Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study

Appendix Report – Detailed Sensitivity Assessments

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Carol Anderson and Alison Grant, Landscape Architects
Contents

1. Introduction to the sensitivity assessments
2. Detailed sensitivity assessment for landscape character types
3. Detailed sensitivity assessment for National Scenic Areas
1 Introduction to the sensitivity assessment

1.1 Sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for each character type and any sub-types defined and for the National Scenic Areas (NSA) as explained in Section 4 of the Main Study Report.

1.2 The sensitivity assessment considers sensitivity of each character type or NSA to four different wind farm/turbine typologies. An introduction to each character type is set out in the sensitivity assessments that follow. This clarifies the approach to assessment in terms of whether the whole landscape character type or sub-divisions of that type have been assessed. It also describes where any changes have been made to the boundaries or classification of character types set out in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. Operational and consented wind farm developments, whether located within the landscape type/unit or in the surrounding area (and clearly visible from the character type being assessed), are described. A similar approach is taken for the NSA assessments although the introduction principally focuses on the description of the designated landscape and its special qualities.

1.3 This Appendix Report contains the detailed sensitivity assessment tables for landscape character types and NSAs (a summary of these only being included in the Main Study Report). The sensitivity scores outlined in the summary of sensitivity are made on the basis of a five point scale; High, High-medium, Medium, Medium-low and Low. These assessments consider landscape sensitivity, visual sensitivity and the value placed on the landscape in terms of designations and other recognised interests, considering key landscape and visual characteristics. A different approach has been adopted for the NSAs where the assessment focuses on the identified special qualities of these designated landscapes. Further detail on methodology is contained in section 2 and annex C and D within the Main Study Report.

1.4 Cumulative issues and key constraints and opportunities are set out for each landscape character type and NSA. The sensitivity assessment concludes with guidance on the siting of wind farm or wind turbine development. Key maps show the location of each landscape character type and NSA and their immediate context.
Detailed sensitivity assessment of landscape character types
Character Type 18: Lowland ridges and moss

Introduction
This character type forms four areas of flat to gently undulating ground close to the coast in the Benderloch area. This character type extends to cover Lismore and the distinct low parallel ridges of the coastal peninsulas abutting the Lynn of Lorn and Loch Creran. These areas lie within the Lynn of Lorn NSA and are considered separately in this study.

Both the larger and smaller typologies are considered in the sensitivity assessment that follows.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no operational or consented wind farm developments within this character type. There are views of the operational Beinn Ghlas wind farm located in the Craggy Upland (7) from the southern parts of this character type.
**Character Type 18: Lowland ridges and moss – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies**

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

**Land cover**

- Narrow strips of fenced pasture occur on the coastal fringes and are often edged by angular coniferous plantations. The expanse of heather and patchy scrub birch woodland on the Moss of Achnakree forms a striking contrast with the settled and farmed areas fringing it. Pockets of wetland, small lochans and scrub also occur in places.
- Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnakree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology.

**Built environment**

- The small settlement of Benderloch is located in this character type. Small crofts, houses, caravan and chalet parks are located on the coastal fringes of these areas. Larger buildings and some industrial and visitor facilities are concentrated in the Loch Creran area. A number of archaeological features occur in the Moss of Achnakree area and some historic buildings and remnant designed landscape features are located in the Barcaldine area.
- This typology would affect the scale and setting of buildings, settlements, archaeological and historic features. It could also exacerbate the clutter of disparate built features characteristic of parts of this landscape.

**Perceptual qualities**

- Although the settled fringes of this landscape are managed and developed (and also include a number of industrial and commercial features) the Moss of Achnakree and small areas of remnant moss, scrub and wetland have a more natural character.
- This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnakree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas.
| Visual amenity | The A828 Tourist Route is aligned within this character type and provides open and close views of these landscapes. This is also a well-settled area with houses fringing coastal edges and featuring scenic views across water to dramatic mountainous backdrops. Key views include those from the A828 across Loch Creran to the dramatic ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) and the sheer-sided ‘High Tops’ (2) at the head of the upper loch. Views across the Moss of Achnacree are also dramatic (although partially screened by vegetation from the A828) focusing on Ben Cruachan. There are also views from the A828 and from minor roads and settlement to the diverse scenery of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. | Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities would also be affected. | High | Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities would also be affected. | High |
| Landscape values | An APQ covers the two northern areas of this character type only. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to relate to the wider setting and views to the Lynn of Lorn NSA. This area also lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn NSA with relevant special qualities likely to be the ‘Small scale low-lying landscape with a vast highland backdrop’ | Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ would significantly intrude on views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected. | High-med to Low | Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ would significantly intrude on views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected. | High-med to Low |
### Character Type 18: Lowland ridges and moss – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

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

| Land cover | Narrow strips of fenced pasture occur on the coastal fringes and are often edged by angular coniferous plantations. The expanse of heather and patchy scrub birch woodland on the Moss of Achnacree forms a striking contrast with the settled and farmed areas fringing it. Pockets of wetland, small lochans and scrub also occur in places. | Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology. | Medium | Although the simple land cover pattern of pasture and coniferous plantation would be less sensitive to this typology, the distinctive natural land cover of the Moss of Achnacree and remnant moss, wetland and scrub is an unusual feature within this settled lowland context and would have increased sensitivity to this typology. | Medium |

| Built environment | The small settlement of Benderloch is located in this character type. Small crofts, houses, caravan and chalet parks are located on the coastal fringes of these areas. Larger buildings and some industrial and visitor facilities are concentrated in the Loch Creran area. A number of archaeological features occur in the Moss of Achnacree area and some historic buildings and remnant designed landscape features are located in the Barcaldine area. This typology could affect the scale and setting of small buildings, settlements, archaeological and historic features. It could also exacerbate the concentration of disparate built features characteristic of parts of this landscape. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have less if sited in less densely settled areas. | High-med | There are greater opportunities to locate this typology (and especially turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on settlement, archaeology and historic features. | Medium |

| Perceptual qualities | Although the settled fringes of this landscape are managed and developed (and also include a number of industrial and commercial features) the Moss of Achnacree and small | This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas. | Medium | This typology would diminish the natural qualities associated with the Moss of Achnacree but would have less of an effect on more managed areas. | Medium |
areas of remnant moss, scrub and wetland have a more natural character.

| Visual amenity | The A828 Tourist Route is aligned within this character type and provides open and close views of these landscapes. This is also a well-settled area with houses fringing coastal edges and featuring scenic views across water to dramatic mountainous backdrops. Key views include those from the A828 across Loch Creran to the dramatic ‘Lorn Craggy Upland’ (7d) and the steep-sided ‘High Tops’ (2) at the head of the upper loch. Views across the Moss of Achnacree are also dramatic (although partially screened by vegetation from the A828) focusing on Ben Cruachan. There are also views from the A828 and from minor roads and settlement to the diverse scenery of the Lynn of Lorn NSA. | Turbines of this size could impact on views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the mountains and the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan. Views from settlement and recreational and tourist facilities could also be affected. | High | Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be likely to have less of an effect on views provided they were closely associated with buildings to minimise clutter across this open landscape. | High-med |

| Landscape values | An APQ covers the two northern areas of this character type only. The special qualities of this APQ are likely to relate to the wider setting and views to the Lynn of Lorn NSA. This area also lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn NSA with relevant special qualities likely to be the ‘Small scale low-lying landscape with a vast highland backdrop’ | Turbines of this size sited within the designated APQ could still detract from views across Loch Creran to the distinctive low wooded parallel ridges of the Port Appin peninsula which lies within the NSA. Long glimpsed views from the A828 south towards the Sound of Shuna and the NSA could also be affected. | High-med to Low | Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be less likely to have significant effects on views to the NSA as they would sit well below the sensitive skyline of low wooded parallel ridges and would not dominate their height. Turbines sited on coastal edges would be prominent in key views. | Medium to Low |
**Character Type 18: Lowland ridges and moss**

**Summary of sensitivity**
The very small extent of this landscape, its well-settled character (where small buildings provide ready scale references) and the present of diverse remnant mosses, wetlands and scrub woodland are key constraints to turbine development. There would be an overall *High* sensitivity to the large, medium and small-medium typologies and a *High-medium* sensitivity to the small typology.

This landscape is often open and widely visible from the A828, from settlement and recreational features including cycle-ways, beaches and footpaths. Views are often highly scenic across sea and focusing on dramatic mountain backdrops. Visual sensitivity would be *High* for the large, medium and small-medium typologies and *High-medium* for the small typology, reflecting increased scope for turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to minimise intrusion on key views.

An APQ applies to the northern parts of this landscape and the Lynn of Lorn NSA also abuts this character type. Sensitivity in terms of values would be *High-medium* for the large, medium and small-medium typologies and *Medium* for the small typology within the designated areas.

**Cumulative issues**
There are no cumulative landscape and visual issues relating to the landscape at present.

**Constraints**
- The narrowness of this character type where even smaller turbines could dominate their extent and its well-settled character where woodlands and buildings provide ready scale references.
- The richly textured and natural Moss of Achnacree and other smaller areas of remnant moss, lochans, wetland and scrub found in the southern parts of this character type.
- The openness and high visibility of these areas close to the A828, the popularity of this area with tourists and the well-settled nature of this landscape which increases visual sensitivity.
- Key views from the A828 across Loch Creran to the Lynn of Lorn NSA and the dramatic mountains at the head of the upper loch and across the Moss of Achnacree to Ben Cruachan.

**Opportunities**
- There are very limited opportunities for the small typology in this character type but only where associated with existing buildings and not intruding on key coastal views.

**Guidance on development**
There is no scope for siting the large, medium or small-medium typologies in this landscape without incurring significant adverse landscape and visual impacts on a number of key sensitivity criteria.
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 ‘Llowland ridges and moss’ (18) (Strath Appin) where they could visually relate to existing buildings.

There are very limited opportunities to accommodate the small typology in this landscape, and particularly turbines towards the lower height band of this typology (<25m), to be sited in association with existing crofts and larger scale built development. Turbines should be sited to avoid impact on key views across Loch Creran from the A828 to the mountains at the head of the upper loch. Turbines should also be sited away from coastal edges which are often prominent in views from roads and settlement and be sited so they do not extend on the skyline above the low parallel ridges of the Lynn of Lorn NSA in key views.

There are greater opportunities to locate turbines below 20m high in this landscape provided they are clearly associated with existing buildings. Even these small turbines could exacerbate existing built clutter found in some areas including fish farming operations and quarrying – particularly given the relatively high density of small crofts in some highly visible coastal fringes. Small turbines < 20m should be sited where they can be clearly associated with existing built development, farms or other settlement and fit better with the scale of trees and woodland where these are present.

Although there are no cumulative issues at present, variations in the type and size of any future single and small groups of small turbines associated with farms could create cumulative landscape and visual impacts.

Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
Although flat and open in places, this landscape forms a narrow coastal strip abutting the High Tops (2) and the Lynn of Lorn NSA and is highly visible from the A828.

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

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

Long views to Ben Cruachan across the open Moss of Achnacree.

Character Type 18: Lowland Ridges and Moss
Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain

Introduction
This character type forms a narrow linear coastal plain on the west coast of Kintyre. This same character type is also defined on the western coast of Bute and this has been classified for the purposes of this study as the ‘Bute Coastal Plain’ (19a) with a separate sensitivity assessment undertaken.

The assessment considers both larger and smaller typologies.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There is no operational or consented wind farm or turbine development within this character type.

