Offshore Wind Power Limited

West of Orkney Windfarm Offshore EIA Report Addendum

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Additional Information

West of Orkney Windfarm

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West of Orkney Windfarm

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary

Offshore Wind Power Limited (OWPL) ('the Applicant') submitted an application for consent of the offshore elements of the West of Orkney Windfarm ('the offshore Project') in September 2023, supported by an Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report ('the Offshore Application').

This document is an addendum to chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report and provides the additional information in response to the Additional Information Request and other relevant specific clarifications to address points raised by consultees. The document is supported by Appendices A – E, which provides an updated viewpoint assessment and supporting wirelines and visualisations. Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in the form of meetings and written correspondence to inform the additional information and has been referenced within this document as relevant.

Following the review of the Offshore Application and upon receipt of representations from consultees, Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) issued Additional Information Requests to the Applicant on 8th February 2024 and 8th April 2024. The following key topics were relevant to seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment:

- SLVIA must be based on a realistic worst case scenario;
- Provision of assessment of the Hoy and West Mainland National Scenic Area Special Landscape Quality "land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky";
- Where significant effects are identified, these should be resolved as far as possible through adequate consideration of mitigation options as part of the application process and not post-consent;
- Further information in the form of wirelines from Talmine Bay / Midtown and A836 above Coldbackie Bay to enable consideration on whether or not the integrity of the Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area would be affected; and
- Additional 360º wirelines from bays of Strathy, Armadale, Kirtomy, Swordly and Farr to enable consideration on whether the effects on the North Coast, both individually and cumulatively, would raise issues of National Interest.

The Highland Council (THC) also raised concerns regarding the impacts to seascape, landscape and visual receptors as stated within their interim advice (received 25th March 2024), which were largely consistent with the concerns outlined above in relation to impacts on receptors in Sutherland and along the north Coast of Scotland.

The SLVIA (chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment) in the Offshore EIA Report assessed a realistic worst case layout, which was based on an edge weighted layout approach. This therefore represents the greatest effect in terms of the proximity, scale, spread, density and prominence of the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) from receptors around the coast. Following further explanation of the rationale behind the layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report, NatureScot confirmed they were content that it was a realistic worst case layout (Workshop 1 held 26th February 2024).

During the site selection process for the Option Agreement Area (OAA) within the N1 Plan Option, the Project chose to maintain sightlines between mainland Scotland and the West Coast of Orkney, on the basis of advice from THC

and reflecting on the advice from NatureScot[1] regarding the N1 Plan Option Area. This mitigation, during site selection, resulted in only 56% of the N1 Option Area being selected for the OAA. Following the Additional Information requests and the concerns raised around impacts to sensitive seascape, landscape and visual receptors, additional mitigation has been identified in the form of Restricted Build Areas (RBAs). The RBAs reduce the area identified for turbine deployment in the OAA resulting in an Additional Information Layout. Additional design principles have also been developed for the Project. They have informed the Additional Information Layout and offer scope for further mitigation once further detailed Project design has been undertaken. The scope of the additional mitigation identified to date is influenced by a number of interrelated factors. The complex and challenging nature of the Project site (with regards to variable ground conditions and water depths) mean further mitigation, via turbine layout, can only take place once the Project has more geotechnical and seabed data and understand the site constraints fully. Also, it is not possible to reduce tip heights at present as commercial negotiations with turbine suppliers are currently underway and appropriate flexibility is required. Any further refinement in the OAA will adversely impact the effective usage of seabed to meet climate targets and any reduction in area must be assessed against this.

Considering this additional mitigation, the Applicant has reassessed certain receptors for which there were key concerns. The receptors are listed below and have been included, as agreed with NatureScot, THC and Orkney Islands Council (OIC), in order to address specific concerns raised:

- Landscape Designations:
  - Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area (NSA);
  - Hoy and West Mainland NSA (one Special Landscape Quality (SLQ) as requested by OIC);
  - Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness Special Landscape Area (SLA);
  - Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA; and
  - Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA.
- Seascape and Landscape:
  - Distinctive 'North Coast'.
- Visual Receptors:
  - North Coast 500 Tourist Route.

22 of the 28 SLVIA viewpoints have been reassessed with a detailed assessment focused on twelve viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Appendix A).

Whilst a number of significant effects currently remain as a result of the offshore Project, the overall bulk and scale of the wind farm has reduced from the OAA to the Additional Information Layout, with some reduction in the amount and extent of significant effects. Significant landscape and visual effects resulting from large-scale wind farm development are unavoidable and expected, as recognised by Policy 11 in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and the offshore Project has demonstrated sufficient mitigation at regular stages through the design process.

As noted above, post-consent design development will be informed by the design objectives to further mitigate the seascape, landscape and visual effects, as far as possible. This will include further discussions with NatureScot and other relevant stakeholders, as the Project progresses through detailed design. We reasonably expect these conversations can and will be managed as part of the consultation on our Development Specification and Layout Plan (DSLP)

[1] *Marine Scotland. Draft Sectoral Plan for Offshore Wind (Dec 2019) Supplementary Advice to SNH Consultation Response (25 March 2020). SNH Assessment of Potential Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts and Provision of Design Guidance Available at:*

https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2020-04/Sectoral%20Plan%20Consultation%20-%20SNH%20Landscape%20and%20Visual%20Impact%20Assessment%20and%20Design%20Guidance.pdf

1 INTRODUCTION

Offshore Wind Power Limited (OWPL) ('the Applicant') is proposing the development of the West of Orkney Windfarm ('the Project'), an Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), located at least 23.6 kilometres (km) from the north coast of Scotland and 28 km from the west coast of Hoy, Orkney.

The Applicant submitted an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and for Marine Licences under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to Scottish Ministers in September 2023 ("he Offshore Application") for the offshore components of the Project seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) ('the offshore Project'). The offshore Project will consist of Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and all infrastructure required to transmit the power generated by the WTGs to shore.

In accordance with relevant EIA Regulations[2], an Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report was submitted to Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) as part of the Applicant's Offshore Application. Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report provides the assessment of likely significant effects from the offshore Project on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, both from the offshore Project alone and also cumulatively with other projects, plans and activities, and from a whole Project perspective.

Following the review of the Offshore Application, and upon receipt of representations from consultees, MD-LOT issued Additional Information Requests to the Applicant on 8th February 2024 and on the 8th April 2024, requesting the reassessment of seascape, landscape and visual interests as follows:

- Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) must be based on a realistic worst case scenario;
- Provision of assessment of the Hoy and West Mainland National Scenic Area Special Landscape Quality "*land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky*";
- Where significant effects are identified, these should be resolved as far as possible through adequate consideration of mitigation options as part of the Offshore Application process and not post-consent;
- Further information in the form of wirelines from Talmine Bay / Midtown and A836 above Coldbackie Bay to enable consideration on whether or not the integrity of the Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area would be affected; and
- Additional 360° wirelines from bays of Strathy, Armadale, Kirtomy, Swordly and Farr to enable consideration on whether the effects on the North Coast, both individually and cumulatively, would raise issues of National Interest.

The Highland Council (THC) also raised concerns regarding the impacts to seascape, landscape and visual receptors as stated within their interim advice (received 25th March 2024). THC concerns were largely related to the potential landscape and visual impacts within the Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area (NSA) and the Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness, Eriboll East and Whiten Head and Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra Special Landscape Areas

[2] *The relevant EIA Regulations include the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007.*

(SLAs), and with respect to wider impacts on the character and experience of the North Coast. These have also been considered.

This document is an addendum to chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report and provides the additional information in response to the Additional Information Requests. This document has been produced by WSP. The document is supported by a number of Appendices as follows:

- Appendix A: Viewpoint Reassessment (Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22);
- Appendix B: NatureScot Viewpoint Visualisations (Photomontages for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Figures 1-12), and wirelines for the remaining SLVIA Viewpoints (3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 (Figure 13 a-p));
- Appendix C: A836 Sequential Route Assessment (Figure 14 a-g);
- Appendix D: Additional wirelines requested by NatureScot (Talmine Bay, A836 above Coldbackie Bay, Strathy Bay, Armadale Bay, Farr Bay, Kirtony Bay and Bay of Swordly (Figures 15-21)); and
- Appendix E: The Highland Council Visualisations (Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17 and 19 (Figures 22-30)).

Reference to the Appendices and figures have been provided throughout the document.

The relevant documents previously submitted as part of the Offshore EIA Report that should be read alongside this document are:

- Offshore EIA Report Volume 1 – Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment;
- Offshore EIA Report Volume 2 – Supporting Study 16: Viewpoint assessment;
- Offshore EIA Report Volume 2 – Supporting Study 17: ZTV and visualisations methodology;
- Offshore EIA Report Volume 2 – Supporting Study 18: Night-time lighting assessment;
- Offshore EIA Report Volume 2 – Supporting Study 19: SLVIA figures; and
- Offshore EIA Report Volume 2 – Supporting Study 20: SLVIA visualisations.

Stakeholder consultation was undertaken throughout the preparation of the Offshore EIA Report in relation to the SLVIA as outlined within section 18.3 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report. Consultation has continued following the submission of the Offshore Application and has been referenced within this document as relevant. The following meetings have been held:

- 26th February 2024 – NatureScot Workshop 1;
- 22nd April 2024 – Meeting with THC;
- 30th April 2024 - NatureScot and THC Workshop 2;
- 8th May 2024 - Meeting with OIC; and
- 1st August 2024 – Meeting with THC.

Consultation has focused upon addressing the key matters mentioned above and listed in section 3. It has been agreed with NatureScot that the scope of this Additional Information will provide the necessary information to make an informed decision.

A further letter was issued to NatureScot on 4th July 2024 setting out the reasoning on the extent of additional mitigation proposed as part of this Additional Information.

2 STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been structured as follows:

- Section 3 – summary of the Additional Information Request;
- Section 4 – additional information in response to the requests outlined in section 3;
- Section 5 – summary and conclusions;
- Section 6 – references; and
- Section 7 – acronyms
- Appendix A: Viewpoint Reassessment (Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22);
- Appendix B: NatureScot Viewpoint Visualisations (Photomontages for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Figures 1-12), and wirelines for the remaining SLVIA Viewpoints (3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 (Figure 13 a-p)) ;
- Appendix C: A836 Sequential Route Assessment (Figure 14 a-g);
- Appendix D: Additional wirelines requested by NatureScot (Talmine Bay, A836 above Coldbackie Bay, Strathy Bay, Armadale Bay, Farr Bay, Kirtony Bay and Bay of Swordly (Figures 15-21)); and
- Appendix E: The Highland Council Visualisations (Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17 and 19 (Figures 22-30)).

3 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MD-LOT requested that further assessment and mitigation be submitted in line with the representations from NatureScot and Orkney Islands Council (OIC) to the Offshore EIA. A summary of the key points raised by MD-LOT, NatureScot and OIC in relation to the SLVIA are presented in Table 3-1, along with a response where suitable or cross references where further information has been provided within this document.

THC also raised concerns regarding the impacts to seascape, landscape and visual within their interim advice (received 25th March 2024). These interim concerns have also been addressed within this document, as set out in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1 MD-LOT, NatureScot, OIC and THC request for additional information relevant to SLVIA

REQUEST	RESPONSE
MD-LOT and NatureScot requested that the SLVIA must be based on a realistic worst case scenario.	The worst case scenario for the SLVIA, is presented in section 18.5.5 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report. Further reasoning on how the worst case scenario utilised is considered to be realistic was discussed and agreed during consultation with NatureScot and MD-LOT in February 2024. The further reasoning is summarised in section 4 for completeness. In summary, through subsequent consultation, NatureScot have confirmed that the SLVIA presented in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, of the Offshore EIA Report ***is*** based on a realistic worst case scenario.
MD-LOT and NatureScot requested that where significant effects are identified, these are resolved as far as possible through adequate consideration of mitigation options as part of the application process and not post-consent. **OIC also raised that secondary mitigation was welcomed to reduce the levels of effects on important landscape / visitor receptors.**	The assessment of effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors (chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report) has predicted effects resulting from the presence of the offshore Project ranging from Negligible to Major / Moderate. The assessment has been based upon the worst case scenario and it is anticipated that effects will be less than predicted. No receptor has been assessed as having a Major level of effect. Mitigation for offshore windfarm impacts to seascape, landscape and visual receptors is generally limited to the reduction of potential effects through detailed layout design. Following discussions with MD-LOT, NatureScot, OIC and THC, further mitigation has been identified to reduce impacts to seascape, landscape and visual receptors, where possible. A reassessment and comparative assessment have been completed to demonstrate how this mitigation has altered the conclusions of the SLVIA. The mitigation, reassessment and comparative assessment are provided within section 4 and Appendix A, and supported by visualisations and wirelines in Appendices B to E. It is noted that the mitigation process will continue into the post-consent stage of the Project. The development of the Development Specification and Layout Plan (DSLP) will involve an iterative design process and will

REQUEST	RESPONSE
	confirm that the design and layout parameters of the offshore Project align with those consented, as described in section 4.1.3.
THC raised concerns through interim advice regarding the scale of the turbines and horizontal spread of the array. These concerns raised related most strongly to the potential landscape and visual impacts within the Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area (NSA) and the Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness, Eriboll East and Whiten Head and Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). THC also raised concerns on the wider impacts on the character and experience of the North Coast land and seascape, especially with respect to receptors travelling on the NC500 / A836 route.	The concerns raised by THC have been considered as part of the development of further mitigation that has been identified to reduce impacts to seascape, landscape and visual receptors, where possible. A reassessment and comparative assessment have been completed to demonstrate how this mitigation has altered the conclusions of the SLVIA, in section 4.2 - 4.5. This is based on the mitigation set out in section 4.1.2. The reassessment has been supported by updated visualisations and wirelines (Appendix B NatureScot Visualisations, Appendix C A836 Sequential Route Assessment and Appendix E THC Visualisations) and additional wirelines (Appendix D Additional Viewpoints Requested By NatureScot).
MD-LOT and OIC requested assessment of the Hoy and West Mainland National Scenic Area Special Landscape Quality *"land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky"*	The assessment requested is provided within section 4.2. The assessment has considered the additional mitigation outlined within section 4.1.2.
MD-LOT and NatureScot requested submission of further information in the form of wirelines from Talmine Bay / Midtown and A836 above Coldbackie Bay to enable consideration on whether or not the integrity of the Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area would be affected	The additional wirelines requested have been provided within Appendix D which has further informed the assessment on the SLQs and integrity of the Kyle of Tongue NSA in section 4.2.1.1. The assessment has concluded that there would be significant effects on two SLQs of the NSA, however, the overall objectives of the NSA and its integrity would not be significantly affected by the offshore Project.
MD-LOT and NatureScot requested additional 360° wirelines from bays of Strathy, Armadale, Kirtomy, Swordly and Farr to enable consideration on whether the effects on the North Coast, both individually and cumulatively, would raise issues of National Interest	The additional 360° wirelines requested have been provided within Appendix D which has further informed the assessment on the North Coast in section 4.2.2.2. The assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the distinctive 'North Coast' landscape as a result of the offshore Project.

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 Realistic worst case scenario

The SLVIA (chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment) in the Offshore EIA Report assessed a realistic worst case layout, which was based on an edge weighted layout approach. This therefore represents the greatest effect in terms of the proximity, scale, spread, density and prominence of the WTG from receptors around the coast. The layout that was assessed in the Offshore EIA Report represented a realistic worst case, informed by technical studies, including landscape and visual impact assessment. This was agreed with NatureScot through consultation (Workshop 1 held 26th February 2024).

4.1.1 Site selection process

Mitigation for windfarms is generally limited to the reduction of potential direct effects through detailed siting, and the reduction in adverse aesthetic effects through windfarm design. This is made clear in '*Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape*' (SNH, 2017). The Sectoral Marine Plan (SMP) identified areas suitable for the future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland (The Scottish Government, 2020). The SMP process was iterative, informed through stakeholder engagement and evidence from the related social, economic and environmental assessments, and considered seascape, landscape and visual receptors at a strategic level.

The selection of the Option Agreement Area (OAA) and the offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) route options were an important step in the preparation of the ScotWind bid application to Crown Estate Scotland (CES) and considerable work was done ahead of the bid application to define these areas. Consideration of seascape, landscape and visual receptors informed the selection of the OAA, which in particular involved the following embedded landscape and visual mitigation:

- The southern boundary of the N1 Option Area (OA) was reduced from 40 km down to 17 km, which significantly reduced the Horizontal Field of view (HFoV) occupied by the closest turbines in views from Sutherland;
- The extent of the N1 OA was reduced in the south east corner by approximately 9 km to maintain a distance of approximately 6 km from the north east coast of Sutherland and considerably reduced the magnitude of change on the Caithness coast. This reduction also moved turbines further from the west coast of Hoy;
- The south east corner of the N1 OA area and eastern edge were also reduced to maintain the sightline between mainland Scotland and the west coast of Orkney (see chapter 4: Site selection & consideration of alternatives of the Offshore EIA Report for further information and Figure 4-1 overleaf). Maintenance of this sightline was something requested by THC in the pre-application advice received by the Applicant ahead of their ScotWind bid application;
- The reduction of the south east and south west extents also helped to minimise the overlap with key areas, highlighted by the NatureScot (at the time Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)) Assessment of Potential Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts and Provision of Design Guidance, likely to be affected by two or more landscape / visual constraints (SNH, 2020) (see Figure 4-2, NatureScot orange constraint zones which relate to sensitivities from Cape Wrath and the Kyle of Tongue, the North Coast, and Hoy and the West Mainland of Orkney);
- The OAA has a far more articulated boundary than the original N1 Plan Option (PO) area which significantly reduced the southern and eastern edges in order to reduce the Horizontal Field of View (HFoV) occupied by the

closest WTGs, as viewed from the coasts of Caithness and Mainland of Orkney and the more sensitive areas, such as the Kyle of Tongue, Rackwick Bay and Hoy; and

- A small reduction in the north eastern corner to set WTGs approximately 9 km further away from the north-western coast of the Mainland of Orkney when compared to the original N1 OA.

Other constraints were also considered in the selection of the OAA. Overall, the embedded mitigation in the site selection process resulted in an OAA that is 56% of the total N1 PO area, as illustrated by Figure 4-1.

Since the Project design is dependent on site constraints, the detailed design can only take place post-consent once all the data has been gathered (including seabed surveys and based on the location of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and boulders). Therefore, design mitigation relating to the final layout cannot be adopted at this stage. The final design of the offshore Project will be confirmed through detailed engineering design studies that will be undertaken post-consent, including the development of the ground model which will be informed by the results of geotechnical investigations of the OAA which are still to be undertaken. Detailed siting of the WTGs will be driven by a range of physical and environmental constraints including localised geological conditions, bathymetry, ecology, aviation, navigation, wind resource, and marine archaeology, as well as SLVIA design principles. Detailed design of the aviation and navigation lighting would also take place post-consent, in line with the requirements of the relevant statutory authorities.

The final design, including WTG layout will be captured in the Development Specification and Layout Plan (DSLP) which will be developed via an iterative design process, which will include landscape and visual considerations, in consultation with relevant stakeholders (see section 18.11, chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report for further information).

4.1.2 Additional mitigation / design development

Further to the consultation responses and workshops with NatureScot, THC and OIC, additional design principles have been developed to create a refined SLVIA Envelope, referred to as the Additional Information Layout.

A letter was issued to NatureScot on 4th July 2024 setting out the reasoning on the extent of additional mitigation proposed as part of this Additional Information.

As per the original embedded mitigation, the additional design principles are based on the key assessment criteria of field of view; proximity / distance; and bulk and scale:

- 'Field of view' – The Horizontal Field of View (HFoV) that is affected by the 'lateral spread' of the turbines is one of the key parameters that determines the magnitude of change to views and perceived character. Generally, the less HFoV that is affected, the lower the magnitude of change and resulting effects will be, i.e. if the turbines cover just a narrow part of an open, expansive and wide view, the magnitude of change is likely to be reduced as the WTGs will not affect the whole open part of the outlook. This can in part be described objectively by reference to the HFoV affected, relative to the extent and proportion of the available view;

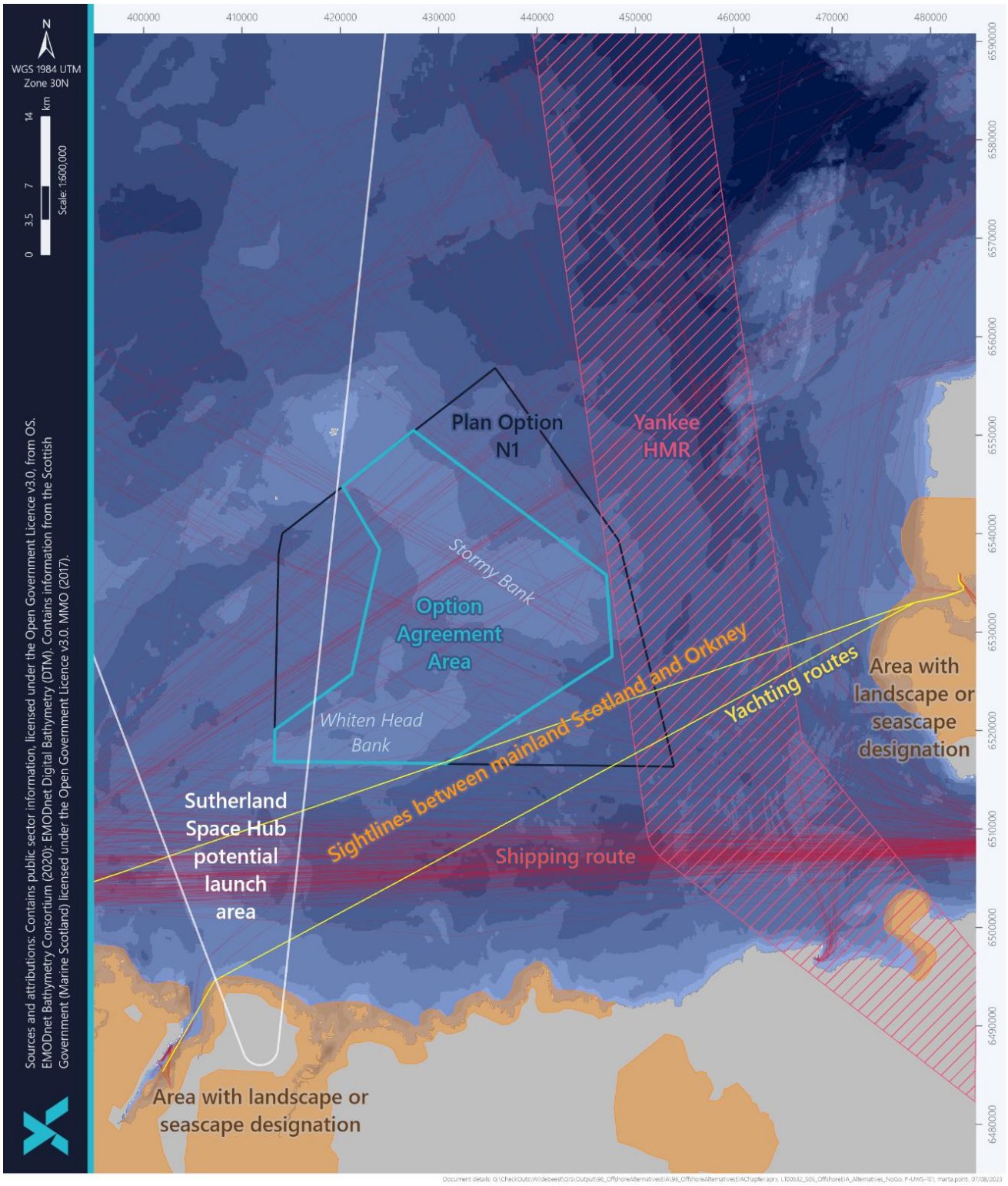

Figure 4-1 Key constraints considered when refining the N1 PO to the OAA pre ScotWind bid application

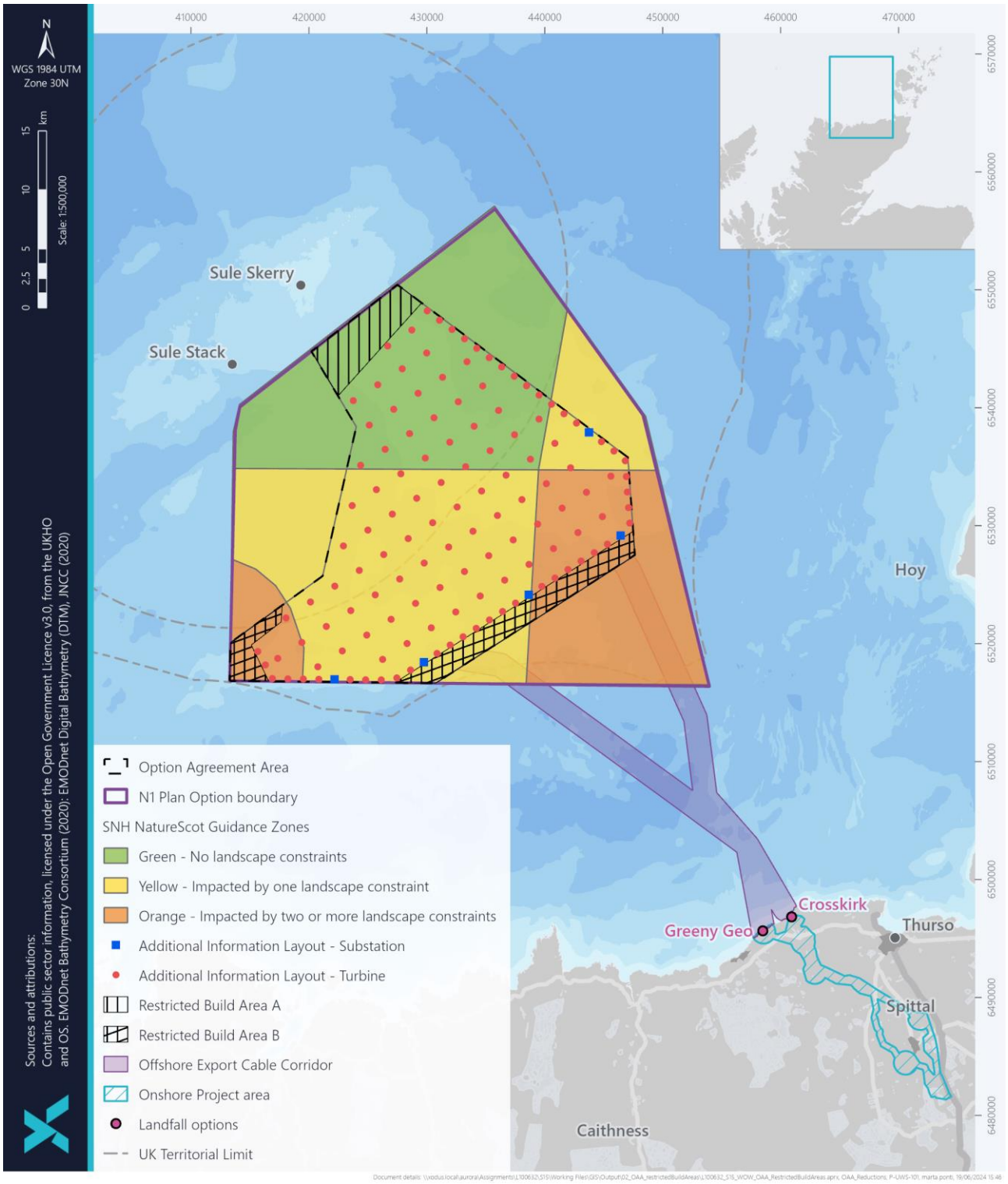

Figure 4-2 OAA Restricted Build Areas and NatureScot constraint zones (SNH, 2020) [3]

[3] *RBA-A has been developed in relation to shipping and navigation receptors. See Shipping and Navigation Additional Information*

- 'Proximity/ Distance' - The distance between the receptor (e.g. viewpoint or designated landscape) and the WTGs is also one of the main parameters that determines the magnitude of change to views and perceived character. Generally, the greater the distance the WTGs are offshore, the lower the magnitude of change is likely to be, as more distant WTGs will constitute a smaller scale component of the view, while WTGs located at closer proximity will have a larger apparent scale (all other things being equal); and
- 'Bulk and Scale' – The bulk and scale of the WTGs and their arrangement within the site boundary can influence the perception of bulk and scale, including the perception of stacking and/or outliers. Attention to WTG stacking and outliers will also inform the detailed design stage.

A Restricted Build Area (RBA) has been developed, RBA-B, which is an area in which no WTGs forming part of the offshore Project will be erected (see Figure 4-2). These RBAs reduce the extent of the field of view from the Kyle of Tongue NSA and viewpoints along the North Coast of the Scottish mainland and the west coast of Orkney. As such an Additional Information Layout, taking the RBA into account has been developed in order to mitigate the likely landscape and visual effects on sensitive receptors. The RBA-B will be implemented through the following proposed consent condition:

- (a) no wind turbine generator forming part of the Development shall be erected; and
- (b) unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Scottish Ministers following consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, no offshore substation platform or met-ocean measuring equipment forming part of the Development shall be erected

A further RBA, RBA-A, has been developed in relation to shipping and navigation receptors (see Shipping and Navigation Additional Information and Introduction to Additional Information for further information).

The Additional Information Layout has been informed by the following additional design principles, which will also inform the detailed design stage:

- A reduction of the horizontal extent (lateral spread) of WTG in relation to the Rabbit Islands / Kyle of Tongue NSA and the indented bays of the North Coast (specifically Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA). This largely reduces the presence of WTGs within the OAA's south west corner within the NatureScot orange constraint zone (see Figure 4-2) and reduces the HFoV of the closest WTGs;
- The distance of the closest WTGs has been increased from the most sensitive areas of coastline, including the Kyle of Tongue NSA and North Coast SLAs. This increased distance reduces the apparent height of the WTGs in order to further reduce the overall effects from the coastline, including views from the North Coast 500 (NC500) Route;
- WTGs have been removed from the south east boundary, partially within NatureScot orange constraint zone (see Figure 4-2), to reduce the HFoV and apparent height of the WTGs when viewed from the north east coast of Sutherland and to further reduce effects on the Caithness Coast;
- The Additional Information layout has been developed to create a well-balanced and cohesive array, avoiding multiple stacking rows and eye-catching outliers formed by the closest WTGs;
- WTG layout to be designed in coherent blocks, balanced against shipping and navigation (safety) issues and wake effects; and
- Where possible, further parts of the OAA in the north and west to be utilised to further reduce effects on the North Coast and Hoy.

As illustrated by Figure 4-2, the Additional Information Layout reduces the lateral extent of WTGs along the southern and eastern edges by setting back the Additional Information Layout by approximately 3 km from the south west corner of the OAA; by approximately 1.1 km on the south eastern edge of the OAA; and by approximately 2.6 km from the north west corner of the OAA. The Additional Information Layout reduces the extent of WTGs within the south west and south east NatureScot orange constraint zones (see Figure 4-2).

