Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Introduction
The Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type is identified in 7 separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Due to the variety of extent, context and scale of landscapes within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purposes of this study:

- The ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6a) which forms narrow bands on either side of Loch Fyne.
- The ‘Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6b) which comprises a broad peninsula abutting the southern boundary of the Knapdale NSA and extending to West Loch Tarbert
- The ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c), which forms an outlier of this type including stretches of remote coast south of Campbeltown

The most extensive area of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic on the long spine of the Kintyre peninsula has been retained as ‘Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ as it is the closest in character to the original definition. These areas comprise broad areas of undulating upland plateau lying within the interior of the Kintyre peninsulas. They also accommodate a number of existing and consented wind farm developments. This is the assessment for this character type.

Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the relatively sparsely settled nature of this landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
The operational Deucheran Hill, Tangy Hill I and II and Beinn an Tuirc I and II (the latter under construction) wind farms are sited within this character type.

The Gigha turbines (3 turbines, 45m high) lie within 7km of the Kintyre area of this character type. The consented Allt Dearg wind farm lies within the ‘Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6b) to the north of this character type. There may be some limited simultaneous visibility with existing wind farm developments from the A83 on the eastern edge of this character type from higher northern hills.

Summary of sensitivity
The Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type in the Kintyre area features a gently undulating plateau-like landform with smooth even slopes. This landscape has a simple land cover of extensive coniferous forestry and moorland. It is sparsely populated and already accommodates three operational wind farm developments. Many of these characteristics present potential opportunities to accommodate large scale wind farm development although the more complex smaller scale hills and occasional narrow settled glens on the fringes of this broad upland plateau and more pronounced higher hill summits are more sensitive as is the rugged and remote coast between Skipness and Tarbert. This landscape has an overall Medium sensitivity to the large development typology and a Medium-low sensitivity to the medium typology, reflecting potentially increased scope to accommodate the smaller turbines of this typology to minimise impact on adjacent more sensitive settled coastal fringes and glens.
This is a very sparsely settled area which is difficult to access in places although the Kintyre Way long distance footpath attracts walkers. Visibility of the interior of these uplands is restricted from roads and settlement within adjacent low-lying coastal areas although there are longer views from across Loch Fyne and from Arran and Gigha. Visual sensitivity is judged to be High-medium for the large typology and Medium for the medium typology, reflecting the greater scope for turbines of this size to integrate with existing wind farm developments and minimise effects on views.

No designated landscapes apply to the Kintyre area although it abuts a coastal APQ in places. Sensitivity in relation to landscape values is considered to be Low for both of the typologies assessed although this would increase at the transition with the APQ designated area as turbines visible on prominent skylines above the coastal fringe may indirectly affect special qualities.

**Smaller typologies**
There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies (turbines <50m) within the very sparsely settled uplands of this landscape. Smaller typologies would appear out of scale in relation to the predominantly large scale of these uplands and could have cumulative effects with existing and consented wind farm developments in long views to the interior of these uplands. Some limited opportunities exist for the small-medium typology to be located on lower and gentler hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) where they could be back dropped by rising ground and visually associated with the more settled and farmed coastal fringes. Prominent skylines and hill tops above the settled upper reaches of Barr Glen and Glen Lussa which lie within this landscape character type and immediately containing the adjacent ‘Hidden Glens (3) and the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character types, should be avoided. More complex landform and the small walled improved pastures close to settlement (which provide a positive contrast with extensive forestry) should also be avoided with broader areas of rougher pasture and grass moorland favoured. There are greater opportunities to accommodate the small typology (turbines <35m) in these areas due to their better scale relationship with nearby settlement.

**Cumulative issues**
The existing wind farm developments of Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc lie within the core of the Kintyre uplands and are set back from the more sensitive coastal edge. These wind farms generally have a limited influence on the settled coastal areas of Kintyre although there are views of some turbines within the Beinn an Tuirc wind farm from the ‘Hidden Glen’ (3) of Carradale. The Tangy wind farm is located towards the south-western edge of the Kintyre uplands and is more visible from settled areas. It is however seen principally across the more expansive landscape of the ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) (rather than the smaller scale ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20)) and its impact is thus lessened to an extent.

The Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms on the Kintyre peninsula are visible from the west coast and hills of Arran where they are seen from distances of between 11km and 14km. The Tangy wind farm is also visible from the west coast of Arran, but less extensively (see Figure 7). The distance of these wind farms, together with their association with the generally even and simple central spine of a long peninsula (where each wind farm is seen as a distinct cluster and is relatively widely spaced from each other), reduces significant effects on landscape and on views from Arran.
Key cumulative landscape and visual issues include:

- Larger turbines and/or more extensive wind farm developments sited on the edge hills and slopes of the Kintyre uplands where they would be likely to increase landscape and visual impacts on the settled coastal edge of Kintyre and on views from Arran and Gigha and would also undermine the established pattern of wind farm developments associated with the interior of these uplands.
- Potential effects on views from the A83 Tourist Route where operational and any further wind farm developments in both Kintyre and Knapdale could potentially be visible in the more open Kennacraig to Clachan area and sequentially in views between Lochgilphead and Inverneill.
- Extensions to operational wind farms may extend or exacerbate visual intrusion on sensitive skylines above the ‘Hidden Glens’ (3) or within the narrow settled Barr Glen and Glen Lussa within this character type.
- Cumulative effects associated with any additional wind farm development into the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic character type (6c) in terms of views from the west coast of Arran which take in the full length of the peninsula.
- The pattern of wind farm developments seen along the spine of the Kintyre peninsula from Arran - whether repeated clusters of separate wind farms along the length of the spine or a strategy of consolidating the existing foci for development may limit cumulative effects.

**Constraints:**

- The more complex landform of smaller interlocking hills and slopes which provide a backdrop to the settled coastal landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) and the Bay Farmland (14) on the outer fringes of the Kintyre peninsula and which are prominent in views from roads and settlement.
- The rugged and remote coast between Skipness and Tarbert which has some qualities of wildness and is visible from outer Loch Fyne and the west coast of the Ardlamont peninsula.
- The more pronounced and higher hill summits, including Beinn Bhearc, Sเกรedan Hill and Beinn an Tuirc, which are particularly visible from the sea and Arran to the east, adding interest to the fairly uniform skyline of these uplands but also partially containing operational wind farm development. The hill of Cnoc a Bhaile-shois at the northern end of the peninsula is also prominent, particularly in views from the west.
- Potential cumulative effects with the existing and consented wind farm developments of Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill, Tangy and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms seen sequentially from the A83 and together (in various combinations) in views from Arran and Gigha.
- The narrow settled glens which extend into these uplands – for example Barr Glen and Glen Lussa – which would be sensitive to larger typologies sited on the edge hills and ridges which provide immediate skylines to these smaller scale landscapes.
- The uplands which form prominent skylines and containing ridges seen from the ‘Hidden Valleys’ (3) on the east coast of Kintyre and from the ‘Rocky Mosiac’ (20) of the small scale settled coastal fringes.
- Views to the mountains of north Arran from the B8001.
- The APQ covering the coastal fringes which abuts this character type and where turbines could potentially impact on special qualities if visible on prominent skylines.

**Opportunities:**
- The generally simple landform and expansive scale of the interior plateau areas.
- The sparsely settled nature of this character type and the relatively limited visibility of the interior of these uplands from surrounding settled coastal fringes.
- An absence of landscape designations covering this character type.

