreground to views of the higher ground from the Rinns of Islay.</p>	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), with which it strongly contrasts, and which has limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Turbines of this size would also affect the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25).</p>	High	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), with which it strongly contrasts, and which has limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size.</p> <p>The exception to this is the wider stretch of this type, associated with the River Laggan and Duich River, where the land cover pattern between the <i>Lowland Bog and Moor</i> (15) and the <i>Marginal Farmland Mosaic</i> (16), merge and where turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could be accommodated to minimise effects on adjoining LCTs. The setting of the narrow <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) at Laggan Bay is sensitive.</p>	High-med
Scale	<p>This landscape is very low-lying. The relief is so low it is often negligible, and the scale is dominated by a sense of horizontality, rather than any vertical forms. The highest rise reaches to about 40m. The landscape is very open, and can appear expansive in</p>	<p>Although the <i>Lowland Moor and Bog</i> appears expansive due to its openness and ‘emptiness’ this typology, and particularly multiple turbines, would quickly dominate the limited extent of this landscape. The smaller scale coastal landforms</p>	High-medium	<p>The expansive and open character provides scope to accommodate this smaller typology (and particularly single and small groups of turbines towards the lower height band) while minimising effects on the sense of extensive scale</p>	Medium

	scale, with the openness of the moor, fields and wetland only rarely interrupted by a few containing woodlands. The lack of features, however, also makes this area appear (deceptively) larger than it is, as reference points are limited to the airport buildings, peripheral settlement and the very occasional woodlands. The inlets and bays along the coast from Bowmore to Laggan point are relatively small in scale.	between Bowmore and Laggan point is sensitive to this typology		associated with this landscape. The smaller scale coastal landforms between Bowmore and Laggan point are sensitive to this typology	
Landform	Almost flat, with occasional low terraces, extant sand dunes and gently rising ground, the landform is relatively simple.	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on topographical patterns or features.	Low	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on topographical patterns or features.	Low
Landcover	Extensive wetland, moor, peat cutting areas and improved and unimproved farmland extend across most of this type. Occasional small woodlands are associated with drier raised or drained land, sited usually to shelter buildings. There are numerous lochans and especially much smaller pools.	The simple land cover is likely to provide some scope for this typology, although the setting of lochans and more diverse wetland is sensitive.	Medium	The simple land cover is likely to provide some scope for this typology, although the setting of lochans and more diverse wetland is sensitive.	Medium
Settlement	This landscape is very sparsely settled, with occasional farms associated with the periphery or slightly raised areas where land has also been drained for farmland. The airport, however, is located south of Bowmore on this type, as is the Machrie Hotel and golf course. The A846 extends through this stretch of this type, but generally the very	This typology would impact on the scale and setting of small houses and farms although effects could be minimised by siting turbines in less settled areas and also limiting the number of turbines.	High-medium	While the small size of houses and farms are a constraint, settlement is so sparse that this typology (and particularly single and small groups of turbines towards the lower height band) could be sited to limit adverse impacts on the scale or setting of settlements.	Medium

	occasional roads extend around the outer edges of this type.				
Perceptual qualities	The extensive areas of wetland, especially where they are expansive and their integrity relatively intact, are relatively natural in character, and can be experienced as secluded or even surprisingly remote. Many of the wetland areas are inaccessible. The area is used for peat cutting, however, and the presence of the airport, roads and farmland, especially in the area south of Bowmore, create substantial stretches of more developed landscape.	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced, especially associated with the larger areas of wetland, even if placed on the more managed farmland adjacent to these areas.	High-medium	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced, especially associated with the larger areas of wetland, even if placed on the more managed farmland adjacent to these areas.	High-medium
Visual amenity	The views from the roads are extensive and widely panoramic because of the open landscape and slightly elevated roads. However, the limited roads are the main public viewpoint. There is visibility from the sand dunes of Laggan Bay, although views from here tend to focus out to sea. This type, especially south of Bowmore, is also visible from the Rinns of Islay, from Port Charlotte south, where it forms the foreground to views of the upland Moorland Plateau (8).	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained. The coast is visually sensitive, both west of Bowmore and views from the Laggan Bay beach. This typology could intrude on views from the Rinns of Islay to the more dramatic higher hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).	High	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained. The coast is visually sensitive, both west of Bowmore and views from the Laggan Bay beach. This typology could intrude on views from the Rinns of Islay to the more dramatic higher hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).	High
Landscape values	No landscape designations apply to this landscape.	Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this criteria	Low	Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this criteria	Low

Landscape Character Type 15: Lowland Bog and Moor – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This low-lying landscape forms a transition between the sea and the more elevated, but still relatively low, relief of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). This type also provides a backdrop to the Sand Dunes and Machair (25) in Laggan Bay. It is generally narrow in extent, and linear in shape, although there is a wider stretch associated with the River Laggan and the Duich River south of Bowmore.</p> <p>The extensive wetland contrasts strongly with neighbouring Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), which is generally farmland with some moor. In some areas, however, the farmed land of this type merges with the farmed land of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). The Lowland Bog and Moor (15) is visible as a narrow foreground to views of the higher ground from the Rinns of Islay.</p>	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), with which it strongly contrasts, and which has limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. The exception to this is the wider stretch of this type, associated with the River Laggan and Duich River, where the land cover pattern between the Lowland Bog and Moor (15) and the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), merge.</p> <p>The setting of the narrow Sand Dunes and Machair (25) at Laggan Bay is sensitive.</p>	High-Med	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), with which it strongly contrasts, but which has some capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size.</p> <p>There is most scope to benefit from this conjunction within the wider stretches of this type associated with the River Laggan and Duich River, where the land cover pattern between the Lowland Bog and Moor (15) and the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), merge.</p> <p>The setting of the narrow Sand Dunes and Machair (25) at Laggan Bay is sensitive.</p>	Medium
Scale	<p>This landscape is very low-lying. The relief is so low it is often negligible, and the scale is dominated by a sense of horizontality, rather than any vertical forms. The highest rise reaches to about 40m. The landscape is very open, and can appear expansive in scale, with the openness of the moor,</p>	<p>The expansive and open character suggests that there may be scope to accommodate this typology, although it may diminish the sense of extensive scale in the landscape where it provides a readily identifiable size reference point.</p>	Medium	<p>The expansive and open character suggests that there is likely to be scope to accommodate this typology, although it may diminish the sense of extensive scale in the landscape where it provides a readily identifiable size reference point.</p>	Medium-low

	fields and wetland only rarely interrupted by a few containing woodlands. The lack of features, however, also makes this area appear (deceptively) larger than it is, as reference points are limited to the airport buildings, peripheral settlement and the very occasional woodlands. The inlets and bays along the coast from Bowmore to Laggan point are relatively small in scale.	The smaller scale coastal landforms between Bowmore and Laggan point is sensitive to this typology.		The smaller scale coastal landforms between Bowmore and Laggan point is sensitive to this typology. Overall, there is likely to be more scope to accommodate this smaller typology than the medium-small typology.	
Landform	Almost flat, with occasional low terraces, extant sand dunes and gently rising ground, the landform is relatively simple.	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on topographical patterns or features.	Low	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on topographical patterns or features.	Low
Landcover	Extensive wetland, moor and improved and unimproved farmland extend across most of this type. Occasional small woodlands are associated with drier raised or drained land, sited usually to shelter buildings. There are numerous lochans and especially much smaller pools.	The simple land cover is likely to provide some scope for this typology, although the setting of lochans is sensitive.	Medium	The simple land cover is likely to provide some scope for this typology although the setting of lochans is sensitive.	Low
Settlement	This landscape is very sparsely settled, with very occasional farms associated with the periphery or slightly raised areas where land has also been drained for farmland. The airport, however, is located south of Bowmore on this type, as is the Machrie Hotel and golf course. The A846 extends through this stretch of this type, but generally the very occasional roads extend around the outer edges of this type.	While the small size of houses and farms are a constraint, settlement is so sparse that this typology could be sited to limit adverse impacts on the scale or setting of settlements.	Medium	While the small size of houses and farms are a constraint, settlement is so sparse that this typology could be sited to limit adverse impacts on the scale or setting of settlements. The smaller size of this typology means that there is more scope to site this size of turbine without impacting on settlement.	Low

Perceptual qualities	<p>The extensive areas of wetland, especially where they are expansive and their integrity relatively intact, are relatively natural in character, and can be experienced as secluded or even surprisingly remote. Many of the wetland areas are inaccessible.</p> <p>The area is used for peat cutting, however, and the presence of the airport, roads and farmland, especially in the area south of Bowmore, create substantial stretches of more developed landscape.</p>	<p>This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced, especially associated with the larger areas of wetland, even if placed on the more managed farmland adjacent to these areas.</p>	High-Med	<p>This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced, especially associated with the larger areas of wetland, even if placed on the more managed farmland adjacent to these areas.</p> <p>However, because this typology is smaller than the medium-small typology, there is likely to be more scope to site this typology without impacting on these qualities.</p>	Medium
Visual amenity	<p>The views from the roads are extensive and widely panoramic because of the open landscape and slightly elevated roads. However, the limited roads are the main public viewpoint. There is visibility from the sand dunes of Laggan Bay, although views from here tend to focus out to sea.</p> <p>This type, especially south of Bowmore, is also visible from the Rinns of Islay, from Port Charlotte south, where it forms the foreground to views of the upland Moorland Plateau (8).</p>	<p>This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained, although they could be distant if turbines are set away from the roads. The coast is visually sensitive, both west of Bowmore and views from the Laggan Bay beach.</p> <p>This typology may, depending on siting, intrude on views from the Rinns of Islay to the dramatic higher hills of the <i>Moorland Plateau</i> (8).</p>	High-Med	<p>This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained, although they could be distant if turbines are set away from the roads. The coast is visually sensitive, both west of Bowmore and views from the Laggan Bay beach.</p> <p>This typology may, depending on siting, intrude on views from the Rinns of Islay to views of the uplands. However there are likely to be increased opportunities to site this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from key viewpoints, or where views of the turbine are reduced to intermittent sightings.</p>	Medium
Landscape values	<p>No landscape designations apply to this landscape.</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this criteria</p>	Low	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this criteria</p>	Low



Extensive tracts of low-lying wetland alternate with slightly higher grazing land



More accessible, drained, coastal fringe south of Bowmore



Long tracts of coast extend almost to the sea, sometimes adjacent to 'Sand Dunes and Machair' 25



Small pools lie within wetter areas – the sand dunes of Laggan Bay can be seen in the distance

Landscape Character Type 15: Lowland Bog and Moor

Landscape Character Type 15a: Less Extensive Lowland Bog and Moor

Landscape Character Type 15a: Less Extensive Lowland Bog and Moor – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This low-lying landscape is adjacent to the more elevated, but still relatively low, relief of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). Settlement in this neighbouring type often overlooks the Less Extensive Lowland Bog with Moor (15a).</p> <p>This type also provides a backdrop to the sea at Gruinart and the major inland water body of Loch Gorm. It is very narrow in extent, and linear in shape.</p> <p>The wetland is extensive and contrasts strongly with neighbouring Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16).</p> <p>The Less Extensive Lowland Bog and Moor (15a) is not highly visible from other parts of Islay, but is visible as a narrow foreground to views of the coast at Gruinart and Loch Gorm.</p>	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), with which it strongly contrasts, and which has limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the setting of Loch Gorm and Gruinart Bay, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of context.</p>	High	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16), with which it strongly contrasts, and which has limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the setting of Loch Gorm and Gruinart Bay, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of context.</p>	High
Scale and openness	<p>This landscape is very low-lying. The relief is so low it is often negligible, and the scale is dominated by a sense of horizontality, rather than any vertical forms. The landscape is open, with only one woodland associated with the houses at Gruinart Flats, but very limited in extent. The lack of features, however, also makes this area appear (deceptively) larger than it is.</p>	<p>The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.</p>	High	<p>The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.</p>	High

	The indented shoreline of Loch Gorm partially reduces the scale of the landscape around this feature.				
Landform	Almost flat, with occasional low terraces, extant sand dunes this landform is relatively simple.	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on local topographical patterns or features.	Low	The simple landform is likely to provide scope to accommodate this typology without impacting on local topographical patterns or features.	Low
Landcover	Extensive wetland and moor and tidal flats at Gruinart back onto improved farmland. A small linear shelterbelt is associated with the houses at Gruinart Flats. There are numerous lochans and especially much smaller pools.	The simple land cover may offer scope for this typology, as existing visual diversity is limited. However, the setting of Loch Gorm, the tidal flats at Gruinart and lochans are highly sensitive to this typology.	High-med	The simple land cover may offer scope for this typology, as existing visual diversity is limited. However, the setting of Loch Gorm, the tidal flats at Gruinart and lochans are highly sensitive to this typology.	High-med
Settlement	Settlement is extremely sparse. There are a number of archaeological features within this character type.	Settlement is so sparse that this typology could be sited to limit adverse impacts on the scale or setting of settlement within this type – although the size of this typology means that the setting of settlement on adjacent types could be affected by this typology. The setting of archaeological features is sensitive.	Medium	Settlement is so sparse that this typology could be sited to limit adverse impacts on the scale or setting of settlement within this type. The setting of archaeological features is sensitive.	Low
Perceptual qualities	These extensive areas of wetland, with their integrity relatively intact, are relatively natural in character, and can be experienced as secluded or even surprisingly remote. The sense of naturalness is emphasised by the tidal flats and the presence of Loch Gorm. Many of the wetland areas are inaccessible. Where present, the	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.	High	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.	High

	fields, peripheral roads, tracks and sparse settlement limit remoteness.				
Visual amenity	The views from the roads are extensive because of the open landscape. The roads are also elevated, so view across the whole of these areas are frequent. Other public viewpoints include the RSPB viewing points across the marshes – these areas are popular for wintering birds.	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained.	High	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained.	High
Landscape values	No landscape designations apply to this landscape.		Low		Low



Loch Gorm occupies a shallow bowl and is studded with small islands – its setting is sensitive



Farmland on the better drained fringes of this low-lying landscape



This landscape forms flats at the head of Loch Gruinart



Rough pasture, wetland and small pools close to Loch Gruinart

Landscape Character Type 15a: Less Extensive Lowland Bog and Moor

Landscape Character Type 16: Marginal Farmland Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 16: Marginal Farmland Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape forms a settled and farmed fringe to more expansive, larger scale upland areas or adjacent rocky hills. This landscape is narrow and linear, with a limited extent. It is generally an inland type, and forms a transition between the upland types, in particular ‘Moorland Plateau’ (8) or Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a) and ‘Rocky Moorland’ (9) and either the coast or the ‘Lowland Bog and Moor’ (15).</p> <p>There is often a strong contrast between the small scale, diverse landform and land cover of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16) and the larger scale, simple moorland associated with the adjacent upland types.</p> <p>This contrast is less pronounced where the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16) backs onto more settled ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a), where the conjunction of fields and farms forms a more gradual transition between the types.</p> <p>It is very inter-visible with the other landscape types on the island.</p>	<p>The limited, narrow extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p>	High	<p>The limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p> <p>There is some increase in scope to accommodate smaller turbines where this character type abuts the ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a) type, where the vegetation of adjacent farmed fields merges to create a more extensive area of farmland.</p>	High-Medium
Scale and openness	<p>This landscape is of very low relief, barely rising above 80m, with occasional higher knolls. The small</p>	<p>This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this typology</p>	High	<p>This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this</p>	High-Medium

	<p>knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, forests, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape, especially on the eastern part of the island.</p> <p>West of Gruinart, the low relief is emphasised by long horizons and open moorland, but this also increases openness and increases the sense of scale.</p> <p>The coastline, where it occurs, is small scale, emphasised by indentations, enclosed bays and even islands.</p>	<p>would appear as very tall compared to the low relief characteristic of this landscape, and would dominate small scale landforms and coastal features.</p>		<p>typology would appear as very tall compared to the low relief characteristic of this landscape. However, there may be more scope to accommodate this smaller typology within the broader, more open areas and long horizons of this type where these occur west of Gruinart.</p>	
Landform	<p>A diverse landform, which ranges from complex, interlocking knolls and low stepped ridges in the east to more undulating, gently uneven, longer ridges to the west.</p> <p>There are occasional more pronounced knolls and small rocky outcrops.</p> <p>The coastline, where it occurs in this type, is indented and varied.</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the more complex knolly rolling landform extending across most of this landscape.</p> <p>The more regular ridges may provide more scope as their simple linearity would complement the form of this typology.</p>	High-med	<p>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the more complex knolly rolling landform extending across most of this landscape.</p> <p>More regular ridges may provide more scope as their simple linearity would complement the form of this typology.</p> <p>There is also increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology on gentle hill slopes at the transition with upland character types.</p>	Medium
Landcover	<p>Vegetation cover is diverse comprising improved pasture and some arable land, moor and upland grassland, broadleaved and conifer woodland, including some policy woodland and semi-natural woodland. Scrubby shoreline vegetation and pockets of</p>	<p>Areas of complex interlocking vegetation pattern, policy woodland and where the small scale of the vegetation reinforces the small scale of the landform would be sensitive to this typology. The setting of the lochans are an additional sensitivity.</p>	High-med	<p>Areas of complex interlocking vegetation pattern, policy woodland and where the small scale of the vegetation reinforces the small scale of the landform would be sensitive to this typology. The</p>	High-med

	wetland and riparian woodlands also feature. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types. There are areas of extensive moorland (especially west of Gruinart) and large conifer forests (south of Bridgend). There is more broadleaved woodland in the sheltered interior glen. There are large lochans in shallow basins	More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology.		setting of the lochans are an additional sensitivity. More simple and extensive areas of moorland or conifer woodland would be less sensitive to this typology.	
Settlement	This landscape is extensively settled with the villages of Port Askaig and Bridgend sited on the coast and numerous farms and smaller settlements linked by a network of narrow roads. Houses and farms extend across this area except for the interior of some of the more extensive moorland areas and more remote coasts. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against the green. They tend to be smaller and lower in the west. This landscape has a number of archaeological sites, some of which are found in clusters. The main road from Port Askaig to the west extends through this type, but in addition there is a widespread network of narrow roads.	The extensive settlement, the small size of many of the houses and farms, and the presence of clusters of sites of archaeological interest, make it difficult to find scope for this typology where it will not dominate the small size of the built features. The height of this typology in this open landscape means that the scale relationship between this typology and buildings will be difficult to hide. The setting of villages and small settlements is a further sensitivity. Part of this area is accessible from an A class road, but the narrow roads might need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint.	High	The extensive settlement, the small size of many of the houses and farms, and the presence of clusters of sites of archaeological interest, make it difficult to find scope for this typology where it will not dominate the small size of the built features. The setting of villages and small settlements is a further sensitivity. Scope is therefore likely to be limited to less settled areas.	High-medium
Perceptual qualities	A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled	Although development could affect the sense of seclusion experienced	Medium-low	Although development could affect the sense of seclusion experienced	Low

	and frequented areas, for example the coast and moorland interior. However, this area is generally farmed, widely settled, with numerous roads and tracks, some large conifer forests and overhead lines.	in parts of this landscape, elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.		in parts of this landscape, elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.	
Visual amenity	<p>This landscape is highly visible from a network of small roads as well as the main route between Port Askaig to Bridgend.</p> <p>The low relief and openness in the west also increases inter-visibility. Elsewhere views may be in part limited by trees and knolls, although they are relatively small.</p> <p>The landscape is seen from across Islay, from coastal roads, accessible shorelines and settlements elsewhere in the island, and from a number of historic sites of interest.</p> <p>This landscape type forms the foreground to views of the Islay hills from elsewhere on the island, and there are a number of dramatic views to the Paps of Jura from the road linking Bridgend to Port Askaig. In addition, 'first' views of the sea, when arriving at either Bridgend or Port Askaig from the interior glen, are highly sensitive.</p>	<p>This typology would be visible from roads and settlement and could intrude on views of the coast and Paps of Jura. The height of this typology is unlikely to be significantly hidden by the low knolls and woodland</p> <p>Rising ground and the higher relief of the Moorland Plateau (8) could form a backdrop to turbines in some areas.</p> <p>This height of turbine would be very visible on more open moorland areas to the west of Gruinart.</p>	High-med	<p>This typology would be visible from roads and settlement and could intrude on views of the coast and Paps of Jura. The height of this typology is unlikely to be completely hidden by the low knolls and woodland, however there are likely to be increased opportunities to site this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from settlement and roads, or where views of the turbine is reduced to 'glimpses' or intermittent sightings.</p> <p>Rising ground and the higher relief of the Moorland Plateau (8) could form a backdrop to turbines in some areas.</p> <p>This smaller typology may be easier to site where it avoids intrusion into key views to and from significant features.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the more open landscape to the west of Gruinart remains visually sensitive.</p>	Medium
Landscape values	No landscape designations apply to this landscape.		Low		Low



Sensitive coastlines, here adjacent to Gruinart Bay, and long low relief seen in profile



This type is well settled, a farm here associated with distinct terraces



Areas of rough pasture, occasional small pools and wetland occur particularly at the transition with LCT 15.



The Paps of Jura seen from within this character type – views to the Paps are sensitive



Small farms and an irregular, low relief



A single turbine well related in terms of location and scale to the landform and building height

Landscape Character Type 16: Marginal Farmland Mosaic

**Landscape Character Type 16a: Small Island Marginal
Farmland Mosaic**

Landscape Character Type 16a: Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of Large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of Medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context There is often a strong contrast between the small scale, diverse landform and land cover of this landscape and the larger scale moorland of the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland (9a)</i>. This landscape is very inter-visible with the other landscape types on the small islands of Coll and Colonsay. The proximity of this landscape to the highly scenic and diverse <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> is a particular sensitivity.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types. The adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> would be particularly sensitive to turbines of this size sited in much of this landscape. Turbines of this size could also affect the setting of occasional more defined higher hills within the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland (9a)</i> lying close to this LCT, for example Beinn nan Gudairean on Colonsay or Ben Hough on Coll.</p>	High	<p>The limited extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on adjacent landscape types. The adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair (25)</i> would be particularly sensitive to turbines of this size sited in much of this landscape. Turbines of this size could also affect the setting of occasional more defined higher hills within the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland (9a)</i> lying close to this LCT, for example Beinn nan Gudairean on Colonsay or Ben Hough on Coll.</p>	High
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is low-lying and generally open. Occasional small rocky knolls break the expanse of flatter farmland into more contained areas and compact croft, farm buildings and houses further limit the scale of this landscape. Scale is increased at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland (9a)</i>.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would appear very large compared to the low relief rocky knolls, small enclosed pastures and buildings.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size would appear very large compared to the low relief rocky knolls, small enclosed pastures and buildings.</p>	High
<p>Landform A diverse landform, which ranges from loch-filled valleys, flat machair broken by rocky outcrops and occasional higher rocky hills and occasional distinctive steep rocky scarp-like edges at the boundary with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland (9a)</i> (near Ben Hough on Coll</p>	<p>This typology would detract from more pronounced hills such as Ben Feall on Coll and Beinn Oronsay, from the small, complex pattern of rocky knolls and steep scarp-like faces if sited on/nearby these features. More expansive areas of smoother landform at the transition with</p>	High-medium	<p>This typology would detract from more pronounced hills such as Ben Feall on Coll and Beinn Oronsay, from the small, complex pattern of rocky knolls and steep scarp-like faces if sited on/nearby these features. More expansive areas of smoother landform at the transition with</p>	High-medium

and on the SE edge of the Kilchattan to Kiloran valley on Colonsay). The coastline, where it occurs in this type, is rocky and indented.	the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) would be less sensitive.		the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) would be less sensitive.	
Land cover Vegetation cover is diverse comprising machair grassland at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on Coll. Small fields and wooded policies occur on Colonsay. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types. A series of small lochs fill the shallow valley on Colonsay and a lochan lies at the foot of Ben Hough on Coll.	Areas of machair and rare pockets of policy woodland would be sensitive to turbines of this size sited within or close-by these features. The setting of small lochs on both islands is an additional sensitivity. Rougher pasture and moorland at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) would be less sensitive.	High-medium	Areas of machair and policy woodland would be sensitive to turbines of this size sited within or close-by these features. The setting of small lochs on both islands is an additional sensitivity. Rougher pasture and moorland at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) would be less sensitive.	High-medium
Settlement This landscape accommodates much of the settlement on these small islands. Small crofts, farms and houses are linked by single track roads. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against green pastures. This landscape also has a range of archaeological sites including forts located on small hills and chapels and the designed landscape of Colonsay House. Existing single turbines are present on both islands with those on Coll being particularly dense and cluttered.	The density and small size of buildings and the presence of sites of archaeological interest, increase sensitivity to turbines of this size. This size of turbine could have cumulative effects with existing small turbines sited in this landscape.	High	The density and small size of buildings and the presence of sites of archaeological interest, increase sensitivity to turbines of this size. This size of turbine could have cumulative effects with existing small turbines sited in this landscape.	High
Perceptual qualities Although there is a sense of remoteness associated with these islands, the relatively well-settled character of this	This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with these islands although there is likely to be little	Medium	This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with these islands although there is likely to be little	Medium

landscape limits any perception of wildness.	impact on qualities of wildness in this more settled landscape.		impact on qualities of wildness in this more settled landscape.	
Visual amenity This landscape is highly visible from settlement and from the small roads around these islands. There are also views on the approach to these islands by ferry.	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from roads and settlement. There would also be views of turbines from beaches and coastal paths and, if located on the eastern parts of these islands, from ferries.	High	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from roads and settlement. There would also be views of turbines from beaches and coastal paths and, if located on the eastern parts of this landscape, from the ferry.	High
Landscape values This landscape character type is not covered by scenic designations. Colonsay House GDL is Inventory listed.	Although the setting of the Colonsay House GDL is sensitive there is scope to locate turbines elsewhere to minimise effects.	High-medium to Low	Although the setting of the Colonsay House GDL is sensitive there is scope to locate turbines elsewhere to minimise effects.	High-medium to Low

Landscape Character Type 16a: Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context There is often a strong contrast between the small scale, diverse landform and land cover of this landscape and the larger scale moorland of the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a). This landscape is very inter-visible with the other landscape types on the small islands of Coll and Colonsay. The proximity of this landscape to the highly scenic and diverse <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) is a particular sensitivity.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this type limits scope to accommodate this size of turbine without it impacting on adjacent landscape types.</p>	High	<p>There is some increased scope to accommodate smaller turbines where this character type abuts the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a), where landscape scale increases. <i>The Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) would remain sensitive to even small turbines sited on knolls and small hills which immediately backdrop these coastal areas.</p>	High-Medium
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is low-lying and generally open. Occasional small rocky knolls break the expanse of flatter farmland into more contained areas and compact croft, farm buildings and houses further limit the scale of this landscape. Scale is increased at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a).</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would appear overly large compared to the low relief rocky knolls, small enclosed pastures and buildings.</p>	High	<p>This size of turbine would also dominate smaller scale features but could relate to the increased scale of larger pastures and less densely settled areas at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a).</p>	High-Medium
<p>Landform A diverse landform, which ranges from loch-filled valleys, flat machair broken by rocky outcrops and occasional higher rocky hills and occasional distinctive steep rocky scarp-like edges at the boundary with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) (near Ben</p>	<p>This typology would detract from more pronounced hills such as Ben Feall on Coll and Beinn Oransay, from the small, complex pattern of rocky knolls and scarp-like edges. More expansive areas of smoother landform at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a) would be less sensitive.</p>	High-medium	<p>The small rocky knolls remain sensitive to development although there is increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology within broader and less complex valleys and on gentle hill slopes at the transition with the simpler upland character type <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a).</p>	Medium