Overall, the Additional Information Layout reduces the OAA by 87.4 km^2 from 656.3 km^2 to 568.9 km^2 (13% of the OAA). The Additional Information Layout avoids 64% of the southwest NatureScot orange constraint zone and 73% of the south east NatureScot orange constraint zone as illustrated by Figure 4-2. The Additional Information Layout forms the realistic worst case scenario for the SLVIA for which the reassessment of seascape, landscape and visual receptors is based on (see section 4.2 - 4.5).

The scope for landscape and visual mitigation that has informed the development of the Additional Information Layout is limited by a number of interrelated factors:

- The Project site is complex and challenging in terms of variable ground conditions and water depths so the Project must retain some flexibility within the remaining OAA to ensure a deliverable Project;
- During conceptual design, site surveys, geotechnical engineering and design studies identified the developable area within the OAA and the south west area over the Whiten Head Bank was identified as having high development potential. Removal of the entire SW orange area (see Figure 4-2) identified by NatureScot would reduce the developable area of Whiten Head Bank by 20%;
- Further mitigation, via turbine layout, can only take place once we have more geotechnical and seabed data and therefore understand the site constraints fully;
- Any further refinement in the OAA will adversely impact the effective usage of seabed to meet climate targets and any reduction in area must be assessed against this; and
- It is not possible to reduce tip heights at present as commercial negotiations with turbine suppliers are currently underway and appropriate flexibility is required.

4.1.3 Post-consent

It is acknowledged that traditional methods of landscape and visual mitigation, such as screen planting, are ineffective for offshore windfarm development. Mitigation for windfarms is generally limited to the reduction of potential effects through detailed layout design. As such secondary mitigation will be implemented in the form of the iterative design process during the post-consent development of the DSLP (see Figure 4-3). The overall objective of the DSLP will be to set out the final design and layout parameters associated with the final design of the offshore Project. The DSLP will confirm that the design and layout parameters of the offshore Project align with those consented.

Post-consent, additional pre-construction surveys and site investigations will be completed (as per chapter 5: Project description of the Offshore EIA Report). This will allow the development of the ground model and further engineering studies to progress. The results of the pre-construction surveys will be shared with MD-LOT and relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) (as well as the relevant Local Planning Authorities), and the implications on the Project design discussed, including the consideration of key SLVIA receptors as well as other constraints such as shipping and navigation. Following consultation, the final design of the offshore Project will be set out within the

DSLP which will require to be submitted to and approved by the Scottish Ministers in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

The DSLP(s) will present information on:

- Layout and specification of WTGs– spacing, dimensions, identification / numbering, co-ordinates, generating output, finishes, foundation type, bathymetry and seabed conditions, key constraints;
- Inter-array cables length and arrangement;
- OSP layout and specification – finishes, foundation type, bathymetry and seabed conditions, key constraints;
- Interconnector cables length and arrangement; and
- Export cables length and proposed arrangement.

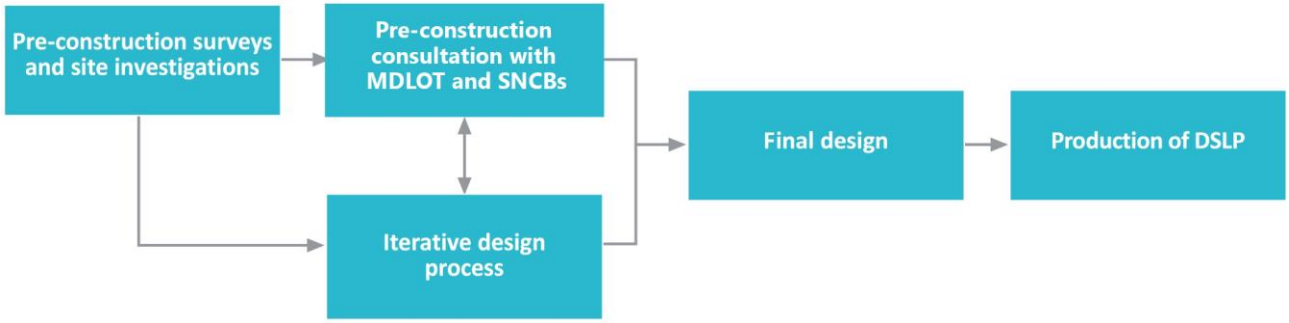

Figure 4-3 Development process for the production of the DSLP post-consent

Certain design objectives have been identified at this stage, based on the key assessment criteria of field of view, proximity / distance, and bulk and scale. At the detailed design level, the following design objectives / principles will be considered when refining the final layout:

- Visually balanced layout;
- Avoidance of any outliers (WTGs or OSPs etc.);
- Off-set grid pattern preferred over a regular grid;
- Avoid splitting the array - one larger array preferred over two or more independently appearing developments;
- Regular spacing between WTGs and other structures preferred;
- Locate associated infrastructure and platforms within the overall array rather than on the outer edges; and
- Minimum spacing requirements used to reduce overall footprint and spread of WTGs.

The mitigation of seascape, landscape and visual effects will continue through the post-consent design process which is anticipated to reduce the overall levels of the identified effects.

4.2 Reassessment of potential seascape and landscape effects during operation and maintenance based on Additional Information Layout

Following the implementation of the additional mitigation presented in section 4.1.2, the below receptors have been reassessed, as agreed with NatureScot, THC and OIC during consultation, as noted in section 3. These receptors have been included specifically to address the concerns raised by NatureScot, THC and OIC in relation to effects from Sutherland including the North Coast and Kyle of Tongue NSA and the Hoy and West Mainland NSA in Orkney. It was agreed by NatureScot, THC and OIC that the focus of the assessment should be on:

- Landscape Designations:
  - Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area (NSA);
  - Hoy and West Mainland NSA (one Special Landscape Quality (SLQ) as requested by OIC);
  - Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness Special Landscape Area (SLA);
  - Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA; and
  - Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA.
- Seascape and Landscape:
  - Distinctive 'North Coast'.
- Visual Receptors:
  - North Coast 500 Tourist Route.

In addition, 22 of the 28 SLVIA viewpoints have been reassessed with a detailed assessment focused on twelve viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Appendix A).

All other receptors are excluded from reassessment as agreed with NatureScot and THC. All the concerns raised, relate to the presence of the offshore Project and relate to impacts during the operation and maintenance stage. Therefore, no further consideration has been provided to the construction and decommissioning stages.

The reassessment has been undertaken in line with the methodology outlined within section 18.5 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report. Sensitivity is defined within section 18.5.3.3, magnitude within section 18.5.3.4, cumulative magnitude of change in section 18.5.3.5, and level of effect and significance of effect in section 18.5.3.6.

4.2.1 Effects on landscape designations

4.2.1.1 Effects on Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area Special Landscape Qualities

The Kyle of Tongue NSA is located 24.5 km south of the offshore Project at its closest point. Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report assesses the effects of the offshore Project on three of the Kyle of Tongue NSA SLQs and identified significant effects on the SLQs *"scale – from domestic to monumental"* and *"rich variety of coastal scenery"*, with a High-Medium magnitude of change and Major / Moderate landscape effect likely to occur (see section 18.6.2.6.2 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment). The offshore Project was assessed as mainly affecting the northern coastline including the seaward views from Torrisdale Bay, with respect to the SLQ *"rich variety of coastal scenery"*.

NatureScot believe that effects on the *"rich variety of coastal scenery"* SLQ, are likely to be more extensive than just Torrisdale Bay, affecting the perceptual experience of the transition from the inner sheltered Kyle to the outer exposed Kyle; and are likely to be most profound when experienced in combination with the loss of expansiveness of the seascape north from the small scale crofting communities, affecting SLQ *"scale – from domestic to monumental"*.

NatureScot requested additional visualisations to enable the extent of the effects on the perceptual qualities of the SLQs to be determined. Viewpoints 2, 5 and 17 (Appendix B Figure 2 a-h, Figure 4 a-f and Figure 8 a-f) are located within the NSA and updated visualisations have been prepared based on the Additional Information Layout, which seeks to reduce the likely effects on the NSA (Appendix B and Appendix E). Noting that Viewpoint 2 (Figure 2 a-h) is more relevant to the North Coast. Updated wirelines have been prepared for the A836 Sequential Route Assessment, with Sequential Viewpoints 1 and 3 located within the NSA (Appendix C Figure 14 a-g). Additional wirelines have been provided, illustrating views from Talmine Bay and the A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Figure 15 a-b Talmine Bay – Midtown and Figure 16a-b A836 above Coldbackie Bay, Appendix D).

Reference should also be made to chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report for Stages 1 and 2 of the NSA assessment, which provide the description of the NSA and a summary of the SLQs and considers the study area and SLQs selected for assessment, which have not been repeated in this Additional Information. Based on the Additional Information Layout and the additional visualisations (Appendix B and Appendix E) and wirelines (Appendix D) provided, the effects on SLQ *"scale – from domestic to monumental"* and *"rich variety of coastal scenery"* have been reassessed below, as requested by NatureScot.

4.2.1.1.1 Stage 3: NSA assessment

SLQ 2[4]: Scale, from domestic to monumental.

The SNH Commissioned Report No.374 (SNH, 2010), further describes this special quality as follows:

"*The small domestic scale of crofting and other activity around the coastal shores contrasts markedly with the monumental outer landscape presented by the mountains to the south and the open ocean to the north.*"

The relevant component of this SLQ is the 'scale' of the coastal crofting activities with those of the mountains to the south and open ocean to the north.

The sensitivity of this SLQ is assessed as High (as stated within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, section 18.6.2.6.2). This has been derived from the high value of the NSA designation and the high susceptibility of this SLQ to change. The susceptibility of the SLQ has been assessed as high due to the perceived scale of the settled coast and the incised interior of the Kyle where size indicators and a pattern of smaller scale landform is evident.

The offshore Project would come into views along the shores of the Kyle of Tongue at around 25 km distance. From elevated locations on both sides of the loch, the offshore Project would appear at the broad mouth of the Kyle where

[4]NatureScot have referred to this SLQ as SLQ 3 in Appendix B of their consultation response, dated 13/12/2023.

a scattering of islands mirror the landform of the rocky coastal promontories and mark the transition from open ocean in the north to the coastal crofting activities along the shore to the monumental scale of the mountains further to the south. This 60-degree open sea horizon would be halfway filled by the offshore Project, in between small islands, as illustrated by Figure 15 a-b Talmine Bay and Figure 16 a-b A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Appendix D). The open ocean to the north features as the special quality of monumental scale contrasting with the small-scale coastal shores. The offshore Project would to a degree contrast with the 'scale' of the settled coast with the open ocean and the incised interior of the Kyle.

Figure 8 a-e Viewpoint 17: Kyle of Tongue – A838 Causeway (Appendix B) illustrates the view from the sheltered, inner Kyle. Views of the offshore Project from within the middle and inner Kyle including from much of Midtown and the causeway would be very limited to negligible. The Additional Information Layout reduces the number of WTGs visible from the causeway, and slightly reduces the extent to which they are visible above and beyond the mainland and Rabbit Islands.

The loss of expansiveness of the seascape north from the small scale crofting communities is likely to be limited east of Skullomie and west of Torrisdale, due to the enclosure provided by the surrounding landform and the surrounding isles.

Overall, the magnitude of change of the offshore Project affecting this SLQ would be Medium and the level of landscape effect on this SLQ would be Major / Moderate and Significant in EIA terms, predominantly affecting the NSA around Torrisdale Bay and the outer coast of the Kyle of Tongue, where there are views out towards the open ocean. The nature of this effect would be indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse. Whilst the scale of the offshore Project has been reduced this effect remains Significant as was concluded within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

SLQ 3[5]: Rich variety of coastal scenery.

The SNH Commissioned Report No.374 (SNH, 2010) further describes this special quality as follows:

"From the sheltered Kyle to islands exposed to the full force of the ocean, the area exhibits a rich variety of coastal scenery. This includes both soft landscapes of sand and mud and harder landscapes of rock and cliff.

One of the highlights of the north coast is the long, sandy Torrisdale Bay."

The relevant component of this SLQ is the 'long, sandy Torrisdale Bay' noted as a highlight of the north coast, although this SLQ is experienced along the coastal landscape of the NSA.

The sensitivity of this SLQ is assessed as High (as stated within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, section 18.6.2.6.2). This has been derived from the high value of the NSA designation and the high susceptibility of this SLQ to change.

[5] *NatureScot have referred to this SLQ as SLQ 5 in Appendix B of their consultation response, dated 13/12/2023.*

One of the rich variety of features of coastal scenery is the long, sandy Torrisdale Bay, which is represented by Figure 4a-e Viewpoint 5: Torrisdale Bay (Appendix B), where the closest WTG is at 29 km and the HFoV occupied by WTGs would be 36 degrees (reduced from 44 degrees by the mitigation outlined in section 4.1.2) out of the visible 60 degrees of the sea horizon. Although the WTGs would be seen as distant features in comparison with the scale of the coastal landform and cliffs, they would be discernible across the open sea horizon resulting in High-Medium magnitude of change. The WTGs would appear in wide views across the open sea horizon and contrast with the visual composition of sky, sea and land to the north.

In relation to the coastal scenery along the northern coastline, the offshore Project would appear at the broad mouth of the Kyle where a scattering of islands mirror the landform of the rocky coastal promontories and mark the transition from open sea to sheltered Kyle in the south. This 60-degree open sea horizon would be halfway filled by the offshore Project, in between small islands, as illustrated by Figure 15 a-b Talmine Bay and Figure 16 a-b A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Appendix D).

Effects on the *"full force of the ocean"* are likely to be more limited to the east of the outer coast of the Kyle of Tongue and west of Torrisdale Bay, due to the enclosure provided by the surrounding landform and the surrounding isles.

The magnitude of change of the offshore Project affecting this SLQ would be High-Medium (mainly along the northern coastline including the seaward views from Torrisdale Bay and the coast of the outer Kyle of Tongue) and the level of landscape effect on this SLQ would be Major / Moderate and Significant in EIA terms. The nature of this effect would be indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse. Whilst the scale of the offshore Project has been reduced this effect remains Significant as was concluded within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

4.2.1.1.2 Stage 4: Statement of significance

The offshore Project is not located within the Kyle of Tongue NSA, being 25 km from the nearest point of theoretical visibility within the NSA. In assessing the indirect effects of the offshore Project on the perceptual SLQs of the NSA the assessment has concluded that there would be Significant effects on parts of two SLQs – SLQ 2: *Scale, from domestic to monumental* and SLQ 3: *Rich variety of coastal scenery* (particularly in relation to Torrisdale Bay and the outer coast of the Kyle of Tongue). A summary of the SLQ assessment for the NSA scoped into this assessment is set out in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 SLQ Assessment for the Kyle of Tongue NSA

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE QUALITY	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Scale, from domestic to monumental	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
Rich variety of coastal scenery	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

There would be no significant effects on the remaining SLQs and the overall integrity of the NSA would not be compromised in landscape planning terms as set out in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), Policy 4. There would also be no significant effects on the overall objectives of the Kyle of Tongue NSA. In defining 'integrity' the assessment has drawn from the definition used by NatureScot's Commissioned Report No. 374 '*The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*' (SNH, 2010) which describes "*Authenticity and integrity expressed, for example, as areas of distinctiveness, sense of place, unspoilt character or historic environment*." In this assessment therefore the term 'integrity' refers to the degree to which perceptions such as distinctiveness, sense of place, and unspoilt character are expressed intact, across the NSA as a whole through its SLQs, reflecting the purpose or objectives of its designation.

It is acknowledged that the assessment has concluded that effects on two SLQs are potentially significant in EIA terms, however, the overall objectives of the NSA and its integrity would not be significantly affected by the offshore Project. Further information on the post consent design development and mitigation that will be implemented and offer scope for further management of impacts, is detailed in section 4.1.3.

4.2.1.2 Effects on Hoy and West Mainland NSA Special Landscape Qualities, including "land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky"

The Hoy and West Mainland NSA is located 26.8 km east of the offshore Project at its closest point. Viewpoints 21, 22, 24 and 25 (Figures 11a-e, 12a-e and 13l-m in Appendix B) are located within the NSA whilst Viewpoint 20 (Figure 10 a-e in Appendix B) is located just outside the NSA. Updated visualisations from Viewpoints 21 and 22 (Figures 11 a-e and 12 a-e in Appendix B) have been prepared based on the Additional Information Layout (Appendix B).

Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report assesses the effects of the offshore Project on three of the Hoy and West Mainland NSA SLQs – "*The spectacular coastal scenery, A landscape of contrasting curves and lines; and The high hills of Hoy*". All other SLQs were scoped out of the assessment.

OIC have requested that the SLQ "*land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky*" be assessed as they believe that the offshore Project may significantly affect the seascape elements of the NSA and should not have been scoped out in the original assessment. This Additional Information therefore assesses this SLQ, which is referred to as SLQ 4 to be consistent with the numbering of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, although NatureScot refers to it as SLQ eight of the eleven SLQs.

Reference should be made to chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report for Stages 1 and 2 and the Stage 3 assessment of the other SLQs that were scoped into the SLVIA assessment, which have not been repeated in this Additional Information. The assessment has been informed by the updated visualisations from Viewpoints 20, 21 and 22 (Figures 10 a-e, 11 a-e and 12 a-e in Appendix B).

4.2.1.2.1 Stage 3: NSA assessment

SLQ 4: Land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky

The SNH Commissioned Report No.374 (SNH, 2010) further describes this special quality as follows:

"Under the wide horizons, endless combinations of water, land, sea and sky can be experienced, varying both with location and the weather. Movement is brought to the landscape by the almost ceaseless wind, whether the scudding of clouds, the shafts of sunlight moving across the fields and moors, the patterns on the water, or long grass blowing in the wind."

The relevant component of this SLQ is the open Atlantic Ocean.

The sensitivity of this SLQ is assessed as High-Medium (as stated within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, section 18.6.2.6.2). This has been derived from the high value of the NSA designation and the Medium susceptibility of this SLQ to change given the endless combinations of water, land and sky that are experienced within the NSA.

The offshore Project would be visible over a minimum distance of 26.8 km from the NSA where there are views out across the open Atlantic Ocean. Where visible, the offshore Project introduces a new feature into the views, which range between framed views to expansive, open views, with a maximum of 19 degrees of the HFoV comprising the closest row of WTGs. The visibility of the offshore Project will be influenced by, and in some cases, emphasise, the varied locations and weather conditions.

Overall, the magnitude of change of the offshore Project affecting the overall '*land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky*'' would be Low and the level of landscape effect on this SLQ would be Moderate-Minor and Not Significant in EIA terms**.** The nature of this effect would be indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse.

4.2.1.2.2 Stage 4: Statement of Significance

The offshore Project is not located within the Hoy and West Mainland NSA, being 26.8 km from the nearest point of theoretical visibility within the NSA. In assessing the indirect effects of the offshore Project on the perceptual SLQs of the NSA the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on any of the SLQs or objectives of the Hoy and West Mainland NSA and its overall integrity would not be compromised in landscape planning terms as set out in NPF4, Policy 4. A summary of the SLQ assessment for the NSA that has been scoped into the assessment is set out in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2 SLQ Assessment for the Hoy and West Mainland NSA

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE QUALITY	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky	High-Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor

4.2.1.3 Effects on Highland Special Landscape Areas Special Qualities

4.2.1.3.1 Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness SLA

Represented by:

- Viewpoint 1 - Figure 1 a-f Viewpoint 1 Faraid Head (Appendix B).

Special qualities:

- Remote coastline;
- Geological and landscape diversity; and
- Singular geographic and landscape features.

The SLA although locally designated is indicative of High-Medium value as stated within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, section 18.6.2.6.1. One of its characteristics is seaward views, which vary along the coast with westward views to the Outer Hebrides and northwards views over the rough seas and strong currents of the Pentland Firth. This variety is heightened by shipping and boat activity. The landscape is of High susceptibility to windfarm development particularly due to the seaward views to the west and north over the rough seas and strong currents of the Pentland Firth. As a result, the sensitivity of the SLA is assessed as High.

The SLA is located 26.2 km at its closest point to the offshore Project, with the Additional Information Layout set back by an additional 0.7 km, with the HFoV reduced from 20 to 18 degrees. The western coast of the SLA, south of Cape Wrath is located outwith the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV). This includes Oldshoremore Bay, Sandwood Bay and Kearvaig Bay. Balnakeil Beach, Smoo Cave and Kyle of Durness are also outwith the ZTV. ZTV coverage is limited in parts along the northern section of the SLA from Cape Wrath to east of Durness. The offshore Project is not within the SLA so the physical integrity of the SLA as a whole would remain intact. The only potential for effects would occur as a result of intervisibility between the SLA and the offshore Project. There would be no effect on two of its three special qualities – this includes the *"geological and landscape diversity"* and *"singular geographic and landscape features."* As these particularly relate to physical characteristics and the offshore Project would not be visible from the majority of these features. In relation to the *"remote coastline"*, the offshore Project would not be visible from Oldshoremore, Kyle of Durness, Kearvaig and Balnakeil beaches and the dune systems, however, where visible from the outer edge of this coastline, the offshore Project would be visible as a distant feature within a marine environment across the vast open sea at over 26.2 km within a relatively narrow subtended angle of view, as illustrated by Viewpoint 1 (Appendix B Figure 1 a-f). The magnitude of change is therefore assessed as Medium-Low.

Evaluation of significance

Taking account of the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude, the level of effect is therefore assessed as Moderate and Not Significant in EIA terms. The nature of these effects would be indirect, long-term (reversible) and adverse. As the offshore Project would not compromise the simplicity of the scenic quality of this remote coastline or sense of wildness along the coast or the interior, the effects attributable to the offshore Project are considered localised and Not Significant.

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
High	Medium - Low	Moderate
Significance of Effect - NOT SIGNIFICANT		

4.2.1.3.2 Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA

Represented by:

- Viewpoint 4 Figure 3 a-f Viewpoint 4 Achininver Beach (Appendix B).

Special qualities:

- Striking geological and landscape contrasts;
- Striking views; and
- Sparse settlement and naturalness.

The SLA, although locally designated, is indicative of High-Medium value as stated within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, section 18.6.2.6.1. One of its characteristics is its dramatic framed views inland along the loch to the south-west and north towards the Atlantic. There is the perception of overriding sense of naturalness in this landscape. The landscape is of High susceptibility to windfarm development. As a result, the sensitivity of the SLA is assessed as High.

The SLA is located 23 km at its closest point to the offshore Project. ZTV coverage is intermittent along the eastern side of the loch with greater visibility along the northern end between Whiten Head and Achininver Beach.

The loch and its adjoining landforms create a series of framed views, both inland to the dramatic mountains of north Sutherland, and northwards to the open sea, which combine with foreground sheltered waters and rugged shorelines to form impressive visual compositions.

The offshore Project is not within the SLA so the physical integrity of the SLA as a whole would remain intact. The only potential for effects would occur as a result of intervisibility between the SLA and the offshore Project. There would be no effect on two of its three special qualities – this includes the *"striking geological and landscape contrasts"* and *"sparse settlement."* As these particularly relate to physical characteristics and the offshore Project would not be visible from the majority of these features with very limited visibility from the small settlement of East Strathan.

Visibility from the eastern side of the loch would be limited along the A838 close to the Loch Eriboll entrance, on the eastern side of the loch on the slope of Ben Arnaboll due to intervening landform, such that the offshore Project would only be partially visible and would not interrupt the *"framed views"* out to the Atlantic. The offshore Project would not introduce a visual foci which would compete with Eilean Choraidh or Ard Neackie, nor would it interrupt the linear flow of views along the length of the loch. It would not intervene in the "framed views" to the mountains in the adjacent North West Sutherland and Kyle of Tongue NSA.

However, visibility of the offshore Project would increase from the northern part of the SLA between Whiten Head and Achininver Beach where the WTGs would appear across the open aspect of the beach, which is formed by the sea horizon. The WTGs would not compete with the scale of the coastal landform in the view, but several blades would be seen above the low rocky coastal landform which forms the eastern side of the entrance to the beach. Whilst there would be a Significant visual effect at Achininver Beach, as demonstrated by Viewpoint 4 (Appendix B Figure 3 a-f), the magnitude of change on the special quality of *"striking views"* would be no greater than Medium - Low as the offshore Project will not affect *"framed views"* to the Atlantic from the northern part of the SLA, neither would it affect these views south-west towards the mountains.

Evaluation of significance

Taking account of the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude, the level of effect is therefore assessed as Moderate and Not Significant in EIA terms. The nature of these effects would be indirect, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

As the offshore Project won't affect *"framed views"* towards the Atlantic from the northern part of the SLA, and it would not affect views south-west towards the mountains, the overall effects upon the SLA are Not Significant.

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
High	Medium-Low	Moderate
Significance of Effect - NOT SIGNIFICANT		

4.2.1.3.3 Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA

Represented by:

- Viewpoint 6 Figure 5 a-g Viewpoint 6 Strathy Point (Appendix B);
- Viewpoint 7 Figure 6 a-e Viewpoint 7 Melvich Beach (Appendix B);
- Wireline from Strathy Bay Figure 17 a-d Strathy Bay (Appendix D);
- Wireline from Armadale Bay Figure 18 a-d Armadale Bay (Appendix D);
- Wireline from Farr Bay Figure 19 a-d Farr Bay (Appendix D);
- Wireline from Kirtomy Bay Figure 20 a-d Kirtomy Bay (Appendix D); and
- Wireline from Bay of Swordly Figure 21 a-d Bay of Swordly (Appendix D).

Special qualities:

- Dramatically intricate coastline and forceful sea;
- Moorland and crofting mosaic;

- Big skies and extensive views; and
- Historical dimension.

The SLA, although locally designated, is indicative of High-Medium value (as stated within section 18.6.2.6.1 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report,). One of its characteristics is its big skies and extensive views in fine weather including northwards across the sea to Orkney and along the coast to Cape Wrath and Dunnet Head. There are dramatic framed views inland along the loch to the south-west and north towards the Atlantic. However, the buildings and structures at Dounreay form prominent features in views from Strathy Point. The landscape is of High susceptibility to windfarm development. As a result, the sensitivity of the SLA is assessed as High.

The SLA is located 24.3 km at its closest point to the offshore Project. ZTV coverage is illustrated along much of the SLA. The offshore Project is not within the SLA so the physical integrity of the SLA as a whole would remain intact. The only potential for effects would occur as a result of intervisibility between the SLA and the offshore Project.

Views south to the inland mountains are a notable feature of this stretch of coast. The large scale of the landscape, combined with often rapidly changing weather and the distinctive coastal light, creates dynamic and dramatic visual effects. The immediate coastline is often not visible from the adjacent inland areas due to the convex nature of slopes and the vertical cliffs which screen views. Consequently, views tend to focus upon the waters of the Pentland Firth with its strong tides and currents which are clearly visible from many locations.

The offshore Project would not interrupt the linear nature and extensive views or compromise the intricate nature of the coast. There would be no effect on the *"moorland and crofting mosaic"* and *"dramatically intricate coastline and forceful seas"* special qualities. The setting of Borve Castle would also not be compromised as assessed in chapter 16: Marine archaeology and cultural heritage of the Offshore EIA Report. In relation to *"big skies and extensive views"*, due to the intervening distance, the offshore Project would not appear in views inappropriate in scale in relation to the domestic scale of existing buildings and settlements. It would not intervene in important views to the mountains within the Kyle of Tongue NSA to the south.

This SLA is closest to the offshore Project and positioned in line with the south-eastern corner of the OAA, thereby capturing WTGs both from the southern and south-eastern boundaries of the OAA and thereby presenting the widest HFoV occupied by WTGs of the offshore Project. However, the WTGs would appear within a vast (at least 180 degrees) open sea context, which accommodates offshore traffic. Whilst there would be a Significant visual effect at Strathy Point, for the reasons explained above, the overall magnitude of change on the special quality of *"big skies and extensive views"* would be no greater than Medium - Low.

With respect to the likely effect of the offshore Project on framed views from bays, the additional wirelines in Appendix D illustrate the nature of these views. Although the offshore Project presents the widest HFoV from this SLA, the visibility is generally reduced by the screening effect of landform on these framed views. The offshore Project is generally partially visible in these framed views, occupying no more than half the horizon on the open sea in views from Strathy, Farr and Kirtomy Bay. Combined / successive views of the offshore Project and the consented Pentland Floating and Hoy Community Windfarms are experienced from Strathy Bay, as illustrated by Figure 17 b (Appendix D).

Evaluation of significance

Taking account of the High sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude, the level of effect is therefore assessed as **Moderate** and **Not Significant** in EIA terms. The nature of these effects would be indirect, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

Due to the vast scale and elevated position of the coastal landform which allows the wind farm to appear more coherent in long distance views the effects attributable to the offshore Project are considered Not Significant.

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
High	Medium-Low	Moderate

Significance of Effect - NOT SIGNIFICANT

4.2.2 Effects on seascape and landscape

4.2.2.1 Viewpoint reassessment

The assessment of effects attributable to the offshore Project is informed by the representative viewpoints assessment, which should be read alongside the Visualisations (the photographs, wirelines and photomontages) supporting this Additional Information (Appendix B to Appendix E). As agreed through consultation with NatureScot, THC and OIC, a summary of the assessment for Viewpoints 1 to 22 has been provided based on the Additional Information Layout (see Table 4-3). Detailed assessments are only provided for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 17 and 19 (Caithness and Sutherland) and Viewpoints 20, 21 and 22 (Orkney), in Appendix A. For these viewpoints, a diagram has been produced showing the distance of the closest and furthest WTGs to the viewpoint alongside the HFoV occupied by the WTGs. The HFoV measures the angle in between WTGs, which are located at a distance up to 36 km from the viewpoint. As outlined within section 18.6.2.1.1 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, the selected threshold of a 36 km reflects field survey experience and the visibility studies of White Consultants and Newcastle University (2020), NRW (2019) and BEIS (2020), which explored the potential visual effects of wind WTGs of 20 megawatts (MW), finding that a Low magnitude of effects were likely beyond 35 km for large WTGs.