**Guidance on development**

There is some scope to accommodate further larger scale typologies in this character type.

New developments should be sited away from the more complex irregular small hills found on the outer edge of the Kintyre peninsula (and particularly the arc of small knolly hills to the south of Lussa Loch). Turbines should not be sited on, or close-by, the more pronounced and higher hill summits found in the southern and northern part of this character type. The summits of Beinn Bhreac and Beinn an Tuirc are important in providing some partial containment of the operational wind farm of Beinn an Tuirc in views from Arran and this may limit scope for any further extensions to this wind farm. Turbines should also be sited to avoid any intrusion on views to and from the rugged and remote coast between Skipness and Tarbert as this would affect the sense of wildness associated with this seascape. The smaller scale and settled Barr Glen and Glen Lussa, which lie within this character type, would also be sensitive to larger typologies sited on containing hills and ridges which provide immediate skylines. Development should additionally be sited to avoid significant intrusion on views from the B8001 to the mountains of Arran.

In terms of effects on adjacent landscape character types, significant intrusion on the setting and views from the adjacent settled and small scale ‘Rocky Mosiac’ (20) and the ‘Hidden Glens’ (3) should be avoided by larger turbines being set well back into the interior of these uplands – this would also accord with the established pattern of existing wind farm development within the Kintyre Peninsula thus limiting cumulative landscape impacts. Impacts on views from Arran would also be reduced by adopting the same strategy. The medium typology (turbines 50-80m) may additionally reduce effects, both on views from Arran but also minimise cumulative effects in attaining compatibility with operational developments seen along the length of the Kintyre peninsula.

There is likely to be some limited scope to accommodate new wind farm developments in this landscape character type, given the landscape and visual constraints outlined above. Extensions to existing developments may minimise cumulative effects in views from Arran by concentrating turbines and minimising the incidence of developments seen along the long skyline of the Kintyre peninsula, although the need to avoid significant impact on adjacent smaller scale landscapes on Kintyre may limit scope for further extensions. Restricting development to the simpler lower middle section of skyline of the peninsula seen from Arran (and avoiding development at the more sensitive northern end near the Skipness/Tarbert coast and within the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c)) would limit cumulative visual impact. A tension is likely to occur between consolidating the existing foci for development, which would limit cumulative visual impacts from Arran, and avoiding visual intrusion within the small scale ‘Hidden Glens’ (3) and ‘Rocky Mosiac’ (20) character types which lie close to existing wind farms. Proposals for extensions should aim to replicate similar turbine heights and retain the integrity of layout of the original scheme.

Small turbines <50m should be sited so visually associated with existing settlement and farms at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosiac’ (20) and ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) character types.
and located to relate to gentler hill slopes set back from buildings so as to avoid scale impacts. Areas of more complex, irregular landform found in these transitional areas should be avoided. More extensive pasture and moorland areas above in-byre land and backed by rising hill slopes or forestry would provide opportunities to minimise visibility.

Detailed siting and design should accord with the guidance given in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
Introduction
The Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type is identified in 7 separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Due to the variety of extent, context and scale of landscapes within the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purposes of this study:

- The ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6a) which forms narrow bands on either side of Loch Fyne. This is the assessment for this character type.
- The ‘Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6b) which comprises a broad peninsula abutting the southern boundary of the Knapdale NSA and extending to West Loch Tarbet
- The ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c), which forms an outlier of this type including stretches of remote coast south of Campbeltown

The most extensive area of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic on the long spine of the Kintyre peninsula has been retained as ‘Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ as it is the closest in character to the original definition.

The Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6a) comprises relatively narrow bands above the shoreline Rocky Mosaic (20) of Loch Fyne and forms a transitional landscape between the loch fringe and the more extensive uplands of the Craggy Uplands (7) and the Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1). These areas of the Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type generally face towards Loch Fyne and are highly visible in views across and up and down the narrower stretch of the inner loch.

Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the relatively sparsely settled nature of this landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
The consented A’ Chruach wind farm (24 turbines, 100m height to blade tip) lies within the north-west unit of the Loch Fyne Forest-Moor Mosaic (6a) character type.

The operational Clachan Flats, An Suidhe and Cruach Mhor wind farms also lie within close proximity to this landscape character sub-type.

Summary of sensitivity
The Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic comprises a narrow band of hills either side of Loch Fyne. Landform is varied with complex and pronounced hills aligning the north-west shore of Loch Fyne and also occurring north of Portavadie. Broader basins and undulating craggy plateaux areas also occur, particularly at the transition with the Craggy Upland (7) character type where the scale of the landscape also becomes more extensive. This landscape has a generally simple land cover of extensive forestry and moorland and is sparsely settled. While many of these characteristics present potential opportunities to accommodate large scale wind farm development, the presence of more complex and smaller scale landform and the role this landscape plays in providing a simple backdrop and setting to the diverse settled shores of Loch Fyne increases sensitivity. This landscape was judged to have a High-medium sensitivity to the large and medium development typologies.
Although this is a sparsely settled landscape, it borders the adjacent well-settled shores of Loch Fyne and forms the backdrop to views from the A83 (a major tourist route) and from settlement. The narrowness of the inner Loch Fyne allows close views across the loch and this landscape forms prominent skylines and steep containing hill slopes in these views. Long views down the loch are also framed by these slopes. Visual sensitivity was therefore concluded to be High for larger typologies and High-medium for the medium typology, reflecting potential increased opportunities for the smaller turbines of this typology to be sited within more visually contained areas to minimise effects on views.

The majority of this character type is not covered by any landscape designations, although some of the hills forming the immediate backdrop to Loch Fyne are included in the APQ. Sensitivity is also increased where these landscapes lie close to the Kyles of Bute and Knapdale NSAs. Sensitivity was judged to be High-medium in these areas and Low elsewhere.

**Smaller typologies**
There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies (turbines <50m) within the more sparsely populated uplands of this landscape. Some limited opportunities exist for the small-medium typology to be located on lower and slacker hill slopes at the transition with the Rocky Mosaic (20) where they could be back-dropped by rising ground and visually associated with the more settled and farmed loch fringes. There are greater opportunities to accommodate the small typology (turbines <35m) in these areas due to their better scale relationship with nearby settlement.

**Cumulative issues**
The existing wind farms of An Suidhe and Clachan Flats lie in close proximity to this character type. Views of these developments are limited from roads due to the screening provided by extensive woodland. There are views however along more open sections of road, including glimpsed views from the A83 in Glen Kinglas (Clachan Flats) and from the A886 above Strachur (An Suidhe). There is some visibility from coastal settlements including parts of Strachur and Inverary. The consented A’ Chruach wind farm will be visible from the more open Otter Ferry area on the east side of Loch Fyne and extensively across the southern end of the inner loch and outer Loch Fyne (see Figures 5-8 in the Main Study Report).

