Landscape Character Type 7e: Mull Craggy Upland

Introduction
The Craggy Upland landscape character type is defined in a number of 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. The most extensive and higher area of Craggy Upland either side of Loch Awe has been retained as character type 7 as it is the closest in character to the original definition. However due to the variety of context, character and scale of landscapes within this character type, the remaining areas of this character type occurring on the Mainland and on Mull have been 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) to the north of the Lynn of Lorn NSA
- The ‘Mull Craggy Upland’ (7e) found in the Loch Spelve area

Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for the main character type and each of the above sub-types. The assessment which follows considers an area of the Craggy Upland character type defined on Mull. Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the small-medium and small development typologies only (turbines <50m high) in accordance with the requirements of the study brief.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no operational or consented wind farms within this character type. The operational and consented wind farms of Bheinn Ghlas and Carraig Gheal located within the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) on the mainland are theoretically visible from higher coastal areas of this character type but at distances of over 28km.

Summary of sensitivity
The Mull Craggy Uplands form rugged coastal peninsulas enclosing Loch Spelve. The landform is generally complex with steep rocky slopes and craggy knolls and is particularly dramatic in the west near Loch Buie, forming higher hills and sheer cliff faces on the coast. Extensive broadleaved woodlands are a feature in the Ardtura area, the eastern slopes of Carn Ban and also colonise narrow gullies within the western peninsula. Policy woodlands and buildings of architectural interest are associated with Loch Uisg. This is a sparsely settled area with few roads; the exposed coast against the Firth of Lorn is difficult to access and has a strong sense of wilderness. While taller turbines could relate to the scale of this landscape, the complexity of the landform, the strong sense of wilderness experienced in coastal areas and the contribution this landscape makes to wider scenic quality are key factors increasing sensitivity. This landscape has a High-medium sensitivity to the small-medium typology and a Medium sensitivity to the small typology.

Visual sensitivity would be High-medium for the small-medium typology and Medium for the small typology, reflecting increased scope to site smaller turbines to minimise intrusion.

An APQ designation applies to the majority of this landscape with sensitivity in relation to landscape values judged to be High-medium for the small-medium typology and Medium for the small typology. Sensitivity would be reduced in the undesignated Carn Ban area.
**Cumulative issues**
There are no cumulative issues associated with this character type.

**Constraints**
- The scenic contribution made by the Mull Craggy Uplands to the wider, little developed and diverse seascape of the Firth of Lorn and the foreground it provides to the ‘Mull High Tops’ (2a) seen from the mainland coast and islands and the sea.
- A complex craggy landform, cut by numerous narrow gorges and the high cliffs of the Firth of Lorn coast.
- Extensive oak woodlands on the lower slopes of Cruach Ardura and Carn Ban and on the shores of Loch Uisg.
- A strong sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced particularly on the more exposed, inaccessible and rugged Firth of Lorn coast.
- Views from the Carsaig to Lochbuie coastal path and the Lochbuie area to the dramatic rugged hills and high coastal cliffs of the western peninsula.
- Intimate and scenic views from the minor road along Loch Uisg to policy woodlands, historic built features and the backdrop of steep craggy hills.
- The APQ covering much of this landscape.

**Opportunities**
- Areas of less complex craggy landform away from the more dramatic and wild coastal edge where smaller typologies could be accommodated so visually associated with settlement

**Guidance on development**
There is no scope for the small-medium typology to be located in this character type due to the potential significant impacts that could arise on a number of key landscape and visual sensitivity criteria.

There is some **limited** scope for single and small groups of the small typology to be associated with less complex landform, away from more intricately patterned wooded areas and avoiding intrusion on the more sensitive remote and undeveloped coastal area. Turbines of this size should be visually associated with existing settlement being sited on gentler lower hill slopes and flatter coastal fringes where rising ground would reduce prominence. Turbines should be sited to avoid significant intrusion on framed views through the narrow channel between the Firth of Lorn and Loch Spelve seen from the minor road on the north-west shore of the loch and on long views up and down Loch Uisg. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Character Type 8: Moorland Plateau

Introduction
The Moorland Plateau (8) landscape character type is defined on the islands of Islay and Jura within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment, and extends over most of the higher uplands, embracing stretches of coastline, areas of inaccessible and remote interior hills, and smaller stretches of farmed and settled land. Due to the differences in context, character and scale of landscapes within the Moorland Plateau character type, one sub-division has been identified for the purpose of this study:

- The ‘Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a) which occurs on lower lying, more extensively farmed landscapes of this type on Islay

This is the landscape sensitivity assessment which has been undertaken for the Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8). The Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) has been assessed separately. Detailed sensitivity assessment has been undertaken for the small-medium and small development typologies only (turbines <50m high) in accordance with the requirements of the study brief.