Table 4-3 Viewpoint (VP) reassessment: summary of effects of the offshore Project based on Additional Information Layout (significant effects are highlighted in bold and brackets). Cells highlighted with a thick black border indicate where rankings have reduced compared to the assessment presented in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, of the Offshore EIA Report

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE[6]
Sutherland & Caithness Viewpoints						
1	Faraid Head	28.69 km NE	18	High	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
2	Ben Hope	42.56 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Minor
3	A838 A'Moine	31.5 km N	6*	High to Medium	Low-Negligible	Minor
4	Achininver beach	26.4 km N	21	High	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
5	Torrisdale Bay	29 km N	36	High	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
6	Strathy Point	25.7 km NW	49	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
7	Melvich Beach	32.3 km N	36	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
8	Beinn Ratha	38.7 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Moderate

[6] *In some instances, significance has reduced with no reduction in impact magnitude. This is based on expert judgement.*

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE[6]
9	A836, Reay Kirk, Sandside Bay	36.41 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate
10	Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel	35.55 km NW	15	High	Low	Moderate / Minor
11	Ben Griam Beg Hillfort	51.6 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Negligible	Negligible
12	Dunnet Bay - at Caravan Park	46.5 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor
13	Dunnet Head	41.3 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Moderate
14	Castle of Mey LB & GDL	49.4 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor
15	St John's Point	50.7 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor
16	Beinn Freiceadain Hillfort	48.9 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor
17	Kyle of Tongue - A838 causeway	32.6 km N	n/a (blade tip visibility only)	High	Negligible	Negligible
18	A836 Between Thurso and Castletown	45.1 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE[6]
19	A836 Dounreay	36.1 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate
Orkney Viewpoints						
20	Scrabster-Stromness Ferry	26.5 km W	24	High-Medium	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
21	Rackwick Bay at Bothy bench	31.29 km W	7*	High	Medium-Low	Moderate (Significant)
22	Path to Old Man of Hoy	29.2 km W	20	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

**Extent of Horizontal Field of View occupied by offshore Project is limited by the screening effect of intervening landform.*

4.2.2.2 Effects on distinctive 'North Coast'

Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report assesses the likely effects on seascape / coastal character and landscape character based on published assessments. NatureScot have requested that an assessment of the distinctive 'North Coast' be assessed as a recognisable landscape with a strong sense of place, to understand the likely effect on this distinct combination of seascape / coastal and landscape character areas as a whole.

The Landscapes of Scotland map identifies a 20 km deep band of coastline described as Area 4: North Coast, which distinguishes between the North Coast landscape of Sutherland and the more managed and open farmed landscapes to the east in Caithness. This distinctive 'North Coast' has a repeated, intricate pattern of small scale bays, inlets and coast. The national and regional scenic value of the distinctive 'North Coast' is recognised by the Kyle of Tongue NSA, and Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness, Eriboll East and Whiten Head, and Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA designations, and is experienced along the NC500 route. NatureScot considers the distinctive 'North Coast' to be most clearly expressed in the eastern half of Area 4: North Coast of the Landscapes of Scotland, which extends from the Kyle of Tongue in the west to the east side of Melvich Bay.

Numerous regional landscape character types contribute to the repeated pattern of the distinctive 'North Coast':

- Sandy Beaches and Dunes Landscape Character Type (LCT);

- Coastal Crofts and Small Farms LCT;
- Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT;
- Sweeping Moorland and Flows LCT; and
- Lone Mountains LCT.

The distinctive 'North Coast' comprises the following Regional Coastal Character Areas (RCCA):

- RCCA Type 1: Remote High Cliffs; and
- RCCA Type 7: Kyles and Sea Lochs.

Visualisations and wirelines have been prepared to illustrate the Additional Information Layout from a range of representative viewpoints, these include:

- Appendix B: NatureScot Visualisations from Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and additional wirelines of remaining viewpoints (Figures 1-13);
- Appendix C: A836 Sequential Route Assessment (Figures 14 a-g);
- Appendix D: Additional Viewpoints requested by NatureScot from:
  - Talmine Bay – Midtown (Figure 15 a-b);
  - A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Figure 16 a-b);
  - Strathy Bay (360º) (Figure 17 a-d);
  - Armadale Bay (360º) (Figure 18 a-d);
  - Farr Bay (360º) (Figure 19 a-d);
  - Kirtomy Bay (360º) (Figure 20 a-d); and
  - Bay of Swordly (360º) (Figure 21 a-d).
- Appendix E: THC Visualisations illustrating visualisations as 50 mm and 75 mm single frame views for Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17 and 19 (Figures 22-30).

The coastline of the distinctive 'North Coast', which is most likely to be affected by the offshore Project is entirely within designated landscapes; and the NC500 is one of the main ways in which the distinctive 'North Coast' is experienced. Assessments of the likely effects on designated landscapes and on users of the NC500 are reassessed in section 4.2.1 and section 4.3.1, respectively.

As highlighted by NatureScot, the framed views from the highly scenic indented bays would be affected by the offshore Project, interrupting the experience of framed views of the simple horizon due to the introduction of man-made elements of a large scale into these views. Additional wirelines have been created from additional bays: Talmine Bay – Midtown, from the A836 above Coldbackie Bay and from Strathy, Armadale, Farr, Kirtomy Bays and the Bay of Swordly (Appendix D) in order to assess the potential effects on the perceptual qualities of the indented bays and low-lying coastline. Table 4-4 below summarises the viewpoint assessment based on the Additional Information Layout.

Table 4-4 Viewpoint assessment: additional wirelines from bays (significant effects are highlighted in bold and brackets)

APPENDIX D FIG REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	SENSITIVITY	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE
Sutherland & Caithness Viewpoints						
15a-b	Talmine Bay - Midtown	29.5 km N	22	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
16a-b	A836 above Coldbackie Bay	31.1 km N	21	High	Medium	Moderate
17a-d	Strathy Bay	28.8 km N	18	High	Medium	Moderate (Significant)
18a-d	Armadale Bay	28.1 km N	20	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
19a-d	Farr Bay	28.3 km NW	12	High	Low	Moderate
20a-d	Kirtomy Bay	27.3 km N	22	High	Medium	Moderate (Significant)
21a-d	Bay of Swordly	27.7 km N	23	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

As a whole, the distinctive 'North Coast' is a highly valued landscape, with most of the area designated as NSA and SLA and the landscape experienced from the promoted tourist route, the NC500. It is a highly diverse landscape with a scenic character and strong sense of naturalness and remoteness. Therefore, it is assessed as having high to High-Medium value.

The susceptibility of the distinctive 'North Coast' varies, with the elevated cliffs considered to have Medium-Low susceptibility to the type of development proposed, being open and exposed to the sea with an expansive sea horizon at 23.6 km distance at its closest point. The sheltered bays and inlets, and small islands, are assessed as having Medium-High susceptibility to the type of development proposed due to their intimate scale, with framed views of the sea and a simple horizon. Overall, the susceptibility of the distinctive 'North Coast' is considered to be Medium.

As a result, the sensitivity of the distinctive 'North Coast' is considered to be High-Medium.

The offshore Project is located outside the distinctive 'North Coast' character area, and therefore will not result in direct changes to the key characteristics. Where the offshore Project is seen from elevated locations, it will be perceived as part of the vast seascape. The offshore Project is located at a distance of at least 23.6 km from the distinctive 'North Coast' and therefore would appear distant in views, with the focus remaining on natural and man-made features such as coastal cliffs, offshore islands and lighthouses.

The offshore Project will have a greater effect on framed views from the indented bays, where there are few man-made artefacts within the view and there is a strong sense of seclusion. The offshore Project will introduce new manmade features into the views from the majority of the bays within Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA, part of the Kyle of Tongue NSA, including Torrisdale Bay and Talmine Bay / Midtown, which are in closer proximity to the offshore Project and generally have a greater HFoV influenced by the offshore Project.

WTGs would come into the framed views from the affected bays, over a distance of at least 27.3 km. Views of the WTGs would affect the simple horizon and introduce a new manmade element into the views, it would not introduce a visual foci that would compete with the main components of the framed views. The large scale of the offshore Project would be perceived as part of the vast seascape, rather than the intimate scale of the enclosed bays and sea lochs. The distance over which the offshore Project is seen will increase the impact of weather and changing light on the extent to which the WTGs are visible.

To the west of the Kyle of Durness, the offshore Project will not have an effect on the perceptual qualities of indented bays and the low-lying coastline.

Overall, the magnitude of change on the distinctive 'North Coast' landscape is considered to be Medium-Low.

Evaluation of significance

Taking account of the High-Medium sensitivity and Medium-Low magnitude, the level of effect is therefore assessed as Moderate and Not Significant in EIA terms. The nature of these effects would be indirect, long-term (reversible) and adverse.

Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
High-Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate

Significance of Effect - NOT SIGNIFICANT

4.3 Reassessment of potential visual effects during operation and maintenance based on Additional Information Layout

4.3.1 NC500 tourist route

NatureScot raised concerns regarding the potential effects of the offshore Project on the distinctive 'North Coast', and have requested additional information and mitigation measures to address significant impacts on the distinctive 'North Coast', including how it is experienced from the NC500, which is a popular route and a key way in which the distinctive 'North Coast' is experienced. As detailed in section 4.1.2, an Additional Information Layout has been developed to increase the distance between sensitive visual receptors and landscapes and the offshore Project; to reduce the HFoV occupied by the offshore Project and create a more clustered arrangement with a reduced impression of outliers. Revised visualisations, mapping and wirelines have been prepared (Appendix B to Appendix E) based on the Additional Information Layout. Figure 14 a and Figure 14 b - g illustrate the A836 Sequential Route Assessment (Appendix C), also based on the Additional Information Layout.

The route (the NC500) is orientated in a west-east direction, extending relatively close to the coastal edge off the north coast, where most views of the offshore Project (to the north-west or north-east and to the north), where visible, would be oblique to the direction of travel. The distinctive 'North Coast' section of the NC500 is generally considered to extend between the Kyle of Tongue and Melvich Bay.

Road users of the NC500 vary greatly, from people 'at work' or commuting, to local people and tourists who may be driving to a destination or who may be driving to enjoy the view. Road users are also travelling at speed and experience the landscape as a sequence of views, usually looking in one direction depending on their location in the vehicle and direction of travel. The drivers will be focused on the activity of driving and are likely to be less sensitive than the passengers. Both groups would be less sensitive than non-motorised receptors including residents, cyclists and walkers.

Table 4-5 Recreational routes on the coast of Sutherland and Caithness

ROUTE	DISTANCE / DIRECTION TO OFFSHORE PROJECT	DESCRIPTION OF MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
The North Coast 500 (overlapped with A838 and A836)	28.8 km N	Distinctive 'North Coast' - From Durness to Loch Eriboll the route (the A838) is in almost immediate proximity to the elevated coastal cliff. Despite its closeness to the coastal edge, much of the views of the sea from this section of the route are screened, however there are some open views along this 5 km stretch of route where the offshore Project would be visible on the sea horizon (Medium to Negligible magnitude). As the route travels around Loch Eriboll, visibility is mostly limited due to intervening landform. The route crossing of the A'Mhoine peninsula is represented by Viewpoint 3 (Figure 13 a, Appendix B), resulting in Low-Negligible magnitude of change. More than half of the route crossing the peninsula is outwith the ZTV. Crossing the Kyle of Tongue is represented by Viewpoint 17 (Figure 8 a-f, Appendix B and Figure 29 a-b, Appendix E) resulting in Low-Negligible magnitude of change. As the route passes through the settlement of Tongue, visibility is also limited due to intervening landform and / or vegetation (Low to Negligible magnitude). As the route climbs after passing Tongue (A838 to A836), there would be elevated views of the offshore Project for approximately 1.7 km from the lower slopes of Ben Tongue and Cnoc an Fhreiceadain across Tongue Bay up to Coldbackie, as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoint 1 (Figure 14 b, Appendix C) and Additional Viewpoint Wireline A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Figure 16 a, Appendix D), resulting in a High-Medium to Medium magnitude of change along this section of the recreational route. However, there are no promoted laybys along this section of the route. From the east of Ben Tongue and Cnoc an Fhreiceadain at Coldbackie up to the River Naver for approximately 5 km, there would be intermittent but limited visibility of the offshore Project due to	High-Medium to Negligible	Major / Moderate (Significant), predominantly Moderate (Not Significant) to Negligible Significant visual effects would be limited to tourists / residents rather than people commuting or working: Short open sections from a 5 km section of route between Durness and Loch Eriboll (A838 / NC 500); 1.7 km from lower slopes of Ben Tongue and Cnoc an Fhreiceadain between Tongue and Coldbackie (A836 / NC 500); and Short open sections for 6 km between Armadale Bay and Melvich (A836 / NC 500).

ROUTE	DISTANCE / DIRECTION TO OFFSHORE PROJECT	DESCRIPTION OF MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
		intervening landform restricting views towards the sea, as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoint 2 (Figure 14 b, Appendix C). Views would be oblique when crossing the moorland with a combination of landform and vegetation restricting views towards the sea. Visibility from the route as it passes through the middle of Bettyhill would also be restricted due to intervening buildings. Sequential Viewpoint 3 (Figure 14 c, Appendix C) illustrates potential views of the offshore Project based on landform only. Between Bettyhill and west of Armadale Bay, as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoint 4 (Figure 14 c, Appendix C), views of the sea are again largely screened due to intervening landform until the bay is reached where the offshore Project would be visible at 28.4 km distance (Medium-Low to Negligible magnitude), as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoints 5 and 6 (Figure 14 d, Appendix C). With the crossing from Rocky Hills and Moorland to Sweeping Moorland and Flows to the east of Armadale Bay, the expansive sea views are to both sides of Strathy Point and the offshore Project would be visible at between 28.8 km and 30.4 km distance. Visibility would be limited to intermittent sections of the route along 6 km between Armadale Bay and Melvich (Medium-Low to Negligible magnitude), as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoints 7 to 10 (Figure 14 e, Appendix C), however, there would be less or no visibility as the route travels around Strathy, as illustrated by Sequential Viewpoint 9 (Figure 14 f, Appendix C). Further to the east, coastal onshore windfarms such as Forss and Baillie WTGs appear in views from the road.		
The North Coast 500	33.6 km N	Caithness, east of Melvich Bay – To the east of Melvich, coastal onshore windfarms such as Forss and Baillie WTGs appear in views from the road. The offshore Project would be visible simultaneously	Medium-Low to Low	Moderate (Not Significant) to Negligible

ROUTE	DISTANCE / DIRECTION TO OFFSHORE PROJECT	DESCRIPTION OF MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
(overlapped with A836)		with the Forss WTGs close to Crosskirk, as illustrated by Viewpoints 9 to 12 (Figure 14 f to g, Appendix C). Beyond Melvich, the route passes Sandside Bay and Reay extending across a Farmed Lowland Plain. The coastline here reduces in height, allowing for clear and uninterrupted views of the sea (Medium-Low to Low magnitude). However, after this point until Thurso and John O'Groats, the offshore Project would appear more distant at a minimum distance of 36 km and would become less perceptible.		
Sustrans National Cycle Route 1: Inverness to John O' Groats	28.8 km N	As the route overlaps with The North Coast 500 from Tongue to John O'Groats, the assessment will remain the same as above. In summary, there would be Significant visual effects on cyclists from the following short sections of the route: • 1.7 km from lower slopes of Ben Tongue and Cnoc an Fhreiceadain between Tongue and Coldbackie (A836 / NC 500); and • Short open sections for 6 km between Armadale Bay and Melvich (A836 / NC 500).	High-Medium to Negligible	**Major / Moderate (Significant)** predominantly Moderate (Not Significant) to Negligible

4.4 Assessment of cumulative effects

Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report considered potential cumulative effects (see section 18.7). As requested by NatureScot, cumulative effects as a result of Melvich Wind Farm have also been considered in this Additional Information, particularly with respect to effects on the distinctive 'North Coast'. Armadale Wind Farm was included in the original assessment (see Table 18-45, Ref A02 of chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment). The status of a small number of wind farms has changed since the original assessment and these are listed below:

- Limekiln / Limekiln Extension – changed from Consented to Under Construction;
- Pentland Floating (offshore) and Forss III (onshore) wind farms changed from Application to Consented; and
- Melvich and Watten onshore wind farms – new applications included.

As per the SLVIA Methodology in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (section 18.5.3), existing / operational and consented wind farms are included as part of the baseline, therefore Pentland Floating (offshore) and Forss III (onshore) wind farms are included as part of the baseline and excluded from the future cumulative context which only includes application wind farms. The ones most relevant to the offshore Project include the application Melvich Wind Farm (onshore) which is included in the cumulative assessment.

The proposed Melvich WTGs are within the Sweeping Moorland Flows LCT and are south of Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA, but are likely to be visible from the SLA and in views from the coastal edge.

The proposed Melvich WTGs would be visible from Viewpoints 6, 7 and 8. The most notable magnitude of change would be related to Melvich Bay (Viewpoint 7, Appendix B Figure 6 a-e)) and Strathy Point (Viewpoint 6 Appendix B Figure 5 a-g), where the Melvich WTGs would appear as prominent elements in the proximity, when looking across the mainland. The addition of the offshore Project would fill part of the undeveloped distant sea horizon, when looking out to sea. Overall, the added magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project would remain Medium from Melvich Bay and Strathy Point. With respect to elevated views from Beinn Ratha (Viewpoint 8 Appendix B Figure 13 b)), the offshore Project would appear as a distant element, far beyond Melvich Wind Farm, and the magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project would remain Low.

4.5 Comparative assessment

Section 4.5.1 and section 4.5.2 compare the likely visual effects and effects on SLQs of designated landscapes, based on the original OAA, as assessed in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, and the reassessed effects based on the Additional Information Layout, as described in section 4.2 and section 4.3.

4.5.1 Comparative viewpoint assessment

Table 4-6 below provides a comparative assessment of the viewpoint assessment as a result of the layout assessed in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout assessed in this Addendum.

The proposed mitigation embedded in the Additional Information Layout has resulted in a Moderate / Minor and Not Significant effect experienced from Viewpoint 10 at Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel (Appendix B Figure 7 a-e) and Moderate and Not Significant effect at Viewpoint 19 from the A836 at Dounreay (Appendix B Figure 9 a-e). This is predominantly due to the increased setback of 1.8 km and more compact nature of the offshore Project, which would affect reduced HFoV. Where significant effects are likely to occur from viewpoints 1, 4 and 5 (Appendix B Figure 1 a-f, Figure 3 a-f and Figure 4 a-f), the offshore Project has resulted in an overall reduction in the bulk and scale of the windfarm.

Table 4-6 Comparison table of viewpoints assessment: summary of effects of the offshore Project based on chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report and Additional Information Layouts (significant effects are highlighted in bold and brackets). Cells highlighted with a thick black border indicate where rankings have reduced compared to the assessment presented in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, of the Offshore EIA Report.

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
Sutherland & Caithness Viewpoints										
1	Faraid Head	26.7 km NE	20	28.69 km NE	18	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
2	Ben Hope	41.8 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	42.56 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Moderate / Minor	Low	Minor

[7] *In some instances, significance has reduced with no reduction in impact magnitude. This is based on expert judgement.*

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
3	A838 A'Moine	31.2 km N	6*	31.5 km N	6	High to Medium	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
4	Achininver beach	26.4 km N	40	26.4 km N	21	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
5	Torrisdale Bay	29 km N	44	29 km N	36	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
6	Strathy Point	24.3 km NW	54	25.7 km NW	49	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
7	Melvich Beach	30.5 km N	44	32.3 km N	36	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
8	Beinn Ratha	36.9 km NW	12	38.7 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate
9	A836, Reay Kirk, Sandside Bay	34.6 km NW	22	36.41 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate	Medium-Low	Moderate
10	Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel	33.7 km NW	32	35.55 km NW	15	High	Medium-Low	Moderate (Significant)	Low	Moderate / Minor
11	Ben Griam Beg Hillfort	50.9 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	51.6 km N	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
12	Dunnet Bay - at Caravan Park	44.5 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	46.5 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
13	Dunnet Head	39.5 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	41.3 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate
14	Castle of Mey LB & GDL	47.8 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	49.4 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
15	St John's Point	49.1 km NW	n/a (distance >46 km)	50.7 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
16	Beinn Freiceadain Hillfort	47.1 km NW	n/a (distance >46 km)	48.9 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
17	Kyle of Tongue - A838 causeway	32.6 km N	n/a (blade tip visibility only)	32.6 km N	n/a (blade tip visibility only)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
18	A836 Between Thurso and Castletown	43.2 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	45.1 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
19	A836 Dounreay	34.3 km NW	30	36.1 km NW	n/a (distance >36 km)	High	Medium-Low	Moderate (Significant)	Medium-Low	Moderate
Orkney Viewpoints										
20	Scrabster-Stromness Ferry	26 km W	28	26.5 km W	24	High-Medium	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
21	Rackwick Bay at Bothy bench	30.8 km W	6*	31.29 km W	7*	High	Medium-Low	Moderate (Significant)	Medium-Low	Moderate (Significant)

VP REF	VIEWPOINT LOCATION	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT		SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED	DISTANCE/ DIRECTION TO THE OFFSHORE PROJECT	HFOV OCCUPIED		MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE	SIGNIFICANCE [7]
22	Path to Old Man of Hoy	28.9 km W	26	29.2 km W	20	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

** Extent of Horizontal Field of View occupied by offshore Project is limited by the screening effect of intervening landform.*

4.5.2 Comparative designations assessment

Tables 4-7 and 4-8 in the sections below provide a comparative assessment of the landscape designations as a result of the layout assessed in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout assessed in this Addendum.

Whilst the reassessment has not identified a reduction in the likely effects on the SLQs of the designated landscapes as a result of the Additional Information Layout, it has identified some reductions of the overall extent and scale of the offshore Project. The additional mitigation has created a more clustered arrangement, set back further from some parts of the designated landscapes. These changes have reduced the overall bulk and scale of the offshore Project, in particular there has been a reduction in the impression of outliers and reduced HFoV occupied by the offshore Project when viewed from sensitive landscapes within the distinctive 'North Coast'. This is particularly noticeable from the following viewpoints:

- Viewpoint 1: Faraid Head, from within Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness SLA (Figure 1 a-f, Appendix B);
- Viewpoint 4: Achininver Beach, from within Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA (Figure 3 a-f, Appendix B);
- Viewpoint 5: Torrisdale Bay, from within Tongue of Kyle NSA (Figure 4 a-f, Appendix B); and
- Viewpoint 8: Beinn Ratha, from within East Halladale Flows Wild Land Areas (WLA) (Figure 13 b, Appendix B).

4.5.2.1 NSAs

Table 4-7 Comparative SLQ assessment for NSAs

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE QUALITY	SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA REPORT		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Kyle of Tongue NSA					
An ever-present backdrop of mountains (not reassessed, assessment as presented within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report)	High	Low	Moderate / Minor	Low	Moderate / Minor
Scale, from domestic to monumental (reassessed)	High	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)
Rich variety of coastal scenery (reassessed)	High	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)	High-Medium	Major / Moderate (Significant)

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE QUALITY	SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Hoy and West Mainland NSA					
The spectacular coastal scenery. **(not reassessed, assessment as presented within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report)**	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)
A landscape of contrasting curves and lines. **(not reassessed, assessment as presented within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report)**	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)
The high hills of Hoy. **(not reassessed, assessment as presented within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report)**	High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Low-Negligible	Minor
Land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky. **(assessed in this Additional Information)**	High-Medium	Not assessed on the grounds that the changing skies, combination of water, land, sea and sky, and weather patterns would not be affected by the offshore Project.		Low	Moderate-Minor

4.5.2.2 Highland SLAs

Table 4-8 Comparative assessment of Highland SLAs

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE QUALITY	SENSITIVITY	LAYOUT AS PER CHAPTER 18 OF THE OFFSHORE EIA		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LAYOUT	
		MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT	MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	LEVEL OF EFFECT
Oldmore, Cape Wrath and Durness SLA (reassessed)	High	Medium – Low	Moderate	Medium – Low	Moderate
Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA (reassessed)	High	Medium – Low	Moderate	Medium – Low	Moderate
Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA (reassessed)	High	Medium – Low	Moderate	Medium – Low	Moderate

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This document is an addendum to chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report to address the MD-LOT Additional Information Request. Additional information has been provided on queries raised by MD-LOT, NatureScot, OIC and THC.

This addendum is based on a realistic worst case layout which has been further refined through additional embedded mitigation and design principles to develop an Additional Information Layout, as described in section 4.1.2. The Additional Information Layout reduces the OAA by 87.4 ha (13%), focussing on avoiding the NatureScot orange constraint zones (see Figure 4-2) that are most sensitive to WTGs, within the design constraints that apply at this stage of the Project design process. Post-consent design development, which will be informed by more detailed surveys and site investigations, will be informed by the design objectives to mitigate seascape, landscape and visual effects as far as possible. This post consent work, as part of the development of the DSLP, offers scope for further mitigation with regards to seascape, landscape and visual impacts.

Based on the key assessment criteria of field of view, proximity / distance, and bulk and scale, the following detailed design level objectives / principles will be considered when refining the final layout:

- Visually balanced layout;
- Avoidance of any outliers (WTGs or OSPs etc.);
- Off-set grid pattern preferred over a regular grid;
- Avoid splitting the array - one larger array preferred over two or more independently appearing developments;
- Regular spacing between WTGs and other structures preferred;
- Locate associated infrastructure and platforms within the overall array rather than on the outer edges; and
- Minimum spacing requirements used to reduce overall footprint and spread of WTGs.

Section 4.2 of this addendum reassesses the potential seascape, landscape and visual effects on the following receptors, based on the Additional Information Layout as agreed with NatureScot, THC and OIC during consultation, as noted in section 3. These receptors have been included specifically to address the concerns raised by NatureScot, THC and OIC in relation to effects from Sutherland including the North Coast and Kyle of Tongue NSA and the Hoy and West Mainland NSA in Orkney. It was agreed by NatureScot, THC and OIC that the focus of the assessment should be on:

- Landscape Designations:
  - Kyle of Tongue National Scenic Area (NSA);
  - Hoy and West Mainland NSA (one SLQ as requested by OIC);
  - Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness Special Landscape Area (SLA);
  - Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA; and
  - Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA.
- Seascape and Landscape:
  - Distinctive 'North Coast'.
- Visual Receptors:
  - North Coast 500 Tourist Route.

As such 22 of the 28 SLVIA viewpoints have been reassessed with a detailed assessment focused on twelve viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Appendix A).

All other receptors are excluded from reassessment as agreed with NatureScot and THC. All the concerns raised, relate to the presence of the offshore Project and relate to impacts during the operation and maintenance stage. Therefore, no further consideration has been provided to the construction and decommissioning stages.

5.1 Landscape designations

5.1.1 Kyle of Tongue NSA

The Additional Information Layout reduces the overall scale and extent of the offshore Project, reducing the HFoV affected by WTGs as experienced from the NSA. However, given the nature of the offshore Project, the reassessment concluded that some effects (Major / Moderate) on two SLQs *"scale, from domestic to monumental"* and *"rich variety of coastal scenery"* remain potentially Significant in EIA terms, as identified in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report. There would be no significant effects on the remaining SLQs, and the overall integrity of the NSA would not be compromised in landscape planning terms as set out in NPF4, Policy 4.

5.1.2 Hoy and West Mainland NSA (one SLQ as requested by OIC)

As requested by OIC, this assessment considers the likely effects of the Additional Information Layout on the *SLQ "land and water in constantly changing combinations under the open sky"*. This had been previously scoped out of the Offshore EIA. The assessment determined that the relevant component is the open Atlantic Ocean, with respect to the type of development proposed. The sensitivity of this SLQ was assessed as High-Medium.

The offshore Project would be visible over a minimum distance of 26.8 km from the NSA, where there are views out across the open Atlantic Ocean, which range from framed views to expansive, open views. The visibility of the offshore Project would be influenced by, and in some cases, emphasise the varied locations and weather conditions, and overall, the magnitude of change of the offshore Project affecting this SLQ would be Low, resulting in a Moderate-Minor adverse effect which is Not Significant in EIA terms. The assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on any of the SLQs or objectives of the Hoy and West Mainland NSA and its overall integrity would not be compromised in landscape planning terms as set out in NPF4, Policy 4.

5.1.3 Highland SLAs

Whilst the Additional Information Layout reduces the overall scale and extent of the offshore Project and therefore the magnitude and extent of adverse effects on the Highland SLAs along the north coast listed below:

- Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness;
- Eriboll East and Whiten Head; and
- Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA.

No overall reduction in the magnitude of change and level of effect on the SLAs are likely to occur. The reassessment, based on the further mitigation and the Additional Information Layout, found that a Medium-Low magnitude of change and Moderate adverse effect, which are Not Significant in EIA terms, would remain for all three SLAs. As outlined in section 4.1.3, further consideration will be provided through the iterative design process during the post-consent development of the DSLP.

5.2 Seascape and landscape

As requested by NatureScot, the likely effects of the Additional Information Layout on the distinctive 'North Coast' was assessed. With respect to seascape and landscape effects, the SLVIA assessed effects on the coastal character, and local and national landscape character areas. The distinctive 'North Coast' comprises a band of coastline with a repeated, intricate pattern of small scale bays, inlets and coasts. NatureScot considers the distinctive 'North Coast' to be most clearly expressed from the Kyle of Tongue to Melvich Bay. The national and regional scenic value of the distinctive 'North Coast' is recognised by landscape designations, and the area is experienced along the NC500 route.

Updated visualisations and wirelines were prepared to illustrate the Additional Information Layout from a range of representative viewpoints, including additional wirelines from bays along the North Coast (Appendix B to Appendix E).

As a whole, the distinctive 'North Coast' was assessed as having High-Medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Effects on the distinctive 'North Coast' include introducing a distant additional element into vast seascape views and introducing new manmade features into framed views from indented bays, where affected.

Overall, the magnitude of change on the distinctive 'North Coast' is considered to be Medium-Low and the level of effect is assessed as Moderate adverse and Not Significant in EIA terms. This has not changed from the conclusions within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

5.3 Visual receptors

This assessment reassesses the effects on visual receptors based on the Additional Information Layout. This includes detailed visual assessments of Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Appendix A) and reassessment of Viewpoints 1 to 22. Additional viewpoints (Appendix D), as requested by NatureScot, THC and OIC, have also been provided from the following locations:

- Talmine Bay – Midtown (Figure 15 a-b);
- A836 above Coldbackie Bay (Figure 16 a-b);
- Strathy Bay (360o) (Figure 17 a-d);
- Armadale Bay (360o) (Figure 18 a-d);
- Farr Bay (360o) (Figure 19 a-d);
- Kirtomy Bay (360o) (Figure 20 a-d); and
- Bay of Swordly (360o) (Figure 21 a-d).

The assessment and reassessment of visual effects was based on updated visualisations and wirelines, and wirelines from additional viewpoints (Appendix B to Appendix E), and have informed judgements on seascape, landscape and visual effects.

5.3.1.1 NC500 tourist route

With respect to the distinctive 'North Coast' section for the NC500, which overlaps with the A838 and A836, a Major / Moderate to Negligible adverse level of effect is likely to remain, as assessed in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, of the Offshore EIA Report. However, this is predominantly Moderate to Negligible adverse, and Significant to Not Significant, respectively, in EIA terms. Significant visual effects would be limited to tourists and residents, rather than people commuting or working and is generally restricted to:

- Short open sections from a 5 km section of route between Durness and Loch Eriboll (A838 / NC 500);
- 1.7 km from lower slopes of Ben Tongue and Cnoc an Fhreiceadain between Tongue and Coldbackie (A836 / NC 500); and
- Short open sections for 6 km between Armadale Bay and Melvich (A836 / NC 500).