Potential cumulative issues include:
- Operational/consented wind farm development has a fairly limited effect on views from settlement and the A83 on the western side of Loch Fyne due to the screening provided by landform and extensive woodland.
- Potential effects on views from rare elevated hill top viewpoints, for example the Inverary Castle folly or Dunardry Hill near the Crinan Canal, or from occasional elevated stretches of road where new developments could be inter-visible with existing and consented wind farms and adversely affect the setting of settlements, views and experiential qualities.
- Cumulative effects on views from cycle, footpaths and recreation areas within the forests around Loch Glashan and on views to this area from the SE shores of Loch Fyne.
Constraints
- The limited extent of this landscape which forms a narrow band of hills either side of the confined Inner Loch Fyne and the high visibility of this character type seen in close proximity across the narrow extent of the inner Loch Fyne and in views up and down the loch.
- More complex landform comprising steep slopes, sharp ridges and pronounced hills which backdrop the settled shores of Loch Fyne, framing views up and down the loch from roads and settlement and prominent in views across the loch.
- Areas of open pasture, broadleaved woodland and settlement on lower hill slopes and valleys at the transition with the smaller scale landscapes of Rocky Mosaic (20)
- The proximity of parts of this landscape to highly sensitive landscapes including the Kyles of Bute NSA, the Knapdale NSA and the small scale settled landscapes of Kilmichael Glen and the Rocky Mosaic (20) on the coastal fringes of Loch Fyne.
- Potential cumulative effects with existing/consented wind farm development at A’Chruach, An Suidhe, Cruach Mhor and Clachan Flats particularly seen in key elevated viewpoints such as the Inverary Castle folly but also views from open sections of the B8000 and the A83 and from settlement, particularly on the east side of Loch Fyne.

Opportunities
- Broader basins and undulating plateaux areas particularly found at the transition with the Craggy Upland (7) where a degree of visual containment could be utilised to limit landscape and visual effects on the more sensitive settled shores of Loch Fyne and Kilmichael Glen.
- The simple land cover of extensive forestry and moorland and sparsely settled nature of this character type
- An absence of landscape designations within the majority of the character type

Guidance on development
While there may be some very limited scope to accommodate turbines towards the lower height band of the large typology within this character type, potential effects on the setting and views from the settled shores of Loch Fyne, Kilmichael Glen and the west coast of Bute and on the scale of much of this landscape present significant constraints and the medium typology is more appropriate. Turbines of this size should be accommodated at the transition with the Craggy Upland (7) where the landscape becomes more extensive and landform is generally less complex. They should be sited within more visually contained basins and gently undulating plateaux (avoiding key ridges and higher hill tops) to minimise effects on surrounding settled valleys and the shores of Loch Fyne. These more visually contained areas are rare taking into account consented wind farm development. There may be opportunities for small extensions to consented wind farm development. Significant intrusion on adjacent smaller scale settled landscapes and on key views from the Knapdale and Kyles of Bute NSAs should be avoided.

There are opportunities for the small-medium typology to be located on lower and gentler hill slopes at the transition with the Rocky Mosaic (20) where turbines could be back-dropped by rising ground and visually associated with the more settled and farmed loch fringes. Prominent skylines and hill tops above valleys and loch shores, more complex landform and the small walled improved pastures close to settlement (which provide a positive contrast with extensive forestry) should be avoided with broader areas of rougher pasture and grass
moorland favoured. There are greater opportunities to accommodate the small typology (turbines <35m) in these areas due to their better scale relationship with nearby settlement.

Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
**Landscape Character Type 6b: Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic**

**Introduction**

The Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type is identified in 7 separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Due to the variety of extent, context and scale of landscapes within Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purposes of this study:

- The ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6a) which forms narrow bands on either side of Loch Fyne.
- The ‘Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6b) which comprises a broad peninsula abutting the southern boundary of the Knapdale NSA and extending to West Loch Tarbet.
- The ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c), which forms an outlier of this type including stretches of remote coast south of Campbeltown.

The most extensive area of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic on the long spine of the Kintyre peninsula has been retained as ‘Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ as it is the closest in character to the original definition. This area comprises a broad undulating upland plateau lying within the interior of the Kintyre peninsula. This area also accommodates a number of existing and consented wind farm developments.

This sensitivity assessment covers the Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6b) character type. Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the relatively sparsely settled nature of this landscape. General guidance is provided for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

**Operational and consented wind farm development**

The consented Allt Dearg wind farm (12 turbines, 81m) is located within this character sub-type. This development will be visible from the shores of Loch Caolisport and from the higher hills within this character type but screened to the south by the ridge of higher ground between Meall Reamhar and Stob Odhar.

The operational wind farm of Cruach Mhor and the consented wind farm of A’ Chruach are/will be visible from the higher northern hills of this character sub-type. The operational Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc I and II wind farms, sited within the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) which covers the Kintyre Peninsula to the south, are visible from the higher southern hills and intermittently from the southern coast of this character sub-type.

**Summary of sensitivity**

The Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type has an irregular and often complex craggy landform with pronounced ridges and occasional high, better defined summits, although some limited areas of slightly smoother and gentler hill slopes also occur, mainly in the south-west. This area has a simple land cover of extensive coniferous forestry and moorland; it is also sparsely populated and already accommodates the consented Allt Dearg wind farm (which has been assumed to be constructed in the assessment). While the scale and sparsely settled nature of this landscape presents potential opportunities to accommodate large scale wind farm development, areas of more complex smaller scale hills fringing the outer edge of this upland area and the more defined ridges and peaks within its...
core would be sensitive to such development. This landscape has an overall High-medium sensitivity to the large typology and a Medium sensitivity to the medium typology.

This is a very sparsely settled area which is not notably popular for recreation. Visibility of the interior of these uplands is fairly restricted from roads and settlement within adjacent low-lying coastal areas although there are longer views from across Loch Fyne, West Loch Tarbet and from Arran and Gigha. Visual sensitivity is judged to be High-medium for the large typology and Medium for the medium typology, reflecting the greater scope for turbines of this size to integrate with existing wind farm developments and minimise effects on key views.

The western part of the Knapdale area is designated an APQ. It also lies adjacent to the Knapdale NSA. Sensitivity in relation to landscape values is judged to be High-medium for larger typologies within the APQ where turbines may indirectly affect the special qualities of the APQ or the Knapdale NSA and its wider setting. Sensitivity would be Low within the undesignated parts of this landscape.

**Smaller typologies**

There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies (turbines <50m) within the very sparsely settled uplands of this landscape. Smaller typologies would appear out of scale in relation to the predominantly large scale of these uplands and could have cumulative effects with existing and consented wind farm developments in long views to the interior of these uplands. Some limited opportunities exist for the small-medium typology to be located on lower and gentler hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) where they could be back dropped by rising ground and visually associated with the more settled and farmed coastal fringes. Prominent skylines and hill tops immediately above the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type, more complex landform and the small walled improved pastures close to settlement (which provide a positive contrast with extensive forestry) should be avoided with broader areas of rougher pasture and grass moorland favoured. There are greater opportunities to accommodate the small typology (turbines <35m) in these areas due to their better scale relationship with nearby settlement.

**Cumulative issues**

Key cumulative landscape and visual issues include:

- Potential effects on views from the A83 Tourist Route where multiple wind farm developments in Knapdale could potentially be visible in the more open Kennacraig to Clachan area and in views between Lochgilphead and Inverneill.
- Potential effects of multiple developments on the special qualities of the Knapdale NSA and its wider setting.
- Cumulative views from outer Loch Fyne where any additional wind farm developments, especially sited on the eastern hills of this landscape, could impact on key views down the loch from Lochgilphead, from occasional open sections of the eastern coast of the loch, for example near Otter Ferry, and from the sea.

