8 SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

8.1 INTRODUCTION

1. This section of the ES Addendum presents information to address consultation responses and consider further cumulative information in relation to the seascape, landscape and visual environment. In addition, this section presents a discussion of the effects that may occur as a result of the most likely scenario. The assessment has been undertaken by LDA Design.

2. Specifically, this section of the ES Addendum addresses the responses from consultees to present further information in the assessment, including a request to provide an assessment of Coastal Character Areas (CCAs), and presents a revised assessment of cumulative effects incorporating updated information on the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone.

3. This section of the ES Addendum is supported by the following documents:

- Volume 3: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) Figures:
  - CCAs (Figure 8.1);
  - Lybster Harbour Viewpoint Photographic Panorama and Wireframe (Figure 8.2);
  - Cumulative Zone of Theoretical Visibilities (ZTVs) (Figures 8.3 - 8.5); and
  - Cumulative Wireframes (Figures 8.6 – 8.39).

4. This section presents:

- An assessment of CCAs. This is supplemental to the assessment of effects in the Original ES;
- An assessment of an further viewpoint at Lybster Harbour which is further to the assessment of viewpoints presented in Section 14.5.5 of the Original ES;
- A discussion of the most likely scenario further to the Original ES Section 14: Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual; and
- An updated cumulative assessment utilising the new information on the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone incorporating the additive approach as described in Section 3: EIA Process and Methodology of this ES Addendum. This replaces to cumulative assessment presented in Section 14.9 of the Original ES with the exception of the assessment of Regional Seascape Units (RSUs) which remains as presented in the Original ES.

5. This section presents an addendum to Section 14: Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual of the Original ES (April 2012) and is supplemental to it. The assessment of cumulative effects replaces the cumulative assessment presented in the Original ES with the exception of the assessment of RSUs for which the assessment presented in Section 14.9 in the Original ES. Where applicable, reference is made in this assessment to the Original ES.

6. This section includes the following elements:

- Consultation;
- Scope of Assessment;

- Baseline;
- Assessment Methodology;
- Assessment of Potential Effects
- Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects;
- Assessment of Cumulative Effects;
- Statement of Significance; and
- References.

8.2 CONSULTATION

7. Following the submission of the Original ES in April 2012, Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd (BOWL) has received consultation responses, via Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) from various statutory and non-statutory consultees. A summary of these responses in relation to seascape, landscape and visual is presented in Table 8.1. Reference is also provided as to where these issues are addressed within this ES Addendum, if applicable. Please note that The Highland Council (THC) responses relate to the production of visualisation material to their own guidance standards and are further to those produced for the Original ES which followed Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) best practice guidance. The correspondence has been recorded below for completeness but the resulting visualisations are not included in this ES Addendum.

Table 8.1: Summary of Original ES Consultation Responses and Project Response

Consultee	Summary of Consultation Response	Project Response	Section within ES Addendum
SNH/MS-LOT/BOWL 26th September 2012 Meeting	Visual effects on Lybster Harbour need further consideration.	Production of a wireframe from Lybster Harbour with accompanying text.	Baseline: 8.4.2.10 Assessment: 8.6.2 Figure 8.2 This includes further environmental information on the Lybster Harbour viewpoint.
	Require Coastal characterisation assessment to be revisited to be in line with that undertaken by Moray Offshore Renewables Limited (MORL).	Assessment of coastal character.	Baseline: 8.4.2 Assessment: 8.6.1 Figure 8.1 This includes further environmental information on the CCAs.

Consultee	Summary of Consultation Response	Project Response	Section within ES Addendum
	Request for further Cumulative Assessment with MORL in light of subsequent MORL submission illustrating different phases of development.	Revised Cumulative Assessment with Moray Firth Round 3 Zone taking into consideration the phased Moray Firth Round 3 Zone construction scenario information which identified 3 phases of development.	Assessment: 8.8 Figures 8.3 – 8.39 Further assessment of cumulative information.
	'Most Likely' scenario to be considered as well as realistic worst case.	Qualitative 'most likely' scenario assessment undertaken.	Assessment: 8.6.3
	Wind farm layout and design criteria to continue to be considered throughout the ongoing refinement of the design.	Design and layout - commitment by BOWL to ensure seascape character and visual considerations would continue to be taken into account post consent on a realistic worst case basis.	Mitigation: 8.7
SNH 15th October 2012 Email from Erica Knott to BOWL	SNH confirm that the MORL coastal characterisation approach is an appropriate baseline for BOWL to adopt within the ES Addendum.	The CCAs set out in MORL have been used as a baseline for an assessment of effects of BOWL on the coastal resource.	Baseline: 8.4.2 Assessment: 8.6.1 Figure 8.1

Consultee	Summary of Consultation Response	Project Response	Section within ES Addendum
THC 21st September 2012 – 25th January 2013 ongoing consultation with THC	A selection of visualisations following THC guidance was produced alongside the Original ES at the request of THC, in addition to the visualisations contained within the Original ES following SNH guidance. THC queried the detail of how these visualisations had been produced against the requirements of THC Visualisation Standards.	A range of consultations through meetings, emails and letters were undertaken. It was agreed that visualisations from selected viewpoints would be prepared to address the comments from THC. No further environmental information required in this ES Addendum. The visualisations are from the same viewpoints as presented in the Original ES.	Printed copies of the selected viewpoint visualisations were issued to THC in line with their standard on 17th January 2013. Confirmation from THC that they are satisfied with the revised visualisations received on 25th January 2013.

8.3 SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

8. As stated in Section 8.1, this section of the ES Addendum considers the responses from consultees as outlined in Table 8.1. Where these responses required the provision of further information they have been addressed within this ES Addendum.

9. This section contains the following further information and revisions to Section 14: Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual of the Original ES:

- An assessment of CCAs. This is supplemental to the assessment in the Original ES;
- An assessment of an further viewpoint at Lybster Harbour which is further to the assessment of viewpoints presented in Section 14.5.5 of the Original ES;
- A discussion of the most likely scenario further to the Original ES Section 14: Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual; and
- An updated cumulative assessment utilising the new information on the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone incorporating the additive approach as described in Section 3: EIA Process and Methodology of this ES Addendum. The cumulative assessment includes an assessment of Coastal Character Areas (an updated cumulative assessment of RSUs was not considered necessary further to the assessment of CCAs, given their similarity). This replaces the cumulative assessment presented in the Original ES with the exception of the RSUs for which the assessment presented in Section 14.9 of the Original ES remains valid.

10. Section 14:Wind Farm Seascape, Landscape and Visual of the Original ES assessed the effects of the Wind Farm on seascape and landscape using regional seascape units, seascape character types and landscape character types in accordance with best practice guidance and agreement of methodology through consultation prior to submission. The character of the coastline was defined within the relevant landscape types, regional seascape units and seascape types.

11. The submission of the application for the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone Wind Farm in August 2012 by Moray Offshore Renewables Limited (MORL) included the use of coastal characterisation (based on methodology set out in SNH's *Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture* 2008) instead of regional seascape units. The MORL approach defined the character of stretches of coastline at a scale comparative to the landscape types. SNH requested, at the meeting on the 26th September 2012, that further assessment of the effects of the Wind Farm on the character of the coast would enable a consistent approach across the two projects, aiding comparison and consideration of cumulative effects where required. In order to achieve this, it was agreed with SNH that BOWL would review the CCAs set out in the application for the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone Wind Farms and undertake a CCA assessment to the SNH (2008) methodology. This is supplemental to the assessment presented in Section 14 of the Original ES.

12. There are no changes to assessment methodology, or further receptors which have been incorporated into this section other those in response to consultee comments as described above.

13. With regard to the changes in the project parameters in the Amended Project, the size of the jack-up vessel footprint has no relevance to effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors.

14. As per the scope of the Original ES, there are no potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors from the Offshore Transmission Works (OfTW) component of the Project, and consequently the Amended Project, and hence there is no comment on the Amended OfTW in this section of the ES Addendum.

8.4 BASELINE

8.4.1 STUDY AREA

15. The Study Area for the assessment of effects on the seascape, landscape and visual environment remains unchanged from that presented in Section 14.2.1 of the Original ES.

8.4.2 BASELINE CONDITIONS

16. The baseline conditions relating to the Study Area were presented in Section 14.3 of the Original ES. These conditions remain unchanged.

17. However, in order to further define the character of the coastline, some further baseline information is provided in relation to CCAs. A viewpoint at Lybster Harbour has also been added to the assessment following responses from consultees. The baseline for these CCAs and the further viewpoint are presented below and are further to the baseline presented in Section 14.3 of the Original ES.

8.4.2.1 Coastal Character Areas (CCAs)

18. MORL established 23 CCAs within their study area. Of these, nine lie wholly within the BOWL 40 km Study Area, with the Gills Bay and John O'Groats CCAs partially within the northern extents. Site visits were undertaken in December 2012 and March 2013 to review the CCAs and describe their character. It was determined that the extents of the CCAs established by MORL were broadly appropriate and a list of the CCAs relevant to the BOWL application was generated. This is presented below and illustrated in Figure 8.1:

- Gills Bay and John O'Groats;
- Duncansby Head;
- Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast;
- Sinclair's Bay;
- Noss Head;
- Wick Bay;
- Sarclet Head;
- Lybster Bay;
- Dunbeath Bay; and
- Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf.

19. On cross referencing the CCAs with the Wind Farm ZTV, it is clear that the Gills Bay to John O'Groats CCA does not have any intervisibility with the Wind Farm due to the coast's northerly orientation. It is therefore considered appropriate to scope it out of this assessment.

20. The baseline character of the nine relevant CCAs is presented below in accordance with the SNH (2008) methodology. The sensitivity of each CCA to the type of development proposed is also identified.

Duncansby Head CCA

- Prominent headland, providing expansive views north towards the Orkney Islands and east/ south east across the North Sea.
- Exposed and outward orientated character to the south of Duncansby Head where the coastal hinterland is characterised by open areas of rough grazing, and seaward views are across expansive areas of open sea. The northern facing areas, west of the lighthouse, include views to the improved pastures, field systems and settled areas around John O' Groats and across the Boars of Duncansby to Stroma and the Orkneys.
- Near vertical sandstone sea cliffs, arches, stacks, geo's, inaccessible beaches and rock shelves characterise the dramatic and complex coastal edge. A more sheltered character is evident at the Bay of Stannick.
- Limited settlement of the coastal hinterland which is characterised by expansive open pastures and moorland.
- Coast road located over 1 km from coastline with views out to sea. Viewpoint and interpretation at Warth Hill looking across coastal hinterland to sea.

- Wide areas inaccessible to the public. However, car park with interpretation boards and footpath to Duncansby Head and south to Hill of Crogdale provide access.
- Visually dramatic coastline with wild and remote character in places. Sense of isolation limited by proximity of settled areas.
- Popular destination as the north eastern most tip of mainland Britain, embarkation point to the Orkneys and for wildlife watching.
- Duncansby Head Lighthouse, Pentland Skerries, Stacks of Duncansby and profile of Orkneys form prominent local landmarks.
- Area of Great Landscape Value designation.

21. The sensitivity of the Duncansby Head CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be high due to the exposed, remote and generally harmonious character with few disparate elements.

Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast

- Fractured coastline of rock cliffs, intertidal rock shelves and occasional rocky beaches and geo's.
- Generally expansive views orientated eastwards out to the sea. Bay at Freswick creates a greater sense of enclosure and opportunity to view the coastal edge.
- Coastal hinterland of sparsely settled semi improved pastures defined by post and wire fencing and rough grazing, with inland areas dominated by expansive, gently rolling moorland hills.
- Settlement pattern of isolated cottages and small dispersed hamlets. Some areas show signs of formal planning e.g. Keiss.
- Main axial road (A99) lies close to coastline within a few hundred metres in places.
- Access to coast is limited to occasional small harbours/havens such as at Keiss and Skirza off minor roads at right angles to the A99.
- Several Brochs located along the coast, or a short distance inland. Nybster Broch is accessible via a small public car park and interpretation is provided. The site also includes three monuments close to the Broch.
- Freswick Castle is a prominent landmark in views across the bay and from the coastal hinterland.

22. Taking into account the strong relationship to the sea with open expansive sea views, but also the influence of built features on and offshore, the sensitivity of the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be medium.

Sinclair's Bay

- Gently curving bay orientated eastwards in the north between Keiss and Ackergill. Views orientated north and west between Noss Head and Ackergill encompassing the sweep of sandy beaches and dunes. Coastal views to the east terminate at the distinctive profile of Noss Head.
- Sandy beach backed by a narrow, but distinctive band of high dunes gradually becoming pebble beaches with rocky shelves in the south towards Noss Head.

- Hinterland of sparsely settled gently rolling arable fields and rough grazing, defined in part by stone walls. Planned geometric layouts contrast to natural dune systems.
- Limited access to coast from A99 road, albeit pedestrian access possible along stretches of beach.
- Sweeping views South around bay to Noss Head, encompassing prominent landmarks of Ackergill Tower and Castle Sinclair and views eastwards out to sea.
- Views inland from beach limited by dunes.
- Lower coastal lying areas fringed with war time coastal defences.
- Pipeline fabrication works a feature within the centre of the bay.

23. Taking into account the sweeping bay and both its exposed and semi-enclosed nature, combined with industrial and settlement influences, such as the A99 and pipeline fabrication works, the sensitivity of the Sinclair's Bay CCA to the type of development proposed is judged as medium.

Noss Head

- Prominent rocky headland. Dramatic profile when viewed from locations along the coast to the north.
- Exposed and outward orientated character.
- Coastal hinterland is sparsely settled, albeit there are a small number of isolated farms set amongst geometric pattern of arable fields and improved pastures. Some areas immediately adjacent to sea cliffs are characterised by rough pastures.
- The northern facing areas encompass the sweep of Sinclair's Bay and coastline further north.
- Near vertical sandstone sea cliffs and rock shelves characterise the dramatic and complex coastal edge.
- A99 coast road located over 3 km from coastline.
- Limited opportunities to access coastal edge. Car park, with interpretation located east of Castle Sinclair.
- Visually dramatic coastline with wild and remote character in places. Sense of isolation limited by proximity of airport.
- Noss Head Lighthouse, Noss Head and Castle Sinclair form prominent local landmarks.
- Beatrice Oil Platforms and Demonstrator Turbines visible offshore.

24. Taking into account the high degree of exposure of this large scale coastal landscape with its visually dramatic character, but also the influence of the airport and offshore industry, the sensitivity of the Noss Head CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be medium.

Wick Bay

- Relatively narrow Wick Bay defined by 20th century development on steeply rising landform set back from rocky coastline/ beaches, set around historic dock.

- Wick town displays planned form, with development arranged in geometric blocks. Rich heritage and strong cultural associations.
- Rural hinterland of geometric arable and improved pasture fields orientated at right angles to the coast. Rough grasslands often immediately adjacent to coastal cliffs.
- Channelled views out to sea from within sheltered settled harbour area. More expansive views from 'shoulders' of the bay (between North Head and Staxigoe in the north and South Head and Old Wick in the south).
- Coastal footpath between Wick and Old Wick Castle. Natural swimming pool at Trinkle.
- Beatrice Oil Platforms and Demonstrator Turbines visible offshore.

25. Taking into account the dominating settlement and industry at Wick, and the varied relationships with the sea from the enclosed bays to the exposed headlands, the sensitivity of the Wick Bay CCA to the type of development proposed is judged to be medium.

Sarclet Head

- Relatively exposed and open coastal edge, orientated eastwards to North Sea.
- Complex and fractured coastline of sea cliffs, intertidal rock shelves, detached stacks and deeply incised geo's.
- Immediate hinterland of rough grazing across cliff tops leading to areas of undulating coastal farmlands and occasional, small coniferous woodlands.
- Areas further inland characterised by elevated craggy moorland hills, noted for their archaeological significance, lochs and extensive coniferous forests.
- Dispersed but relatively uniform settlement pattern, focussed along A9 and roads perpendicular to the A9 running inland and to towards coast (e.g. between Thrumster and Sarclet).
- Access to coast largely restricted. Occasional coastal settlements (such as Sarclet) and destinations such as Whaligo Steps provide access.
- Intermittent expansive views to open sea from coastal road (A9) where it runs close to the coast and elevated areas further inland. Views to coastline limited by intervening undulating landform.
- Beatrice Oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines visible offshore.
- Transmission masts north of Thrumster provide orientation point in the landscape.

26. The sensitivity of the Sarclet Head CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be medium. This takes into account the relatively uniform character of this exposed coastal landscape (albeit with the complex cliff formations along the coastline), and the expansive sea views from the cliff tops or framed views from the enclosed harbours, but also the presence of settlement and associated infrastructure, on and offshore.

Lybster Bay

- Relatively exposed and open coastal edge, orientated southwards.
- Complex and fractured coastline of sea cliffs and intertidal rock shelves.

- Immediate hinterland of rough grazing across cliff tops and steep slopes, leading to areas of undulating coastal farmlands, with strip fields defined by post and wire fencing and stone walls.
- Areas further inland characterised by elevated craggy moorland hills and extensive coniferous forests. Views further inland to distant mountains.
- Dispersed settlement pattern, focussed along A9 and roads perpendicular to the A9 running inland and towards coast.
- Planned settlement of Lybster lies adjacent to, but detached from, its harbour.
- Heritage centre located at Lybster harbour, with footpath to Leac Gallain viewpoint, offering dramatic views from cliff tops out to sea.
- Access to coast largely restricted except at Lybster Bay.
- Beatrice Oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines visible offshore.