The operational turbines on Gigha (3 x 45m high) are visible from this character type. There is no visibility of other operational and under construction wind farm developments sited within the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) on the Kintyre Peninsula.
## Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape context</strong></td>
<td>This landscape forms a flat and narrow strip of land on the west coast of Kintyre. It is backed by the low but pronounced scarp edge and hill slopes of the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) and the higher ground of the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) to the east. This landscape is very small in extent and is rare in the wider context of Argyll and Bute. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with Gigha and the sea.</td>
<td>The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) which lies in close proximity. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and numerous archaeological features located in the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) would be particularly affected by turbines of this size.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology would have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) which lies in close proximity. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and numerous archaeological features located in the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) would be particularly affected by turbines of this size.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale and openness</strong></td>
<td>A coastal plain with an open and exposed character heightened by the presence of the sea. It is not expansive in extent however forming a narrow strip of land contained by rising ground (or by a more distinct scarp edge to the south) in the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. Woodlands, farms and small settlements are sited within this landscape.</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would dominate the very narrow extent of this landscape and the scale of the low scarp which forms the eastern boundary of this character type. This typology would also dominate the scale of buildings and woodlands.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>Turbines of this size would dominate the very narrow extent of this landscape and the scale of the low scarp which forms the eastern boundary of this character type. This typology would also dominate the scale of buildings and woodlands.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landform</strong></td>
<td>Generally a flat plain but with some subtly undulating landform occurring at the transition with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) in places. The coast forms a prominent point with long shingle and fine sand beaches. A low scarp</td>
<td>Turbines could relate to the simple flat to gently sloping landform but would detract from the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20).</td>
<td><strong>High-med</strong></td>
<td>Turbines could relate to the simple flat to gently sloping landform but would detract from the more varied coastal edge and the distinct scarp edge with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) if sited nearby.</td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landcover pattern</td>
<td>Large fields of pasture have a generally weak enclosure pattern. Coniferous plantations and shelterbelts are prominent features and small areas of wet rough grazing land and scrub also occur in places.</td>
<td>The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built environment</td>
<td>The small settlement of Tayinloan is located in this character type. Farms tend to be sited on higher ground to the east with a caravan park, jetty and ferry facilities located on the coast. A few larger sheds are conspicuous in this very open landscape. A number of archaeological and historic features occur at the boundary with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) to the east and include the church and estate settlement of Killean.</td>
<td>This typology would dominate the setting of small farms, individual houses, small settlements and archaeological/historic features.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>This typology would dominate the setting of small farms, individual houses, small settlements and archaeological/historic features.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual qualities</td>
<td>This landscape is managed and while the coastal edge has some naturalistic qualities, the proximity of settlement and the A83 limit the degree of seclusion experienced.</td>
<td>Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual amenity</td>
<td>The A83 is aligned along the eastern boundary of this character type and offers elevated views across this open landscape and over the sea to the low island of Gigha and dramatic distant skyline of Jura. There are views from the narrow road which provides access to the Gigha ferry and from settlement and beaches.</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would significantly impact on views to Gigha and Jura. Cumulative effects could arise from Gigha and from the sea where turbines sited in this character type would be seen in conjunction with the Deucheran Hill wind farm within the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6).</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would be highly intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would significantly impact on views to Gigha and Jura. Cumulative effects could arise from Gigha and from the sea where turbines sited in this character type would be seen in conjunction with the Deucheran Hill wind farm within</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Settlement within the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) has elevated views over this landscape and it is also visible from the ferry and the island of Gigha. The existing turbines on Gigha (3x45m) are clearly visible from this landscape and from the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. Although the Deucharan Hill wind farm in the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) is not visible from the ‘Coastal Plain’ (19) it is visible from Gigha and the ferry to this island.

Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and separation from this landscape.

The ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6). Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and separation from this landscape.

### Landscape values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>High-med</strong></th>
<th><strong>High-med</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes defined as the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type.

This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes defined as the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type.
**Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Assessment of small typology (20m – 35m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape context</td>
<td>This landscape forms a flat and narrow strip of land on the west coast of Kintyre. It is backed by the low but pronounced scarp edge and hill slopes of the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) and the higher ground of the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) to the east. This landscape is very small in extent and is rare in the wider context of Argyll and Bute. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with Gigha and the sea.</td>
<td>The very limited and narrow extent of this landscape increases sensitivity and this typology could have a significant effect on the adjacent small scale and diverse landscape of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) which lies in close proximity to this landscape. The setting of the estate settlement of Killean and archaeological features located in the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ would be particularly affected by turbines of this size although there may be some very limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology in the broader part of the ‘Coastal Plain’ away from more sensitive landscapes.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also affect the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. There is some limited scope for smaller turbines &lt;25m to be sited close to existing buildings and larger trees/woodland away from the more sensitive ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20).</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale and openness</td>
<td>A coastal plain with an open and exposed character heightened by the presence of the sea. It is not expansive in extent however forming a narrow strip of land contained by the rising ground (or by a more distinct scarp edge in the south) of the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. Woodlands, farms and small settlements are sited within this landscape.</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would dominate the scale of this coastal plain which is particularly narrow to the south and the scale of the low scarp edge which forms the boundary with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20). The more open and less settled seaward areas offer some very limited opportunity for this typology.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>The more open seaward areas offer some opportunity for this typology, although turbines of this size could also dominate the scale of narrower coastal strips to the south. Turbines of this size would relate better to the size of occasional larger farm/storage buildings in this landscape.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>Generally a flat plain but with some subtly undulating landform occurring at</td>
<td>There is some limited scope to site turbines of this size to minimise</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>There is increased scope to site turbines of this size to minimise</td>
<td>Med-low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land cover pattern</td>
<td>Large fields of pasture have a generally weak enclosure pattern. Coniferous plantations and shelterbelts are prominent features and small areas of wetter rough grazing and scrub also occur in places.</td>
<td>The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The simple land cover pattern of this character type would be less sensitive to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built environment</td>
<td>The small settlement of Tayinloan is located in this character type. Farms tend to be sited on higher ground to the east with a caravan park, jetty and ferry facilities located on the coast. A few larger sheds are conspicuous in this very open landscape. A number of archaeological and historic features occur at the boundary with the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) to the east and include the church and estate settlement of Killean.</td>
<td>This typology would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features if poorly sited. There may be some very limited opportunities for this typology to be sited in more sparsely settled coastal areas where effects could be minimised.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>The larger turbines of this typology could also detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features if sited nearby although there are greater opportunities to locate turbines &lt;25m high to minimise such effects.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual qualities</td>
<td>This landscape is managed and while the coastal edge has some naturalistic qualities, the proximity of settlement and the A83 limit the degree of seclusion experienced.</td>
<td>Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Wildland character is not pronounced and sensitivity is therefore reduced to this typology.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual amenity</td>
<td>The A83 is aligned along the eastern boundary of this character type and offers elevated views across all of this open landscape and over the sea to the low island of Gigha and the dramatic distant skyline of Jura. There</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would be intrusive in views from the A83 and settlement and would detract from presently open views to Gigha and Jura. Multiple turbines would have a greater effect on these scenic views.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would be visible in relative proximity from the A83 and settlement and would be likely to interrupt presently open views to Gigha and Jura. Multiple turbines would have a greater effect</td>
<td>High-med</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
are views from the narrow road which provides access to the Gigha ferry and from the settlement and beaches. Settlement within the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) has elevated views over this landscape and it is also visible from the Gigha ferry and the island of Gigha. The existing turbines on Gigha (3x45m) are clearly visible from this landscape and from the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. Although the Deucharan Hill wind farm in the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) is not visible from the ‘Coastal Plain’ (19) it is visible from Gigha and the ferry to this island.

Cumulative effects experienced from Gigha and the sea where turbines could be inter-visible with the Deucharan Hill wind farm within the ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6) would be reduced to some degree. Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and location. On these scenic views although there may be increased scope to site smaller turbines <25m close to buildings to minimise intrusion and clutter in the foreground of these views. A reduction in cumulative effects experienced from Gigha and from the sea (where the Deucharan Hill wind farm is visible **check ZTV**) may be associated with smaller turbines as a clear differential between scales of development would be more likely to be perceived. Cumulative visual effects with the Gigha turbines are unlikely to be significant due to their relatively small height/number and location.

| Landscape values | This typology would detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura. Turbines of this size could also detract from the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type although there may be some very limited opportunities to minimise such effects. | High-med | This typology could detract from the recognised and valued scenic quality of this character type if poorly sited by impacting on views to Gigha and Jura and on the richly diverse character of the lower hill slopes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. There are increased opportunities to minimise effects by siting smaller turbines <25m high close to existing buildings. | Medium |
| An APQ covers this landscape and extends into the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20). The special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the highly scenic views from this open stretch of coast to Gigha and Jura but also the diverse lower hill slopes of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type which features policy woodlands, farmland and a rich built heritage. | | | |
**Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain**

**Summary of sensitivity**
The very small extent of this narrow coastal plain, the setting of settlements and its close proximity to the richly diverse small scale landscape of the ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) are key constraints for all the development typologies considered in the sensitivity assessment. There would be a *High* landscape sensitivity to the larger typologies, a *High-medium* sensitivity to the small-medium typology and a *Medium* sensitivity to the small typology.

This landscape is very open and widely visible from the A83, settlement and the coast where highly scenic views over the sea to Gigha and Jura are a key feature. Visual sensitivity would be *High* for the large, medium, small-medium and *High-medium* for the small typology.

An APQ applies to this landscape and sensitivity would be *High-medium* for the larger typologies and the small-medium typology and *Medium* for the small typology in terms of landscape values.

**Cumulative issues**
There are no existing wind farms or turbines located in this landscape. The Gigha wind turbines are clearly visible within approximately 6km distance. The following potential cumulative issues could arise:

- Inter-visibility of the existing Deucheran Hill windfarm (9 turbines, 76m high) with any turbine development located in this landscape and seen from the sea and Gigha. Larger typologies would be likely to have a greater effect with the clear association of this size of turbine with more extensive upland landscapes being diminished.
- Variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small-medium and small turbines associated with farms could create cumulative landscape and visual impacts with this simple, open landscape with it quickly appearing cluttered and detracting from seaward views from the A83.

**Constraints**
- The narrowness and limited overall extent of this landscape and the presence of small buildings and settlements which limits scope even for smaller turbines
- The panoramic views across this open coastal landscape to the sea, Gigha and the dramatic skyline of Jura from the A83, a key tourist route and from settlement.
- The setting of key archaeological features, settlements and historic buildings and designed landscapes located in this and the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type.

**Opportunities**
- There are very limited opportunities for turbines <25m in this character type but only where visually associated with existing buildings and not intruding on key views to the sea, Gigha and Jura.
**Guidance on development**

There is no scope for siting turbines >25m within this character type without incurring significant adverse landscape and visual impacts on a number of key sensitivity criteria.

Small turbines <25m should be sited where they can be visually associated with existing built development, farms or other settlement and also fit better with the scale of woodlands. All turbines should avoid intrusion on key views from the A83 and on the setting of archaeological, historic built features and designed landscapes in the adjacent ‘Rocky Mosaic’ (20) character type. There is very limited scope for multiple developments of single and small groups of turbines in this small and highly sensitive landscape character area. Special care is also needed to ensure that only well-designed turbines are used in this particularly sensitive landscape with limits on the range of designs used in order to minimise cumulative landscape and visual effects.

Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
This landscape provides an open and simple foreground to views of Gigha and to Jura from the A83.

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

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

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

Character Type 19: Kintyre Coastal Plain
Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain

Introduction
The Coastal Plain character type is in a small area on the west coast of the Kintyre Peninsula and along the western coast of Bute. Separate sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for these areas due their different landscape context.

This sensitivity assessment is for the area of the Coastal Plain on Bute. The assessment considers turbines below 50m height to blade tip on the island of Bute, in accordance with the study brief.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There is no existing wind farm or turbine development within this character type.