**Constraints**

- The more complex landform of smaller interlocking hills which provide a backdrop to the settled coastal landscapes of the Rocky Mosaic (20) on the outer fringes of the Knapdale peninsula and which are prominent in views from roads and settlement.
- Defined ridges and pronounced summits between Stob Odhar and Meall Reamhar which are highly visible in views from settlement and the A83 across West Loch Tarbert and ridges and summits close to the eastern coast of Knapdale seen from Loch Fyne and Lochgilphead.
- Small loch basins often contained by knolly hills which increase diversity within the upland plateau – for example, Loch a’ Bhaillidh in the south-western part of this landscape.
- Potential cumulative effects with the existing and consented wind farm developments of Allt Dearg, Deucheran Hill and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms seen sequentially from the A83 and together (in various combinations) in views up, down and across Loch Fyne.
- The APQ designation covering the western side of the Knapdale area and the Knapdale NSA to the north of this area.

Opportunities:
- Areas of lower, less complex gently undulating landform set back from sensitive coastal edges and from the higher more defined ridges and pronounced summits and generally occurring in the south-western part of this character type.
- The sparsely settled nature of this character type and the relatively limited visibility of parts of the interior of these uplands from surrounding settled coastal fringes.

Guidance on development
There is some limited scope to accommodate further larger scale typologies in this character type (it is assumed that the consented Allt Dearg wind farm is constructed). Development should be sited within more gently undulating landform, away from the more complex irregular small hills characteristic of the seaward fringes of the Knapdale area and also set well back from the defined ridges and higher pronounced summits at the core of this upland area. It should also be sited to avoid significant intrusion on views from the adjacent settled and small scale ‘Rocky Mosiac’ (20) and to and from the Knapdale NSA (and particularly views down Loch Coalisport to Jura which is a defined Special Quality of this NSA). Extensions to existing developments should aim to replicate similar turbine heights and retain the integrity of layout of the original scheme. The medium typology (turbines 50-80m high) would be more likely to minimise cumulative effects and effects on views from the settled coastal fringes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20).

Small turbines <50m should be sited so visually associated with more settled lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) and located to relate to gentler hill slopes set back from buildings so as to avoid scale impacts yet. Areas of complex, irregular landform found in these transitional areas should be avoided. More extensive pasture and moorland areas above in-bye land and backed by rising hill slopes or forestry would provide opportunities to minimise visibility. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
Landscape Character Type 6c: Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic

Introduction
The Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type is identified in 7 separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Due to the variety of extent, context and scale of landscapes within Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purposes of this study:

- The ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6a) which forms narrow bands on either side of Loch Fyne
- The ‘Knapdale Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6b) which comprises a broad peninsula abutting the southern boundary of the Knapdale NSA and extending to West Loch Tarbet.
- The ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c), which forms an outlier of this type including stretches of remote coast south of Campbeltown. This is the assessment for this character type.

The most extensive area of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic in Knapdale and on the long spine of the Kintyre peninsula has been retained as ‘Landscape Character Type 6: Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ as it is the closest in character to the original definition.

The two areas of Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6c) directly abut the sea, forming dramatic wild coastlines. This landscape is forested and sparsely populated in common with other areas of Upland Forest Moor Mosaic. However, unlike other areas of this character type, it does not feature operational or consented wind farm development. The Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6c) also forms the setting for the ‘Coastal Hills’ (21) and, together with this character type, are largely covered by an APQ designation.

Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the relatively sparsely settled nature of this landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no operational or consented wind farm developments sited in this character type. The operational Deucheran Hill, Tangy and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms are sited within the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) to the north. All three developments are visible only from a very small elevated area above Machrinhanish Bay. The Tangy and Beinn an Tuirc wind farms are additionally visible from north-facing hill slopes on the edge of the ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) and from the higher hill tops in this character type (see Figure 7).

Summary of sensitivity
This character type comprises a relatively simple rolling plateau of densely forested hills at its core, contrasting with individual summits, such as Beinn Ghuilean, and a more diverse and rugged landform along the coast. The western coast and Mull of Kintyre has a strong wildland character. The diverse coastal landform and the backdrop and setting the outer fringes of these hills provide to smaller scale settled landscapes, increases sensitivity to wind farm development. This landscape has a High-medium sensitivity to the large development typologies and a Medium sensitivity to the medium typology, reflecting some increased scope for siting smaller turbines in the interior to avoid impacts on more sensitive coastal areas and smaller scale, low-lying landscapes.
The edge hills of the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic are highly visible from the surrounding settled lowland landscapes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20), the ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) and the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21). This increases sensitivity to larger typologies where tall turbines would be likely to be visible from these areas and could intrude on more sensitive skylines. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High for larger typologies and High-medium for the medium typology.

An APQ covers much of this character type and is presumed to have been designated because of its coastal scenery and panoramic views of the wider seascape. Sensitivity in relation to landscape value is judged to be High to medium for the large typology and Medium for the medium typology.

**Smaller turbines**

There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies (turbines <50m) within the more sparsely settled and densely forested core of hills of this character type. Some limited opportunities exist for the small-medium typology (turbines 35-50m) to be located on lower and broader hill slopes at the transition with the more expansive ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) landscape character type where they could be back-dropped by rising ground and visually associated with these settled and farmed landscapes. There are also some limited opportunities for the small typology (turbines <35m) to be sited on gentler hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type and the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21). Where settlement occurs close to the east coast within the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic, turbines should avoid intrusion on sea views from the public road. There are greater opportunities to accommodate the small typology (turbines <35m) in these coastal areas due to their better scale relationship with nearby settlement and reduced visual impact.

**Cumulative issues**

There are no existing or consented wind farm developments in this landscape character sub-type. Key cumulative issues include:

- Potential cumulative effects on views from Arran where the long even spine of Kintyre is characterised by existing wind farm development and consideration of the effects of any large scale wind farm development sited on the Mull of Kintyre on these views.
- Related to the above point are the potential effects on the perception of the Mull of Kintyre which has a character distinct from the long and more even spine of the Kintyre peninsula north of Campbeltown from which it is separated by a low-lying isthmus which sets it apart. Wind farm development could be perceived as making it appear the same as the northern length of Kintyre and diminishing its strong identity.

**Constraints:**

- The high rugged hills characteristic of the south-western part of this character type which provide a dramatic backdrop to the settled and farmed landscapes of the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21) and make a strong contribution to the scenic quality of this coastal area and the wider seascape.
- Areas of complex craggy landform, plunging hill slopes and cliffs/raised beaches along the coast and the small knolly hills which are highly visible on the edges of this character type.
The pronounced wildland character which is especially, but not exclusively, associated with the exposed, remote and little modified butt of the Mull of Kintyre and the west coast.

The high visibility of the ‘edge’ hills of this upland area from surrounding well-settled landscapes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20), the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21) and the ‘Bay Farmland’ (14).

The setting provided by Beinn Ghuilean to Campbeltown.

Views from Arran and cumulative effects with other wind farm development seen along the long ‘spine’ of the Kintyre peninsula to the north of Campbeltown.

The APQ designation which covers much of this landscape.

Opportunities:

- The simple landform and land cover of the interior rolling and densely forested hills within this character type.
- The sparsely populated nature of this character type and the potential for limiting visibility and intrusion from surrounding sensitive well-settled and frequented landscapes and the coast within the core of these uplands.

Guidance on development

There are no opportunities to accommodate the large typology within this character type due to its likely effect on the highly sensitive coast and the smaller scale settled landscapes of the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21) and the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20). This typology could, in addition, incur significant cumulative effects with existing wind farm developments in the Kintyre peninsula north of Campbeltown appreciated sequentially and in views from Arran.