Where some of this type lies within the National Scenic Area on Jura, it has been assessed in relation to the more significant special qualities associated with the NSA.

This assessment of the Moorland Plateau (8) extends across the highest uplands of eastern Islay and the northern parts of Jura, outwith the NSA. It forms a rugged and often inaccessible interior and extends to include the more remote and exposed stretches of coastline on both islands. It provides the higher relief and backdrop to the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) and the sub-type Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) as well as extensive areas of the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). The area is largely unsettled, with occasional tracks and areas of forestry within the extensive areas of moorland.

Operational and consented wind farm development
No operational or consented wind turbines were noted as lying within this character type during the site visit. Operational and consented wind farm developments located on the mainland in the Kintyre area lie just beyond the 30km threshold set for the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping shown in Figures 5-8 of the Main Study Report.

Summary of sensitivity
This character type forms the uplands and highest hills on Islay and within Jura outwith the NSA. These hill ranges form the backdrop to a number of farmed and settled low-lying landscape types. The hills are irregular and interlocking, divided by glens, narrow river valleys and corries and saddles which often contain lochans. The highest summits contrast with areas of undulating plateau, and there are expanses of smooth, gentler slopes. Long coastlines, with raised beaches, cliffs and occasional indented bays and islands, add further to the topographical diversity. The vegetation is dominated by moorland and wet heath. Much of the area is unsettled, relatively inaccessible, exposed, semi-natural and often remote.

The sense of remoteness and relative naturalness, emphasised by the inaccessibility and lack of settlement and the topographical diversity are key sensitivities. Further sensitivities include the diversity of the coastal landscape and areas of more complex, smaller scale
landforms. Nevertheless, the gentle slopes, the absence of smaller scale features such as settlement and the simplicity of landcover offers scope for development at the periphery of this character type, where there is a transition with neighbouring more managed and settled landscapes. This landscape is judged to have a *High-medium* sensitivity to the small-medium typology. This reflects the very limited scope in terms of area for this typology, as it is likely to be best accommodated at the very periphery of this character type, where the type forms the immediate backdrop to adjacent lower lying and farmed landscapes. This landscape has a *Medium* sensitivity for the small typology reflecting that there are likely to be slightly more opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines in similar locations which with careful siting are less likely to impact on the more remote and complex areas of landscape character.

The Moorland Plateau (8) character type is largely unsettled with no public roads, although parts of this landscape are visible from roads in adjacent character types. There are some coastal walks, and the ridgelines and hill profiles are a prominent feature in wider views. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be *Medium* for the small-medium (35m – 50m) typology, in large part due to the sensitivity of the ridgelines and coast from wider views and the sea. Visual sensitivity is reduced to *Medium-low* for the small typology because of the increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be less prominent, due to distance from roads and the opportunities for this height to be back-dropped by rising ground.

This landscape type is widely covered by an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be *High-medium* where this designation applies.

**Cumulative issues**
There is potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in the future with turbines located on the Marginal Farmed Mosaic (16), the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) and the Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a). This is particularly the case because the scope for development on the Moorland Plateau is likely to be on the boundary between the uplands and these more managed types.

Potential cumulative effects could be reduced by limiting the number of turbines which extend onto the Moorland Plateau (8) if there are already identified opportunities on the neighbouring, lower lying and more managed landscape types.

Key cumulative issues that may arise within the fringe areas most likely to be developed within the Moorland Plateau are likely to include:
- Inter-visibility between any wind turbine development located in this character type and wind turbines in adjacent character types.
- The creation of a ‘ring’ of turbines around the lower and most accessible slopes of the hills – although this is only likely to become a concern if there are a significant number of applications creating a dense band of turbines around the hill
- Where variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small turbines are proposed.

**Constraints**
- The diverse and at times complex topography of the landform, particularly the interior and the coast.
The strong sense of remoteness, naturalness experienced in the interior of this area and on the coast
The visibility of skyline ridges and the more visually prominent higher hills seen in distant profile from roads in adjoining character types and from the sea.
The setting of Finlaggan and associated archaeological features.