However, the assessment acknowledges the cumulative effect of changes in visual amenity along sequential views experienced from this Tourist Route.

The NC500 to the east of Melvich Bay, which overlaps with the A836, is likely to experience a Moderate to Negligible adverse effect which is Not Significant in EIA terms, affecting an open section of approximately 6 km around Dounreay. This has not changed from the conclusions within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

5.4 Cumulative effects

Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report considered potential cumulative effects. As requested by NatureScot, cumulative effects as a result of the application Melvich Wind Farm (onshore) have also been considered in this Additional Information, particularly with respect to effects on the distinctive 'North Coast'.

The consented Pentland Floating (offshore) and Forss III (onshore) wind farms have been included as part of the baseline given the status change since chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report was submitted and excluded from the future cumulative context which only includes application wind farms in line with the methodology.

The application Melvich WTGs are within the Sweeping Moorland Flows LCT and are south of Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA, but are likely to be visible from the SLA and in views from the coastal edge. The most notable magnitude of cumulative change would be related to Melvich Bay (Viewpoint 7 Appendix B Figure 6 a-e)) and Strathy Point (Viewpoint 6 Appendix B Figure 5 a-g), where the Melvich WTGs would appear as prominent elements in the proximity, when looking across the mainland. The addition of the offshore Project would fill part of the undeveloped distant sea horizon, when looking out to sea.

Overall, the added magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project would remain Medium from Melvich Bay and Strathy Point. With respect to elevated views from Beinn Ratha (Viewpoint 8 Appendix B Figure 8 a-f), the offshore Project would appear as a distant element, far beyond the application Melvich Wind Farm, and the magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project would remain Low. This has not changed from the conclusions within chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

5.5 Comparative assessment

Table 4-6, Table 4-7 and Table 4-8 compare the predicted magnitude of change and level of effects of the Additional Information Layout with the chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment conclusions.

Chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, of the Offshore EIA Report identified Significant effects in EIA terms on 10 viewpoints. The Additional Information Layout has reduced the level and extent of Significant effects, with 7 of the 22 Viewpoints reassessed still likely to experience Significant adverse effects in EIA terms. The proposed mitigation embedded in the Additional Information Layout has resulted in a Moderate / Minor and Not Significant effect experienced from Viewpoint 10 at Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel (Appendix B Figure 7 a-e); and Moderate and Not Significant effect at Viewpoint 19 from the A836 at Dounreay (Appendix B Figure 9 a-e). This is predominantly due to the increased setback of 1.8 km and more compact nature of the offshore Project, which would reduce the HFoV. Where Significant effects are likely to occur from viewpoints 1, 4 and 5, (Appendix B Figure 1 a-f, Figure 3 a-f and Figure 4 a-f) the offshore Project has resulted in an overall reduction in the bulk and scale of the windfarm.

Whilst the reassessment has not identified a reduction in the likely effects on SLQ as a result of the Additional Information Layout, it has identified some reductions of the overall extent and scale of the offshore Project. The additional mitigation (section 4.1.2) has created a more clustered arrangement, set back further from some parts of the designated landscapes. These changes have reduced the overall bulk and scale of the wind farm, in particular there has been a reduction in the impression of outliers and reduced HFoV occupied by the offshore Project when viewed from sensitive landscapes within the distinctive 'North Coast'. This is particularly noticeable from the following Viewpoints:

- Viewpoint 1: Faraid Head, from within Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness SLA (Figure 1 a-f, Appendix B);
- Viewpoint 4: Achininver Beach, from within Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA (Figure 3 a-f, Appendix B);
- Viewpoint 5: Torrisdale Bay, from within Tongue of Kyle NSA (Figure 4 a-f, Appendix B); and
- Viewpoint 8: Beinn Ratha, from within East Halladale Flows WLA (Figure 13 b, Appendix B).

This assessment concluded that Major / Moderate adverse effects, which are Significant in EIA terms, would remain with respect to the two SLQs *"scale, from domestic to monumental"* and *"rich variety of coastal scenery"* of the Kyle of Tongue NSA, as identified in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report. However, there would be no significant effects on the remaining SLQs, and the overall integrity of the NSA would not be compromised in landscape planning terms as set out in NPF4, Policy 4.

5.6 Conclusion

The offshore Project includes substantial mitigation as part of the iterative EIA process. Mitigation was inherent in the site selection process which identified the OAA within the N1 Plan Option. The Project chose to maintain sightlines between mainland Scotland and the West Coast of Orkney, on the basis of advice from The Highland Council and reflecting on the advice from NatureScot on the Scottish Governments Offshore Wind Sectoral Marine Plan. This mitigation, during site selection, resulted in only 56% of the N1 Option Area being selected for the OAA. Any project must strike a balance between the technical feasibility, economic viability and the potential impacts and our site selection process considered over 300 layers of environmental, technical and commercial constraints to help strike that balance.

Additional mitigation presented within this additional information further reduces the area identified for turbine deployment in the N1 PO. Restricted Build Areas in the south east and south west of the OAA reduce the extent of the field of view from the Kyle of Tongue NSA and viewpoints along the North Coast of the Scottish mainland and the west coast of Orkney.

Additional design principles have also been developed for the Project. They have informed the Additional Information Layout presented in this addendum based on the design information that is currently available and offer scope for further mitigation, as part of the development of the DSLP, once further Project data becomes available.

Whilst a number of significant effects currently remain as a result of the offshore Project, the overall bulk and scale of the wind farm has reduced from the OAA to the Additional Information Layout, with some reduction in the amount and extent of significant effects. Significant landscape and visual effects resulting from large-scale wind farm development are unavoidable and expected, as recognised by Policy 11 in NPF4, and the offshore Project has demonstrated sufficient mitigation at regular stages through the design process.

As noted above, post-consent design development will be informed by the design objectives to further mitigate the seascape, landscape and visual effects, as far as possible. This will include further discussions with NatureScot and other relevant stakeholders, as the Project progresses through detailed design. We reasonably expect these conversations can and will be managed as part of the consultation on our Development Specification and Layout Plan.

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7 ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
DSLP	Development Specification and Layout Plan
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
HFoV	Horizonal Field of View
LB	Listed Building
LCT	Landscape Character Type
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MGN	Marine Guidance Note
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MW	Megawatts
NC500	North Coast 500
NSA	National Scenic Area
OA	Option Area
OAA	Option Agreement Area
OIC	Orkney Islands Council
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
OWPL	Offshore Wind Power Limited
PO	Plan Option
RBA	Restricted Build Area
RCCA	Regional Coastal Character Areas
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLQ	Special Landscape Quality
SLVIA	Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment
SMP	Sectoral Marine Plan
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
THC	The Highland Council
UK	United Kingdom
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VP	Viewpoint
WLA	Wild Land Areas
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

APPENDIX A VIEWPOINT REASSESSMENT

A.1 Introduction

Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 have been reassessed in detail, based on the Additional Information Layout that has been refined to reduce the likely adverse effects on the distinctive 'North Coast', including the NSA and SLA designations and NC500 route; and on the Hoy coast, including the NSA designation.

Updated visualisations have been prepared for these viewpoints and are illustrated in Appendix B and Appendix E. A diagram has been produced from each of these viewpoints showing the distance of the closest and furthest turbines to the viewpoint alongside the HFoV occupied by the WTGs. The HFoV measures the angle in between WTGs, which are located at a distance up to 36 km from the viewpoint as explained in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report.

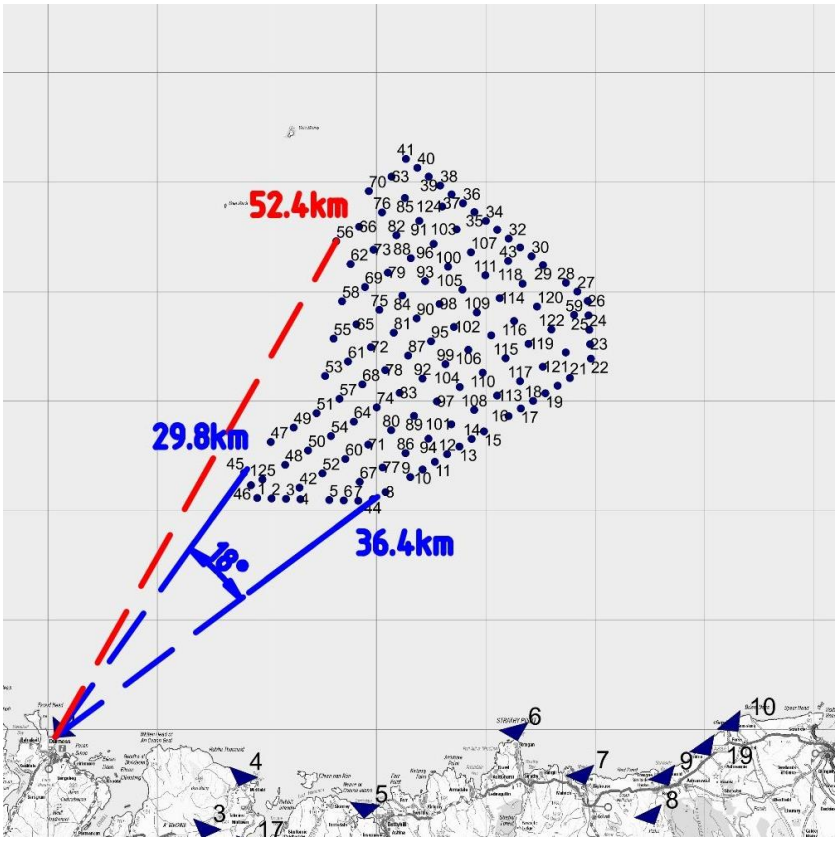
Viewpoints 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 17 (all Sutherland viewpoints) are presented by two photomontages illustrating visibility of the offshore Project – unenhanced photomontage followed by an enhanced photomontage. Viewpoints 10, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (Caithness and Orkney Viewpoints) are presented by only an unenhanced photomontage. Enhanced photomontages have only been produced for Sutherland viewpoints reflecting the focus of the Additional Information assessment as agreed with agreed by NatureScot, THC and OIC.

- The unenhanced photomontage illustrates all WTGs evenly through the rendering process. These images illustrated the closest and furthest WTGs (turbines are rendered in between 24 km and 60 km) at the same intensity as those further away which results in a loss of perspective, and there is no distinction between foreground or background turbines. In reality, WTGs at differing distances would appear in varying degrees of sharpness; and
- The enhanced photomontage illustrates how the turbines fade away over distance. The rendering of this photomontage considers the effects caused by atmospheric refraction. The closest WTGs to the viewpoint were enhanced to create perspective. Perspective creates a realistic impression of depth, or of distance. In chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, THC acknowledged that this fading of turbines was realistic in certain cases. However, the sharpness of the WTGs beyond the first row on the photomontage reduces as the WTGs are rendered without enhancement resulting in the WTGs not appearing clearly when printed. Therefore, this image should be preferably viewed on screen which provides better resolution than does the printed image.

Further details on the visualisation methodology is set out in the Offshore EIA Report, Volume 2, Supporting Study 17: Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Visualisation Methodologies.

A.2 Viewpoint 1 Faraid Head

Table A-1 Viewpoint 1 Faraid Head (Figure 1 a-f, Appendix B and Figure 22 a-b, Appendix E)



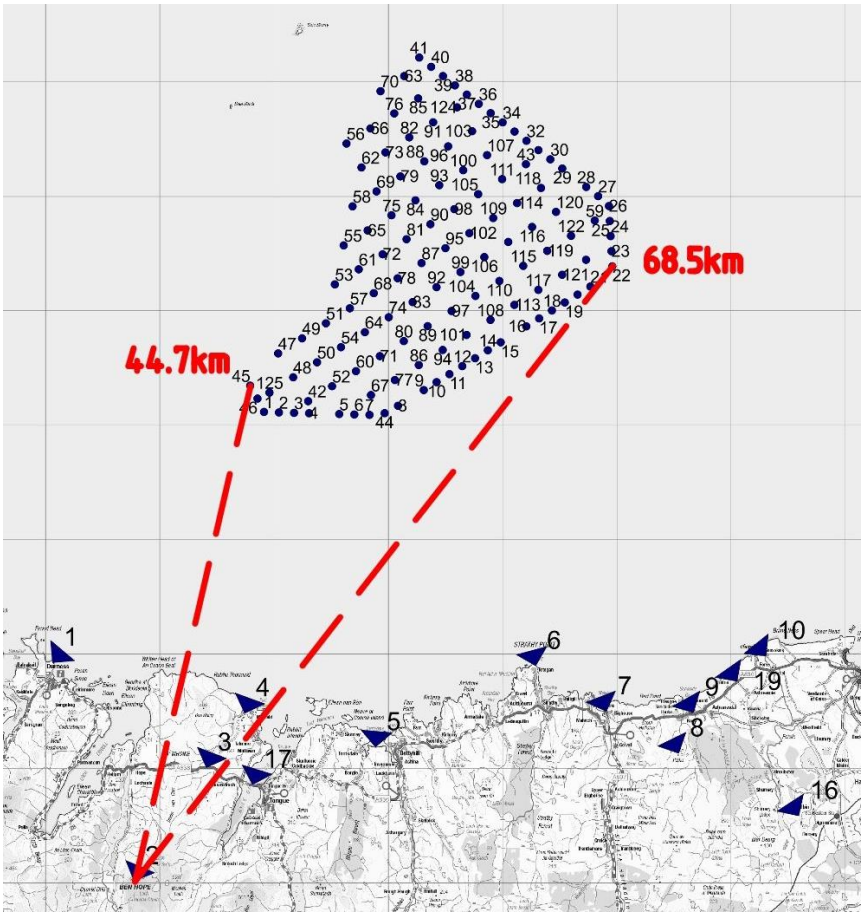
DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type	Visitors of Faraid Head (recreational, scenic value)
(susceptibility /value of view):	High-Medium / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Type 1: Remote High Cliffs
Landscape character type:	High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays LCT
Landscape Designation:	Oldshoremore, Cape Wrath and Durness SLA
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located to the north of the offshore Project at the Seanachaisteal promontory fort on Faraid Head, approx. 1.5 km to the north of Durness village. Viewpoint is within the distinctive 'North Coast'.
Existing view:	

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	The location provides an elevated 360-degree open panorama, comprising open sea to the northeast, towards the offshore Project. The distinctive landform of Whiten Head An Ceann Geal is to the east where the landform of Strathy Point is distinguishable at a distance of 40 km. The entrance of Loch Eriboll and its west facing side is in the view towards the south-east. The Rugged Mountain Massif forms a dramatic skyline in views to the south over a narrow, settled, and farmed fringe. Cape Wrath extends to the west and Faraid Head to the north.
Existing cumulative context:	The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm and Hoy Community onshore wind farm would be barely perceptible at a distance of between 50-90 km to the north east including other existing wind farms further to the east.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium Surrounding various landscape types create a complex visual composition within the available 360-degree view. The open sea horizon comprises approximately 120 degrees within which the offshore Project would appear. The closest row of turbines (T1 to T7) is sited at a distance of up to 35 km from the viewpoint, occupying 18 degrees of the HFoV. The turbines in the background gradually become less visible with distance. The offshore Project would not intervene in views of the distinctive coastal landforms. Effects attributable to the offshore Project would be pronounced due to its appearance as a new element within the view rather than due to its scale. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 20 degrees to 18 degrees, with the closest row of turbines set back by nearly 2 km. Whilst this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change, the Additional Information Layout creates a more clustered arrangement that occupies a smaller HFoV and reduces the perception of outliers. The visualisation illustrates a worst case for turbine visibility, and generally the increased setback will increase the effect of weather and atmospheric conditions reducing the visibility of more distant turbines.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate to Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative Context:	The application Cairnmore Hill turbines would be barely perceptible at a distance of over 65 km to the east. The magnitude of change attributable to the additional effects created by the offshore Project would remain Medium.

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Cumulative Effects:	Major / Moderate to Moderate and Significant

A.3 Viewpoint 2 Ben Hope

Table A-2 Viewpoint 2 Ben Hope (Figure 2 a-h, Appendix B and Figure 23 a-b, Appendix E)

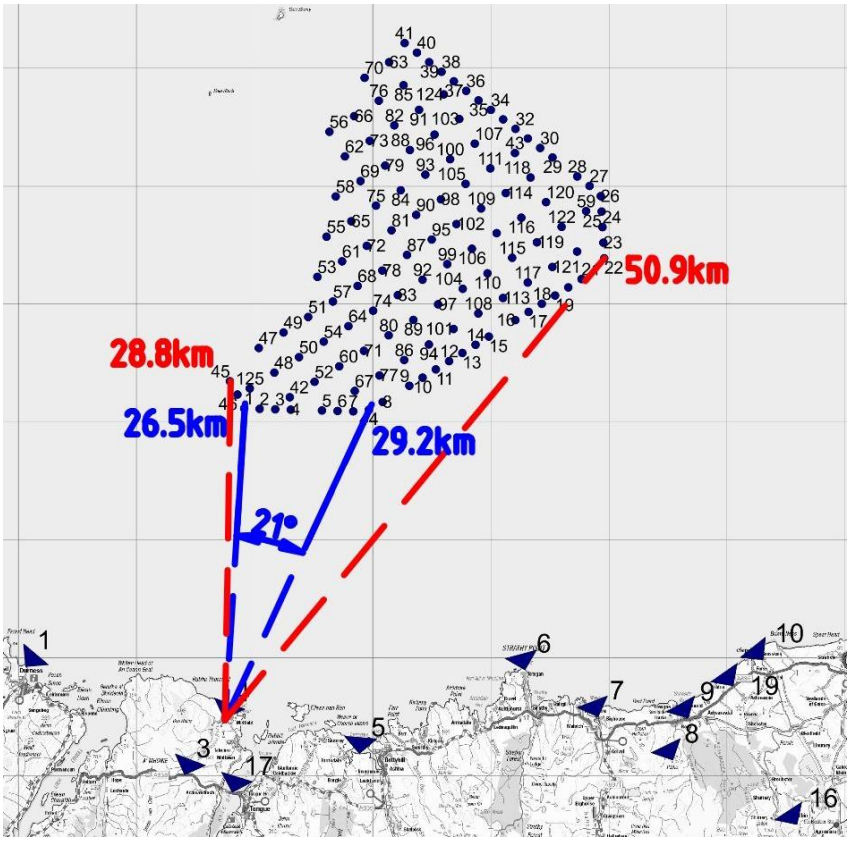


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Hill hikers (recreational) High-Medium / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	None
Landscape character type:	Lone Mountains

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Landscape Designation:	Kyle of Tongue NSA / Ben Hope - Ben Loyal WLA
Viewpoint location: **Existing view:**	Viewpoint is from the summit of Ben Hope at an elevated position of 922 m AOD offering 360-degree extensive panoramic views across Caithness and Sutherland, including the impressive mountain massif of Foinaven and the distinctive watery landscapes of the Flows. Extensive elevated views follow the coastline up to Dunnet Head and visibility up to the coast of West Orkney Mainland and Hoy at a distance of 100 km in very clear conditions. The view towards the offshore Project is across the Whiten Head An Ceann Geal landform, which is flanked by Loch Eriboll to the west and the Kyle of Tongue to the east.
Existing cumulative context:	All existing and consented wind farms would be barely perceptible in the view due to the long intervening distance.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Low The coastal edge of Whiten Head is at a distance of 19 km. The closest WTG (T1) is at a distance of 42.5 km. The elevated coastal edge (landform of Ben Hutig (408m AOD)) brings the offshore Project visually closer to the coast in this view. The WTGs would appear as distant features, low down in the seascape. The offshore Project would not intervene in the view over the Kyle of Tongue NSA towards Hoy. Effects attributable to the offshore Project would be pronounced due to being perceived as a new feature within the sea context rather than due to its scale. The Additional Information Layout reduces HFoV occupied by the offshore Project and increases the distance of the nearest WTG slightly by 0.5km.
Significance of Effects:	Minor and Not Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	All other application wind farms would be barely perceptible in the view due to the long intervening distance. The magnitude of change attributable to the additional effects created by the offshore Project would remain Low.
Cumulative Effects:	Minor and Not Significant

A.4 Viewpoint 4 Strath Melness road for Achininver beach

Table A-3 Viewpoint 4 Strath Melness road for Achininver beach (Figure 3 a-f, Appendix B and Figure 24 a-b, Appendix E)

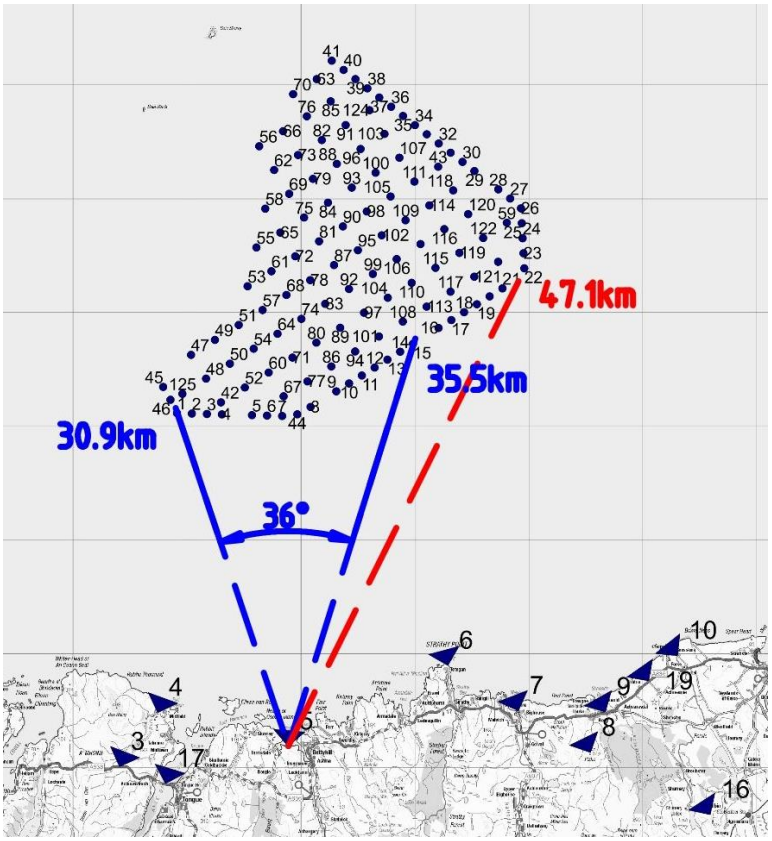


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Visitors / Local residents (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Type 1: Remote High Cliffs / Type 7: Kyles and Sea Lochs
Landscape character type:	Coastal Crofts & Small Farms High Cliffs
Landscape Designation:	Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located at a layby next to the road, which features a footpath providing access to the beach and runs further to the south through Strath Melness. The layby is backed by a steep slope, which provides enclosure and forms the eastern side of the strath.
Existing view:	

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	Although the location is slightly elevated in relation to the beach, the view towards the sea is framed by the rising coastal landforms on either side. The width of the entrance to the bay, or the distance in between these coastal landforms, is 200 m. The bowl-shaped bay is small, and its sands are split by the inlet of Strath Melness.
Existing cumulative context:	None
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium The first row of the WTGS (T1 to T12 see HFoV diagram above), which is closest to the viewpoint, would appear at a distance of 26.4 km to 29.4 km in a framed view from Achininver beach. Although distant, the WTGs would appear across the open aspect of the small bay, which is formed by the sea horizon. The WTGs would not compete with the scale of the coastal landform in the view; however, several blades would be seen above the low rocky coastal landform which forms the eastern side of the entrance to the bay. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 40 degrees to 21 degrees. Whilst this is still likely to result in a Significant effect on visual amenity, the overall magnitude of change is reduced to Medium as the Additional Information Layout creates a slightly more clustered arrangement within the framed view from Achininver Beach.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate to Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	None

A.5 Viewpoint 5 Torrisdale Bay

Table A-4 Viewpoint 5 Torrisdale Bay (Figure 4 a-f, Appendix B and Figure 25 a-b, Appendix E)

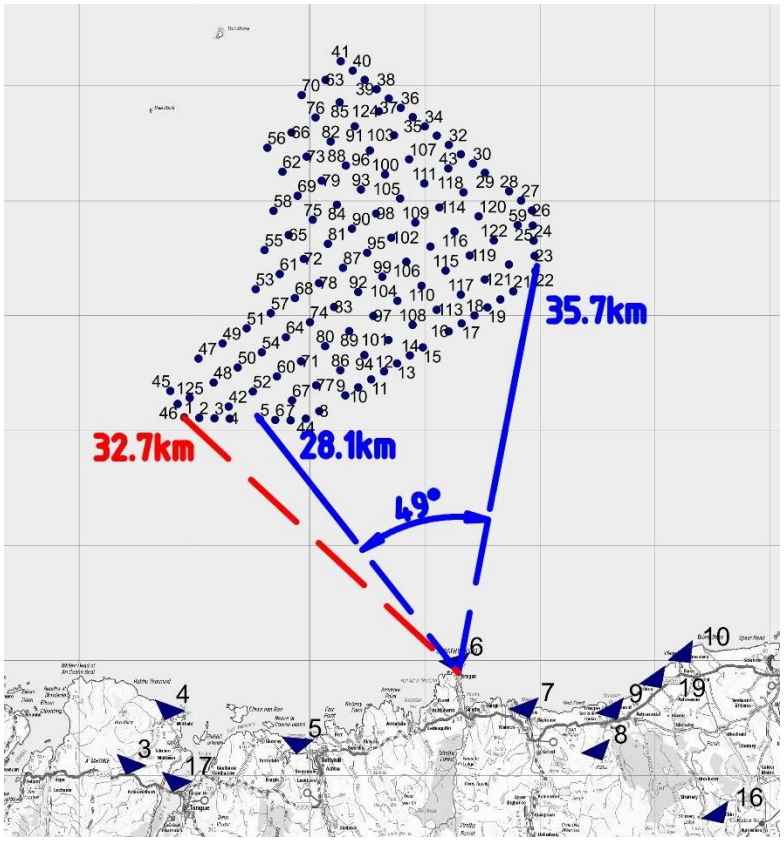


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Visitors / Local residents (recreational, scenic value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Type 1: Remote High Cliffs
Landscape character type:	Sandy Beaches and Dunes
Landscape Designation:	Kyle of Tongue NSA
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located at the centre of Torrisdale Beach, which extends over the mouth of the River Naver, between the historic village of Bettyhill and Torrisdale. Rivers at either end of the beach; River Borgie and the River Naver prevent direct access from either settlement. The beach is accessible via a 1.6 km walk from the nearest road.
Existing view:	

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	The beach is backed by the rocky hillock of Druim Chuibhe to the south. The 1.2 km wide bay is framed by the rocky coastal landforms of Air Torrisdale to the west and Ard Mor to the east.
Existing cumulative context:	None Although shown in the wireline view, the blade tips of the Bettyhill turbines at a distance of 5 km are screened by the intervening dunes.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium The closest WTG to the Viewpoint is T10 at a distance of 29 km. The HFoV occupied by turbines comprises T1 to T15, (from 29 km to 35.5 km) comprising 36 degrees out of the 60 degrees of the visible sea horizon. Although the WTGs would be seen as a distant feature and also as small-scale elements, in comparison to the scale of the coastal landform, they would be discernible across the open sea horizon. In comparison with Achininver beach, Torrisdale Bay has a larger scale, and the distance from the offshore Project is greater by 5 km, which would slightly decrease the magnitude of change. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 44 degrees to 36 degrees, reducing the overall magnitude of change from High-Medium to Medium. This is due to the Additional Information Layout creating a more clustered arrangement that occupies a smaller HFoV within the framed view from Torrisdale Bay.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate to Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	None

A.6 Viewpoint 6 Strathy Point

Table A-5 Viewpoint 6 Strathy Point (Figure 5 a-g, Appendix B and Figure 26 a-b, Appendix E)



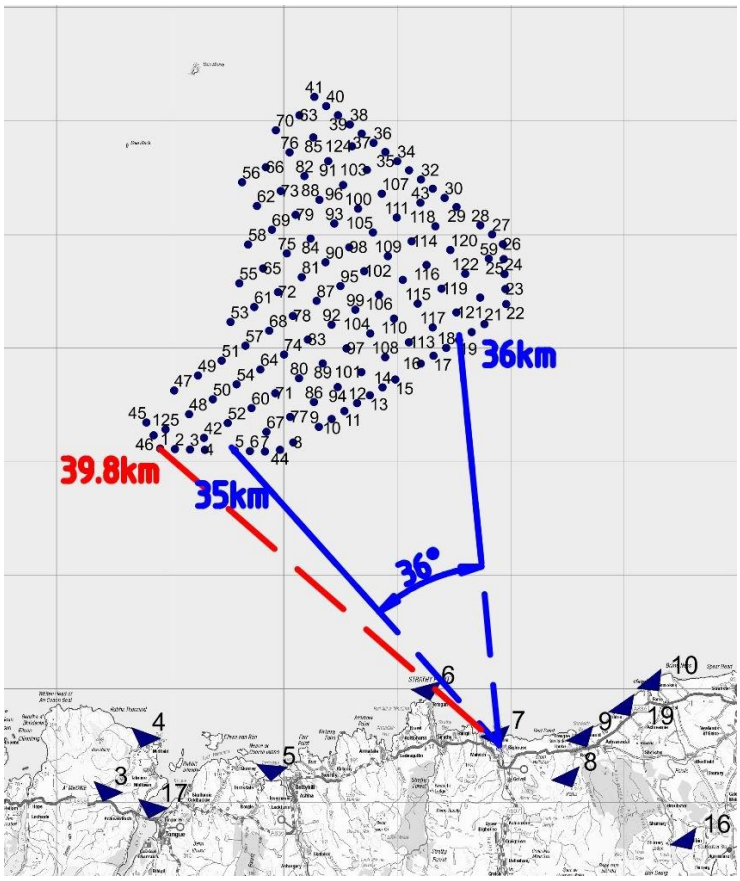
DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility / value of view):	Visitors (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Type 1: Remote High Cliffs
Landscape character type:	High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays
Landscape Designation:	Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located at the end of the public road, approximately 1.6 km to the south of Strathy Point Lighthouse.
Existing view:	Strathy Point extends out into the North Atlantic. The cliff top offers open, elevated views, yet views of the adjacent inland areas are restricted due to the intervening landform of convex slopes and sheer cliffs. Views are directed along the coast to the east and west and out to sea. Offshore foci is formed by the

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	distinctive shape of Hoy at a distance of 46 km. The shapes of west Orkney Mainland at a distance of 58 km is barely perceptible. The location provides views of the coastline up to Dunnet Head at a distance of 36 km to the east. To the west are the headlands of the northern coastline of Sutherland including Whiten Head An Ceann Geal at a distance of 26 km and Cape Wrath at a distance of 48 km.
Existing cumulative context:	The blades of Limeklin Wind Farm would be visible above the landform at a distance of 16 km. The Forss turbines and Dounreay NPDE appear on the backcloth of the coastal landform and the Baillie turbines at a distance of 19 km are visible on top of the landform above the Dounreay NPDE. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would appear prominently against the distinct shape of Hoy in the Pentland Firth at a distance of 9 km to the north east. Forss III would appear in the context of the existing Forss I & II, seen at a distance of 18 km to the east.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	High-Medium The Viewpoint is closest to the offshore Project (25.74 km) and positioned in line with the south-eastern corner of the offshore Project, thereby capturing both southern (T1 to T7) and south-eastern (T44 to T22) rows of the array in the view. The view therefore illustrates the widest HFoV occupied by WTGs (T5 to T22) of the offshore Project. However, the WTGs would appear within a wide (at least 180 degrees) open sea context, which accommodates offshore traffic and the Lighthouse at the end of the headland. Although the offshore Project would appear as a new offshore feature in the view, WTGs are already established onshore along the coast to the east. The Pentland Firth forms the foci of the view to the east and the offshore Project would not intervene in views in this direction. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 54 degrees to 49 degrees, with the closest row of turbines set back by 1.5 km. Whilst this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change, the Additional Information Layout creates a more clustered arrangement that occupies a smaller HFoV and reduces the perception of outliers.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	The application Cairnmore Hill would occupy an elevated coastal position at a distance of 22.7 km to the east. The application Melvich Wind Farm would be visible on an elevated coastal position over a distance of 6 km to the south east, in successive views when looking south and south east across the mainland. Other wind farms would be barely perceptible due to the intervening distance. The magnitude of change attributable to the additional effects created by the offshore Project as a result of other application wind farms would remain High-Medium.