<p>Hough on Coll and on the SE edge of the Kilchattan to Kiloran valley on Colonsay). The coastline, where it occurs in this type, is rocky and indented.</p>				
<p>Land cover Vegetation cover is diverse comprising machair grassland at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on Coll. Small fields and wooded policies occur on Colonsay. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types. A series of small lochs fill the shallow valley on Colonsay and a lochan lies at the foot of Ben Hough on Coll.</p>	<p>Areas of machair, rare pockets of policy woodland and lochs would be sensitive to turbines sited within/close-by. There is increased scope to site this typology (which is most likely to comprise single or very small groups of turbines) within pastures and moorland at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a).</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Areas of machair and rare pockets of policy woodland remain sensitive to turbines sited within or close-by these features. There is increased scope to site this typology (which is most likely to comprise single or very small groups of turbines) within pastures and moorland at the transition with the <i>Small Island Rocky Moorland</i> (9a).</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Settlement This landscape accommodates much of the settlement on these small islands. Small crofts, farms and houses are linked by single track roads. The buildings are a key feature, creating a pattern of often white farms and houses which stand out against green pastures. This landscape also has a range of archaeological sites including forts located on small hills and chapels and the designed landscape of Colonsay House. Existing turbines are present on both islands with those on Coll being particularly dense and cluttered.</p>	<p>The density and small size of buildings and the presence of sites of archaeological interest increase sensitivity to turbines of this size. This typology would incur cumulative effects with small turbines on Coll. Although larger than the Colonsay House turbine (36.6m) there is scope for cumulative effects to be minimised by careful siting.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>While this typology could dominate the small size of buildings and affect the setting of archaeological features if sited close-by, there is increased scope to locate these small turbines to minimise effects. This typology could generally fit with the scale of existing turbines although careful siting would be needed on Coll due to the density and extent of existing wind turbines.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>
<p>Perceptual qualities Although there is a sense of remoteness associated with these</p>	<p>This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with these islands although there is likely to be little</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>There is likely to be a reduced effect on perceptual qualities in this more settled landscape.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

islands, the relatively well-settled character of this landscape limits any perception of wildness.	impact on qualities of wildness in this more settled landscape.			
Visual amenity This landscape is highly visible from settlement and from the small roads around these islands. There are also views on the approach to these islands by ferry.	Turbines of this size would be highly visible from roads and settlement. There may also be views of turbines from beaches and coastal paths and, if located on the eastern parts of these islands, from ferries.	High	Although likely to be visible from roads and settlement, turbines of this size could be sited to minimise intrusion from coastal areas.	High-medium
Landscape values This landscape character type is not covered by scenic designations. Colonsay House GDL is Inventory listed.	Although the setting of the Colonsay House GDL is sensitive there is scope to locate turbines elsewhere to minimise effects.	High-medium to Low	The setting of the Colonsay House GDL is sensitive even to turbines of this size (the existing 36.6m high turbine already impacts to some degree on the GDL and this could be exacerbated with additional development). Sensitivity across the majority of this landscape however.	High-medium to Low



This landscape forms a narrow fringe of settled farmland on the edge of the Sand Dunes and Machair LCT 25



Small lochan at the edge of the Small Island Rocky Moorland 9a on Coll



Small turbines associated with farms are a common feature within this landscape on Coll



A small turbine located on rough grassland on Colonsay



Small areas of machair pasture broken by rocky knolls at the transition with LCT 25



Small houses and farms and the low relief of this landscape limit the scale of the landscape

Landscape Character Type 16a: Small Island Marginal Farmland Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 17: Mull Basalt Lowlands

Landscape Character Type 17: Mull Basalt Lowlands – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The <i>Mull Basalt Lowlands</i> character type comprises a narrow coastal fringe along the Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain although it is more extensive in the north-west of Mull. This landscape adjoins the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) where its small scale settled character provides a particularly strong contrast with the rugged high mountains seen at the head of Loch Scridain, Glen Forsa and the Lochbuie area. The contrast with the ' <i>High Stepped Basalt</i> ' (12) is generally less pronounced due to the similarities of scale, landform and settlement pattern at the transition of the two although the Carsaig coastal area is notably dramatic.	Sensitivity to this typology is increased where this landscape forms the foreground to the more dramatic steep slopes and peaks of the <i>High Tops</i> (2) and where the juxtaposition of the two results in a pronounced scenic contrast. Sensitivity is reduced where this character type merges imperceptibility with the more expansive and generally less settled <i>High Stepped Basalt</i> (12) with the exception of the Carsaig area where high cliffs seen in conjunction with the small settled bay is particularly dramatic.	High-medium	Sensitivity to this typology is increased where this landscape forms the foreground to the more dramatic steep slopes and peaks of the <i>High Tops</i> (2) and where the juxtaposition of the two results in a pronounced scenic contrast. Sensitivity is reduced where this character type merges more imperceptibility with the more expansive and generally less settled <i>High Stepped Basalt</i> (12) with the exception of the Carsaig area. There may be greater opportunities to accommodate this smaller typology to minimise impacts on adjoining landscapes, in areas where the Mull High Tops (2a) are less dramatic.	High-medium
Scale	The more knolly and irregular narrow coastal fringes of this character type have a small scale, accentuated by woodlands and settlement. Scale increases however where this character type extends further inland and at the transition with the <i>High Stepped Basalt</i> (12) and the <i>Mull High Tops</i> (2a). In these inland areas, broad ridges and hills rise to over 200m and the landscape is also less settled.	This typology would overwhelm the scale of complex coastal landforms, landcover features and settlement. It would also dominate the relatively low relief of inland hills and ridges.	High	This typology would overwhelm the scale of complex coastal landforms, landcover features and settlement. It would also dominate the relatively low relief of inland hills and ridges.	High

Landform	Landform is particularly complex along the north-west coast between Glengorm Castle and Calgary Bay with small rocky knolls, narrow valleys and a deeply indented, fragmented coastal edge. The Carsaig area and the southern coast of the Broilass area also features dramatic steep slopes and raised beaches. The Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain coastal edge is also complex and indented in places although occasional low-lying platforms occur in the Loch Don and Artun area and there are also small flat alluvial plains at the heads of Glen Forsa and Lochbuie. This landscape is generally less complex inland with parallel ridges with a distinct SE/NW alignment occasionally featuring stepped profiles with banded rocky outcrops and flattened tops but also broader, smoother slopes, ridges and terraces (these often extensively forested).	This typology would detract from the more complex coastal landform found to the north-west, dramatic cliffs and raised beaches on the southern coast and the indented diverse coastal edge found intermittently along Loch Scridain and the Sound of Mull. Gentler hill slopes, less patterned by rocky outcrops, away from the coast at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2a) would be less sensitive.	High-medium	This typology would detract from the more complex coastal landform found to the north-west, dramatic cliffs and raised beaches on the southern coast and the indented diverse coastal edge found along Loch Scridain and intermittently along parts of the Sound of Mull. Sensitivity would be reduced for the smaller turbines of this typology at the transition with the less complex landform of the Mull Craggy Upland (7e) found in the Loch Don area, on broader coastal platforms and on gentler hill slopes, less patterned by rocky outcrops, away from the coast at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2a).	High-medium
Landcover	Although small areas of enclosed pasture occur close to settlement and within the alluvial fans, more extensive grazing, patterned by bracken on steeper slopes and knolls, is the predominant land cover. Broadleaved woodlands occur along the more sheltered coastal areas while coniferous forest tends to cover gentler hill slopes, occasionally extending down to the coast in places. Small	Smooth pastures within the alluvial fan areas of Lochbuie and Glen Forsa are a distinctive feature and would be sensitive particularly to multiple turbines of this typology. Turbines of this size could also detract from designed landscape features and landmark lochs if sited nearby. Rough grazing, moorland and coniferous forestry are less sensitive however.	Medium	Smooth pastures within the alluvial fan areas of Lochbuie and Glen Forsa are a distinctive feature and would be sensitive particularly to multiple turbines of this typology. Turbines of this size could also detract from designed landscape features and landmark lochs if sited nearby. Rough grazing, moorland and coniferous forestry are less sensitive however.	Medium

	lochs sit in hollows created by the parallel ridges and these often form landmark features. The designed landscape of Torosay Castle is a feature in the Loch Don area.				
Built environment	Settlement is concentrated along the more sheltered coastal fringes along the Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain. The more exposed and craggy north-west coast is less settled. This landscape is important in providing the immediate setting to a number of settlements including the distinctive scenic natural harbour of Tobermory. There are many archaeological and historic features close to the coast including Torosay, Duart and Glengorm castles.	This typology would overwhelm small farms, individual houses and small settlements, significantly affecting their setting and the scale of generally small buildings. The presence of archaeological and historic landmark features also increases sensitivity. In areas of more sparse settlement there may be opportunities for this typology.	High	There is some limited scope to site this typology (and particularly single and small groups of turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise intrusion on the setting of settlement and on archaeological and historic landmark features.	High-medium
Perceptual qualities	The less accessible and sparsely settled coastal area to the north-west and the interior areas away from main roads and settlement, for example Loch Frisa, can feel secluded, but generally the fringes of the Sound of Mull and the coast of Loch Scridain are well-settled and forestry limits the sense of naturalness in places.	Taller turbines could intrude on more remote and undeveloped coastal areas if poorly sited although the majority of this landscape does not have a pronounced sense of wildness.	Medium	Taller turbines could intrude on more remote and undeveloped coastal areas if poorly sited although the majority of this landscape does not have a pronounced sense of wildness.	Medium
Visual amenity	The coastal edge of this character type frames views up and down the length of the Sound of Mull from the A848 focusing north-west to Ben Hiant on Ardnamurchan and south-east to the high peaks of the mainland. Views inland from the A848 between	This typology would be very visible from roads, settlement and the sea. Prominent skylines above settlements, for example Craignure and Tobermory would be sensitive to any intrusion. This typology would intrude on key views to the more dramatic peaks of the <i>Mull High Tops</i>	High	This typology would be very visible from roads, settlement and the sea. Prominent skylines above settlements, for example Craignure and Tobermory would be sensitive to any intrusion. This typology would intrude on key views to the more dramatic peaks of the <i>Mull</i>	High

	<p>Craignure and Tobermory are often restricted by rising landform and forestry however. Key views from this area also occur from the A849 along and across Loch Scridain to the sheer cliffs of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the mountains of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a).</p> <p>This character type is highly visible from ferries and other watercraft in the Sound of Mull and from Movern and Ardnamurchan. The Lochbuie, Glengorm and Loch Frisa areas are generally less visible from main roads and settlement although visible from promoted recreational walking and cycling routes.</p>	<p>(2a) seen from the Loch Don area, at the head of Loch Scridain and Glen Forsa. It could also intrude on views from Loch na Keal.</p>		<p><i>High Tops</i> (2a) seen from the Loch Don area, at the head of Loch Scridain and Glen Forsa. It could also intrude on views from Loch na Keal.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ covers the fringes of Loch Scridain, the Lochbuie area and an area to the east of Gruline although the majority of this character type is not designated. Special landscape qualities in these areas are likely to be the scenic juxtaposition of these settled low-lying coastal landscapes with the rugged mountainous core of the island and (in the case of the Gruline area) the wider estate policies and more rugged terrain found close to Loch Ba.</p> <p>Torosay Castle is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the designated area on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain would impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and to the Ardmeanach Peninsula. They could also detract from the juxtaposition between the low-lying settled coast found in the Lochbuie and Carsaig areas and the rugged undeveloped mountains and high cliffs. This typology could also affect policy features in the Gruline area and the wider setting to the Loch na Keal NSA. The setting and views to and from Torosay Castle and its designed landscape would also be</p>	High-medium to low	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the designated area on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain would impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and to the Ardmeanach Peninsula. They could also detract from the juxtaposition between the low-lying settled coast found in the Lochbuie and Carsaig areas and the rugged undeveloped mountains and high cliffs. This typology could also affect policy features in the Gruline area and the wider setting to the Loch na Keal NSA. The setting and views to and from Torosay Castle and its designed landscape would</p>	High-medium to low

	<p>Parts of this landscape lie close to the Loch na Keal NSA and the Ben More, Mull WLA.</p>	<p>sensitive to this typology. Some more visually contained valleys with a less distinctive landform lying within the APQ in the Broilass area would be less sensitive. Turbines of this size could affect the wider setting of the WLA.</p>	<p>also be sensitive to this typology. Some more visually contained valleys with a less distinctive landform lying within the APQ in the Broilass area would be less sensitive. Turbines of this size could affect the wider setting of the WLA.</p>	
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Landscape Character Type 17: Mull Basalt Lowlands – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The Mull Basalt Lowlands character type comprises a narrow coastal fringe along the Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain although it is more extensive in the north-west of Mull. This landscape adjoins the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) where its small scale settled character provides a particularly strong contrast with the rugged high mountains seen at the head of Loch Scridain, Glen Forsa and the Lochbuie area. The contrast with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) is generally less pronounced due to the similarities of scale, landform and settlement pattern at the transition of the two although the Carsaig area is notably dramatic.	Sensitivity to this typology is increased where this landscape forms the foreground to the more dramatic steep slopes and peaks of the 'High Tops' (2) and where the juxtaposition of the two results in a pronounced scenic contrast. Sensitivity is reduced where this character type merges more imperceptibly with the more expansive and generally less settled 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) with the exception of the Carsaig area where high cliffs seen in conjunction with the small settled bay is particularly dramatic.	High-med	Sensitivity to this typology is increased where this landscape forms the foreground to the more dramatic steep slopes and peaks of the 'High Tops' (2) and where the juxtaposition of the two results in a pronounced scenic contrast. Sensitivity is reduced where this character type merges more imperceptibly with the more expansive and generally less settled 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) with the exception of the Carsaig area. There may be greater opportunities to accommodate this smaller typology to minimise impacts on adjoining landscapes, in areas where the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) are less dramatic.	Medium
Scale and openness	The more knolly and irregular narrow coastal fringes of this character type have a small scale, accentuated by woodlands and settlement. Scale increases however where this character type extends further inland and at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'Mull High Tops' (2a). In these inland areas, broad ridges and hills rise to over	This typology would dominate the scale of coastal fringes particularly where landform is complex and offers strong containment and/or where settlement, enclosed fields and small woodlands would be dominated by turbines of this size. More extensive, less settled areas at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2) would be less sensitive to this typology.	High-med	This typology would also dominate the scale of more complex/settled coastal fringes but could better relate to the scale of more extensive, less settled areas at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2). There is increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology in these transitional areas to minimise	Medium

	200m and the landscape is also less settled.			impacts on more settled smaller scale coastal fringes.	
Landform	Landform is particularly complex along the north-west coast between Glengorm Castle and Calgary Bay with small rocky knolls, narrow valleys and a deeply indented, fragmented coastal edge. The Carsaig area and the southern coast of the Brolass area also features dramatic steep slopes and raised beaches. The Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain coastal edge is also complex and indented in places although occasional low-lying platforms occur in the Loch Don and Artun area and there are also small flat alluvial plains at the heads of Glen Forsa and Lochbuie. This landscape is generally less complex inland with parallel ridges with a distinct SE/NW alignment occasionally featuring stepped profiles with banded rocky outcrops and flattened tops but also broader, smoother slopes, ridges and terraces (these often extensively forested).	This typology would detract from the more complex coastal landform found to the north-west, dramatic cliffs and raised beaches on the southern coast and the indented diverse coastal edge found intermittently along Loch Scridain and the Sound of Mull. Gentler hill slopes, less patterned by rocky outcrops, away from the coast at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2a) would be less sensitive.	High-med	This typology would detract from the more complex coastal landform found to the north-west, dramatic cliffs and raised beaches on the southern coast and the indented diverse coastal edge found along Loch Scridain and intermittently along parts of the Sound of Mull. Sensitivity would be reduced for the smaller turbines of this typology at the transition with the less complex landform of the Mull Craggy Upland (7e) found in the Loch Don area, on broader coastal platforms and on gentler hill slopes, less patterned by rocky outcrops, away from the coast at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) and the 'High Tops' (2a).	Medium
Landcover	Although small areas of enclosed pasture occur close to settlement and within the alluvial fans, more extensive grazing, patterned by bracken on steeper slopes and knolls, is the predominant land cover. Broadleaved woodlands occur along the more sheltered coastal areas while	Smooth pastures within the alluvial fan areas of Lochbuie and Glen Forsa are a distinctive feature and would be sensitive particularly to multiple turbines of this typology. Turbines of this size could also detract from designed landscape features and landmark lochs if sited	Medium	Smooth pastures within the alluvial fan areas of Lochbuie and Glen Forsa are a distinctive feature and would be sensitive particularly to multiple turbines of this typology. Turbines of this size could also detract from designed landscape features and landmark lochs if sited	Medium

	coniferous forest tends to cover gentler hill slopes, occasionally extending down to the coast in places. Small lochs sit in hollows created by the parallel ridges and these often form landmark features. The designed landscape of Torosay Castle is a feature in the Loch Don area.	nearby. Rough grazing, moorland and coniferous forestry are less sensitive however.		nearby. Rough grazing, moorland and coniferous forestry are less sensitive however.	
Built environment	Settlement is concentrated along the more sheltered coastal fringes along the Sound of Mull and Loch Scridain. The more exposed and craggy north-west coast is less settled. This landscape is important in providing the immediate setting to a number of settlements including the distinctive scenic natural harbour of Tobermory. There are many archaeological and historic features close to the coast including Torosay, Duart and Glengorm castles.	This typology could overwhelm small farms, individual houses and small settlements, affecting their setting and the scale of generally small buildings. The presence of archaeological and historic landmark features also increases sensitivity. In areas of more sparse settlement there may be opportunities for this typology.	Medium	There is increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid significant intrusion on the setting of settlement and on archaeological and historic landmark features.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	The less accessible and sparsely settled coastal area to the north-west and the interior areas away from main roads and settlement, for example Loch Frisa, can feel secluded, but generally the fringes of the Sound of Mull and the coast of Loch Scridain are well-settled and forestry limits the sense of naturalness in places.	Taller turbines could intrude on more remote and undeveloped coastal areas if poorly sited although the majority of this landscape does not have a pronounced sense of wildness.	Medium	There is likely to be greater scope to accommodate this smaller typology to avoid impacts on more sensitive coastal areas.	Medium-low
Visual amenity	The coastal edge of this character type frames views up and down the length of the Sound of Mull from the A848 focusing north-west to Ben Hiant on	This typology would be very visible from roads and from the sea if located on open coastal areas. Extensive forestry and rising hill slopes could provide a potential	High-med	There is likely to be increased scope to site this smaller typology to avoid significant intrusion on key views although more settled and	Medium

	<p>Ardnamurchan and south-east to the high peaks of the mainland. Views inland from the A848 between Craignure and Tobermory are often restricted by rising landform and forestry however. Key views from this area also occur from the A849 along and across Loch Scridain to the sheer cliffs of the Ardmeanach Peninsula and the mountains of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a).</p> <p>This character type is highly visible from ferries and other watercraft in the Sound of Mull and from Movern and Ardnamurchan. The Lochbuie, Glengorm and Loch Frisa areas are generally less visible from main roads and settlement although visible from promoted recreational walking and cycling routes.</p>	<p>backdrop for this development if sited inland at the transition with the 'High Stepped Basalt' (12) although prominent skylines above settlements, for example Craignure and Tobermory would be sensitive. This typology could intrude on key views to the more dramatic peaks of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a) seen from the Loch Don area, at the head of Loch Scridain and Glen Forsa.</p>		<p>frequented coastal edges remain sensitive.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ covers the fringes of Loch Scridain, the Lochbuie area and an area to the east of Gruline although the majority of this character type is not designated. Special landscape qualities in these areas are likely to be the scenic juxtaposition of these settled low-lying coastal landscapes with the rugged mountainous core of the island and (in the case of the Gruline area) the wider estate policies and more rugged terrain found close to Loch Ba.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the designated area on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain could impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and to the Ardmeanach Peninsula. They could also detract from the juxtaposition between the low-lying settled coast found in the Lochbuie and Carsaig areas and the rugged undeveloped mountains and high cliffs. This typology could also affect policy features in the Gruline area and the wider setting to the Loch na</p>	High-med to low	<p>Turbines of this size sited within the designated area on the coastal fringes of Loch Scridain could impact on views to the mountainous core seen at the head of the loch and to the Ardmeanach Peninsula. While they could have similar effects to larger turbines in the Lochbuie, Carsaig and Gruline areas there may be more scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise intrusion. The setting and views to and from Torosay Castle and its designed</p>	Medium to low

	<p>Torosay Castle is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.</p> <p>Parts of this landscape lie close to the Loch na Keal NSA and the Ben More, Mull WLA.</p>	<p>Keal NSA. The setting and views to and from Torosay Castle and its designed landscape would also be sensitive to this typology. Some more visually contained valleys with a less distinctive landform lying within the APQ in the Brolass area would be less sensitive.</p> <p>Turbines sited close to the WLA could adversely affect its setting and qualities.</p>		<p>landscape would also be sensitive to this typology. Some more visually contained valleys with a less distinctive landform lying within the APQ in the Brolass area would be less sensitive.</p> <p>Turbines sited close to the WLA could adversely affect its setting and qualities.</p>	
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Duart Castle forms a prominent landmark within this landscape in views from the Mull ferry. This landscape also forms the foreground to the Mull High Tops (2) seen in the backdrop to this view



The more complex and smaller scale landform found on the north-western coast of Mull also features a rich archaeology



Long and relatively smooth ridges extend inland from the coast and merge gradually with the High Stepped Basalt (12) in the Dervaig area.



Broader basins and gently undulating hill slopes with a less complex landform occur at the transition with the High Stepped Basalt (12)



The highly visible coastal edge of the Sound of Mull seen from the A848



Densely forested even hill slopes back the more intricate coastal edge of the Sound of Mull

Landscape Character Type 17: Mull Basalt Lowlands

Landscape Character Type 17a: Bute Basalt Lowlands

Landscape Character Type 17a: Bute Basalt Lowlands – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This character type occurs in a single very small area on Bute and is distinctive in terms of its craggy and rugged landform and strong contrast with the adjacent character types of the Bute Coastal Plain (19a) and Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates (13a). In a wider context this landscape forms part of the 'wilder' less developed western coast of Bute which strongly contrasts with the more densely settled north-eastern coast of the island and the mainland.	This typology (and particularly multiple turbines of this size) would diminish the rugged and largely undeveloped backdrop this landscape provides to the low-lying Coastal Plain (19a) and the well-managed lush pastures and woodlands of the Rolling Farmland with Estates (13a). The strong contrast this landscape presently provides to the more developed north-eastern coast of Bute and the mainland of North Ayrshire could be affected by this typology.	High	Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also diminish the strong contrast this landscape presently provides to adjacent character types and the more developed north-eastern coast of Bute and the mainland although there is more opportunity for turbines towards 20m height to be located so set down below skylines thus minimising adverse effects on wider scenic composition.	High-med
Scale and openness	This landscape has an intimate scale as small knolly hills, narrow valleys and some woodland provides strong containment. Relief is low with small hills and ridges rising to between 70-150m. Small farms and houses are principally located on the west coast of the point.	Turbines of this size would overwhelm the scale of small hills and ridges. They would also appear large in relation to occasional small buildings if sited close-by.	High	This typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band of 20m) would have a better scale relationship to landform and buildings.	High-med
Landform	This landscape forms a rugged basalt outcrop on the southern tip of Bute and has a very different geology to the remainder of the island. Low craggy parallel ridges are aligned SE/NW and cut by narrow valleys. The small hills of Suidhe Chatain and St Blanes Hill have steep slopes and prominent	This typology would detract from the distinctly rugged and complex craggy landform which is more pronounced in the south of this small area. Turbines of this size could however relate better to gentler hill slopes although these are relatively small in extent and large moving turbines	High-med	This typology would detract from distinctly rugged and complex craggy landform although there may be increased scope for these smaller turbines to be associated with gentler hill slopes and minimise impacts on the appreciation of more complex	Medium

	conical tops. The rocky coastline is patterned by small craggy knolls and low headlands edged by cliffs and with some small bays backed by small pockets of flatter ground on the west coast. Small basins of wet land lie between knolls and ridges and there are some smoother lower slopes below rocky ridge tops to the north.	could affect the appreciation of more complex landform seen in views from adjacent character types to the north.		landform features seen from the wider area.	
Land cover	Open grassy and heather moorland and bog with traces of birch woodland in valleys and some small coniferous plantations. Small fenced and walled pastures close to farms and settlement.	Turbines and infrastructure could detract from more intricate vegetation cover and the small fields of smooth lush pasture which contrast with the coarser texture of woodland and moorland on rockier slopes. There is however scope to avoid these impacts by siting turbines in more extensive areas of rough grazing.	Medium	Turbines and infrastructure could detract from more intricate vegetation cover and the small fields of smooth lush pasture which contrast with the coarser texture of woodland and moorland on rockier slopes. There is however scope to avoid these impacts by siting turbines in more extensive areas of rough grazing.	Medium
Built environment	This is a sparsely settled landscape with small farms and houses tucked into folds and sitting at the foot of small knolls within the less steep western slopes on Bute. There is a rich archaeology with the extensive ruins of St Blane's Church forming a well-visited attraction. This landscape also forms the immediate setting for Kilchattan on Bute. A mast is located on the northern slopes.	Turbines of this size sited on prominent hill tops or ridges forming the backdrop to settlement could have a significant effect on their setting. The setting of St Blanes Church would also be sensitive to this typology.	High-med	Smaller turbines could have less of an impact on the setting of small buildings and on archaeological features provided they were set back from these features and avoided prominent hill tops and ridges.	Medium
Perceptual qualities	There is a distinct natural and quality to this rugged coastal landscape. It can also feel secluded away from settlement and a strong sense of	The sense of naturalness, seclusion and history associated with this landscape could be compromised by this typology.	High	The sense of naturalness, seclusion and history associated with this landscape could be compromised by this typology although there may be more scope	High-med

	history is associated with St Blane's Church.			to site smaller turbines to minimise impacts on less settled coastal areas and on the more sensitive western part of this landscape where archaeological features are more evident.	
Visual amenity	This is a sparsely settled landscape with few roads. The West Island Way long distance route on Bute starts from this area and St Blanes Church is a popular visitor destination. There are views from the A844 and B881 to this character type where it forms a distinctive knolly backdrop to the 'Coastal Plain' (19a) seen from the promoted viewpoint above Scalpsie Bay. An existing telecomm mast is a prominent feature on the skyline above the settlement of Kilchattan in these views. The western side of this landscape offers spectacular views over the Sound of Bute to Arran. This landscape forms the backdrop	Turbines of this size would be likely to be visible in close proximity from the West Island Way which is aligned on higher ridges and hill tops and potentially also from St Blanes Church. Settlement within this landscape is generally set low and may benefit from a degree of visual containment. Turbines set between the minor road and west coast would intrude on views to Arran. This landscape is prominent in views to the north on Bute and is also seen from the west coast of Great Cumbrae. Turbines of this size visible on the skyline of these small hills and ridges would be prominent in these views.	High	There may be increased scope to avoid intrusion on prominent skylines by siting turbines towards the lower height band of this typology <25m on lower hill slopes to benefit from a backdrop of rising ground. Views from St Blanes Church and from the west coast of this landscape to Arran remain sensitive however.	High-med
Landscape values	All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran but also the diversity of landscapes across Bute of which this distinctively rugged and craggy 'butt' is particularly unusual.	This typology could intrude on views to Arran if poorly sited. It could also diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped rugged coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity.	High-med	This typology could also intrude on views to Arran if poorly sited. It could also diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped rugged coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity although smaller turbines would have less of an effect if carefully sited to minimise intrusion.	Medium



Low craggy parallel ridges with neat farms tucked-in at the foot of lower slopes



Small pastures interspersed with rocky knolls



The remains of St Blane's church located in an elevated position within the small hills of this landscape.