There is some visibility of the existing wind farms of Ardrossan and Kelburn sited within North Ayrshire from the Kilchattan Bay area on Bute. There is also theoretical visibility of the consented Allt Dearg wind farm sited in the 'Knapdale Upland Forest Moor Mosaic' (6b) from this character type but seen at distances of beyond 26km.
## Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

| Topic                  | Summary description                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sensitivity rating | Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Sensitivity rating |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| **Landscape context**  | This landscape forms a flat and relatively narrow strip of land abutting the Sound of Bute and backed by the rising slopes of the adjacent low hills and rolling farmland of the ‘Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates’ (13a) and the ‘Bute Open Ridgeland’ (5a). The open, exposed and natural character of the coastal edge strongly contrasts with other landscapes on Bute, especially the more developed east coast. This coastal landscape is also seen in a wider composition with the Sound of Bute and Arran. | This typology (and particularly multiple turbines of this size) would diminish the strong contrast this landscape presently provides to the more developed eastern coast of Bute. It would also adversely affect the wider scenic composition of the Sound of Bute. | High               | Turbines towards the upper height band of this typology and multiple turbines of this size could also diminish the strong contrast this landscape presently provides to the more developed eastern coast of Bute. Although the higher turbines within this typology could also adversely affect the wider scenic composition of the Sound of Bute there is some limited scope for smaller turbines <25m to be sited close to existing buildings and larger trees/woodland away from more sensitive open coastal areas to limit effects on context. | High-med           |
| **Scale and openness** | The coastal plain has an open and exposed character accentuated by the presence of the Sound of Bute. However, although open, it is not expansive in extent forming a narrow strip of land contained by rising ground (or by a more distinct raised beach edge in places) in the adjacent character types of the ‘Bute Rolling Farmland’ (13a), ‘Bute Open Ridgeland’ (5a) and ‘Bute Basalt Lowlands’ (17a). | In the more open and seaward areas, these flat to gently sloping and open landscapes offer opportunities for this typology, especially where the field pattern is large. Turbines of this size would however dominate narrower coastal strips and the scale of low cliffs which provide containment. They would also overwhelm the scale of stunted windswept trees and occasional buildings. | High-med           | In the more open and seaward areas, these flat to gently sloping and open landscapes offer opportunities for this typology, especially where the field pattern is large. Taller turbines within this typology would appear large in relation to the scale of narrower coastal strips although could fit better with the scale of low cliffs which provide containment. Although taller turbines within the typology would be larger than | Medium             |
| Landform | Generally a flat landform but gently sloping in the Kilchattan Bay isthmus. Most landform variation occurs on the coastal edge where strongly tidal sandy beaches, low cliffs, the long peninsula of St Ninians Point and other promontories feature. | Turbines could relate more easily with the simpler flat to gently sloping landform found away from the coastal edge. The more complex coastal edge would however be highly sensitive to this typology sited on or close-by (and thus detracting from these features) | Medium | Turbines could relate more easily with the simpler flat to gently sloping landform found away from the coastal edge. The more complex coastal edge would be sensitive to this typology sited on or close-by (and thus detracting from these features) although there is greater scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid such impacts. | Medium |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Landcover | There is a simple pattern of large arable fields with a generally weak enclosure pattern and occasional windswept trees and gorse scrub. Small clumps of woodland close to farms and other buildings are characteristic of the more sheltered Kilchattan Bay area. Areas of marsh and reeds lie close to the coast. | Wetland and coastal habitats would be highly sensitive to built infrastructure both physically and in terms of diminishing its integrity and characteristic openness. The simpler pattern of large open arable fields would be less sensitive in this respect. | Medium | Wetland and coastal habitats would be highly sensitive to built infrastructure both physically and in terms of diminishing its integrity and characteristic openness. The simpler pattern of large open arable fields would be less sensitive in this respect. | Medium |
| Built environment | Sparsely settled with farms generally located on the rising slopes at the transition with the 'Bute Rolling Farmland with Estates' (13a), Bute Basalt Lowlands' (17a) and 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a). The small settlements of Straad and Kingarth are located in this character type. A number of archaeological features occur close to the coast. | This typology could adversely affect the setting of small settlements and archaeological features if sited nearby. In areas of more sparse settlement there may be scope for this typology to avoid such impacts. | Medium | The larger turbines of this typology could also affect the setting of small settlements and archaeological features. There would be increase scope to minimise impacts with this smaller typology however. | Medium-low |
| Perceptual qualities | The tidal sands of this coastal landscape (and wider seascape) instil the sense of naturalness and openness associated with the coastal | The sense of naturalness and openness associated with the coastal | High | The sense of naturalness and openness associated with the coastal | High-med |
a strong sense of naturalness, heightened by the transitional nature of tides and waterfowl. These coastal areas are well-visited although a degree of seclusion can be experienced on some more inaccessible beaches. There is a strong sense of openness, space and light and exposure in these coastal areas.

edge could be easily compromised and diminished by any development, including this typology. This typology even if sited in more managed farmland could detract from adjacent coastal areas which lie in close proximity.

costal edge could be easily compromised and diminished by any development, including this typology. There may be some limited scope to site this smaller typology in more managed farmland at the transition with adjacent character types to minimise impacts on the coast.

| Visual amenity | The A844 aligned on the western edge of this character type features panoramic views across this open coastal plain over the Sound of Bute and to Arran. The sandy beaches of Ettrick and Scalpsie Bays, St Ninian’s Point and Inchmarknock island are key foci in these views. Views from the B881 and A844 to the south focus on the curve of Kilchattan Bay. The beaches are well used for recreation and dispersed farms and houses and the small settlements of Kingarth and Straad tend to face the coast.

The Coastal Plain features in more elevated views from fringing settlement and footpaths in adjacent landscape character types, for example the West Island Way, due to the screening provided by the low hills of the 'Bute Open Ridgeland' (5a) to the east. | This typology would be highly visible across the largely level and very open landscapes of the coastal flats from the A844 and from settlement which is generally orientated on rising slopes facing west to the coast and sea. This typology could intrude on key views to attractive coastal features and to Arran if placed between the A844 and the coast where views are presently open. | High |

High-med

| Landscape values | All of Bute is designated as an APQ. The key qualities of this APQ are likely | This typology could intrude on views to Arran if poorly sited. It could also | High-med |

Medium |
| to be the dramatic views of the mountains of Arran but also the scenic diversity of landscapes across Bute of to which this flat coastal plain with its wetland and varied coastal edge of sandy bays, rocky promontories and raised beaches contributes. | diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity. | could also diminish the contrast between this largely undeveloped coastal landscape and the more managed landscapes of Bute affecting overall scenic diversity although smaller turbines would have less of an effect if carefully sited to minimise intrusion. |
Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain

Summary of sensitivity
The narrowness of the Bute Coastal Plain and the distinctly natural qualities of wetlands and tidal beaches, especially in contrast with the more developed east coast of Bute, limits scope to accommodate both these smaller development typologies. There is an overall High sensitivity to the small-medium and a High-medium sensitivity to the small typology.

These flat, open coastal areas are highly visible from roads and settlement which are often elevated above them and beaches and other coastal areas are also popular for recreation. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High to the small-medium and High-medium for the small typology.

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 could be cumulative landscape and visual impacts with the Ardrossan wind farm seen from the Kilchattan Bay area although visibility of mainland areas is restricted from elsewhere within this character type due to the screening provided by the ‘Bute Open Ridgeland’ (5a).

Cumulative landscape impacts could be associated with larger scale turbine development in this less developed area and on Bute in general when considered in a wider context where the mainland coastal area visible to the east is highly modified.

Variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small-medium and small turbines associated with farms could create cumulative landscape and visual impacts with this often sparse, very open and simple landscape, quickly appearing cluttered. Turbines could form a dominant feature detracting from the pattern and low, ‘tucked-in’ form of other landscape features such as small, windswept trees and low buildings.

Constraints
- The narrowness of these Coastal Plains where even smaller turbines could dominate their extent.
- More diverse landform features on the coastal edge including promontories, cliffs and sandy beaches.
- The natural and diverse character of areas of wetlands and their interface with dynamic, strongly tidal sandy beaches and the contrast this provides with the more developed eastern coastal edge of Bute.
- The small size and shape of wind-pruned trees, as well as sometimes low building forms in the most exposed areas, which make the landscape appear sparse and uncluttered with a strong sense of place.
- The openness and high visibility of these areas close to the A844 (a popular tourist route) and their popularity for recreation which increases visual sensitivity.
- Key views over the Sound of Bute to the dramatic peaks of north Arran.
The setting of archaeological features and historic settlements including those which are particularly prominent around the coast.

Opportunities
- More managed farmland set back from the coastal edge, at the transition with more settled character types and where a backdrop of rising ground could reduce visual impact.

Guidance on development
There is no scope for siting the small-medium typology within this character type without incurring significant adverse landscape and visual impacts on a number of key sensitivity criteria.

There is very limited scope for siting the small typology within this character type. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology are likely to limit effects on coastal character and minimise visual intrusion. Small turbines should be sited away from sensitive coastal edges, instead being located within more managed farmland at the transition with more settled character types inland. All turbines should avoid intrusion on key views from settlement, the A844 and coastal footpaths and on the setting of archaeological features and landscapes of historic interest. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
Farmland in the Kilchattan Bay features a regular pattern of small farms and open views to Arran.

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

Stretches of more rugged and remote coastline occur in places.

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

Character Type 19a: Bute Coastal Plain
Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic

Introduction
This character type is shown in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment as forming a narrow linear margin along the shores of Loch Fyne and the Kintyre coast. There are also some ‘inland’ areas of this character type defined on the Mull of Kintyre which essentially form smaller scale valleys set within adjacent upland areas. The context of this character type varies greatly with some areas featuring an expansive sea-ward context (the Knapdale and Kintyre coasts) while other areas are more contained being located either side of a narrow sea loch (upper Loch Fyne and West Loch Tarbert). Common characteristics however shared by all include the small scale and often rolling landform, a well-settled character and the backdrop provided to these low-lying linear loch fringes and valleys by more expansive upland landscapes.

The character type has been extended for the purposes of this study to include the more settled and farmed shores of Loch Etive and Loch Awe which were previously defined as the ‘Craggy Upland’ (6) and ‘High Tops’ (2) in the Landscape Assessment. The Skipness area on the east Kintyre coast, originally defined as ‘Hidden Glen’ (3) has been reclassified as Rocky Mosaic for the purposes of this study. These loch shores have a similar small scale, rolling landform and settled character found elsewhere in the Rocky Mosaic character type.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There is no operational or consented wind farm development sited within this character type.

The operational Beinn Ghlas wind farm is visible from the south-eastern shores of Loch Awe and the north shore of lower Loch Etive. The consented Carraig Gheal wind farm will be visible from a similar area.

The operational An Suidhe and Clachan Flats wind farms are visible from the shores of upper Loch Fyne. The consented wind farms of A’Chruach and Allt Dearg will be visible principally from the shores of outer Loch Fyne.