Opportunities
- Areas of gently graded slopes, the undulating plateaux and shallow glens and the backdrop provided by rising ground in places.
- The periphery of this type, where there is a transition between this type and the lower-lying ‘upland fringe’ and farmed landscapes of the Moorland Plateau with Farmland’ (8a), the ‘Marginal Farmland Mosaic’ (16) and the ‘Coastal Parallel Ridges’ (22)
- The simple land cover of this character type which includes extensive moorland and areas of conifer forest

Guidance on development
There is likely to be very limited scope for the small-medium (35m - 50m) development typology to be sited within this character type due to the adverse impacts likely to occur across several of the criteria. Opportunities are likely to be limited to the periphery of the type, where it can form a backdrop and suitably scaled setting for development seen within the context of adjacent farmed or forested land.

There are some increased opportunities for the small typology (20m – 35m) to be located on gently graded slopes, shallow glens and bowls of land close to farmland and visually associated with settlement within the Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) or Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16).

Turbines sited in these areas should be set well back from the coast and avoid intrusion on more remote areas, on more complex landform and on archaeological features. They should be sited to avoid prominent skylines and upper hill slopes and be sited against a backdrop of rising ground to minimise visual intrusion. In farmed areas, there are more opportunities for turbines of less than 20m as these could be sited to reflect the scattered settlement pattern, and would fit in well with the scale of this landscape. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Character Type 8a: Moorland Plateau with Farmland

Introduction
The Moorland Plateau (8) landscape character type is found on the islands of Islay and Jura within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment, and extends over most of the higher uplands, embracing stretches of coastline, areas of inaccessible and remote interior hills, and smaller stretches of farmed and settled land. Due to the differences in context, character and scale of landscapes within the Moorland Plateau character type, one sub-division has been identified for the purpose of this study:

- The 'Moorland Plateau with Farmland' (8a) which occurs on the more extensively farmed and settled landscapes of this type on Islay

This section of the report is the landscape sensitivity assessment which has been undertaken for the sub-type Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a).

Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) extends across lower foothills within the interior glen stretching from Port Askaig to Bridgend where it forms a transition between the 'Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16)' and the more upland 'Moorland Plateau' (8) along the south side of the glen. Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a) also occupies the whole of The Oa, the peninsula to the west of Port Ellen. The relief is low, with generally rounded land form and some low rocky hills. It is largely, but not exclusively, farmed, with some moorland, especially on the exposed coasts. It is overall more diverse and settled than Moorland Plateau (8).

Operational and consented wind farm development
No operational or consented wind turbines were noted as lying within this character type during the site visit. Operational and consented wind farm developments located on the mainland in the Kintyre area lie just beyond the 30km threshold set for the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping shown in Figures 5-8 of the Main Study Report.

Summary of sensitivity
This character type is a sub-division of the upland character type 'Moorland Plateau' (8), but forms the lower, farmed foothills to this type within the glen which extends between Port Askaig and Bridgend, and the outlying headland of The Oa. These two areas are more settled and farmed than the rest of the Moorland Plateau (8), and have therefore been named 'Moorland Plateau with Farmland' (8a).

These areas are characterised by relatively low relief. They do not have the high hills associated with the Moorland Plateau (8), and the height difference between the floors of some of the glens and the surrounding hills is often low, especially on the Oa. The landform features low hills with shallow glens, gently graded slopes and occasional more steep sided and prominent hills although it is more complex and contained on The Oa. The landscape is relatively open with some conifer woodland, and is partially farmed as improved pasture, the remaining land being under moor and upland grassland. Dispersed farms are scattered across sheltered glens and along lower slopes. The coastline of The Oa is characterised by rocky cliffs, small exposed headlands, bays, indentations and islands. It is relatively secluded, and has a sense of naturalness which is reinforced by its exposed setting.
The relative narrow extent of this character type, and its context adjacent to smaller scale landscapes, especially between Port Askaig and Bridgend, the sense of seclusion on the coast of the Oa, the relatively low relief and, where present, more complex landforms are all key sensitivities. This landscape therefore has a High-medium sensitivity to the small-medium typology and Medium sensitivity to the small typology reflecting that there are likely to be some opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines which with careful siting are less likely to impact on the more remote and complex areas of landscape character, and can be more readily accommodated within a landscape of this scale.