Distant views of this landscape from the A844 where it forms part of the wider scenic west coast of Bute.



An irregular small-scale landform with exposed rock and occasional lochans



Dramatic views of Arran from the west coast of this landscape

Landscape Character Type 17a: Bute Basalt Lowlands

Landscape Character Type 18: Lowland Ridges and Moss

Landscape Character Type 18: Lowland Ridges and Moss – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (80m-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (50m-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape comprises areas of flat to gently undulating moss and farmed and settled coastal fringes against Loch Creran, the Lynn of Lorn and Loch Etive. The southern areas are backed by the densely forested slopes of the 'High Tops' (2). The complex steeper and more dramatic slopes of the 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) backdrop the northern areas of this character type. This landscape is also seen in a wider seascape composition where it forms a low foreground to views to the more scenic uplands and distinctive complex and small scale parallel ridges and fragmented coastal edge and islands of the Lynn of Lorn NSA.	The very limited and often narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale landscape of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. It would also impact on the appreciation of the 'High Tops' (2) and the 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) particularly in the case of the latter, where containing hill slopes are steep and rugged and provide a strong scenic contrast with this character type.	High	The very limited and often narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale landscape of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. It would also impact on the appreciation of the 'High Tops' (2) and the 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) particularly in the case of the latter, where containing hill slopes are steep and rugged and provide a strong scenic contrast with this character type.	High
Scale and openness	This landscape is very limited in extent. The Moss of Achnacree has an open character although coniferous plantations contains views and limits openness elsewhere. The well-settled character of this landscape reduces scale with houses and woodlands providing ready scale references.	Turbines of this size would dominate the limited extent of this landscape, particularly where it forms a narrow coastal strip. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of buildings and woodlands.	High	Turbines of this size would dominate the limited extent of this landscape, particularly where it forms a narrow coastal strip. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of buildings and woodlands.	High
Landform	This landscape forms a flat to very gently undulating plain or coastal strip but with more undulating landform occurring at the transition with the	Turbines could relate to the predominantly simple flat to gently undulating landform of this landscape.	Medium	Turbines could relate to the predominantly simple flat to gently undulating landform of this landscape.	Medium

	more complex parallel ridges of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. The coastal edge comprises a mix of narrow sand and shingle beaches with subtle promontories and indentations.				
Land cover	Narrow strips of fenced pasture occur on the coastal fringes and are often edged by angular coniferous plantations. The expanse of heather and patchy scrub birch woodland on the Moss of Achnacree forms a striking contrast with the settled and farmed areas fringing it. Pockets of wetland, small lochans and scrub also occur in places.	Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology.	Medium	Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology.	Medium
Built environment	The small settlement of Benderloch is located in this character type. Small crofts, houses, caravan and chalet parks are located on the coastal fringes of these areas. Larger buildings and some industrial and visitor facilities are concentrated in the Loch Creran area. A number of archaeological features occur in the Moss of Achnacree area and some historic buildings and remnant designed landscape features are located in the Barcaldine area.	This typology would affect the scale and setting of buildings, settlements, archaeological and historic features. It could also exacerbate the clutter of disparate built features characteristic of parts of this landscape.	High	This typology would affect the scale and setting of small buildings, settlements, archaeological and historic features. It could also exacerbate the clutter of disparate built features characteristic of parts of this landscape.	High
Perceptual qualities	Although the settled fringes of this landscape are managed and developed (and also include a number of industrial and commercial features) the Moss of Achnacree and small areas of remnant moss, scrub and wetland have a more natural character.	This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas.	Medium	This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas.	Medium

Visual amenity	The A828 Tourist Route is aligned within this character type and provides open and close views of these landscapes. This is also a well-settled area with houses fringing coastal edges and featuring scenic views across water to dramatic mountainous backdrops. Key views include those from the A828 across Loch Creran to the dramatic 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) and the sheer-sided 'High Tops' (2) at the head of the upper loch. Views across the Moss of Achnacree are also dramatic (although partially screened by vegetation from the A828) focusing on Ben Cruachan. There are also views from the A828 and from minor roads and settlement to the diverse scenery of the Lynn of Lorn NSA.	Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities would also be affected.	High	Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities would also be affected.	High
Landscape values	An APQ covers the two northern areas of this character type only. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to relate to the wider setting and views to the Lynn of Lorn NSA. This area also lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn NSA with relevant special qualities likely to be the ' <i>Small scale low-lying landscape with a vast highland backdrop</i> '	Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ would significantly intrude on views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected.	High-med to Low	Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ would significantly intrude on views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected.	High-med to Low

Landscape Character Type 18: Lowland Ridges and Moss – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape comprises areas of flat to gently undulating moss and farmed and settled coastal fringes against Loch Creran, the Lynn of Lorn and Loch Etive. The southern areas are backed by the densely forested slopes of the 'High Tops' (2). The complex steeper and more dramatic slopes of the 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) backdrop the northern areas of this character type. This landscape is also seen in a wider seascape composition where it forms a low foreground to views to the more scenic uplands and distinctive complex and small scale parallel ridges and fragmented coastal edge and islands of the Lynn of Lorn NSA.	The very limited and often narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale landscape of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. Turbines of this size would have less of an impact on the appreciation of the 'High Tops' (2) and the 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d).	High-med	Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also detract from the small scale parallel ridges of the Lynn of Lorn NSA although, in general, carefully sited smaller turbines within this typology would be less likely to have a significant effect on wider landscape context.	Medium
Scale and openness	This landscape is very limited in extent. The Moss of Achnacree has an open character although coniferous plantations contains views and limits openness elsewhere. The well-settled character of this landscape reduces scale with houses and woodlands providing ready scale references.	Turbines of this size would dominate the limited extent of this landscape, particularly where it forms a narrow coastal strip. They would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and woodlands although turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have less of an effect on scale if sited at the transition with the sparsely settled and larger scale uplands.	High-med	Turbines of this size could also dominate the scale of narrower coastal strips but in general would have a better scale relationship to the size of buildings.	Medium
Landform	This landscape forms a flat to very gently undulating plain or coastal strip	Turbines could relate to the predominantly simple flat to gently	Medium-low	Turbines could relate to the predominantly simple flat to gently	Medium-low

	but with more undulating landform occurring at the transition with the more complex parallel ridges of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. The coastal edge comprises a mix of narrow sand and shingle beaches with subtle promontories and indentations.	undulating landform of this landscape with increased scope for siting multiple turbines of this size.		undulating landform of this landscape with increased scope for siting multiple turbines of this size.	
Land cover	Narrow strips of fenced pasture occur on the coastal fringes and are often edged by angular coniferous plantations. The expanse of heather and patchy scrub birch woodland on the Moss of Achnacree forms a striking contrast with the settled and farmed areas fringing it. Pockets of wetland, small lochans and scrub also occur in places.	Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology.	Medium	Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology.	Medium
Built environment	The small settlement of Benderloch is located in this character type. Small crofts, houses, caravan and chalet parks are located on the coastal fringes of these areas. Larger buildings and some industrial and visitor facilities are concentrated in the Loch Creran area. A number of archaeological features occur in the Moss of Achnacree area and some historic buildings and remnant designed landscape features are located in the Barcaldine area.	This typology could affect the scale and setting of small buildings, settlements, archaeological and historic features. It could also exacerbate the concentration of disparate built features characteristic of parts of this landscape. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have less if sited in less densely settled areas.	High-med	There are greater opportunities to locate this typology (and especially turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on settlement, archaeology and historic features.	Medium
Perceptual qualities	Although the settled fringes of this landscape are managed and developed (and also include a number of industrial and commercial features) the Moss of Achnacree and small	This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas.	Medium	This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas.	Medium

	areas of remnant moss, scrub and wetland have a more natural character.				
Visual amenity	The A828 Tourist Route is aligned within this character type and provides open and close views of these landscapes. This is also a well-settled area with houses fringing coastal edges and featuring scenic views across water to dramatic mountainous backdrops. Key views include those from the A828 across Loch Creran to the dramatic 'Lorn Craggy Upland' (7d) and the steep-sided 'High Tops' (2) at the head of the upper loch. Views across the Moss of Achnacree are also dramatic (although partially screened by vegetation from the A828) focusing on Ben Cruachan. There are also views from the A828 and from minor roads and settlement to the diverse scenery of the Lynn of Lorn NSA.	Turbines of this size could impact on views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities could also be affected.	High	Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be likely to have less of an effect on views provided they were closely associated with buildings to minimise clutter across this open landscape.	High-med
Landscape values	An APQ covers the two northern areas of this character type only. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to relate to the wider setting and views to the Lynn of Lorn NSA. This area also lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn NSA with relevant special qualities likely to be the ' <i>Small scale low-lying landscape with a vast highland backdrop</i> '	Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ could still detract from views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected.	High-med to Low	Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be less likely to have significant effects on views to the NSA as they would sit well below the sensitive skyline of low wooded parallel ridges and would not dominate their height. Turbines sited on coastal edges would be prominent in key views.	Medium to Low



Although flat and open in places, this landscape forms a narrow coastal strip abutting the High Tops (2) and the Lynn of Lorn NSA and is highly visible from the A828



Crofts with small fences pastures fringe more open rough moss, scrub and occasional lochans.



This is a well-settled landscape where small houses and crofts, woodlands and pastures provide readily appreciable scale references



Long views to Ben Cruachan across the open Moss of Achnacree

Landscape Character Type 18: Lowland Ridges and Moss

Landscape Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms a flat and narrow strip of land on the west coast of Kintyre. It is backed by the low but pronounced scarp edge and hill slopes of the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) and the higher ground of the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6) to the east. This landscape is very small in extent and is rare in the wider context of Argyll and Bute. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with Gigha and the sea.	The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) which lies in close proximity. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and numerous archaeological features located in the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) would be particularly affected by turbines of this size.	High	The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) which lies in close proximity. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and numerous archaeological features located in the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) would be particularly affected by turbines of this size.	High
Scale and openness	A coastal plain with an open and exposed character heightened by the presence of the sea. It is not expansive in extent however forming a narrow strip of land contained by rising ground (or by a more distinct scarp edge to the south) in the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. Woodlands, farms and small settlements are sited within this landscape.	Turbines of this size would dominate the very narrow extent of this landscape and the scale of the low scarp which forms the eastern boundary of this character type. This typology would also dominate the scale of buildings and woodlands.	High	Turbines of this size would dominate the very narrow extent of this landscape and the scale of the low scarp which forms the eastern boundary of this character type. This typology would also dominate the scale of buildings and woodlands.	High
Landform	Generally a flat plain but with some subtly undulating landform occurring at the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in places. The coast forms a prominent point with long shingle and fine sand beaches. A low scarp	Turbines could relate to the simple flat to gently sloping landform but would detract from the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20).	High-med	Turbines could relate to the simple flat to gently sloping landform but would detract from the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) if sited nearby.	Medium

	separates the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) from this character type towards the south.				
Landcover pattern	Large fields of pasture have a generally weak enclosure pattern. Coniferous plantations and shelterbelts are prominent features and small areas of wet rough grazing land and scrub also occur in places.	The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.	Low	The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.	Low
Built environment	The small settlement of Tayinloan is located in this character type. Farms tend to be sited on higher ground to the east with a caravan park, jetty and ferry facilities located on the coast. A few larger sheds are conspicuous in this very open landscape. A number of archaeological and historic features occur at the boundary with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) to the east and include the church and estate settlement of Killean.	This typology would dominate the setting of small farms, individual houses, small settlements and archaeological/historic features.	High	This typology would dominate the setting of small farms, individual houses, small settlements and archaeological/historic features.	High
Perceptual qualities	This landscape is managed and while the coastal edge has some naturalistic qualities, the proximity of settlement and the A83 limit the degree of seclusion experienced.	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low
Visual amenity	The A83 is aligned along the eastern boundary of this character type and offers elevated views across this open landscape and over the sea to the low island of Gigha and dramatic distant skyline of Jura. There are views from the narrow road which provides access to the Gigha ferry and from settlement and beaches.	Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would significantly impact on views to Gigha and Jura. Cumulative effects could arise from Gigha and from the sea where turbines sited in this character type would be seen in conjunction with the Deucheran Hill wind farm within the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6).	High	Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would significantly impact on views to Gigha and Jura. Cumulative effects could arise from Gigha and from the sea where turbines sited in this character type would be seen in conjunction with the Deucheran Hill wind farm within	High

	<p>Settlement within the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) has elevated views over this landscape and it is also visible from the ferry and the island of Gigha. The existing turbines on Gigha (3x45m) are clearly visible from this landscape and from the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. Although the Deucharan Hill wind farm in the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6) is not visible from the 'Coastal Plain' (19) it is visible from Gigha and the ferry to this island.</p>	<p>Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and separation from this landscape.</p>		<p>the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6). Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and separation from this landscape.</p>	
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>An APQ covers this landscape and extends into the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). The special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the highly scenic views from this open stretch of coast to Gigha and Jura but also the diverse lower hill slopes of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type which features policy woodlands, farmland and a rich built heritage.</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes defined as the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type.</p>	<p>High-med</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes defined as the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type.</p>	<p>High-med</p>

Landscape Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms a flat and narrow strip of land on the west coast of Kintyre. It is backed by the low but pronounced scarp edge and hill slopes of the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) and the higher ground of the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6) to the east. This landscape is very small in extent and is rare in the wider context of Argyll and Bute. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with Gigha and the sea.	The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology could have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) which lies in close proximity to this landscape. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and archaeological features located in the 'Rocky Mosaic' would be particularly affected by turbines of this size although there may be some very limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology in the broader part of the 'Coastal Plain' away from more sensitive landscapes.	High-med	Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also affect the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. There is some limited scope for smaller turbines <25m to be sited close to existing buildings and larger trees/woodland away from the more sensitive 'Rocky Mosaic' (20).	Medium
Scale and openness	A coastal plain with an open and exposed character heightened by the presence of the sea. It is not expansive in extent however forming a narrow strip of land contained by the rising ground (or by a more distinct scarp edge in the south) of the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. Woodlands, farms and small settlements are sited within this landscape.	Turbines of this size would dominate the scale of this coastal plain which is particularly narrow to the south and the scale of the low scarp edge which forms the boundary with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). The more open and less settled seaward areas offer some very limited opportunity for this typology.	High-med	The more open seaward areas offer some opportunity for this typology, although turbines of this size could also dominate the scale of narrower coastal strips to the south. Turbines of this size would relate better to the size of occasional larger farm/storage buildings in this landscape.	Medium
Landform	Generally a flat plain but with some subtly undulating landform occurring at	There is some limited scope to site turbines of this size to minimise	Medium	There is increased scope to site turbines of this size to minimise	Med-low

	the transition with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) in places. The coast forms a prominent point with long shingle and fine sand beaches. A low scarp separates the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) from this character type towards the south.	effects on the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20).		effects on the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20).	
Land cover pattern	Large fields of pasture have a generally weak enclosure pattern. Coniferous plantations and shelterbelts are prominent features and small areas of wetter rough grazing and scrub also occur in places.	The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.	Low	The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.	Low
Built environment	The small settlement of Tayinloan is located in this character type. Farms tend to be sited on higher ground to the east with a caravan park, jetty and ferry facilities located on the coast. A few larger sheds are conspicuous in this very open landscape. A number of archaeological and historic features occur at the boundary with the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) to the east and include the church and estate settlement of Killean.	This typology would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features if poorly sited. There may be some very limited opportunities for this typology to be sited in more sparsely settled coastal areas where effects could be minimised.	High-med	The larger turbines of this typology could also detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features if sited nearby although there are greater opportunities to locate turbines <25m high to minimise such effects.	Medium
Perceptual qualities	This landscape is managed and while the coastal edge has some naturalistic qualities, the proximity of settlement and the A83 limit the degree of seclusion experienced.	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low	Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.	Low
Visual amenity	The A83 is aligned along the eastern boundary of this character type and offers elevated views across all of this open landscape and over the sea to the low island of Gigha and the dramatic distant skyline of Jura. There	Turbines of this size would be intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would detract from presently open views to Gigha and Jura. Multiple turbines would have a greater effect on these scenic views.	High	Turbines of this size would be visible in relative proximity from the A83 and settlement and would be likely to interrupt presently open views to Gigha and Jura. Multiple turbines would have a greater effect	High-med

	<p>are views from the narrow road which provides access to the Gigha ferry and from the settlement and beaches. Settlement within the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) has elevated views over this landscape and it is also visible from the Gigha ferry and the island of Gigha.</p> <p>The existing turbines on Gigha (3x45m) are clearly visible from this landscape and from the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. Although the Deucharan Hill wind farm in the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6) is not visible from the 'Coastal Plain' (19) it is visible from Gigha and the ferry to this island.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects experienced from Gigha and the sea where turbines could be inter-visible with the Deucharan Hill wind farm within the 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6) would be reduced to some degree. Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and location.</p>		<p>on these scenic views although there may be increased scope to site smaller turbines <25m close to buildings to minimise intrusion and clutter in the foreground of these views.</p> <p>A reduction in cumulative effects experienced from Gigha and from the sea (where the Deucharan Hill wind farm is visible check ZTV) may be associated with smaller turbines as a clear differential between scales of development would be more likely to be perceived. Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and location.</p>	
Landscape values	<p>An APQ covers this landscape and extends into the adjacent 'Rocky Mosaic' (20). The special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the highly scenic views from this open stretch of coast to Gigha and Jura but also the diverse lower hill slopes of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type which features policy woodlands, farmland and a rich built heritage.</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura. Turbines of this size could also detract from the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type although there may be some very limited opportunities to minimise such effects.</p>	High-med	<p>This typology could detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type if poorly sited by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes of the 'Rocky Mosaic' (20) character type. There are increased opportunities to minimise effects by siting smaller turbines <25m high close to existing buildings.</p>	Medium



This landscape provides an open and simple foreground to views of Gigha and to Jura from the A83



This landscape is contained by a predominantly wooded low scarp edge, forming a defined boundary to the Rocky Mosaic (20) which extends onto lower hill slopes inland.



Although open and flat, this landscape is very limited in extent and highly visible from the A83



The presence of settlement and historic built features limit opportunities for turbine development in this landscape

Landscape Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This landscape forms a flat and relatively narrow strip of land abutting the Sound of Bute and backed by the rising slopes of the adjacent low hills and rolling farmland of the 'Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13a) and the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a). The open, exposed and natural character of the coastal edge strongly contrasts with other landscapes on Bute, especially the more developed east coast. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with the Sound of Bute and Arran.	This typology (and particularly multiple turbines of this size) would diminish the strong contrast this landscape presently provides to the more developed eastern coast of Bute. It would also adversely affect the wider scenic composition of the Sound of Bute.	High	Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also diminish the strong contrast this landscape presently provides to the more developed eastern coast of Bute. Although the higher turbines within this typology could also adversely affect the wider scenic composition of the Sound of Bute there is some limited scope for smaller turbines <25m to be sited close to existing buildings and larger trees/woodland away from more sensitive open coastal areas to limit effects on context.	High-med
Scale and openness	The coastal plain has an open and exposed character accentuated by the presence of the Sound of Bute. However, although open, it is not expansive in extent forming a narrow strip of land contained by rising ground (or by a more distinct raised beach edge in places) in the adjacent character types of the 'Bute Rolling Farmland' (13a), 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a) and 'Bute Basalt Lowlands' (17a).	In the more open and seaward areas, these flat to gently sloping and open landscapes offer opportunities for this typology, especially where the field pattern is large. Turbines of this size would however dominate narrower coastal strips and the scale of low cliffs which provide containment. They would also overwhelm the scale of stunted windswept trees and occasional buildings.	High-med	In the more open and seaward areas, these flat to gently sloping and open landscapes offer opportunities for this typology, especially where the field pattern is large. Taller turbines within this typology would appear large in relation to the scale of narrower coastal strips although could fit better with the scale of low cliffs which provide containment. Although taller turbines within the typology would be larger than	Medium

				windswept trees and buildings they would have a more comfortable scale relationship to these features.	
Landform	Generally a flat landform but gently sloping in the Kilchattan Bay isthmus. Most landform variation occurs on the coastal edge where strongly tidal sandy beaches, low cliffs, the long peninsula of St Ninians Point and other promontories feature.	Turbines could relate more easily with the simpler flat to gently sloping landform found away from the coastal edge. The more complex coastal edge would however be highly sensitive to this typology sited on or close-by (and thus detracting from these features)	Medium	Turbines could relate more easily with the simpler flat to gently sloping landform found away from the coastal edge. The more complex coastal edge would be sensitive to this typology sited on or close-by (and thus detracting from these features) although there is greater scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid such impacts.	Medium
Landcover	There is a simple pattern of large arable fields with a generally weak enclosure pattern and occasional windswept trees and gorse scrub. Small clumps of woodland close to farms and other buildings are characteristic of the more sheltered Kilchattan Bay area. Areas of marsh and reeds lie close to the coast.	Wetland and coastal habitats would be highly sensitive to built infrastructure both physically and in terms of diminishing its integrity and characteristic openness. The simpler pattern of large open arable fields would be less sensitive in this respect.	Medium	Wetland and coastal habitats would be highly sensitive to built infrastructure both physically and in terms of diminishing its integrity and characteristic openness. The simpler pattern of large open arable fields would be less sensitive in this respect.	Medium
Built environment	Sparsely settled with farms generally located on the rising slopes at the transition with the 'Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13a), Bute Basalt Lowlands' (17a) and 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a). The small settlements of Straad and Kingarth are located in this character type. A number of archaeological features occur close to the coast.	This typology could adversely affect the setting of small settlements and archaeological features if sited nearby. In areas of more sparse settlement there may be scope for this typology to avoid such impacts.	Medium	The larger turbines of this typology could also affect the setting of small settlements and archaeological features. There would be increase scope to minimise impacts with this smaller typology however.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	The tidal sands of this coastal landscape (and wider seascape) instil	The sense of naturalness and openness associated with the coastal	High	The sense of naturalness and openness associated with the	High-med

	a strong sense of naturalness, heightened by the transitional nature of tides and waterfowl. These coastal areas are well-visited although a degree of seclusion can be experienced on some more inaccessible beaches. There is a strong sense of openness, space and light and exposure in these coastal areas.	edge could be easily compromised and diminished by any development, including this typology. This typology even if sited in more managed farmland could detract from adjacent coastal areas which lie in close proximity.		coastal edge could be easily compromised and diminished by any development, including this typology. There may be some limited scope to site this smaller typology in more managed farmland at the transition with adjacent character types to minimise impacts on the coast.	
Visual amenity	<p>The A844 aligned on the western edge of this character type features panoramic views across this open coastal plain over the Sound of Bute and to Arran. The sandy beaches of Ettrick and Scalpsie Bays, St Ninian's Point and Inchmarknock island are key foci in these views. Views from the B881 and A844 to the south focus on the curve of Kilchattan Bay. The beaches are well used for recreation and dispersed farms and houses and the small settlements of Kingarth and Straad tend to face the coast.</p> <p>The Coastal Plain features in more elevated views from fringing settlement and footpaths in adjacent landscape character types, for example the West Island Way, due to the screening provided by the low hills of the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a) to the east.</p>	This typology would be highly visible across the largely level and very open landscapes of the coastal flats from the A844 and from settlement which is generally orientated on rising slopes facing west to the coast and sea. This typology could intrude on key views to attractive coastal features and to Arran if placed between the A844 and the coast where views are presently open.	High	This typology would also be very visible across the largely level and very open landscapes of the coastal flats from the A844 and from settlement which is generally orientated on rising slopes facing west to the coast and sea. Although turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could potentially be sited to have less of an effect on coastal views, this typology would still extend beyond the height of generally stunted trees and woodlands in these exposed coastal areas thus increasing visibility.	High-med
Landscape values	All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely	This typology could intrude on views to Arran if poorly sited. It could also	High-med	This typology could also intrude on views to Arran if poorly sited. It	Medium

	<p>to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran but also the scenic diversity of landscapes across Bute of to which this flat coastal plain with its wetland and varied coastal edge of sandy bays, rocky promontories and raised beaches contributes.</p>	<p>diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity.</p>		<p>could also diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity although smaller turbines would have less of an effect if carefully sited to minimise intrusion.</p>	
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Farmland in the Kilchattan Bay features a regular pattern of small farms and open views to Arran



The long promontory of St Ninian's Point is highly visible from the A844



Stretches of more rugged and remote coastline occur in places.