There is visibility of the existing wind turbines on the Isle of Gigha from the western Kintyre coast and the Tangy windfarm is also highly visible from parts of this coast. Existing wind farms sited within the interior of the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) on Kintyre are only intermittently visible from the Rocky Mosaic coastal edge on the eastern side of the Kintyre Peninsula.
### Landscape character type 20: Rocky Mosaic - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

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

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there is strong inter-visibility across water to a variety of other landscape types including the islands of Arran and Jura in the Kintyre area or the High Tops in upper Loch Fyne and Loch Etive area.

| Scale and openness | This landscape forms a linear band against loch or coast and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. It is of low relief rising to 180m at most. The irregular coastal edge, small knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. Scale increases in parts of this landscape where a more gradual transition occurs with the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple. | High | This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the narrow extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other landcover features in this relatively well-settled landscape. | High |
| Landform | A complex rolling landform with a subtly indented rocky shore featuring small flat alluvial fans at inlets, occasional broader bays and low rocky promontories. Pronounced small craggy hills pattern this landscape and these form particularly distinctive features when seen close to the coast. Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly slacker hill slopes occur at the | High | This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape. | High |
transition with upland character types (6) and (7).

| Landcover          | Vegetation cover is diverse comprising small enclosed fields, bracken covered hill slopes and gorsey knolls, broadleaved and conifer woodland and designed landscape features such as avenue trees and parkland. Scrubby shoreline vegetation and pockets of wetland and wood pasture also feature. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types although there is often a sharp division between this and the walled in-bye fields on lower hill slopes. The smooth rich pastures of the alluvial fans close to the coast/loch shore are important in the contrast they provide with woodland and more extensive forestry and semi-improved grazing land. | The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of this landscape increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Tall turbines would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands, wetlands and designed landscape features and alluvial pastures. | High | The diverse and richly patterned vegetation cover of the coast and islands increases sensitivity to more extensive windfarm development. Turbines of this size would detract from areas of particularly complex vegetation, for example broadleaved woodlands, wetlands and policy landscapes and alluvial pastures. | High |

| Built environment | This landscape is relatively well-settled with the towns of Lochgilphead and Inverary and Campeltown sited on promontories or within inlets. Small villages and dispersed houses and farms are concentrated along the loch shore/coastal roads. This landscape is rich in archaeological features including landmark castles, crannogs and chapels as well as historic houses. | The setting of settlements (particularly the planned settlements with a rich architectural integrity such as Inverary) and archaeological features would be highly sensitive to this typology. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected by windfarm development of this scale. | High | The setting of settlements (particularly the planned settlements with a rich architectural integrity such as Inverary) and archaeological features would be highly sensitive to this typology. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected by windfarm development of this scale. | High |
and gardens. These landscapes accommodate major transport routes but also feature narrower winding roads such as those along the eastern shores of outer Loch Fyne and either side of Loch Awe.

| Perceptual qualities | A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas, for example the east coast of Kintyre or the southern shores of outer Loch Fyne. However in general this landscape is relatively well-settled and managed and wildland character is not pronounced. | Some perceptual qualities would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited within the more secluded areas. | Med-low | Some perceptual qualities would be diminished by this typology particularly if larger turbines were sited within the more secluded areas. | Med-low |

| Visual amenity | A number of major roads are aligned through this landscape type and include the A83 and A85 which are promoted tourist routes. Views from these roads, and the narrower winding roads accessing the less frequented shores of Loch Awe and east Loch Fyne, tend to give glimpsed views through woodland which are limited up and down the sea/loch but rather focus on views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops. Views from coastal settlement and the many areas attractive for recreation and tourism also focus on the opposite shore. Views from roads and coastal | This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape. Turbines of this size would be highly visible from adjacent character types and particularly from popular elevated walking routes. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology. Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These would particularly affect views from | High | This typology would be highly visible from roads and settlement where it could potentially intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape. Turbines of this size would be highly visible from adjacent character types and particularly from popular elevated walking routes. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement and the coastal edge would be very sensitive to this typology. Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These would particularly affect views from the shores of Loch Awe and from Arran. | High |
settlement in Kintyre are generally more open and expansive with the mountains of Arran and Jura being a key focus. Views from minor roads on the Ardlamont peninsula also have dramatic views of Arran. Views from upper Loch Fyne and Loch Etive focus on the mountains of the High Tops (2). Views to this landscape are fairly restricted from adjacent upland character types such as (6) and (7) which tend to be densely forested, sparsely settled and difficult to access. Important elevated viewpoints include the Inverary folly, the A815 as it descends to Loch Fyne and popular mountains such as Ben Cruachan and Beinn Ime. The east Kintyre coast is visible from the west coast of Arran and the Ardlamont area from Bute.

| Landscape Values | An APQ covers much of this landscape character type including the shores of inner Loch Fyne, the Ardlamont peninsula, the Kintyre coasts and the shores of north Loch Awe. Although there is no citation for this APQ, its key qualities include the diverse landform and land cover of these settled loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across water. | Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height would also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape. | High-med to low | Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height would also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape. | High-med to low |
### Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

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

### Scale and openness

This landscape forms a linear loch shore or coastal margin and its narrowness limits its extensiveness. It is of low relief rising to 180m at most. The irregular coastal edge, small knolls and often rolling landform provide strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces the small scale of this landscape. Scale increases in parts of this landscape where a more gradual transition occurs with the adjacent Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6) where the landform and vegetation pattern is more even and simple.

This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. Where the landscape is broader in extent and has a more medium scale at the transition between this and upland landscape types, then there may be some limited scope to accommodate this size of turbine.

**High-med**

There are increased opportunities to accommodate this small typology within the more medium scale transitional areas with upland landscape types. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology could also relate to the scale of broader, more open areas within the more settled and intensively farmed areas although small scale coastal/loch shore features would be sensitive even to these small typologies.

**Medium**

### Landform

A complex rolling landform with a subtly indented rocky shore featuring small flat alluvial fans at inlets, occasional broader bays and rocky headlands. Pronounced craggy hills pattern this landscape and these form particularly distinctive features when seen close to the coast. Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly slacker hill slopes occur at the transition with upland character types (6) and (7).

This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced craggy hills of this landscape. There is some very limited scope for turbines of this height to be associated with slacker hill slopes where they would be back-dropped by higher ground at the transition with upland character types.

**High-med**

This typology would also detract from the diverse character of the coastal or loch edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced craggy hills of this landscape. There is increased scope to accommodate this small typology on slightly slacker hill slopes where they would be back-dropped by higher ground at the transition with upland character types.

**Medium**

### Landcover

Vegetation cover is diverse comprising small enclosed fields, bracken covered hill slopes, broadleaved and conifer woodland and designed landscape features such as avenue trees and areas of complex vegetation, open alluvial pastures and policy features.

Areas of complex vegetation, open alluvial pastures and policy features would be sensitive to this typology although there are opportunities to minimise impacts by siting turbines.

**Medium**

Areas of complex vegetation, open alluvial pastures and policy features would also be sensitive to this typology although there are increased opportunities to

**Medium-low**
parkland. Scrubby shoreline vegetation and pockets of wetlands and wood pasture also feature. Rougher pasture occurs at the transition with the upland character types although there is often a sharp division with the walled in-byre fields on lower hill slopes. The smooth rich pastures of the alluvial fans close to the coast/loch shore are important in the contrast they provide with woodland and more extensive forestry and semi-improved grazing land. 

| Built environment | This landscape is relatively well-settled with the towns of Lochgilphead, Inverary and Campeltown sited on promontories and within inlets. Small villages and dispersed houses and farms are concentrated along the coastal and loch shore roads. This landscape is rich in archaeological features including landmark castles, crannogs and chapels as well as historic houses and gardens. These landscapes accommodate major transport routes but also feature narrower winding roads such as those along the eastern shores of outer Loch Fyne and either side of Loch Awe. | There is some limited scope for accommodating turbines of this size behind the more densely settled coast and loch shores on lower slopes at the transition with upland character types. | Medium | There is increased scope for siting this small typology to minimise impacts on the setting of settlements and archaeology. | Medium-low |

| Perceptual qualities | A sense of seclusion can be experienced away from less settled and frequented areas, for example the east coast of Kintyre or the southern | This typology is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines <3 and although multiple developments could affect the sense | Medium-low | This typology is more likely to comprise single and small groups of turbines <3 and although multiple developments could affect the | Medium-low |
shores of outer Loch Fyne. However in general this landscape is relatively well-settled and managed and wildland character is not pronounced. Of seclusion experienced in parts of this landscape, it would be less likely to have a significant effect on perceptual qualities elsewhere.

| **Visual amenity** | A number of major roads are aligned through this landscape type and include the A83 and A85 which are promoted tourist routes. Views from these roads, and the narrower winding roads accessing the less frequented shores of Loch Awe and east Loch Fyne, tend to give glimpsed views through woodland and are limited up and down the sea/loch but rather focus on views across water to opposite shores and upland backdrops. Views from coastal settlement and the many areas attractive for recreation and tourism also focus on the opposite shore. Views from roads and coastal settlement in Kintyre are generally more open and expansive with the mountains of Arran and Jura being a key focus. Views from minor roads on the Ardlamont peninsula also have spectacular views of the Arran mountains. Views from upper Loch Fyne and from the southern shores of Loch Etive focus on the dramatic backdrop of the mountains of the High Tops (2). Views to this landscape are fairly restricted from adjacent upland. This typology would be visible from roads and settlement and could intrude on highly scenic views of the wider seascape/landscape if sited close to the coast/loch shore. Skylines which form the immediate backdrop to settlement remain sensitive to this typology. Turbines of this size would be less visible from adjacent character types. Cumulative visual effects could arise where existing and consented windfarms located in character types (6) and (7) would be inter-visible with this typology. These would be most likely to affect views from the shores of Loch Awe where distances to the opposite shore are short and turbines towards the upper height band of this typology would appear large in views. | **High-med** | Coastal and loch shores would be sensitive even to small turbines although in general there would be increased scope to accommodate this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from settlement and roads. Turbines of this size would be less visible from adjacent character types and cumulative visual effects would be minimised due to the clear differential in height between commercial windfarms sited in upland character types. | **Medium** |
character types such as (6) and (7) which tend to be densely forested, sparsely settled and difficult to access. Important elevated viewpoints include the Inverary folly, the A815 as it descends to Loch Fyne and popular mountains such as Ben Cruachan and Beinn Ime. The east Kintyre coast is visible from the west coast of Arran and Ardlamont peninsula from Bute.

| Landscape values | An APQ covers much of this landscape character type including the shores of inner Loch Fyne, the Ardlamont peninsula, the Kintyre coasts and the shores of north Loch Awe. The key qualities of this APQ include the diverse landform and land cover of settled loch and sea shores and scenic views to a backdrop of mountains seen across water. | Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views over water to the backdrop of mountains and islands. Turbines of this height could also detract from the small scale and intricate land cover pattern of this landscape although there may be some very limited opportunities to minimise effects on the APQ by siting turbines of this size at the transition with larger scale adjacent upland character types. | High-med to Low | Medium to Low |

|  |  |  |  |  |
Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic

**Summary of sensitivity**
This character type usually forms an irregular narrow coastal or loch edge. The rolling landform of the landscape provides strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces its predominantly small scale. These loch shores and coastal fringes make an important contribution to the wider scenic context, forming an intricately patterned band between the foreground of sea or loch and backed by simple and more expansive upland landscapes. Their small scale, complex landform and pattern and role in the wider landscape context increases sensitivity to *High* for large and medium typologies. Landscape sensitivity would be *High-medium* for the small to medium typology and *Medium* for the small typology reflecting opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines in areas of more medium scale at the transition with adjacent upland character types.

The Rocky Mosaic character type is relatively well-settled, often accommodates major transport routes and is a focus for recreation. While views along lochs and coast can be restricted by landform and woodland, views tend to focus on opposite loch shores and wider seascapes in the Kintyre peninsula and are often highly scenic. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be *High* for the large and medium typologies, *High-medium* for the small-medium typologies. Visual sensitivity would be reduced to *Medium* for the small typology because of the increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be back-dropped and partially screened by landform and woodland.

The majority of this landscape is covered by an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be *High-medium* for the large, medium and small-medium typologies and *Medium* for the small typologies where this designation applies.

**Cumulative issues**
There is potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in conjunction with operational and consented windfarms sited within adjacent upland character types.

Key cumulative issues that may arise within the Rocky Mosaic are likely to include:
- Inter-visibility between any wind turbine development located in this character type and larger wind farms in adjacent upland character types. This could lead to potentially significant impacts where existing and consented wind farms already form a key influence on views from some loch shores, for example in the Loch Awe and Loch Fyne area.