The Moorland Plateau with Farmland character type is only partially settled and has few roads. There are some coastal walks, and The Oa is itself a prominent feature in wider views. Views from the A846 are sensitive but are likely to be intermittent because of intervening knolls and trees, and from within The Oa are contained by landform. Key views along the coast are sensitive. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High-medium for the small-medium typology. Visual sensitivity is reduced to Medium for the small typology because of the increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be back-dropped by rising ground, if located close to adjacent more upland areas.

Turbines of less than 20m in height are likely to be less visible within the areas of irregular, hilly landform within this character type.

A narrow coastal strip of this landscape type is covered by an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be High-medium for the small-medium typology and Medium for the small typology where this designation applies.

**Cumulative issues**
There is potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in the future with turbines located on the Marginal Farmed Mosaic (16), which lies adjacent to and lower than the Moorland Plateau with Farmland (8a).

The farms which are likely to be the focus for this size of turbine are dispersed and therefore while there may be some sequential cumulative visual effects associated turbines sited on the majority of land holdings, with careful and consistent approach to siting, cumulative effects could be minimised. The potential visual cumulative effect would be reduced if well-sited turbines of less than 20m were used within these settled areas, and if a consistent relationship between these small turbines and the farm cluster was applied to siting. Small turbines are also more readily visually screened by topography, which is likely to limit their cumulative visual impact. Key cumulative issues that may arise within the Moorland Plateau with Farmland are likely to include:
- Inter-visibility between any wind turbine development located in this character type and wind turbines in the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16).
- Where variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small turbines are proposed.

**Constraints**
- The relatively low relief of the landscape, especially when experienced from within the shallow glens, which is easily dominated by tall structures.
- The complex landform of The Oa which reduces the scale of the landform.
- The setting of individual buildings and other built features.
• The sense of remoteness and naturalness experienced on more inaccessible stretches of coast
• The visibility of skyline ridges and the containing slopes of the foothills orientated towards the A846

Opportunities
• Areas of gently graded slopes, the sides of less steep hilly ridges and more contained glens could accommodate the small typologies (20m – 35m)
• Areas of more open and larger scale, simple landform, where vegetation pattern is relatively simple may also be able to accommodate the small-medium typologies (35m-50m).

Guidance on development
There is likely to be very limited scope for the small-medium development typologies to be sited within this character type due to the adverse impacts likely to occur across several of the criteria.

There are some opportunities for the small typology to be located on gently graded slopes, shallow glens and bowls of land close to farm land where a more gradual merging occurs with the adjacent Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16) character type. In these areas the land form is less complex and land cover more simple, comprising rough grazing land and coniferous plantations. Turbines sited in these areas should be set back from the sensitive coast and small features such as buildings and farms and the setting of archaeological features. Turbines should avoid areas of low relief and high points on the skylines and could be back-clothed by rising ground thus minimising visual intrusion. In farmed areas, well sited turbines of less than 20m could be sited to reflect the scattered settlement pattern, and would fit in well with the scale of this landscape. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Introduction
This character type is shown in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment as comprising the rocky knolls and irregular plateau of moorland which forms the higher land extending down much of the west coast of Islay. The largest area occupies the whole of the Rinns of Islay, where a wide band of farmed coast surrounds the interior moorland. Two further, much smaller, outlying areas on the north-west coast are characterised by irregular and visually distinctive rocky outcrop hills. They lie adjacent to Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16). The relief is low overall, but there are more prominent hills which form landmarks from a distance.

Operational and consented wind farm development
No operational wind turbines were noted within this character type during the site visit. Operational and consented wind farm developments located on the mainland lie beyond the 30km threshold set for the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping shown in Figures 5-8 of the Main Study Report.

Summary of sensitivity
This character type extends across the peninsula of the Rinns of Islay, and also forms two much smaller outliers on the north-west coast of Islay. They are strongly coastal landscapes, although the Rinns peninsula is broad enough to encompass a more upland, undulating, interior plateau. All areas have dramatic rugged hills that are landmark features, visible widely across the western parts of Islay. A broad swathe of farmland and smaller scale rocky outcrops extends down the east coast of the Rinns and into a series of shallow glens set back from the coast along the western side of this peninsula. These farmed areas are the focus for settlement.