This landscape has a diverse coastline of raised beaches, broad sandy bays and occasional wetlands backed by flat open pastures

Landscape Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape forms a narrow coastal or shoreline band often contained by steeply rising ground. In the Kintyre and Loch Fyne area it is adjacent to the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) and in the Loch Awe area it sits below the Craggy Upland (7)</p> <p>The High Tops (2) form the immediate backdrop to the Rocky Mosaic defined on the northern shores of outer Loch Etive.</p> <p>There is often a strong contrast between the small scale, more diverse landform and land cover of the Rocky Mosaic (20) and the simpler, larger scale landform and more uniform forestry and moorland of these adjacent upland character types.</p> <p>This contrast is less pronounced where the Rocky Mosaic (20) on the southern shores of outer Loch Etive is backed by the Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) and where the transition between types is more gradual in less settled areas.</p> <p>The consistent presence of the sea or loch forms a unifying element common to this character type and</p>	<p>The contribution of this diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the more simple upland areas with which it is frequently juxtaposed. Its contribution to the wider scenic context of coastal and lochside landscapes increases its sensitivity to larger typologies.</p> <p>The extent of this type is limited – it is narrow and linear – and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto neighbouring character types.</p>	High	<p>The contribution of this diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the more simple upland areas with which it is frequently juxtaposed. Its contribution to the wider scenic context of coastal and lochside landscapes increases its sensitivity to larger typologies.</p> <p>The extent of this type is limited – it is narrow and linear – and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto neighbouring character types.</p>	High

	there is strong inter-visibility across water to a variety of other landscape types including the islands of Arran and Jura in the Kintyre area or the High Tops in upper Loch Fyne and Loch Etive area.				
Scale and openness	This landscape forms a linear band against loch or coast and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. It is of low relief rising to 180m at most. The irregular coastal edge, small knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. Scale increases in parts of this landscape where a more gradual transition occurs with the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple.	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the narrow extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other landcover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.	High	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the narrow extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other landcover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.	High
Landform	A complex rolling landform with a subtly indented rocky shore featuring small flat alluvial fans at inlets, occasional broader bays and low rocky promontories. Pronounced small craggy hills pattern this landscape and these form particularly distinctive features when seen close to the coast. Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly slacker hill slopes occur at the	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.	High	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.	High

	transition with upland character types (6) and (7).				
Landcover	<p>Vegetation cover is diverse comprising small enclosed fields, bracken covered hill slopes and gorse knolls, broadleaved and conifer woodland and designed landscape features such as avenue trees and parkland.</p> <p>Scrubby shoreline vegetation and pockets of wetland and wood pasture also feature. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types although there is often a sharp division between this and the walled in-by fields on lower hill slopes.</p> <p>The smooth rich pastures of the alluvial fans close to the coast/loch shore are important in the contrast they provide with woodland and more extensive forestry and semi-improved grazing land.</p>	<p>The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of this landscape increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Tall turbines would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands, wetlands and designed landscape features and alluvial pastures.</p>	High	<p>The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of the coast and islands increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Turbines of this size would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands, wetlands and policy landscapes and alluvial pastures.</p>	High
Built environment	<p>This landscape is relatively well-settled with the towns of Lochgilphead and Inveraray and Campeltown sited on promontories or within inlets.</p> <p>Small villages and dispersed houses and farms are concentrated along the loch shore/coastal roads. This landscape is rich in archaeological features including landmark castles, crannogs and</p>	<p>The setting of settlements (particularly the planned settlements with a rich architectural integrity such as Inveraray) and archaeological features would be highly sensitive to this typology. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected by windfarm development of this scale.</p>	High	<p>The setting of settlements (particularly the planned settlements with a rich architectural integrity such as Inveraray) and archaeological features would be highly sensitive to this typology. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected by windfarm development of this scale.</p>	High

	<p>chapels as well as historic houses and gardens.</p> <p>These landscapes accommodate major transport routes but also feature narrower winding roads such as those along the eastern shores of outer Loch Fyne and either side of Loch Awe.</p>				
Perceptual qualities	<p>A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas, for example the east coast of Kintyre or the southern shores of outer Loch Fyne. However in general this landscape is relatively well-settled and managed and wildland character is not pronounced.</p>	<p>Some perceptual qualities would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited within the more secluded areas.</p>	Med-low	<p>Some perceptual qualities would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited within the more secluded areas.</p>	Med-low
Visual amenity	<p>A number of major roads are aligned through this landscape type and include the A83 and A85 which are promoted tourist routes. Views from these roads, and the narrower winding roads accessing the less frequented shores of Loch Awe and east Loch Fyne, tend to give glimpsed views through woodland which are limited up and down the sea/loch but rather focus on views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops.</p> <p>Views from coastal settlement and the many areas attractive for recreation and tourism also focus on the opposite shore.</p>	<p>This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape.</p> <p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible from adjacent character types and particularly from popular elevated walking routes. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology.</p> <p>Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These</p>	High	<p>This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape.</p> <p>Turbines of this size would be highly visible from adjacent character types and particularly from popular elevated walking routes. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology.</p> <p>Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These would</p>	High

	<p>Views from roads and coastal settlement in Kintyre are generally more open and expansive with the mountains of Arran and Jura being a key focus. Views from minor roads on the Ardlamont peninsula also have dramatic views of Arran. Views from upper Loch Fyne and Loch Etive focus on the mountains of the High Tops (2).</p> <p>Views to this landscape are fairly restricted from adjacent upland character types such as (6) and (7) which tend to be densely forested, sparsely settled and difficult to access. Important elevated viewpoints include the Inveraray folly, the A815 as it descends to Loch Fyne and popular mountains such as Ben Cruachan and Beinn Ime. The east Kintyre coast is visible from the west coast of Arran and the Ardlamont area from Bute.</p>	would particularly affect views from the shores of Loch Awe and from Arran.		particularly affect views from the shores of Loch Awe and from Arran.	
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers much of this landscape character type including the shores of inner Loch Fyne, the Ardlamont peninsula, the Kintyre coasts and the shores of north Loch Awe. Although there is no citation for this APQ, its key qualities include the diverse landform and land cover of these settled loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across water.</p>	<p>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height would also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape.</p>	High-med to low	<p>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height would also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape.</p>	High-med to low

Landscape Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape forms a narrow coastal or shoreline band often contained by steeply rising ground. In the Kintyre and Loch Fyne area it is adjacent to the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) and in the Loch Awe area it sits below the Craggy Upland (7)</p> <p>The High Tops (2) form the immediate backdrop to the Rocky Mosaic defined on the northern shores of outer Loch Etive.</p> <p>There is often a strong contrast between the small scale, more diverse landform and land cover of the Rocky Mosaic (20) and the simpler, larger scale landform and more uniform forestry and moorland of these adjacent upland character types.</p> <p>This contrast is less pronounced where the Rocky Mosaic (20) on the southern shores of outer Loch Etive is backed by the Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) and where the transition between types is more gradual in less settled areas.</p> <p>The consistent presence of the sea or loch forms a unifying element common to this character type and there is strong inter-visibility across water to a variety of other landscape types including the islands of Arran</p>	<p>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set back from the coast/shore where a more gradual transition occurs with adjacent upland character types.</p>	High-med	<p>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set back from the coast/shore where a more gradual transition occurs with adjacent upland character types. There is increased scope to accommodate smaller turbines in these areas.</p>	Medium

	and Jura in the Kintyre area or the High Tops in upper Loch Fyne and Loch Etive area.				
Scale and openness	This landscape forms a linear loch shore or coastal margin and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. It is of low relief rising to 180m at most. The irregular coastal edge, small knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. Scale increases in parts of this landscape where a more gradual transition occurs with the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple.	This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. Where the landscape is broader in extent and has a more medium scale at the transition between this and upland landscape types, then there may be some limited scope to accommodate this size of turbine.	High-med	There are increased opportunities to accommodate this small typology within the more medium scale transitional areas with upland landscape types. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could also relate to the scale of broader, more open areas within the more settled and intensively farmed areas although small scale coastal/loch shore features would be sensitive even to these small typologies.	Medium
Landform	A complex rolling landform with a subtly indented rocky shore featuring small flat alluvial fans at inlets, occasional broader bays and rocky headlands. Pronounced craggy hills pattern this landscape and these form particularly distinctive features when seen close to the coast. Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly slacker hill slopes occur at the transition with upland character types (6) and (7).	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced craggy hills of this landscape. There is some very limited scope for turbines of this height to be associated with slacker hill slopes where they would be back-dropped by higher ground at the transition with upland character types.	High-med	This typology would also detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced craggy hills of this landscape. There is increased scope to accommodate this small typology on slightly slacker hill slopes where they would be back-dropped by higher ground at the transition with upland character types.	Medium
Landcover	Vegetation cover is diverse comprising small enclosed fields, bracken covered hill slopes, broadleaved and conifer woodland and designed landscape features such as avenue trees and	Areas of complex vegetation, open alluvial pastures and policy features would be sensitive to this typology although there are opportunities to minimise impacts by siting turbines	Medium	Areas of complex vegetation, open alluvial pastures and policy features would also be sensitive to this typology although there are increased opportunities to	Medium-low

	<p>parkland. Scrubby shoreline vegetation and pockets of wetlands and wood pasture also feature.</p> <p>Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types although there is often a sharp division with the walled in-by fields on lower hill slopes.</p> <p>The smooth rich pastures of the alluvial fans close to the coast/loch shore are important in the contrast they provide with woodland and more extensive forestry and semi-improved grazing land.</p>	<p>on rougher pasture well away from areas with a more strongly patterned land cover.</p>		<p>accommodate these smaller turbines to minimise impacts on more strongly patterned areas.</p>	
Built environment	<p>This landscape is relatively well-settled with the towns of Lochgilphead, Inveraray and Campeltown sited on promontories and within inlets. Small villages and dispersed houses and farms are concentrated along the coastal and loch shore roads.</p> <p>This landscape is rich in archaeological features including landmark castles, crannogs and chapels as well as historic houses and gardens.</p> <p>These landscapes accommodate major transport routes but also feature narrower winding roads such as those along the eastern shores of outer Loch Fyne and either side of Loch Awe.</p>	<p>There is some limited scope for accommodating turbines of this size behind the more densely settled coast and loch shores on lower slopes at the transition with upland character types.</p>	Medium	<p>There is increased scope for siting this small typology to minimise impacts on the setting of settlements and archaeology.</p>	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	<p>A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas, for example the east coast of Kintyre or the southern</p>	<p>This typology is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines <3 and although multiple developments could affect the sense</p>	Medium-low	<p>This typology is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines <3 and although multiple developments could affect the</p>	Medium-low

	shores of outer Loch Fyne. However in general this landscape is relatively well-settled and managed and wildland character is not pronounced.	of seclusion experienced in parts of this landscape, it would be less likely to have a significant effect on perceptual qualities elsewhere.		sense of seclusion experienced in parts of this landscape, it would be less likely to have a significant effect on perceptual qualities elsewhere.	
Visual amenity	<p>A number of major roads are aligned through this landscape type and include the A83 and A85 which are promoted tourist routes. Views from these roads, and the narrower winding roads accessing the less frequented shores of Loch Awe and east Loch Fyne, tend to give glimpsed views through woodland and are limited up and down the sea/loch but rather focus on views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops.</p> <p>Views from coastal settlement and the many areas attractive for recreation and tourism also focus on the opposite shore. Views from roads and coastal settlement in Kintyre are generally more open and expansive with the mountains of Arran and Jura being a key focus. Views from minor roads on the Ardlamont peninsula also have spectacular views of the Arran mountains. Views from upper Loch Fyne and from the southern shores of Loch Etive focus on the dramatic backdrop of the mountains of the High Tops (2).</p> <p>Views to this landscape are fairly restricted from adjacent upland</p>	<p>This typology would be visible from roads and settlement and could intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape if sited close to the coast/loch shore. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement remain sensitive to this typology.</p> <p>Turbines of this size would be less visible from adjacent character types</p> <p>Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These would be most likely to affect views from the shores of Loch Awe where distances to the opposite shore are short and turbines towards the upper height band of this typology would appear large in views.</p>	High-med	<p>Coastal and loch shores would be sensitive even to small turbines although in general there would be increased scope to accommodate this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from settlement and roads.</p> <p>Turbines of this size would be less visible from adjacent character types and cumulative visual effects would be minimised due to the clear differential in height between commercial windfarms sited in upland character types.</p>	Medium

	<p>character types such as (6) and (7) which tend to be densely forested, sparsely settled and difficult to access. Important elevated viewpoints include the Inveraray folly, the A815 as it descends to Loch Fyne and popular mountains such as Ben Cruachan and Beinn Ime. The east Kintyre coast is visible from the west coast of Arran and Ardlamont peninsula from Bute.</p>				
<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>An APQ covers much of this landscape character type including the shores of inner Loch Fyne, the Ardlamont peninsula, the Kintyre coasts and the shores of north Loch Awe. The key qualities of this APQ include the diverse landform and land cover of settled loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across water.</p>	<p>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height could also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape although there may be some very limited opportunities to minimise effects on the APQ by siting turbines of this size at the transition with larger scale adjacent upland character types.</p>	<p><i>High-med to Low</i></p>	<p>There is some limited scope to site this typology to minimise impacts on panoramic views by avoiding sensitive loch shores and coasts. While turbines of this size would extend above woodlands, there is likely to be increased scope to site these to benefit from a degree of screening by landform.</p>	<p><i>Medium to Low</i></p>



The Rocky Mosaic fringing the shores of Loch Fyne features a mix of policy landscapes, settlement and farmland – these landscapes are very narrow in extent.



Dense mixed woodlands of the Rocky Mosaic which back the shores of north-east Loch Awe and contribute to the rich scenic diversity of this part of the loch



The Rocky Mosaic on the south-east shores of Loch Fyne merge gradually with the adjacent higher forested ground of the Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1)



The pattern of pastures, woodlands and settlement gives a small scale to much of this landscape



Views from the Rocky Mosaic fringing narrow lochs focus on the opposite shore. On the Knapdale and Kintyre Peninsula, and seen here on Ardlamont Point, views are more open and extensive



The setting to these small scale and often diverse landscapes is important with immediate skylines formed by 'edge' hills of the adjoining uplands being particularly sensitive to development

Landscape Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic

Landscape Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills

Landscape Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic	Summary description	Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape occurs on the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre and in a small area to the north of Campeltown Loch. It is isolated from other character types and visually contained by the higher ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic' (6c) to the north, west and east. The Low Coastal Hills (21) is relatively small in extent and the contrast between these two types is pronounced with the south-western part of this landscape forming a particularly dramatic backdrop of high and rugged steep-sided hills to this smaller scale, farmed landscape.</p> <p>Although forming part of a wider seascape, this low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coasts with the higher rugged ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) being more distinctive in these views. Nevertheless, the Low Coastal Hills (21) contributes to the setting of the Isle of Sanda, located directly off this coastline.</p>	<p>This diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the often dramatic Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) with which it is juxtaposed.</p> <p>The extent of this type is limited and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto this neighbouring character type.</p> <p>The setting of the Island of Sanda, is a further sensitivity.</p>	High-med	<p>This diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the often dramatic Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) with which it is juxtaposed.</p> <p>The extent of this type is limited and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto this neighbouring character type.</p> <p>The setting of the Island of Sanda, is a further sensitivity.</p>	High-med

Scale and openness	This landscape has a low relief with small hills rising to around 126m. Narrow valleys cut between the hills and the undulating and irregular landform provides strong containment despite parts of the coast being more open in character. Woodlands within the lower Glenbreakerie and Strone Glen area and the regular pattern of small farms, houses and settlements further reduce scale.	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the limited extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other land cover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.	High	This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the limited extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other land cover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.	High
Landform	A rolling landform of small hills and valleys. The hills vary in character from narrow undulating ridges to complex craggy-topped knolls – many hills have distinctive stepped profiles. The coastal edge comprises narrow sweeping sandy bays, occasional cliffs, rocky promontories and islands (including Sanda Island). Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of broader and gentler hill slopes occur at the transition with the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c).	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.	High	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.	High
Landcover	Gorse hill tops, sparse woodland and gappy hedges contribute to the windswept coastal feel of this landscape (particularly evident in the east). Lush green pastures and arable fields are contained by stone walls, hedgerows and fences. Policy woodlands, avenue and ornamental	Tall turbines would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.	Medium	Tall turbines would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.	Medium

	plantings are found in the west in the hinterland to Carskey Bay.				
Built environment	<p>This landscape is relatively well-settled with small farms and houses located on lower hill slopes on the edge of valleys in the hinterland and with more concentrated settlement along the coastal edge between Southend and Carskey Bay. Roads are very narrow and apart from occasional larger sheds associated with farms, there are few large built structures.</p> <p>This landscape is rich in visible archaeological and historic remains including features associated with St Columba in the Keil area and Dunaverty Point.</p>	Turbines of this size would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected if they had to be altered to transport large structures for wind farm development of this scale.	High	Turbines of this size would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected if they had to be altered to transport large structures for wind farm development of this scale.	High
Perceptual qualities	<p>Although relatively well-settled, this landscape has a remote feel due to its location at the 'end of the peninsula'. Sanda Island and less accessible and settled parts of the coast have some qualities of wildness although this is less pronounced across much of this settled and managed landscape. This landscape has a strong sense of history and many cultural associations.</p>	The sense of remoteness, the relative naturalness of stretches of coast, and the sense of seclusion created by the geographic location would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited along the more secluded coasts and islands.	High-med	The sense of remoteness, the relative naturalness of stretches of coast, and the sense of seclusion created by the geographic location would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited along the more secluded coasts and islands.	High-med
Visual amenity	Views along the coast from well-used beaches, the B842 and settlement focus on Sanda Island, the sheer-sided rugged hills of the Mull of Kintyre and the distant Ailsa	This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement within this fairly small landscape character type. Turbines of this size could also intrude on highly	High	This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement within this fairly small landscape character type. Turbines of this size could also	High-med

	<p>Craig, the hills of Ayrshire/Galloway and the Northern Irish coast. Views from narrow hedge-lined roads are more contained by the rolling landform or small hills and ridges inland.</p> <p>Views to this landscape are limited from the adjoining 'Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) character type which is very sparsely settled and crossed by few roads. There are, however, elevated and highly scenic views from the minor road providing access to the Mull of Kintyre and from the long distance walking route of the Kintyre Way. This low-lying landscape is not readily discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) being more distinctive in these views.</p>	<p>scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape.</p> <p>The visual containment provided by the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) limits wider visibility to the north of this landscape although this typology would be likely to be visible from parts of Arran and could have cumulative visual impacts with other wind farm development located on the Kintyre peninsula in these views.</p>		<p>intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape.</p> <p>The visual containment provided by the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) limits wider visibility of this landscape however and smaller turbines within this typology may have less of a cumulative visual effect.</p>	
Landscape Values	<p>An APQ covers all of this landscape character type. Key special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the diverse coastal scenery comprising sandy bays, cliffs and islands – including the contrast between the settled farmed southern coast and the rugged wild coast- and panoramic views over sea and to distant land.</p>	<p>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ.</p>	High-med	<p>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ.</p>	High-med

Landscape Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This landscape occurs on the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre and in a small area north of Campeltown Loch. It is isolated from other character types and visually contained by the higher ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic' (6c) to the north, west and east. The Low Coastal Hills (21) is relatively small in extent and the contrast between these two types is pronounced with the south-western part of this landscape forming a particularly dramatic backdrop of high and rugged steep-sided hills to this smaller scale, farmed landscape. Although forming part of a wider seascape, this low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) being more distinctive in these views. Nevertheless, the Low Coastal Hills (21) contributes to the setting of the Island of Sanda, located directly off this coastline.</p>	<p>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set well back from the coast and away from the more dramatic juxtaposition of the western coastal hills of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic' (6c) with this character type. Effects on the setting of the Island of Sanda can be minimised with careful siting.</p>	High-med	<p>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set well back from the coast and away from the more dramatic juxtaposition of the western coastal hills of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic' (6c) with this character type. There is increased scope to accommodate smaller turbines in these areas, and their size is less likely to affect the setting of the Island of Sanda.</p>	Medium
Scale and openness	<p>This landscape has a low relief with small hills rising to around 126m. Narrow valleys cut between the hills</p>	<p>This size of turbine would appear overly large in relation to the low relief of smaller hills and buildings.</p>	High-med	<p>There are some limited opportunities to accommodate this small typology on the slopes of</p>	Medium

	and the undulating and irregular landform provides strong containment despite parts of the coast being more open in character. Woodlands within the lower Glenbreakerie and Strone Glen area and the regular pattern of small farms, houses and settlements further reduce scale.	While there would be a better scale relationship with larger hills, and especially lower hill slopes at the transition with the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c), the well-settled nature and limited extent of this character type are key constraints.		broader larger hills and within the more medium scale transitional areas with the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) where turbines could be back-dropped by rising ground and relate to the scale of higher hills. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology (<25m) could also relate to the scale of broader areas within the more settled and intensively farmed areas.	
Landform	A rolling landform of small hills and valleys. The hills vary in character from narrow undulating ridges to complex craggy-topped knolls – many hills have distinctive stepped profiles. The coastal edge comprises narrow sweeping sandy bays and occasional cliffs, rocky promontories and islands (including Sanda Island). Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly broader and gentler hill slopes occur at the transition with the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c).	This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge and the more complex knolly hills and ridges of this landscape. It could relate to broader smoother hill slopes and flatter ground although these are limited in extent.	High-med	This typology would also detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge and the more complex knolly hills and ridges of this landscape. There is increased scope to accommodate this small typology on gentler hill slopes and flatter ground.	Medium
Landcover	Gorse hill tops, sparse stunted woodland and gappy hedges contribute to the windswept coastal feel of this landscape. Lush green pastures and arable fields are contained by stone walls, hedgerows and fences. Policy woodlands, avenue and ornamental plantings are found in the hinterland of Carskey Bay.	This typology would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.	Medium	There are increased opportunities to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid impacts on more intricately patterned areas.	Medium-low

Built environment	This landscape is relatively well-settled with small farms and houses located on lower hill slopes on the edge of valleys in the hinterland and with more concentrated settlement along the coastal edge between Southend and Carskey Bay. Roads are very narrow and apart from occasional larger sheds associated with farms, there are few large built structures. This landscape is rich in visible archaeological and historic features including features associated with St Columba in the Keil area and Dunaverty Point.	This size of turbine could be sited to avoid impacts on the more densely settled coastal area although the limited extent of this landscape may result in some impact on the setting of archaeological features which include hill top duns, forts and cairns.	Medium	There may be increased scope for siting the smaller turbines within this typology to minimise impacts on the setting of settlements and archaeology.	Medium-low
Perceptual qualities	Although relatively well-settled, this landscape has a remote feel due to its location at the 'end of the peninsula'. Sanda Island and less accessible and settled parts of the coast have some qualities of wildness although this is less pronounced across much of this settled and managed landscape. This landscape has a strong sense of history and many cultural associations.	The sense of remoteness, the relative naturalness of stretches of coast, and the sense of seclusion created by the geographic location would be diminished by turbines of this size, particularly if they were located close to more secluded coastal areas.	Medium	Even small turbines could affect the sense of seclusion and cultural associations of this landscape although there is increased scope to site this size of turbine to avoid impact on more sensitive areas.	Medium-low
Visual amenity	Views along the coast from well-used beaches, the B842 and settlement focus on Sanda Island, the sheer rugged hills of the Mull of Kintyre and the distant Ailsa Craig, the hills of Ayrshire/Galloway and the Northern Irish coast. Views from narrow hedge-lined roads are more contained by the rolling landform or small hills and ridges inland.	This typology would be visible in close proximity from roads and settlement and could intrude on views to the coast, islands and the Mull of Kintyre. The visual containment provided by the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) would be likely to limit wider visibility of this typology (in views from Arran for example).	High-med	This small typology would be likely to have a lesser visual impact in close views from settlement and roads. It would also be unlikely to impact on wider views.	Medium

	Views to this landscape are limited from the adjoining 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) character type which is very sparsely settled and crossed by few roads. There are however elevated and highly scenic views from the minor road providing access to the Mull of Kintyre and from the long distance walking route of the Kintyre Way. This low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) being more distinctive in these views.				
Landscape values	An APQ covers all of this landscape character type. Key special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the diverse coastal scenery comprising sandy bays, cliffs and islands – including the contrast between the settled farmed southern coast and the rugged wild coast- and panoramic views over sea and to distant land.	Turbines of this size would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape dependant on siting. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ although there is some limited scope to site this typology at the transition with the 'Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6c) thus minimising impacts on panoramic views.	High-med	There is some scope to site this typology to minimise impacts on panoramic views by avoiding sensitive coastal areas and hill tops where turbines would have a greater visual prominence. While turbines of this size would extend above woodlands, there is likely to be increased scope to site smaller the smaller turbines within this typology to benefit from a degree of screening by landform.	Medium



More complex hills occur on the edge of the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) and provide the backdrop to this more settled coastal landscape.



The low relief of long ridges and small knolly hills combined with an even dispersal of small farms and houses gives this landscape a small scale.



Sanda Island forms a key focus although extensive views are also possible to Arran and the Irish coast from this remote 'end of the peninsula' location



This landscape has a rich archaeology featuring hill forts, castles and historic grand houses



The coastline is varied featuring sandy bays, cliffs and promontories – this landscape also forms the foreground to views to the dramatic headland of the Mull of Kintyre



Lush, well-managed pastures interspersed with policy woodlands are characteristic of the western part of this landscape.