**Constraints**
- The narrowness of this character type which forms a linear margin along loch and sea shores where even smaller turbines could dominate its extent.
- The rolling landform which in combination with woodlands, small fields and settlement to produce a predominantly small scale landscape.
- An irregular knolly landform featuring an indented coastal/loch edge of bays and low rocky headlands and occasional pronounced craggy hills; the diversity of the landform complemented by the richness of land cover comprising a variety of woodlands, smooth pastures and rough grazing.
• A strong contrast with adjacent simple and more expansive upland character types which provide a backdrop to these more intricately patterned loch and sea fringes and the important contribution this landscape makes to wider landscape context.

• The high visibility of these areas from major roads such as the A83/A85, from well-used recreational and tourist attractions and from settlement which is concentrated along the loch shores and coast.

• The setting of settlements, archaeological features and designed landscapes which are a key feature along these loch shores and coastal areas.

**Opportunities**

• Areas where the narrow fringe of the Rocky Mosaic (20) broadens and where the transition with adjacent upland character areas such as the Upland Forest Moorland Mosaic (6) is less pronounced with a simpler landform and land cover able to accommodate smaller typologies and minimise impacts on more sensitive settled loch and coastal edges.

**Guidance on development**

There is no scope for the large and medium development typologies to be sited within this character type due to the significant adverse impacts likely to occur across a range of sensitivity criteria.

There are some very limited opportunities for the small-medium typology (turbines 35-50m) to be located where the extent of the Rocky Mosaic is broader and where a more gradual merging occurs with the adjacent Upland Forest Moorland Mosaic (6, 6a, 6b and 6c) or the Craggy Upland (7) and Craggy Upland with Settled Glens (7a) character types. In these generally less settled areas, land cover is simpler comprising rough grazing land and coniferous plantations and there are also areas of less complex landform. Turbines sited in these areas would be set back from the sensitive coastal/loch edge and could be back-clothed by higher ground thus minimising visual intrusion.

There are increased opportunities for the small typology (turbines 20-35m) to be located in this landscape although areas close to the shore, small ‘alluvial’ pastures and more complex landform including pronounced craggy hills would be highly sensitive to all development typologies. Turbines should also be sited to avoid impacts on the setting of settlements, archaeological features and on designed landscapes. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.

These small-scale, settled sea and loch fringes are highly sensitive to larger typologies sited on the edges of adjacent upland areas, particularly where turbines would appear ‘perched’ on ridges which form the immediate skyline to these landscapes and would have a dominant effect.
The Rocky Mosaic fringing the shores of Loch Fyne features a mix of policy landscapes, settlement and farmland – these landscapes are very narrow in extent.

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

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

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

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

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

**Character Type 20: Rocky Mosaic**
Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills

Introduction
The ‘Low Coastal Hills’ character type principally occurs on the south-east tip of the Mull of Kintyre where an outcrop of Devonian sandstone has created a farmed landscape, in contrast with the more extensive upland moorlands and forestry occurring to the north. Another small area of this character type also occurs on the north side of Campbeltown Loch.

An area of the adjacent Rocky Mosaic (20) and the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) has been reclassified as the ‘Low Coastal Hills’ character type following our field work due to its similar landform, scale and settlement pattern.

Operational and consented wind farm development
There are no existing or consented wind farm developments within this character type.

No operational or consented wind farm developments located in the wider landscape are visible from this character type due to the screening provided by the higher ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) character type to the north and the geographic isolation of this far southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre.
### Landscape character type 21: Low Coastal Hills - Sensitivity assessment for larger typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Large scale typology assessment (80-130m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Medium scale typology assessment (50-80m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape context</td>
<td>This landscape occurs on the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre and in a small area to the north of Campeltown Loch. It is isolated from other character types and visually contained by the higher ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) to the north, west and east. The Low Coastal Hills (21) is relatively small in extent and the contrast between these two types is pronounced with the south-western part of this landscape forming a particularly dramatic backdrop of high and rugged steep-sided hills to this smaller scale, farmed landscape. Although forming part of a wider seascape, this low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coasts with the higher rugged ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) being more distinctive in these views. Nevertheless, the Low Coastal Hills (21) contributes to the setting of the Isle of Sanda, located directly off this coastline.</td>
<td>This diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the often dramatic Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) with which it is juxtaposed. The extent of this type is limited and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto this neighbouring character type. The setting of the Island of Sanda, is a further sensitivity.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>This diverse, small scale and intricately patterned settled landscape provides a striking contrast to the often dramatic Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) with which it is juxtaposed. The extent of this type is limited and it is often very distinct from the surrounding uplands, therefore there is not much space to contain turbines of this size without them visually encroaching onto this neighbouring character type. The setting of the Island of Sanda, is a further sensitivity.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale and openness</strong></td>
<td>This landscape has a low relief with small hills rising to around 126m. Narrow valleys cut between the hills and the undulating and irregular landform provides strong containment despite parts of the coast being more open in character. Woodlands within the lower Glenbreakerie and Strone Glen area and the regular pattern of small farms, houses and settlements further reduce scale.</td>
<td>This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the limited extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other land cover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>This typology would dominate the scale of small scale landform features and the limited extent of this character type. Turbines of this size would also appear very large in relation to the scale of buildings and small scale field pattern, woodland and other land cover features in this relatively well-settled landscape.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landform</strong></td>
<td>A rolling landform of small hills and valleys. The hills vary in character from narrow undulating ridges to complex craggy-topped knolls – many hills have distinctive stepped profiles. The coastal edge comprises narrow sweeping sandy bays, occasional cliffs, rocky promontories and islands (including Sanda Island). Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of broader and gentler hill slopes occur at the transition with the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c).</td>
<td>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge, the more complex knolly rolling landform and pronounced small craggy hills of this landscape.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landcover</strong></td>
<td>Gorsey hill tops, sparse woodland and gappy hedges contribute to the windswept coastal feel of this landscape (particularly evident in the east). Lush green pastures and arable fields are contained by stone walls, hedgerows and fences. Policy woodlands, avenue and ornamental</td>
<td>Tall turbines would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Tall turbines would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built environment</td>
<td>This landscape is relatively well-settled with small farms and houses located on lower hill slopes on the edge of valleys in the hinterland and with more concentrated settlement along the coastal edge between Southend and Carskey Bay. Roads are very narrow and apart from occasional larger sheds associated with farms, there are few large built structures. This landscape is rich in visible archaeological and historic remains including features associated with St Columba in the Keil area and Dunaverty Point.</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected if they had to be altered to transport large structures for wind farm development of this scale.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Turbines of this size would detract from the setting of settlement and archaeological features. The character of narrow single track roads could also be adversely affected if they had to be altered to transport large structures for wind farm development of this scale.</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Values</td>
<td>An APQ covers all of this landscape character type. Key special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the diverse coastal scenery comprising sandy bays, cliffs and islands – including the contrast between the settled farmed southern coast and the rugged wild coast- and panoramic views over sea and to distant land.</td>
<td>Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ.</td>
<td>wider seascape/landscape. The visual containment provided by the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) limits wider visibility of this landscape however and smaller turbines within this typology may have less of a cumulative visual effect.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Craig, the hills of Ayrshire/Galloway and the Northern Irish coast. Views from narrow hedge-lined roads are more contained by the rolling landform or small hills and ridges inland. Views to this landscape are limited from the adjoining ‘Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) character type which is very sparsely settled and crossed by few roads. There are, however, elevated and highly scenic views from the minor road providing access to the Mull of Kintyre and from the long distance walking route of the Kintyre Way. This low-lying landscape is not readily discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) being more distinctive in these views.

Larger typologies would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ.

High-med

High-med
**Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Assessment of small typology (20m-35m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape context</td>
<td>This landscape occurs on the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre and in a small area north of Campeltown Loch. It is isolated from other character types and visually contained by the higher ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) to the north, west and east. The Low Coastal Hills (21) is relatively small in extent and the contrast between these two types is pronounced with the south-western part of this landscape forming a particularly dramatic backdrop of high and rugged steep-sided hills to this smaller scale, farmed landscape. Although forming part of a wider seascape, this low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) being more distinctive in these views. Nevertheless, the Low Coastal Hills (21) contributes to the setting of the Island of Sanda, located directly off this coastline.</td>
<td>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set well back from the coast and away from the more dramatic juxtaposition of the western coastal hills of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) with this character type. Effects on the setting of the Island of Sanda can be minimised with careful siting.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>It may be possible to accommodate turbines of this size without creating significant impacts on landscape context if they are set well back from the coast and away from the more dramatic juxtaposition of the western coastal hills of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) with this character type. There is increased scope to accommodate smaller turbines in these areas, and their size is less likely to affect the setting of the Island of Sanda.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale and openness</td>
<td>This landscape has a low relief with small hills rising to around 126m. Narrow valleys cut between the hills</td>
<td>This size of turbine would appear overly large in relation to the low relief of smaller hills and buildings.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>There are some limited opportunities to accommodate this small typology on the slopes of</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and the undulating and irregular landform provides strong containment despite parts of the coast being more open in character. Woodlands within the lower Glenbreakeerie and Strone Glen area and the regular pattern of small farms, houses and settlements further reduce scale. While there would be a better scale relationship with larger hills, and especially lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c), the well-settled nature and limited extent of this character type are key constraints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>A rolling landform of small hills and valleys. The hills vary in character from narrow undulating ridges to complex craggy-topped knolls – many hills have distinctive stepped profiles. The coastal edge comprises narrow sweeping sandy bays and occasional cliffs, rocky promontories and islands (including Sanda Island). Although landform is predominantly complex, some areas of slightly broader and gentler hill slopes occur at the transition with the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c).</th>
<th>This typology would detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge and the more complex knolly hills and ridges of this landscape. It could relate to broader smoother hill slopes and flatter ground although these are limited in extent.</th>
<th>High-med</th>
<th>This typology would also detract from the diverse character of the coastal edge and the more complex knolly hills and ridges of this landscape. There is increased scope to accommodate this small typology on gentler hill slopes and flatter ground.</th>
<th>Medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landcover</td>
<td>Gorsey hill tops, sparse stunted woodland and gappy hedges contribute to the windswept coastal feel of this landscape. Lush green pastures and arable fields are contained by stone walls, hedgerows and fences. Policy woodlands, avenue and ornamental plantings are found in the hinterland of Carskey Bay.</td>
<td>This typology would detract from areas of more intricately patterned vegetation, for example, policy woodlands, but could fit with the simpler land cover of less strongly enclosed farmland.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>There are increased opportunities to site the smaller turbines of this typology to avoid impacts on more intricately patterned areas.</td>
<td>Medium-low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built environment</td>
<td>This landscape is relatively well-settled with small farms and houses located on lower hill slopes on the edge of valleys in the hinterland and with more concentrated settlement along the coastal edge between Southend and Carskey Bay. Roads are very narrow and apart from occasional larger sheds associated with farms, there are few large built structures. This landscape is rich in visible archaeological and historic features including features associated with St Columba in the Keil area and Dunaverty Point.</td>
<td>This size of turbine could be sited to avoid impacts on the more densely settled coastal area although the limited extent of this landscape may result in some impact on the setting of archaeological features which include hill top duns, forts and cairns.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>There may be increased scope for siting the smaller turbines within this typology to minimise impacts on the setting of settlements and archaeology.</td>
<td>Medium-low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual qualities</td>
<td>Although relatively well-settled, this landscape has a remote feel due to its location at the ‘end of the peninsula’. Sanda Island and less accessible and settled parts of the coast have some qualities of wildness although this is less pronounced across much of this settled and managed landscape. This landscape has a strong sense of history and many cultural associations.</td>
<td>The sense of remoteness, the relative naturalness of stretches of coast, and the sense of seclusion created by the geographic location would be diminished by turbines of this size, particularly if they were located close to more secluded coastal areas.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Even small turbines could affect the sense of seclusion and cultural associations of this landscape although there is increased scope to site this size of turbine to avoid impact on more sensitive areas.</td>
<td>Medium-low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual amenity</td>
<td>Views along the coast from well-used beaches, the B842 and settlement focus on Sanda Island, the sheer rugged hills of the Mull of Kintyre and the distant Ailsa Craig, the hills of Ayrshire/Galloway and the Northern Irish coast. Views from narrow hedge-lined roads are more contained by the rolling landform or small hills and ridges inland.</td>
<td>This typology would be visible in close proximity from roads and settlement and could intrude on views to the coast, islands and the Mull of Kintyre. The visual containment provided by the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) would be likely to limit wider visibility of this typology (in views from Arran for example).</td>
<td>High-med</td>
<td>This small typology would be likely to have a lesser visual impact in close views from settlement and roads. It would also be unlikely to impact on wider views.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views to this landscape are limited from the adjoining ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) character type which is very sparsely settled and crossed by few roads. There are however elevated and highly scenic views from the minor road providing access to the Mull of Kintyre and from the long distance walking route of the Kintyre Way. This low-lying landscape is generally not discernable in distant views from Arran, the Antrim or Ayrshire coast with the higher rugged ground of the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) being more distinctive in these views.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape values</th>
<th>Turbines of this size would be likely to be highly visible in views to and from the designated area and could directly impact upon or detract from highly scenic views to the coast and potentially also of the wider seascape dependant on siting. Turbines of this size would additionally detract from the smaller scale and diverse character of the settled and farmed landscapes within the APQ although there is some limited scope to site this typology at the transition with the ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic’ (6c) thus minimising impacts on panoramic views.</th>
<th>High-med</th>
<th>Medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An APQ covers all of this landscape character type. Key special qualities of this APQ are likely to be the diverse coastal scenery comprising sandy bays, cliffs and islands – including the contrast between the settled farmed southern coast and the rugged wild coast- and panoramic views over sea and to distant land.</td>
<td>There is some scope to site this typology to minimise impacts on panoramic views by avoiding sensitive coastal areas and hill tops where turbines would have a greater visual prominence. While turbines of this size would extend above woodlands, there is likely to be increased scope to site smaller the smaller turbines within this typology to benefit from a degree of screening by landform.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills

Summary of sensitivity
This character type forms a coastal landscape of rounded low hills and shallow valleys on the southern tip of the Mull of Kintyre. The irregular, rolling landform of the landscape provides strong containment and the presence of small woodlands, fields and settlement reinforces its predominantly small scale. This landscape make an important contribution to the wider scenic context, the small-scale diverse and settled character of hinterland farmland, sandy beaches, rocky cliffs and islands contrasting with the dramatic rugged backdrop of the steep-sided and high hills of the Mull of Kintyre. Landscape sensitivity would be High for large and medium typologies. Landscape sensitivity would be High-medium for the small to medium typology and Medium for the small typology reflecting opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines in areas of more medium scale at the transition with the adjacent ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) character type.

The Low Coastal Hills are relatively well-settled and form a focus for recreation, including views from the coast and the sea. Views from the adjoining ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ (6c) character type and to the north are likely to be more limited particularly for less tall turbines. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High for the large and High-medium for the medium and small-medium typologies. Visual sensitivity would be reduced to Medium for the small typology because of the increased opportunities for turbines of this size to be back-dropped by higher ground and sited to avoid intrusion on key views to the coast and wider seascape.

All of this landscape is covered by an APQ and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be High-medium for the large, medium and small-medium typology and Medium for the small typology.

Cumulative issues
No operational or consented wind farm developments are sited within, or are visible from, this landscape. While there are no potential cumulative landscape and visual issues arising at present, the inter-relationship between any larger scale wind farm developments located in the adjacent ‘Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic’ and ‘Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest-Moor Mosaic (6 and 6c) and smaller turbine development sited in this character type would need to be considered. This will include consideration of cumulative views from the west coast of Arran.

The Low Coastal Hills are limited in extent and the development of multiple turbines (and even the small typology) could quickly dominate this landscape.

Constraints
- The very limited extent of this character type where even smaller turbines could dominate.
- The low relief and rolling landform of small hills and ridges which, in combination with woodlands and regularly spaced settlement, produce a predominantly small scale landscape.
- Irregular, craggy-topped hills and knolls and a diverse coastal edge of sandy beaches, cliffs and rocky headlands, Sanda Island and its associated skerries.
The strong contrast with the adjacent rugged, steep-sided high hills of the Mull of Kintyre which provide a dramatic backdrop to this small scale settled and farmed landscape.

The setting of settlements, archaeological features and designed landscapes which are key features in parts of this character type.

An APQ designation which covers all of this character type.

**Opportunities**

- Areas where the Low Coastal Hills abut the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) and where broader and gentler hill slopes provide opportunities for the small typology to be sited to minimise impacts on more sensitive settled areas, the coastal edge and wider seascape.

**Guidance on development**

There is no scope for the large and medium development typologies to be sited within this character type due to the significant adverse impacts likely to occur across a range of sensitivity criteria.

The small-medium typology would also appear very large in relation to the scale of this landscape – heightened by its low relief and well-settled character and turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would be more appropriate with very limited opportunities to site them at the transition with with the larger scale landscape of the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c).

The small typology would fit better with the scale of this landscape and there are some limited opportunities for turbines of this size to be located on the gentler, smoother slopes of larger hills. These areas also tend to occur at the transition with the adjacent Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moorland Mosaic (6c) character type and turbines sited in these areas would be set back from the sensitive coastal edge and could additionally be back-clothed by higher ground thus minimising visual intrusion.

Small turbines should avoid being sited on prominent hill tops and on more complex knolly or craggy landform. They should also be sited to avoid intrusion on key views to the coast, the Mull of Kintyre and Sanda Island. Turbines should also be sited to avoid impacts on the setting of settlements, the numerous archaeological features present in this landscape and on designed landscapes. The limited extent of this character type would result in multiple turbines of this size quickly dominating this landscape and cumulative landscape and visual impacts should therefore be carefully considered. The use of a restricted number of turbine designs could optimise capacity by minimising the variety of built structures and potential visual clutter in this small scale and scenically rich landscape.

There would be fewer constraints to siting turbines <20m high in this landscape provided they were visually associated with farms and other buildings. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
More complex hills occur on the edge of the Mull of Kintyre Upland Forest Moor Mosaic (6c) and provide the backdrop to this more settled coastal landscape.

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

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

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

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

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

Character Type 21: Low Coastal Hills
Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges

Introduction
The Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) landscape character type is found on the south-eastern coastlines of the islands of Islay and Jura, the whole of the island of Gigha and on the western coast of the Knapdale area on the mainland within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. On both Jura and in Knapdale, this type lies within National Scenic Areas, and therefore these have been assessed in relation to the more significant special qualities associated with each NSA. No detailed sensitivity assessment was carried out on the Island of Gigha, as this was not required by the study brief.

This sensitivity assessment therefore is only applicable to the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) on the Island of Islay and the east facing coast on Jura outwith the NSA.

In addition, a small part of Moorland Plateau (8) on Islay has been reclassified as Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) for the purposes of this study. Here, the Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) has been extended east to include the village of Port Ellen and its hinterland, which is similar in character to the remainder of this coastline already within Coastal Parallel Ridges (8).

The Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) form a series of narrow SW-NE aligned rocky coastal ridges which form the transition between a deeply indented and fragmented coast to two upland character types, the Moorland Plateau (8) on Islay and Jura and the Upland Parallel Ridges in Knapdale. The relief is very low, and the landform small scale and linear, with extensive moorland and rough grazing alternating with frequent small scattered woodlands, and farmed land on the more level land and gentle slopes.

Operational and consented wind farm development
No operational wind turbines were noted within this character type during the site visit. This landscape lies just beyond the 30km threshold set for the ZTV mapping for operational and consented wind farm development sited on the mainland of Argyll and Bute.
### Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges – Sensitivity assessment

**Topic** | **Summary description** | **Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)** | **Sensitivity rating** | **Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)** | **Sensitivity rating**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**Landscape context** | This coastal landscape forms a transition between the sea and the much higher and more mountainous Moorland Plateau (8). It is narrow in extent, and linear in shape. There is a strong contrast between the small scale clearly defined ridges and settled farmland or crofts of this type with the higher relief and more remote character of the Moorland Plateau (8). The Coastal Parallel ridges are not highly visible from other landscape character types, but the south east corner of Islay is very visible from the Port Ellen/Kennacraig ferry and other maritime traffic and northern Jura is visible from the mainland. | The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Moorland Plateau (8), or on the coast and seascape as viewed from the sea. However, this landscape character type is relatively isolated from other parts of the islands, and therefore turbines would only have a limited impact on character types elsewhere on the islands. | **High-Med** | The limited extent of this landscape type limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent Moorland Plateau (8), or on the coast and seascape as viewed from the sea. However, this landscape character type is relatively isolated from other parts of the islands, and therefore turbines would only have a limited impact on character types elsewhere on the islands. | **Medium**

**Scale and openness** | This landscape is generally very low lying, reflecting its coastal location. However, the ridges rise to about 180m at their highest, and the conical hill of Cnoc Rhaonastil on Islay is 109m high. The landscape is fragmented by rocky outcrops and low ridges which reduce the scale. The numerous woodlands and areas of scrub provide further containment which reduces the sense of scale, although there are narrow open spaces. | This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this typology would appear as very tall compared to the low relief and narrow open spaces characteristic of the coastal landscape, and would dominate small scale landforms and coastal features. | **High** | This size of turbine would impact on the small scale of much of this character. In particular, this typology would appear as tall compared to the low relief characteristic of the coastal landscape, and would dominate small scale landforms and coastal features. There may be more scope to accommodate turbines of this type in more open inland areas, away from the sensitive coast and **High-Med**
stretches of low-lying wetland between the drier rocky ridges. The features – including trees and rocky outcrops – are small, further reinforcing the small scale of this landscape. The coastline is generally very intricate, with numerous small bays and islands, and is low-lying with frequent woodland adding to the sense of containment. It is often intimate in scale, although along more simple coastlines – especially the north east of Jura – the sea creates a sense of expansiveness.

| Landform | Linear, rocky ridges extend SW-NE across this landscape. They are parallel with the coastline, where off Islay the partially submerged ridges form fragmented chains of islands. There is the occasional prominent hill or headland. Between the ridges the land are narrow, linear, low-lying, often boggy terrain some of which has been drained to form pasture. The coastline is generally diverse, with numerous bays and small rocky headlands, islands and skerries, although the coastline north of Ardlussa on Jura is less indented. | The irregular rocky ridges, prominent hills, headlands and islands, are all very sensitive to this typology. | High | The more regular low lying areas of landform are less sensitive than the irregular rocky ridges, prominent hills, headlands and islands, all of which are very sensitive to this typology. There is likely to be increased scope to accommodate this smaller typology on slightly more gentle hill slopes or low lying terrain without intruding onto the ridgelines and other sensitive topographical features. | High-Med |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Landcover | The majority of this area combines wetland with occasional pools, in the narrow low-lying valleys between the ridges. Some of these have been | The more diverse areas of landscape, characterised by interlocking mosaic of woodland, wetland and small fields, is the most | High-Med | The more diverse areas of landscape, characterised by interlocking mosaic of woodland, wetland and small fields, is the | Medium |
drained for pasture, especially towards the coast and the south west. The farmland also extends up the more gentle slopes of the ridges especially to the north of the most inhabited section of coast, from Port Ellen to Ardbeg on Islay. Policies, for example at Ardlussa on Jura and Kildalton House on Islay, as well as small fields associated with crofts at Inverlussa on Jura add to diversity. Numerous small broadleaved woodlands, as well as some mixed and conifer woods occupy the drier ridges, and extend along sheltered parts of the coast.

| Built environment | This landscape is partially settled, largely along or close to the coast, with scattered houses and farms, and small settlements associated with sheltered bays. On Islay, settlement extends inland across the hinterland behind Port Ellen and three distilleries, with associated larger buildings, are located on the coast. There are a number of larger houses with associated policies. The interior, rocky ridges and wetland as well as moorland is largely unsettled. This landscape has numerous archaeological sites, including clusters of features, some of which are located on the coast or more interior ridges, sensitive to this typology. More open and simple land cover, especially more extensive grazing and wetland, may provide some limited scope for this typology. The small size of many of the houses and farms are a constraint as this typology is likely to dominate the small size of the built features. The setting of the villages, clusters of houses associated with bays and archaeological sites is a further constraint. Small roads might need to be widened to accommodate the development, which would be an additional constraint. Nevertheless the area is only partially settled. | High-Med | Medium |
especially on Islay. A-class roads extend part way along the coast and then convert to narrow, dead end roads which continue along the less well settled parts of the coastline.