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Cumulative Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant

A.7 Viewpoint 7 Melvich Beach

Table A-6 Viewpoint 7 Melvich Beach (Figure 6 a-e, Appendix B and Figure 27 a-b, Appendix E)

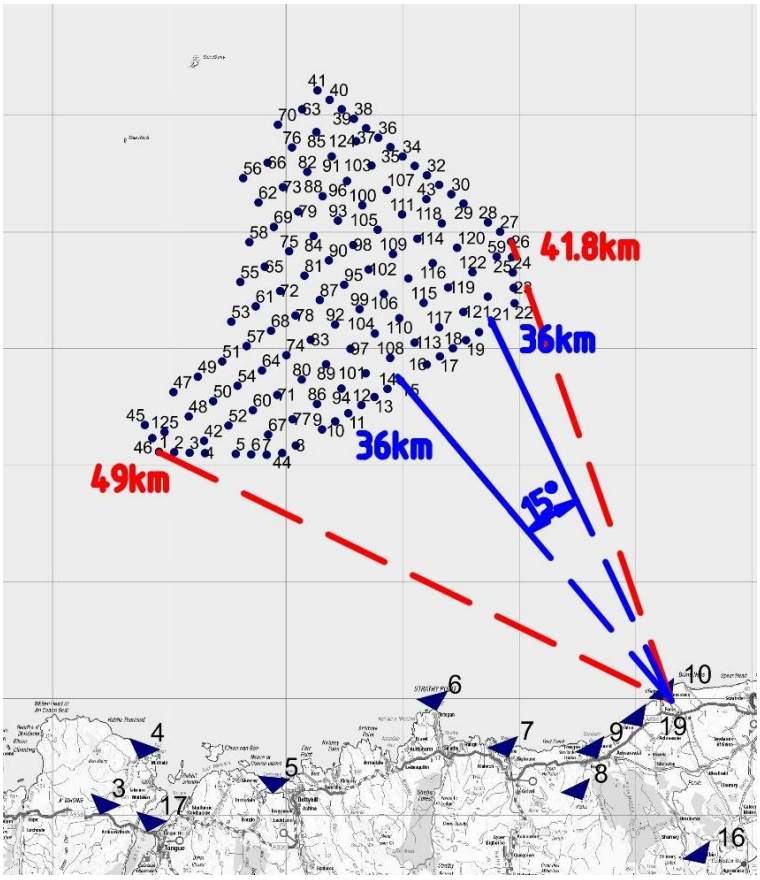


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Visitors / Local Residents (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Portskerra
Landscape character type:	Sandy Beaches and Dunes
Landscape Designation:	Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located on a grassy dune above the beach. Bounded to the east by River Halladale and to the west by rocky outcrops, the beach can be reached by a short 100 m walk through the dunes.
Existing view:	The approximately 1 km wide bay is framed by the rocky coastal landforms of Sgeir Ruadh to the west and by Rubha an Tuir to the east.
Existing cumulative context:	None
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium The Viewpoint is positioned in line with the south-eastern corner of the offshore Project with T13 being the closest WTG visible at 32.3 km distance. Therefore, the focus on the development is close to the western side of the bay and the other WTGs on both sides of T13 would gradually fade away from the view due to increased distance. The tower of T8 which is closest to the rocky coastal landform of Sgeir Ruadh, is almost equal in height with a 20 m high cliff. T22 which is closest to the eastern side of the bay, would be visible at 39 km distance. The row of WTGs (T5 to T2) is sited at a distance of up to 36 km from the viewpoint and occupies 43 degrees of the HFoV. The WTGs in the background gradually become less visible with increased distance. Although the increased distance would affect visibility, in clear weather conditions, the offshore Project would appear noticeable as a new feature across the open sea horizon in an enclosed view. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 44 degrees to 36 degrees, with the closest row of turbines set back by 1.8 km, although this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change as the extent of WTGs seen from within the bay is framed by landform.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	The application Melvich Wind Farm would be visible on the slopes of Cnoc Eipteil at a distance of 2.5 km to the west. Melvich Wind Farm would be seen in successive views, when looking across the mainland. The magnitude of change attributable to the additional effects created by the offshore Project would remain Medium.
Cumulative Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant

A.8 Viewpoint 10 Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel

Table A-7 Viewpoint 10 Crosskirk, St Mary's Chapel (Figure 7 a-e, Appendix B and Figure 28 a-b, Appendix E)

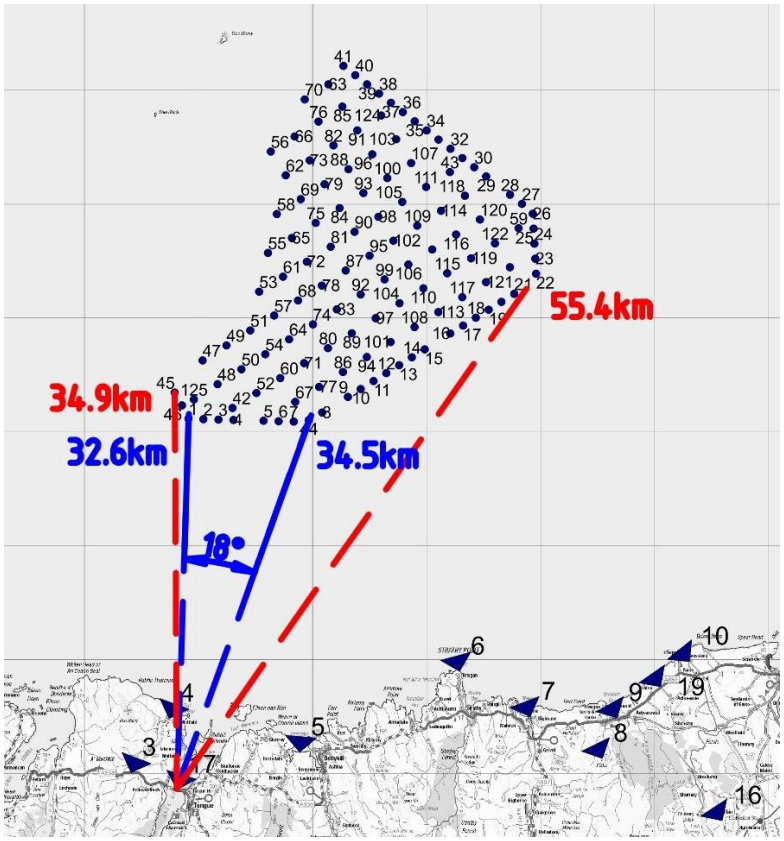


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Local Residents / Visitors (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Brims Ness
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT
Landscape Designation:	No Designations
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located next to a signpost on the access track to St Mary's Chapel, which is located approximately 800 m to the north-west, on the north facing slope of the coastal landform forming the western side of Crosskirk Bay. The Forss Business & Technology Park buildings are located on the upper slope a few hundred metres from the Chapel.

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Existing view:	Views towards the offshore Project are across Crosskirk Bay. The Forss River valley flows into the bay and its valley sides contain views of the hinterland. Therefore, the open aspect of the view is provided by the sea horizon, which appears above the coastal edge in the view.
Existing cumulative context:	A number of onshore wind farms are located nearby including Forss I & II and Hill of Lybster along with the Forss Business & Technology Park. The upper hubs and blades of Baillie Wind Farm are visible above the valley side at a distance of 3.6 km to the south. The existing Forss I & II and consented Hill of Lybster wind farms would be visible to the south west resulting in Significant effects as a result of these schemes. There would be more limited visibility of Baillie wind farm further to the south beyond 3.6 km. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would be visible and prominent above the coastal edge adjacent to St Mary's Chapel. The most visible part of the offshore Project (the closest WTGs) would appear, next to the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, as distant and small features within the established context of WTGs of different sizes.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Low The closest WTGs to the viewpoint, T15 and T21 are between 35.5 km and 36 km from the viewpoint. The majority of the south-eastern edge of the offshore Project lies beyond the 36 km distance used to calculate the HFoV. The centre part of the offshore Project is relatively more visible. Turbines, which are in a line behind T18, create a stacking effect and, due to the density, would be more visible in this view. Although the offshore Project would appear as a distant feature, it would appear within the undeveloped context of the sea, towards which the eye turns after skimming through the existing onshore turbines. The offshore Project is noticeable given its wide HFoV, although the additional setback along the south eastern boundary of the OAA of 1.85 km has resulted in most of the WTGs lying beyond the 36 km cutoff for calculating the HFoV, reducing it from 32 degrees to 15 degrees. The visualisations illustrate a worst case for visibility of the offshore Project, and distance and atmospheric and weather conditions are likely to result in the WTGs being less visible, particularly the more distant WTGs beyond the 15 degree HFoV.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate / Minor and Not Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	None

A.9 Viewpoint 17 Kyle of Tongue - A838 causeway

Table A-8 Viewpoint 17 Kyle of Tongue - A838 causeway (Figure 8 a-f, Appendix B and Figure 29 a-b, Appendix E)

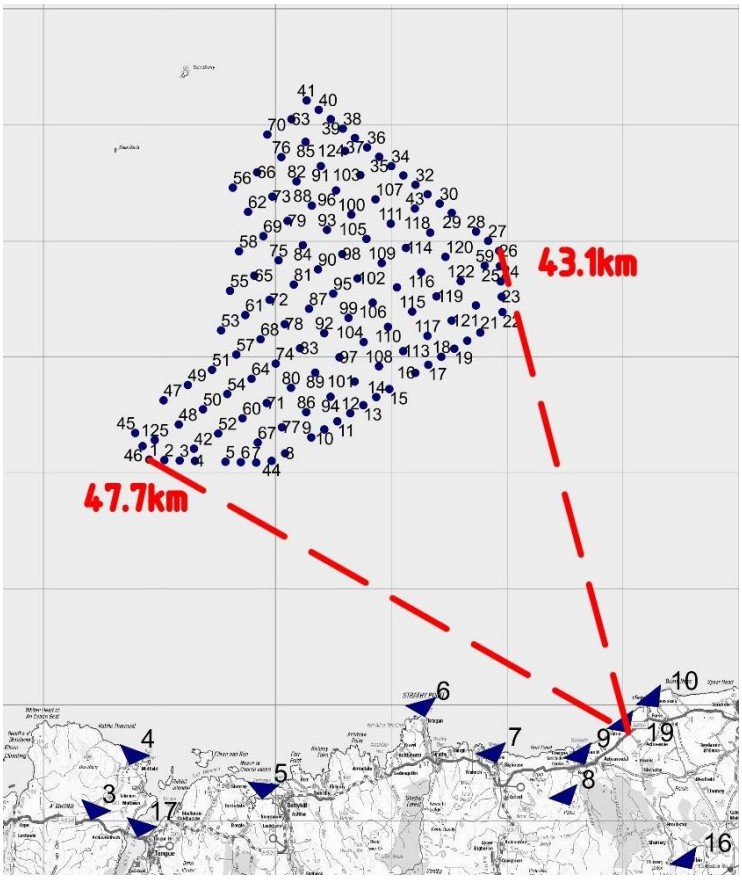


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Users of North Coast 500 (A838) (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High to High – Medium (depending on the type of road user)
Coastal character type:	Type 7: Kyles and Sea Lochs
Landscape character type:	Coastal Crofts & Small Farms
Landscape Designation:	Kyle of Tongue NSA
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located at a layby on the Kyle of Tongue causeway, which crosses a shallow sea loch featuring a rocky coastline. Its mouth is formed at Tongue Bay. The causeway is 3.8 km long and it crosses a natural island, Tongue Island.
Existing view:	Views to the north are largely contained by the Kyle on either side of the view with the Rabbit Islands visible in the distance which prevent open views of the

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	North Atlantic. Ben Tongue is visible to the north-east whilst the settlement of Midtown and Skinnet Beach are visible to the north-west.
Existing cumulative context:	None
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Negligible The closest WTG (T5) is at a distance of 32.5 km. The majority of the offshore Project is obscured by intervening landform, and therefore the visibility would be limited to blades and blade tips above Ard Skinid and the Rabbit Islands. The blade tips which appear on the photomontage and wireline view above the Ard Skinid (T12, T13), Rabbit Island (T16-T22) and Eilean Nan Ron belong to the turbines which line the layout, as presented in chapter 18: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment of the Offshore EIA Report, south eastern perimeter. These turbines are located further away: T12 and T13 at a distance of 37.6km and 38.7km and T16-T22 at a distance of more than 43.4km. It is expected that at these distances it would be difficult to detect any blade motion. The Additional Information Layout slightly reduces the HFoV and the extent that the blades and blade tips are visible beyond the islands, although this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change.
Significance of Effects:	Negligible and Not Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and neutral.
Future Cumulative context:	None

A.10 Viewpoint 19 A836 Dounreay

Table A-9 Viewpoint 19 A836 Dounreay (Figure 9 a-e, Appendix B and Figure 30 a-b, Appendix E)

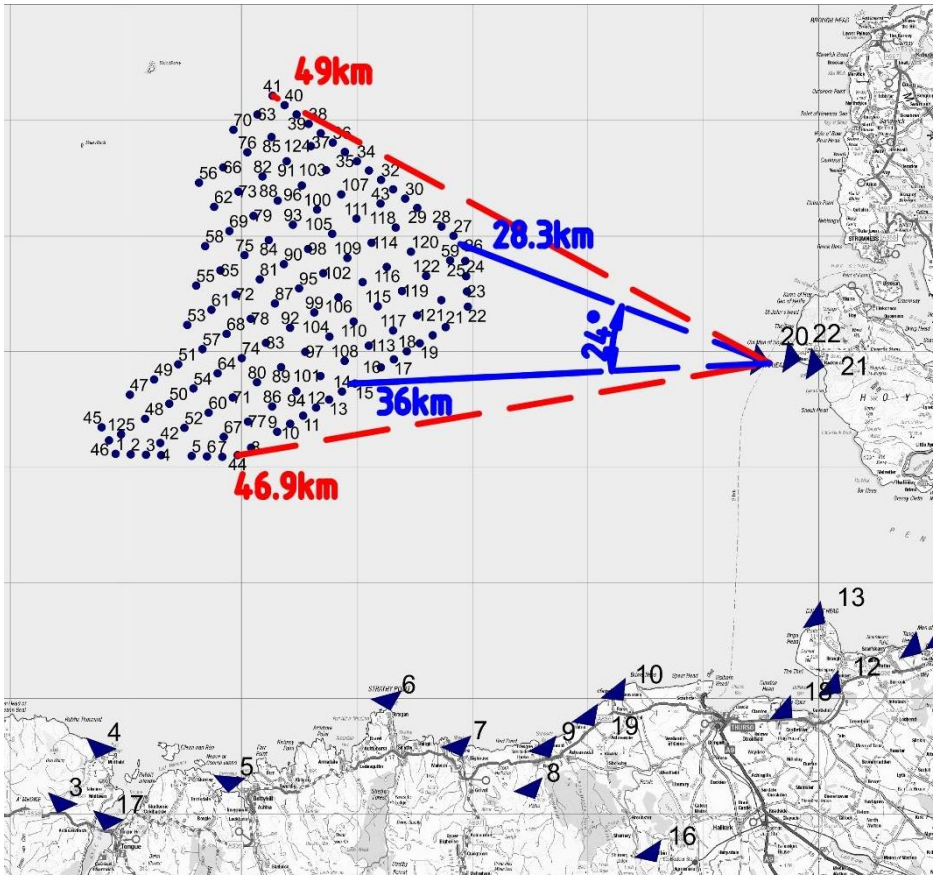


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Users of North Coast 500 (A838) (recreational value) Medium / High-Medium
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High to Medium (depending on road user type)
Coastal character type:	Portskerra
Landscape character type:	Farmed Lowland Plain LCT
Landscape Designation:	No Designations
Viewpoint location:	Viewpoint is located on the A838 between Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment (NPDE) and Forss Business and Technology Park. Both are focal points in views along the coast. Views are expansive across this coastal farmland with an approximately 140-degree extent of open sea horizon readily visible from this elevated coastal road,

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Existing view:	and the exposed coastal cliff face as far as Strathy Point in the west to Hoy in the north-east. The landform rising from the road to the south-east accommodates the Baillie Wind Farm and restricts inland views.
Existing cumulative context:	The existing Forss I & II and consented Forss III and Hill of Lybster onshore wind farms would be visible to the north east in front of the Dunnet Head peninsular resulting in Significant effects due to these schemes. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would be visible prominently, being close to the coast at a distance of 10.5 km.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium-Low The open sea horizon comprises approximately 140 degrees within which the offshore Project would be visible. The closest WTGs to the viewpoint, T11 to T19, are located at a distance of over 36.1 km, and therefore lie just beyond the threshold for calculating the HFoV, with the turbines beyond receding with increased distance. The turbines, which are in a line behind T16 create a stacking effect and would be more visible in this view. Although the offshore Project would appear as a distant feature, it would appear within the undeveloped context of the sea and make it noticeable given the width of HFoV occupied by the offshore Project. However, the visualisation illustrates a worst case for visibility of the offshore Project, and distance and atmospheric and weather conditions are likely to result in the WTGs being less visible, particularly the more distant WTGs. Therefore, the additional 1.8 km setback of the offshore Project is likely to reduce the significance of effects from Moderate and Significant, to Moderate and Not Significant.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate (Not Significant)
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	The application Cairnmore Hill turbines would occupy an elevated position at a distance of 5.1 km opposite the Forss group on the other side of the road. The additional magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project would remain Medium-Low.
Cumulative Effects:	Moderate (Not Significant)

A.11 Viewpoint 20 Scrabster-Stromness Ferry

Table A-10 Viewpoint 20 Scrabster-Stromness Ferry (Figure 10 a-e, Appendix B)

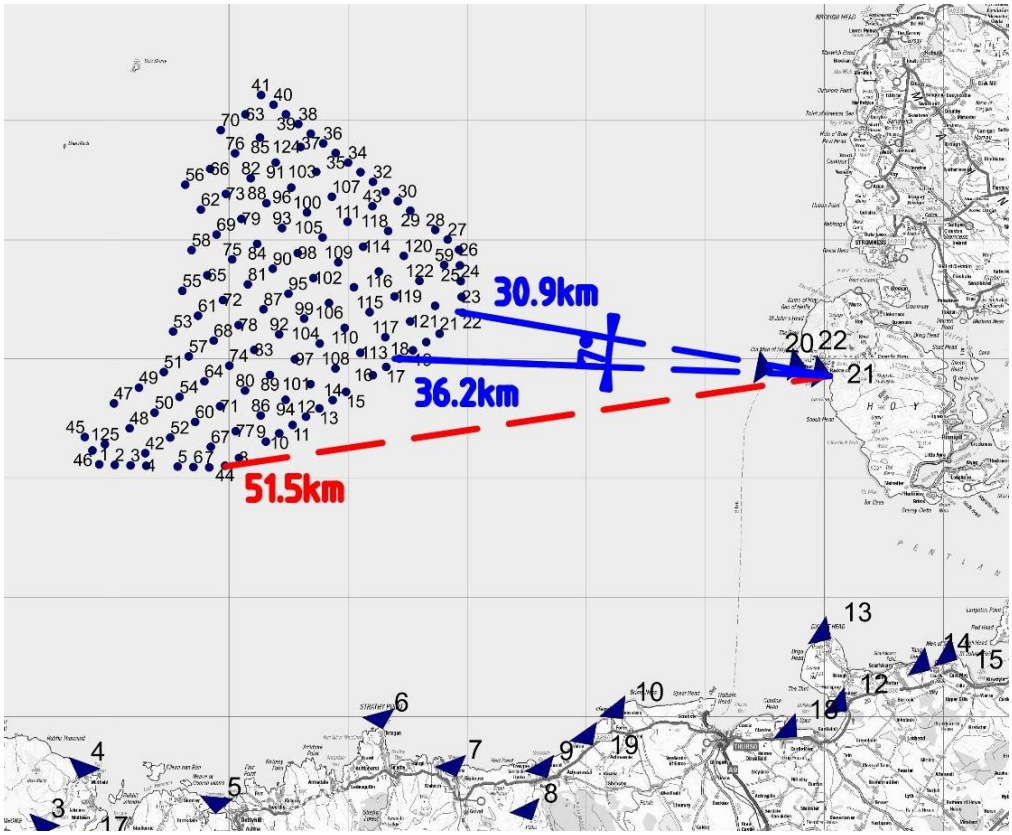


DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type	Users of the ferry (recreational value)
(susceptibility /value of view):	Medium / High-Medium
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High-Medium
Coastal character type:	None
Landscape character type:	None
Landscape Designation:	None
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located on the Scrabster to Stromness ferry, approximately 800 m from the Hoy and West Mainland NSA. For the purpose of this assessment, the viewpoint is located along the route from Sneuk Head to Rora Head, off the west cliffs of Hoy.
Existing view:	

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	To the east, the view is of the cliffs of Hoy, including the Old Man of Hoy. The coast of the mainland is visible to the north-east, and the coast of Caithness is visible to the south and south-west. To the west, the views are open and expansive towards the sea.
Existing cumulative context:	Existing wind farms would be barely perceptible in the view due to the long intervening distance. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would be seen at a distance of 33 km on the backdrop of the distinctive silhouette of the Foinaven mountains.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium The offshore Project would appear as a new feature across the vast sea horizon to the west. The visual foci along the ferry route is the distinctive cliff faces of Hoy to the east, including the Old Man of Hoy with the offshore Project appearing in the opposite direction. The closest row of WTGs (T16 to T26) would be at a distance of up to 33.7 km, affecting approximately 24 degrees of the HFoV with the remaining turbines receding with increased distance. The offshore Project would not intervene in views of the distinctive coastal landforms of Hoy. Effects attributable to the offshore Project would be pronounced due to its appearance as a new feature within the view rather than due to its scale. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 28 degrees to 24 degrees, with the closest row of turbines set back by just under 0.5 km due to the push back of WTGs from the south-east boundary of the OAA, although this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	The application Cairnmore Hill and Hollandmey turbines would be just perceivable at a distance of 31 km due to their elevated coastal position. The magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project in addition to the future cumulative context, is considered to remain Medium.
Cumulative Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant

A.12 Viewpoint 21 Rackwick Bay - at Rackwick Bothy bench

Table A-11 Viewpoint 21 Rackwick Bay - at Rackwick Bothy bench (Figure 11 a-e, Appendix B)



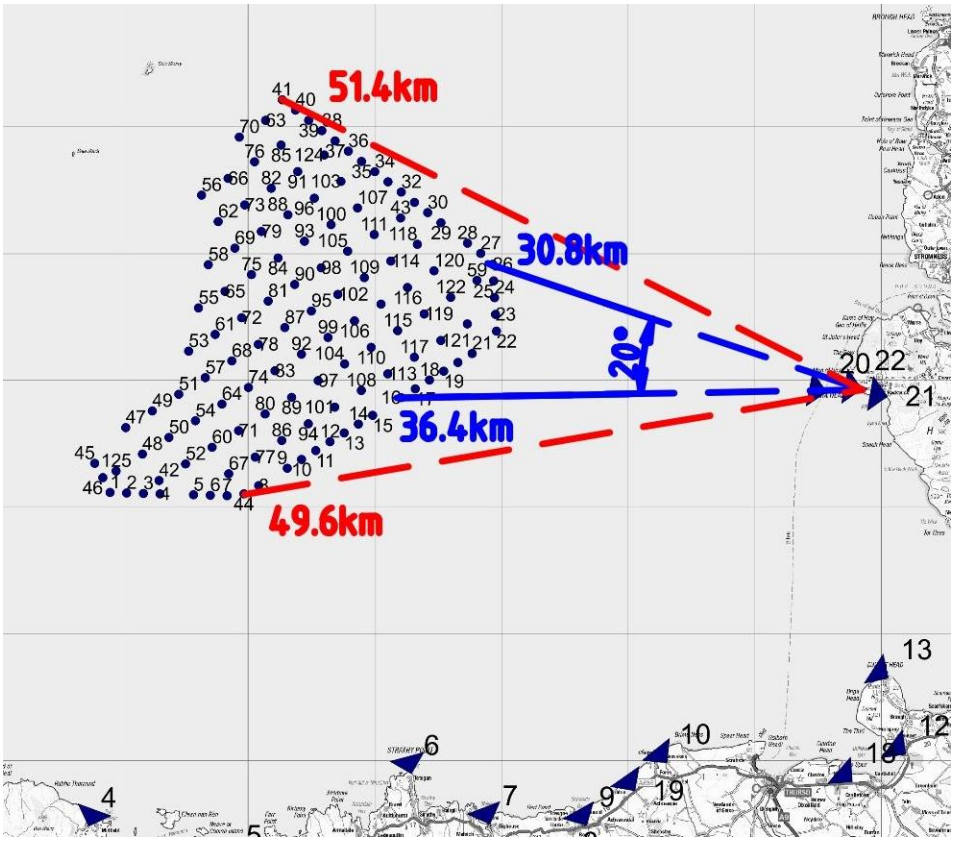
DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Visitors / Local Residents (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	West Hoy Cliffs/ Cliffs – Orkney
Landscape character type:	Enclosed Bays
Landscape Designation:	Hoy and West Mainland NSA
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located adjacent to the Burnmouth Bothy on Rackwick Beach, on Hoy. Rackwick is a boulder beach which is backed by a broad valley. The walk to the Old Man of Hoy starts from the nearby car park.
Existing view:	

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
	The bay of Rackwick forms the foreground to scenic views southwards along the coast, as well as west to Rora Head which is a notable landmark visible from most of this area.[8] The beach offers a wide-open sea horizon of approximately 100-degree HFoV. The view is framed by the high cliffs of Craig Gate to the left and the rocky lower slopes of Moor Fea to the right.
Existing cumulative context:	Existing wind farms would be barely perceptible in the view due to the long intervening distance. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would be barely perceptible due its long distance.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium-Low The proposed WTGs would be visible beyond the high rocky landform of Top of the Head to the west. The closest and visible WTGs (T18-T22) would be located between 30.9 km and 36.2 km with the remaining WTGs receding with increased distance. The northern half of the offshore Project would be screened by intervening landform of Rora Head, which would influence the HFoV actually experienced. The visible remaining WTGs appear to one side of a framed view from this sheltered bay with much of the horizon appearing empty. Due to the distance, the south-west orientation of the bay and the relatively small HFoV of approximately seven degrees occupied by the closest WTGs, the magnitude of change is judged Medium-Low. This is unchanged by the reduced Additional Information Layout.
Significance of Effects:	Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context	The application Cairnmore Hill turbines would be discernible at a distance of 33 km due to their elevated coastal position. The magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project, in addition to the future cumulative context would remain Medium-Low.
Cumulative Effects:	Moderate and Significant

[8] *Coastal Character Assessment – Orkney and North Caithness (5.251 CCA)*

A.13 Viewpoint 22 Path to Old Man of Hoy

Table A-12 Viewpoint 22 Path to Old Man of Hoy (Figure 12 a-e, Appendix B)



DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Visual receptors type (susceptibility /value of view):	Walkers (recreational value) High / High
Visual receptor's sensitivity:	High
Coastal character type:	Rora Head and St John's Head/ Cliffs – Orkney
Landscape character type:	Cliffs – Orkney / Rugged Hills
Landscape Designation:	Hoy and West Mainland NSA
Viewpoint location:	The viewpoint is located on a Core Path to the Old Man of Hoy from the top of Lang Geo 138.5 m AOD, which is backed by the shoulder of Moor Fea. It is to be noted that the offshore Project would be partially screened by the Old Man of Hoy at the end of the Core Path opposite the Old Man of Hoy. Therefore, the viewpoint location was microsited to the current view as illustrated in Figure 12a-e, Appendix B).

DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT	
Existing view:	The elevated location allows for 180-degree expansive views of the Atlantic Ocean. The Old Man of Hoy is visible to the right of the view. Looking south, there are views across Rackwick and its beach, the sheer, blocky cliffs can be seen, as far as Sneuk Head, with The Berry in the distance and Dunnet Head beyond. The Caithness and Sutherland hills can be seen in the far distance on very clear conditions.
Existing cumulative context:	The existing coastal cumulative context, across the sea, beyond a distance of 30 km, is barely perceptible. The consented Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm would be visible in clear conditions at a distance of 29 km on the backdrop of the distinctive silhouette of the Foinaven mountains.
Magnitude of change: **(including comparison between realistic WCS layout assessed in the Offshore EIA Report and the Additional Information Layout)**	Medium The offshore Project would appear as a new and distant feature across the vast sea horizon to the west. The row of WTGs (T16 to 26), located at a distance of up to 36 km, occupies 20 degrees of the HFoV with the remaining WTGs receding with increased distance. The offshore Project would not intervene in views of the distinctive coastal landforms of Hoy. Effects attributable to the offshore Project would be pronounced due to its appearance as a new, prominent feature within the sea rather than due to its scale. The Additional Information Layout reduces the HFoV from 26 degrees to 20 degrees, with the closest row of turbines set back by nearly 0.5 km to 29.2 km, although this does not reduce the overall magnitude of change.
Significance of Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant
Nature of Effects:	Direct, cumulative, long-term (reversible) and adverse.
Future Cumulative context:	The application wind farms would be barely perceptible due to the long distance. The magnitude of change attributable to the offshore Project, in addition to the future cumulative context, is considered to remain Medium.
Cumulative Effects:	Major / Moderate and Significant

APPENDIX B NATURESCOT VISUALISATIONS

See separate document: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Additional Information - Appendix B NatureScot Visualisations.