27. Taking into account the level and proximity of built features and infrastructure to the coast, and the contrast provided by the undulating coastal edge which has high exposure but also limits the relationship to the sea, the sensitivity of the Lybster Bay CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be medium.

Dunbeath Bay

- Relatively exposed and open coastal edge, orientated eastwards to North Sea.
- Complex and fractured coastline of sea cliffs and intertidal rock shelves.
- Immediate hinterland of rough grazing across cliff tops leading to areas of undulating coastal farmlands and occasional, small coniferous woodlands.
- Areas further inland characterised by elevated moorland hills.
- Dispersed settlement pattern, focussed predominantly on landward side of A9.
- Access to coast largely restricted and limited to harbours at Dunbeath and Latheronwheel.
- Occasional expansive views to open sea from coastal road (A9) where it runs close to the coast over gently shelving coastal farmland.
- Dunbeath Harbour located in relatively open Dunbeath Bay, defined by steep sided slumped cliffs and rocky headland (Portormin Head). Dunbeath Castle forms a locally distinctive landmark in views along the coast to the west.
- Latheron harbour detached from main settlement at end of steep sided wooded valley, and defined by near vertical rocky cliffs. Offers channelled views out to sea (past detached rock stack).
- Beatrice Oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines visible offshore.

28. Taking into account the undulating coastal landscape including areas of woodland and higher levels of settlement and infrastructure than to the north, the sensitivity of the Dunbeath Bay CCA to the type of development proposed is considered to be medium.

Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf

- Exposed and open coastal edge, orientated eastwards to the North Sea.
- Complex coastline of sea cliffs, rocky beaches and intertidal rock shelves.
- Immediate hinterland of largely unenclosed rough grazing and rocky moorland across undulating terrain and deeply incised valleys draining the adjacent

uplands. Some farmed areas on gentler terrain east of Helmsdale. Occasional stone walls, notably near Badbea Clearance Village.

- A9 defines landward edge of the relatively narrow coastal shelf, west of which land rises steeply to elevated moorlands and forested hills.
- Settlement largely restricted to Helmsdale and Berriedale and dispersed farms around Navidale.
- Access to coastline restricted, limited to harbours at Helmsdale and Berriedale.
- Restricted access to coastal shelf off the A9. Parking and footpath provide access to Badbea Clearance Village, and views to coastline.
- Expansive views to open sea from coastal road (A9) where it runs close to the coast.

29. Taking into account the undulating landform and woodland characteristics, which limit openness and therefore the relationship with the sea, but also the rural and exposed nature, it is considered that the sensitivity of the Berriedale to Helmsdale Coastal Shelf CCA to the type of development proposed is medium.

Summary of Coastal Character Area (CCA) Baseline

30. Table 8.2 summarises the sensitivity of each CCA to the type of development proposed.

Table 8.2: Coastal Character Areas Sensitivity

Coastal Character Area	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed
Duncansby Head	High
Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast	Medium
Sinclair's Bay	Medium
Noss Head	Medium
Wick Bay	Medium
Sarclet Head	Medium
Lybster Bay	Medium
Dunbeath Bay	Medium
Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf	Medium

8.4.2.2 Lybster Harbour Viewpoint

31. SNH requested a viewpoint to represent views from sea level along the coastline, as due to the topography of the coastline, most of the viewpoints are from cliff top, or elevated positions. Lybster Harbour was felt to provide an appropriate location. This viewpoint also allowed consideration of the enclosed view at this point. The viewpoint was taken from the car park in front of the Heritage Centre in the Harbour (Grid Reference 324382, 934835). It is representative of views of visitors to the Heritage Centre and fishermen who use the harbour. A site visit was made in

December 2012 to assess the baseline environment. Please refer to the photographic panorama (Figure 8.2) presented in Volume 3: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Figures of this ES Addendum.

32. The harbour is in a sheltered bay orientated to the south east and accessed down a winding road from Lybster Main Street. A two storey stone building at the bottom of the road houses a Heritage Centre. This is raised above the shingle beach with outside seating and parking in front. The harbour is set to the eastern side with its wall extending to the east punctuated with a small lighthouse.

33. The landscape either side of the bay is rocky and rises sharply to the south with a slightly gentler rise to the east. Both sides are high enough to frame a narrow sea view with no further inland views available to the south or east. A relatively small rocky outcrop is visible in the inshore waters within the bay area. In good visibility the Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines and adjacent oil platform will be seen on the horizon in the centre of the view.

34. The visitors to the Heritage Centre are considered to have a high to medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Fishermen are considered to have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

8.5 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

35. The assessment methodology remains unchanged from that presented in Section 14.2.4 and Appendix 14.2 of the Original ES. The determination of CCAs has been derived from SNH's (2008) methodology but the assessment of effects on these CCAs follows the same methodology as set out in the Original ES.

8.5.1 WORST CASE SCENARIO

36. The worst case scenario assessed remains unchanged from that presented in Section 14.2.2 of the Original ES. This was defined as the 7 MW turbine design and indicative layout consisting of 142 turbines with a nacelle height of 115.9 m and blade tip height of 198.4 m, and including up to three offshore substation platforms (OSPs). In addition, the 3.6 MW indicative layout with a larger number of smaller turbines was considered within the visual assessment for closer coastal receptors.

37. BOWL anticipates using turbines of a uniform design throughout the Wind Farm Site and notes that the predicted likely significant visual effects for the final scheme design will be no worse than the worst case scenario assessed in this ES Addendum

8.5.2 MOST LIKELY SCENARIO

38. The 'most likely scenario' is based on a maximum of 140 turbines as opposed to 142 in the worst case.

39. The turbines present in the 'most likely scenario' have a maximum height of blade tip of 187.4 m, an 11 m decrease from the worst case scenario.

40. There would also be two OSPs instead of three.

8.6 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

8.6.1 COASTAL CHARACTER AREAS

41. The assessment of the effects of the Wind Farm on the nine CCAs set out in the baseline Section 8.4.2 is presented in this section. As the Wind Farm will lie offshore, there will be no direct physical effects upon the character of the CCAs and the effects will be limited to effects upon the visual attributes of the CCAs only.

42. For the purposes of the assessment, the intervisibility of the Wind Farm with the CCAs was established using the ZTV plan modelled with obstructions (Figure 14.3 of the Original ES). Site visits were taken in December 2012 to undertake the assessment work. In addition, the viewpoint wireframe and photomontages (Figures 14.13 to 14.42 of the Original ES) were utilised as tools to aid the assessment and are referenced as appropriate.

8.6.1.1 Duncansby Head

43. This CCA lies approximately 33 km from the Wind Farm at its closest point and 50 km at its furthest. The ZTV illustrates that visibility of the Wind Farm from this CCA is restricted due to the narrow coastline and hinterland. Visibility only extends further inland at the lower points around Skirza Head in the south of the CCA. Please refer to Figures 14.13 and 14.29 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 1 located at Duncansby Head.

44. The strong relationship of the sea to this exposed remote coastline potentially increases the effects of the Wind Farm, although it will relate well to the large expansive scale of the sea in views from this coastline. Taking this into account and combined with the considerable distance to the Wind Farm the magnitude of effect is greatly reduced.

45. The Wind Farm will be a new element within the sea view but will be seen at distance, and separately to the defining remote high cliffs with their stacks and caves, thus retaining the key characteristics of the CCA. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the CCA is low to negligible. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered high, the effect on the Duncansby Head CCA is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor significance and not likely significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.2 Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast

46. This CCA extends between Skirza Head and Keiss, 28 km at its closest to the Wind Farm. The ZTV illustrates that there will be intermittent visibility within the CCA; Ness Head screens views of the Wind Farm on the southern side of Freswick Bay, and a lowland area around Aukengill is enclosed from views out towards the sea. The Wind Farm will be seen at an oblique angle from much of the coastline. Towards Keiss only the northern extents of the wind farm will be potentially visible due to the intervening landform of Noss Head and land beyond to the south. Please also refer to Figures 14.14 and 14.30 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 2 at Keiss Pier.

47. The orientation of the coast and corresponding alignment of field patterns and dwellings towards the Wind Farm increases the potential effects. However, the

Wind Farm will be a distant feature on the horizon where visible and would not directly effect on the physical attributes of the CCA. In addition, the expansive and exposed sea views will be an appropriate receiving environment for the Wind Farm.

48. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA is low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate-minor and therefore not likely significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.3 Sinclair's Bay

49. The ZTV illustrates that due to the bay's orientation and adjacent Noss Head, the intervisibility with the Wind Farm is limited to the seascape beyond the bay and a margin of higher land behind the bay. The presence of the Wind Farm will be a very minor alteration to the sea views and the characteristics of the CCA will be essentially unchanged.

50. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Sinclair's Bay CCA is negligible. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as negligible and therefore not likely significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.4 Noss Head

51. The Noss Head CCA extends the short distance around the headland between Sinclair's Bay and Wick. It lies 18 km at its closest point to the Wind Farm. The ZTV illustrates that all but the north and north-west facing part of the headland will have visibility of the Wind Farm.

52. The Wind Farm will not directly effect upon the physical attributes of this CCA but will be a noticeable feature within views to the south and south east. The Wind Farm will introduce a collection of vertical elements across the horizon, although within a horizontal extent appropriate in scale to the overall expansive view. It will be a new focus, but the defining characteristics of the CCA will remain unchanged.

53. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Noss Head CCA is medium to low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor and therefore not likely significant effects in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.5 Wick Bay

54. The Wick Bay CCA lies approximately 17 km at its closest to the Wind Farm. The ZTV shows that the exposed rugged headlands either side of the bay will have clear visibility of the Wind Farm but that the visibility reduces within the harbour area and upstream on the River Wick due to the landform, built up nature of the town and maritime activity. Please also refer to Figures 14.16 and 14.31 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 4 which is located on the northern side of the bay.

55. The enclosed character created by the narrow and developed bay restricts views of the sea and therefore the Wind Farm. However, the Wind Farm will become a feature along the skyline in views from open, less densely built up areas to the north and south of Wick, such as at Staxigoe and South Head.

56. The key characteristics of this CCA will be retained due to the dominance of the town and its maritime activity but with the addition of potential distant views of the Wind Farm from the more open areas.

57. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Wick Bay CCA is overall medium to low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.6 Sarclet Head

58. Sarclet Head CCA extends along approximately 15 km of coastline from Wick Bay to Clyth and at its closest is 13 km from the Wind Farm (the closest land to the site). The ZTV illustrates that almost all of this coastal region will have views of the Wind Farm except for the lower land around the A99 to the south of Wick and the lower land at Loch Hempriggs and Loch of Yarrows which are slightly further inland. Please refer to Figures 14.17 and 14.32 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 5 which is located at Sarclet Head.

59. The orientation of the open coastline to the south east and corresponding field patterns which create a strong maritime connection is likely to increase the potential effects of the Wind Farm. Whilst the turbines would not directly effect upon the physical attributes of this CCA, they will become a key focal point within the characteristic sea views. The scale and extent of the Wind Farm across the horizon will relate well to expansiveness of the open sea, where also views of the existing Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines and oil platforms are seen.

60. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Sarclet Head CCA is high to medium. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as major-moderate to moderate which is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.7 Lybster Bay

61. Lybster Bay CCA extends along a short section of coast from Clyth to Forse (just north of Latheron), at closest 16 km from the Wind Farm. The ZTV illustrates that there will be visibility from the immediate coastline but this becomes intermittent around Lybster and Burrigill where the undulating coastal landform and local small bays provide enclosure. Please refer to the viewpoint located at Lybster Harbour within Section 8.6.2 of this ES Addendum and Figures 14.19 and 14.34 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 7 at Lybster Main Street.

62. The largely south-south-east orientation of the CCA means that the Wind Farm will not be central to open sea views and will be seen obliquely or to the east of wider open views.

63. The turbines would not directly effect upon the physical attributes of this CCA, but they will be a focal point within the characteristic sea views. The scale and extent of the Wind Farm across the horizon, albeit within a relatively narrow angle of view, will relate well to expansiveness of the open sea, where also views of the existing Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines and oil platforms are seen.

64. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Lybster Bay CCA is medium. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate which is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.8 Dunbeath Bay

65. Dunbeath Bay CCA extends from just north of Latheron to Berriedale along a rocky undulating coastline at closest 21 km from the Wind Farm. The ZTV illustrates continuous visibility of the Wind Farm along the coastline with some localised intermittent areas of visibility. Please refer to Figures 14.20-21 and 14.35-36 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 8 at Latheron and Viewpoint 9 at Dunbeath.

66. The location of the Wind Farm lies to the north of the main orientation of the coast in this CCA so that views of the Wind Farm from here will be oblique and within a narrow angle of view in the characteristic open sea views.

67. The turbines would not directly effect upon the physical attributes of this CCA but they will be a focal point within the open sea views. The scale and extent of the Wind Farm across the horizon, albeit seen obliquely in most cases, will relate well to expansiveness of the open sea, where also views of the existing Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines and oil platforms are seen.

68. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Dunbeath Bay CCA is medium. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate which is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.9 Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf

69. Following the linear elevated coast between Berriedale and Helmsdale, this CCA lies at closest 29 km from the Wind Farm. The ZTV illustrates that although the immediate coastline has potential visibility of the Wind Farm, the frequent coastal hill formations and glens provide enclosure from sea views and therefore limit visibility of the Wind Farm.

70. The considerable distance to the Wind Farm, combined with the intermittent visibility, reduces the potential effects of the Wind Farm on the CCA. The Wind Farm would not directly effect upon the physical attributes of the CCA and within the exposed areas where open sea views are a characteristic the wind farm will be a distant feature within a relatively narrow angle of view. Please refer to Figures 14.24 and 14.39 in the Original ES for Viewpoint 12 at Navidale.

71. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of effect on the character of the Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf CCA is low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.1.10 Summary

72. Table 8.3 below summarises the significance of the Wind Farm on the CCAs.

Table 8.3 Significance of Effect on the CCAs

Coastal Character Area	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effect
Duncansby Head	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Negligible: thus Minor
Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast	Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor
Sinclair's Bay	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
Noss Head	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate-Minor
Wick Bay	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate to Moderate-Minor
Sarclet Head	Medium	High to Medium	Major-Moderate to Moderate
Lybster Bay	Medium	Medium	Moderate
Dunbeath Bay	Medium	Medium	Moderate
Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf	Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor

8.6.2 LYBSTER HARBOUR VIEWPOINT

73. Lybster Harbour lies just less than 20 km from the closest turbine of the proposed Wind Farm. A wireframe was produced using the 7 MW worst case scenario which illustrates that the turbines will occupy approximately 15° of the illustrated 135° sea view, which corresponds to less than a quarter of the view contained by the landforms surrounding the harbour. Please refer to Figure 8.2. The turbines would be at a similar distance to the Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines which can be seen (depending on the weather conditions) to the south east, centrally within the view, and separately to the Wind Farm. Please note that the photographic panorama was unavoidably taken in December when due to the low height of the sun, light conditions created a strong contrast between the two sides of the harbour and the glare of the sun reduces clarity along the western extent of the horizon. Therefore, the closest oil platforms can just be made out on the horizon in the photograph but the Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines are not easily visible.

74. The turbines will not extend across the whole of the framed view although the extension of the turbines from the northern headland could be perceived to partially enclose it, narrowing the open sea view. However, from the harbour area (left of the viewpoint) the turbines will extend over less of the horizon due to the shelter from the headland.

75. The framed view increases the potential for likely significant effects but these are moderated taking into account the distance to the Wind Farm and small proportion of view where turbines will be visible. The existing visibility of the Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines and oil platforms also moderates the effects. As the viewpoint will therefore largely retain open sea views, and the turbines will not be a new type of feature in the view, it is judged that the magnitude of visual effect arising from the Wind Farm is medium. As the receptor groups of visitors and fishermen have a high to medium and medium to low sensitivity respectively, the significance of visual effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate for visitors, and moderate to moderate-minor for fishermen. The effect on visitors is a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations. The effect on fishermen is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.6.3 CONSIDERATION OF THE MOST LIKELY SCENARIO

76. Section 4: Amended Project Description of this ES Addendum presents the most likely scenario for the development of the Amended Project. Based on the full assessment presented above and in the Original ES, which assesses the worst case parameters of the Project development scenarios, in accordance with the Rochdale Envelope approach, this section presents a qualitative discussion of the most likely development scenario for seascape, landscape and visual effects.

77. The most likely scenario would have 140 turbines, as oppose to 142 assessed as the worst case in Section 14.5 of the Original ES and the further assessment presented in Section 8.6.1 and 8.6.2 of this ES Addendum. The tip height of the turbines is reduced by 11 m in the most likely scenario compared to the worst case. There would be also two OSPs instead of three.