**Perceptual qualities**
The inaccessible sections of coast, particularly on Jura but also present on Islay, can be experienced as secluded, even remote, and as a place where naturalness is a key characteristic. The less accessible ridges and wetland on Islay are also relatively secluded, becoming more remote when closer to the Moorland Plateau (8). Elsewhere, this area is farmed with scattered settlement, tracks and roads and occasional masts.

This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced on the less accessible inland ridges, secluded and more remote coasts. Because of its height, even if it was sited some distance away, there could be some associated visual impacts. Elsewhere, on larger areas of more farmed and settled land, there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.

**Visual amenity**
The ridges and woodland ensures that views within this landscape are sometimes intermittent, although there are important viewpoints including historic sites (such as Kildalton Church on Islay) and the roads. The views from the coast are focussed very much along the coast, across small bays or out to the islands. Views inland are often partially screened by trees or rising ground. A key viewpoint for this type is the Islay ferry from Port Ellen to Kennacraig, which affords fine views to the higher hills of Moorland Plateau.

The low hills and woodland often screen parts of this landscape, so that views from the road, for example, are intermittent. However, the height of this typology means that it is likely to appear above many of these smaller features and be relatively widely and consistently visible, especially from the sea. The skyline profile of the rocky irregular ridges is highly sensitive, as is the coast, which is a major visual attraction from the road, the ferry and in terms of much of the settlement.

**High-Med**
This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness experienced on the less accessible inland ridges, secluded and more remote coasts if located within or close to these areas, but elsewhere there is likely to be little impact on these qualities.

**Medium**
The low hills and woodland often screen parts of this landscape, so that views from the road, for example, are intermittent. However, the height of this typology means that it may appear above some of these smaller features and be relatively widely and consistently visible, especially from the sea. Nevertheless, there are likely to be increased opportunities to site this typology (and particularly turbines towards the lower height band) to minimise effects on views from key viewpoints, or where views of the turbine are reduced to intermittent.
(8), with the diverse Coastal Parallel Ridges and its fragmented coast forming a backdrop to settlement and foreground to the hills. There are also views of north Jura from the mainland, for example from Crinan.

The skyline profile of the rocky irregular ridges is highly sensitive, as is the coast, which is a major visual attraction from the road, the ferry and in terms of much of the settlement.

| Landscape values | Within the APQ, which only applies to Jura, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast. | High-med to Low | Within the APQ, which only extends to Jura, this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast. | High-med to Low |

The whole of this type on the island of Jura sits within APQ. The key qualities of this APQ include the coastal setting and associated fine views, the relative remoteness of northern Jura and the semi-natural qualities associated with the lack of settlement, rugged terrain and moorland vegetation.
Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges

**Summary of sensitivity**
This character type forms a series of low ridges and elongated glens which extend along the south eastern corner of the island of Islay and the north eastern coast of Jura, between the upland Moorland Plateau (8) and the sea. The irregular ridges contain low-lying wetland and narrow valleys, some of which are partially farmed. More extensive improved pasture extends into the hinterland behind the settlements such as Port Ellen and Ardlussa. The ridges continue out to sea, especially off Islay, where they are partially submerged, creating chains of islands off an intricately indented coastline.

Settlement is associated with the more accessible coastal fringe, sheltered bays, such as at Lussagiven, and the more gentle slopes and shallow glens behind Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Port Ellen, all of which are located on the coast.

The small scale and irregular shape of the ridges and the often intricate coastline, the diversity and fragmented pattern of the woodlands, the islands, the small fields and scattered settlement, as well as the numerous archaeological sites on Islay and secluded character of some of the coastline, especially on Jura, are key sensitivities of this character type. This landscape therefore has a **High-medium** sensitivity to the small-medium (35m-50m) typology and **Medium** sensitivity for the small (20m-35m) typology reflecting that there are likely to be more opportunities to accommodate smaller turbines which with careful siting are less likely to impact on the more remote and complex areas of landscape character.

Turbines of less than 20m in height could readily be accommodated within the farmed areas of this landscape type.

The Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) character type is only partially settled and not extensively roaded. There are a number of key views associated with historic features and accessible bays and coastlines. In addition, the views from the Port Ellen – Kennacraig ferry and other maritime traffic are sensitive. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be **High-medium** for the small-medium (35m-50m) typology, in large part due to the sensitivity of the coast and the views of the ridge skylines. Visual sensitivity is reduced to **Medium** for the small typology because of the increased scope for turbines of this size to be more readily screened by landform and woodland from key viewpoints and less likely to impinge upon the skyline ridges. Turbines of less than 20m in height are likely to be less visible within the irregular landform and woodland associated with this character type.

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

**Cumulative issues**
There is little potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in the future with turbines located in adjacent character types, as the immediately adjacent Moorland Plateau (8) has been identified as having high sensitivity to wind turbines.

The farmed land which is likely to be the focus for these typologies is dispersed and therefore while there may be some sequential cumulative visual effects associated turbines sited on the majority of land holdings, but with a 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 Coastal Parallel Ridges (22) are likely to include:

- Variations in the type and size of single and small groups of small turbines proposed within the landscape type

**Constraints**

- The relatively low relief of the landscape, especially when viewed from the road and the sea
- The complex and striking irregular forms of the rocky ridges
- The small scale of the landscape – with its interlocking pattern of woodlands which reinforce the small scale enclosure of the landform – and the intricate and complex coast
- The sense of seclusion, naturalness and even remoteness experienced on more inaccessible stretches of coast and some of the interior ridges
- The visibility of the coast and the ridges especially from the road, accessible beaches and historic sites.
- The setting of individual buildings, small coastal settlements and other built features, such as the Kildalton Church.

**Opportunities**

- Areas of gently graded slopes, more expansive stretches of interior elongated glen and hillsides close to farms where simple slopes offer rising ground against which turbines can be located
- More settled areas of farmland
- Shallow glens set back from the coast

**Guidance on development**

There is likely to be **very limited** scope for the small-medium (35m - 50m) development typologies to be sited within this character type due to the adverse impacts likely to occur across several of the criteria. Individual turbines are likely to be easier to accommodate than groups.

There are some opportunities for the small typology (20m-35m) to be located on gently graded slopes, shallow glens and farmland within the Coastal Parallel Ridges. Individual turbines are likely to be easier to accommodate than groups, which should be limited to no more than three turbines. Turbines sited in these areas should be set back from the sensitive coast and small features such as buildings and farms and should avoid intruding on the irregular skyline ridges. They should also be sited to avoid high points on skylines and aim to 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.

All turbines should be located to avoid impacts on the settings of, and views from and to, archaeological features and sites and should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of the Main Study Report.
Low relief and small scale, irregular rugged outcrops characterise this landscape.

Indented, small scale coastline, with settlement clustered in bays.

A broader bay with low profile headland.

Semi-natural wetland contained by rugged ridges.

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

The low profile of the series of rocky coastal ridges.

**Character Type 22: Coastal Parallel Ridges**
Landscape Character Type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats

Introduction
This character type occurs to the north of the Knapdale NSA comprising the northern part of the open plain of Moine Mhor and Kilmartin Glen.

Detailed sensitivity assessments have been undertaken for the smaller typologies only in the sensitivity assessment as technical constraints are likely to inhibit the development of larger typologies within this landscape which essentially forms a narrow valley which is strongly contained by the hill slopes of the adjacent ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10) character type.

The assessment focuses on smaller typologies due to the technical constraints likely to be associated with accommodating larger turbines in these confined glens. Key landscape and visual constraints relating to larger typologies are however briefly described in the summary and guidance section.

Operational and consented wind farm development
No existing or consented commercial wind farms are sited in this character sub-type. There is no visibility of wind farm developments sited in the surrounding area from this character type due to the containment provided by higher ground.
### Landscape character type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats – Sensitivity assessment for smaller typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Small-medium typology assessment (35m-50m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Small typology assessment (20-35m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape context</td>
<td>The narrow Kilmartin Glen is visually isolated from other landscape types, with the exception of the immediate edges of the surrounding ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10). The flat moss and narrow valley floor of this character type forms a strong contrast with the steep craggy slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10) although more gently undulating lower hill slopes to the west form a less abrupt and dramatic juxtaposition.</td>
<td>The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types. Turbines of this size could however detract from the often strong contrast with the craggy steep slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10).</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The geographical containment of the glens limits potential impacts on adjacent character types. Turbines of this size could however detract from the often strong contrast with the craggy steep slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10).</td>
<td>Medium-low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale and openness</td>
<td>A strongly contained landscape, constricting to form a narrow valley to the north within Kilmartin Glen. This is a well-settled landscape with farms, houses, enclosed fields and woodlands forming ready scale references.</td>
<td>This typology could easily dominate the narrow floor of Kilmartin Glen, appearing to ‘fill up’ this more contained and enclosed space. This typology would also overwhelm the scale of small buildings which can be fairly densely concentrated in some of these glens</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>The larger turbines within this typology would still dominate the intimate scale of the glen and the scale of settlement and other features. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would relate better to the increased scale of the broader plain to the south and would also have a better scale relationship to buildings.</td>
<td>High-med</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landform</td>
<td>A broad, open flat plain tapering to a narrow flat valley floor strongly contained by the steep craggy slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10) although more undulating farmland occurs on the lower hill slopes particularly on the western edge of these uplands.</td>
<td>Single or very small clusters of this typology could relate to the landform of broader gently undulating to flat plain and smoother, slacker lower hill slopes. Steeper slopes would be more sensitive and turbines sited on distinctive knoll tops would be prominent.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Single or very small clusters of this typology could relate to the landform of broader gently undulating to flat plain and smoother, slacker lower hill slopes. Steeper slopes would be more sensitive and turbines sited on distinctive knoll tops would be prominent.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landcover</td>
<td>Geometric fields interspersed with mixed policy woodlands on the broader plain with smaller pastures on the floor of Kilmartin Glen. Glen sides at the transition with the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10) feature more extensive pasture, birch/oak woodlands and conifer plantations. Some designed landscape features occur, including mixed policy woodlands, avenue trees, planted roundels and remnant parkland. These larger turbines could detract from the often intricate pattern of woodlands, parkland and planted features such as roundels particularly found in the broader southern part of this character type. More open and larger fields would be less sensitive although in some areas these provide a simple setting and contrast to planted features.</td>
<td><strong>High-med</strong></td>
<td>Smaller scale land cover features would also be sensitive to turbines towards the upper height band of this typology although there is some scope to accommodate this typology to avoid impacting on landscape pattern or individual features. Turbines could be sited to associate with the edges of the glen to minimise detraction from more intricate landcover features.</td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built environment</td>
<td>Dispersed farms are sited on slightly raised areas fringing the flatter farmland and moss. Kilmartin and Stockavullin occupy similar elevated locations off the flat plain and glen floor. The A816 is aligned through this landscape. This landscape features a rich archaeology including standing stones, cairns and hill forts – these often forming landmark features. This typology would be likely to have a significant impact on the setting and scale of settlement and archaeology.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>There may be some limited scope to site turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to avoid significant impact due to their better scale relationship with buildings – turbines should be sited close to existing buildings to minimise effects on the setting of archaeological features.</td>
<td><strong>High-med</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual qualities</td>
<td>This landscape has a strong sense of place due to its rich archaeology. This typology could significantly impact on the strong sense of place experienced.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>This typology could also significantly impact on the strong sense of place experienced in parts of this landscape although smaller turbines clearly associated with farms and other buildings (thus reducing built clutter) may minimise effects on perceptual qualities.</td>
<td><strong>High-med</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual amenity</td>
<td>Views from within this landscape are restricted by the tight configuration and containment of the landform. The A816 tourist route is aligned on the eastern edge of this landscape and open views across the flatter moss and valley floor are possible from this. The close proximity of settlement, major roads and well-visited archaeological features increases sensitivity to this typology.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>The close proximity of settlement, major roads, well-visited archaeological features increases sensitivity. Turbines towards the lower height band of this typology would have a reduced impact particularly if visually associated with buildings.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
and other roads which cross the area. The archaeological features of this landscape are well visited. Key views include those from the A816/Kilmartin Church which gives elevated views across the broader plain to the south. The B8025 is popular with cyclists and features views to standing stones and stone circle.