APPENDIX C A836 SEQUENTIAL ROUTE ASSESSMENT

1-31 blade tips may be theoretically visible

32-62 blade tips may be theoretically visible

63-93 blade tips may be theoretically visible

94-125 blade tips may be theoretically visible

10km

20km

30km

40km

50km

60km

LVIA viewpoint locations

4) Achininver Beach
5) Torrisdale Bay
6/N6) Strathy Point
7) Melvich Beach
8) Beinn Ratha
9) A836, Reay Kirk, Sandside Bay
10) Crosskirk, St. Mary's Chapel
11) Ben Griam Beg Hillfort
12) Dunnet Bay - at Caravan Park
13) Dunnet Head
14) Castle of Mey LB & GDL
15) St. John's Point
16) Beinn Freiceadain Hillfort
17) Kyle of Tongue - A838 Causeway
18/N18) A836 Between Thurso and Castletown
19) A836 Dounreay
20) Scrabster - Stromness Ferry
21/N21) Rackwick Bay at Bothy Bench
22) Path to Old Man of Hoy
23) Tor Ness, Hoy

Application Wind Farms

A01) Melvich
A02) Kirkton
A03) Cairnmore Hill
A05) East of Whitemoss
A06) Hollandmey
A07) Tormsdale
A08) Watten

Notes: This drawing is based on a computer generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The areas shown indicate the maximum theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines using OS Terrain 50 data only and do not take account of any screening from vegetation or built-form. The ZTV also includes an adjustment that allows for the Curvature and Light Refraction of the Earth.

This figure has been based on the following parameters:

Turbine layout file:	LORKNEY028.WFL
Hub height:	194.52m
Rotor diameter:	330m
Height to blade tip:	359.52m

Key

Proposed turbine locations

Landscape and Visual Study Area

Lines indicating distance from the proposed turbine locations

Sequential viewpoint locations

1) Tongue
2) Moorland near Loch Cròcach
3) Bettyhill
4) Kirtomy Burn
5) Crasbackie Hill
6) Armadale Bay
7) Lednagullin
8) Car Park near Lochan Ealach
9) Strathy Valley
10) Car Park (Signposted Viewpoint)
11) Melvich
12) Mackay Country Landmark

Offshore Project would be theoretically visible
(Views may be screened by intervening local landform, vegetation or built form not accounted for in the ZTV)

Offshore Project would not be theoretically visible
(Area is outwith the ZTV)

Existing / Under Construction Wind Farms

E01) Bettyhill
E02) Strathy North
E03) Ackron Farm
E04) Forss I & II
E05) Balmore Farm
E06) Baillie
E07) Limekiln (Under Construction)
E08) Limekiln Extension (Under Construction)
E09) Thurso WWTW
E10) Ore Brae, Hoy
E11) Moss of Geise
E13) Weydale Farm
E14) West Hill, Flotta
E15) Taigh na Muir
E17) Thurdisoft Farm
E20) Lochend
E22) Burnside, Lyth
E23) Achlachan
E25) Stroupster
E27) Causeymire
E29) Halsary
E30) Bad a Cheo

Consented Wind Farms

C01) Pentland Floating (Offshore)
C02) Bettyhill Phase 2
C03) Forss III
C04) Hill of Lybster
C05) Strathy Wood
C06) Thusater Farm
C07) Strathy South
C08) Hoy Community
C11) Cnoc na Gaoithe
C14) Thura Mains
C15) Slickly
C16) Achlachan II

Pentland Floating - Consented (7 no. turbines @ 350m Blade Tip)

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 km
Scale at A3: 1:260,000

Client

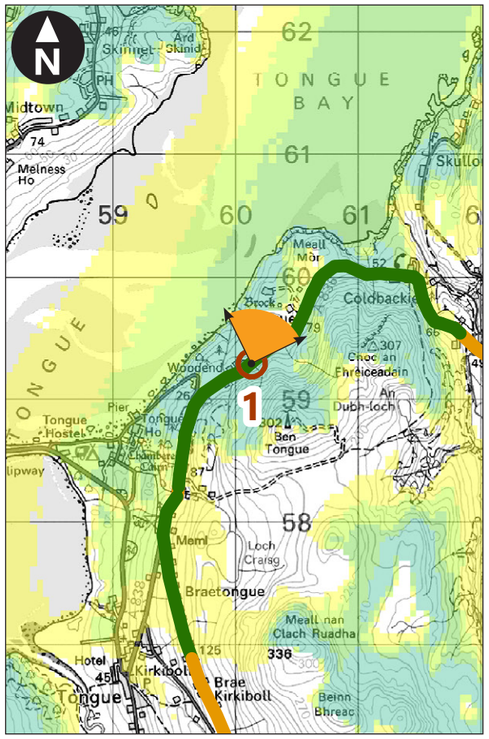
West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

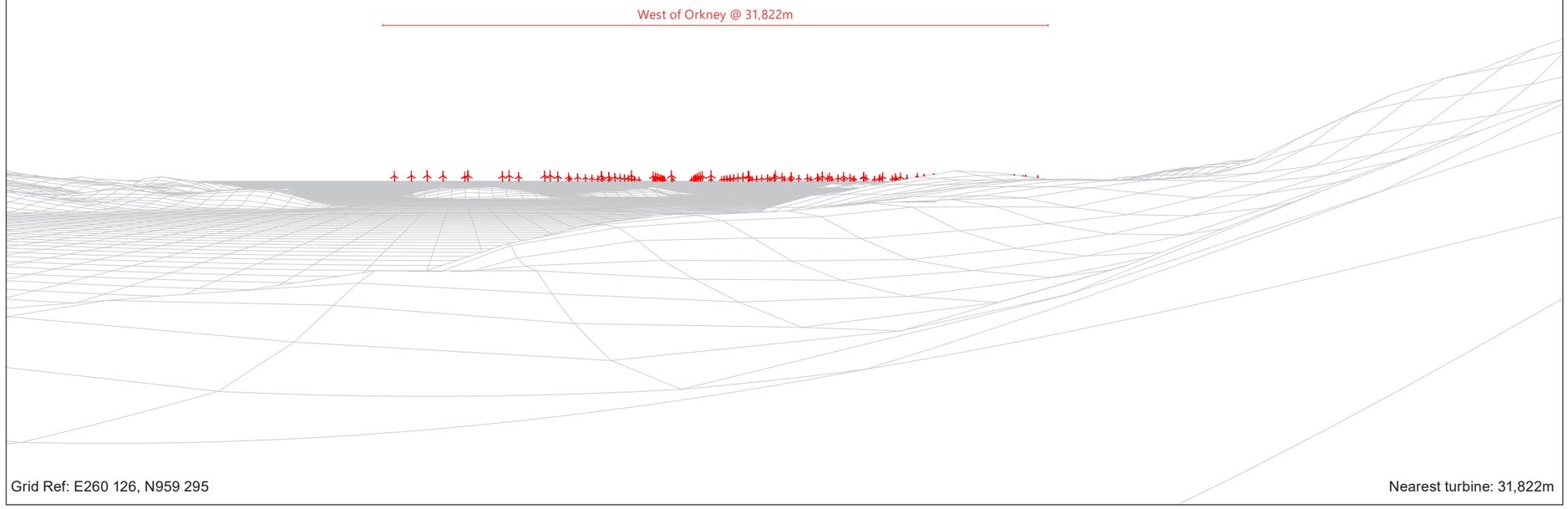
Figure 14a
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

July 2024

Figure 14a Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00095_R3.mxd Originator: UKCGW775

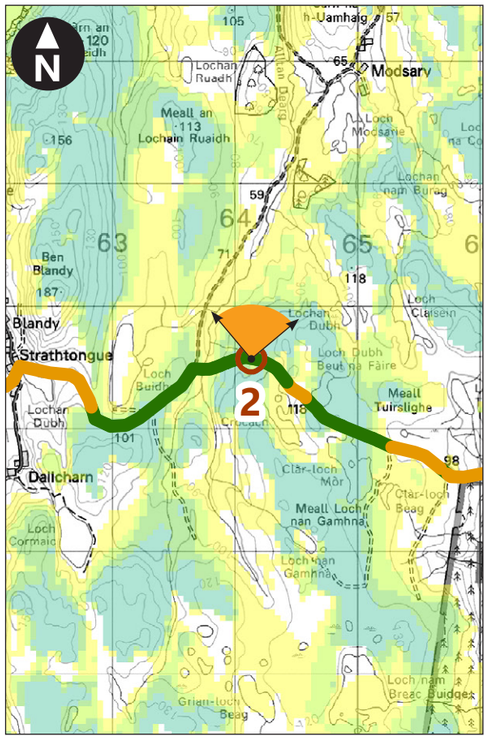


Viewpoint 1 - Tongue



Grid Ref: E260 126, N959 295

Nearest turbine: 31,822m



Viewpoint 2 - Moorland near Loch Cròcach

Grid Ref: E264 127, N959 576

Nearest turbine: 31,439m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

Figure 14b
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

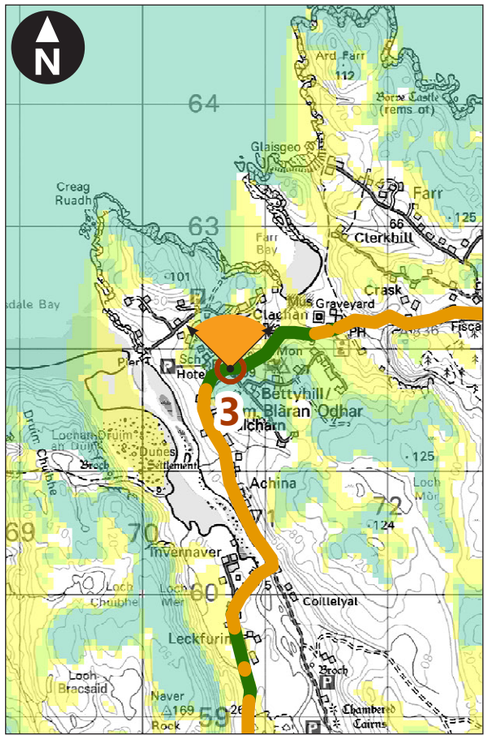
West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

July 2024

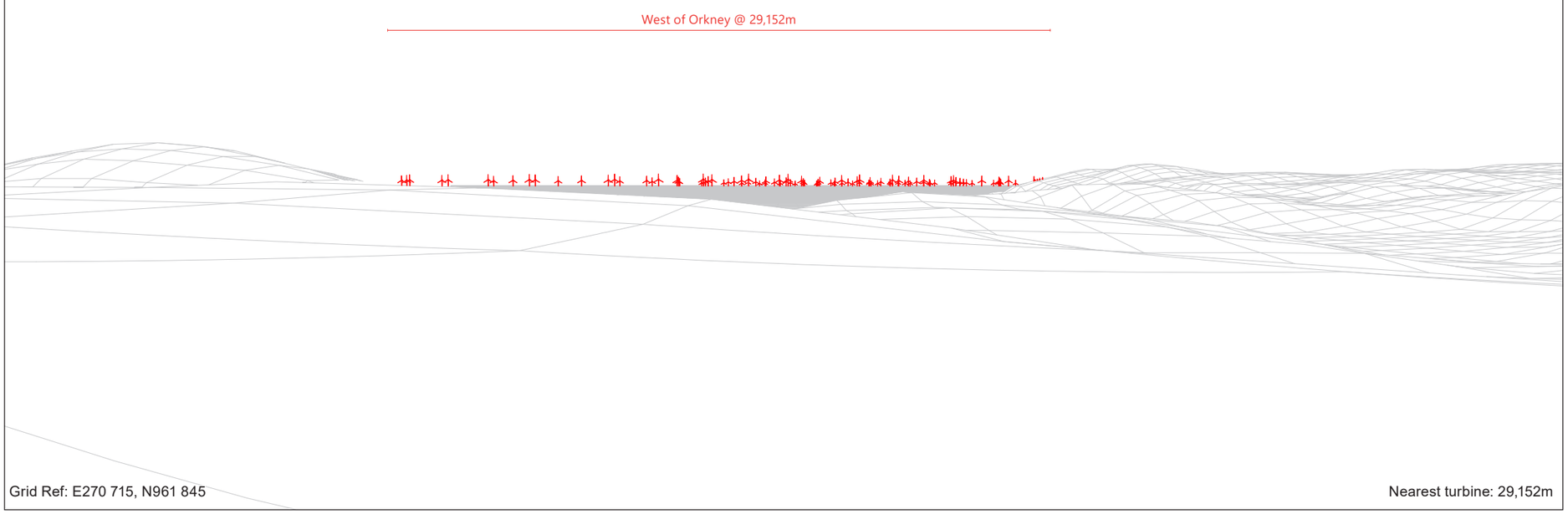
wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3

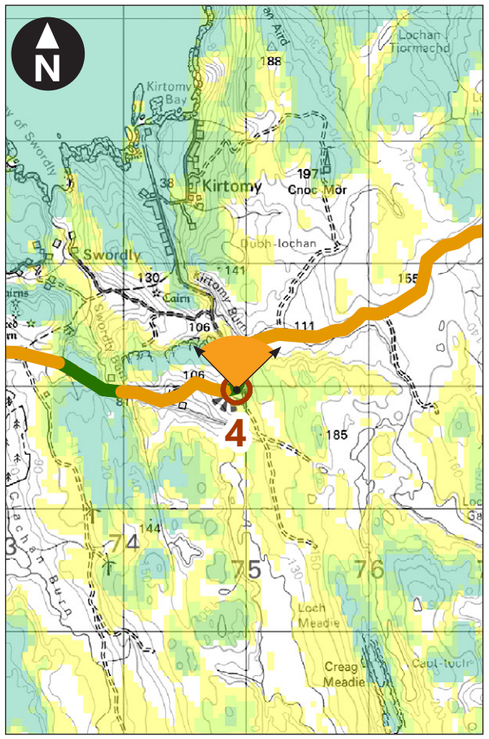


Viewpoint 3 - Bettyhill

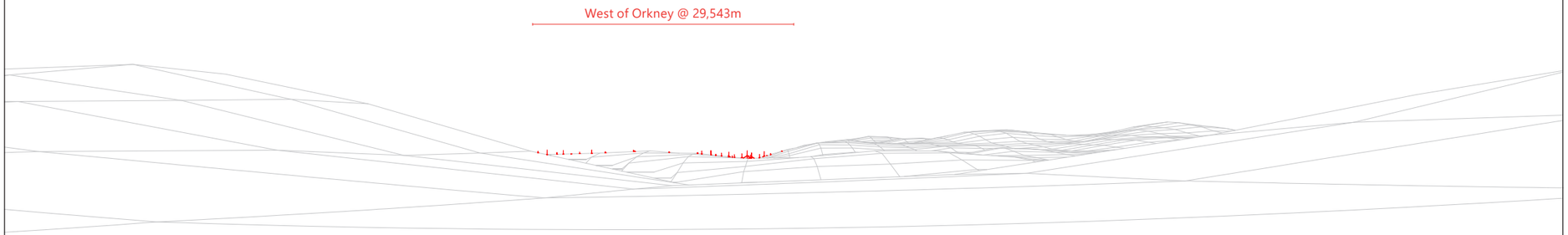


Grid Ref: E270 715, N961 845

Nearest turbine: 29,152m



Viewpoint 4 - Kirtomy Burn



Grid Ref: E274 917, N961 976

Nearest turbine: 29,543m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

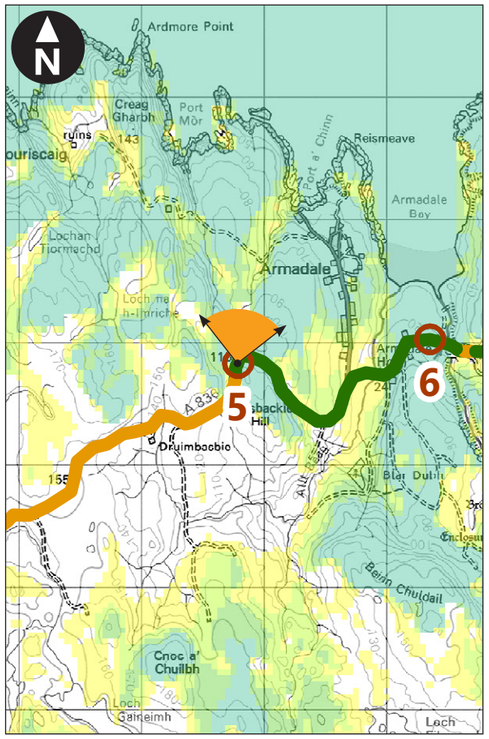
Figure 14c
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

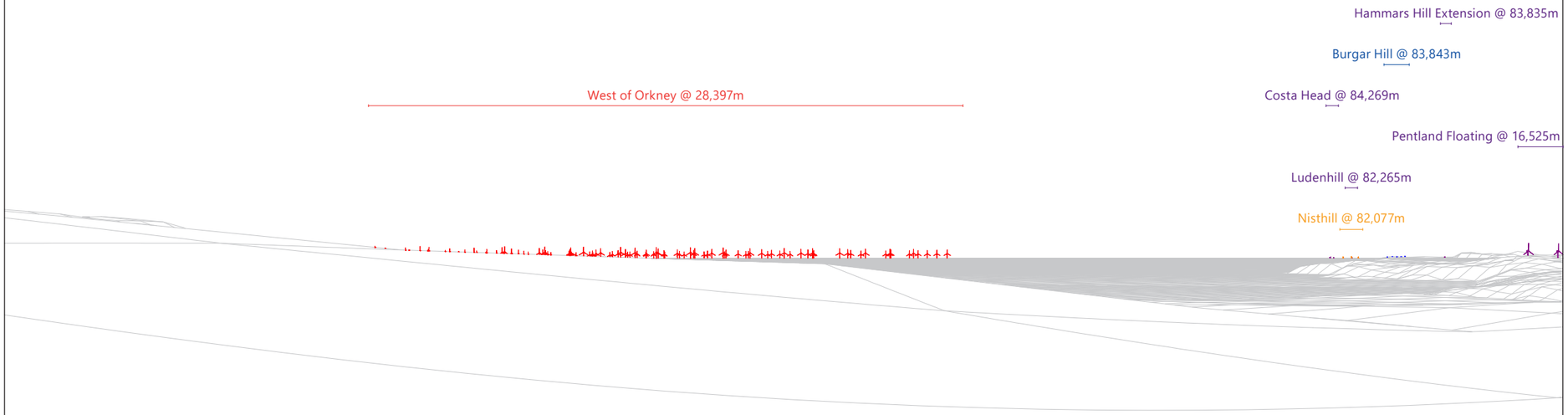
July 2024

wsp

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

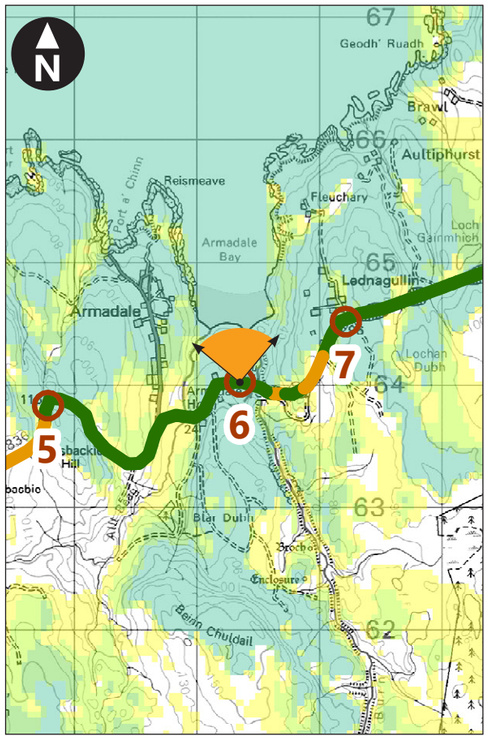


Viewpoint 5 - Crasbackie Hill

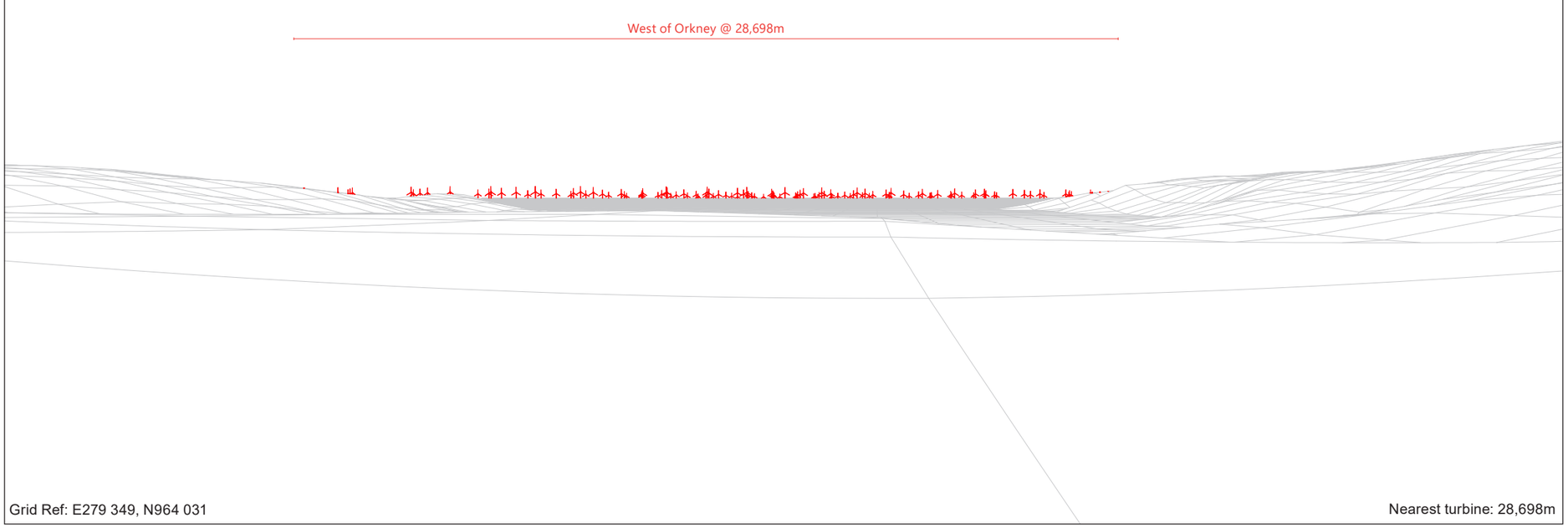


Grid Ref: E277 781, N963 835

Nearest turbine: 28,397m



Viewpoint 6 - Armadale Bay



Grid Ref: E279 349, N964 031

Nearest turbine: 28,698m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

Figure 14d
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

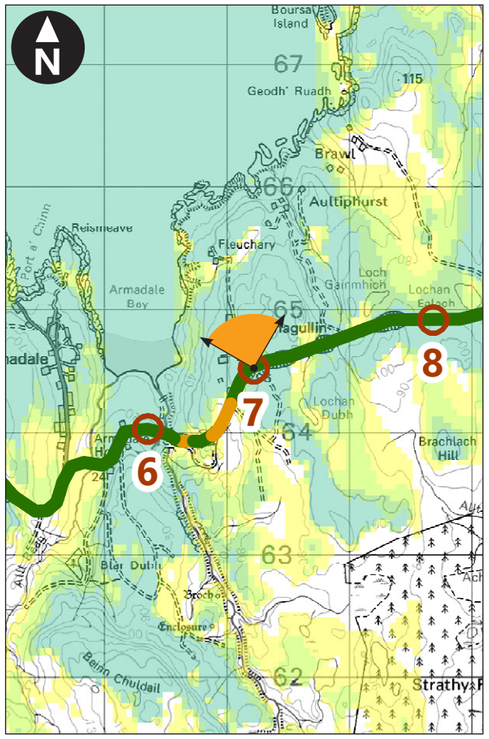
West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

July 2024

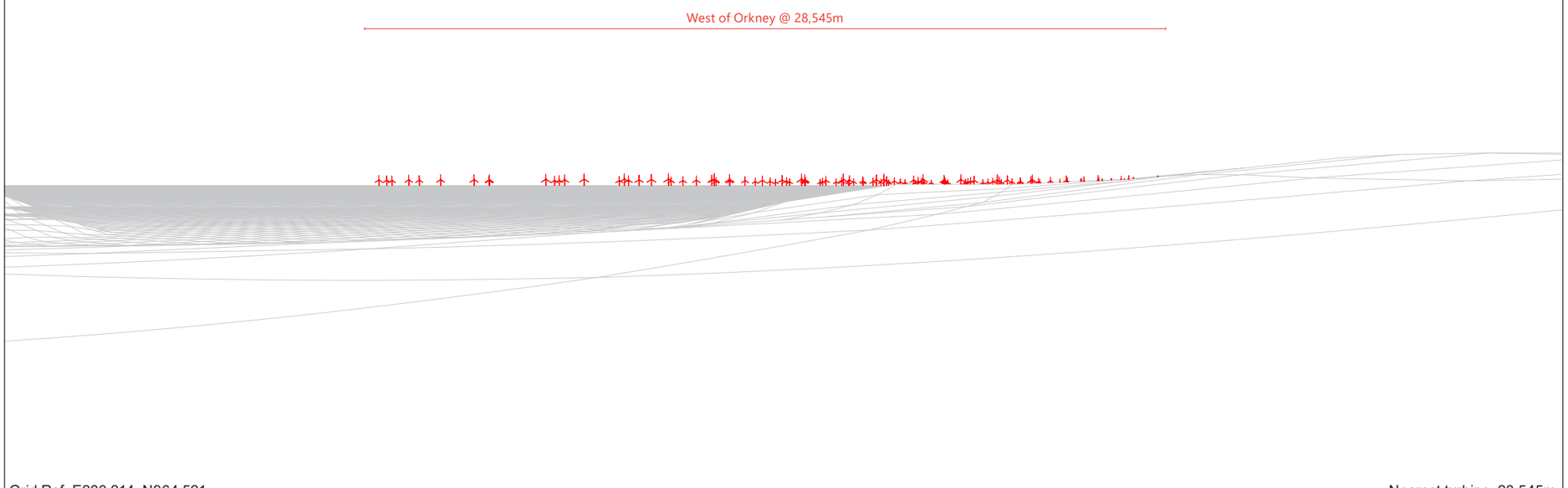
wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3

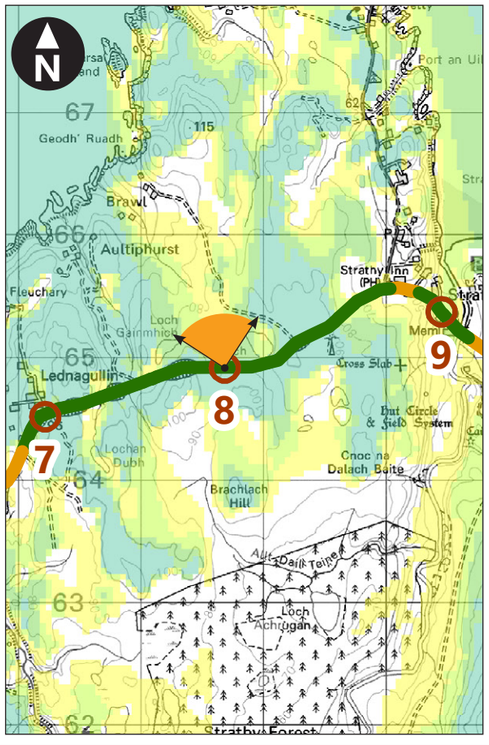


Viewpoint 7 - Lednagullin

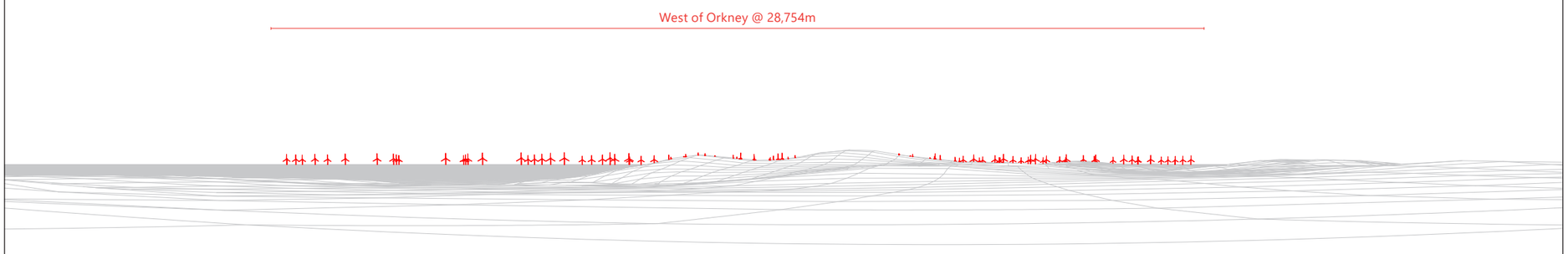


Grid Ref: E280 214, N964 521

Nearest turbine: 28,545m



Viewpoint 8 - Car Park near Lochan Ealach



Grid Ref: E281 678, N964 920

Nearest turbine: 28,754m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

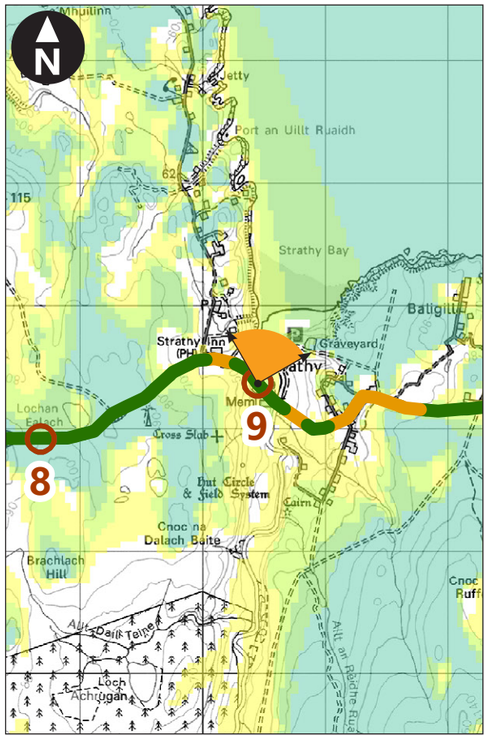
Figure 14e
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