The broader scale landscape of the interior plateau of the Rinns, where conifer woodland and moorland extends over an undulating landform, offers some potential to accommodate both typologies, even in a small group. Elsewhere however, the size and shape of the rugged hills, the remoteness and sense of naturalness experienced along the less accessible coasts, the indented, small scale coastline and the farmed and settled areas, all of which are relatively small in scale, increase the sensitivity of this character type. This landscape type therefore has a Medium sensitivity to both the small-medium typology and the small typologies. Turbines of less than 20m in height could more readily be accommodated within the small scale, farmed and more settled character within this landscape type.

The Rocky Moorland Mosaic character type is relatively well-settled on the Rinns. However settlement is limited to the farmed land and does not extend into the interior plateau. Road access is also limited. This character type is highly visible from other character types across Islay, especially from the east, but views are generally distant. The prominent rugged hills on the Rinns and their easily recognisable profiles are however a key feature of the wider Islay landscape. Visual sensitivity was therefore judged to be High-medium for the small-medium typology but would be reduced to Medium for the small typology because of the increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be less widely visible. Turbines of less than 20m in height are also likely to be less visible across this character type.
A narrow coastal strip of this landscape type is covered by an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be **High-medium** for the small-medium typology and **Medium** for the small typology where this designation applies. Sensitivity would be low within undesignated areas.

**Cumulative issues**

There is potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in the future with turbines located on the Marginal Farmland Mosaic (16).

In the more settled areas, the regularity of farms could rapidly lead to a cluttered appearance if single or groups of turbines were associated with the majority of land holdings. This potential visual cumulative effect would be reduced if well-sited turbines of less than 20m were used within the settled areas, and if a consistent relationship between these small turbines and the farm cluster was applied to siting. Small turbines are also more readily visually screened by topography, buildings and woodland, which is likely to limit their cumulative visual impact.

Key cumulative issues that may arise within the Rocky Moorland are likely to include:

- Inter-visibility between any wind turbine development located in this character type and wind turbines in the Marginal Mosaic Farmland (16).
- Inter-visibility between small-medium sized turbines located on the interior plateau of the Rinns and smaller – less than 20m high – turbines likely to be located closer to farms or houses in the settled areas.
- Where variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small turbines are proposed within a landscape area

**Constraints**

- The small extent of this character type where it occurs on the two outliers to the north west of the island.
- The setting of the rugged, rocky hills, some of which are small, and all of which appear larger than they really are. These are easily recognisable landmark features and widely visible.
- The relatively small fields and settlements across the farmed landscapes, which produces a relatively small-scale landscape.
- The coast, especially on the western and south-western coasts, where the indented shape and relatively small scale is highly sensitive. This is also the area where often more remote and semi-natural terrain contributes to landscape experience, and an area which has been designated as an APQ
- The high visibility of the east facing slopes, the skyline and the profiles of the hills from the roads, the settlement and elsewhere on Islay.
- The setting of settlements, archaeological features and views to the coast. The stretch of land between the road and the shore is especially sensitive.

**Opportunities**

- The more ‘upland’ areas along the Rinns, where the expanse of moorland or forestry is generally more extensive across long undulating plateau where the larger scale landform and vegetation pattern could accommodate both the small-medium and the small typologies.
The transition between this spine of moorland or forestry and the farmland fields, set back from the road and small settlements, where there could be opportunities to site the small typologies

**Guidance on development**

Opportunities for the small-medium development typology is limited to the undulating plateau within the Rinns, although care should be taken to site these turbines where they do not intrude into the setting and perceived scale of more prominent ‘landmark’ hills, impinge upon the coast or dominate the scale of buildings. In these generally less settled areas, the land form is less complex and land cover is simpler comprising rough grazing land and coniferous plantations. This typology could include small groups <5 turbines of this size.

There are also limited opportunities for the small typology to be located on similar terrain. This opportunity may extend closer to settled areas, if they can be sited where they do not dominate the small size of the houses or farms.

Turbines sited in these areas should be set back from the sensitive coast, and should avoid locations which are between the road and the coast. Turbines should also avoid impinging upon more remote coastal areas as well as small features such as buildings and farms, and could be back-clothed by rising ground thus minimising visual intrusion. In farmed and settled areas, well sited turbines of less than 20m could be sited to reflect the small scale of the complex landform and vegetation and settlement patterns.