| Landscape Values | Turbines of this size would be likely to detract from the strong contrast between flat farmed and settled plain and narrow glen floor and the steep and craggy uplands which contain them. This typology would also be likely to significantly impact on views from the northern part of the NSA in the Moine Mhor area. The setting and relationship between cultural heritage features both within and extending to the north of the NSA could also be adversely affected. | High | There may be some very limited scope for turbines towards the lower height band of this typology to be sited to minimise intrusion on views and on the setting and relationship of cultural heritage features if closely associated with buildings and set well away from sensitive archaeological features. | High-med |

This character type is designated an APQ. It also abuts the Knapdale NSA. The scenic qualities of this APQ relevant to this character type include the strong contrast of the flat open moss and farmland of Moine Mhor with the craggy uplands which adjoin this area and the rich historic and archaeological heritage of Kilmartin Glen. The special qualities of the NSA include ‘A landscape of skylines’ with the ‘ridge-framed basin of the Moine Mhor moss’ being specifically noted. The special qualities assessment also notes that in the northern part of the NSA and ‘in the Glens of Kilmichael and Kilmartin are found some of the finest examples in Scotland of standing stones, stone circles, burial mounds….and other prehistoric landscape features’.
Character type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats

Summary of sensitivity
This landscape comprises the northern and eastern edges of the flat coastal plain of Moine Mhor, tapering in the north to form the narrow glen of Kilmartin which is strongly contained by the steep craggy slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10). This is a well-settled and farmed landscape which features many landmark archaeological features. The relatively small scale and limited extent of this character type and its rich archaeology increases sensitivity to all turbine development. Landscape sensitivity would be High for the small-medium typology and High-medium for the small typology.

This landscape is highly visible from the A816 Tourist Route. It is also well-visited because of its renowned archaeology. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be High for both the smaller typologies considered in the assessment.

The close proximity of this landscape to the Knapdale NSA and the presence of an APQ increases sensitivity in relation to landscape values with a High sensitivity judged for the small-medium typology and a High-medium sensitivity for the small typology.

Larger typologies
Larger turbines would dominate the scale of this landscape and the setting of archaeological features which are concentrated within a relatively limited extent.

Cumulative issues
There are no cumulative issues relating to this character type at present.

Constraints:
- The intimate scale of the Kilmartin Glen where its narrow valley floor is strongly contained and increasingly constricted by the steep-sided craggy slopes of the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10) and the well-settled nature of this landscape where buildings, woodlands and other features provide ready scale references.
- A rich archaeology including stone circles, standing stones and burial chambers forming highly visible ‘landmark’ features within this landscape.
- An often intricate pattern of woodlands, farmland and designed landscape features which pattern parts of this landscape.
- The high visibility of this landscape which is seen from the A816 Tourist Route, from footpaths and cycle routes and which is well-visited because of its renowned archaeological features.
- The close proximity of the southern part of this landscape to the Knapdale NSA and the presence of an APQ designation which covers all this character type.

Opportunities:
- Gently undulating lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ which offer potential opportunities for small turbines.
**Guidance on development**

There is no scope to locate larger turbines or the small-medium typology within this character type due to the likely significant effects that would arise across a number of key sensitivity criteria.

There is very limited scope to accommodate turbines towards the lower height band of the small typology (<25m) on more gently undulating lower hill slopes at the transition with the ‘Upland Parallel Ridges’ (10). Turbines would need to be located to avoid impacting on the setting of archaeological features in these areas and on designed landscape features such as parkland and planted roundels. They should be sited to visually relate to existing buildings in order to minimise built clutter within this sensitive landscape. Smaller turbines should be sited in accordance with the guidance set out in section 7 of this report.
This landscape is renowned for its archaeological features associated with the Kilmartin and Kilmichael Glens.

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

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

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

**Character Type 23: Flat Moss and Mudflats**
Character Type 25: Sand-Dunes and Machair

Introduction
The ‘Sand-Dunes and Machair’ (25) landscape character type is found on largely west facing coasts of Tiree, Islay and part of the Kintyre peninsula within the Argyll and Firth of Clyde Landscape Assessment. These long sandy bays, sandy flats and dune systems extend across low-lying coastal strips, narrow peninsulas and the tidal flats at Gruinart on Islay and the coastal margin backing Machrihanish Bay on the Kintyre peninsula.

No sensitivity assessment was carried out on the Island of Tiree, as this was not required by the study brief.

Operational and consented wind farm development
No operational wind turbines were noted within this character type during field work. The operational wind farms of Tangy and Beinn a Tuirc, located within the Upland Forest Moor Mosaic on the Kintyre Peninsula, are visible from the area of Sand Dunes and Machair of Machrihanish Bay.
### Character Type 25: Sand-Dunes and Machair – Sensitivity assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
<th>Assessment of small-medium typology (35m-50m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
<th>Assessment of small typology (20m –35m)</th>
<th>Sensitivity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape context</strong></td>
<td>This type is located on the coast, combining sandy bays, tidal flats and long sandy beaches with dune systems which extend inland. Strongly influenced by the sea, these areas are backed by other lowlying but farmed hinterlands, which include Marginal Farmland Mosaic, Lowland Bog and Moor on Islay and Bay Farmland on Kintyre. The coastal edges, associated bays and inlets are visible from the sea, but tend to not be widely visible from other LCTs because of their low profile. Small and often very narrow in extent, there is often a distinct contrast between the sandy dunes and adjacent character types.</td>
<td>The extremely limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent landscape types, with which it strongly contrasts, and which have some limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the coastal setting and, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of wider context.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>The extremely limited, narrow, linear extent of this type severely limits scope to accommodate this typology without it impacting on the adjacent landscape types, with which it strongly contrasts, and which have some limited capacity in landscape terms to accommodate turbines of this size. Further contextual constraints include the coastal setting and, where sensitivity remains very high in terms of wider context.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale and openness</strong></td>
<td>This landscape is very low-lying and open. The relief is so low it is often negligible, with dunes creating some enclosure apparent when walking through them. The scale is dominated by a sense of horizontality, rather than any vertical forms, but the dunes themselves are also small features.</td>
<td>The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>The small extent of this character type would have difficulty accommodating this height of turbine without it becoming a dominant feature and diminishing the perceived sense of scale.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landform</strong></td>
<td>Coastal features, such as bays and low rocky peninsulas, tidal flats, sand dunes, some of which are still active, and occasional low rocky outcrops, create a landforms which range from interlocking dunes, indented shorelines, sandy beaches, bays, and rocky outcrops would be readily dominated by this size of structure.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>The interlocking dunes, indented shorelines, bays, and rocky outcrops would be readily dominated by this size of structure.</td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Landcover</strong></td>
<td>The vegetation is largely calcareous grassland and marram grass, some wet heath and improved grazing land. The relatively simple land cover may offer scope for this typology, as existing visual diversity of the vegetation is limited, although it is varied in texture.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The relatively simple land cover may offer scope for this typology, as existing visual diversity of the vegetation is limited, although it is varied in texture.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Built environment</strong></td>
<td>Settlement is limited to occasional farms, hotels and golf courses. The large buildings associated with the airport on Kintyre also influence the setting of this type. Settlement is sparse, but the extent of these areas is generally so small that this typology is likely to be inter-visible with buildings which would then be dominated by the size of this typology.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Settlement is sparse, but the extent of these areas is generally so small that this typology is likely to be inter-visible with buildings which could then be dominated by the size of this typology. This smaller typology would have less of an impact than the larger typologies.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceptual qualities</strong></td>
<td>These extensive areas of sandy bays, tidal flats and dunes, with their integrity relatively intact, are relatively natural in character, and can be experienced as secluded. The sense of naturalness is emphasised by the presence and dynamism of the sea and tides. The sandy coastlines are easily accessed by farm tracks. This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>This typology could affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness widely experienced across this area.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visual amenity</strong></td>
<td>Widespread views are limited, but these areas are popular for informal recreation, so are experienced close-hand. They are also visible from the sea. This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>This typology will be highly visible and views are likely to be sustained.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscape values</strong></td>
<td>The coastline of Islay is covered by an APQ which extends into this character Within the APQ, which only extends to the north-western corner of Islay,</td>
<td>High-med to Low</td>
<td>Within the APQ, which only extends to the north-western corner of Islay,</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
type along the north west corner of the island. The key qualities of this APQ include the range of coastal features, coastal setting and associated fine views, the relative seclusion of the coast and the semi-natural qualities associated with the lack of settlement and occasionally rugged terrain.

this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.

this typology could be highly visible and distract from the sense of remoteness and semi-natural qualities, visual drama and visual focus of the coast.
Character Type 25: Sand-Dunes and Machair

**Summary of sensitivity**
This character type is coastal, low-lying and combines stretches of sandy beach, tidal flats and low rocky outcrops with dunes, some of which are still active. They are very limited in extent, often simply narrow strips of coastline. Generally orientated to face the west, this type is exposed and open, with low wind swept vegetation. Accessible by farm tracks, and along the shoreline, these are popular areas for informal recreation, and can be secluded and semi-natural in character.

The Sand-Dunes and Machair (25) is open and very sparsely settled. Any development in these locations would easily impact on neighbouring types and dominate the small extent of the areas. The sense of naturalness, the diversity of the coast including fine stretches of sandy beach and the small extent of this area all combine to increase sensitivity. This landscape therefore has a **High** sensitivity to both the small-medium (35m -50m) and the small (20m-35m) typologies.

The Sand-Dunes and Machair (25) character type is only sparsely settled but they are popular recreation areas, so are highly visible. The openness of the landscape means that visibility is likely to be extensive and sustained. Visual sensitivity was concluded to be **High** for both the small-medium (35m – 50m) and the small (20m- 35m) typologies.

This landscape type is covered by an APQ on the north-western coastline of Islay and sensitivity in terms of landscape value would be **High-medium** where this designation applies.

**Cumulative issues**
There is little potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects to arise in the future because of severely limited scope for these typologies within these areas.

**Constraints**
- The small extent of these areas, which limits opportunities to site development without it impacting on the adjacent landscape types and which would be easily dominated by turbines
- The small scale of features such as the dunes and small inlets and bays
- The sense of naturalness and often seclusion experienced on the coast and the setting these areas provide to diverse wider seascapes
- The high visibility of these landscapes, which are open and popular for informal recreation

**Opportunities**
- The openness and relative simplicity of the vegetation type
- The lack of settlement within the character type, although it is recognised that development would have to take into account the setting of any settlement overlooking and adjacent to this type

**Guidance on development**
There is no scope to site these 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.
The sand dunes and machair are relatively accessible and used for informal recreation.

The intricacy of the coastal edge and views to islands.

The low profile and sparse vegetation cover offers views along the coast and to other character types.

Very occasional farms are sited on the periphery of this landscape.

Character Type 25: Sand Dunes and Machair