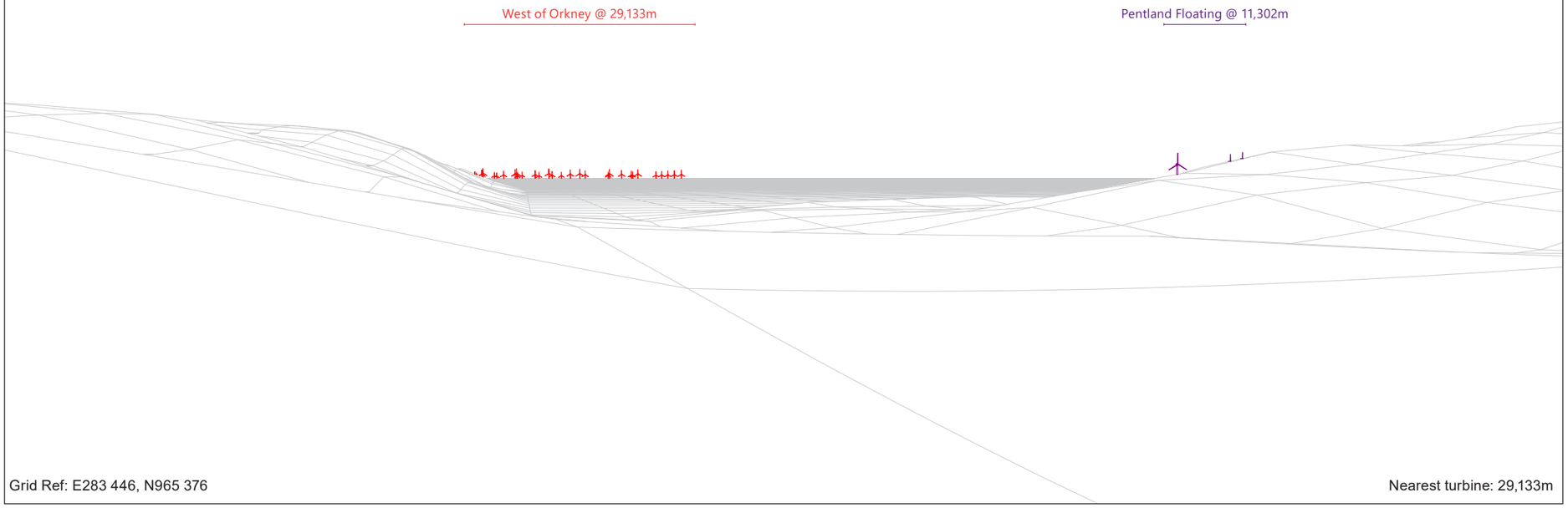
July 2024

wsp

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

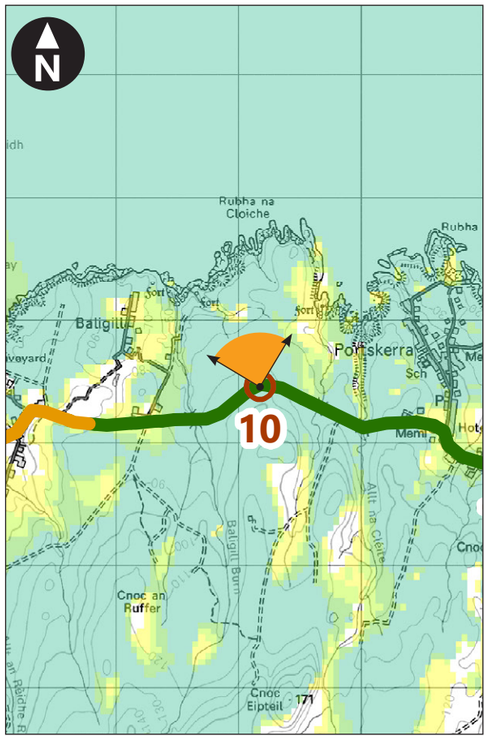


Viewpoint 9 - Strathy Valley

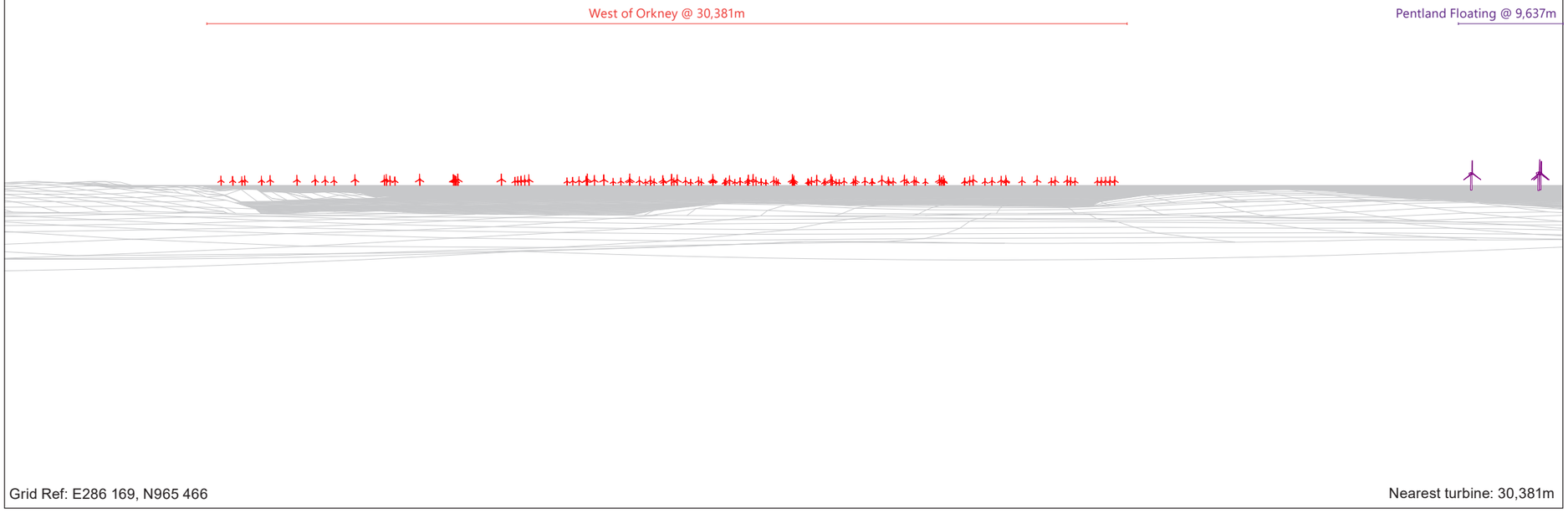


Grid Ref: E283 446, N965 376

Nearest turbine: 29,133m



Viewpoint 10 - Car Park (Signposted Viewpoint)



Grid Ref: E286 169, N965 466

Nearest turbine: 30,381m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

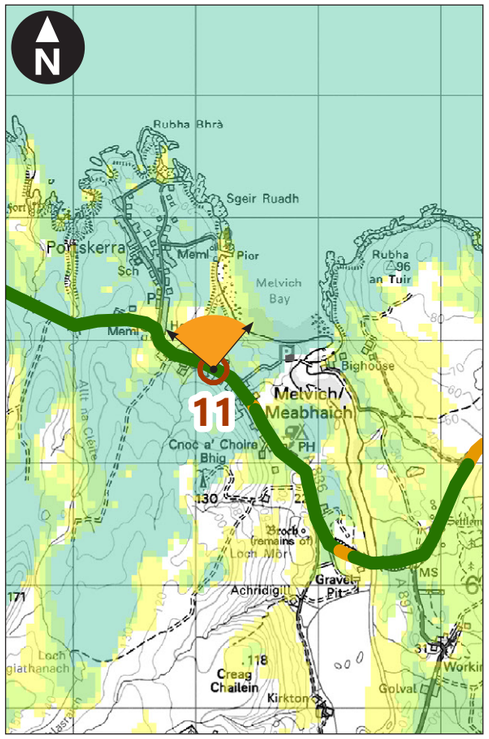
Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

Figure 14f
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

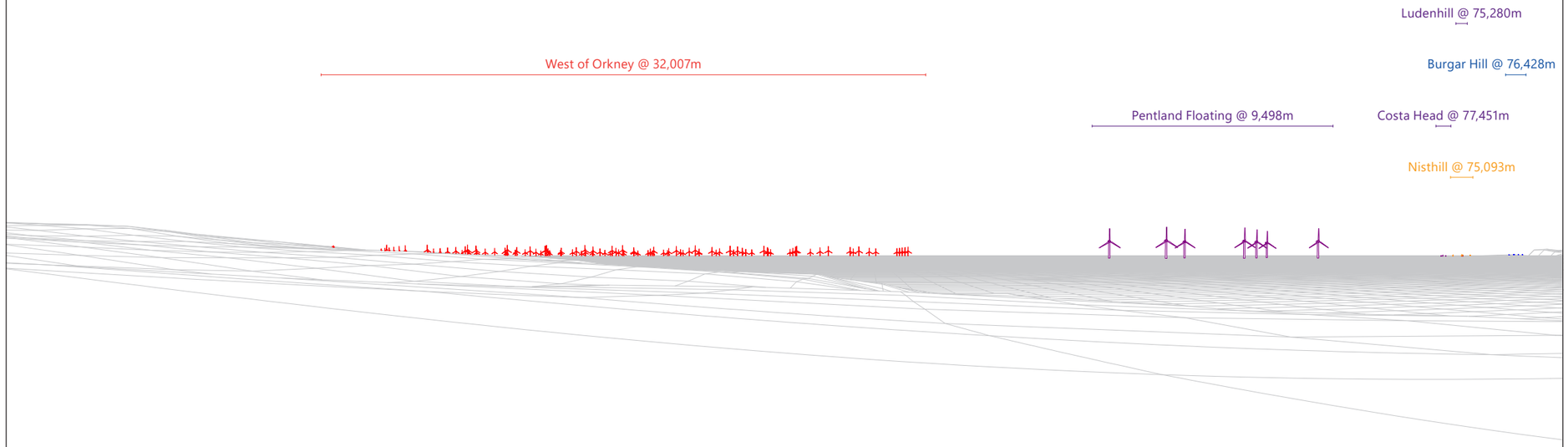
West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

July 2024

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

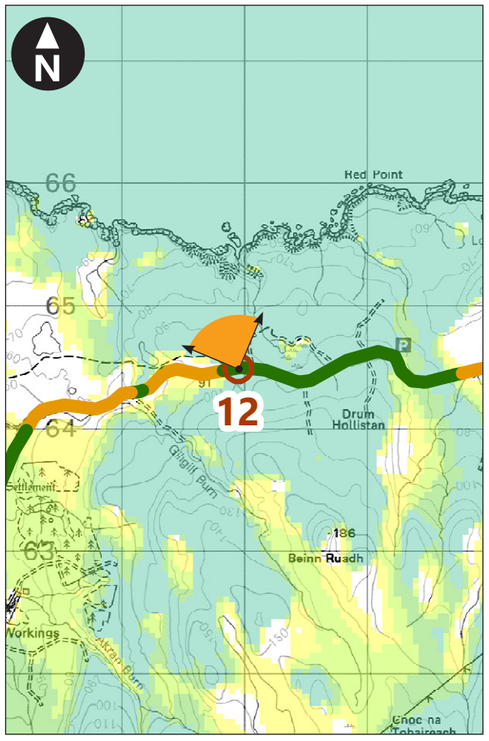


Viewpoint 11 - Melvich

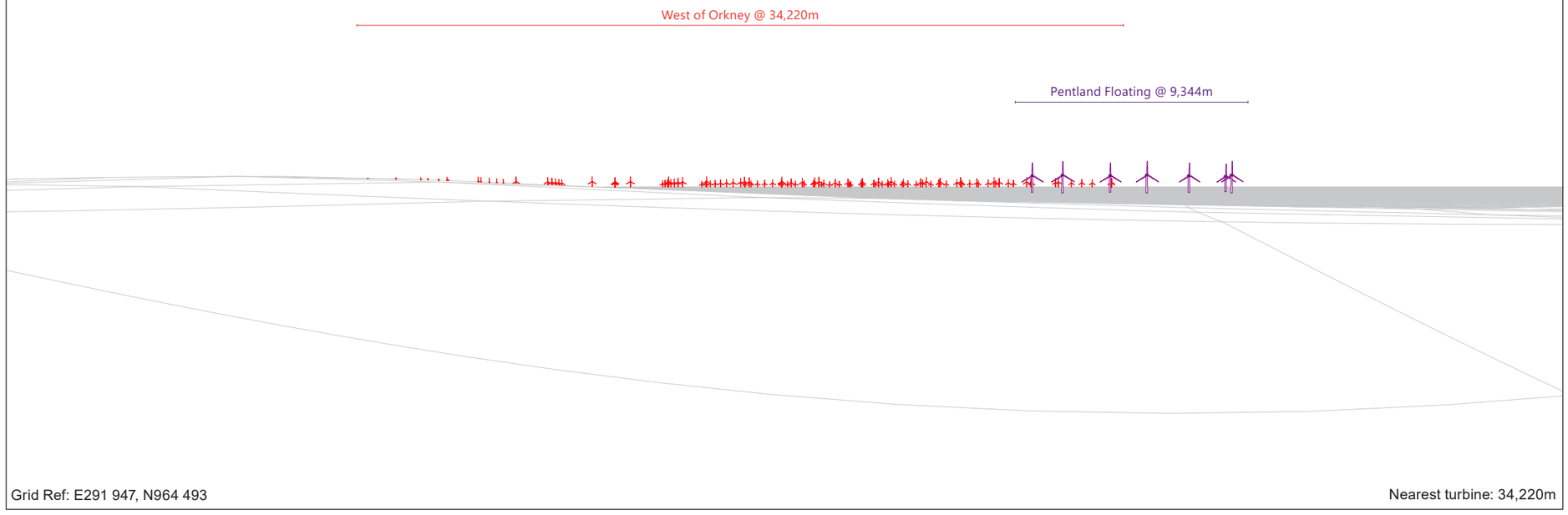


Grid Ref: E288 140, N964 767

Nearest turbine: 32,007m



Viewpoint 12 - Mackay Country Landmark



Grid Ref: E291 947, N964 493

Nearest turbine: 34,220m

0 km 3 km

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm; Existing; Consented; Application

Notes:
i) Key for ZTV as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
ii) Key for cumulative wind farms as illustrated on Figure 18.21a.
iii) The OS Terrain 50 data on the wirelines and ZTV does not take into account the screening effects of any localised landform, vegetation and built-form.
iv) Wirelines illustrate a 90° field of view (unless otherwise stated) and are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

Figure 14g
A836 Sequential Route Assessment

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

July 2024

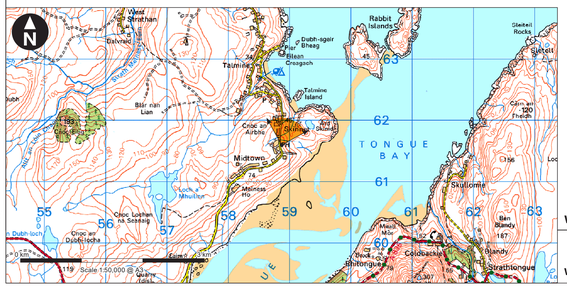
wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 14b-g Sequential 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00096_R3

APPENDIX D ADDITIONAL VIEWPOINTS REQUESTED BY NATURESCOT

West of Orkney @ 29,562m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E258 869, N961 595	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	57.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	16°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	29,562m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 15a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Talmine Bay / Midtown

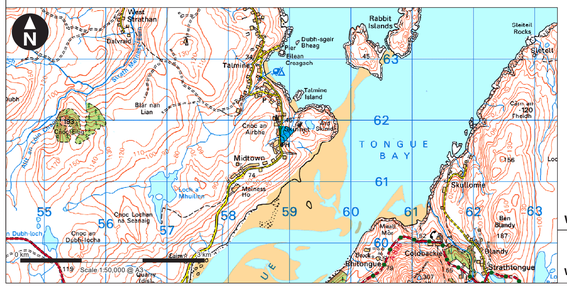
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 15a-b Talmine Bay - Midtown 853781 WSPE FIG GA 00098_R3

West of Orkney @ 29,562m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E258 869, N961 595	Horizontal field of view:	53.5° (planar projection)
Eye level:	57.5m AOD	Principal distance:	812.5mm
Direction of view:	16°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	29,562m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 15b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Talmine Bay / Midtown

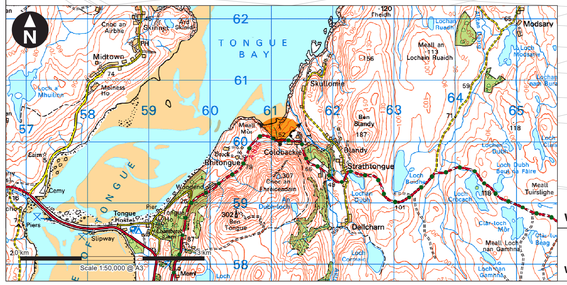
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW715

Figure 15a-b Talmine Bay - Midtown 853781 WSPE FIG GA 00098_R3

West of Orkney @ 31,127m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E261 142, N959 959	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	71.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	0°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	31,127m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

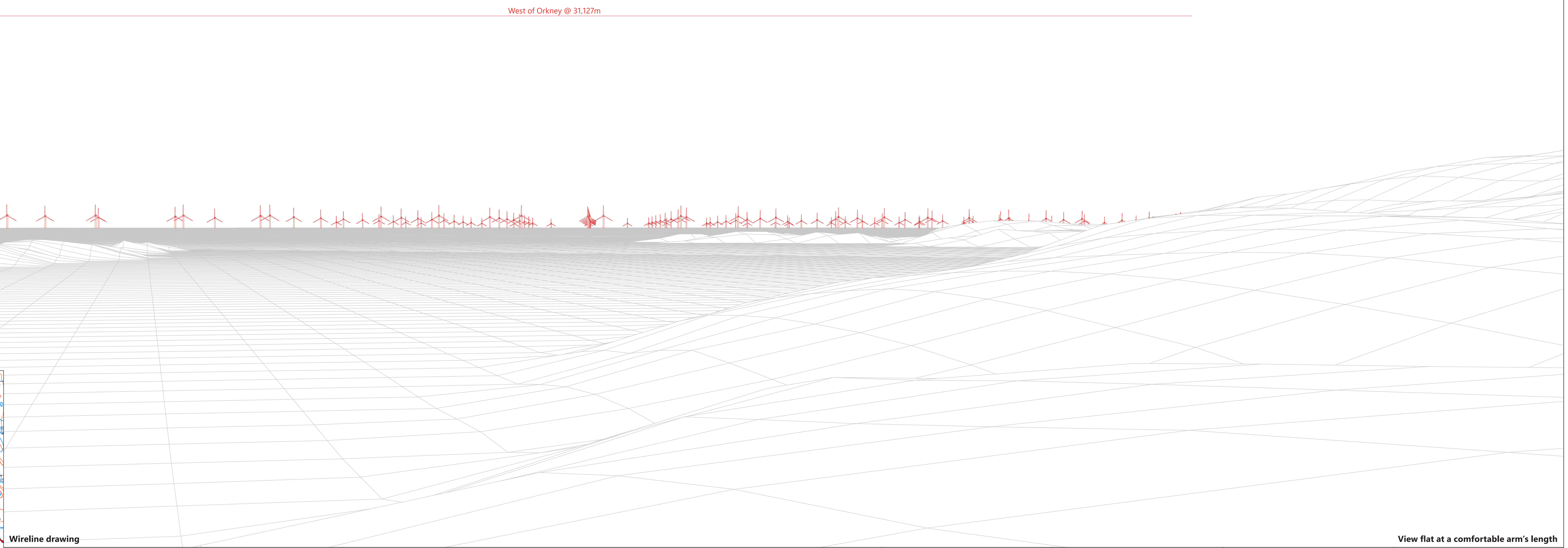
Figure 16a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
A836 above Coldbackie Bay

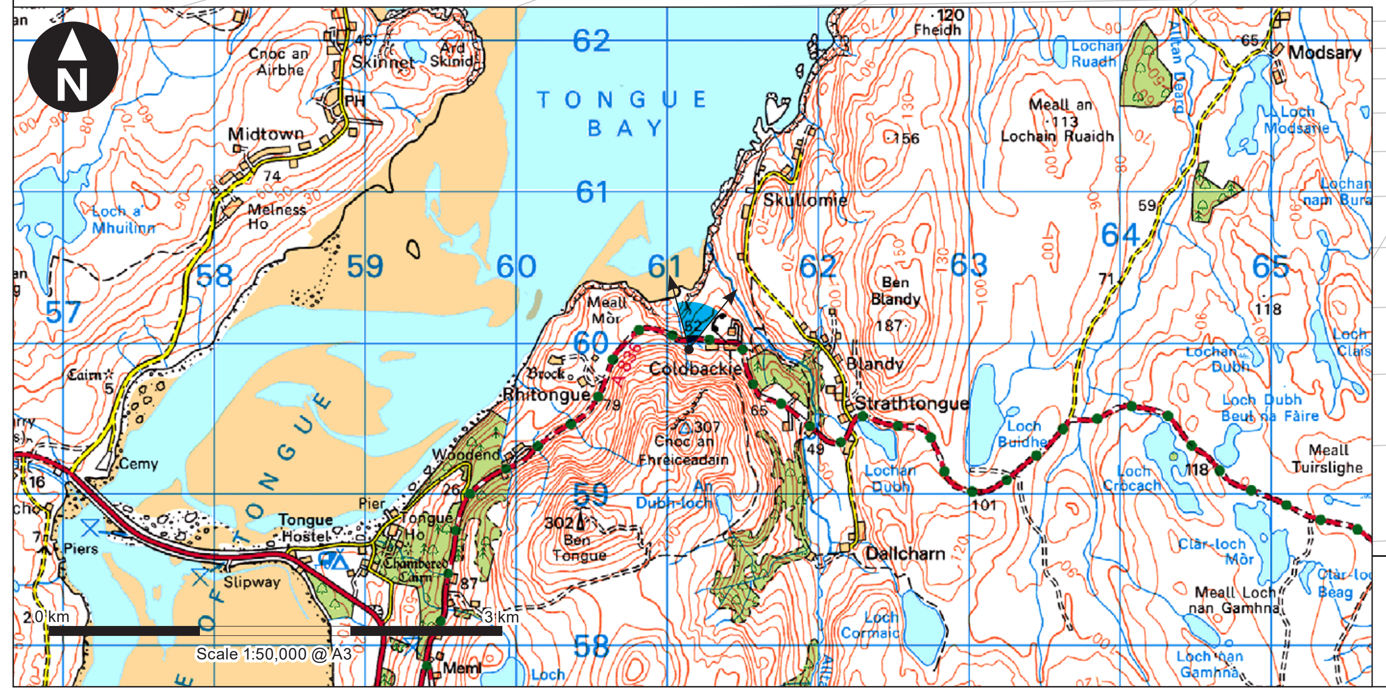
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGWT75

Figure 16a-b A836 above Coldbackie Bay 193781-WSPE-FIG-SA-00099_R3





Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E261 142, N959 959	Horizontal field of view:	53.5° (planar projection)
Eye level:	71.5m AOD	Principal distance:	812.5mm
Direction of view:	12°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	31,127m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 16b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
A836 above Coldbackie Bay

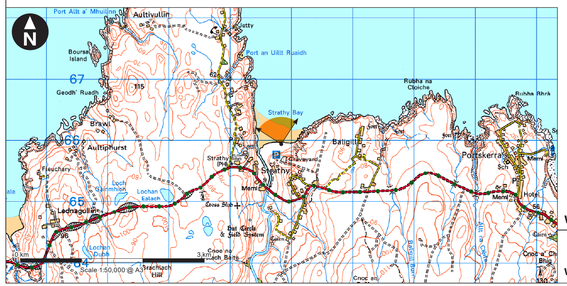
July 2024

wsp

Figure 16a-b A836 above Coldbackie Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00099_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

North view

West of Orkney @ 28,826m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E283 830, N965 937	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	8.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	348°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,826m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 17a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Strathy Bay

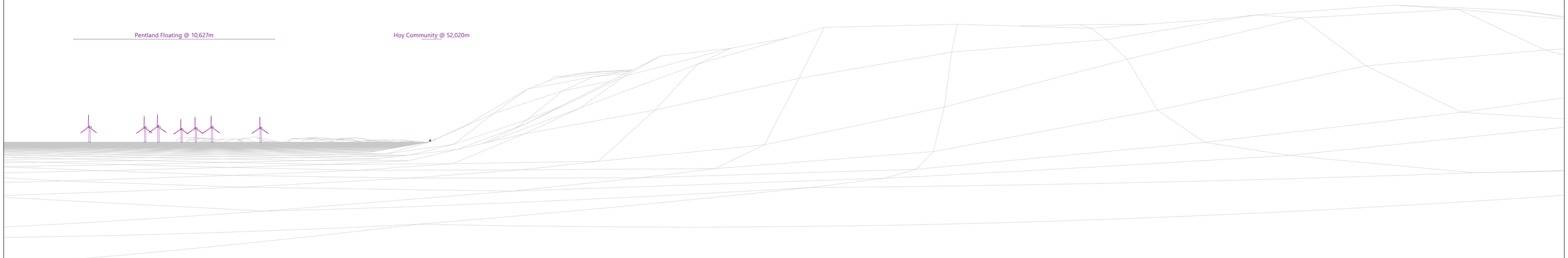
July 2024

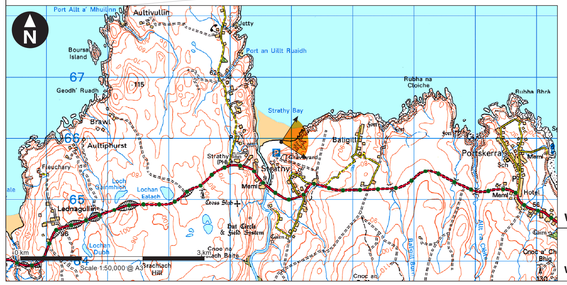
wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 17a-d Strathy Bay 855781-WSPE-FG-SA-00100_R3

East view





Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E283 830, N965 937	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	8.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	78°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,826m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 17b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Strathy Bay

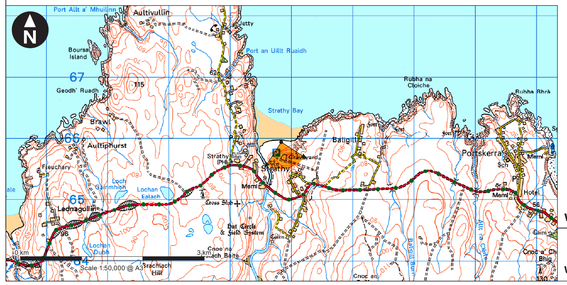
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 17b-d Strathy Bay 855781-WSPE-FG-SA-00100_R3

South view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E283 830, N965 937	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	8.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	168°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,826m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 17c
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Strathy Bay

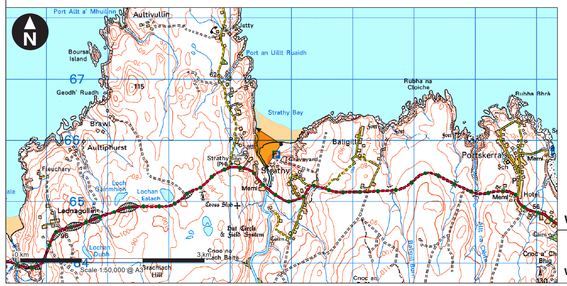
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 17a-d Strathy Bay 852781-WSPE-FG-SA-00100_R3

West view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E283 830, N965 937	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	8.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	258°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,826m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 17d
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Strathy Bay

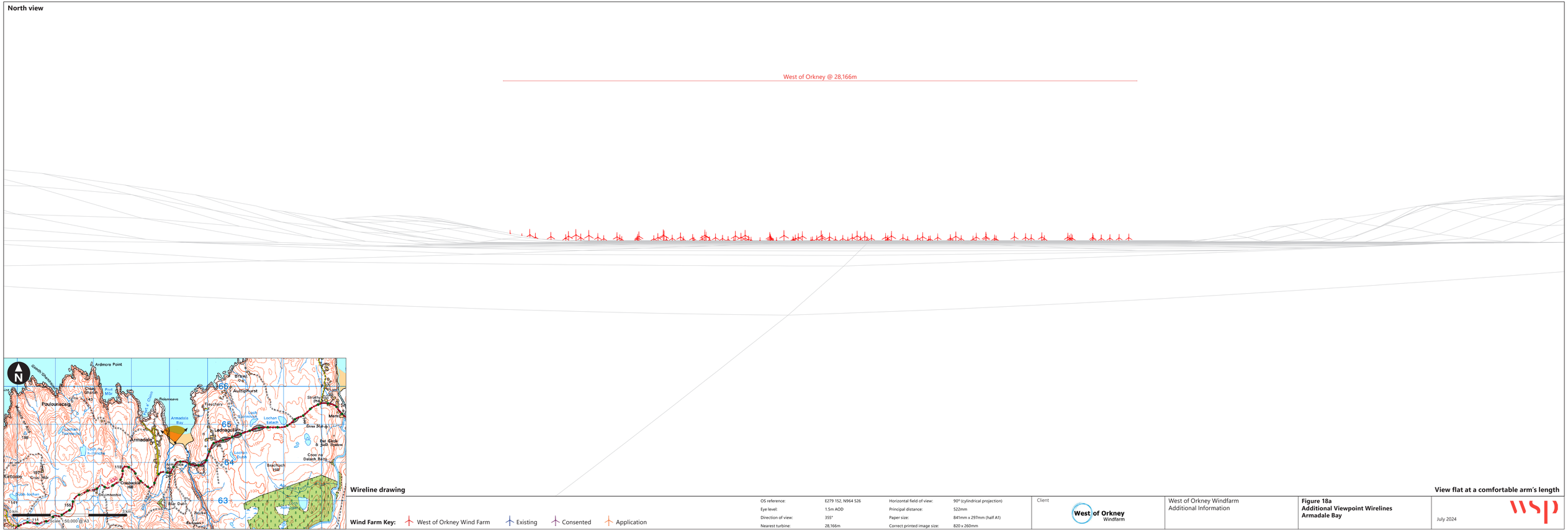
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 17d-d Strathy Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00100_R3

North view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E279 152, N964 526	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	355°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,166m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