All turbines should also be located to avoid impacts on the setting of settlements and on archaeological features and sites. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 10: Upland Parallel Ridges

Introduction

The Upland Parallel Ridges character type is defined in two locations to the north and south of Moine Mhor within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. The southern area lies wholly within the Knapdale NSA and is considered separately as part of the assessment of the special qualities within this designated landscape. The northern area lies outwith the NSA and is considered separately in the sensitivity assessment that follows.

Following field work we have reclassified an area of distinct hills within the ‘Craggy Uplands’ (7) at the south-western end of Loch Awe as the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ character type. These small hills form a continuation of the linear parallel ridges aligned south-west/north-east lying to the north of Moine Mhor. Some of these small hills contain the south-eastern edge of Loch Craignish, extending into Glen Domhain. Others, such as the line of craggy conical-shaped peaks between Creag Chapuill and Sron na Saobhaidhe, form a backdrop to the southern shores of Loch Awe around the settlement of Ford.

Detailed sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for the larger typologies only in the sensitivity assessment due to the sparsely settled nature of this character type. Smaller typologies are however considered in the summary section that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development

No operational or consented wind farms are sited in this character sub-type.

The operational turbines sited on Luing are visible from elevated parts of this character type as is the operational wind farm of An Suidhe within the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type. The consented Carraig Gheal windfarm, also located within the adjacent Craggy Uplands (7), and the consented development of A’Chruach, sited in the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) character type, will also be visible but over fairly limited areas around the southern end of Loch Awe. The consented Allt Dearg wind farm located within the Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6b) will be visible more extensively from upper slopes and hill tops of this character type.

Summary of sensitivity

This landscape comprises a distinctive series of linear ridges aligned in parallel with the south-west/north-east grain of the coast. Craggy-topped hills and ridges have a rugged character accentuated by the mosaic of heather, grass and scrub across rocky hill slopes. The coastal edge against Loch Craignish is particularly rough and impenetrable and access is difficult throughout most of this character type. The importance of this character type in forming the setting to the highly sensitive archaeologically rich landscapes within Moine Mhor and the glens of Kilmartin and Kilmichael, its context in relation to the wider seascape around Loch Craignish and the backdrop and setting it provides to the small scale ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) landscape around Loch Awe, increases sensitivity with a High sensitivity concluded in the assessment of the large typology. Sensitivity would be High-medium for the medium typology.

Although views are restricted from roads by the incised landform of the glens, the skylines formed by hills within this landscape (seen from the A816, the coast around Loch Craignish, important historic landscapes and the Loch Awe area) are highly sensitive. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High for the large and High-medium for the medium typologies.
The close proximity of this landscape to the Knapdale NSA and the presence of an APQ covering much of the area increases sensitivity in relation to landscape values with High-medium sensitivity judged for both the large and medium typologies. Sensitivity would be low within undesignated areas.

**Smaller typologies**
The limited extent and close proximity of this character type to surrounding highly sensitive landscapes restricts scope for smaller turbines. Small turbines <35m high could relate to less complex hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) and the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character types to the east, although distinctive hills and adjacent archaeological features and settlement would still be sensitive to this typology.

**Cumulative issues**
Operational and consented wind farms in adjacent character types are visible from the upper slopes and hill tops of this character type. Key cumulative issues are likely to include:
- Inter-visibility of large scale wind farm development located in the adjacent ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) character type and clearly visible from the small and distinct hills at the southern end of Loch Awe (which appear more accessible for walkers) and seen within distances of around 10-16km.
- Cumulative effects on the settled fringes of the southern end of Loch Awe in the Ford area, defined as ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20), where large turbines sited within the uplands of this character type could appear to encircle this smaller scale settlement and adversely affect its setting.

**Constraints:**
- The complex landform of long parallel ridges with hummocky slopes, rocky outcrops and ridge tops, cut by narrow valleys and with occasional pronounced craggy hills.
- A rich archaeology evident in the many hill forts forming landmarks in views from roads and settlement and the immediate setting parts of this landscape forms to the important archaeological features set within the glens of Kilmartin and Kilmichael and Moine Mhor (‘Flat Moss and Mudflats’ (23) landscape character type).
- The backdrop of steep rugged slopes, skyline ridges and distinctive small hills that provide the immediate setting to the small scale ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) fringing the shores of Loch Awe in the vicinity of the settlement of Ford.
- The strong wildland character of the unsettled and little modified coastal area of this character type and its role in providing a backdrop to the sensitive ‘Craggy Coasts and Islands’ (7b) in the Loch Craignish area.
- The close proximity of the southern part of this landscape to the Knapdale NSA and prominence of scarp edge slopes and skylines which back-drop the ‘Flat Moss and Mudflats’ (23) character type which lies within the designated area.