78. It is judged that the marginal turbine height and number differences will not make a meaningful, if any, difference to the ZTV. Previous studies using a 3.6 MW scenario had shown that due to Caithness' dramatic landform, the ZTV remained largely unchanged between the 3.6 MW and 7 MW scenarios. In addition, the key receptors assessed are land based and all located over 13 km from the Wind Farm so that the difference between the most likely scenario and worst case scenario would be very difficult to discern.

79. The ZTVs, wireframe and fieldwork all indicate that the most likely scenario would not change the magnitude of effect to trigger an adjustment of any of the assessment conclusions. As the sensitivity of the receiving environment will remain the same, it is expected that there would be no adjustment to the significance of effects arising.

80. Therefore, it is judged that the most likely scenario would not alter the assessment conclusions presented in the Original ES and this ES Addendum.

8.7 MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS

81. SNH requested further consideration on design mitigation of the Wind Farm. Exact layouts and positioning of turbines cannot be determined at this stage until appropriate detailed site surveys are undertaken post-consent. However, following the September 2012 meeting with MS-LOT and SNH, a commitment was given by BOWL to ensure that seascape, landscape and visual sensitivities will continue to be taken into account at detailed design stage.

82. At this time it is not possible to provide any further information on the positioning of the turbines and layout as mitigation and hence the assessment conclusions, therefore residual effects remain unchanged from those presented in Section 8.6 and in Section 14.5 of the Original ES.

8.8 ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

8.8.1 INTRODUCTION

83. The Original ES was submitted to MS-LOT in April 2012. At this time it was the first offshore wind farm application in Scottish Territorial Water and the wider Moray Firth. As outlined in Section 3: EIA Process and Methodology of this ES Addendum, the information regarding cumulative projects, and specifically the neighbouring Moray Firth Round 3 Zone was assessed based on the information available at the time of assessment.

84. This section replaces the assessment of cumulative effects (with the exception of the assessment of RSUs which remains as presented in Section 14.9 of the Original ES). This section is based on the further assessment of CCA's and consultee responses presented in the section above, plus further and updated information in the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone ES submitted to MS-LOT in August 2012 for the Telford, Stevenson and MacColl offshore Wind Farms and Offshore Transmission Infrastructure.

8.8.2 CUMULATIVE BASELINE

85. The baseline landscape character and visual environment remains unchanged to that set out in Section 14.3 of the Original ES with the further viewpoint at Lybster Harbour discussed in Section 8.4.2.11. The CCAs defined in this ES Addendum are assessed in place of the regional seascape units (RSUs) set out in Section 14.3.2.2 of the Original ES. The seascape character types as defined in Section 14.3.2.3 of the Original ES cover a separate area to the CCAs and therefore will also be assessed.

8.8.3 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

86. The methodology used for the assessment of cumulative effects on the seascape, landscape and visual environment remains unchanged to that presented in Section 14.2.4 of the Original ES.

87. This assessment of cumulative effects considers the effects of the Wind Farm and the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone giving consideration to the breakdown of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone into stages, as outlined in the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone ES and introduced in Section 3.6.3 of this ES Addendum. This requires a cumulative assessment effects on coastal character, seascape character types, landscape

character, landscape designations, and visual receptors within the Study Area for the following scenarios:

- Scenario 1: The Wind Farm plus Moray Firth Round 3 Zone MacColl Wind Farm;
- Scenario 2: The Wind Farm plus Moray Firth Round 3 Zone MacColl and Stevenson Wind Farms; and
- Scenario 3: The Wind Farm plus Moray Firth Round 3 Zone MacColl, Stevenson and Telford Wind Farms.

88. Cumulative ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) illustrating the three scenarios listed above have been produced. In addition, cumulative wireframes (Figures 8.6 to 8.39) illustrate the potential cumulative effects of each scenario from each viewpoint.

89. The three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms assessed for the scenarios listed above consist of 7 MW turbines which are 204 m to blade-tip height.

90. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone MacColl wind farm (MacColl) assessed has 72 turbines and of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms, it lies furthest from the Wind Farm at over 10 km to the south east and over 30 km from the Caithness Coast.

91. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone Stevenson wind farm (Stevenson) has 90 turbines and lies approximately 22 km from the coastline at its closest point. Stevenson lies within a square formation directly to the south east of the centre of the Wind Farm, and to the north west of MacColl. There is a gap of approximately 3 km between MacColl and Stevenson.

92. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone Telford wind farm (Telford) has 72 turbines and is the furthest north of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms, lying directly adjacent to Stevenson and south east of the northern part of the Wind Farm. It lies approximately 24 km, at closest, to the coastline. There is a gap of approximately 3 km between MacColl and Telford.

8.8.4 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON COASTAL CHARACTER AREAS (CCA)

93. The baseline coastal character and the sensitivity to the type of development proposed for each CCA is presented above in Section 8.4.2 and summarised in Table 8.2. The cumulative effects on the CCAs of the Wind Farm with the three scenarios are described below and summarised in Table 8.4. For the purposes of the assessment, the intervisibility of the four wind farms with the CCAs was established using the cumulative ZTV plans (Figures 8.3 to 8.5). Site visits were taken in December 2012 to undertake the assessment work. In addition, the viewpoint wireframe and photomontages (Figures 8.6 to 8.39) were utilised as tools to aid the assessment and are referenced as appropriate.

94. As the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will lie offshore, there will be no direct physical effects upon the character of the CCAs. The effects will be limited to effects upon the visual attributes of the CCAs only.

8.8.4.1 Duncansby Head

95. The ZTVs illustrate that all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms

from the immediate coastline of this CCA. Please also refer to Figures 8.6 and 8.7 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 1: Duncansby Head.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

96. Theoretically MacColl would extend the turbines visible across the horizon by a small proportion to the east. However, MacColl lies between 54 km and 65 km from the Duncansby Head CCA and at this distance, any intervisibility with the CCA would be extremely limited and would not impact on the key characteristics of the CCA in combination with the Wind Farm.

97. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Duncansby Head CCA for Scenario 1 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone, which is low to negligible. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered high, the cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head CCA is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

98. Stevenson will lie directly behind the Wind Farm in views from this CCA between 42 and 52 km and again, at this distance intervisibility would be extremely limited and would not meaningfully impact on the key characteristics of the CCA in combination with the Wind Farm and MacColl.

99. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Duncansby Head CCA for Scenario 2 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone which is low to negligible. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered high, the cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head CCA is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

100. Telford lies slightly closer at between 39 and 53 km but also increases the extent of turbines potentially visible across the horizon to the east from the Wind Farm. At a similar distance to the Wind Farm from this CCA, the Telford turbines will read as one group with the Wind Farm. However, the distant views available minimise the cumulative effects on the visual characteristics of the CCA and it is considered that there would not be any greater cumulative effects than the Wind Farm on its own.

101. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Duncansby Head CCA is low to negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered high, the cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head CCA is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.2 Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast

102. The ZTVs illustrate that all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms from the coastline and inland areas of this CCA. Please also refer to Figures 8.8 and 8.9 for the cumulative wireframe at Viewpoint 2: Keiss Pier.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

103. MacColl will largely lie behind the Wind Farm in views from most of the CCA with only a small proportion of its turbines extending east beyond the Wind Farm in views from the northern extents of the CCA. However, MacColl lies between 49 km and 59 km from the Freswick Bay and Nybster CCA and at this distance, intervisibility with the CCA would be extremely limited and would not meaningfully affect the key characteristics of the CCA in combination with the Wind Farm.

104. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA for Scenario 1 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone which is low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

105. Stevenson will lie behind the Wind Farm at between 37 and 52 km from the CCA. It is considered at this distance intervisibility of Stevenson with the CCA would be extremely limited and would not affect the key characteristics of the CCA in combination with the Wind Farm and MacColl.

106. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA for Scenario 2 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone which is low. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

107. Telford will lie between 35 and 50 km from the CCA and the northern extents will be visible to the east of the Wind Farm. The closest Telford turbines to the CCA will be at a similar distance to the Wind Farm, reading as one wind farm, increasing the density of turbines visible. The combined wind farms will read as a single distant feature on the horizon from much of the CCA.

108. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA is low for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast CCA is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.3 Sinclair's Bay

109. The ZTVs illustrate that the Sinclair's Bay CCA has only limited intervisibility with the Wind Farm and none with MacColl or Stevenson. The addition of Telford will marginally increase the areas of combined visibility with the Wind Farm on the northern extents of this CCA.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

110. As there is no intervisibility of MacColl with this CCA, the cumulative effects for Scenario 1 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of Sinclair's Bay is negligible for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Sinclair's Bay CCA is assessed as negligible and not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

111. As there is no intervisibility of MacColl and Stevenson with this CCA, the cumulative effects for Scenario 2 will be as assessed for the Wind Farm alone.

112. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of Sinclair's Bay is negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Sinclair's Bay CCA is assessed as negligible and not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

113. The areas of combined visibility of Telford with the Wind Farm on this CCA are limited to very small areas of land where the headland to the south does not obstruct views. The majority of the CCA will have no views of the combined wind farms and the key characteristics will be retained.

114. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of Sinclair's Bay is negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Sinclair's Bay CCA is assessed as negligible and not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.4 Noss Head

115. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Noss Head CCA, all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

116. MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm in all views from this headland and will not increase the extent of turbines across the horizon. Taking this into account and that MacColl lies 41 km at closest to the CCA, the combination of the two wind farms will not further effect the key characteristics of the Noss Head CCA than the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

117. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Noss Head CCA is medium to low for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Noss Head CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

118. Stevenson will lie directly behind the Wind Farm at between 30 and 38 km from the CCA. Taking the distances into account and that the wind farms would not extend the coverage of turbines across the horizon in views from this CCA, the combination of Scenario 2 will not further effect upon the key characteristics of the Noss Head CCA than the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

119. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Noss Head CCA is medium to low for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Noss Head CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

120. The addition of Telford, which will lie between 26 and 38 km from the CCA, marginally extends the number of turbines visible along the horizon to the east of the Wind Farm. The combined wind farms in Scenario 3 will read as one wind farm and a noticeable feature on the horizon although within a horizontal extent appropriate to the scale of the overall expansive views available from this CCA. It is judged that the defining characteristics of the CCA will remain essentially unchanged and the cumulative effects will be no greater than the individual effects of the Wind Farm.

121. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Noss Head CCA is medium to low for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Noss Head CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.5 Wick Bay

122. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Wick Bay CCA, all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. Please also refer to Figures 8.12 and 8.13 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 4: Wick Bay.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

123. MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm in all views from Wick Bay and will not increase the extent of turbines across the horizon. Taking this into account and that MacColl lies 38 km at closest to the CCA, the combination of the two wind farms in Scenario 1 will not further impact upon the key characteristics of the Wick Bay CCA than the individual effects of the Wind Farm.

124. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Wick Bay CCA is medium to low for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Wick Bay CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

125. Stevenson will lie directly behind the Wind Farm at between 27 and 35 km from the CCA. The three wind farms in Scenario 2 will be read as one, within the same proportion of view that the Wind Farm lies within, but with an increase in the density of turbines visible. Taking this into account and the distances to Stevenson and MacColl, it is considered the key characteristics of the CCA will not be affected considerably more than by the individual effects of the Wind Farm.

126. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Wick Bay CCA is medium to low for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Wick Bay CCA is assessed as moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

127. Telford lies between 25 and 36 km from the Wick Bay CCA and its north eastern rows of turbines will be visible beyond the Wind Farm along the horizon. The closer Telford and Stevenson turbines will also be potentially visible behind and between the Wind Farm increasing the turbine density. The combined wind farms will become a single feature across the wider horizon in views from the open and less built up areas to the north and south of Wick. The visible extent and density of turbines will increase slightly from that of the Wind Farm alone but distance will moderate the effects. The key characteristics of the Wick Bay CCA will be retained due to the enclosed character, dominance and activity of the town but with the addition of an offshore wind farm in sea views.

128. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Wick Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the cumulative effect on the Wick Bay CCA is assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.6 Sarclet Head

129. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Sarclet Head CCA, all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. Please also refer to Figures 8.14 and 8.15 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 5: Sarclet.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

130. MacColl will largely lie behind the Wind Farm but will extend the number of turbines potentially visible along the horizon to the south in addition to the Wind Farm turbines. The Wind Farm lies at closest 13 km from the CCA and the MacColl turbines will lie between approximately 33 km and 43 km. The Wind Farm will be a key focal point within the characteristic sea views. The MacColl turbines may read as part of the Wind Farm in views from this CCA but it is not considered that they will contribute greatly to increasing the perceived density or extent of turbines, given the distance between the two wind farms and the coastline. This marginal increase in density, and the extent of turbines across the horizon created by the

addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm, will not effect upon the key characteristics of the Sarclet Head CCA considerably more than the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

131. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Sarclet Head CCA is high to medium for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

132. Stevenson will lie directly behind the Wind Farm at between 22 and 35 km from the CCA. The Wind Farm will be a key focal point within the characteristic sea views. Stevenson lies closer to the coastline and will appear more closely related to the Wind Farm, increasing the depth of turbines visible. The addition of Stevenson and MacColl will not effect upon the key characteristics of the Sarclet Head CCA considerably more than the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

133. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Sarclet Head CCA is high to medium for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

134. Telford will lie behind the Wind Farm and a few of its turbines will be potentially visible beyond the Wind Farm along the horizon in the east, from views in the north of the CCA. Stevenson and Telford will lie at a similar distance from the coastline (22 - 38 km) and will increase the depth and density of turbines potentially visible. The combined wind farms in Scenario 3 will be read as a single wind farm and a key focal point within the characteristic sea views from the Sarclet Head CCA. The number of turbines potentially visible within the same horizontal extents as the Wind Farm will create a complex view but moderated slightly by distance.

135. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Sarclet Head CCA is high to medium for Scenarios 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.7 Lybster Bay

136. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Lybster Bay CCA, all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. Please also refer to Figures 8.18 and 8.19 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 7: Lybster.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

137. MacColl lies between 33 km and 46 km from this CCA and in views from the CCA will extend the number of turbines across the horizon to the south in addition to the

Wind Farm, although a large proportion of MacColl will remain behind the Wind Farm. The Wind Farm will be an evident offshore feature in the characteristic sea views. The MacColl turbines are expected to read as part of the Wind Farm and the distance of the MacColl turbines from the CCA will moderate the cumulative effects on the key visual characteristics, so that it will not considerably add to the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

138. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Lybster Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

139. Stevenson lies between 28 and 38 km from the CCA directly behind the Wind Farm. The Wind Farm will be a prominent offshore feature with the addition of the Stevenson turbines increasing the depth of turbines within the view and the MacColl turbines extending further across the horizon. The three wind farms will appear as one wind farm but the distances of the MacColl and Stevenson turbines from the CCA will moderate the cumulative effects on the key visual characteristics in combination with the Wind Farm, so that they will not considerably add to the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

140. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Lybster Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

141. Telford lies between 28 and 43 km from this CCA but will mostly lie behind the Wind Farm and Stevenson. The combined wind farms in Scenario 3 will be read as a single wind farm and a key focal point within the characteristic sea views from the Lybster Bay CCA. The number of turbines visible within the same horizontal extents as the Wind Farm will potentially create a complex view but moderated slightly by distance.

142. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Lybster Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.8 Dunbeath Bay

143. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Dunbeath Bay CCA, all areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. Please also refer to Figures 8.20 – 8.23 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 8: Latheron and Viewpoint 9: Dunbeath.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

144. The Wind Farm will lie between 21 and 29 km and the MacColl turbines will lie between 34 and 54 km from this CCA. Approximately a third of MacColl will extend beyond the Wind Farm to the south, increasing the number of turbines potentially visible across the horizon. The two wind farms will read as one wind farm and they will be a focal point within the open sea views from the CCA. The Wind Farm will be the main offshore feature with the MacColl turbines marginally increasing the horizontal extent of turbines. The distance of the MacColl turbines from the CCA will moderate the cumulative effects on the key visual characteristics in combination with the Wind Farm.

145. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Dunbeath Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA was assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

146. Stevenson lies directly behind the Wind Farm at between 28 and 47 km from the CCA. The three wind farms in Scenario 2 will read as one wind farm and, whilst not directly effecting upon the physical attributes of the CCA, they will be a focal point within the open sea views from it. The addition of Stevenson to the Wind Farm will increase the density and depth of turbines visible and the addition of the MacColl turbines extends the group further across the horizon. However, the distance of the Stevenson and MacColl turbines from the CCA will moderate the cumulative effects in combination with the Wind Farm.

147. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Dunbeath Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA was assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

148. Telford will be at a similar distance to MacColl from the CCA but will lie behind the Wind Farm and Stevenson. The combined wind farms in Scenario 3 will be read as one wind farm and a key focal point within the characteristic sea views from this CCA. The distance of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines from the CCA will moderate the cumulative effects in combination with the Wind Farm.

149. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Dunbeath Bay CCA is medium for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA was assessed as moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.9 Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf

150. The ZTVs illustrate that from the Helmsdale to Berriedale CCA, the majority of areas of potential intervisibility will be combined visibility of the four wind farms, with some minor areas of intervisibility with the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms only. Please also refer to Figures 8.28 and 8.29 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 12: Navidale.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

151. The Wind Farm will lie between 29 and 40 km and the MacColl turbines will lie between 34 and 63 km from this CCA. Almost all of the MacColl turbines will be seen to the south of the Wind Farm from this CCA, thus considerably increasing the extent of turbines across the horizon. The frequent coastal hill formations and glens of this CCA provide enclosure from the sea views and limit visibility of the wind farms. These physical attributes of the CCA will not be directly affected by the wind farms but from the exposed areas where open sea views are a characteristic, the wind farms will appear as one distant wind farm across a relatively small proportion of the wider expansive sea view.

152. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Helmsdale to Berriedale CCA is low for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

153. The Stevenson turbines will lie between 37 and 47 km from this CCA. The southern extents of Stevenson will be potentially visible south of the Wind Farm and in front of the MacColl turbines. The frequent coastal hill formations and glens of this CCA provide enclosure from the sea views and limit visibility of the wind farms. These physical attributes of the CCA will not be directly affected by the wind farms but from the exposed areas where open sea views are a characteristic, the wind farms will appear as one distant wind farm across a relatively small proportion of the wider expansive sea view.

154. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Helmsdale to Berriedale CCA is low for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

155. Telford will lie between 44 and 63 km from this CCA. It can be judged at this distance that Telford will not significantly add to the cumulative effects assessed for the combined wind farms in Scenario 2. The frequent coastal hill formations and glens of this CCA provide enclosure from the sea views and limit visibility of the wind farms. These physical attributes of the CCA will not be directly affected by the wind farms but from the exposed areas where open sea views are a characteristic,

the wind farms will appear as one distant wind farm across a relatively small proportion of the wider expansive sea view.

156. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the character of the Helmsdale to Berriedale CCA is low for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is considered medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this CCA is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.4.10 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Coastal Character Areas (CCAs)

157. Table 8.4 below summarises the significance of cumulative effects of the three Scenarios on the CCAs. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.4: Cumulative Effects on Coastal Character Areas (CCAs)

Coastal Character Area	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Duncansby Head	High	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor
Freswick Bay and Nybster Coast	Medium	S1: Low	S1: Moderate-Minor
		S2: Low	S2: Moderate-Minor
		S3: Low	S3: Moderate-Minor
Sinclair's Bay	Medium	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
		S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
		S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible
Noss Head	Medium	S1: Medium to Low	S1: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S2: Medium to Low	S2: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S3: Medium to Low	S3: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
Wick Bay	Medium	S1: Medium to Low	S1: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S2: Medium to Low	S2: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S3: Medium	S3: Moderate
Sarclet Head	Medium	S1: High to Medium	S1: Major-Moderate to Moderate
		S2: High to Medium	S2: Major-Moderate to Moderate
		S3: High to Medium	S3: Major-Moderate to

Coastal Character Area	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
			Moderate
Lybster Bay	Medium	S1: Medium	S1: Moderate
		S2: Medium	S2: Moderate
		S3: Medium	S3: Moderate
Dunbeath Bay	Medium	S1: Medium	S1: Moderate
		S2: Medium	S2: Moderate
		S3: Medium	S3: Moderate
Helmsdale to Berriedale Coastal Shelf	Medium	S1: Low	S1: Moderate-Minor
		S2: Low	S2: Moderate-Minor
		S3: Low	S3: Moderate-Minor

8.8.5 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON REGIONAL SEASCAPE CHARACTER TYPES (RSCT)

158. This section discusses the cumulative effects of the Wind Farm with the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms on the regional seascape character types (RSCT) found within the Study Area. The baseline of the RSCTs is presented within Section 14.3.2.3 of the Original ES. Please refer to Figure 14.6 of the Original ES for the location of the RSCTs. The sensitivity of the RSCT's is as presented in Section 14.3.2.3 of the Original ES.

159. The ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) illustrate that all three RSCTs will have intervisibility with the Wind Farm and the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone Wind Farms.

8.8.5.1 Coastal Waters

160. This RSCT lies parallel to the Caithness Coast and extends approximately 15 km offshore from the coastline. Its eastern boundary lies at the edge of the Wind Farm. The defining aspects of this RSCT are the perceived remoteness, sparse coastal settlement and relatively low level of shipping.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

161. The Wind Farm will lie adjacent to the eastern edge of the Coastal Waters RSCT and MacColl will lie approximately 10 km further to the south east. Whilst neither are directly within the RSCT, they will be visible elements increasing the perception of offshore activity within the wider area.

162. Within the southern extents of this RSCT, the two wind farms will be seen separately at a similar distance. Towards the north of the RSCT, the gap between the wind farms will gradually narrow and they will appear as one group although MacColl will always be further away than the Wind Farm in these instances.

163. In addition to the Wind Farm, MacColl will extend the area of the RSCT exposed to turbines. Whilst not altering the physical attributes of the RSCT, the combined wind farms will partially alter the visual characteristics which are an important defining element of this RSCT. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be high to medium for Scenario 1. As the RSCT has a medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate and is therefore a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

164. Stevenson will lie behind the Wind Farm in views from the northern half of the Coastal Waters RSCT, and will appear alongside from the southern half. Stevenson will fill the gap between MacColl and the Wind Farm in views from the south so that except from the far south of the RSCT, the three wind farms will appear as one large group.

165. From over half of the RSCT, the addition of Stevenson will only increase the density of turbines visible within the same portion of sea as the Wind Farm, and not the horizontal extent.

166. The combined wind farms will be noticeable elements in views from the RSCT and will be a partial change to the visual characteristics which are a defining element of the Coastal Waters RSCT. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be high to medium for Scenario 2. As the RSCT has a medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate and is therefore a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

167. The addition of Telford to the other three wind farms will marginally increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible from the northern extents of the Coastal Waters RSCT. Elsewhere, Telford will increase the density of turbines visible due to its position to the east of the Wind Farm and north of Stevenson.

168. It is judged that the addition of Telford will not increase the magnitude of effect further than assessed for Scenario 2. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be high to medium for Scenario 3. As the RSCT has a medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate and is therefore a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.5.2 Inshore Waters

169. The Inshore Waters RSCT occupies the central region of the Moray Firth. It is a relatively indistinct seascape, apart from the presence of offshore industry.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

170. The Wind Farm lies in the north western extents of the Inshore Waters RSCT and MacColl lies centrally. The combined wind farms will be prominent and defining features in the RSCT due to their size and scale.

171. It is judged that the Wind Farm and MacColl will be a major alteration to the character of the RSCT and therefore the magnitude of cumulative effect is high for Scenario 1. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as moderate, which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

172. The addition of Stevenson will further increase the perception of wind farms as defining features of the RSCT, although within the same portion of Inshore Waters as the Wind Farm and MacColl.

173. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be high for Scenario 2. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed moderate which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

174. Telford will increase the number of turbines within the northern extents of this RSCT and therefore increase the prominence of turbines within this region. However, due to its position, the addition of Telford will not considerably add to the perception of turbines in views from the south or west within the RSCT.

175. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be high for Scenario 3. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed moderate which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.5.3 Deep Sea Fishing and Shipping

176. This RSCT covers an extensive area to the east of the Inshore Waters and Coastal Waters RSCTs. The Deep Sea Fishing and Shipping seascape character is primarily defined by its role as a main navigational route, but also by the presence of the offshore oil and gas industry.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

177. The Wind Farm and MacColl lie approximately 7 km at closest to the western edge of this RSCT. The RSCT is an extensive area and only a small proportion will have meaningful visibility of the Wind Farm and MacColl. As such, the combined wind farms will only create a partial alteration to the visual characteristics of the RSCT within localised areas closest to the wind farms.

178. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be medium for Scenario 1. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

179. Stevenson will increase the presence of turbines within the same portion of sea as the Wind Farm and MacColl. The combined wind farms will, as for Scenario 1,

continue to be a partial alteration to the visual characteristics of the RSCT within localised areas.

180. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be medium for Scenario 2. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

181. Telford will lie closest to the edge of the Deep Sea Fishing and Shipping RSCT but within the same portion of sea as the Wind Farm, Stevenson and MacColl. As for Scenario 1 and 2, the combined wind farms will be a partial alteration to the visual characteristics of the RSCT within localised areas.

182. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be medium for Scenario 3. As the RSCT has a low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as moderate-minor which is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.5.4 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Regional Seascape Character Types (RSCT)

183. Table 8.5 below summarises the significance of cumulative effects of the three scenarios on the RSCTs. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.5: Cumulative Effects on Regional Seascape Character Types (RSCT)

Regional Seascape Character Type	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Coastal Waters	Medium	S1: High to Medium	S1: Major-Moderate to Moderate
		S2: High to Medium	S2: Major-Moderate to Moderate
		S3: High to Medium	S3: Major-Moderate to Moderate
Inshore Waters	Low	S1: High	S1: Moderate
		S2: High	S2: Moderate
		S3: High	S3: Moderate
Deep Sea Fishing and Shipping	Low	S1: Medium	S1: Moderate-Minor
		S2: Medium	S2: Moderate-Minor
		S3: Medium	S3: Moderate-Minor

8.8.6 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

184. This section discusses the cumulative effects of the Wind Farm with the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms on the landscape character types found within the Study Area. The baseline landscape character is presented within Section 14.3.3 of the Original ES.

185. The Original ES, in Section 14.5.2, assessed that the Wind Farm had more than negligible effects on only four of the twelve character types in the Study Area. Taking into account that the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms lie a considerable distance offshore and that they are located largely behind the Wind Farm in views from the coast; and that the assessment focuses on potential likely significant effects; the following assessment concentrates on those four character areas where the Original ES judged that the Wind Farm had a higher magnitude of effect than negligible. In addition, as the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will lie offshore, there will be no direct physical effects upon the landscape character and the effects will be limited to effects upon the visual attributes of the landscape character only.

186. The cumulative ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) have been referred to in the assessment of the cumulative effects. Please refer to Figure 14.7 of the Original ES for the location of the landscape character types. In addition, the viewpoint wireframes (Figures 8.6 to 8.39) were utilised to aid the assessment and are referenced as appropriate. Table 8.6 summarises the subsequent cumulative significance of effect for each assessed landscape character type.

8.8.6.1 Lone Mountains

187. There are two separate areas of this type within the Study Area which both lie over 30 km from the Wind Farm and over 40 km from the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. The first lone mountain is Ben Allsky at 349 m AOD; and the second is a series of peaks which include Morven (705 m AOD), Maiden Pap (484 m AOD) and Scaraben (626 m AOD). The height and prominence of these mountains allows high intervisibility with the surrounding areas.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

188. The ZTV illustrates that from the summits, both MacColl and the Wind Farm will be potentially visible but the lower undulating topography does limit visibility and there are areas where only the Wind Farm or MacColl will be visible in isolation.

189. The gap between the two wind farms is not likely to be discernible (see Figure 8.26 for cumulative wireframe of Viewpoint 11: Scaraben) due to distance and earth's curvature. The combined wind farms will therefore be read as one. They will lie within a relatively small proportion of the sea views within the extensive panoramic views available from the top of these mountains. The character of the mountains will not be altered by views of the Wind Farm and MacColl turbines. The mountains will remain as dominant focal points across the Caithness area where the characteristic panoramic views also contain a variety of landscapes and manmade elements, including onshore wind farms and the Beatrice Demonstrator Turbines.

190. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Lone Mountains landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect on this character area is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

191. The ZTV illustrates that from the summits, MacColl, Stevenson, and the Wind Farm will be potentially visible. However, the lower undulating topography does limit visibility and there are areas where only the Wind Farm or MacColl (please also refer to Scenario 1 cumulative ZTV - Figure 8.3) will be visible on their own.

192. The three wind farms will appear as one, with the gap between MacColl and Stevenson unlikely to be discernible (see Figure 8.27 for cumulative wireframe of Viewpoint 11: Scaraben) due to distance and earth's curvature. The combined wind farms will be read as one group and within a relatively small proportion of the sea views within the extensive panoramic views available from the top of these mountains. The character of the mountains will not be altered by the views of the three wind farms. The mountains will remain as dominant focal points across the Caithness area where the characteristic panoramic views also contain a variety of landscapes and manmade elements, including onshore wind farms and the Beatrice Demonstrator turbines.

193. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Lone Mountains landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect on this character area is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

194. The ZTV illustrates, that from the summits and the majority of the slopes, all four wind farms will be potentially visible, but the lower undulating topography does limit visibility and there are some small areas where only the Wind Farm or MacColl (please also refer to Scenario 1 cumulative ZTV - Figure 8.3) will be visible on their own.

195. The four wind farms will appear as one, with the gap between MacColl and Stevenson/Telford unlikely to be discernible (see Figure 8.27 for cumulative wireframe of Viewpoint 11: Scaraben) due to distance and earth's curvature. The combined wind farms will therefore be read as one group and within a relatively small proportion of the sea views within the extensive panoramic views available from the top of these mountains. The character of the mountains will not be altered by the views of the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines. The mountains will remain as dominant focal points across the Caithness area where the characteristic panoramic views also contain a variety of landscapes and manmade elements, including onshore wind farms and the existing offshore demonstrator turbines.

196. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Lone Mountains landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect on this character area is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.6.2 Harbour

197. The harbour areas within the Study Area such as at Wick, Lybster, Dunbeath and Helmsdale will potentially have views of the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms as illustrated by the ZTVs (Figure 8.3 – 8.5). Views from the harbours out to the wider seascape are restricted by the characteristic sheltered nature of harbours, range of complex and industrial foreground features and associated activities, especially at the larger Wick harbour. Please also refer to Figures 8.12-8.13 and 8.38-8.39 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 4: Wick Bay and Viewpoint 17: Lybster Harbour.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

198. The presence of MacColl in addition to the Wind Farm will not alter the physical characteristics of the harbours and due to distance offshore will not change the sea views considerably further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone. Within views from those harbours to the south of the Study Area there is potential for MacColl to extend across the horizon beyond the Wind Farm but at a distance where it would not meaningfully alter the overall character of the harbours.

199. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Harbour character type is low to negligible for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as minor to negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

200. The presence of Stevenson, in addition to MacColl and the Wind Farm, has the potential to increase the density of turbines within the characteristic framed sea views from some harbours, and therefore potentially increasing the influence of wind farms on this landscape character type. However, overall it will not alter the physical characteristics of the harbours and due to the distance offshore, and the position of Stevenson behind the Wind Farm, it will not change the sea views considerably further than Scenario 1.

201. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Harbour landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as minor to negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

202. The presence of Telford, in addition to Stevenson, MacColl and the Wind Farm, has the potential to increase the density of turbines within the characteristic framed sea views from some harbours, and therefore potentially increasing the influence of wind farms on this landscape character type. In addition, Telford also marginally increases the horizontal extent of turbines at harbours within the north of the study area, such as at Wick. However, overall, the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will not alter the physical characteristics of the harbours and due to distance

offshore, and position largely behind the Wind Farm, will not change the sea views considerably further than Scenario 1 and 2.

203. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Harbour landscape character type is low for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.6.3 Mixed Agriculture and Settlement

204. The Mixed Agricultural and Settlement landscape character type covers a large extent of land south east of Thurso which narrows to a band of land along the A882 and to the south of Wick. Although generally an open gently undulating landscape, the complex and fragmented characteristics of this landscape type reduce the potential for views out to the wider landscape/seascape and where they do exist they include a variety of foreground elements, including existing wind farms, so that more distant elements become recessive. Please also refer to Figures 8.10 and 8.11 and 8.30 and 8.31 for the cumulative wireframes at Viewpoint 3: Sortat and Viewpoint 13: Catchory.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

205. The ZTV illustrates that there will be intermittent visibility of both the Wind Farm and MacColl from within this character type. Within these areas there are only small areas of combined visibility which is mostly on the slightly higher land and coastal regions, the majority is of the Wind Farm only.

206. MacColl will lie over 35 km from the nearest part of the character type and over 60 km at furthest. Whilst the small coastal part of this landscape type within the Study Area will have open views towards the Wind Farm and MacColl, it is considered that due to the distance of MacColl, it will not alter the key characteristics of the landscape type further than the presence of Wind Farm alone.

207. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Mixed Agricultural and Settlement landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as minor to negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

208. The ZTV illustrates that there will be intermittent visibility of MacColl, Stevenson, and the Wind Farm from this landscape character type. Approximately half of these areas will have combined visibility which is mostly on the slightly higher land and coastal regions, and the other half is visibility of the Wind Farm only.

209. MacColl and Stevenson will lie over 35 km and 24 km respectively from the nearest part of the character type and over 60 km at furthest. Whilst the small coastal part of this landscape type within the Study Area will have open views towards the three wind farms, it is considered that due to the distance of MacColl, and containment of Stevenson behind the Wind Farm, it will not change the key

characteristics of the landscape type overall further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

210. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Mixed Agricultural and Settlement landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as minor to negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

211. The ZTV illustrates that there will be intermittent visibility of the four wind farms. The majority of these areas will have combined visibility with some smaller areas where the Wind Farm only is visible.