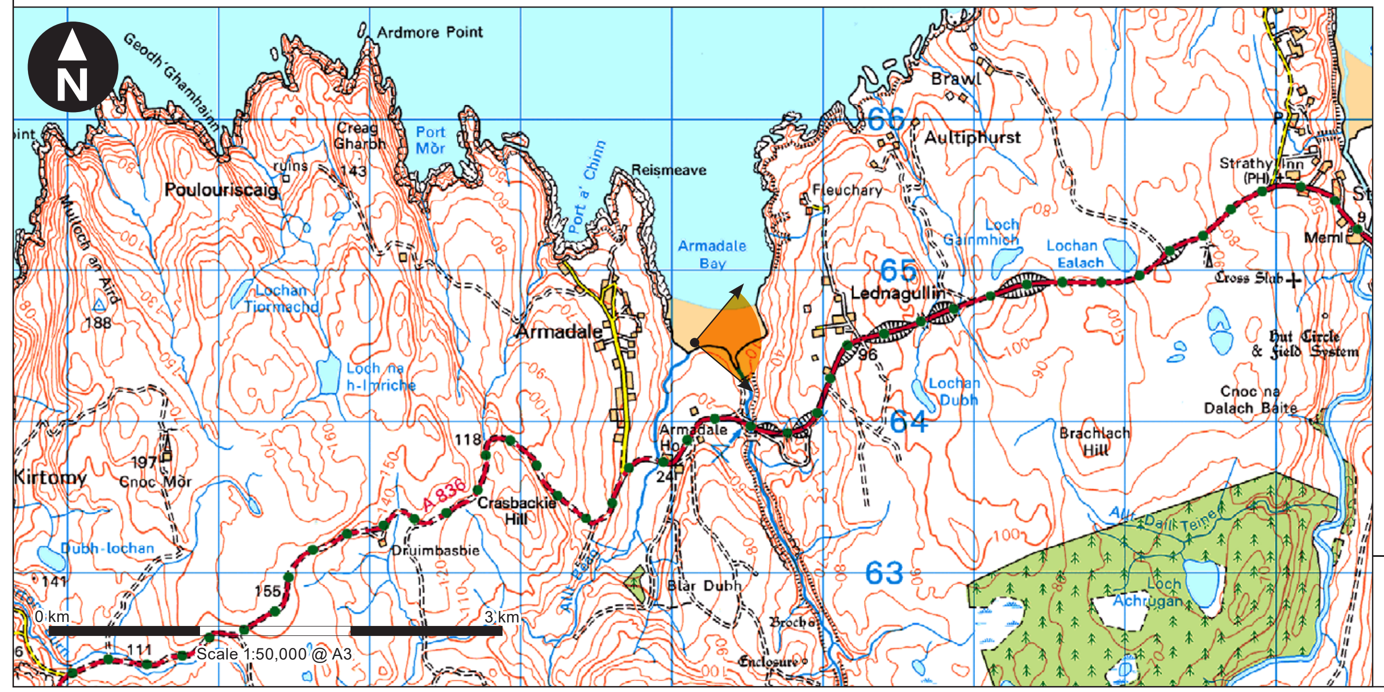
Figure 18a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Armadale Bay

July 2024

wsp

Figure 18a-d Armadale Bay (65738) WSPE-FIG-SA-00101_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

East view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E279 152, N964 526	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	85°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,166m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 18b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Armadale Bay

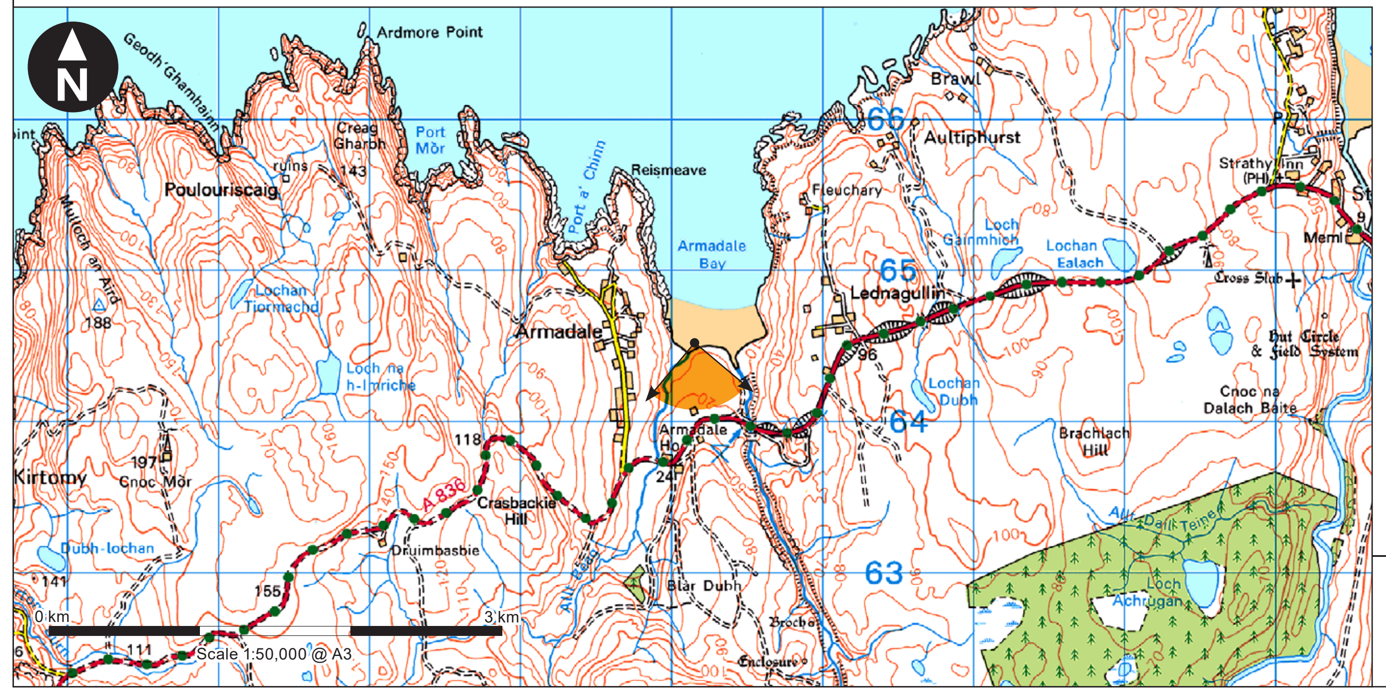
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 18a-d Armadale Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00101_R3

South view



Wireline drawing

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E279 152, N964 526	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	175°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,166m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

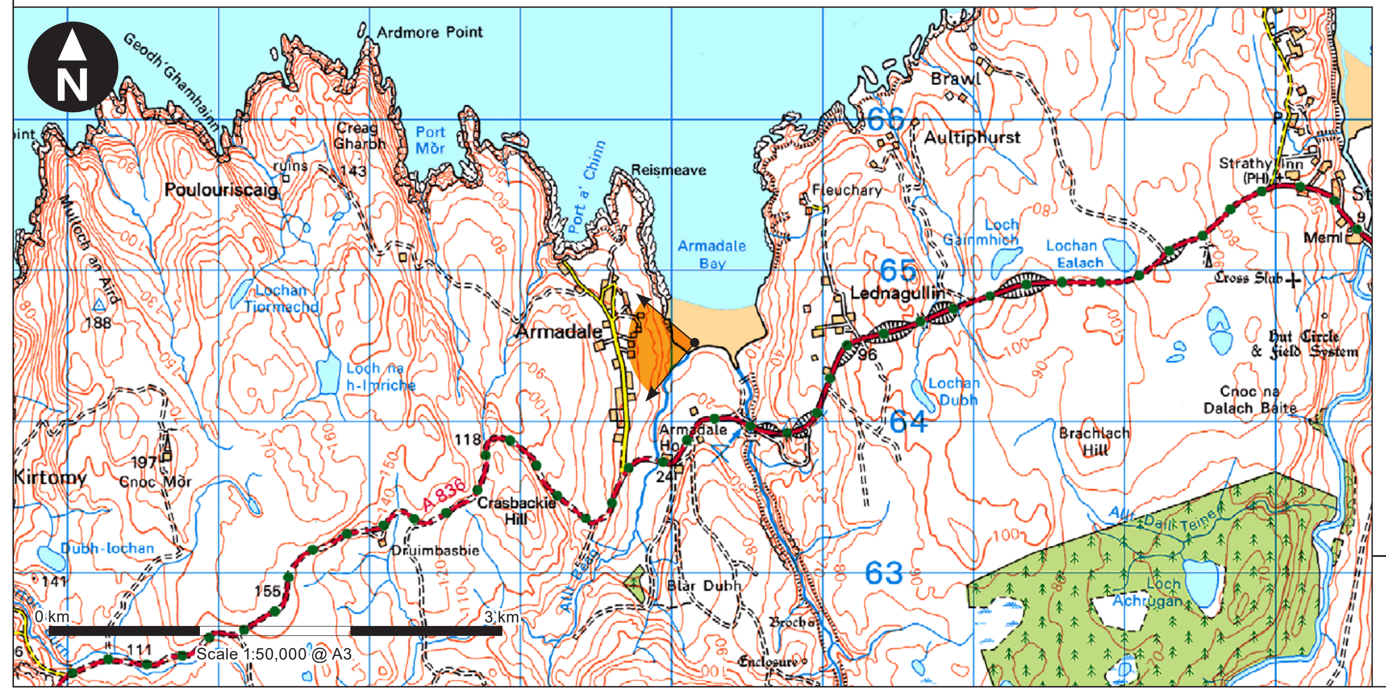
Figure 18c
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Armadale Bay

July 2024

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 18a-d Armadale Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00101_R3

West view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E279 152, N964 526	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	265°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,166m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

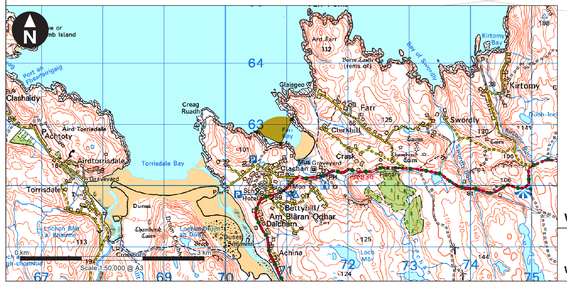
Figure 18d
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Armadale Bay

July 2024

Figure 18a-d Armadale Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00101_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

North view

West of Orkney @ 28,327m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E270 911, N962 690	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	340°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,327m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 19a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Farr Bay

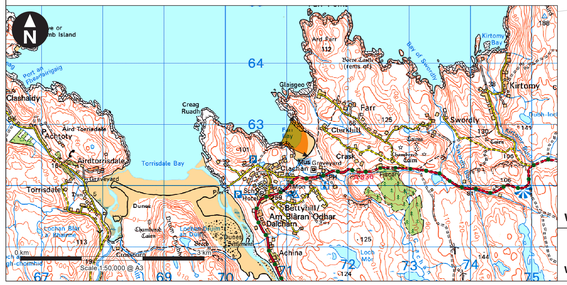
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 19a-d Farr Bay B3781-WSPE-FIG-SA-00102_R3

East view



Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 19b-d Farr Bay B3781-WSPE-FG-SA-00102_R3

Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E270 911, N962 690	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	70°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,327m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

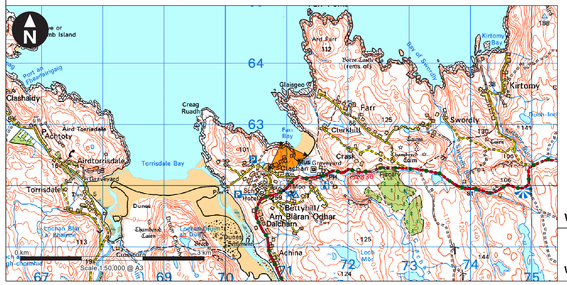
West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 19b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Farr Bay

July 2024

wsp

South view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E270 911, N962 690	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	160°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,327m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 19c
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Farr Bay

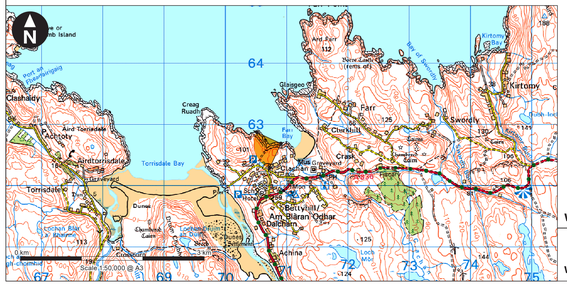
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 19c-d Farr Bay 833781-WSPE-FG-SA-00102_R3

West view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E270 911, N962 690	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	1.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	250°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	28,327m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 19d
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Farr Bay

July 2024

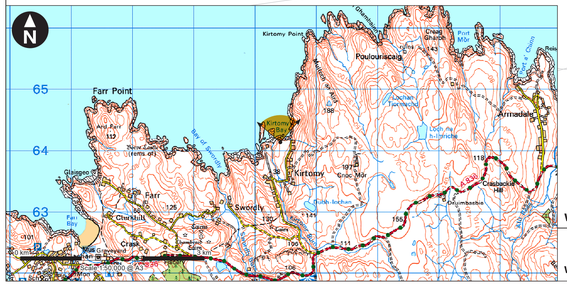
wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 19d-Farr Bay-B3781-WSPE-FG-SA-00102_R3

North view

West of Orkney @ 27,332m



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E274 415, N964 133	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	21.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	356°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,332m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 20a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Kirtomy Bay

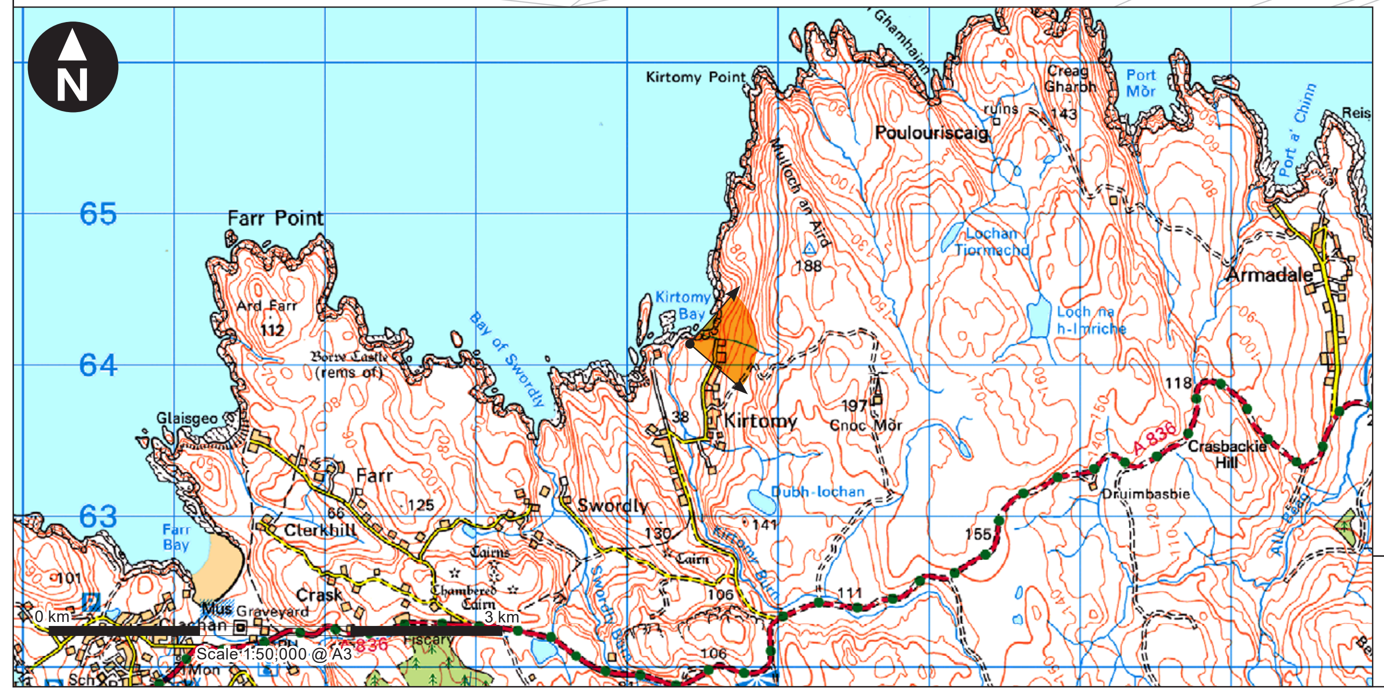
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 20a-d Kirtomy Bay 831781-WSPE-FG-SA-00103_R3

East view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E274 415, N964 133	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	21.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	86°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,332m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

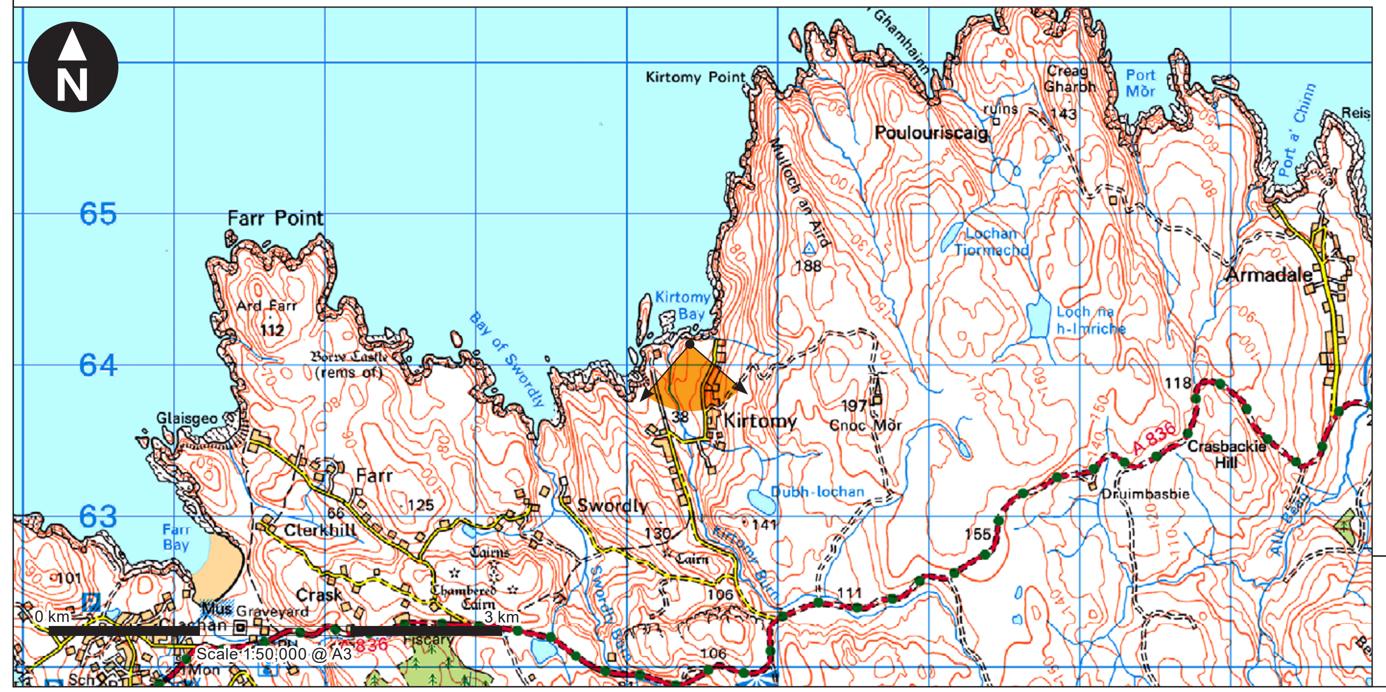
Figure 20b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Kirtomy Bay

July 2024

Figure 20a-d Kirtomy Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00103_R3

Originator: UKCGW775

South view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm · Existing · Consented · Application

OS reference:	E274 415, N964 133	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	21.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	176°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,332m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

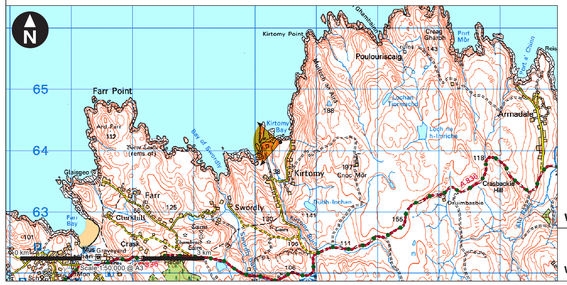
Figure 20c
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Kirtomy Bay

July 2024

Figure 20a-d Kirtomy Bay 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00103_R3

Originator: UKCGW775

West view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E274 415, N964 133	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	21.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	266°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,332m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 20d
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Kirtomy Bay

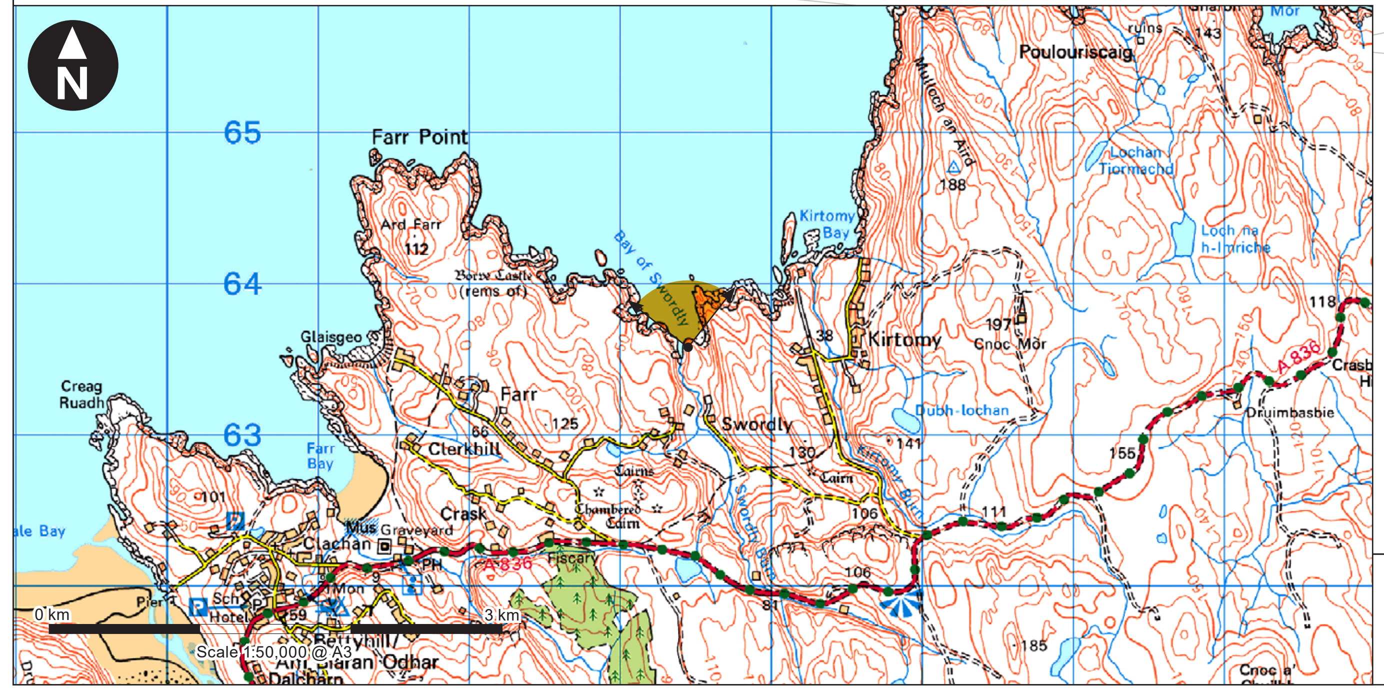
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 20d-d Kirtomy Bay 831781-WSPE-FG-SA-00103_R3

North view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E273 447, N963 578	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	11.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	353°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,731m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

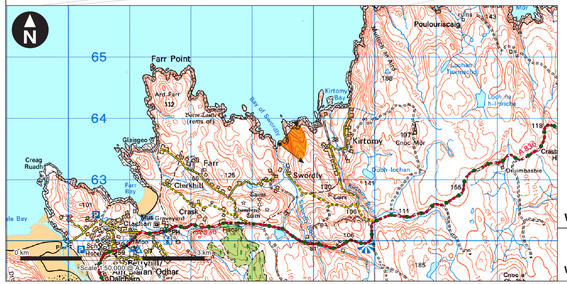
West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 21a
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Bay of Swordly

July 2024

Figure 21a-d Bay of Swordly 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00104_R3 Originator: UKCGW775

East view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E273 447, N963 578	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	11.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	83°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,731m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 21b
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Bay of Swordly

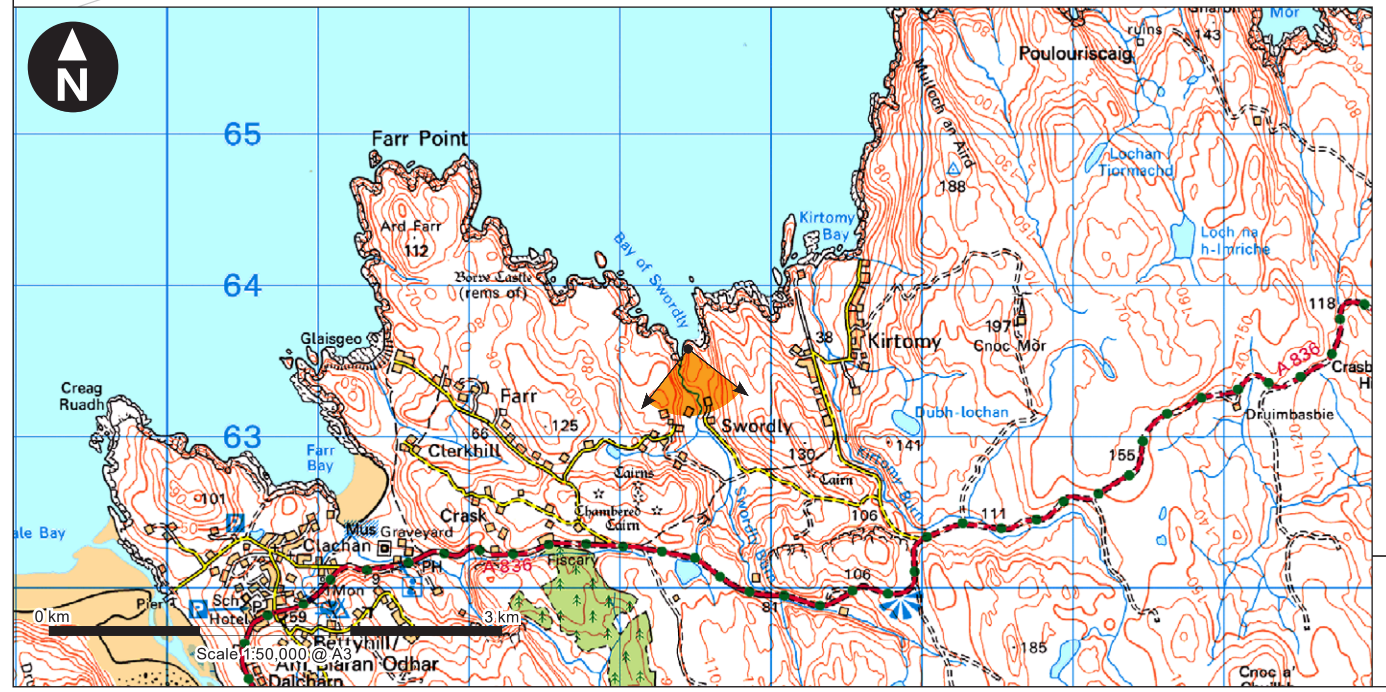
July 2024

wsp

Originator: UKCGW775

Figure 21a-d Bay of Swordly BS3781-WSPE-FG-SA-00104_R3

South view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E273 447, N963 578	Horizontal field of view:	90º (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	11.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	173°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,731m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client: West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

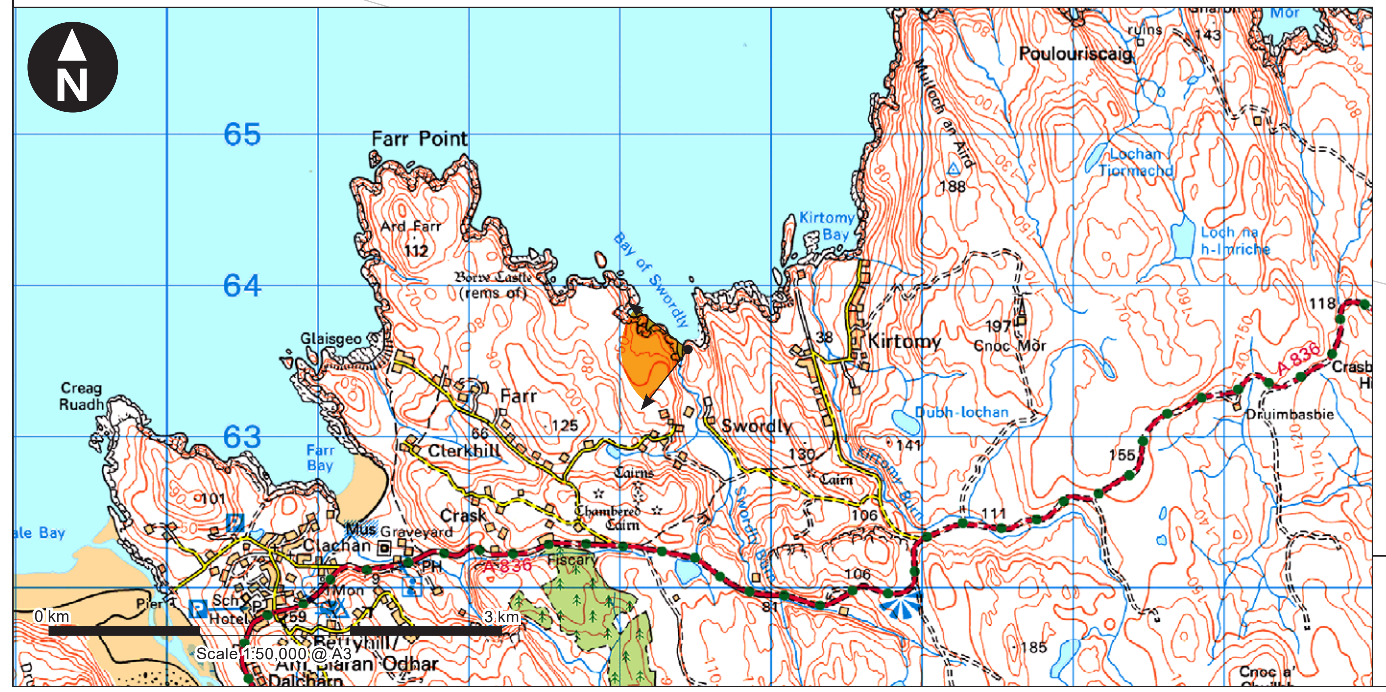
Figure 21c
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Bay of Swordly

July 2024

Figure 21a-d Bay of Swordly 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00104_R3

Originator: UKCGW775

West view



Wireline drawing

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

Wind Farm Key: West of Orkney Wind Farm | Existing | Consented | Application

OS reference:	E273 447, N963 578	Horizontal field of view:	90° (cylindrical projection)
Eye level:	11.5m AOD	Principal distance:	522mm
Direction of view:	263°	Paper size:	841mm x 297mm (half A1)
Nearest turbine:	27,731m	Correct printed image size:	820 x 260mm

Client

West of Orkney Windfarm

West of Orkney Windfarm
Additional Information

Figure 21d
Additional Viewpoint Wirelines
Bay of Swordly

July 2024

Figure 21a-d Bay of Swordly 853781-WSPE-FG-SA-00104_R3

Originator: UKCGW775

APPENDIX E THC VISUALISATIONS

See separate document: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Additional Information – Appendix E THC Visualisations.