**Opportunities**
- No opportunities were identified for larger turbines within this part of the Upland Parallel Ridges.
Guidance on development

There is no scope to locate larger turbines within this part of the Upland Parallel Ridges character type due to the significant impacts that would be likely to occur across a wide range of sensitivity criteria.

Small turbines <35m (single and small groups <3 turbines) could be associated with less complex lower hill slopes at the edge of more managed land within the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) and the ‘Craggy Upland’ (7) but should avoid impacts on sensitive skylines, prominent small hills and the setting of archaeological features and settlements. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 11: Boulder Moors

**Introduction**
This character type occurs only on the western tip of the Ross of Mull within Argyll and Bute.

The study brief required turbines below 50m high only to be assessed on the island of Mull.

**Operational and consented wind farm development**
There are no operational or consented wind farms located within this character type although a number of small turbines (under 25m height) were noted during field survey. Operational and consented wind farms located on mainland Argyll and Bute lie beyond the 30km threshold set for the ZTV maps shown in Figures 5-8 in the Main Study Report.

**Summary of sensitivity**
This open, low-lying landscape is found at the end of the long peninsula of the Ross of Mull. It has a distinctive coarse-textured landform of frequent small rocky knolls which outcrop over areas of flat moorland. The scale of the small rocky knolls and the predominantly small houses characteristic of this landscape form the principal constraints to taller turbines although areas of higher landform also coincide with the less settled areas in the south and east of this character type and offer potential opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines. Landscape sensitivity is judged to be *High-medium* for the small-medium typology and *Medium* for the small typology.

The openness of this landscape allows extensive views from the well-used A849 and from settlement. This landscape also forms the foreground to views of the wider seascape including Iona, Staffa and the sheer cliffs of the Ardmeanach Peninsula. Visual sensitivity would be *High* for the small-medium typology and *High-medium* for the small typology, reflecting the increased potential for smaller turbines to be sited to minimise intrusion on key views.

This landscape is designated an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape values would be *High-medium* for the small-medium typology and *Medium* for the small typology.

**Cumulative issues**
There are no cumulative issues associated with this character type.

**Constraints**
- The small scale of buildings and the low distinctive blocky pink granite knolls which outcrop within the flatter moorland and farmland.
- The particularly complex pattern and tight concentration of rocky knolls generally found along the coastal peninsulas and islands which give an intimate scale to the landscape
- Small, lush green pastures, enclosed by distinctive boulder walls, which stand out amidst duller coloured moorland and rocky outcrops.
- Qualities of wildness experienced along the more inaccessible and undeveloped southern and northern coasts of this character type.
- The cluttered appearance of the landscape in places where existing wood pole lines are highly visible in the more settled area and detract from the distinctive pattern of
small rocky knolls – this could be exacerbated by multiple and/or poorly sited turbines.

- Views to and from Iona Abbey from the western coastal area of this landscape
- The openness of this low-lying landscape which allows extensive views from the A849, a popular tourist route to Iona, and to the wider seascape including Staffa, Iona and the Ardmeanach Peninsula.
- The presence of the APQ designation particularly in relation to larger turbines which could impact on key special qualities.

**Opportunities**

- Broader, flatter areas of moorland backed by larger hills and set away from the more sensitive coastal edges and smaller scale rocky knolls and settlement.

**Guidance on development**

There is no scope to site the small-medium typology within this landscape due to the likely significant impacts that could occur across a number of key sensitivity criteria.

There is some *limited* scope to site the small typology within broader areas of moorland and larger hills and ridges and where settlement is sparser. These areas generally occur in the south-eastern part of this character type. Turbines should be sited to relate to broader areas of moorland, but set on the edge of these areas close to higher ridges so back-dropped and visually tying in with existing landscape features. Flatter terraces and less rocky lower hill slopes also provide opportunities for accommodating this typology, particularly at the transition with the ‘Basalt Lowlands’ (17). Turbines should however be sited to avoid intrusion on sensitive remote coasts and key views.