Landscape Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills

Landscape Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges

Landscape Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	<p>This coastal landscape forms a transition between the sea and the much higher and more mountainous Moorland Plateau (8). It is narrow in extent, and linear in shape.</p> <p>There is a strong contrast between the small scale clearly defined ridges and settled farmland or crofts of this type with the higher relief and more remote character of the Moorland Plateau (8) The Coastal Parallel ridges are not highly visible from other landscape character types, but the south east corner of Islay is very visible from the Port Ellen/Kennacraig ferry and other maritime traffic and northern Jura is visible from the mainland.</p>	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Moorland Plateau (8), or on the coast and seascape as viewed from the sea.</p> <p>However, this landscape character type is relatively isolated from other parts of the islands, and therefore turbines would only have a limited impact on character types elsewhere on the islands.</p>	High-Med	<p>The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Moorland Plateau (8), or on the coast and seascape as viewed from the sea.</p> <p>However, this landscape character type is relatively isolated from other parts of the islands, and therefore turbines would only have a limited impact on character types elsewhere on the islands.</p>	Medium
Scale and openness	<p>This landscape is generally very low lying, reflecting its coastal location. However, the ridges rise to about 180m at their highest, and the conical hill of Cnoc Rhaonastil on Islay is 109m high.</p> <p>The landscape is fragmented by rocky outcrops and low ridges which reduce the scale.</p> <p>The numerous woodlands and areas of scrub provide further containment which reduces the sense of scale, although there are narrow open</p>	<p>This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this typology would appear as very tall compared to the low relief and narrow open spaces characteristic of the coastal landscape, and would dominate small scale landforms and coastal features.</p>	High	<p>This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this typology would appear as tall compared to the low relief characteristic of the coastal landscape, and would dominate small scale landforms and coastal features.</p> <p>There may be more scope to accommodate turbines of this type in more open inland areas, away from the sensitive coast and</p>	High-Med

	<p>stretches of lowlying wetland between the drier rocky ridges.</p> <p>The features – including trees and rocky outcrops are small, further reinforcing the small scale of this landscape.</p> <p>The coastline is generally very intricate, with numerous small bays and islands, and is lowlying with frequent woodland adding to the sense of containment. It is often intimate in scale, although along more simple coastlines – especially the north east of Jura – the sea creates a sense of expansiveness.</p>			<p>smaller topographical features, which it could quickly dominate.</p>	
Landform	<p>Linear, rocky ridges extend SW-NE across this landscape. They are parallel with the coastline, where off Islay the partially submerged ridges form fragmented chains of islands. There is the occasional prominent hill or headland.</p> <p>Between the ridges the land are narrow, linear, low-lying, often boggy terrain some of which has been drained to form pasture.</p> <p>The coastline is generally diverse, with numerous bays and small rocky headlands, islands and skerries, although the coastline north of Ardlussa on Jura is less indented.</p>	<p>The irregular rocky ridges, prominent hills, headlands and islands, are all very sensitive to this typology.</p>	High	<p>The more regular low lying areas of landform are less sensitive than the irregular rocky ridges, prominent hills, headlands and islands, all of which are very sensitive to this typology.</p> <p>There is likely to be increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology on slightly more gentle hill slopes or low lying terrain without intruding onto the ridgelines and other sensitive topographical features.</p>	High-Med
Landcover	<p>The majority of this area combines wetland with occasional pools, in the narrow low-lying valleys between the ridges. Some of these have been</p>	<p>The more diverse areas of landscape, characterised by interlocking mosaic of woodland, wetland and small fields, is the most</p>	High-Med	<p>The more diverse areas of landscape, characterised by interlocking mosaic of woodland, wetland and small fields, is the</p>	Medium

	<p>drained for pasture, especially towards the coast and the south west. The farmland also extends up the more gentle slopes of the ridges especially to the north of the most inhabited section of coast, from Port Ellen to Ardbeg on Islay. Policies, for example at Ardlussa on Jura and Kildalton House on Islay, as well as small fields associated with crofts at Inverlussa on Jura add to diversity. Numerous small broadleaved woodlands, as well as some mixed and conifer woods occupy the drier ridges, and extend along sheltered parts of the coast.</p>	<p>sensitive to this typology. More open and simple land cover, especially more extensive grazing and wetland, may provide some limited scope for this typology.</p>		<p>most sensitive to this typology. More open and simple land cover, especially more extensive grazing and wetland, is likely to provide some scope this typology as it could be accommodated with less interruption to the pattern than the medium-small typology.</p>	
<p>Built environment</p>	<p>This landscape is partially settled, largely along or close to the coast, with scattered houses and farms, and small settlements associated with sheltered bays. On Islay, settlement extends inland across the hinterland behind Port Ellen and three distilleries, with associated larger buildings, are located on the coast. There are a number of larger houses with associated policies. The interior, rocky ridges and wetland as well as moorland is largely unsettled. This landscape has numerous archaeological sites, including clusters of features, some of which are located</p>	<p>The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to dominate the small size of the built features. The setting of the villages, clusters of houses associated with bays and archaeological sites is a further constraint. Small roads might need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint. Nevertheless the area is only partially settled.</p>	<p>High-Med</p>	<p>The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to dominate the small size of the built features. The setting of the villages, clusters of houses associated with bays and archaeological sites is a further constraint. However, the area is only partially settled, and there is likely to be scope to site turbines where they do not relate to the small size of the buildings.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

	<p>on the coast or more interior ridges, especially on Islay.</p> <p>A-class roads extend part way along the coast and then convert to narrow, dead end roads which continue along the less well settled parts of the coastline.</p>				
Perceptual qualities	<p>The inaccessible sections of coast, particularly on Jura but also present on Islay, can be experienced as secluded, even remote, and as a place where naturalness is a key characteristic. The less accessible ridges and wetland on Islay are also relatively secluded, becoming more remote when closer to the Moorland Plateau (8). Elsewhere, this area is farmed with scattered settlement, tracks and roads and occasional masts.</p>	<p>This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced on the less accessible inland ridges, secluded and more remote coasts. Because of its height, even if it was sited some distance away, there could be some associated visual impacts. Elsewhere, on larger areas of more farmed and settled land, there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.</p>	High-Med	<p>This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced on the less accessible inland ridges, secluded and more remote coasts if located within or close to these areas, but elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.</p>	Medium
Visual amenity	<p>The ridges and woodland ensures that views within this landscape are sometimes intermittent, although there are important viewpoints including historic sites (such as Kildalton Church on Islay) and the roads. The views from the coast are focussed very much along the coast, across small bays or out to the islands. Views inland are often partially screened by trees or rising ground. A key viewpoint for this type is the Islay ferry from Port Ellen to Kennacraig, which affords fine views to</p>	<p>The low hills and woodland often screen parts of this landscape, so that views from the road, for example, are intermittent. However, the height of this typology means that it is likely to appear above many of these smaller features and be relatively widely and consistently visible, especially from the sea. The skyline profile of the rocky irregular ridges is highly sensitive, as is the coast, which is a major visual attraction from the road, the ferry and in terms of much of the settlement.</p>	High-Med	<p>The low hills and woodland often screen parts of this landscape, so that views from the road, for example, are intermittent. However, the height of this typology means that it may appear above some of these smaller features and be relatively widely and consistently visible, especially from the sea. Nevertheless, there are likely to be increased opportunities to site this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from key viewpoints, or where views of the</p>	Medium

	the higher hills of Moorland Plateau (8), with the diverse Coastal Parallel Ridges and its fragmented coast forming a backdrop to settlement and foreground to the hills. There are also views of north Jura from the mainland, for example from Crinan.			turbine are reduced to intermittent sightings. The skyline profile of the rocky irregular ridges is highly sensitive, as is the coast, which is a major visual attraction from the road, the ferry and in terms of much of the settlement.	
Landscape values	The whole of this type on the island of Jura sits within APQ. The key qualities of this APQ include the coastal setting and associated fine views, the relative remoteness of northern Jura and the semi-natural qualities associated with the lack of settlement, rugged terrain and moorland vegetation.	Within the APQ, which only applies to Jura, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.	High-med to Low	Within the APQ, which only extends to Jura, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.	High-med to Low



Low relief and small scale, irregular rugged outcrops characterise this landscape



Indented, small scale coastline, with settlement clustered in bays



A broader bay with low profile headland



Semi-natural wetland contained by rugged ridges



Rocky knolls under scrub and low trees alternate with smooth pasture, creating interlocking vegetation pattern



The low profile of the series of rocky coastal ridges

Landscape Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges

Landscape Character Type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats

Landscape Character Type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Small-medium typology assessment (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	The narrow Kilmartin Glen is visually isolated from other landscape types, with the exception of the immediate edges of the surrounding 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10). The flat moss and narrow valley floor of this character type forms a strong contrast with the steep craggy slopes of the 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10) although more gently undulating lower hill slopes to the west form a less abrupt and dramatic juxtaposition.	The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types. Turbines of this size could however detract from the often strong contrast with the craggy steep slopes of the 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10).	Medium	The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types. Turbines of this size could however detract from the often strong contrast with the craggy steep slopes of the 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10).	Medium-low
Scale and openness	A strongly contained landscape, constricting to form a narrow valley to the north within Kilmartin Glen. This is a well-settled landscape with farms, houses, enclosed fields and woodlands forming ready scale references.	This typology could easily dominate the narrow floor of Kilmartin Glen, appearing to 'fill up' this more contained and enclosed space. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of small buildings which can be fairly densely concentrated in some of these glens	High	The larger turbines within this typology would still dominate the intimate scale of the glen and the scale of settlement and other features. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would relate better to the increased scale of the broader plain to the south and would also have a better scale relationship to buildings.	High-med
Landform	A broad, open flat plain tapering to a narrow flat valley floor strongly contained by the steep craggy slopes of the 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10) although more undulating farmland occurs on the lower hill slopes particularly on the western edge of these uplands.	Single or very small clusters of this typology could relate to the landform of broader gently undulating to flat plain and smoother, slacker lower hill slopes. Steeper slopes would be more sensitive and turbines sited on distinctive knoll tops would be prominent.	Medium	Single or very small clusters of this typology could relate to the landform of broader gently undulating to flat plain and smoother, slacker lower hill slopes. Steeper slopes would be more sensitive and turbines sited on distinctive knoll tops would be prominent.	Medium

Landcover	Geometric fields interspersed with mixed policy woodlands on the broader plain with smaller pastures on the floor of Kilmartin Glen. Glen sides at the transition with the 'Upland Parallel Ridges' (10) feature more extensive pasture, birch/oak woodlands and conifer plantations. Some designed landscape features occur, including mixed policy woodlands, avenue trees, planted roundels and remnant parkland.	These larger turbines could detract from the often intricate pattern of woodlands, parkland and planted features such as roundels particularly found in the broader southern part of this character type. More open and larger fields would be less sensitive although in some areas these provide a simple setting and contrast to planted features.	High-med	Smaller scale land cover features would also be sensitive to turbines towards the upper height band of this typology although there is some scope to accommodate this typology to avoid impacting on landscape pattern or individual features. Turbines could be sited to associate with the edges of the glen to minimise detraction from more intricate landcover features.	Medium
Built environment	Dispersed farms are sited on slightly raised areas fringing the flatter farmland and moss. Kilmartin and Stockavullin occupy similar elevated locations off the flat plain and glen floor. The A816 is aligned through this landscape. This landscape features a rich archaeology including standing stones, cairns and hill forts – these often forming landmark features.	This typology would be likely to have a significant impact on the setting and scale of settlement and archaeology.	High	There may be some limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid significant impact due to their better scale relationship with buildings – turbines should be sited close to existing buildings to minimise effects on the setting of archaeological features.	High-med
Perceptual qualities	This landscape has a strong sense of place due to its rich archaeology.	This typology could significantly impact on the strong sense of place experienced.	High	This typology could also significantly impact on the strong sense of place experienced in parts of this landscape although smaller turbines clearly associated with farms and other buildings (thus reducing built clutter) may minimise effects on perceptual qualities.	High-med
Visual amenity	Views from within this landscape are restricted by the tight configuration and containment of the landform. The A816 tourist route is aligned on the eastern edge of this landscape and open views across the flatter moss and valley floor are possible from this	The close proximity of settlement, major roads and well-visited archaeological features increases sensitivity to this typology.	High	The close proximity of settlement, major roads, well-visited archaeological features increases sensitivity. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have a reduced impact particularly if visually associated with buildings.	High

	<p>and other roads which cross the area. The archaeological features of this landscape are well visited. Key views include those from the A816/Kilmartin Church which gives elevated views across the broader plain to the south. The B8025 is popular with cyclists and features views to standing stones and stone circle.</p>				
Landscape Values	<p>This character type is designated an APQ. It also abuts the Knapdale NSA.</p> <p>The scenic qualities of this APQ relevant to this character type include the strong contrast of the flat open moss and farmland of Moine Mhor with the craggy uplands which adjoin this area and the rich historic and archaeological heritage of Kilmartin Glen.</p> <p>The special qualities of the NSA include '<i>A landscape of skylines</i>' with the '<i>ridge-framed basin of the Moine Mhor moss</i>' being specifically noted. The special qualities assessment also notes that in the northern part of the NSA and '<i>in the Glens of Kilmichael and Kilmartin are found some of the finest examples in Scotland of standing stones, stone circles, burial mounds....and other prehistoric landscape features</i>'.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be likely to detract from the strong contrast between flat farmed and settled plain and narrow glen floor and the steep and craggy uplands which contain them. This typology would also be likely to significantly impact on views from the northern part of the NSA in the Moine Mhor area. The setting and relationship between cultural heritage features both within and extending to the north of the NSA could also be adversely affected.</p>	High	<p>There may be some very limited scope for turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to be sited to minimise intrusion on views and on the setting and relationship of cultural heritage features if closely associated with buildings and set well away from sensitive archaeological features.</p>	High-med



This landscape is renowned for its archaeological features associated with the Kilmartin and Kilmichael Glens



Flat open fields within the valley floor allow open views across the narrow extent of this landscape



Lower hill slopes at the transition with the Upland Parallel Ridges (10) are more wooded



Policy woodlands and parkland occur in places and add to the often rich diversity of this landscape.

Landscape Character Type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats

Landscape Character Type 25: Sand-Dunes and Machair

Landscape Character Type 25: Sand-Dunes and Machair – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic	Summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
Landscape context	This type is located on the coast, combining sandy bays, tidal flats and long sandy beaches with dune systems which extend inland. Strongly influenced by the sea, these areas are backed by other lowlying but farmed hinterlands, which include Marginal Farmland Mosaic, Lowland Bog and Moor on Islay and Bay Farmland on Kintyre. The coastal edges, associated bays and inlets are visible from the sea, but tend to not be widely visible from other LCTs because of their low profile. Small and often very narrow in extent, there is often a distinct contrast between the sandy dunes and adjacent character types.	The extremely limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent landscape types, with which it strongly contrasts, and which have some limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the coastal setting and, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of wider context.	High	The extremely limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent landscape types, with which it strongly contrasts, and which have some limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the coastal setting and, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of wider context.	High
Scale and openness	This landscape is very low-lying and open. The relief is so low it is often negligible, with dunes creating some enclosure apparent when walking through them. The scale is dominated by a sense of horizontality, rather than any vertical forms, but the dunes themselves are also small features.	The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.	High	The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.	High
Landform	Coastal features, such as bays and low rocky peninsulas, tidal flats, sand dunes, some of which are still active, and occasional low rocky outcrops, create a landforms which range from	The interlocking dunes, indented shorelines, sandy beaches, bays, and rocky outcrops would be readily dominated by this size of structure.	High	The interlocking dunes, indented shorelines, bays, and rocky outcrops would be readily dominated by this size of structure.	High

	the flat but dynamic inter-tidal reach to the irregular and hillocky dune systems.				
Landcover	The vegetation is largely calcareous grassland and marram grass, some wet heath and improved grazing land. Extensive areas of species rich and seasonally colourful machair occur on islands.	The relatively simple land cover may offer scope for this typology although wind turbines would detract from extensive areas of richly diverse machair on Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Coll.	Medium	The relatively simple land cover may offer scope for this typology although wind turbines would detract from extensive areas of richly diverse machair on Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Coll.	Medium
Built environment	Settlement is limited to occasional farms, hotels and golf courses. The large buildings associated with the airport on Kintyre also influence the setting of this type.	Settlement is sparse, but the extent of these areas is generally so small that this typology is likely to be inter-visible with buildings which would then be dominated by the size of this typology.	Medium	Settlement is sparse, but the extent of these areas is generally so small that this typology is likely to be inter-visible with buildings which could then be dominated by the size of this typology. This smaller typology would have less of an impact than the larger typologies.	Low
Perceptual qualities	These extensive areas of sandy bays, tidal flats and dunes are relatively natural in character. Extensive areas of this LCT on west Tiree, Islay, Coll and Oronsay are can feel remote although elsewhere sandy coastlines are easily accessed by farm tracks. The sense of naturalness is emphasised by the presence and dynamism of the sea and tides.	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.	High	This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.	High
Visual amenity	Widespread views are limited, but these areas are popular for informal recreation, so are experienced close-hand. They are also visible from the sea.	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained due to the openness of these coastal areas.	High	This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained due to the openness of these coastal areas.	High

<p>Landscape values</p>	<p>The coastline of Islay is covered by an APQ which extends into this character type along the north west corner of the island. The key qualities of this APQ include the range of coastal features, coastal setting and associated fine views, the relative seclusion of the coast and the semi-natural qualities associated with the lack of settlement and occasionally rugged terrain.</p>	<p>Within the APQ, which only extends to the north-western corner of Islay, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	<p><i>High-med to Low</i></p>	<p>Within the APQ, which only extends to the north-western corner of Islay, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.</p>	<p><i>High-med to Low</i></p>
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The sand dunes and machair are relatively accessible and used for informal recreation



The intricacy of the coastal edge and views to islands



The west coast of Tiree has extensive dune systems and is particularly remote and wild



Sandy beaches form key attractions on the islands and mainland of Argyll

Landscape Character Type 25: Sand Dunes and Machair

Landscape Character Type 26: Inland Machair and Moss

Landscape Character Type 26: Inland Machair and Moss - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of Large typology (80-130m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of Medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context There is a strong contrast between this low-lying landscape and the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27). This landscape is very inter-visible with the other landscape types on Tiree. The proximity of this landscape to the highly scenic and wild <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on the remote west coast of Tiree is a particular sensitivity.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited in this landscape would appear to diminish the perceived vertical scale of the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27). The adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) would also be sensitive to turbines of this size sited in the western part of this landscape.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size sited in this landscape would appear to diminish the perceived vertical scale of the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27). The adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) would also be sensitive to turbines of this size sited in the western part of this landscape.</p>	High
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is very low-lying and open. Scale is increased in areas of lochs and moss where there is no settlement. The density of small farms and houses present on the drier parts of this landscape however reduces scale.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would dominate the scale of small buildings which form a dense pattern of settlement in parts of this landscape. While scale is more expansive in the unsettled areas of moss, these lie close to buildings and turbines of this size would still have an impact.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size would dominate the small buildings which form a dense pattern in parts of this landscape although effects would be reduced if turbines were sited in the core of larger areas of moss.</p>	High-medium
<p>Landform A simple, flat to very gently sloping landform.</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this quality</p>	Low	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this quality</p>	Low
<p>Land cover Vegetation cover is often diverse comprising open machair grassland at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25). Fenced species-rich pastures are present in more settled areas. Extensive areas of moss and wetland, acidic lochs and pools, angular drainage ditches and the larger reed-fringed lochs of Loch a'Phuil and Loch Bhasapol contribute to the distinctive landcover pattern of this landscape.</p>	<p>Areas of visually diverse machair, wetland and the setting of lochs would be sensitive to development.</p>	High-medium	<p>Areas of visually diverse machair, wetland and the setting of lochs would be sensitive to development.</p>	High-medium

<p>Settlement A distinctive and dense pattern of prominent, mainly white, small buildings located on drier ground and aligning roads. The design integrity of domestic buildings is a key feature of Tiree. Archaeological features are also present with some associated with the larger lochs and in more settled areas. Some small wind turbines (<30m) are associated with farms in this landscape.</p>	<p>The introduction of much larger turbines could disrupt and detract from the distinctive character and pattern of buildings. Cumulative effects could also occur with existing small wind turbines. Less settled moorlands and wetlands would be less sensitive in this respect although the setting of archaeological features is an additional constraint.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The introduction of much larger turbines could disrupt and detract from the distinctive character and pattern of buildings. Cumulative effects could also occur with existing small wind turbines. Less settled moorlands and wetlands would be less sensitive in this respect although the setting of archaeological features is an additional constraint.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>
<p>Perceptual qualities The settled nature of this landscape limits the perception of wildness although the wetlands are strongly natural.</p>	<p>This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with less modified wetlands and lochs although the settled character of much of this landscape would result in little impact on qualities of wildness.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with less modified wetlands and lochs although the settled character of much of this landscape would result in little impact on qualities of wildness.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Visual amenity This flat and open landscape is highly visible from settlement, surrounding roads and from the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27).</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be visible in close proximity from roads, footpaths and settlement. There may also be views of turbines from beaches and coastal paths and from the ferry.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be visible in close proximity from roads, footpaths and settlement. There may also be views from beaches and coastal paths and from the ferry.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Landscape values No scenic designations (or WLAs) apply to this landscape.</p>	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	<p>Low</p>

Landscape Character Type 26: Inland Machair and Moss – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context There is a strong contrast between this low-lying landscape and the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27). This landscape is very inter-visible with the other landscape types on Tiree. The proximity of this landscape to the highly scenic and wild <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) on the remote west coast of Tiree is a particular sensitivity.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited in this landscape would have less of a dominant effect on the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27) provided they were sited well away from them. The adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) would be sensitive to turbines of this size sited in the western part of this landscape.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Small turbines would generally have limited effects on adjoining landscapes although turbines closer to 35m would still need to be sensitively sited in relation to the more remote and little modified <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25).</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Scale and openness This landscape is very low-lying and open. Scale is increased in areas of lochs and moss where there is no settlement. The density of small farms and houses present on the drier parts of this landscape however reduces scale.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would be significantly larger than the small buildings which form a dense pattern in parts of this landscape although effects would be reduced if turbines were sited within less settled areas of moss or farmland.</p>	<p>High-Medium</p>	<p>Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have a better relationship to small buildings.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Landform A simple, flat to very gently sloping landform.</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this quality</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Sensitivity is reduced in relation to this quality</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Land cover Vegetation cover is often diverse comprising open machair grassland at the transition with the <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25). Fenced species-rich pastures are present in more settled areas. Extensive areas of moss and wetland, acidic lochs and pools, angular drainage ditches and the larger reed-fringed lochs of Loch a'Phuil and Loch Bhasapol contribute</p>	<p>Areas of visually diverse machair, wetland and the setting of lochs would be sensitive to development.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>While areas of visually diverse machair, wetland and the setting of lochs would remain sensitive to all turbine development, this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) are more likely to be sited close to settled areas, thus reducing potential impact on diverse land cover.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

to the distinctive landcover pattern of this landscape.				
<p>Settlement A distinctive and dense pattern of prominent, mainly white, small buildings located on drier ground and aligning roads. The design integrity of domestic buildings is a key feature of Tiree. Archaeological features are also present with some associated with the larger lochs and in more settled areas. Some small wind turbines (<30m) are associated with farms in this landscape.</p>	The introduction of larger wind turbines could disrupt and detract from the distinctive character and pattern of buildings. Cumulative effects could also occur with existing small wind turbines. Less settled moorlands and wetlands would be less sensitive in this respect although the setting of archaeological features is an additional constraint.	High-medium	This small typology, which is more likely to comprise single turbines associated with individual farms, would fit with and consolidate the existing pattern and scale of wind turbine development without significantly detracting from the distinctive character and pattern of buildings in this part of Tiree. Care is needed however to ensure compatibility in the size and design of small turbines.	Medium
<p>Perceptual qualities The settled nature of this landscape limits the perception of wildness although the wetlands are strongly natural.</p>	This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with less modified wetlands and lochs although the settled character of much of this landscape would result in little impact on qualities of wildness.	Medium	This size of turbine could affect the sense of naturalness associated with less modified wetlands and lochs although the settled character of much of this landscape would result in little impact on qualities of wildness.	Medium
<p>Visual amenity This flat and open landscape is highly visible from settlement, surrounding roads and from the <i>Focal Hills</i> (27).</p>	Turbines of this size would be visible in close proximity from roads, footpaths and settlement. There may also be views from beaches and coastal paths and from the ferry.	High	While the openness of this landscape would result in this typology being clearly visible from roads, footpaths and settlement, turbines of this size (and particularly those towards the lower height band) would have less of an impact on views.	High-medium
<p>Landscape values No scenic designations (or WLAs) apply to this landscape.</p>	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low



Lochs sit in shallow basins – some are fringed with reeds and wetlands



The Focal Hills are widely visible across the low-lying and open landscape



A relatively dense pattern of small farms located on slightly higher drier ground



Extensive areas of moss lie at the core of this landscape and are fringed by bright green pastures

Landscape Character Type 26: Inland Machair and Moss

Landscape Character Type 27: Tíree Focal Hills

Landscape Character Type 27: Tiree Focal Hills - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of large typology (>80m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (50-80m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape comprises three 'stand-alone' hills which are dramatically juxtaposed with low lying machair. Beinn Hynish and Ben Hough are highly visible across Tiree. The lower hill of Ceann a'Mhara is less prominent but an important feature of the wilder west coast of the island.</p>	<p>Wind turbines sited on these hills would significantly affect the character of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) (and particularly, the perceived wildness of the west coast of Tiree) and the backdrop these hills provide to the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26).</p>	High	<p>Wind turbines sited on these hills would significantly affect the character of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) (and particularly, the perceived wildness of the west coast of Tiree) and the backdrop these hills provide to the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26).</p>	High
<p>Scale and openness Although not high, the <i>Focal Hills</i> appear high because of the low-lying ground surrounding them and their ruggedness.</p>	<p>Wind turbines sited on or close to these hills would diminish the appreciation of their apparent vertical scale by providing an element of 'scaling' (this is compromised already at Ben Hynish and Beinn Hough where existing built structures diminish the perceived scale of these hills)</p>	High	<p>Wind turbines sited on or close to these hills would diminish the appreciation of their apparent vertical scale by providing an element of 'scaling' (this is compromised already at Ben Hynish and Beinn Hough where existing built structures diminish the perceived scale of these hills)</p>	High
<p>Landform Steep rocky slopes and undulating ridges and summit peaks. Sea cliffs and a rugged fragmented coastal edge fringe Ceann a Mhara and are also present at the foot of Beinn Hynish.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from notable landform features such as sea cliffs, the diverse coastal edge and more prominent summits and ridges. Construction of access tracks and foundations would be likely to result in highly visible impacts on landform.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from notable landform features such as sea cliffs, the diverse coastal edge and more prominent summits and ridges. Construction of access tracks and foundations would be likely to result in highly visible impacts on landform.</p>	High
<p>Land cover Rough grassland and patchy heather covers steep slopes.</p>	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover on these hills reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover on these hills reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low
<p>Settlement Small farms lie at the foot of Ben Hynish and Beinn Hough. Ben Hynish forms the setting to the historic settlement of Hynish and further settlement nestles at the foot of the western slopes of Ben Hynish close to the coast. World War II infrastructure and a</p>	<p>Small farms and houses and the historic settlement of Hynish would be sensitive to large turbines sited close-by. Turbines would also add to the existing clutter of infrastructure present on Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish. The</p>	High	<p>Small farms and houses and the historic settlement of Hynish would be sensitive to large turbines sited close-by. Turbines would also add to the existing clutter of infrastructure present on Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish. The</p>	High

<p>most are located on the top of Beinn Hough and a prominent white 'golf ball' radar tracking station is located on Ben Hynish. Ceann a' Mhara is not settled but is particularly rich in archaeological features.</p>	<p>setting of archaeological features is also a major constraint.</p>		<p>setting of archaeological features is also a major constraint.</p>	
<p>Perceptual qualities While Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish accommodate highly visible built development on their summits, a strong sense of wildness is experienced on Ceann a'Mhara.</p>	<p>Any development on Ceann a'Mhara would significantly diminish its qualities of wildness. The other hills are less sensitive in this respect.</p>	Medium	<p>Any development on Ceann a'Mhara would significantly diminish its qualities of wildness. The other hills are less sensitive in this respect.</p>	Medium
<p>Visual amenity Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish are highly visible features seen across Tiree and from the ferry when approaching the island. While Ceann a'Mhara is less widely prominent, it forms a focus in views from Balephuill Bay and other beaches. All hills appear well frequented by walkers with a network of footpaths evident. Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish offer spectacular views across Tiree and beyond.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on or close-by these hills would have significant and widespread visual effects. They would displace the focus presently provided by these hills in key views across Tiree.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size sited on or close-by these hills would have significant and widespread visual effects. They would displace the focus presently provided by these hills in key views across Tiree.</p>	High
<p>Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.</p>	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low	<p>The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low