There may be some very limited opportunities to site the medium typology provided turbines avoid intrusion on highly sensitive coasts and adjoining smaller scale settled landscapes. Turbines should be sited within the simpler rolling landform of interior forested hills and on gentler hill slopes contained by higher ground which could limit visibility from the coast and from Arran. The smaller pronounced hills which form the highly visible southern edge of this character type should be avoided.

There are increased opportunities for smaller turbines to be located at the transition of this character type with adjacent settled landscapes where they could relate to the scale of broader and gentler hills slopes yet be visually associated with built development in these lowland areas. There is limited scope for the small-medium typology (turbines 35-50m) to be sited at the transition with the more expansive landscape of the ‘Bay Farmland’ (14) on hill slopes where they can be backed by rising ground, thus limiting effects on skylines. The small typology (turbines <35m) could be better accommodated at the transition with the smaller scale ‘Low Coastal Hills’ (21) and the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) in order to fit with the scale of small hills which fringe these areas. More complex irregular landform and distinct knolly hills should be avoided and this will limit opportunities for multiple developments.

Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 7: Craggy Upland

Introduction
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in several separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment and extends over a large area, including stretches of coastline, inland lochs and glens and plateaux. Due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within the Craggy Upland character type, it has been sub-divided into the following sub-types for the purpose of this study:

- The ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’ (7a) to the west and north of the core area
- The ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) along the coast between Oban and Kilmartin
- The ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’ (7c) around the head of Loch Awe.
- The ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) north of Loch Creran.
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) found in the Loch Spelve area.

Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each of these sub-types.

In addition, the settled shores of Loch Awe have been reclassified as the Rocky Mosaic (20) character type. An area of distinct hills at the south-western end of Loch Awe has been reclassified as the Upland Parallel Ridges character type (10).

The most extensive and higher area of Craggy Upland either side of Loch Awe has been retained as landscape character type 7: Craggy Upland, as it is the closest in character to the original definition. It is considered separately in this sensitivity assessment.

Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the very sparsely settled nature of this upland landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
The operational Beinn Ghlas (16 turbines, 61m height) and An Suidhe (24 turbines, 83m height) wind farms lie within this character type. The consented Carraig Gheal windfarm (24 turbines, 112-127m height) will be located in close proximity to the Beinn Ghlas development.

The consented A’ Chruach wind farm (24 turbines, 100m height to blade tip) is located within the north-west unit of the adjacent ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6a) character type and close to the boundary of the Craggy Upland (7) character type. The operational Clachan Flats wind farm is also situated close to the Craggy Upland (7) to the south-east of Loch Awe and within the adjacent Steep Ridgeland and Mountains (1) character type.

There is theoretical visibility of all these wind farm developments from this character type.

Summary of sensitivity
This higher core of the Craggy Upland character type comprises an irregular upland plateau lying either side of Loch Awe. This landscape generally has a large scale and simple land cover of extensive moorland and coniferous forestry. It is very sparsely settled and already accommodates a number of operational and consented windfarm developments. This landscape has a Medium sensitivity to the larger development typologies.
Although this is a very sparsely settled landscape with roads aligned in valleys and views additionally restricted by extensive coniferous forest and loch-side woodland, immediate skylines formed by hills on the edge of the Craggy Upland, and visible from more settled loch shores and valleys, are sensitive. Existing and consented wind farm development is already a prominent feature seen from Loch Awe and potential cumulative issues are discussed in more detail below. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High-medium for the large typology and Medium for the medium typology.

No designated landscapes apply to this character type with landscape values therefore judged to be Low for both typologies.

**Smaller typologies**

There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies within this very sparsely populated upland area. Opportunities may exist on the fringes of this character type and at the transition with the Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) and the Rocky Mosaic (20) character types where smaller turbines could be located on slacker hill slopes so visually associated with the more settled and farmed loch fringes and glens.

**Cumulative issues**

The operational Beinn Ghlas and An Suidhe windfarms lie within this character type. The consented Carraig Gheal windfarm will be sited in close proximity to the Beinn Ghlas development. The consented A’ Chruach windfarm will lie within the north-west unit of the adjacent ‘Loch Fyne Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6a) character type and close to the boundary of the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type.

Key cumulative issues include:

- Incremental loss of open, less modified moorland and effects on the diverse character of the more intricate pattern of small lochans and craggy knolls. Existing and consented wind farm development to date appears to have favoured areas of open moorland rather than the less sensitive forested areas where the underlying landform tends to be less craggy and patterned by water bodies.
- Cumulative effects arising from potential differences in the layout and size of turbines associated with different wind farm developments which may be perceived in close views from Rights of Way but also from occasional open views from minor roads aligned within this character type.
- Cumulative effects on skyline ridges prominent in views from minor roads within the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type, for instance along the Loch Avich road and from the B840 on the southern shores of Loch Awe but also from the south-eastern shore of Loch Fyne and from the A886 and the A85, at the head of Loch Awe and southern shore of Loch Etive.
- The spacing between wind farm developments where additional developments could have significant cumulative effects as multiple wind farm developments extend either side of Loch Awe. The spatial pattern of existing and consented clusters of wind farms is likely to limit the incidence of development seen along the very long length (40km) of Loch Awe in sequential views. Extensive forestry and woodland also limits views from roads along Loch Awe although additional new wind farm developments (as opposed to extensions to existing wind farms) could result in turbines being prominent in the backdrop of every open view seen from the B840/Cycle Route 74.
Cumulative impacts on smaller settled landscapes such as the Rocky Mosaic (20) around Ford near Loch Awe where the larger turbines of consented wind farm developments such as Carriag Gheal will have a greater effect on views and the setting of settled loch shores and where additional development could significantly intrude on the setting of settlement and archaeological features.

Existing larger scale commercial wind farm developments are at present not widely visible from the sensitive ‘Craggy Coast and Settled Glens’ (7a) and ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b). The consented wind farm of Carraig Gheal will be visible from a few elevated locations in these character types. Further development in the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) could increase visibility particularly if these were sited on higher ground and comprised taller turbines/more extensive wind farms.

Constraints
- The backdrop of steep slopes and skyline ridges which provide the immediate setting to the settled and farmed fringes of Loch Awe and to the less settled Loch Avich area but also to the small scale settled landscapes of the adjacent Craggy Uplands with Settled Glens (7a) to the west.
- Areas of more complex craggy landform including steep-sided ridges and knolly tops and the higher pronounced summits of Beinn Chapull, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Ghlas seen from adjacent settled glens.
- The intricate pattern of lochans and small knolly hills in the south-eastern part of the interior plateau of this character type and the more extensive areas of unmodified ground, for example in the Musdale area, where a sense of wildness can be experienced away from forestry and wind farm development.
- Occasional pronounced small open-topped hills close to Loch Awe and long wooded lower hill slopes which form spurs and promontories extending into Loch Awe and add to its scenic interest.
- Potential cumulative effects with existing wind farm development at A’Chruach, An Suidhe, Carriag Gheal and Beinn Ghlas particularly on views from Loch Awe and Loch Fyne.