Turbines above 20m high would appear very large in comparison with the small scale of distinctive rocky knolls and with houses, which are usually single storey, small and highly visible in the more settled parts of this landscape. There are however opportunities to site turbines below 20m high in these more settled areas although care should be taken to avoid small rocky outcrops (and particularly turbines being ‘perched’ on top of knolls which increases their prominence), areas of particularly complex geology and small enclosed pastures. Turbines should be sited away from existing wood pole lines to minimise the clutter of vertical features in this open landscape but should be visually associated with buildings.

All turbines should be set back from the coastal edge and should avoid intrusion on key views to Iona Abbey and to the wider seascape seen in views to the north from the A848. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
Landscape Character Type 12: High Stepped Basalt

Introduction
This character type occurs only on Mull where it forms higher hills inland from the coastal fringes of the ‘Mull Basalt Lowlands’ (17). This character type also extends into the Loch na Keal NSA which is considered separately in the study.

Turbines under 50m to tip height only are considered in the sensitivity assessment that follows as required by the study brief.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There is no operational or consented wind farm or turbine development within this character type. Operational and consented wind farm developments located on mainland Argyll and Bute lie beyond the 30km threshold set for the ZTV mapping shown in Figures 5-8 in the Main Study Report.

Summary of sensitivity
This upland landscape includes the southern part of the Ardmeanach Peninsula, the Brolass area and the long parallel ridges either side of Loch Frisa. It generally has a medium to large scale and is very sparsely populated. The relative degree of complexity of landform is a key limiting factor to wind turbine development although other constraints identified in the sensitivity assessment include potential visibility from the Loch na Keal NSA and the strong wildland character of the more remote coastal areas. There would be a Medium sensitivity to both the small-medium and the small typologies.

The degree of visibility of these landscape varies too although overall visibility was judged to be High-medium for the small-medium and Medium for the small typology.

The Ardmeanach Peninsula, the Brolass area and the north-western part of the Loch Frisa area is designated an APQ and sensitivity would be High-medium for the small-medium typology and Medium for the small typology, reflecting increased scope for smaller turbines to minimise effects on key special qualities. Sensitivity in terms of landscape values would be low in the remaining undesignated area around Loch Frisa.

Cumulative issues
There are no cumulative issues associated with this character type.

Constraints:
- Areas of complex, sheer rocky-stepped slopes on the Ardmeanach Peninsula and craggy-topped hills in the western parts of the Brolass area
- Dramatic cliffs and the strong sense of wildness associated with the southern coast, west of Carsaig Bay.
- Views of the Brolass area from the B8035 on the north shore of Loch Scridain.
- Potential intrusion of turbines on sensitive skylines above the containing ridges of the Loch na Keal NSA (higher ridges and backdrop slopes in the Loch Frisa area).
- The APQ designation which applies to the Ardmeanach and Brolass area and the north-western part of the Loch Frisa area.

Opportunities
- Areas with gentler hill slopes and broader, lower ridges.
• The relatively limited visibility of more contained valleys and interior hills within the Brolass and Loch Frisa area where settlement is sparse and there are few roads.
• The very sparsely settled nature of this landscape (which increases opportunities for larger turbines to be accommodated whilst minimising conflicts of scale).
• An absence of landscape designations in part of the Loch Frisa area.

Guidance on development
There are some limited opportunities to site the small-medium typology on less complex and broader areas of gently sloping ground in the Brolass and Loch Frisa area. Turbines should avoid craggier hills with a pronounced stepped profile and, if sited within the Brolass area, should not intrude on the sensitive southern coast to the west of Carsaig Bay. In the Loch Frisa area it will be important to avoid intrusion on the sensitive skylines seen above the containing ridges on the northern boundary of the Loch na Keal NSA. Lower slopes and ridges are more likely to offer opportunities to site this size of turbine to avoid such impacts.

The small typology could also be located in the above areas although turbines of this size would appear less ‘out of scale’ within this medium to large scale upland landscape if visually associated with more settled areas located either in this character type or within the adjacent ‘Mull Basalt Lowlands’ (17).

Turbines should not be sited within the highly sensitive Ardmeanach Peninsula where they would detract from the complex steeply stepped landform, strong wildland character and also be highly visible in views from the A849. Smaller developments <20m height could however be accommodated on the gentler, smoother hill slopes to the east of Tioran provided they were associated with settlement. Turbines should be carefully sited to avoid intrusion on key views to the ‘Mull High Tops’ (2a) at the head of Loch Scridain from the B035. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.