Landscape Character Type 27: Tíree Focal Hills - Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Topic and summary description	Assessment of large typology (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Assessment of medium typology (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p>Landscape context This landscape comprises three 'stand-alone' hills which are dramatically juxtaposed with low lying machair. Beinn Hynish and Ben Hough are highly visible across Tíree. The lower hill of Ceann a'Mhara is less prominent but an important feature of the wilder west coast of the island.</p>	<p>Wind turbines of this size sited on these hills would significantly affect the character of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25) (and particularly, the perceived wildness of the west coast of Tíree) and the backdrop these hills provide to the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26).</p>	High	<p>Even small wind turbines sited on Ceann a'Mhara and on the more sensitive western slopes of these hills would significantly affect the character of the adjacent <i>Sand Dunes and Machair</i> (25). Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could have less of an effect on the backdrop these hills provide to the <i>Inland Machair and Moss</i> (26).</p>	High-medium
<p>Scale and openness Although not high, the <i>Focal Hills</i> appear high because of the low-lying ground surrounding them and their ruggedness.</p>	<p>Wind turbines of this size would still appear very large in relation to the vertical scale of these hills.</p>	High	<p>This size of wind turbine (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) would be less dominant in relation to the height of these hills.</p>	High-medium
<p>Landform Steep rocky slopes and undulating ridges and summit peaks. Sea cliffs and a rugged fragmented coastal edge fringe Ceann a Mhara and are also present at the foot of Beinn Hynish.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from notable landform features such as sea cliffs, the diverse coastal edge and more prominent summits and ridges. Impacts associated with access tracks and foundations may be reduced for this smaller typology.</p>	High-medium	<p>Any turbine development would detract from notable landform features such as sea cliffs, the diverse coastal edge and more prominent summits and ridges. Construction effects would be further reduced as this size of turbine is more likely to be located on lower slopes near farms.</p>	Medium
<p>Land cover Rough grassland and patchy heather covers steep slopes.</p>	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover on these hills reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low	<p>The relatively simple vegetation cover on these hills reduces sensitivity.</p>	Low
<p>Settlement Small farms lie at the foot of Ben Hynish and Beinn Hough. Ben Hynish forms the setting to the historic settlement of Hynish and further settlement nestles at the foot of the western slopes of Ben Hynish close to the coast. World War II infrastructure and a mast are located on the top of Beinn Hough and a prominent white 'golf ball' radar</p>	<p>Small farms and houses and the historic settlement of Hynish would be sensitive to turbines of this size sited close-by. Turbines would also add to the existing clutter of infrastructure present on Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish. The setting of archaeological features is also a major constraint.</p>	High	<p>Small farms and houses and the historic settlement of Hynish would be sensitive to even small turbines sited close-by although there are opportunities to minimise effects by using turbines around 20m high and through careful siting. Turbines would also add to the existing clutter of infrastructure present on Beinn Hough</p>	High-medium

tracking station is located on Ben Hynish. Ceann a' Mhara is not settled but is particularly rich in archaeological features.			and Ben Hynish if located on the summits and upper slopes of these ridges. The setting of archaeological features remains a major constraint.	
Perceptual qualities While Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish accommodate highly visible built development on their summits, a strong sense of wildness is experienced on Ceann a'Mhara.	Any development on Ceann a'Mhara would significantly diminish its qualities of wildness. The other hills are less sensitive in this respect.	Medium	Any development on Ceann a'Mhara would significantly diminish its qualities of wildness. The other hills are less sensitive in this respect.	Medium
Visual amenity Beinn Hough and Ben Hynish are highly visible features seen across Tiree and from the ferry when approaching the island. While Ceann a'Mhara is less widely prominent, it forms a focus in views from Balephuill Bay and other beaches.	Turbines of this size sited on or close-by these hills would have significant visual effects. These may be widespread depending on the location of turbines. They would displace the focus presently provided by these hills in key views across Tiree.	High	Turbines of this size sited on the upper slopes and summits of these hills would have significant visual effects. There is however scope to site this typology on lower slopes and set back from roads and settlement to minimise visual intrusion.	High-medium
Landscape values No landscape designations apply to this landscape.	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low	The absence of designated or formally valued landscapes reduces sensitivity.	Low



Beinn Ceann a Mhara has a distinctly natural and unmodified character although is rich in archaeological features



Beinn Hough seen across the flat open Inland Machair and Moss LCT 26



Grass, patchy heather and exposed rock land cover – and also WWII infrastructure – seen here on Beinn Hough



Ben Hynish with its prominent radar tracking station

Landscape Character Type 27: Focal Hills

3 Detailed Sensitivity Assessment of National Scenic Areas

Knapdale NSA Sensitivity Assessment

Knapdale NSA – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
NSA Special Qualities				
<p>Distinctive ridges and loch-filled trenches <i>Long, linear narrow, steep-sided ridges....and the loch-filled trenches of ...deeply folded rocks</i> have a particularly intimate scale and complex form between Moine Mhor and middle Loch Sween. The fragmented linear channels of Loch Sween and the long, low peninsulas separating them share this complex pattern but are more open in character to the south-west. The higher ridges between Loch Sween and Loch Caolisport have a less complex landform.</p>	<p>This typology would dominate the small scale and detract from the distinctive landform of the complex linear pattern of narrow ridges, deep valleys and lochs but also the fragmented coastal edge and islands particularly prevalent west and north-east of Loch Sween.</p>	High	<p>While the smaller turbines of this typology would be less dominant in terms of the scale of higher ridges, they would still detract from the complex landform of distinctive ridges and loch-filled trenches particularly prevalent west and north-east of Loch Sween.</p>	High
<p>A landscape of skylines The skylines formed by the parallel ridges of this landscape are a key feature framing and containing views. The skylines of forested 'toothed' ridges seen across the open basin of Moine Mhor are particularly distinctive and prominent. Steep hill slopes and ridges either side of Loch Caolisport are important in framing <i>fine views to Jura</i>. The ridge of higher ground separating Lochs Sween and Caolisport forms a backdrop to views from the B8025 and from Loch Sween.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from distinctive skylines formed by the narrow parallel ridges seen from Moine Mhor and glimpsed from roads and settlement within the middle area of the NSA. This typology would also be intrusive if sited on lower ridges and the coastal edge of Loch Caolisport which frame views to Jura.</p>	High	<p>Turbines of this size would detract from distinctive skylines formed by the narrow parallel ridges seen from Moine Mhor and glimpsed from roads and settlement within the middle area of the NSA. This typology would also be intrusive if sited on lower ridges and the coastal edge of Loch Caolisport which frame views to Jura.</p>	High

<p>A clothing of oak woodland over the ridges and hollows These woodlands add...a wild and natural dimension to many views throughout middle and lower coastal Knapdale. They are most extensive on the Tayvallich Peninsula.</p>	<p>While this woodland has potential to limit views of development, turbines of this size would significantly extend above the tree canopy, detracting from the appreciation of its extent, integrity and naturalness.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would also extend above the woodland canopy and would detract from the appreciation of its extent, integrity and naturalness, although there is increased scope for screening smaller turbines.</p>	<p>High-med</p>
<p>A profoundly evocative, ancient place This landscape is rich in archaeology with many landmark built features. These include the standing stones, cairns and other ancient sites of Moine Mhor but also the chapels found on the tips of peninsulas and islands in the southern reaches of the NSA.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would affect the setting of archaeological features and the rich sense of history associated with this landscape.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>This typology could also affect the setting of archaeological features and the rich sense of history associated with this landscape although their smaller size means that there may be more scope for development closer to the feature without intruding on the setting.</p>	<p>High-med</p>
<p>Dramatic juxtaposition of ridge and volcanic plugs arising from the flat expanse of Moine Mhor bog The volcanic plugs of Cnoc na Moine and Dunadd are the most prominent of a number of knolls which rise abruptly from Moine Mhor. The craggy knoll at Crinan Ferry separates and defines the <i>unusual morphology of the double bay at Crinan</i>. The edge hills of the parallel ridges which enclose Moine Mhor are notably craggy and particularly steep-sided to the south, lending a drama belied by their relatively lowly height when contrasted with the flat plain of the Moine Mhor bog and farmland.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited in the Moine Mhor area would overwhelm the scale of volcanic plugs and knolls and would detract from their prominence (and from the appreciation of the form of Crinan Bay). Turbines sited on the parallel ridges visible from this area would also appear large in relation to the vertical scale of the hills and would detract from the dramatic juxtaposition with the flat expanse of Moine Mhor.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited in the Moine Mhor area would appear large in relation to the size of volcanic plugs and knolls and would detract from their prominence (and from the appreciation of the form of Crinan Bay). Turbines sited on the parallel ridges visible from this area would also appear large in relation to the vertical scale of the hills and would detract from the dramatic juxtaposition with the flat expanse of Moine Mhor.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>A centre of parallel ridges and secret lochans This special quality addresses similar qualities relating to the 'distinctive</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited close to these lochans would affect the sense of seclusion and tranquillity</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited close to these lochans would affect the sense of seclusion and tranquillity</p>	<p>High</p>

ridges' and 'oak woodlands' assessed above. The secret lochans set within dense forest and woodlands occur within the strongly contained parallel ridges found at the head of Loch Sween.	experienced and would detract from their intricate scale and pattern.		experienced and would detract from their intricate scale and pattern.	
<i>Dramatic sea views in the south</i> Jura is a focus in views from the more open peninsula tips and along the linear Loch Caolisport.	Dramatic sea views from the open southern peninsulas and Loch Caolisport to the Paps of Jura would be affected by inappropriately sited turbines	<i>High</i>	Dramatic sea views from the open southern peninsulas and Loch Caolisport to the Paps of Jura would be affected by inappropriately sited turbines	<i>High</i>
<i>The Crinan Canal</i> The Crinan Canal occupies a narrow corridor, contained by the steep wooded slopes of the parallel ridges to the south and vegetation to the north. Small scale settlement aligns the canal basin.	Turbines of this size sited close to the canal would dominate the small scale of the basin and settlement associated with it. Turbines sited on adjacent parallel ridges and Moine Mhor would affect its setting and occasional glimpsed views from the canal.	<i>High</i>	Turbines of this size sited close to the canal would dominate the small scale of the basin and settlement associated with it. Turbines sited on adjacent parallel ridges and Moine Mhor would affect its setting and occasional glimpsed views from the canal.	<i>High</i>
<i>Other key characteristics</i>				
<i>Settlement pattern, scale and setting</i> Farms dot the flat open plain of Moine Mhor. The densely wooded middle part of the NSA is sparsely settled although the small settlements of Crinan and Tayvallich are sited on the coastal edge of this area and are contained by wooded ridges. Dispersed farms and cottages are generally smaller within the more open Keills Peninsula and are set down off low ridges. The coastal fringes of Loch Caolisport feature many estate buildings and large houses.	Turbines of this size would appear very large in relation to small buildings – this would be particularly obvious where the landscape is more open and buildings form visually prominent point features – for example on Moine Mhor and the more open low Keills Peninsula. The setting of small settlements such as Crinan and Tayvallich would be sensitive especially if turbines were sited so seen against the skyline of low containing ridges and along the shoreline interrupting views across bays.	<i>High-med</i>	Turbines of this size would have a better scale relationship to buildings although very small buildings in more open areas would be more sensitive to turbines towards the upper height band of this typology. The setting of settlements is still sensitive although there is increased scope to accommodate turbines towards the lower height band to minimise impact.	<i>Medium</i>



Densely wooded parallel ridges dramatically juxtaposed with flat moss – skylines are highly sensitive



The volcanic plug of Dunadd rising abruptly from the flat moss of Moine Mhor.



Crinan Bay with its tidal sands backed by rugged low ridges



Sea lochs and parallel rocky ridges alternate and together with woodland, wetland and small pockets of pasture, produce a richly diverse landscape



The southern tips of the long parallel peninsulas are very open and feature views over the sea with the Paps of Jura forming a key focus.



Long narrow wooded ridges create strong containment and an intimate scale

Landscape Character Type: Knapdale NSA

Lynn of Lorn NSA Sensitivity Assessment

Lynn of Lorn NSA – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Special quality	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
<p><i>A long-inhabited green oasis</i> Small wooded ridges, sheltered meadows and policy landscapes occur on the mainland areas of Appin and Benderloch. Lismore and Shuna are <i>'fertile green oases of limestone'</i>.</p>	<p>This typology would detract from the composition of policy landscapes and the intricate interlocking land cover pattern of wetland, pasture and woodland which is particularly characteristic of the mainland area of the NSA and in more sheltered parts of Lismore.</p>	<i>High</i>	<p>This typology would also detract from policy landscapes and small wooded ridges although the smaller turbines of this typology would be likely to have less of an effect on the scale of meadows and small pastures found in parts of Lismore and the mainland areas of the NSA.</p>	<i>High-med</i>
<p><i>Small scale low-lying landscape with a vast highland backdrop</i> Small scale pattern of land cover and complex patterning of <i>'hill and crag'</i>. Lismore <i>an island of small knolls and uneven limestone crags</i>. Glimpses to large scale mountainous landscapes which backdrop the low-lying landscape of the NSA.</p>	<p>This typology would dominate the scale of low ridges, small knolly hills and complex strongly contained landform. Views to the backdrop of mountains could be affected by this typology and this is addressed below.</p>	<i>High</i>	<p>This typology would dominate the scale of low ridges, small knolly hills and complex strongly contained landform. Views to the backdrop of mountains could be affected by this typology and this is addressed below.</p>	<i>High</i>
<p><i>A landscape strongly orientated north-east-south-west</i> <i>The pattern of ridges and valleys, of crags and slopes, of islands and promontories is particularly distinctive.</i></p>	<p>Turbines of this size could detract from the distinctive orientation of ridges particularly if multiple developments were to occur. They could however be sited to relate to the linear pattern.</p>	<i>Medium</i>	<p>While turbines towards the upper height band of this typology could detract from the distinctive orientation of ridges, smaller turbines would be less prominent provided they were carefully sited to relate to the linear pattern.</p>	<i>Medium-low</i>
<p><i>The coastline of great variety and diversity</i> <i>The coastline is complex and broken coastal features are diverse and include small islands and islets, horseshoe bays, linear tiers of cliffs from post glacial raised beaches –</i></p>	<p>The coast would be highly sensitive to this typology as turbines would detract from the diversity, small scale and focus of the many geological features.</p>	<i>High</i>	<p>The coast edge would be highly sensitive even to this smaller typology as turbines would detract from the diversity, small scale and focus of the many geological features.</p>	<i>High</i>

most notable on Lismore – and the Clach Tholl rock arch.				
A strategic location, rich in history <i>Numerous historic remains are found throughout the area.</i> Archaeological and historical built features often form distinctive landmarks in this landscape.	Turbines of this size could affect the setting and appreciation of archaeological features.	High	This typology could affect the setting and appreciation of archaeological features although their smaller size means that there may be more scope for development closer to the feature without intruding on the setting.	High-med
A place of retreat and seclusion This special quality repeats some of the historical dimension noted above but also refers to aspects of seclusion. A distinct sense of seclusion can be experienced on parts of Lismore (heightened by it being an island) and on less accessible parts of the coast in the Lochnell area.	This typology would introduce large structures into a landscape which could compromise the sense of seclusion experienced in some areas.	Medium	The smaller turbines of this typology would be likely to have less of an effect on the sense of seclusion experienced due to its greater ability to be screened by landform and woodland and to fit better with the scale of existing settlement.	Med-low
Castle Stalker, one of Scotland's iconic romantic images Castle Stalker forms a focus in foreground of dramatic views south from A828 drawn down the length of the Lynn to the intricate pattern of islands along the coast and across Lismore to the mountains of Morvern and Mull.	This iconic view would be highly sensitive to the intrusion of moving turbines of this size, whether sited on the coastal edge of the Lynn of Lorn or on prominent skylines such as the hills of the Appin peninsula and higher ridgelines and hills of Lismore.	High	This iconic view would be highly sensitive to the intrusion of moving turbines of this size, whether sited on the coastal edge of the Lynn of Lorn or on prominent skylines such as the hills of the Appin peninsula and higher ridgelines and hills of Lismore.	High



The Eilean Musdile lighthouse on the southern tip of Lismore and the rugged west coast of the island, seen from the Mull ferry.



Lismore has a diverse land cover of walled pastures, scrubby woodlands and wetland.



The characteristic parallel ridges of this NSA are generally low and narrow and contribute to the small scale of the landscape.



Higher ground in the southern part of Lismore has a more open character and increased scale although it is also important in forming the skyline in key views



The 'High Tops' at the head of Loch Creran form a dramatic backdrop in view from the NSA



The romantic Castle Stalker and the renowned view down the Lynn of Lorn with Lismore to the right

Landscape Character Type: Lynn of Lorn NSA

Kyles of Bute NSA Sensitivity Assessment

Kyles of Bute NSA – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Special quality	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
The drama of the Kyles These narrow sea channels snake around the northern end of Bute, hemmed in by steep hill slopes on Bute and the long Cowal peninsulas. The sea is the focus of this NSA <i>holding the eye with the varied drama of straits, islands, promontories, bluffs, coves, flats and bays.</i>	Turbines sited close to the shore and on steep containing slopes would detract from the irregular coastal edge and from the focus provided by the Kyles. Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the narrow width of the Kyles.	High	Turbines sited close to the shore and on particularly steep and rugged slopes containing the Kyles would detract although there may be some limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology on smoother, gentler containing slopes away from more complex irregular promontories, bluffs and islands.	High-med
Verdant woodland on the enclosing hills Extensive areas of mature, mixed woodland cover the hillsides which contain the Kyles, these <i>often reaching the water's edge</i> . There are many large individual trees and these <i>spread their boughs across small pastures.....</i>	Turbines of this size would be significantly taller than trees and would detract from the notably extensive broadleaved woodland cover characteristic of this NSA. There are few areas of open ground where larger turbines (and groups of turbines) could be accommodated.	High-med	There is some increased scope to site the smaller turbines of this typology in less wooded areas.	Medium
Rocky outcrops punctuating the wooded slopes The hills containing the Kyles are steep-sided, particularly the mainland hills which <i>overhang the Kyles steeply</i> with towering rocky buttresses occurring above the A8003.	This typology would detract from the predominant complexity and steepness of the topography. Smoother hill slopes occur on the lower slopes either side of the eastern Kyle although these are still steep and there would be limited opportunities for multiple turbines of this size.	High	This typology would also detract from the predominant complexity and steepness of the topography although there may be increased opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines either side of the eastern Kyle and in rare areas where landform is less complex.	High-med
Small fields between the water and the woods These fields exist on the <i>only significant areas of level ground</i> between the shore and the foot of steep wooded slopes. They are rare	Turbines of this size would dominate the scale of small fields if sited within or nearby them. Larger fields and areas of more extensive grazing occur on the lower slopes of	High-med	Turbines of this size would dominate the scale of small fields if sited within or nearby them. Larger fields and areas of more extensive grazing occur on the lower slopes of the	High-med

features and provide a valuable contrast with extensive woodlands, water and rocky hill slopes providing pockets of open space and contributing to the intimate scale experienced along the shores of the Kyles.	the eastern Kyle and turbines would have less of an impact on these.		eastern Kyle and turbines would have less of an impact on these.	
<i>The juxtaposition of human settlement and a wider undeveloped landscape of sea and hills</i> settlement is sparse and confined to the coastal fringes. <i>Settlements are well integrated into the landform and although easily accessible by road and sea, the whole area has a relatively remote and undeveloped character.</i>	Turbines of this size would appear large in relation to small buildings. There is little built development in this NSA and this typology (and particularly multiple developments) could diminish the strong pattern of settlement and its relationship to the landscape. The relatively undeveloped character of this landscape would be affected by this typology.	High	Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology and closely associated with settlement would minimise effects on the pattern, scale and setting of settlement. Turbines of this size would also be less likely to be perceived as being 'industrial' in nature and would minimise effects on the perception of undeveloped character.	High-med
<i>Ever-changing vistas</i> This NSA is small and the majority of the area can be seen in relative proximity from elevated viewpoints on the B003, which provide <i>spectacular panoramic views over the Kyles to the undeveloped moorland of northern Bute and beyond</i> . The frequent change in direction and altitude of the A8003 and A886 (both on the mainland and on Bute) <i>give a wide range of vistas in terms of scale</i> and there are long views down the Kyles to Arran and the North Ayrshire coast. The Kyles are well-used by watercraft and views from the sea are also important.	Turbines of this size would be likely to be highly visible in views from the sea, roads and settlement on Bute particularly in a context where the opposite shore is seen in close proximity due to the narrowness of the Kyles. They would be likely to intrude on key views from the A8003 along the Kyles.	High	Turbines of this size would be less intrusive but would still be likely to be noticeable particularly if sited on more prominent knolls and the coastal edge. There may be some very limited scope for turbines towards the lower height band of this typology <25m to be sited on lower hill slopes and visually associated with existing settlement to minimise impacts on views.	High-med



The landscape of this NSA has an intimate scale close to the narrow and strongly enclosed Kyles



Coastal fringes feature a mix of woodland and small pastures



Craggy hill slopes form sheer-sided buttresses which are particularly dramatic backing Loch Ruel



Policy woodland and small areas of parkland within the more sheltered Loch Ruel area add to the rich land cover of this NSA



The tidal wetlands at the head of Loch Ruel



Scenic views over Bute and down the Kyles from the A8003

Landscape Character Type: Kyles of Bute NSA

Loch na Keal, Isle of Mull NSA Sensitivity Assessment

Loch na Keal NSA – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

Special quality	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
NSA special qualities				
<p>Highly distinctive seaways and shores These include the wide, outer loch divided in two by Ulva and Gometra and the narrow inner loch of Loch na Keal. Inner Loch na Keal is strongly contained by hill slopes rising to a ridge of between 300-400m to the north and the steep slopes of Ben More and other mountains to the south-east. The southern part of the outer loch is contained by the dramatic sheer cliffs of the Ardmeanach Peninsula on Mull and the fragmented southern coast of Ulva.</p>	<p>Turbines of this size sited on steep slopes and on the skyline of containing ridges (in both the NSA and in adjacent landscapes) would detract from the setting of the inner Loch an Keal and Loch Tuath and key views across and along these relatively narrow stretches of water which allow close views of opposite shores. The southern part of the outer loch is more expansive and open to the sea. While turbines of this size would appear small in relation to the increased scale of this seascape they would be likely to disrupt its characteristic openness. Skylines are similarly sensitive in this part of the outer loch (the landform of the islands is considered separately below).</p>	High	<p>Small turbines sited on prominent ridgelines would have similar effects on the setting of the inner Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath. Lower hill slopes away from key views across Loch na Keal to distant islands (see assessment below) and associated with settlement would be less sensitive provided skylines were not breached and more fragmented shorelines were avoided.</p>	High-med
<p>Dramatic coast of basalt terraces and cliffs Ancient lava flows give a horizontal emphasis to the area and...<i>Geometric strongly stepped profiles lead up and back from a rocky, steeply edged coastline to flat-topped summits.</i> These 'stepped profiles' are most dramatic on the peninsula of Ardmeanach and</p>	<p>The landform of much of this NSA is complex and distinctive. This typology would detract from more fragmented coastlines present on the eastern and southern coasts of Ulva, the vertiginous cliffs and stepped profiles of Ardmeanach and steep-sided mountainous terrain of Ben More. Less complex</p>	High-med	<p>The small typology would also detract from more fragmented coastlines present on the eastern and southern coasts of Ulva, the vertiginous cliffs and stepped profiles of Ardmeanach and steep-sided mountainous terrain of Ben More. Less complex landform occurs on lower hill slopes to the north and east of inner Loch na Keal</p>	Medium

<p>culminate in the sheer cliffs of 'The Wilderness'. The absence of tree cover reveals the geological bones of this landscape. The <i>shapely cone of Ben More</i> is seen with other steep-sided mountains on the south side of Loch na Keal, creating a <i>fine skyline</i> and backdrop.</p>	<p>landform occurs on lower hill slopes to the north and east of inner Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath where small breaks in slope and natural terraces provide opportunities for turbines of this size to be accommodated to minimise effects on this special quality.</p>		<p>and Loch Tuath where small breaks in slope and natural terraces provide increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be accommodated to minimise effects on this special quality.</p>	
<p>Views of an island-studded sea An abundance of islands of different shapes, sizes and character, although all reflect the horizontality of the lava flows from which they are derived. The islands include Staffa, Eorsa, Ulva, Little Colonsay, Inch Kenneth and the Treshnish Isles and they are seen from many vantage points including the narrow coast roads around Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath and from Ben More, Iona and the Ross of Mull as well as from each other. Boat trips to Staffa and the Treshnish Isles are popular.</p>	<p>Turbines could intrude on key views to and from the islands especially if located between the B8035 and the B8073 and the shoreline which is predominantly open, allowing unimpeded sea views. Turbines of this size located on the smaller islands would be likely to be prominent as little screening would be provided by landform. Lower hill slopes inland from the coastal roads and set back from key footpaths on the mainland (for example the footpath in the area of Treshnish Point) would be less sensitive. There would also be greater scope to minimise intrusion on views if sited on larger islands such as Ulva where a degree of screening and backdrop by higher ground could be utilised.</p>	<p>High-med</p>	<p>Even small turbines could intrude on key views from coastal roads and turbines towards the upper height band of this typology would be prominent if sited on smaller islands. There is however increased scope to site this typology, and especially turbines toward the lower height band <25m, away from sensitive coastal edges and on lower hill slopes to benefit from a back drop of rising ground thus minimising visual intrusion on key views to the islands.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Islands and islet groups of astonishingly varied character Eorsa is a compact green island with smooth rounded slopes and cliffs on the west coast – it lies in the centre of Loch na Keal. Low-lying Inch Kenneth with its 'toothed' islets, reefs and skerries, is rich in archaeology. Ulva forms the largest island and is green and lush in the east with a mix of</p>	<p>This typology could significantly impact on the individual and complex landform character of the islands – especially where the islands are small but especially distinctive in their form – for example the Dutchman's Cap on the Treshnish Isles. These taller turbines could detract from the</p>	<p>High-med</p>	<p>There is increased scope to site smaller turbines to avoid significant effects on more complex and distinctive landform features within some of the larger islands with a less iconic form.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