212. Stevenson/Telford and MacColl will lie over 24 km and 35 km respectively from the nearest part of the character type and over 60 km at furthest. Whilst the small coastal part of this landscape type within the Study Area will have open views towards the four wind farms, it is considered that due to the distance of MacColl, and containment of Stevenson and Telford largely behind the Wind Farm, it will not change the key characteristics of the landscape type further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

213. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Mixed Agricultural and Settlement landscape character type is low to negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is low, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as minor to negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.6.4 Small Farms and Crofts

214. The Small Farms and Crofts landscape type is the closest landscape type to the coast, and approximately 13 km from the Wind Farm and 22 km at closest from the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. It covers the main coastal region within the Study Area extending from Sarclet to Berriedale, a shorter length of coast between Tang Head and Skirza Head, and also an area around John O'Groats and inland an isolated area south east of Halkirk. The ZTV illustrates that almost all of these areas except for around John O'Groats will have combined visibility of the four wind farms. Please also refer to Figures 8.14 – 8.18 and 8.22 and 8.23 for the cumulative wireframes at viewpoints Sarclet, Hill O'Many Stanes, Lybster and Dunbeath.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

215. MacColl will largely lie behind the Wind Farm, at approximately 33 km from the character type, but in views from the more southern parts of the type the MacColl turbines will extend the number of turbines potentially visible along the horizon.

216. The combined wind farms, whilst not having a direct material effect on the character type, will become a visual characteristic where sea views are available. However, sea views are not a key characteristic of this type and it is judged that due to distance and position, MacColl will not be perceived as a separate or distinct feature from the Wind Farm. The addition of MacColl will not meaningfully alter

the key characteristics of the landscape type further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

217. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of effect on the Small Farms and Crofts landscape character type is low for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

218. Stevenson will always be seen behind the Wind Farm from this CCA at approximately 22 km from the character type at its nearest point. The combined wind farms whilst not having a direct material effect on the character type, will become a visual characteristic where sea views are available. However, sea views are not a key characteristic of this type and it is judged that due to distance and position, MacColl and Stevenson will not be perceived as a separate or distinct feature from the Wind Farm. The addition of MacColl and Stevenson will not meaningfully alter the key characteristics of the landscape type further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

219. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Small Farms and Crofts landscape character type is judged as low for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

220. Telford will extend the number of turbines potentially visible to the east of the Wind Farm, but is largely behind the Wind Farm. The combined wind farms, whilst not having a direct physical effect on the character type, will become a visual characteristic where sea views are available. However, sea views are not a key characteristic of this type and it is judged that due to distance and position, MacColl, Stevenson and Telford will not be perceived as a separate or distinct feature from the Wind Farm. The addition of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will not meaningfully alter the key characteristics of the landscape type further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

221. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Small Farms and Crofts landscape character type is low for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is medium, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.6.5 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types

222. Table 8.6 below summarises the significance of cumulative effects of the three scenarios on the CCAs. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.6: Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Types

Landscape Character Type	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Lone Mountains	High	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor
Harbours	Low	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Minor to Negligible
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Minor to Negligible
		S3: Low	S3: Minor
Mixed Agricultural and Settlement	Low	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Minor to Negligible
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Minor to Negligible
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Minor to Negligible
Small Farms and Crofts	Medium	S1: Low	S1: Moderate-Minor
		S2: Low	S2: Moderate-Minor
		S3: Low	S3: Moderate-Minor

8.8.7 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES

223. Two Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) were identified in Section 14.3.3.2 of the Original ES. These lie at Duncansby Head and Morven & Scaraben. In addition a Search Area for Wild Land (SAWL) lies within the Morven & Scaraben AGLV. The cumulative effect of the Wind Farm with the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms on these designated landscapes is discussed below. Please refer to Figure 14.4 of the Original ES for the location of these areas. In addition, the cumulative ZTVs (Figure 8.3 – 8.5) and cumulative wireframes for viewpoints at Duncansby Head (Figure 8.6 – 8.7) and Scaraben (Figures 8.26 – 8.27) were utilised as tools to aid the assessment.

8.8.7.1 Duncansby Head AGLV

224. This coastal AGLV approximately corresponds with the Duncansby Head CCA.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

225. As MacColl will lie over 55 km from this AGLV, it is judged that it will effectively have no/minimal, if any, combined cumulative effect with the Wind Farm.

226. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head AGLV for Scenario 1 is as assessed for the Wind Farm alone which is low to

negligible. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

227. Stevenson will lie closer than MacColl, but to the east of the Wind Farm, and over 44 km away. At these distances, views from the AGLV of the combined wind farms would be very limited and the key characteristics of the AGLV would be not be altered any further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

228. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head AGLV is judged as low to negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect on this character type is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

229. Telford lies at a similar distance to the Wind Farm from the AGLV (over 35 km) and will increase the extent of turbines across the horizon to the east.

230. The stacks of Duncansby are the key focal point within this AGLV. The potential combined views of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms with the Wind Farm will not encroach on the setting or views of the stacks, due to their distance and position from the coastline. The combined wind farms may become more apparent when seen from the AGLV than the Wind Farm on its own, due to the increase in density and extent across the horizon, but distance will limit the effects.

231. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect on the Duncansby Head AGLV is low to negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the proposed development is high, the significance of effect on this AGLV is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.7.2 Morven and Scaraben AGLV and Peatlands SAWL

232. This AGLV is a large area covering several landscape character types but primarily the Lone Mountains and Sweeping Moorland. The overriding character of this area is one of remoteness and exposure which is also confirmed by much of the AGLV being part of the Peatlands SAWL. It lies approximately 27 km to beyond 40 km from the Wind Farm, and over 35 km from the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

233. The ZTV illustrates that combined intervisibility of the two wind farms is largely limited to the mountain summits. However, the addition of MacColl will extend the areas of visibility of offshore wind farms to some south and south easterly facing slopes. The topography prevents any intervisibility of both wind farms within the northern parts of the AGLV.

234. The combined views of the Wind Farm and MacColl will not directly affect the physical characteristics of the AGLV or SAWL. Potentially visible from a relatively small proportion of the overall area at a considerable distance, the wind farms will be read as minor elements in the expansive panoramic views available.

235. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the AGLV and SAWL is low to negligible for Scenario 1. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

236. The ZTV illustrates that the addition of Stevenson will not increase the parts of the AGLV and SAWL where offshore wind farms will be potentially visible. Stevenson lies behind the Wind Farm and they will most likely be seen as one wind farm in views from this area. Potentially visible from a relatively small proportion of the overall area at a considerable distance, the combined wind farms will be read as minor elements in the expansive panoramic views available.

237. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the AGLV and SAWL is low to negligible for Scenario 2. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

238. Telford, due to its position to the north of Stevenson and behind the Wind Farm, will not increase the area of AGLV or SAWL exposed to offshore wind farms. In the distant views available, it will most likely be seen as part of the Wind Farm and Stevenson.

239. The combined views of the four wind farms will not directly affect the physical characteristics of the AGLV or SAWL. Potentially visible from a relatively small proportion of the overall area, the wind farms will be read as minor elements in the expansive panoramic views available.

240. It is therefore judged that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect on the AGLV and SAWL is low to negligible for Scenario 3. As the sensitivity to the type of development proposed is high, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.7.3 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Designated Landscapes

241. Table 8.7 summarises the significance of cumulative effect of the three Scenarios on landscape designations. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.7: Cumulative Effects on Designated Landscapes

Landscape Designation	Sensitivity to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Duncansby Head AGLV	High	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor
Morven and Scaraben AGLV and Peatlands SAWL	High	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor

8.8.8 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON VISUAL RECEPTOR GROUPS

242. The baseline in Section 14.3.4 of the Original ES identified the main onshore and offshore visual receptor groups. The cumulative effects of the three Scenarios on these receptors are discussed below and a summary is presented in Table 8.9. An analysis of the cumulative ZTVs is provided below to give an overview of the combined intervisibility of the wind farms across the Study Area.

8.8.8.1 ZTV Analysis

243. The cumulative ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) illustrate the combined visibility of each Scenario. Figure 8.3 shows that the combined visibility of both the Wind Farm and MacColl is largely contained to the coastal regions between Wick and Brora and the higher inland areas of sweeping moorland, moorland slopes and hills, and lone mountains. The addition of MacColl marginally extends the visibility of offshore wind farms in the higher, south east facing land west of the A9. Visibility of the Wind Farm only is mainly in the northern inland agricultural and peatland areas with some small areas of visibility on the upper moorland slopes and hills in the south of the Study Area.

244. Figure 8.4 (Wind Farm, MacColl and Stevenson), when compared to Figure 8.3, covers largely the same area as the Wind Farm. Stevenson and MacColl wind farms together without the Wind Farm increase the intervisibility of offshore wind farms on the higher inland areas of sweeping moorland, moorland slopes and hills, and lone mountains west of the A9. Visibility of only the Wind Farm is mainly in the northern inland agricultural and peatland areas with some small areas of visibility on high land in the south of the Study Area.

245. Figure 8.5 illustrates that the addition of Telford differs only minimally to the Scenario 2 cumulative ZTV (Figure 8.4) with theoretically more visibility of Telford and the Wind Farm in the northern part of Caithness on the inland agricultural and peatland areas.

8.8.8.2 Residents

246. Section 14.5.4.2 of the Original ES concluded that the Wind Farm would have a high magnitude of effect on those residents living close to the coast and orientated towards the sea. Viewpoint 5 at Sarclet (Figures 8.14 and 8.15) is representative of the closest residents to the Wind Farm, and is assessed for cumulative effects with each scenario in Section 8.8.9. This concludes that due to distance and position largely behind the Wind Farm, cumulative effects would not be greater than the Wind Farm alone. Although Scenario 3, and to a lesser extent Scenario 2, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more prominent wind farm in views of the closest residents.

247. The cumulative effects of Moray Firth Round 3 Zone with the Wind Farm on residents within the wider Study Area are assessed through viewpoints. Please refer to Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 in Section 8.8.9 below.

8.8.8.3 The Travelling Public -Roads

248. There are four main roads within the Study Area; A9 (north and south), A99 and A882. The cumulative ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) illustrate that where the Wind Farm is shown as having intervisibility with these roads, there is also potential visibility of all three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. As concluded in the Original ES, the A9 (north) and A882, as inland routes, have very limited visibility of the Wind Farm and therefore negligible effects were assessed. It is judged that the addition of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms would also have a negligible cumulative magnitude of effect due to distance and the limited sections where views would be potentially possible. As road users have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect for all three scenarios on the A9 (north) and A882 is negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

249. The A9 (south) and A99, as the main coastal routes, will have potentially greater cumulative effects with the addition of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms than the inland roads and are therefore assessed below.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

250. Whilst increasing the horizontal extent of turbines in views from the southern sections of the A9 in the Study Area, MacColl will be at closest approximately 35 km and will not be a prominent element in the views. From the A99, MacColl is even less likely to be discernible due to its distance and position behind the Wind Farm. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 1 on the A9 (south) and A99 is no more than the effects of the Wind Farm alone which is medium to low and high to medium respectively. As road users have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is moderate to moderate-minor to minor for the A9 (south) and major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor for the A99. There will therefore be stretches of the A99 where there will be a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

251. Stevenson will not extend the horizontal extent of turbines in views from the A9 (south) or A99. It will be seen as part of the Wind Farm and therefore will increase the depth and perceived size of wind farm within the same portion of view as the Wind Farm alone. Taking this into account, and MacColl's limited effects, it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 2 on the A9 (south) and A99 is no more than the Wind Farm alone which is medium to low and high to medium respectively. As road users have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is moderate to moderate-minor to minor for the A9 (south) and major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor for the A99. There will therefore be stretches of the A99 where there will be a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

252. Telford will also be seen as part of the Wind Farm and further increase the density and perceived size of the wind farm in addition to Stevenson from the A9 (south) and A99. Taking this into account, and the limited effects of MacColl, it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 3 on the A9 (south) and A99 is no more than the Wind Farm alone which is medium to low and high to medium respectively. As road users have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is moderate to moderate-minor to minor for the A9 (south) and major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor for the A99. There will therefore be stretches of the A99 where there will be a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.4 The Travelling Public - Rail

253. As concluded in Section 14.5.4.2 of the Original ES, the route of the railway within the Study Area is inland and has limited, if any, intervisibility with the Wind Farm, and therefore negligible magnitude effects were judged. The cumulative ZTVs illustrate that there would be no additional areas of intervisibility with the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines along the railway line. Taking this into account and the distance to the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone sites, given the sensitivity of rail users is low, it is judged that there would be negligible significance of cumulative effect on the rail users for all three Scenarios. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.5 The Travelling Public - Public Paths

254. The potential for the greatest cumulative effects of the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms on walkers using public paths will be coastal paths closest to the wind farms, where open sea views are possible. There is not a continuous coastal path along the Study Area due to the coastline topography, but short lengths of accessible coastal routes can be found at Duncansby Head and Lybster. The potential visual effects from these areas are illustrated in the wireframes (Figures 8.6 – 8.7, 8.18 – 8.19 and 8.38 – 8.39) for Viewpoint 1: Duncansby Head, Viewpoint 7: Lybster Main Street and 17: Lybster Harbour. The

overall cumulative visual effects for each scenario on walkers using these two paths are discussed below.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

255. As assessed for Viewpoint 1 (Section 8.8.9.1), the magnitude of cumulative effect of the Wind Farm and MacColl at Duncansby Head is low to negligible due to the distance of the MacColl turbines from this part of the coast. As walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect upon this receptor group is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

256. MacColl will be more apparent in views at Lybster than Duncansby Head, but as a distant recessive feature largely behind the Wind Farm, but also extending marginally further across the horizon to the south. The Wind Farm will remain visible and the addition of the MacColl turbines will not alter the key characteristics of the view demonstrably further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 1 on walkers using the Lybster coastal path will be high to medium. As walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect upon this receptor group is assessed as major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

257. The magnitude of cumulative effect of the Wind Farm, MacColl and Stevenson at Duncansby Head is low to negligible due to the distance and location of the turbines from this part of the coast, as assessed for Viewpoint 1 (see Section 8.8.9.1). As walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect upon this receptor group is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

258. Stevenson and MacColl will be more apparent in views at Lybster than Duncansby Head, increasing the perceived density of turbines and extending marginally further across the horizon to the south. The Wind Farm turbines will remain prominent and the addition of the MacColl and Stevenson turbines will not considerably alter the key characteristics of the view more than the presence of the Wind Farm alone. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect will be no more than high to medium along the Lybster coastal path. As walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

259. As assessed for Viewpoint 1 (see Section 8.8.9.1), the magnitude of cumulative effect of the Wind Farm and the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms along the coastal path at Duncansby Head is low to negligible due to Telford marginally increasing the horizontal extents of the combined wind farms, but at a considerable distance they would not be easily noticeable elements within views from this area. As

walkers have a high sensitivity, the significance of effect is moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

260. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will be more apparent in views at Lybster than Duncansby Head. The addition of Telford will further increase the density of turbines in the view to that of Stevenson and the Wind Farm, and MacColl will extend the turbines visible marginally further across the horizon to the south. The Wind Farm will remain prominent and Telford, MacColl and Stevenson will not considerably alter the key characteristics of the view more than the presence of the Wind Farm alone. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 3 will be no more than high to medium along the Lybster coastal path. As walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed will vary between major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Other Paths

261. The cumulative effects on the several short heritage paths along the coast will be limited due to distance and position of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. As these heritage paths focus on historic industry and fishing stations rather than sea views, the presence of additional offshore wind farms will not significantly alter the character to users of the public paths. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of all three scenarios on users of these paths will be low. As the sensitivity of the users to the type of development proposed will be high, the significance of cumulative effect will be moderate for all three scenarios. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.6 The Travelling Public - National Cycle Routes

262. Section 14.5.4.2 in the Original ES concluded that there would be negligible significance of effect of the Wind Farm on the National Cycle Trail, due to its largely inland route with limited intervisibility with the Wind Farm. The cumulative ZTVs (Figures 8.3 to 8.5) illustrate that there would be no additional stretches of the cycle route exposed to offshore wind farms and in the limited areas where combined visibility is possible, due to distance, it is judged that there would be negligible magnitude of cumulative effects, and as sensitivity is high to medium, there will be negligible significance of cumulative effect for all three Scenarios.

8.8.8.7 The Travelling Public - Ferry Routes

263. The Orkney/Shetland – Aberdeen passenger ferries pass through the eastern extents of the Study Area on a regular basis. The general route lies at closest approximately 20 km from the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. Cumulative wireframes have been produced to illustrate the potential views from two positions along the ferry route (see Viewpoint 15 [Section 8.8.9.15] and Viewpoint 16 [Section 8.8.9.16]) and the cumulative effects on ferry passengers are discussed through these viewpoints. Cumulative effects will be highest for ferry passengers when in close proximity to the wind farms as they will substantially increase the extent of turbines visible across the horizon in addition to the Wind Farm. However, the wind farms will be over 20 km at closest, and effects will be

temporary and for only a small proportion of the ferry's overall route, so that overall, the magnitude of cumulative effect is considered to be low to none for all three scenarios. As ferry passengers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is moderate-minor to minor to none.