Opportunities
- The generally simple landform and land cover and the large scale of interior plateaux
- The very sparsely settled nature of these uplands and their relative inaccessibility which limits visibility particularly of the interior plateau.
- An absence of landscape designations within the character type

Guidance on development
It is assumed that the consented Carraig Gheal and A’Chruach wind farms are constructed and form part of the baseline for the sensitivity assessment.

There is some scope to accommodate further larger scale typologies in this character type. It would be preferable to consolidate existing wind farm developments in order to reduce cumulative visual effects but to also minimise the incremental effects on landscape character. Extensions to existing developments should aim to replicate similar turbine heights and retain the integrity of layout of the original scheme.

It will be important to minimise intrusion on the adjacent smaller scale settled landscapes of the ‘Craggy Uplands with Settled Glens’ (7a) and the ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) and
this may constrain scope for new developments and extensions to existing wind farms in some areas. Development should not be sited on or close-by the more pronounced higher hill summits of Beinn Chapull, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Ghlas, which form landmark features seen at the head of the settled glens to the west.

New wind farm developments should be sited to avoid intrusion on prominent skylines seen from open sections of Loch Awe. This could be achieved by selecting sites which are slightly dipped and contained to some degree by higher ground and where turbines would be seen on a relatively low even stretch of skyline. Development should be sited to avoid the steep, predominantly wooded slopes which provide an immediate backdrop and setting to Loch Awe and its settled fringes and to Loch Avich. They should also be sited away from the occasional small hills, wooded spurs and promontories along the shores of Loch Awe. Areas with a more complex landform, for example irregular craggy ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys and areas with a particularly intricate pattern of lochans and rocky knolls would be highly sensitive to all development whether sited directly within these areas or nearby. More extensive areas of open and less modified ground where wildland qualities can be experienced, for example the Musdale area and south-west of Eredine Forest, should also be avoided and care taken to minimise effects from turbines sited in the surrounding area on these qualities.

Smaller turbines could be sited so visually associated with more settled areas and located to relate to gentler hill slopes set back from buildings so as to avoid dominating the scale of small buildings, trees and fields. More extensive pasture and moorland areas above in-bye land and backed by rising hill slopes or forestry would provide opportunities to minimise visibility. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
**Landscape Character Type 7a: Craggy Upland with Settled Glens**

**Introduction**
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in several separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment, and extends over a large area, including stretches of coastline, inland lochs and glens and plateaux. Due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within the Craggy Upland character type, it has been sub-divided into the following sub-types for the purpose of this study:

- Craggy Uplands (7), which forms the bulk of the existing Craggy Uplands Character type, straddling each side of Loch Awe
- The ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’ (7a) to the west
- The ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) along the coast between Oban and Kilmartin
- The ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’ (7c) near Dalmally and around the head of Loch Awe.
- The ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) in the Loch Creran area.
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) found in the Loch Spelve area.

Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each of these sub-types.

This section provides the assessment for Type 7a, ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’, which occurs on the western fringes of the Craggy Uplands character type (7). It has some similarities with the main landscape type but principally differs in its scale, landform and more settled character.

Detailed sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for both the larger and smaller development typologies in the sensitivity assessment that follows.

**Operational and consented wind farm development**
No operational or consented commercial wind farms are sited in this character sub-type.

The operational Bheinn Ghlas wind farm is visible from higher ground between the glens in the north of this character type and in a more settled area immediately east of Oban. The consented Carraig Gheal wind farm is theoretically visible from parts of Glen Feochan, a more settled area east of Oban, in the Loch Scammadale area and from higher ground in this landscape sub-type. Both these wind farm developments are sited within the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type.

**Summary of sensitivity**
This landscape forms a series of deep glens, some of these containing narrow lochs, and areas of more expansive craggy plateau. Scale varies with the contained glens having a generally small scale accentuated by the often intricate pattern of broadleaved woodland, pastures and settlement and with scale increasing in the more extensive and open plateau areas which are generally densely forested. The settled nature of this landscape, its predominantly diverse landform and proximity to the highly sensitive ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b) increases sensitivity to the large typology with a High sensitivity concluded in the assessment. Sensitivity would be High-medium for the medium typology and Medium for the smaller typologies as turbines of this size could be sited to minimise impacts on smaller scale settled areas.
Although views are restricted from roads by the incised landform of the glens, the skylines formed by hills within this landscape (seen from the glens and the adjacent ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b) character sub-type) are highly sensitive. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be **High** for the large typology, **High-medium** for the medium typology and **Medium** for the smaller typologies.

An APQ designation applies to the western part of this landscape and sensitivity was concluded to be **High-medium** for the larger and small-medium typologies within the APQ where views to the coastal area could be affected reducing to **Medium** for the small typology, reflecting increased scope for minimising intrusion. Sensitivity in relation to landscape values would be low within the majority of this character sub-type which is undesignated.

**Cumulative issues**
There are no operational or consented wind farms within this character type although the consented wind farm of Carraig Gheal may be visible from some parts of this landscape. Key cumulative issues within this character type are likely to include:

- The cumulative effect of multiple wind farm developments sited within the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) seen from roads and settlement on prominent skylines above the small scale settled glens.
- Potential inter-visibility of any larger scale turbines sited in this character type with operational/consented wind farm developments sited in the adjacent ‘Craggy Uplands’ (7).

**Constraints**
- The complex irregular landform which includes steep rocky slopes containing deep glens, rocky outcrops and knolls and occasional pronounced craggy topped hills. The glens and lower lying, farmed and settled landscapes are of a relatively small scale
- Settlement within these areas and archaeology particularly evident in the Glen Lonan and Loch Nell area.
- The rich diversity of broadleaved and policy woodlands, lochs, wetlands and small pastures characteristic of these settled glens adds to complexity and the reinforces the small scale character of this landscape
- The backdrop of steep slopes and skyline ridges which provide the immediate setting to the well-settled coastal edge of the ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b).
- Potential cumulative effects with consented and proposed wind farm developments sited within the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7).
- An APQ designation covering the plateau area around Cruach Rarey and the foreground this landscape provides to panoramic views of the coast, sea and islands from the Loch Avich to Kilmelford road.

**Opportunities**
- More extensive plateau-like areas with a less complex topography, unsettled character and generally with a more uniform land cover of coniferous forestry, where the scale of the landscape is increased.
- An absence of landscape designations within much of the character type
**Guidance on development**

There is no scope for the large typology to be accommodated within this character sub-type due to its likely impact on small scale glens, landmark lochs, complex landform and more naturalistic vegetation and on the adjacent coastal fringe of the ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b).

There is some **very limited** scope for the medium typology to be located in more extensive plateau-like areas with a less complex landform and simpler vegetation cover of moorland or coniferous forestry. Turbines should be sited away from the small scale glens and lochs where they would dominate their scale and detract from their diverse landform, vegetation cover and settlement. They should also avoid intrusion on the prominent skyline ridges enclosing these glens and also sited to avoid intrusion on prominent skylines seen from the adjacent Craggy Coast and Islands (7b) character type. Turbines towards the lower height band of the medium typology are more likely to minimise effects on key views to and from the coastal area.