<p>pasture and policy woodlands. Little Colonsay and Gometra <i>both have distinctly shelved coastlines</i>. The Treshnish Isles a striking chain of small basalt islands which form landmark features, particularly the Dutchman’s Cap. Staffa is isolated and renowned.</p>	<p>appreciation of more complex landform features, such as pronounced stepped profiles and fragmented coastal edges patterned with myriad islets and skerries and would appear large in relation to the scale of small hills on the smaller islands. Landform is variable however and sensitivity would be reduced where flatter terraces and more even slopes occur on some of the larger islands.</p>			
<p><i>A vast natural world, dwarfing human settlement</i> This landscape is sparsely settled. <i>Where houses do occur, they are dwarfed by the mountainous and sea-dominant scene</i>. Settlement is confined to the northern coastal fringes of Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath and the eastern end of Ulva.</p>	<p>While this typology would not dominate the scale of this <i>vast natural world</i>, turbines of this size would appear large in relation to the small houses fringing the loch shore.</p>	<p><i>Medium</i></p>	<p>This typology would also not dominate the scale of this <i>vast natural world</i>. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be less likely to dominate the size of small houses.</p>	<p><i>Medium-low</i></p>
<p><i>Other key characteristics</i></p>				
<p><i>Perceptual qualities</i> The islands of Staffa and the Treshnish Isles are remote and uninhabited (although a popular destination for summer boat trips). Other islands such as Ulva are very sparsely settled. The difficulties of access, the ruggedness of the terrain and absence of development results in a strong sense of wildness being associated with these islands. The northern coasts of Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath are less remote being sparsely settled and coniferous forestry also diminishes the</p>	<p>This typology would significantly diminish the strong sense of wildness associated with remote, inhabited islands and coastal areas. Sensitivity would be reduced where turbines could be visually associated with settlement on the larger inhabited islands and mainland coastal areas although taller turbines are more likely to affect the wider setting of the NSA.</p>	<p><i>High</i></p>	<p>This typology would also significantly diminish the strong sense of wildness associated with remote, inhabited islands and coastal areas. Sensitivity would be reduced where turbines could be visually associated with settlement on the larger inhabited islands and mainland coastal areas. These smaller turbines are less likely to impact on the wider setting of the WLA and on the perception of wildness in the wider NSA if they</p>	<p><i>High-med</i></p>

<p>perception of naturalness. Although the southern shores of Loch na Keal are sparsely settled and accessed by the B8035, the Ardmeanach Peninsula is remote with no road access and has a strong sense of wildness heightened by dramatic massive cliffs. Ben More gives elevated views into the remote mountainous core of the 'Mull High Tops' (2a). The Ben More, Mull WLA covers the eastern part of the NSA. The description of this WLA notes the absence of large scale human artefacts in the area adjacent to the WLA to the west.</p>			<p>were closely associated with existing settlement.</p>	
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Distinctive 'stepped' basalt landform on Ulva seen from Little Colonsay



The seascape of this NSA features a diverse range of islands of different size and form



The conical form of Ben More rising steeply from Loch na Keal



The spectacular coastal scenery of sheer cliffs on the Ardmeanach Peninsula seen across Loch na Keal

Landscape Character Type: Loch na Keal NSA

Jura NSA Sensitivity Assessment

Jura NSA – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

	Small-medium typology assessment (35-50m)	Sensitivity rating	Small typology assessment (20-35m)	Sensitivity rating
NSA Special Qualities				
<p><i>The distinctive Paps of Jura</i> <i>Steep cones...and summits of silvery rock... rise out of surrounding moorland...their distinctive profiles make them readily identifiable landmarks.</i> The Paps are highly visible and readily recognisable from neighbouring Islay, vast stretches of the west coast mainland, other islands, and the sea, including major ferry routes. They are seen and recognised from all angles. The NSA encompasses the visual setting of the Paps, including views from the sea. Fine views to Jura are mentioned in other NSA citations, for example the Knappedale NSA.</p>	<p>This typology could easily disrupt the distinctive and recognisable profile of the Paps, or distract from their visual focus which is the key element of the NSA. This typology could readily intrude into key views or the setting of the Paps, and diminish the visual drama of the way the hills rise out of the plateau. In addition, the Paps appear taller than they really are, and turbines of this height could diminish their perceived scale.</p>	High	<p>While the smaller turbines of this typology would be potentially less prominent, at least from a distance, this typology could still intrude into key views, diminish the visual drama of the way the hills rise out of the plateau and distract from the visual focus of the hills and could also diminish the perceived scale of the Paps.</p>	High
<p><i>Human settlement on the edges of a vast moorland</i> The ‘<i>wild trackless interior</i>’ contrasts with the ‘<i>inhabited green coastal strip</i>’. Human settlement occupies a relatively thin sliver of accessible and more fertile coast. By contrast the moorland interior is characterised by its lack of human intervention and relative remoteness. A WLA covers much of the interior uplands of this NSA.</p>	<p>Turbines located away from the inhabited coastal strip would extend structures into the relatively remote interior and blur the boundary between the inhabited and settled coast and the more remote and uninhabited moorland. This typology could also be highly visible in the open moorland and likely to have a wide visual presence.</p>	High	<p>Turbines located away from the inhabited coastal strip would extend structures into the relatively remote interior and blur the boundary between the inhabited and settled coast and the more remote and uninhabited moorland. Although smaller than the small-medium typology, this typology could still be easily visible in the open moorland.</p>	High

<p>A continually varying coast The variety of the coast extends from...<i>bays, beaches and headlands, settled and cultivated coastlines</i> along the east and south, to the <i>uninhabited and inaccessible west coast with its spectacular raised beaches and caves...and Loch Tarbert.</i> The drama of the coastline is in part due to its variety of features and varied sense of remoteness, but also due to the spectacular seascape setting, from the wide openness to the south and the enclosed straights of Islay. A number of visitor attractions, including the Singing Sands, have a coastal setting.</p>	<p>Turbines located on the coast may distract from smaller scale features such as small bays and islands and impact on the relative remoteness of less inhabited stretches of coastline, although some stretches of coastline may be more self contained and also less remote.</p>	<p>High-med</p>	<p>Turbines located on the coast may distract from smaller scale features such as small bays and islands and impact on the relative remoteness of less inhabited stretches of coastline, although some stretches of coastline may be more self contained and also less remote.</p>	<p>High-med</p>
<p>Large tracts of wild land <i>Away from the coastal settlements of the south and east, there is little obvious sign of human impact...the combination of remoteness and naturalness imbues...the NSA...with a great sense of wildness.</i> As noted in the special qualities above, the more remote coast and rugged, difficult terrain of the moorland are both characterised by a sense of wildness which contrasts with more settled areas. The WLA covers the interior uplands of the NSA. The description of this WLA notes the strong sense of remoteness, heightened by the island location and the presence of few human artefacts or contemporary</p>	<p>Turbines located away from the inhabited coastal strip would extend structures into the relatively remote interior and impact on the sense of naturalness characteristic of these areas. In addition, turbines and their associated infrastructure would significantly diminish the more remote character of the less accessible west coast. This typology could also be highly visible in the open moorland and likely to have a wide visual presence.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Turbines located away from the inhabited coastal strip would extend structures into the relatively remote interior and impact on the sense of naturalness characteristic of these areas. In addition, turbines and their associated infrastructure would significantly diminish the more remote character of the less accessible west coast. Although smaller than the small-medium typology, this typology could still be easily visible in the open moorland.</p>	<p>High-med</p>

land use in the northern part of the WLA				
<p>The raised beaches of the west coast <i>The raised beaches of the west coast are amongst the finest in Scotland...there is...an impressive array of ...features, relics from a higher sea level, including ancient caves and cliffs.</i> The variety of the coastline is enhanced by these dramatic and ancient features</p>	<p>Turbines located on the west coast would impact on the setting of key features and the visual drama of this coast.</p>	High	<p>Turbines located on the west coast would impact on the setting of key features and the visual drama of this coast.</p>	High
<p>The inaccessible Loch Tarbert ...a sea loch with a complex, rock-bound shoreline...surrounded by moorland...largely inaccessible, except by boat or long walks across boggy terrain...a lonely and remote place. Although the eastern end of this loch is accessible by a track, much of the coastline is difficult to access. The indented coastline and numerous islands create small scale features which contrast with the open sweep of the plateau and the simple form and drama of the Paps.</p>	<p>The contrast between the small scale indented coastline and the more simple, expansive moorland could be diminished by the presence of this typology. The remote qualities of this loch, and its relative inaccessibility, would be diminished by the presence of turbines and associated infrastructure. This typology could also be highly visible in the open landscape and is likely to have a wide visual presence.</p>	High	<p>The contrast between the small scale indented coastline and the more simple, expansive moorland could be diminished by the presence of this typology. The remote qualities of this loch, and its relative inaccessibility, would be diminished by the presence of turbines and associated infrastructure. Although smaller than the small-medium typology, this typology could still be easily visible in the open landscape.</p>	High
Other key characteristics				
<p>Settlement pattern, scale and setting The settlement pattern is characterised by the pattern of clustered townships or scattered crofts. There is a clear relationship between settlement and sheltered locations overlooking the sea. Some</p>	<p>Turbines of this size would appear very large in relation to small buildings. The setting of small settlements would be sensitive especially if turbines were sited on the skyline of low containing ridges and along the shoreline interrupting views across bays.</p>	High-med	<p>Turbines of this size could have a better scale relationship to buildings although small buildings in more open areas would be more sensitive to turbines towards the upper height band of this typology. The setting of settlements is still sensitive although there is increased scope to</p>	Medium

of the older settlements are characterised by low buildings.			accommodate turbines towards the lower height band to minimise impact, or to locate this typology in areas which do not directly impinge upon the setting of the settlements.	
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The striking conical profiles of the Paps of Jura seen from the Sound of Islay



Jura forms a key focus in views from Kintyre and Knapdale on Mainland Argyll.

Landscape Character Type: Jura NSA

4 Guidance on the Siting of Smaller Turbines

Guidance on the siting of smaller turbines

Introduction

The height of turbines relative to other structures in the landscape is a key consideration in terms of landscape 'fit'. This guidance for the detailed siting for smaller turbines considers the following sizes of wind turbines:

- Micro-small wind turbines 12m – 20m
- Small wind turbine 20m – 35m
- Small-medium wind turbine 35m – 50m

Guidance for micro-small turbines (12m – 20m in height)

Freestanding turbines between 12m and around 20m in height will appear as being up to about two and a half times the size of a two-storey house. This size of turbine is therefore likely to be prominent in relation to the size of buildings. However, a well grown, mature forest, broadleaved or conifer tree is also about 20m in height. In fertile lowland landscapes, where trees often achieve a good stature, turbines of this size may be similar in height. Other structures of this height of a similar height include taller communications masts and small pylons.

Landscape sensitivity assessments for this size of turbine were not carried out within the ABLWECS although generic siting guidance for this height of turbine is provided below.

Background

Within the Argyll and Bute landscape, the following issues have been identified as being particularly influential in terms of detailed siting of this typology:

- ***Association with existing built development***
- ***Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape***
- ***Landform shape***
- ***Settlement and land use pattern and features***
- ***Visibility***
- ***Cumulative issues***

Association with existing built development

Wherever possible, a turbine of less than 20m high will 'fit' into the landscape more successfully if it forms part of a 'cluster' of development and is visually associated with other built structures in the landscape. This is best achieved if the size of the turbine is in proportion to the size of individual features, such as buildings, trees and even pylons and other structures.



Image 1 – Inland scenario: An indicative 16m high turbine (2x height of the house), or a taller turbine located behind the ridge to reduce overall height from this view. The turbine is well scaled in relation to the size of other individual features. It is also located on the side of the hill, rather than the hill top, where it can be 'read' in conjunction with the farm buildings. This forms a 'cluster' of development, which reduces landscape and visual impact.

Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape

Understanding scale, and the relative proportions of features in the landscape, is therefore important in siting this typology. Landscape scale is made up of two factors, the scale of the landform and the scale of the pattern of land use.

Assessing the scale of the landform involves assessing the perceived vertical height and horizontal expanse of the topography, as well as the degree of openness and containment created by topographical relief.

The pattern of land use can create an additional layer of possible enclosure, for example, where woodland, scrub and walls provide containment, or conversely can reinforce openness, for example where moorland dominates. In addition, while we often assess sense of scale relative to ourselves within the landscape, individual elements, from trees to pylons, can offer reference points against which the scale of the landscape or size of other elements is perceived and understood.

In Argyll and Bute, the scale of the landform is a significant factor in defining landscape character. Craggy, rugged landform, rocky knolls and intricate, indented coastlines feature strongly as elements which create relatively small scale character. Plateau moorlands, more expansive hills and long low, irregular ridges are characteristic of more upland areas, but even here, many of these apparently large scale landscapes can be simply extensive areas created by a repeated pattern of small features.

Individual features – such as trees, woodland and even buildings – are located on the lower fringes of the uplands, within glens or on loch shores and the coast.

In coastal areas, some more exposed islands and more marginal farmed landscapes characteristic of the settled areas of Argyll and Bute, settlement and tree cover is likely to be sparse and often is smaller in size than in sheltered, fertile locations elsewhere in Scotland. Trees may also be limited in height by exposure or poor soils and buildings are often low, either due to exposure, or due to the poorer quality farmland, which is often reflected in the characteristically more modest building style. In such areas, the relationship between the turbines and landscape features is likely to be more sensitive, as turbines could easily dominate the scale of individual elements which are key characteristics of these landscapes.

As shown in Image 1 above, turbines of this height (12m – 20m) are still small enough to be sited where they can be associated with buildings and trees. Although they may be bigger than these elements, they are proportionately unlikely to be more than three times the size of any building or tree, and within a wider landscape setting, this size relationship can usually be accommodated unless there are particular scale sensitivities.

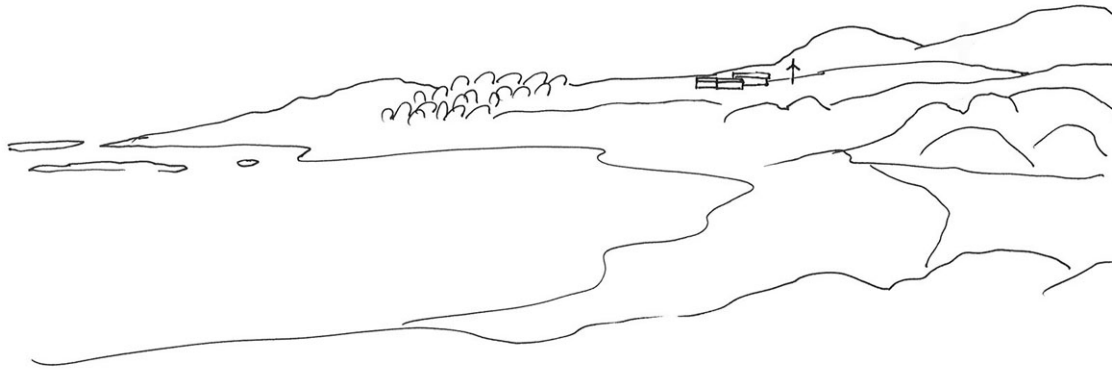


Image 2 – Coastal landscapes: This turbine (an indicative 2 x height of the low, single storey building) is located at the edge of a field but is closely associated with the cluster of buildings. The turbine is well related, or well proportioned, to the size of the buildings in this location.

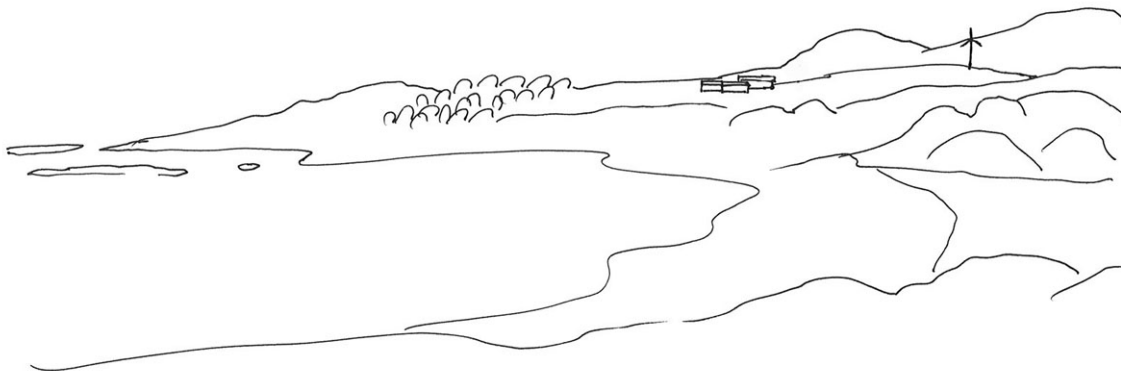


Image 3 – Coastal landscapes: This turbine (an indicative 3 x height of the low, single storey building) is located slightly further away from the buildings, at the break in slope. Here it avoids the immediate setting of the buildings and is seen more in association with the knolls and low relief of the landscape. The turbine is tall in relation to the height of the low wind-shorn trees where growth has been curtailed by exposure, but it is also less visually dominant than if it had been perched right on the skyline.

Landform shape

Farms and settlements are generally associated with lower hill slopes or valley floors. They are often located at a natural break in slope, or associated with the transition between more irregular upper slopes and more regular, gently sloping glen floors which are subdivided by fields.

These lower slopes often have terraces, narrow ledges, folds and subtle hollows, distinct changes in gradient associated with rising slopes or dips within undulations which have the potential to create natural platforms for siting these small wind turbines within the settled landscape.

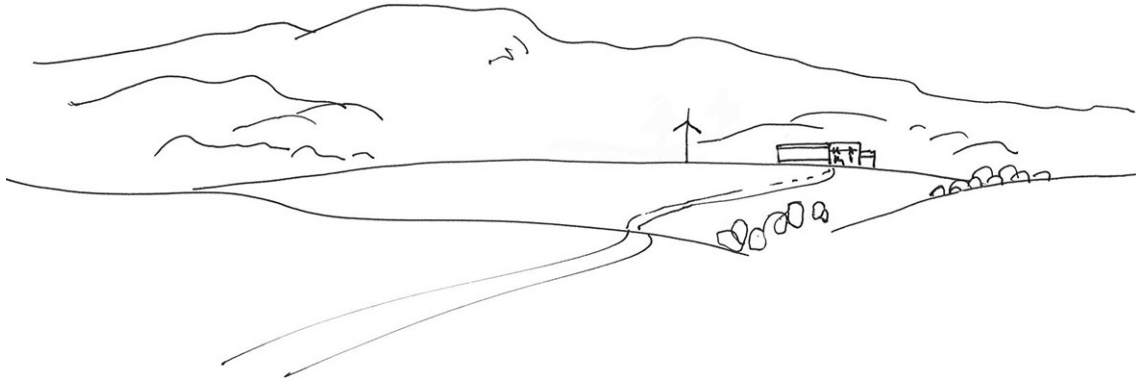


Image 4 – landform shape – transition between irregular, rugged landform and gentle lower slopes which are subdivided by fields: This turbine (an indicative 2.5 x the size of the house), is located at the distinct change in gradient where the landform changes from irregular and rugged, to smooth and subdivided by fields. This means that the turbine reinforces the presence of the land form change, which in turn reflects a change of gradient or break in slope, rather than detract from it.

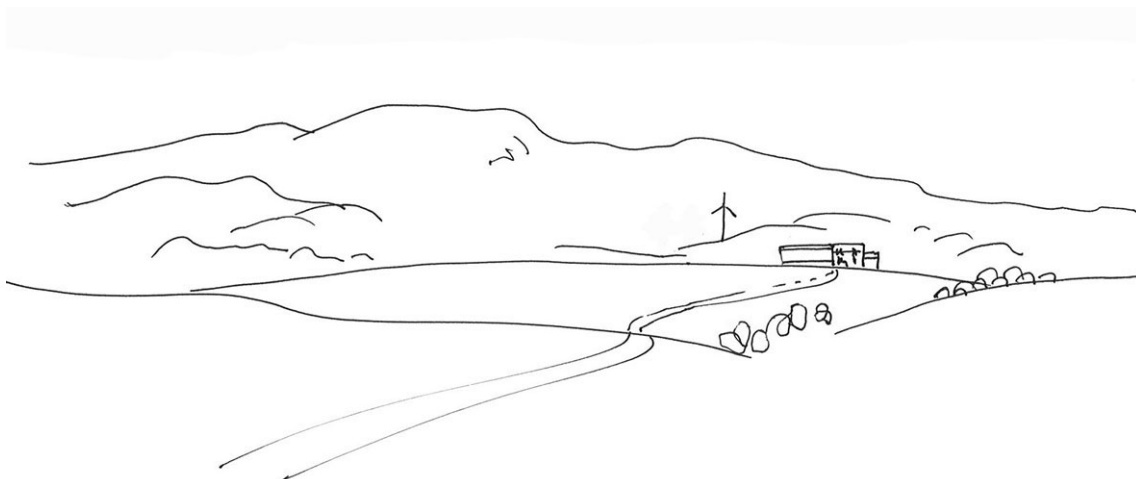


Image 5 – landform shape – using natural ledges and changes in gradient: In the same landscape, this turbine (an indicative 2.5 x the size of the house), has been sited to take advantage of the natural terraces and ledges which are just above the 'head dyke'. This attention to micro-siting means that the turbine takes advantage of natural breaks in slope to 'sit' comfortably into the landscape

In coastal landscapes, the irregular topography frequently extends down to the shore, creating an indented, rocky coastline with bays alternating with low headlands. Settlement is generally associated with sheltered bays and glens and more fertile coastal strip. In this landscape, rocky knolls and low terraces can extend into the fields and more actively farmed land.

When siting turbines in this landscape, avoid locating them on the tops of knolls. Gentle side slopes, and natural terraces can offer good opportunities.

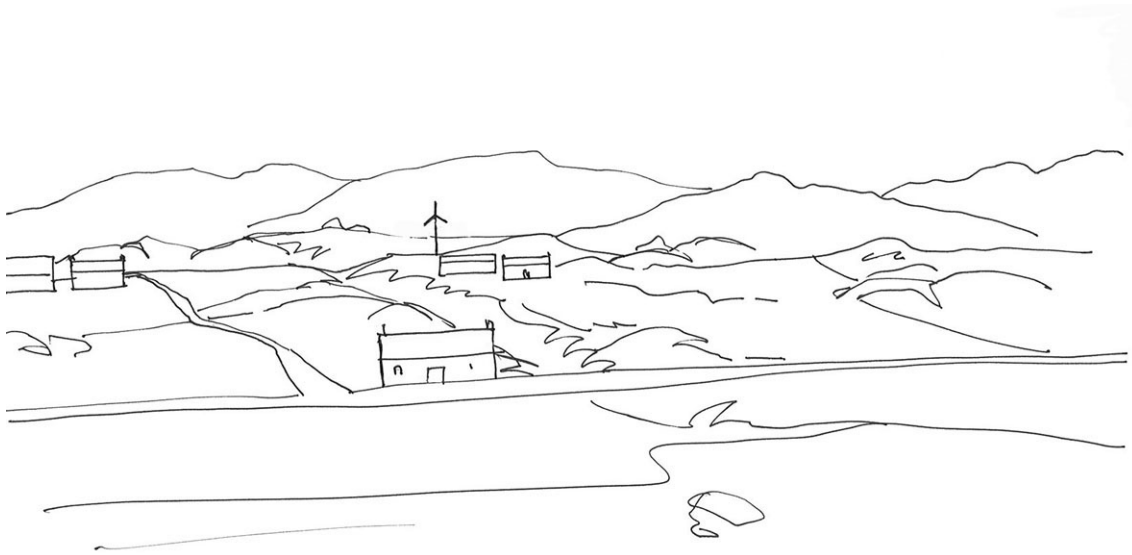


Image 6 - Landform shape in coastal landscapes: This turbine (an indicative 2.5 x the size of the house), is located on a natural ledge set back from the coastal edge (behind the houses and 'above' the road where it does not sit in views of the coast from the road).

The ledge is one of several possible locations in this landscape, where the varied landform creates natural side slopes and changes in gradient, and the transition between fields and more open hill, rugged grazing offers a further break point.

The scale of these landscapes is often very small, however, and larger turbines might be difficult to accommodate, as indicated in the detailed sensitivity assessments for landscape character types.

Settlement and land use pattern and features

Micro-small turbines are most easily accommodated in areas where there is existing settlement and other infrastructure. In such areas, the distribution of existing built development can form a recognisable pattern to which wind turbines can be visually and physically linked.

In Argyll and Bute, there is frequently a clear link between settlement and landform, for example, farms are located at a break in slope or the transition between rugged, uncultivated moorland and more accessible, gently graded fields, small coastal settlements in sheltered bays, and crofts on fertile coastal strips. These patterns are even more visible in some areas where buildings are painted white, standing out as prominent 'point features' against the green of the settled landscape.

While Micro-small turbines are likely to be larger than most buildings, it is likely to still be appropriate to establish a visual relationship between a turbine and a farm or other group

of buildings in this type of landscape. It is desirable to aim for a 'sub pattern' where turbines of a similar size are consistently associated with a commonly occurring detailed landform or built feature associated with the farms or small settlements in an area.

In some landscapes, this consistency can be further reinforced if turbines are located at a similar elevation, especially if this relates to the existing elevation of farms, settlements or another major feature, such as the head dyke.

It is important to assess and understand the existing settlement pattern at the outset, and consider how a number of turbines could be sited in a landscape. Careful and consistent siting will limit potential negative cumulative effects on landscape character.

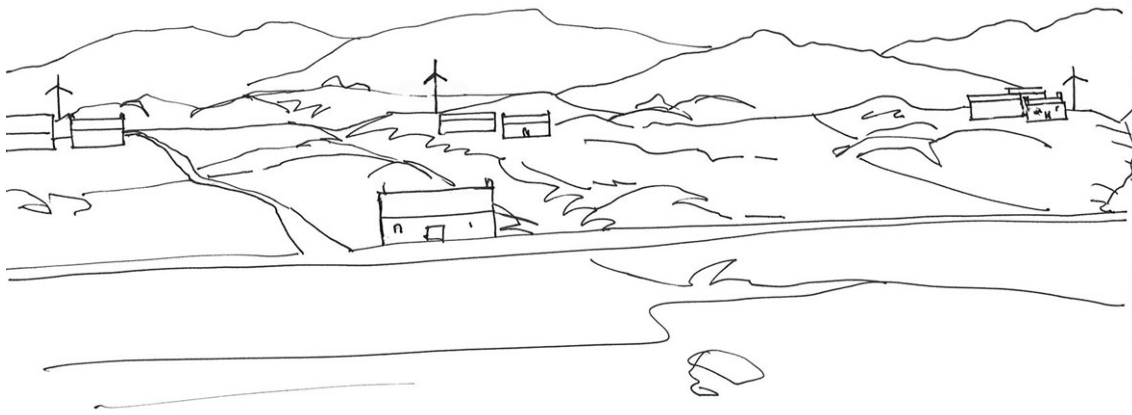


Image 7 – Settlement pattern: Turbines (an indicative 2.5 x the height of the buildings) associated with a consistent and recognisable pattern of settlement, in this case farms located along the break in slope above the gently graded fields and below more open, rugged hill. With careful micro-siting, these turbines all form a similar and consistent relationship in terms of settlement location, elevation and land form. As a result they reflect the existing pattern of built development.

Visibility

Unsurprisingly, these micro-small turbines are likely to be less visible than larger turbines over a wider area. Turbines which are 20m or less are more likely to be able to be screened or partially hidden by the rocky outcrops, knolls and irregularities of the topography typical of the settled landscapes of Argyll and Bute. Tree cover is also likely to limit visibility, although this can be sparse in some areas.

Hiding turbines *per se* is not more important than choosing a turbine of the right size in relation to landform or other landscape features, or than good micro-siting in relation to landform. However, reducing sustained visibility of turbines helps limit potential cumulative visual impacts. If several turbines are visible in an area, broad consistency of turbine design, height and location can help mitigate potential visual impacts.