8.8.8.8 Visitors, Tourism and Amenity Resource

264. The potential cumulative effects on visitors to the area and general visual amenity are considered through the viewpoint analysis and also in the assessment of the travelling public (Sections 8.8.8.3 to 8.8.8.7) with which there is a clear overlap. Visitors to the area with the greatest potential to be affected by the Wind Farm in combination with the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms would be those travelling through the region along the coastal roads and or footpaths within approximately 20 km of the Wind Farm, and those visiting specific destinations on the coastline closest to the Wind Farm. The magnitude of cumulative effect will naturally vary according to the visitors' specific location and degree of visual exposure to the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms. The range of various effects upon these visitors is thus best demonstrated by reference to the various viewpoints where visitors have been identified as a principle receptor: Viewpoints 1, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 17 (see Section 8.8.9 below). The key tourist/visitor destinations in the Study Area include John O'Groats and Duncansby Head where the significance of cumulative effect arising from all three scenarios has been demonstrated to be no higher than minor. In terms of the EIA Regulations this does not constitute a likely significant effect.

8.8.8.9 Recreational Sailing

265. The greatest cumulative effects of the Wind Farm and Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms on recreational sailors will be limited to those sailors using the cruising routes in the wider Moray Firth area where close views of the wind farms will be possible. The sailors would have a high to medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed as, although they may have an interest in their surroundings, which already include a high level of marine activity, they also will be concentrating on sailing or racing. The magnitude of effect is dependent on the location of the sailor and distance from the wind farms, as a sailor on course between the coast and the Wind Farm is less likely to experience likely significant cumulative effects than one to the east or south east of the Wind Farm where the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms are located. The cumulative effects on recreational sailors for each scenario are discussed below with the assumption that they are sailing in close proximity to the wind farms. As with all transitory viewpoints, the effects would be temporary.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

266. The addition of MacColl will increase the number of turbines within the Moray Firth experienced by sailors. As MacColl is most likely to be seen separately to the Wind Farm due to the 10 km gap between them, the potential cumulative visual effects on sailors would cover a wider area than the Wind Farm alone and potentially give the perception of being surrounded by turbines. Therefore, the

magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 1 is judged as high to medium. As sailors have a high to medium sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects is major to major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

267. Stevenson will lie between the Wind Farm and MacColl thus increasing the number of turbines in a portion of the sea where turbines will already be prominent features. Stevenson will reduce the gap between MacColl and the Wind Farm and therefore when sailing in this area, the presence of turbines would be closer than Scenario 1, substantially altering the sea views.

268. Taking this into account it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 2 will be high. As sailors have a high to medium sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects is major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

269. Telford would be viewed as part of the Wind Farm and Stevenson wind farm, increasing the number and depth of turbines visible. Telford will be within largely the same portion of sea as occupied by the other three wind farms and would continue to narrow the gap between MacColl to the north of Stevenson. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 3 will be high. As sailors have a high to medium sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects is major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.10 Workers

270. The addition of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms with the Wind Farm will potentially have cumulative effects on the many fishing, commercial and industrial ships which also frequent the waters around the Moray Firth. The Wind Farm alone will considerably change the views for those offshore workers identified above. As they will be focussed on their line of work and due to their generally transient nature, their sensitivity is lower than recreational sailors (see Section 8.8.8.9). The cumulative effects on workers on ships for each scenario are discussed below with the assumption that they are sailing in close proximity to the wind farms. As with all transitory viewpoints, the effects would be temporary.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

271. MacColl will introduce turbines to a new portion of sea within 10 km of the Wind Farm and therefore increase the number of turbines visible when workers are in close proximity, potentially giving the perception of being surrounded by wind farms. Therefore, as the views would be substantially altered in close proximity to the wind farms the magnitude of cumulative effect is judged as high to medium. As the workers on the ships would have a generally medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor, thus moderate overall. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

272. Stevenson will be seen as part of the Wind Farm, increasing the depth of turbines visible. Stevenson will also reduce the gap between MacColl and the Wind Farm and therefore when travelling in this area, the presence of turbines would be closer than Scenario 1, substantially altering the sea views. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 2 is judged as high. As the workers on the ships would have a generally medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of effect is assessed as major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

273. Telford would be viewed as part of the Wind Farm and Stevenson wind farm, increasing the number and depth of turbines visible. Telford will be within largely the same portion of sea as occupied by the other three wind farms and would continue to narrow the gap between MacColl to the north of Stevenson. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 3 will be high. As workers on the ships have a medium to low sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects is major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.11 Gas/Oil Platform Workers

274. Workers on gas/oil platforms will also be potentially affected if located on the platforms which lie in close proximity to the wind farms. They will however be primarily focussed on their line of work and within an industrial structure, so their sensitivity to the type of developments proposed would be medium to low. The magnitude of effects will also vary depending on the specific location of the platform, position of the worker and views available to the sea. It is most likely that the highest cumulative visual effects of the wind farms will be experienced by the workers on their route to and from the oil rigs, either by boat or helicopter – please see 8.8.8.10 above for the assessment of workers on ships. The cumulative effects on the workers on the oil/gas platforms for each scenario are discussed below, with the assumption that they are in close proximity to the wind farms.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

275. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will potentially increase the horizontal extents of turbines visible from the platforms and at most, will give the perception of being surrounded by turbines. It is also likely that due to the gap between the two wind farms that there will be views where MacColl will not be seen at all with the Wind Farm.

276. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 1 would vary between high to medium, to none. As the workers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect on is major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor to none, thus moderate to none. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

277. Stevenson will be viewed as part of the Wind Farm and largely within the portion of view between MacColl and the Wind Farm, depending on the angle of view and platform location. Stevenson will reduce the gap between the Wind Farm and MacColl thus increasing the extent of turbines potentially visible. However, it will still be possible that a large proportion of the sea views from the platform will not have any views of the wind farms.

278. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 2 would vary between high to none. As the workers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect on is major-moderate to moderate to none, thus moderate to none overall. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

279. Telford will further extend the presence of turbines within the same portion of view as the Wind Farm and Stevenson, and continue to reduce the gap between MacColl. It will increase the potential depth and density of turbines visible, but it will still be possible that a large proportion of the sea views from the platform will not have any views of the wind farms.

280. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 3 would vary between high to none. As the workers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect on is major-moderate to moderate to none, thus moderate to none overall. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.8.12 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Visual Receptor Groups

281. Table 8.8 summarises the significance of cumulative effect of the three Scenarios on the identified visual receptors. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.8: Cumulative Effects on Visual Receptor Groups

Receptor Group	Distance to nearest Turbine	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Residents				
Sarclet	>14 km	High	S1: High	S1: Major
			S2: High	S2: Major
			S3: High	S3: Major
The Travelling Public				
Roads – A9 (north)	25 – 40 km	Medium to Low	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
			S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
			S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible

Receptor Group	Distance to nearest Turbine	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Roads – A882	18 – 40 km	Medium to Low	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
			S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
			S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible
Roads – A9 (south)	25 – 40 km	Medium to Low	S1: Medium to Low	S1: Moderate to Moderate-Minor to Minor
			S2: Medium to Low	S2: Moderate to Moderate-Minor to Minor
			S3: Medium to Low	S3: Moderate to Moderate-Minor to Minor
Roads – A99	15 – 40 km	Medium to Low	S1: High to Medium	S1: Major-Moderate to Moderate to Moderate-Minor
			S2: High to Medium	S2: Major-Moderate to Moderate to Moderate-Minor
			S3: High to Medium	S3: Major-Moderate to Moderate to Moderate-Minor
Rail	> 18 km	Low	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
			S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
			S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible
Public Path Users – Duncansby Head Coastal Path	c36 km	High	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
			S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
			S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor
Lybster Path users	C19km	High	S1: High to Medium	S1: Major to Major-Moderate
			S2: High to Medium	S2: Major to Major-Moderate
			S3: High to Medium	S3: Major to Major-Moderate
Other paths as per assessment above	>14 km	High	S1: Low	S1: Moderate
			S2: Low	S2: Moderate
			S3: Low	S3: Moderate

Receptor Group	Distance to nearest Turbine	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
Cycle Routes	various	High to Medium	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
			S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
			S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible
Ferry Passengers	>20 km	Medium to Low	S1: Overall Low to None	S1: Overall Moderate-Minor to Minor to None
			S2: Overall Low to None	S2: Overall Moderate-Minor to Minor to None
			S3: Overall Low to None	S3: Overall Moderate-Minor to Minor to None
Visitors				
Recreational Sailing	>0 km	High to Medium	S1: High to Medium	S1: Major to Major-Moderate to Moderate
			S2: High	S2: Major to Major-Moderate
			S3: High	S3: Major to Major-Moderate
Workers at Sea – Fishing and Commercial	>0 km	Medium to Low	S1: High to Medium	S1: Overall Moderate
			S2: High	S2: Major-Moderate to Moderate
			S3: High	S3: Major-Moderate to Moderate
Workers on Oil/Gas Platforms	>1 km	Medium to Low	S1: High to Medium to None	S1: Overall Moderate to None
			S2: High to None	S2: Overall Moderate to None
			S3: High to None	S3: Overall Moderate to None

8.8.9 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON VIEWPOINTS

282. The following analysis refers to the agreed representative viewpoints described in Section 14.3.4 and illustrated in Figure 14.8 of the Original ES and also includes the further Lybster Harbour viewpoint (Viewpoint 17) latterly requested by SNH. Reference should be made to the panoramas and cumulative wireframes (Figures 8.6 to 8.39) which illustrate the existing photographic panorama view and a wireframe of the Wind Farm with the three scenarios for each viewpoint. The distance of the closest turbine from the viewpoint and the degree that the Wind

Farm occupies within the 135º illustrated view shown in the wireframes is presented as bullet points for each viewpoint. Distances and degrees have been rounded to the nearest km or degree respectively.

8.8.9.1 Viewpoint 1: Duncansby Head (Figures 8.6 and 8.7)

- Wind Farm : 37 km, 21º
- MacColl: 57 km, 19º
- Stevenson: 46 km, 10º
- Telford: 42 km, 9º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

283. MacColl will largely lie behind the Wind Farm and marginally increase the extent of turbines across the horizon to the east. However, as the closest MacColl turbine to the Viewpoint is 57 km away, the turbines would be barely discernible and would not alter the key characteristics of the view further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

284. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is low to negligible. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

285. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one. Stevenson will lie behind the Wind Farm and in front of MacColl increasing the density of turbines potentially visible within the centre of the combined wind farms. However, both Stevenson and MacColl lie at considerable distances from the viewpoint at which the turbines would be barely discernible reducing the cumulative effects.

286. The harmonious and open landscape character visible from this viewpoint will remain largely intact, with the characteristic views towards the Duncansby Stacks and other coastal elements unchanged. In addition, the combined wind farms will lie within a relatively small proportion of the overall 360º views available from this viewpoint and will not feature in any views to Stroma and Orkney Islands in the north.

287. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is low to negligible. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

288. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one large wind farm. The Wind Farm will be the closest to the viewpoint. Telford is positioned between the eastern extents of the Wind Farm and in front of the Stevenson and

MacColl turbines, marginally increasing the horizontal extent of turbines beyond MacColl to the east.

289. The overlapping of the four wind farms will increase the density of turbines within the centre and eastern extent of the group thus increasing the potential prominence. However, the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms lie at considerable distances from the viewpoint at which the turbines would be barely discernible, reducing the cumulative effects.

290. The harmonious and open landscape character visible from this viewpoint will remain largely intact with the characteristic views towards the Duncansby Stacks and other coastal elements unchanged. In addition, the combined wind farms will lie within a relatively small proportion of the overall 360º views available from this viewpoint and will not feature in any views to Stroma and Orkney Islands in the north.

291. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is low to negligible. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to negligible, thus minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.2 Viewpoint 2: Keiss Pier (near Keiss Harbour House) (Figures 8.8 and 8.9)

- Wind Farm: 27 km, 29º
- MacColl: 49 km, 24º
- Stevenson: 37 km, 11º
- Telford: 34 km, 9º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

292. The wireframe illustrates that similarly to the Wind Farm, MacColl will largely be hidden by the headland at Noss Head, with approximately a quarter of its horizontal extent potentially visible beyond the headland to the north east. The Wind Farm will lie in front of the MacColl turbines to the same extent but at a closer distance. Given the distance that MacColl lies from the viewpoint and the narrow extent potentially visible, it is judged that it would not meaningfully alter the key characteristics of the view further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

293. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is low to negligible. As the key receptor group of residents and workers have a high and medium to low sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to negligible, thus overall minor for residents, and moderate-minor to minor to negligible, thus overall minor for workers. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

294. The wireframe illustrates that Stevenson would lie behind Noss Head and would not be visible. Therefore it will not contribute to any cumulative effects with the

Wind Farm and MacColl and the assessment for Scenario 1 will be unchanged for Scenario 2.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

295. The wireframe illustrates that Telford would be the only Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farm noticeably visible at this viewpoint. The Telford turbines will be visible in ordered rows extending from the headland and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines across the view by approximately 4º. Only the northern extents of Wind Farm will extend beyond the headland and will lie in front of the southern Telford turbines.

296. The Telford turbines position will correspond with the visual arrangement of the Wind Farm turbines and will be potentially perceived as the same wind farm, although the Telford turbines will be smaller given its further distance from the viewpoint.

297. Combined, Telford and the Wind Farm will only occupy a small proportion of the overall view and, given the distance that they lie from the viewpoint, they will not considerably detract from the key elements in the view such as the Noss Head lighthouse, or views across Sinclair's Bay.

298. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from the Wind Farm and Scenario 3 is low to negligible. As the key receptor group of local residents and workers have a high and medium to low sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to negligible, thus overall minor for residents and moderate-minor to minor to negligible, thus overall minor for workers. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.3 Viewpoint 3 – Sortat (Figures 8.10 and 8.11)

- Wind Farm: 32 km, 26º
- MacColl: 54 km, 22º
- Stevenson: 42 km, 9º
- Telford: 40 km, 8º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

299. The wireframe and photographic panorama illustrate that MacColl will not be visible at this viewpoint due to distance, and the intervening landform and vegetation cover. The Wind Farm will also be largely obscured although with potential for the blade tips of the northern extents to be seen. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect is negligible to none. As the key receptor group of local residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be negligible to none. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

300. The wireframe illustrates that Stevenson is not visible from this inland viewpoint due to the intervening landform. It will not contribute to any cumulative effects with the Wind Farm and MacColl, and given that there is also no visibility of

MacColl, the cumulative effects will be no more than the effects of the Wind Farm alone. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect is negligible to none. As the key receptor group of local residents have a high sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be negligible to none. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

301. The wireframe illustrates that Telford would be potentially visible overlapping the northern extents of the Wind Farm. However, at over 40 km from the viewpoint, and taking into account the intervening vegetation and built form shown in the photographic panorama, it is very unlikely that the turbines will be seen. The wireframe also shows that there is no visibility of Stevenson and MacColl from this inland viewpoint.

302. Therefore it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is negligible to none. As the key receptor group of residents have a high sensitivity to the development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as negligible to none. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.4 Viewpoint 4 – Wick Bay, Scalesburn (Figures 8.12 and 8.13)

- Wind Farm: 18 km, 41°
- MacColl: 40 km, 30°
- Stevenson: 28 km, 14°
- Telford: 26 km, 13°

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

303. The wireframe illustrates that approximately half of the horizontal extent of the Wind Farm and MacColl will lie behind the headland to the south of the view. The MacColl turbines will be potentially visible between the rows of the Wind Farm's turbines approximately a third to half of the size. Beyond 40 km from the viewpoint, they will be recessive in the view and the closer Wind Farm will be the more noticeable element within the overall busy and complex view where the harbour features and activity in the foreground are also a focus.

304. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is medium. As the key receptor group of residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

305. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one although over half of the horizontal extents of the Wind Farm and MacColl will be obscured by the headland to the south. Stevenson will lie behind the Wind Farm and in front of MacColl with two thirds of its horizontal extent visible beyond the headland.

306. The Stevenson turbines will appear in a regular arrangement largely corresponding to the Wind Farm layout in front. Stevenson, and MacColl to a lesser extent, will increase the density of turbines visible close to the headland and thus potentially increasing the combined wind farms' prominence in the view.

307. The combined wind farms will be a noticeable but recessive element across the horizon but within an overall busy and complex view where the harbour features and activity in the foreground are a focus. The addition of Stevenson and MacColl potentially increase the prominence of the wind farm group within a small proportion of the overall view but it will not alter the key characteristics of the view considerably further than the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

308. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is medium. As the key receptor group of local residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

309. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one, although over half of the horizontal extents of the Wind Farm and MacColl will be obscured by the headland to the south. Stevenson will lie behind the Wind Farm and in front of MacColl, with two thirds of its horizontal extent visible beyond the headland. Telford will lie just south of the centre of the framed view, behind the Wind Farm, and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines by approximately 4º.

310. The Telford and Stevenson turbines will appear in a regular arrangement largely corresponding to the Wind Farm layout in front. MacColl lies too far to meaningfully contribute to cumulative effects from this viewpoint, but the combination of Telford and Stevenson with the Wind Farm will increase the horizontal extent of the wind farm and prominence of the turbines in the view, reducing the openness of the sea view framed by the headlands.

311. The combined wind farms will be a moderate alteration to the key elements of the view, taking into account the busy and complex foreground view where the harbour features and activity are also a focus.

312. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is high to medium. As the key receptor group of local residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.5 Viewpoint 5 – Sarclet (near Sarclet Haven Information Board) (Figures 8.14 and 8.15)

- Wind Farm: 14 km, 54º
- MacColl: 35 km, 34º
- Stevenson: 24 km, 18º
- Telford: 24 km, 18º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

313. MacColl will be a distant feature behind the Wind Farm, marginally increasing the depth and density of the wind farm. The MacColl turbines will appear in a similar turbine arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbines rows visible in the centre of view, a more open arrangement to the south and a more overlapping random arrangement to the north.

314. The presence of the Wind Farm alone will be a major alteration to the simple and open characteristics of the view. The relatively consistent arrangement of the MacColl turbines to the Wind Farm, and distance from the viewpoint, will reduce the prominence of MacColl from this viewpoint. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will therefore not alter the key characteristics of the view considerably further than the Wind Farm alone. The expansive sea views available from this viewpoint will remain intact to the north and south of the view.

315. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents, and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

316. The wireframe illustrates that Stevenson and MacColl will appear as a logical extension to the Wind Farm continuing the turbine rows in an even and coordinated layout. The three wind farms will therefore appear as one large group. As Stevenson lies closer than MacColl it will increase the density of turbines thus potentially making the centre of the combined wind farms more prominent in views. However, the relatively cohesive arrangement of the three wind farms, and distance of the MacColl wind farm from the viewpoint, will moderate the effects. In addition, the expansive sea views available from this viewpoint will remain intact to the north and south of the view.

317. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 will be no greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents, and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

318. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one group. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will lie behind the Wind Farm with a similar turbine arrangement; ordered turbines rows visible in the centre of view, a more open arrangement to the south, and a more overlapping random arrangement to the north.

319. The presence of the Wind Farm alone will be a major alteration to the simple and open characteristics of the view. The addition of Stevenson and Telford, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more prominent wind farm. However, the relatively cohesive arrangement of the four wind farms and distance of MacColl from the viewpoint, will moderate the effects. In addition, the expansive sea views available from this viewpoint will remain intact to the north and south of the view.

320. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is no greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents, and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.6 Viewpoint 6 - Hill O'Many Stanes (Figures 8.16 and 8.17)

- Wind Farm: 17 km, 50º
- MacColl: 34 km, 33º
- Stevenson: 24 km, 20º
- Telford: 27 km, 19º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

321. The wireframe illustrates that MacColl lies behind the southern half of the Wind Farm extending beyond it 5º to the south. The two wind farms will appear as one with MacColl marginally increasing the horizontal extent of turbines across the horizon and the density of turbines visible within the central part of the combined wind farms.

322. The landform around the viewpoint and the position of the historic stones draws the eye towards the portion of the open sea where the combined wind farms will occupy. However, the MacColl turbines will be a distant feature appearing as a recessive extension to the Wind Farm. The turbines will also lie within an expansive 360º view which includes elements such as the existing Beatrice oil platforms, Demonstrator Turbines, settlement and coniferous plantations which will reduce the emphasis on the sea view to some extent.

323. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 will not be greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is high. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high to medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

324. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one. Stevenson will lie centrally within the combined wind farms extent, just less than half of the width of the Wind Farm. MacColl lies behind both Stevenson and the Wind Farm

and will marginally increase the horizontal extent of turbines to the south. The Stevenson and MacColl turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a denser overlapping arrangement to the north.

325. The landform around the viewpoint and the position of the historic stones draws the eye towards the portion of the open sea where the combined wind farms will occupy. Stevenson, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more noticeable wind farm than the Wind Farm alone. The turbines will however lie within an expansive 360º view which includes elements such as the existing Beatrice oil platforms, Demonstrator Turbines, settlement and coniferous plantations which will reduce the emphasis on the sea view to some extent.

326. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is high. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high to medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

327. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one. Stevenson and Telford will lie behind the northern two thirds of the Wind Farm. MacColl lies behind both Stevenson and the Wind Farm and will marginally increase the horizontal extent of turbines to the south. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a denser overlapping arrangement to the north.

328. The landform around the viewpoint, and the position of the historic stones, draws the eye towards the portion of the open sea where the combined wind farms will occupy. Stevenson and Telford, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more prominent wind farm than the Wind Farm alone. The turbines will, however, lie within an expansive 360º view which includes elements such as the existing Beatrice oil platforms, Demonstrator Turbines, settlement and coniferous plantations which will reduce the emphasis on the sea view to some extent.

329. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is high. As the key receptor group of visitors have a high to medium sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.7 Viewpoint 7 - Lybster (end of Main Street) (Figures 8.18 and 8.19)

- Wind Farm: 19 km, 43º
- MacColl: 34 km, 30º
- Stevenson: 27 km, 19º
- Telford: 31 km, 18º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

330. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms will appear as one. Two thirds of the horizontal extent of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm and the remainder will extend into the open horizon to the south as far as the Jacky oil platform. The MacColl turbines will appear approximately half the height of the Wind Farm turbines at this distance.

331. The addition of MacColl increases the horizontal extent of visible turbines in a regular arrangement by a quarter of the Wind Farm size. They will also increase the density of turbines within the centre of the view. However, distance will moderate the effects and the MacColl turbines will appear as distant minor features behind the more prominent Wind Farm turbines.

332. Within the wider view, the combined wind farms will be seen as a backdrop to the housing at Lybster and will not affect the more open and simple sea and coast views available to the south. The Beatrice oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines are also noticeable features from this viewpoint which provide a baseline of offshore industrial activity. The key characteristics of the view will only be marginally altered by the addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm.

333. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is no more than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is high to medium. As the key receptor group of residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

334. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one wind farm. Stevenson will lie centrally between the horizontal extent of both MacColl and the Wind Farm. Two thirds of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm and the remainder will extend across the open horizon as far as the Jacky platform.

335. The Stevenson and MacColl turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a denser overlapping arrangement to the north. Stevenson, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a slightly larger and potentially more noticeable wind farm. However, within the wider view, the combined wind farms will be seen as a backdrop to the housing at Lybster and will not affect the more open and simple sea and coast views available to the south. The Beatrice oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines are also noticeable features from this viewpoint which provide a baseline of offshore industrial activity.

336. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is high to medium. As the key receptor group of residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

337. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one. Stevenson and Telford will lie behind the northern two thirds of the Wind Farm. MacColl lies behind both Stevenson and the Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines to the south approximately 10º, in regularly spaced turbine rows.

338. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a denser overlapping arrangement to the north. Stevenson and Telford, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a slightly larger and potentially more noticeable wind farm. However, within the wider view, the combined wind farms will be seen as a backdrop to the housing at Lybster and will not affect the more open and simple sea and coast views available to the south. The Beatrice oil platforms and Demonstrator Turbines are also noticeable features from this viewpoint which provide a baseline of offshore industrial activity.

339. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is high to medium. As the key receptor group of residents have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major to major-moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.8 Viewpoint 8 - Latheron (A9) (Figures 8.20 and 8.21)

- Wind Farm: 23 km, 36º
- MacColl: 37 km, 26º
- Stevenson: 31 km, 17º
- Telford: 35 km, 16º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

340. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms will appear as one. The northern half of MacColl will overlap with the Wind Farm increasing the extent of turbines across the horizon by almost a third to the Wind Farm alone. The addition of MacColl will also increase the density of the turbines within the centre of the combined wind farms. However, due to the considerable distance that MacColl lies from the viewpoint, the MacColl turbines will appear approximately half the size of the Wind Farm turbines and will not be easily discernible.

341. The expansive and open sea views to the east and south of the viewpoint will largely be retained as the main extents of the combined wind farms will occupy a relatively narrow portion of sea between the foreground sloping coastal shelf and the horizon. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will only create a minor alteration to the key characteristics of the view.

342. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising Scenario 1 is no greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is medium. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be

moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

343. The wireframe illustrates that three wind farms will appear as one. The northern half of MacColl will overlap with the Wind Farm increasing the extent of turbines across the horizon by almost a third to the Wind Farm alone. Stevenson lies centrally between the Wind Farm and MacColl extents, at approximately half the width of the visible Wind Farm.

344. Stevenson, and to some extent MacColl, will increase the depth and density of turbines visible within the central part of the combined wind farms. The combined turbines appear in a complex arrangement with overlapping turbines densely distributed due to the orientation of this viewpoint in relation to the wind farm grid patterns.

345. The greater density of turbines and longer extent across the horizon created by the addition of Stevenson and MacColl will potentially increase the perception of a larger and more noticeable wind farm. However, the considerable distance that Stevenson and MacColl lie from the viewpoint will moderate the effects to some degree. In addition, the expansive and open sea views to the east and south of the viewpoint will largely be retained as the main extents of the combined wind farms will occupy a relatively narrow portion of sea between the foreground sloping coastal shelf and the horizon.

346. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is medium. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

347. The wireframe illustrates that four wind farms will appear as one. Telford lies behind the Wind Farm, and overlaps behind Stevenson. The northern half of MacColl will also overlap behind the Wind Farm, increasing the extent of turbines across the horizon by almost a third to the Wind Farm alone. Stevenson lies centrally between the Wind Farm and MacColl extents, at approximately half the width of the visible Wind Farm.

348. Telford and Stevenson and to a lesser extent MacColl will increase the density of turbines visible. The combined wind farms appear in a complex arrangement with overlapping turbines densely distributed due to the orientation of this viewpoint in relation to the wind farms grid patterns.

349. The greater density of turbines and longer extent across the horizon created by the addition of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will potentially increase the perception of a larger and more noticeable wind farm. However, the considerable distance that the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms lie from the viewpoint will moderate the effects to some degree. In addition, the expansive and

open sea views to the east and south of the viewpoint will largely be retained as the main extents of the combined wind farms will occupy a relatively narrow portion of sea between the foreground sloping coastal shelf and the horizon.

350. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is medium. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to moderate-minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.9 Viewpoint 9 - Dunbeath (near Heritage Centre) (Figures 8.22 and 8.23)

- Wind Farm: 26 km, 31°
- MacColl: 38 km, 23°
- Stevenson: 34 km, 15°
- Telford: 39 km, 15°

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

351. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms will appear as one. The northern half of the horizontal extents of MacColl will overlap behind the Wind Farm thus extending the number of turbines visible across the horizon by approximately two thirds of the extent of the Wind Farm.

352. The framing of the view by the steep valley slopes around Dunbeath increases the emphasis on the turbines within the sea views and the addition of the MacColl turbines will potentially increase the density of the turbines within the centre of the combined wind farms as well as increasing the horizontal extents. However, due to the considerable distance that MacColl lies from the viewpoint, the turbines will appear will not be easily discernible and recessive within the view. The key characteristics of the view will not be considerably altered further than from the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

353. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is medium. As the key receptor group of residents and visitors have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate for residents and major-moderate to moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

354. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one. The northern half of the horizontal extents of MacColl will overlap behind the Wind Farm, thus extending the number of turbines visible across the horizon by approximately two thirds of the extent of the Wind Farm. Stevenson will lie centrally within the Wind Farm and MacColl extents, at approximately half the width of the visible Wind Farm.

355. Stevenson and to some extent MacColl will increase the depth and density of turbines visible within the central part of the combined wind farms. The combined

turbines appear in a complex arrangement with overlapping turbines densely distributed, thus increasing the prominence of the wind farms at this point.

356. Taking this into account, and the increase in horizontal extent, the combined wind farms will appear as a larger, more noticeable feature than the Wind Farm alone. The framing of the view by the steep valley slopes around Dunbeath also increases the emphasis on the turbines within the sea views. However, the considerable distance that both Stevenson and MacColl lie from the viewpoint will moderate the effects to some degree.

357. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is medium. As the key receptor group of residents and visitors have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate for residents and major-moderate to moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

358. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one. The northern half of the horizontal extents of MacColl will overlap behind the Wind Farm, thus extending the number of turbines visible across the horizon by approximately two thirds of the extent of the Wind Farm. Stevenson will lie centrally within the Wind Farm and MacColl extents, at approximately half the width of the visible Wind Farm. Telford will lie furthest of the wind farms from this viewpoint, behind the Wind Farm and partially behind Stevenson.

359. Stevenson and to some extent Telford and MacColl will increase the depth and density of turbines visible within the central part of the combined wind farms. The combined turbines appear in a complex arrangement with overlapping turbines densely distributed thus increasing the prominence of the wind farms at this point.

360. Taking this into account, and the increase in horizontal extent, the combined wind farms will appear as a larger, more prominent feature than the Wind Farm alone. The framing of the view by the steep valley slopes around Dunbeath also increases the emphasis on the turbines within the sea views. However, the considerable distance that the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms lie from the viewpoint will moderate the effects to some degree.

361. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is medium. As the key receptor group of residents and visitors have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate for residents and major-moderate to moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.10 Viewpoint 10 - Whaligoe Steps (Figures 8.24 and 8.25)

- Wind Farm: 15 km, 54º
- MacColl: 34 km, 34º
- Stevenson: 24 km, 20º

- Telford: 25 km, 19º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

362. The wireframe illustrates that all but the very southern turbines of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm. MacColl will be a distant feature behind the Wind Farm, marginally increasing the depth and density of the wind farm. The MacColl turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a more complex, overlapping arrangement to the north.

363. The dramatic landform either side of the viewpoint frames a wide, open sea view in which the presence of the Wind Farm alone will be a major alteration. Taking into account the relatively consistent arrangement of the MacColl turbines to the Wind Farm and that distance will moderate the prominence of the MacColl turbines. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will not alter the key characteristics of the view further than the Wind Farm alone. The expansive sea views available from this viewpoint will remain intact to the north and south of the view.

364. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

365. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one. All but the very southern turbines of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm and Stevenson will lie centrally within the Wind Farm and MacColl extents.

366. The dramatic landform either side of the viewpoint frames a wide, open sea view in which the presence of the Wind Farm alone will be a major alteration. Stevenson and MacColl will appear as a logical extension to the Wind Farm continuing the turbine rows in an even and coordinated arrangement. Stevenson, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more noticeable wind farm, emphasised further by the framing of the view.

367. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is no greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

368. The wireframe illustrates that the four wind farms will appear as one within the centre of this framed view. Stevenson and Telford will lie behind the northern two

thirds of the Wind Farm. MacColl lies behind both Stevenson and the Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines to the south by one turbine row. The combined Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines will appear in a similar arrangement to the Wind Farm; ordered turbine rows visible in the south opening up to a more complex, overlapping arrangement to the north.

369. The dramatic landform either side of the viewpoint frames a wide, open sea view in which the presence of the Wind Farm alone will be a major alteration. Stevenson and Telford, and to a lesser extent MacColl, will increase the density of turbines giving the perception of a larger and potentially more prominent wind farm, emphasised further by the framing of the view.

370. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is high. As the key receptor group of local residents and visitors to the coast have a high and high to medium sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major for residents and major to major-moderate for visitors. This is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.11 Viewpoint 11 – Scaraben (Figures 8.26 and 8.27)

- Wind Farm: 33 km, 25°
- MacColl: 44 km, 18°
- Stevenson: 42 km, 13°
- Telford: 47 km, 13°

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

371. The wireframe illustrates that from this elevated viewpoint, the Wind Farm turbines will appear just below the horizon with their grid pattern evident. The northern MacColl turbines will potentially be visible on the horizon with the closer southern extents below it. Due to the height of the viewpoint, the depth of the two wind farms is potentially apparent, and whilst there is not a perceivable gap between them, they will appear as separate wind farms.

372. The Wind Farm turbines will be a noticeable element in the sea view with MacColl a recessive feature to the south, increasing the extent of turbines visible across the horizon. The cumulative effects will be moderated taking into account the distance of the turbines from the viewpoint and the wider 360° views available at Scaraben which include other wind farms, settlement and industry.

373. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is low. As the key receptor group of walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

374. Stevenson lies within a narrow band of sea between the Wind Farm and MacColl, reading as part of the Wind Farm. Whilst adjacent to the Wind Farm and Stevenson, MacColl will appear separate due to its more westerly position and long and narrow site area.

375. The Wind Farm turbines will be a noticeable element in the sea view and MacColl and Stevenson will be recessive features to the east and south, extending the extent of turbines visible across the horizon. Taking into account the distance of the turbines from the viewpoint, and the wider 360º views available at Scaraben which include other wind farms, settlement and industry, the combined wind farms will be a minor alteration to the view.

376. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is low. As the key receptor group of walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

377. Telford and Stevenson lie within a narrow band of sea between the Wind Farm and MacColl, their turbines potentially visible above the horizon, but also reading as part of the Wind Farm. Whilst adjacent to the Wind Farm and Stevenson, MacColl will appear separate due to its more westerly position, and long and narrow site area.

378. The Wind Farm turbines will be a noticeable element in the sea view and due to their considerable distance from the viewpoint; MacColl, Stevenson and Telford will be recessive features to the east and south, although MacColl will extend the extent of turbines visible across the horizon. The combined wind farms will be a minor alteration to the overall 360º views available at Scaraben which include other wind farms, settlement and industry

379. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is low. As the key receptor group of walkers have a high sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.12 Viewpoint 12 – Navidale (Figures 8.28 and 8.29)

- Wind Farm: 38 km, 19º
- MacColl: 45 km, 14º
- Stevenson: 47 km, 11º
- Telford: 53 km, 11º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

380. The wireframe illustrates that MacColl will lie adjacent to the Wind Farm with no overlap. The turbines will appear slightly smaller than the Wind Farm but overall the two wind farms will appear as one.