There is increased opportunity to site smaller typologies at the transition between marginal farmed areas and the more extensive rough grazing and forestry where gentler hill slopes and plateau-like areas occur. The small typology (turbines between 20-35m) could be more readily accommodated close to more settled areas. The small scale glen floors and lochs remain sensitive however to the typologies considered in the sensitivity assessment although turbines below 20m could be more readily accommodated in these areas if visually associated with existing farms and other buildings. The setting of archaeological features would be sensitive to all typologies and also to smaller turbines if inappropriately sited. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 7b: Craggy Coasts and Islands

Introduction
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in several separate locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment and extends over a large area, including stretches of coastline, inland lochs and glens and plateaux. Due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within the Craggy Upland character type, it has been sub-divided into the following sub-types for the purpose of this study:

- The ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’ (7a) to the west and north of the core area.
- The ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) along the coast between Oban and Kilmartin.
- The ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’ (7c) around the head of Loch Awe.
- The ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) north of Loch Creran.
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) found in the Loch Spelve area.

The most extensive and higher area of Craggy Upland either side of Loch Awe has been retained as landscape character type 7: Craggy Upland, as it is the closest in character to the original definition. Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each of these sub-types.

The landscape character sub-type of the ‘Craggy Coast and Islands’ (7b) is considered in this sensitivity assessment. It encompasses the coastal area between Oban and Loch Craignish and the near shore islands of Kerrera, Seil, Luing and Shuna. It also includes the ‘Slate Islands’ (24) character type defined in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. This landscape has a small scale, diverse topography and distinct seascape context. It is also well settled and frequented and it is these key differences which merit its sub-division from the Craggy Moorland (7) main landscape type.

Sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for both larger and smaller development typologies for this coastal sub-type.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are two operational turbines, 32.5m to blade tip, sited on the island of Luing within this character type. There is very limited visibility of these turbines across this character type.

The operational wind farms of Bheinn Ghlas and An Suidhe located in the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) are visible from elevated and less settled areas and from limited parts of the island of Luing within this character type. The consented wind farm development of Carraig Gheal which is also located in the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) has a more extensive theoretical visibility across this character type with elevated (and again, generally less settled) areas affected but will also be visible from many islands, particularly those located in the south.

Summary of sensitivity
The Craggy Coast and Islands character sub-type has a deeply indented coastline of narrow sea lochs, long fragmented peninsulas and islands. The complex landform of this character type is complemented by extensive broadleaved woodland, small settlements, farmland and policy landscapes which feature on the more sheltered sections of coast. It is a richly diverse landscape which makes a strong contribution to wider seascape character when seen in conjunction with Mull and Jura. This landscape has a High sensitivity to the larger
development typologies. It has a **High-medium** sensitivity to the small-medium typology and a **Medium** sensitivity to the small typology.

This coastal landscape is relatively well-settled and is a popular destination for tourism and recreation. Panoramic views from the A816, from minor roads and settlement and from the sea. Visual sensitivity was therefore concluded to be **High** for the larger typologies and the small-medium typology and **High-medium** for the small typology.

An APQ designation applies to the majority of this landscape. This landscape is also important in providing key views to the Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs NSA. Sensitivity in terms of landscape values is considered to be **High-medium** for the larger and small-medium typologies and **medium** for the small typology.

**Cumulative issues**
There are two existing wind turbines (32.5m to blade tip) on the Isle of Luing. These turbines are well screened in views from land being visible during our field visit only from Luing itself and from the Craignish Point area. Operational and consented larger scale commercial wind farm developments sited in the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type are/will be generally visible from more elevated and sparsely settled/forested areas but also from some islands. Key landscape and visual cumulative issues comprise:
- Inter-visibility between wind farm developments sited in the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) and any larger turbines sited in this character type.

**Constraints:**
- The scenic contribution made by the Craggy Coast and Islands to the wider seascape context.
- The intricate coastal edge cut by narrow sea lochs and sounds and the complexity and variety of landform including islands, skerries and distinctive coastal geological features.
- The strong containment provided to the coastal edge by steep-sided hills to the east, the deeply indented coastal edge and knolly landform give an often small scale to the landscape, this accentuated by woodlands, small enclosed fields and settlement.
- The rich pattern of vegetation cover including extensive broadleaved woodlands, mixed policy woodlands and parkland, pockets of wetland and scrub.
- A strong sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced particularly on more isolated promontories, sparsely settled islands and the more exposed, inaccessible and rugged west-facing coasts.
- The setting to Oban and other coastal settlements provided by a backdrop of higher ground and often most visible from the sea.
- Views from the A816 as it winds along the coast offering a sequence of panoramas of sea and land which feature focal views to the mountains of Jura and Mull.
- Views from the sea including the Colonsay ferry but also the popularity of this coastal area for recreational sailing which increases sensitivity
- An Area of Panoramic Quality designation which covers much of this coastal landscape sub-type.
- Views from Easdale and Culipool on the island of Luing to the Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs NSA.
Opportunities
- Areas of less complex craggy landform away from the coastal edge where smaller typologies could be accommodated so visually associated with existing buildings

Guidance on development
There is no scope to site the larger and the small-medium typologies within this character sub-type due to the significant adverse impacts that would be likely to occur on a wide range of landscape and visual sensitivities.

There is some very limited scope for single and small groups of the small typology to be associated with less complex landform and vegetation cover. Turbines should be sited away from the more inaccessible western coasts and unsettled islands which have a distinct sense of wildness. They should avoid intrusion on skylines, particularly where these form the backdrop to settlement and on key views from the A816 to the coast and sea. The setting of archaeological features and designed landscapes should also be avoided. They will be easier to accommodate if sited on slightly rises or folds in the landscape or where there are natural changes in gradient and in areas where rising ground forms a backcloth able to reduce their prominence.

It will be important to limit the number of turbines and the ranges of turbine designs in this highly sensitive landscape to avoid it becoming cluttered with built development. There is likely to be more scope to accommodate a greater number of well-sited turbines below 20m height than the small typology considered in this assessment. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 7c: North Loch Awe Craggy Upland

Introduction
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in several locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment, and extends over a large area, including stretches of coastline, inland lochs and glens and plateaux. Due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within the Craggy Upland character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purpose of this study:

- Craggy Uplands (7), which forms the bulk of the existing Craggy Uplands Character type, straddling each side of Loch Awe
- The ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’ (7a) to the west and north of the core area
- The ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) along the coast between Oban and Kilmartin
- The ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’ (7c) near Dalmally and around the head of Loch Awe.
- The ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) near Loch Creran.
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) in the Loch Spelve area.

Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each of these sub-types.

This section provides the assessment for Type 7c ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’, which has been defined as a sub-type because of heightened sensitivities related to its relatively dramatic context and the presence of the Area of Panoramic Quality which extends over the northern part of Loch Awe.

Detailed sensitivity assessments in this assessment have been undertaken for the larger development typologies only, due to the very sparsely settled nature of this upland landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no operational or consented wind farms within this area.

The operational Clachan Flats wind farm lies within the neighbouring ‘Steep Ridgeland and Mountains’ (1) and will be visible from a limited area of higher ground on the south-eastern boundary of this character type. The operational and consented wind farms of Beinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal lie within the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type and will be extensively visible across this character type. The operational wind farm of An Suidhe also lies within the adjacent ‘Craggy upland’ (7) character type but will be only visible from the higher ridge on the south-eastern boundary of this character type.