Cumulative issues

Given the current incentives, these small turbines may become a frequent and common occurrence in farmed landscapes. Key cumulative issues for small turbines are likely to relate strongly to potential clutter in the landscape. Issues may include:

- ***Several individual, or small groups of turbines, could begin to dominate local character;***
- ***The landscape could appear 'cluttered' if single or groups of turbines were associated with many land holdings***
- ***While one turbine breaching a skyline may be a focal point, a number of diverse structures, all spinning at different speeds – or even several of the same type of turbine – or appearing at irregular intervals along a prominent or important skyline will become a visual distraction from other landscape features or from perceived visual amenity, especially from key viewpoints;***
- ***The variety of potential different types of wind turbines within the landscape could lead to clutter with different styles, sizes of structures and speeds of blade movement dotted across a landscape;***
- ***Lack of a clear siting strategy could lead to fragmentation of an existing robust, recognisable, consistent and characteristic pattern of settlement, especially if turbines do not relate well to existing buildings and point features in the landscape;***
- ***There may be the added complication of increased visual clutter created by a wide range of different heights of turbine within a farmed landscape with micro-,small and small/medium sized turbines;***
- ***Potential clutter may also be exacerbated if there are other masts, such as telecoms masts, overhead wires and pylons within the same vicinity***

The sensitivity assessment has assumed that single turbines and some groups of up to 3 turbines are most likely to be associated with this typology. Proposals for 'wind farms' of small turbines over 3 in number are likely to have significant adverse impacts where the speed of blade movement seen on mass would be visually confusing and distracting.

Guidance for small turbines (20m – 35m in height)

This size of turbine has been included as a development typology in the sensitivity assessment undertaken for the ABLWECS. Less settled upland landscape character types, however, were not assessed in detail for this size of development, as this size of turbine is associated with more settled landscapes and applications are unlikely to come forward in areas where there are no farms or other settlement.

Background

Within the landscapes of Argyll and Bute, the following issues have been identified as being particularly influential in terms of detailed siting of this typology within character types identified as being appropriate for this typology:

- ***Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape***
- ***Association with existing built development***
- ***Landform shape***
- ***Settlement and land use pattern and features***
- ***Visibility***
- ***Cumulative issues***

Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape

Turbines of between 20m and 35m are going to be one of the tallest structures in any Argyll and Bute landscape. They are going to be taller than most buildings and trees. They are still, however, similar in height to some taller pylons and communications masts.

Understanding scale, and the relative proportions of features in the landscape, is therefore important in siting this typology. Landscape scale is made up of two factors, the scale of the landform and the scale of the pattern of land use.

Assessing the scale of the landform involves assessing the perceived vertical height and horizontal expanse of the topography, as well as the degree of openness and containment created by topographical relief.

The pattern of land use can create an additional layer of possible enclosure, for example, where woodland and walls provide containment, or conversely can reinforce openness, for example where moorland dominates. In addition, while we often assess sense of scale relative to ourselves within the landscape, individual elements, from trees to pylons, can offer reference points against which the scale of the landscape or size of other elements is perceived and understood.

In Argyll and Bute, the scale of the landform is a significant factor in defining landscape character. Craggy, rugged landform, rocky knolls and intricate, indented coastlines feature strongly as elements which create relatively small scale character. Plateau moorlands, more expansive hills and long low, irregular ridges are characteristic of more upland areas, but even here, many of these apparently large scale landscapes can be simply extensive areas created by a repeated pattern of small features.

Individual features – such as trees, woodland and even buildings – are located on the lower fringes of the uplands, within glens or on the coast. Care should be taken to site small (20m -35m) turbines where they do not dominate individual buildings, trees or other features.

In coastal areas and more marginal farmed landscapes characteristic of the settled areas of Argyll and Bute, buildings and tree cover is likely to be sparse and often are smaller in size than more sheltered and fertile locations elsewhere in Scotland. Trees may also be limited in height by exposure or poor soils and buildings are often low, either due to exposure, or due to the poorer quality farmland, which is often reflected in the characteristically more modest building style.

In such areas, the relationship between small turbines (20m – 35m) and landscape features is likely to be very sensitive, as this size of turbines could easily overwhelm the small stature and scale of individual elements which are key characteristics of these landscapes.

Turbines of this height (20m – 35m) can therefore be accommodated most readily by relating the height of the turbines to the scale of the landform, rather than trying to link them to the size of small structures, buildings and – often relatively small statured – trees. If well sited, turbines of this size, even in small groups of up to three turbines, may be able to take advantage of the degree of relief created by small and medium scaled landforms, for example the broad slopes of foothills and fringes of upland areas, or the rugged uneven terrain of lower ridges and coastal hills.

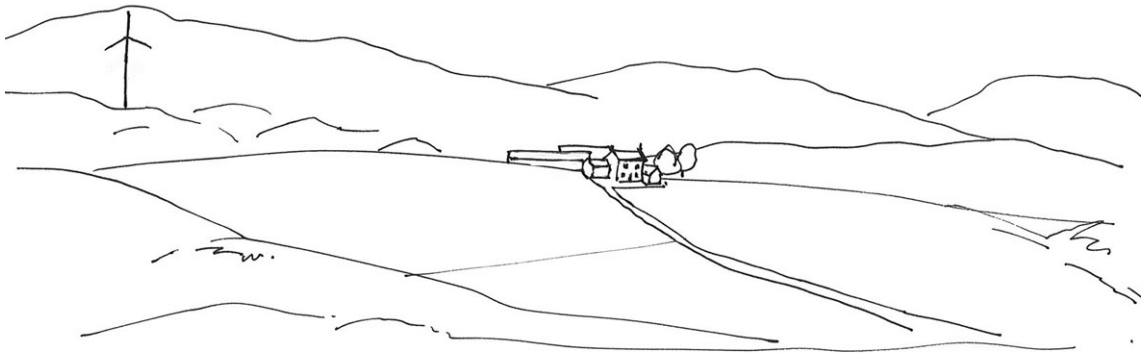


Image 8 – Landscape scale and size of features: A 'small typology' (20m – 35m) turbine located on an irregular but low lying ridgeline, where there are few features in close proximity against which to judge the scale. It is sited at a slight dip in the ridge, and back-dropped in this view by higher ground. It is located away from the house, to avoid overwhelming the buildings in terms of scale.

These turbines are likely to be more difficult to accommodate in landscapes of intimate or complex topography associated with irregular outcrops and rocky knolls, along the floor or cultivated land in narrow glens, close to the small scale indented coast, along the settled

coast, or where small landscape scale is created by small fields, diverse land use and complex or dense settlement patterns.

As a result they are best set back from the coastal edge and individual small landforms, and viewed within the context of the wider and less complex landforms.

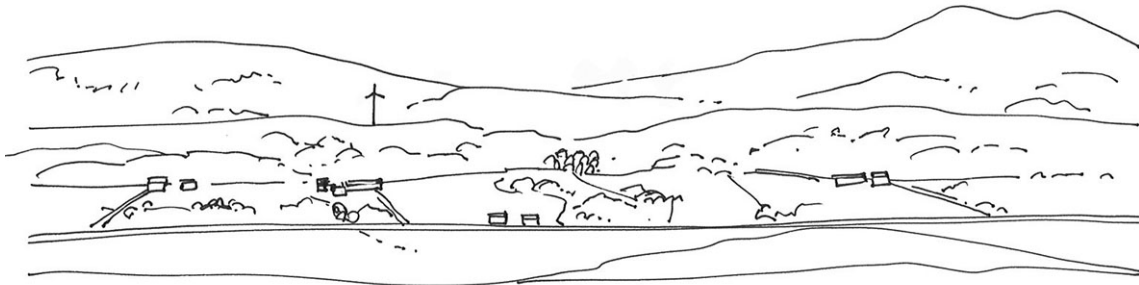


Image 9 – Landform scale and size of features: 20 – 35m high turbines can be best accommodated away from the immediate setting of houses and other buildings, and located where they can be judged against the scale of the landform. Here a turbine is located on an irregular but low lying ridgeline, where there are few features in close proximity against which to judge the scale. The turbine is back-dropped in this view by higher ground. Of course, being placed further away from the viewer also makes it appear smaller than if it was in the foreground of the view.

For this typology, if there is doubt about the potential impact of a turbine on the scale of the landscape, a computer-generated photomontage, wireline or photowire visualisation taken from a key viewpoint will help the assessment of potential impacts.

Association with existing built development

Wherever possible, this size of turbine will ‘fit’ in the landscape more successfully if it is broadly associated with settled and farmed landscapes (rather than remote hinterlands and coast), although unlike turbines of less than 20m high, this size of turbine is much harder to associate with the size of buildings and trees, so should be sited away from the immediate setting of these features if possible, as shown in images 8 and 9 above.

Landform shape

This size of turbine is more likely to fit with the landscape if they are sited to clearly relate to a specific landform. Turbines of this size could be accommodated on low hills or ridgelines which provide the immediate backdrop to the farmed lowland areas, especially if they, too, are back-dropped by larger hills or more sweeping plateaux.

Distinct changes in gradient associated with rising slopes, well defined dips within undulations or more expansive concave landforms, long ridges and interim hills along the lower edges of the foothills, as well as the edges of more expansive plateaux all provide potential opportunities for micro-siting turbines of this size.

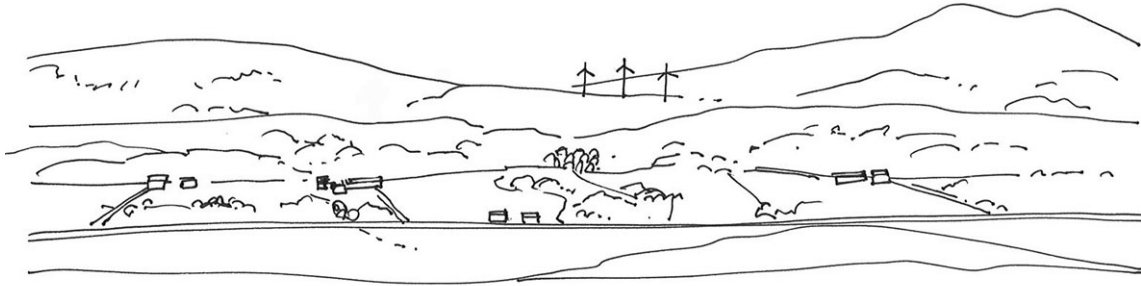


Image 10 – Landform shape and scale: Cluster of indicative small typology turbines located on the side of a hill, sited where there is a distinct, relatively level ridge and at a low point in the landform. The turbines have been located where they are not likely to interrupt key views of the rugged hills to the right. Most importantly, they are also in scale with the landform, although they are at the upper end of this typology in terms of size.

Settlement and land use pattern and features

These turbines are larger than most buildings found in rural areas. They therefore should be sited where they can more readily be accommodated by landform scale, and avoid overshadowing or dominating smaller elements in the landscape, including small and complex landforms, small fields and settlement. It is more likely that these small sized turbines will be located on low ridges, the side slopes of hills, set apart from farms or settlements.

The alignment of tracks and location of other infrastructure, as well as the turbines themselves, are also more likely to be an issue than with smaller turbine sizes.

Developing a recognisable pattern of development – for example, locating turbines at a similar elevation, and/or on similar topographical features across a landscape type will help create a pattern of development which will appear less cluttered and will also develop a distinctive and consistent landscape characteristic over time.



Image 11 – developing a landscape pattern: *These two indicative 35m high turbines are located on similar, low-lying ridges in small but distinct dips and are broadly located in relation to watercourses within the wider landscape. They are also loosely associated with the location of the farms (also close to watercourses). This similarity in size, location and elevation helps to maintain the unity of the landscape pattern.*

Visibility

Turbines which are more than 20m in height are taller than most trees and large farm buildings, and are therefore likely to have wider visibility than those turbines less than 20m in height.

As applicants may own farms or larger land holdings, there may be the potential to screen turbines from viewpoints if required, for example to reduce cumulative visual impacts, by establishing trees adjacent to the viewpoint (for quicker, maximum screening affect).

Cumulative issues

Given the current incentives, these small sized turbines may become a frequent and common occurrence, especially in farmed landscapes. Key cumulative issues are likely to relate strongly to potential clutter in the landscape and the visual relationship with other wind farms. Issues are similar to those identified in the analysis of micro-small wind turbines, but because of the larger size of these turbines the issues are likely to occur more quickly and may include:

- ***Several individual, or small groups of turbines, could begin to dominate local character;***
- ***Diverse designs of turbine, all spinning at different speeds – or even several turbines of the same type – strung along a prominent or important skyline could become a visual distraction from other landscape features or from perceived visual amenity, especially from key viewpoints;***

- ***The larger the turbine, the harder it is likely to be to accommodate a number of them in a single view or recognisable tract of landscape without them becoming the dominant feature. It is also harder to accommodate the turbines in a sequence of views experienced, for example, when travelling along a road;***
- ***The variety of potential different types of wind turbines within the landscape could lead to clutter with different styles, sizes of structures and speeds of blade movement dotted across a landscape;***
- ***Lack of a clear siting strategy could lead to fragmentation of an existing robust and recognisable landscape pattern – where possible, it is important to site turbines on similar landforms, at similar elevations and with a similar relationship to the existing settlement pattern;***
- ***Potential clutter may also be easily created if there are other masts, such as telecoms masts, overhead wires and pylons within the same vicinity – this is likely to be a bigger problem with these small turbines than larger ones;***
- ***There may be the added complication of increased visual clutter created by a wide range of different heights of turbine within a farmed landscape with micro-, small and small/medium sized turbines;***
- ***Other complications may be the visual interrelationship with larger wind farms of large and medium sized turbines, especially along the upper edge of farmland adjacent to upland character types.***

Other landscape issues associated with this typology

More complex landform, such as the areas of small scale rocky outcrops and knolls will be particularly sensitive to the construction of access tracks for wind turbine development. The construction of new access tracks should be minimised by careful siting of turbines to use existing tracks and to avoid more difficult or steep terrain. Care should also be taken in the alignment and design of any access tracks to ensure that sensitive landform and vegetation is not adversely affected and that intrusion on key views is avoided.

Undergrounding of electricity cables should also be undertaken in order to avoid a clutter of disparate built elements in the landscape.

Guidance for small-medium turbines (35m – 50m in height)

This size of turbine has been included as a development typology considered in the sensitivity assessments carried out for this study. Less settled upland landscape character types, however, were not assessed for this size of development, as this size of turbine is associated with more settled landscapes and applications are unlikely to come forward in areas where there are no farms or other settlements.

Background

Within the Argyll and Bute landscape, the following issues have been identified as being particularly influential in terms of detailed siting of this typology within character types identified as being appropriate for this typology:

- ***Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape***
- ***Association with existing built development***
- ***Landform shape***
- ***Settlement and land use pattern and features***
- ***Visibility***
- ***Cumulative issues***

Turbine height in relation to the scale of the landscape

Turbines of between 35m and 50m are going to be the tallest structures in most Argyll and Bute landscapes. They are going to be taller than buildings and trees. They will also be taller than most communication masts and pylons.

Understanding scale, and the relative proportions of features in the landscape, is therefore important in siting this typology. Landscape scale is made up of two factors, the scale of the landform and the scale of the pattern of land use.

Assessing the scale of the landform involves assessing the perceived vertical height and horizontal expanse of the topography, as well as the degree of openness and containment created by topographical relief.

The pattern of land use can create an additional layer of possible enclosure, for example, where woodland and walls provide containment, or conversely can reinforce openness, for example where moorland dominates. In addition, while we often assess sense of scale relative to ourselves within the landscape, individual elements, from trees to pylons, can offer reference points against which the scale of the landscape or size of other elements is perceived and understood.

In Argyll and Bute, the scale of the landform is a significant factor in defining landscape character. Craggy, rugged landform, rocky knolls and intricate, indented coastlines feature strongly as elements which create relatively small scale character. Plateau moorlands, more expansive hills and long low, irregular ridges are characteristic of more upland areas, but even here, many of these apparently large scale landscapes can be simply extensive areas created by a repeated pattern of small features.

Individual features – such as trees, woodland and even buildings – are located on the lower fringes of the uplands, within glens or on the coast. They introduce a further, small scale feature, into the landscape.

In coastal areas and more marginal farmed landscapes characteristic of the settled areas of Argyll and Bute, buildings and tree cover is likely to be sparse and often are smaller in size than more sheltered and fertile locations elsewhere in Scotland. Trees may also be limited in height by exposure or poor soils and buildings are often low, either due to exposure, or due to the poorer quality farmland, which is often reflected in the characteristically more modest building style.

In landscapes characterised by small scale landforms – such as rocky outcrops or intricately indented coasts – and/or well settled with buildings, field pattern and trees, it is unlikely that the small-medium typology of turbines (35m – 50m) can be accommodated without significant landscape impacts, as this size of turbines is very likely to overwhelm the small stature and scale of individual elements which are key characteristics of these landscapes.

Turbines of this height (35m – 50m) can therefore be accommodated most readily by relating the height of the turbines to the scale of the landform. If well sited, turbines of this size, even in small groups of up to three turbines, may be able to take advantage of the degree of relief created by medium scaled landforms, for example the broad slopes of more extensive foothills and fringes of more extensive upland areas and plateaux.

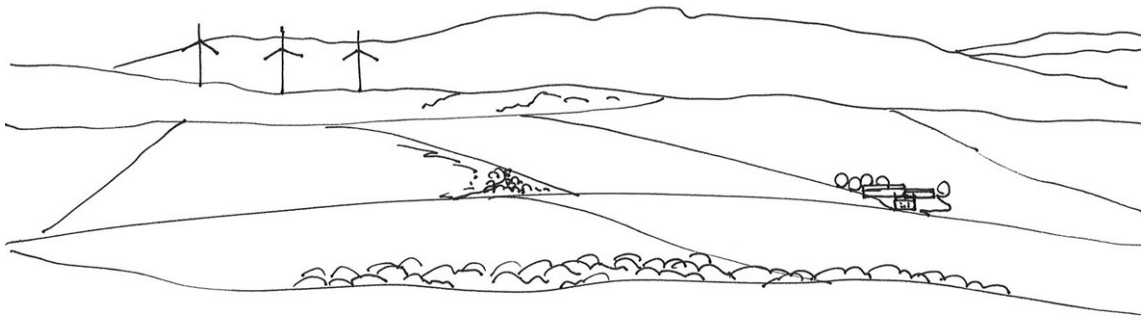


Image 12 – landform scale – the relationship with landform: Small-medium typology turbines (35m - 50m, here shown at an indicative approximately 6x house height) located on an irregular but low lying ridgeline, where there are few features in close proximity against which to judge their scale. They are also located at a slight dip in the ridge, and partially back-dropped in this view by higher ground. This landscape is relatively large scale, with long ridges and relatively large fields.

These turbines are likely to be more difficult to accommodate in landscapes of intimate or complex topography associated with irregular outcrops and rocky knolls, along the floor or cultivated land in narrow glens, close to the small scale indented coast, along the settled

coast, or where small landscape scale is created by small fields, diverse land use and complex or dense settlement patterns.

For this typology, if there is doubt about the potential impact of a turbine on the scale of the landscape, a computer-generated photomontage, wireline or photowire visualisation from a key viewpoint will help the assessment of potential impacts.

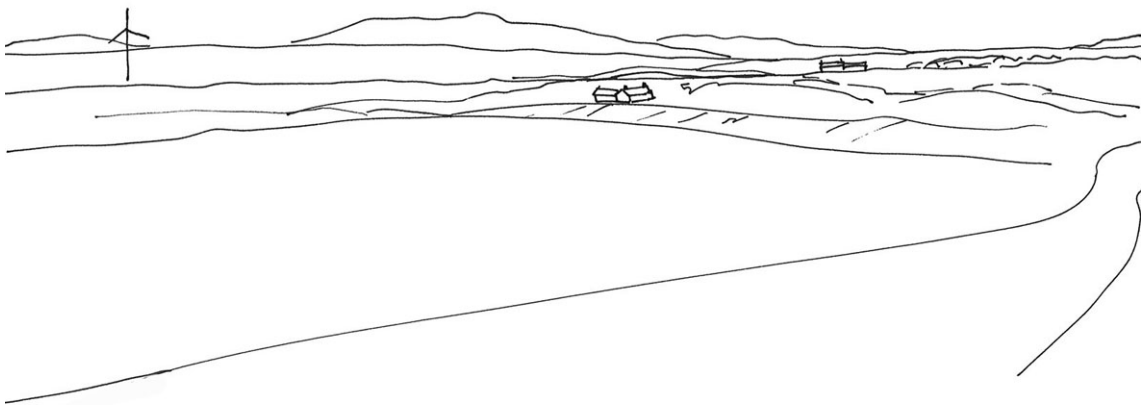
Association with existing built development

Wherever possible, this size of turbine will 'fit' in the landscape more successfully if it is strongly associated with landscape scale. This may mean locating this typology away from the setting and patterns associated with farmed landscapes and settled areas. Moorland plateaux, more extensive open landscapes, perhaps backed by higher ground or interim ridges which form the foothills to higher hills are likely to be more appropriate.

Landform shape

This size of turbine is likely to be more readily accommodated in medium scaled landscapes or the periphery of larger scale upland landscapes where they are more likely to fit with the landscape if they are sited to clearly relate to a specific land form. Turbines of this size could be accommodated on low hills or ridgelines which provide the immediate backdrop to the farmed lowland areas, especially if they, too, are back-dropped by larger hills or more sweeping plateaux.

Distinct changes in gradient associated with rising slopes, well defined dips within undulations or more expansive concave landforms, long ridges and interim hills and foothills, as well as the edges of more expansive plateaux all provide potential opportunities for micro-siting turbines of this size.



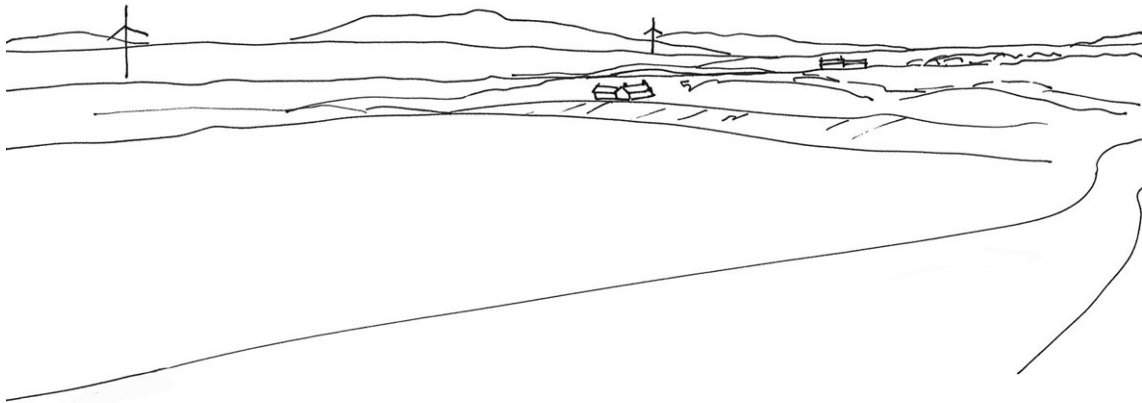
Landform shape and scale: *Indicative medium-small high turbine (approximately 5 x house height) located on a plateau, where the expanse of the horizontal scale and the relative simplicity of the landform shape can accommodate this size of typology. The small houses and the more complex, irregular topography and diverse land use pattern associated with the foreground of settled land would be easily dominated by such a large structure.*

Settlement and land use pattern and features

These turbines are larger than most buildings found in rural areas. They therefore should be sited where they can more readily be accommodated by landform scale, and avoid overshadowing or dominating smaller elements in the landscape, including small and complex landforms, small fields and any settlements. It is more likely that these small-medium sized turbines will be located on the sides of foothills, in dips on long ridges or on plateaux, perhaps at some distance from farms or settlements.

The alignment of tracks and location of other infrastructure, as well as the turbines themselves, are also more likely to be an issue than with smaller turbine sizes.

Developing a recognisable pattern of development – for example, locating turbines at a similar elevation, and/or on similar topographical features across a landscape type will help create a pattern of development which will appear less cluttered and will also develop a distinctive and consistent landscape characteristic over time.



Landscape pattern: *These two indicative 35m high turbines are located on similar, low lying plateau areas, set back from the settled and farmed fringe of the moorland. They appear relatively small, simply because they are located in a more expansive landscape and are set well away from the more small-scale settled landscape. This similarity in size, location and elevation helps to maintain the unity of the landscape pattern.*

Visibility

Turbines of this height are likely to be widely visible, as they are difficult to screen with smaller landform. Good siting is very important, as the relationship with landform and wider landscape setting will be very visible.

Cumulative issues

Given the current incentives, these small-medium sized turbines may become a more common occurrence. Key cumulative issues are likely to relate strongly to potential clutter in the landscape and the visual relationship with other wind farms. Issues are similar to those identified in the analysis of micro-small wind turbines, but because of the larger size of these turbines the issues are likely to occur more quickly and may include:

- **Several individual, or small groups of turbines, could begin to dominate local character;**

- ***Diverse designs of turbine, all spinning at different speeds – or even several turbines of the same type – strung along a prominent or important skyline could become a visual distraction from other landscape features or from perceived visual amenity, especially from key viewpoints;***
- ***The larger the turbine, the harder it is likely to be to accommodate a number of them in a single view or recognisable tract of landscape without them becoming the dominant feature. It is also harder to accommodate the turbines in a sequence of views experienced, for example, when travelling along a road;***
- ***The variety of potential different types of wind turbines within the landscape could lead to clutter with different styles, sizes of structures and speeds of blade movement dotted across a landscape;***
- ***Lack of a clear siting strategy could lead to fragmentation of an existing robust and recognisable landscape pattern – where possible, it is important to site turbines on similar landforms, at similar elevations and with a similar relationship to the existing settlement pattern;***
- ***Potential clutter may also be easily created if there are other masts, such as telecoms masts, overhead wires and pylons within the same vicinity – this is likely to be a bigger problem with these small turbines than larger ones;***
- ***There may be the added complication of increased visual clutter created by a wide range of different heights of turbine within a farmed landscape with micro-, small and small/medium sized turbines;***
- ***Other complications may be the visual interrelationship with larger wind farms of large and medium sized turbines, especially along the upper edge of farmland adjacent to upland character types.***

Other landscape issues associated with this typology

More complex landform, such as the areas of small scale rocky outcrops and knolls will be particularly sensitive to the construction of access tracks for wind turbine development. The construction of new access tracks should be minimised by careful siting of turbines to use existing tracks and to avoid more difficult or steep terrain. Care should also be taken in the alignment and design of any access tracks to ensure that sensitive landform and vegetation is not adversely affected and that intrusion on key views is avoided.

Undergrounding of electricity cables should also be undertaken in order to avoid a clutter of disparate built elements in the landscape.