Summary of sensitivity
This landscape type comprises an irregular upland plateau which sits at the juxtaposition of a number of different character types at the head of Loch Awe. The relatively simple vegetation pattern, the presence of existing infrastructure and the lack of settlement within the type have been identified as characteristics which can accommodate this typology. However the context – in particular the diversity of different character types which come together in this area – the limited extent of the area and the medium scale of the type all limit scope, especially for the larger typologies. Overall, the landscape character of this type has therefore been assessed as of High sensitivity for the large typology and High-medium sensitivity for the medium sized typology.
The plateau forms the backdrop and is often visible as a skyline from small scale low-lying, settled landscape types. It also forms the foreground in views to the steep sided, massive bulk of Ben Cruachan and other mountain areas. Visible from roads, settlements, the loch and the railway as well as from key historic features, visual sensitivity to these larger typologies is considered to be *High* for both typologies, although there may be scope to locate smaller typologies where they do not impinge on skylines or detract from focal points and key panoramas.

It contributes to the diversity of relief, scale, form and pattern which come together to create the scenic qualities and visual drama associated with the North Loch Awe Area of Panoramic Quality, and is therefore judged to be of *High-medium* sensitivity in relation to landscape value.

**Smaller typologies**
There is unlikely to be a significant demand for smaller typologies within this very sparsely settled upland area. Opportunities may exist on the fringes of this character type and at the transition with the Mountain Glens (4) and the Rocky Mosaic (20) where smaller turbines could be located on slacker hill slopes so visually associated with the more settled and farmed loch fringes and valleys.

**Cumulative issues**
There are no operational or consented wind farms within this character type. The operational Beinn Ghlas and consented Carraig Gheal wind farms will be visible from more open sections of the A819 (which comprises the key viewpoint from this sparsely settled upland area). The An Suidhe and Clachan Flats wind farms will be unlikely to be visible from key viewpoints within this character type. Key cumulative issues include:

- Inter-visibility with wind farms on adjacent character types, principally the Craggy Upland (7) type, particularly where these might extend to create cumulative effects of distracting visual clutter or significant loss of open skylines around north Loch Awe and the designated APQ.
- This area is an area of Craggy Upland type which is undeveloped in terms of wind farms, and therefore contrasts with those areas of larger scale Craggy Upland which are more able to accommodate this type of development.

**Constraints**
- The physical juxtaposition and inter-visibility of this type with several other landscape types in this area, which combine to create contrasts in scale, relief and form and contribute to the dramatic and diverse setting of north Loch Awe and the Area of Panoramic Quality
- The slopes and ridges which contribute to the setting of the settled and farmed fringes of Loch Awe and the Dalmally area, and are visible as skylines from roads and settlements
- Key panoramic viewpoints and focal features, including views to and from places of historic interest, and to natural features, such as the Loch Awe islands or the panorama of Ben Cruachan.
Opportunities
- The generally simple land cover of this irregular plateau
- The presence of existing forestry and infrastructure
- Occasional less complex areas of landform
- The very sparsely settled nature of these uplands and their relative inaccessibility which limits visibility particularly into the interior glens.

Guidance on development
There is no scope to accommodate the large typology in this character type, and scope to accommodate medium size typologies is likely to be limited to areas where they would not intrude into skylines overlooking Loch Awe, or into key views to and from the Loch, its islands, historic features and panoramas of the mountains.

Smaller turbines could be sited so visually associated with more settled fringes of this character type and located to relate to gentler hill slopes set back from buildings so as to avoid scale impacts. More extensive pasture and moorland areas above in-bye land and backed by rising hill slopes or forestry would provide opportunities to minimise visibility. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 7d: Lorn Craggy Upland

Introduction
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in several locations within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment, and extends over a large area, including stretches of coastline, inland lochs and glens and plateaux. Due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within the Craggy Upland character type, it has been subdivided into the following sub-types for the purpose of this study:

- Craggy Uplands (7), which forms the bulk of the existing Craggy Uplands Character type, straddling each side of Loch Awe
- The ‘Craggy Upland with Settled Glens’ (7a) to the west and north of the core area
- The ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) along the coast between Oban and Kilmartin
- The ‘North Loch Awe Craggy Upland’ (7c) near Dalmally and around the head of Loch Awe.
- The ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) near Loch Creran.
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) in the Loch Spelve area.

Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each of these sub-types.

This section provides the assessment for Type 7d ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ which has been defined as a sub-type because of heightened sensitivities related to its APQ designation and context next to the Lynn of Lorn NSA and the ‘High Tops’ (2) character type within Glen Creran.

Detailed sensitivity assessments in this assessment have been undertaken for the larger development typologies only due to the very sparsely settled nature of this upland landscape. General guidance is given for smaller typologies within the summary that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no operational or consented wind farm developments located within the Lorn Craggy Upland. The operational and consented wind farms of Bheinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal, located in the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) are/will be visible from the south-facing hill slopes of this character type but at distances of over 26km.

Summary of sensitivity
The defined rugged, craggy hills of the ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ character type form an important scenic backdrop to the lower settled coastal fringes and the wider seascape of the Lynn of Lorn and Loch Linnhe. These hills also form a visual extension of the higher mountains of the ‘High Tops’ (2) within Argyll and Bute and neighbouring Highland region. While the scale of this upland character type could relate to larger wind farm typologies the important scenic contribution it makes to the wider landscape context, the complex craggy landform of the hills and the wildland qualities experienced within this landscape are key constraints. This landscape has an overall High sensitivity to larger typologies of wind farm development.

This landscape type is highly visible from major coastal tourist routes and settlement but also lies close to popular listed Corbetts and Munros lying in this and adjoining character types. There would be a High visual sensitivity to larger development typologies.
The presence of an APQ and close proximity to the Lynn of Lorn NSA increases sensitivity in terms of landscape values. There would be **High-medium** sensitivity to larger typologies in terms of landscape values.

**Smaller typologies**
There is unlikely to be a demand for smaller typologies within this very sparsely settled upland area. Smaller typologies would appear out of scale in relation to the predominantly large scale of these uplands. They would also have similar effects on complex landform, land cover and on the appreciation of wildland character as larger typologies. Some limited opportunities may exist for the small typology (turbines <35m) to be sited on the fringes of this character type, on less steep and smoother lower hill slopes at the transition with the more settled and farmed ‘Lowland ridges and moss’ (18) (Strath Appin).

**Cumulative issues**
No existing or consented wind farms are currently located within or visible from this character type and no cumulative landscape and visual issues would therefore arise.

**Constraints**
- The rugged defined hills of this character type where steep craggy slopes and conical peaks physically limit scope for wind farm development and where this development would also detract from their complex landform
- The sense of seclusion and naturalness which can be experienced in these uplands.
- The high visibility of these uplands where they form a backdrop to more settled coastal areas and seascapes but are also visible in close proximity by walkers accessing the popular Munros, Corbetts and other hills in this and the adjoining ‘High Tops’ (2) character type.
- Effects on the special qualities of the APQ which covers this character type and also on the special qualities of the Lynn of Lorne NSA.

**Opportunities**
- Smoother, less steep lower hill slopes on the fringes of this character type where the small typology could be sited in association with existing settlement providing it did not intrude on key views to these hills.

**Guidance on development**
There is no scope for larger typologies and the small-medium typology to be sited within this character type without incurring significant impacts on a number of key characteristics.

Some limited opportunities may exist for the small typology (turbines <35m) to be sited on the fringes of this character type, on less steep and smoother lower hill slopes at the transition with the more settled and farmed ‘Lowland ridges and moss’ (18) (Strath Appin). Turbines should be sited to avoid intrusion on key views to these hills from the A828 and from the Lynn of Lorn NSA. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.