381. The combination of the two wind farms will increase the extent of turbines across the view, but the considerable distance to both wind farms will reduce the prominence of the turbines. The expansive sea view available and existing visible industry from this viewpoint also moderates cumulative effects. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will not alter the key characteristics of the view further than Wind Farm alone.

382. It is judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is low to negligible. The key receptor group are residents and travellers who have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively. As such, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor for residents and moderate-minor to minor to negligible, thus minor for travellers. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

383. Stevenson will lie within the centre of the Wind Farm and MacColl combined extents adding to the density of turbines.

384. Although the combination of the three wind farms will increase the extent and density of turbines across the view, the considerable distance from the viewpoint will reduce the prominence and visibility of the turbines. They will not considerably alter the key characteristics of the view any further than the Wind Farm alone.

385. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is low to negligible. The key receptor group are residents and travellers who have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively. As such, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor for residents and moderate-minor to minor to negligible, thus minor for travellers. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

386. The wireframe illustrates that Telford will lie behind the Wind Farm and part of Stevenson, increasing the density of turbines within the combined wind farms. However, at over 53 km from the viewpoint it is judged the turbines will be barely discernible and they will not meaningfully contribute to cumulative effects further than assessed for Scenario 2.

387. It is therefore that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is low to negligible. The key receptor group are residents and travellers who have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively. As such, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed as moderate to negligible, thus minor for residents and moderate-minor to minor to negligible, thus minor for travellers. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.13 Viewpoint 13 – Catchory (Figures 8.30 and 8.31)

- Wind Farm: 29 km, 29º
- MacColl: 51 km, 24º
- Stevenson: 39 km, 11º
- Telford: 39 km, 10º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

388. The wireframe illustrates that there is no visibility of MacColl from this inland viewpoint due to distance and the intervening landform. The nacelles and blades of some of the Wind Farm's turbines will be potentially visible although the landform and vegetation will prevent clear views.

389. It is therefore considered that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is negligible. As the key receptor group of residents and farm workers have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively,, the significance of cumulative effect on both residents and farm workers is assessed as negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

390. The wireframe illustrates that there is no visibility of MacColl and Stevenson from this inland viewpoint due to distance and the intervening landform. The nacelle and blades of some of the Wind Farm's turbines will be potentially visible although the landform and vegetation will prevent clear views.

391. It is therefore considered that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is negligible. As the key receptor group of residents and farm workers have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively, the significance of cumulative effect on both residents and farm workers is assessed as negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

392. The wireframe illustrates that there is no visibility of MacColl and Stevenson from this inland viewpoint but potentially the blade tips of Telford are visible. However, when taking into consideration the vegetation and built form shown in the photographic panorama, there will be no visibility of Telford either. The nacelle and blades of some of the Wind Farm's turbines will be potentially visible although the landform and vegetation will prevent clear views.

393. It is therefore considered that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 3 is negligible. As the key receptor group of residents and farm workers have a high and medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed respectively, the significance of cumulative effect on both residents and farm workers is assessed as negligible. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.14 Viewpoint 14 – Minor Road, south side of Stemster Hill (Figures 8.32 and 8.33)

- Wind Farm: 26 km, 34º
- MacColl: 48 km, 25º
- Stevenson: 34 km, 15º
- Telford: 37 km, 15º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

394. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms will appear as one. Approximately two thirds of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm in the view and the remaining third will extend the horizontal extent of turbines to the south in a regular arrangement. The coastal landform and forestry in the foreground partially obscure views of the northern extents of the Wind Farm.

395. Given the distance that MacColl lies from the viewpoint, that the sea is not a particularly large part of the view, and that the focus is largely on the moorland and forestry in the foreground, the addition of MacColl will not alter the key characteristics of the view further than the presence of the Wind Farm alone.

396. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is medium to low. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to moderate-minor to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

397. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one within the narrow extent of sea view visible from this inland viewpoint. Approximately two thirds of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm in the view and the remaining third will extend the horizontal extent of turbines to the south in a regular arrangement. Stevenson will lie centrally within the combined extents of the Wind Farm and MacColl, approximately half the width of the extents of the Wind Farm. The coastal landform and forestry in the foreground partially obscures views of the Wind Farm and northern extents of Stevenson.

398. Stevenson, and MacColl to some extent, will increase the density of turbines visible, thus increasing the potential prominence. However, the distance that both the Stevenson and MacColl will lie from the viewpoint will moderate the effects. The combined wind farms will create a minor alteration to the key characteristics of the view, taking into account the sea is not a particularly large part of the view, and the focus is largely on the moorland and forestry in the foreground.

399. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is medium to low. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be moderate to moderate-minor to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

400. The wireframe and photographic panorama illustrates that Telford will be obscured by the landform and will therefore not contribute to the cumulative effects of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms with the Wind Farm.

401. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effects is medium to low, as assessed for Scenario 1 and 2. As the key receptor group of travellers have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative

effect is assessed to be moderate to moderate-minor to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.15 Viewpoint 15 – Aberdeen to Orkney/Shetland Ferry Route (Figures 8.34 and 8.35)

- Wind Farm: 20 km, 21º
- MacColl: 27 km, 22º
- Stevenson: 25 km, 18º
- Telford: 18 km, 28º

402. This viewpoint is taken along the ferry route between Aberdeen, Orkney and Shetland. It should be noted that the cumulative effects discussed below will be temporary and for only a small proportion of the ferry's overall route.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

403. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms lie distinctly separate, with over 10º of separation. At this particular location on the ferry route, the Wind Farm appears as a complex arrangement of overlapping columns and blades within the centre and east of the group becoming more openly distributed towards the north west. The overlapping and stacking potentially increases the prominence of the Wind Farm however it is acknowledged that it will not constantly appear like this along the route. MacColl is less prominent due to the further distance away, and the turbines appearing less clustered at this particular viewpoint. It will be a noticeable feature but recessive in comparison to the Wind Farm.

404. The addition of MacColl will noticeably increase the extent of turbines across the horizon in the expansive open sea views. Taking into account distance from the ferry route, MacColl with the Wind Farm will be a moderate alteration to the key characteristics of the views within this stretch.

405. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 1 is high to medium. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor, thus moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

406. The wireframe illustrates that Stevenson will overlap with the western extents of MacColl, thus reading as one wind farm. There is a small gap between them and the Wind Farm to the west. Stevenson appears in a similar configuration to the Wind Farm with the turbines overlapping and stacked.

407. The addition of MacColl and Stevenson will noticeably increase the extent of turbines across the horizon in the expansive open sea views. Taking into account distance from the ferry route, MacColl and Stevenson with the Wind Farm will be a moderate alteration to the key characteristics of the views within this stretch.

408. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 2 is high to medium. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be

major-moderate to moderate to moderate-minor, thus moderate. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

409. Telford lies closest to the viewpoint and lies in front of Stevenson and two thirds of MacColl. The Wind Farm lies directly to the west of Telford. The combined wind farms appear as a complex arrangement of overlapping turbines at various heights across a considerable proportion of the 135º view illustrated. The Telford turbines are most noticeable and the density of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone turbines within the centre of the view increases the prominence.

410. The addition of MacColl, Stevenson and Telford will noticeably increase the extent of turbines across the horizon in the expansive open sea views. The Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms with the Wind Farm will be a substantial alteration to the key characteristics of the views within this stretch, although moderated by distance.

411. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 3 is high. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be major-moderate to moderate. This is a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.16 Viewpoint 16– Aberdeen to Orkney/Shetland Ferry Route (Figures 8.36 and 8.37)

- Wind Farm: 30 km, 15º
- MacColl: 40 km, 18º
- Stevenson: 36 km, 14º
- Telford: 29 km, 17º

412. This viewpoint is taken along the ferry route between Aberdeen, Orkney and Shetland. It should be noted that the cumulative effects discussed below will be temporary and for only a small proportion of the ferry's overall route.

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

413. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms lie as separate wind farms. At just above sea level at a considerable distance from the viewpoint, neither wind farms are particularly prominent, especially the MacColl turbines. At this particular point on the ferry route, the Wind Farm appears as one clustered group with many overlapping turbines in comparison to MacColl which, due to its angle from the viewpoint, appears to have a more open and even arrangement.

414. The addition of MacColl will increase the extent of turbines across the horizon but will not be a noticeable feature in the expansive sea views due to distance. Therefore, MacColl with the Wind Farm will be a minor alteration to the key characteristics of the view from this point on the ferry route.

415. Taking the above into account, it is judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 1 is low. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative

effect will be moderate-minor to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

416. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one long group across the horizon. However, given the viewpoint is just above sea level, and at a considerable distance from the wind farms, none of the three wind farms are particularly prominent, especially the MacColl turbines. The Wind Farm and western extents of Stevenson will appear as one clustered group with many overlapping turbines in comparison to MacColl which, due to its angle from the viewpoint, will have a more open and even arrangement.

417. The addition of MacColl and Stevenson will increase the extent of turbines across the horizon in the expansive sea views but will not be particularly noticeable features due to distance. Therefore it is judged that MacColl and Stevenson with the Wind Farm will be a minor alteration to the key characteristics of the view from this point on the ferry route.

418. Taking into account the above, the magnitude of cumulative effect of Scenario 2 is low. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be moderate-minor to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

419. The wireframe illustrates that Telford will lie to the east and at a similar distance to the Wind Farm, and also in front of the majority of the MacColl and Stevenson extents. At this particular viewpoint, Telford's grid pattern will be evident in contrast to the more clustered Wind Farm appearance. The four wind farms will appear as one group, with MacColl and Stevenson recessive in the view.

420. The addition of Telford will increase the noticeable extent of turbines across the horizon in the expansive sea views. Taking into account distance from the ferry route, the combined wind farms will be moderate alteration to the key characteristics of the views from this point on the ferry route.

421. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative effect for Scenario 3 is medium to low. As the passengers on the ferry will have a medium to low sensitivity to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect will be moderate to minor. This is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.17 Viewpoint 17 - Lybster Harbour (Figures 8.38 and 8.39)

- Wind Farm: 20 km, 42º
- MacColl: 35 km, 29º
- Stevenson: 27 km, 19º
- Telford: 31 km, 18º

Scenario 1: Wind Farm plus MacColl

422. The wireframe illustrates that the two wind farms will appear as one, both partially obscured by the headland. Approximately half of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm with the southern turbines appearing centrally within the framed view in a regular arrangement.

423. MacColl will create a greater density of turbines in the centre of the combined wind farms but will be less than half the height of the Wind Farm turbines thus reducing the prominence. MacColl will also increase the horizontal extent of visible turbines to approximately half of the framed view. The steep headlands contain the sea view, potentially increasing the focus on the turbines, but the distance of the MacColl turbines from the viewpoint will mean that they will still appear as distant, recessive elements in the view. The addition of MacColl to the Wind Farm will therefore create a minor alteration to the key characteristics of the view.

424. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 1 is no greater than the effect of the Wind Farm alone which is medium. As the receptors groups of visitors and fishermen have a high to medium and medium to low sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate to moderate for visitors and moderate to moderate-minor for fishermen. The effect on visitors is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations. The effect on fishermen is not a likely significant effect in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Scenario 2: Wind Farm plus MacColl and Stevenson

425. The wireframe illustrates that the three wind farms will appear as one, although over half the Wind Farm and Stevenson will be obscured by the headland. Approximately half of MacColl will lie behind the Wind Farm with the southern turbines appearing centrally within the framed view in a regular arrangement. The visible Stevenson turbines will appear in a complex overlapping arrangement behind the more regularly distributed turbines of the Wind Farm.

426. The addition of Stevenson, and to a lesser degree MacColl, will increase the density of turbines within the small proportion of the visible horizon they occupy. The density of turbines created by the combined layout will be slightly more noticeable than the Wind Farm turbines alone, emphasised by the steep headlands either side of the harbour framing the view.

427. It is therefore judged that the magnitude of cumulative visual effect arising from Scenario 2 is medium. As the receptors groups of visitors and fishermen have a high to medium and medium to low sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate to moderate for visitors and moderate to moderate-minor for fishermen. The effect on visitors is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

Scenario 3: Wind Farm plus MacColl, Stevenson and Telford

428. The wireframe illustrates that the entire Telford wind farm will be obscured by the headland to the north. Therefore, the magnitude of cumulative effects is medium,

as assessed for Scenarios 1 and 2. As the receptors groups of visitors and fishermen have a high to medium and medium to low sensitivity respectively to the type of development proposed, the significance of cumulative effect is assessed to be major-moderate to moderate for visitors and moderate to moderate-minor for fishermen. The effect on visitors is a likely significant effect in terms of EIA Regulations.

8.8.9.18 Summary of Cumulative Effects on Viewpoints

429. Table 8.9 summarises the significance of cumulative effect of the three Scenarios on the viewpoints. The Scenarios are referenced as S1, S2 and S3.

Table 8.9: Cumulative Effects on Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Receptor to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
1. Duncansby Head	High (visitors)	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor
		S3:Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor
2. Keiss Pier (nr Keiss Harbour House)	High (residents) Medium to Low (workers)	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor (residents and workers)
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor (residents and workers)
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor (residents and workers)
3. Sortat	High (residents)	S1: Negligible to None	S1: Negligible to None
		S2: Negligible to None	S2: Negligible to None
		S3:Negligible to None	S3: Negligible to None
4.Wick Bay, Scalesburn	High (residents)	S1: Medium	S1: Major-Moderate
		S2: Medium	S2: Major-Moderate
		S3: High to Medium	S3: Major to Major-Moderate
5.Sarclet (Sarclet Haven Information Board)	High (residents) High to Medium (visitors)	S1: High	S1: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
		S2: High	S2: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
		S3: High	S3: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
6.Hill O'Many Stanes	High to Medium (visitors)	S1: High	S1: Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)

Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Receptor to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
		S2: High	S2: Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
		S3: High	S3: Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
7.Lybster (end of Main street)	High (residents)	S1: High to Medium	S1:Major to Major-Moderate
		S2: High to Medium	S2: Major to Major-Moderate
		S3: High to Medium	S3: Major to Major-Moderate
8.Latheron (A9)	Medium to Low (travellers)	S1: Medium	S1: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S2: Medium	S2: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
		S3:Medium	S3: Moderate to Moderate-Minor
9.Dunbeath (nr Heritage Centre)	High (residents) High to Medium (visitors)	S1: Medium	S1: Major-Moderate (residents) Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors)
		S2: Medium	S2: Major-Moderate (residents) Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors)
		S3:Medium	S3: Major-Moderate (residents) Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors)
10.Whaligoe Steps	High (residents) High to Medium (visitors)	S1: High	S1: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
		S2: High	S2: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
		S3: High	S3: Major (residents) Major to Major-Moderate (visitors)
11.Scaraben	High (walkers)	S1: Low	S1: Moderate
		S2: Low	S2: Moderate
		S3: Low	S3: Moderate

Viewpoint	Sensitivity of Receptor to the Type of Development Proposed	Magnitude of Cumulative Effect	Significance of Cumulative Effect
12.Navidale	High (residents) Medium to Low (travellers)	S1: Low to Negligible	S1: Overall Minor (residents) Overall Minor (travellers)
		S2: Low to Negligible	S2: Overall Minor (residents) Overall Minor (travellers)
		S3: Low to Negligible	S3: Overall Minor (residents) Overall Minor (travellers)
13.Catchory	High (residents) Medium to Low (workers)	S1: Negligible	S1: Negligible
		S2: Negligible	S2: Negligible
		S3: Negligible	S3: Negligible
14.Minor road, south side of Stemster Hill	Medium to Low (travellers)	S1: Medium to Low	S1: Moderate to Minor
		S2: Medium to Low	S2: Moderate to Minor
		S3: Medium to Low	S3: Moderate to Minor
15. Aberdeen to Orkney /Shetland Ferry Route	Medium to Low (travellers)	S1: High to Medium	S1: Overall Moderate
		S2: High to Medium	S2: Overall Moderate
		S3: High	S3: Major-Moderate to Moderate
16. Aberdeen to Orkney /Shetland Ferry Route	Medium to Low (travellers)	S1: Low	S1: Moderate-Minor to Minor
		S2: Low	S2: Moderate-Minor to Minor
		S3: Medium to Low	S3: Moderate to Minor
17. Lybster Harbour	High to Medium (visitors) Medium to Low (workers)	S1: Medium	S1: Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors) Moderate to Moderate-Minor (workers)
		S2: Medium	S2: Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors) Moderate to Moderate-Minor (workers)
		S3: Medium	S3: Major-Moderate to Moderate (visitors) Moderate to Moderate-Minor (workers)

8.9 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.9.1 COASTAL CHARACTER AREAS (CCA)

430. The assessment has found that the likely significant effects of the Wind Farm on the CCAs are limited to the Sarclet Head CCA which is the closest part of the Caithness coastline to the Wind Farm. Whilst the Wind Farm will not directly affect the physical characteristics of the CCA, the Wind Farm will demonstrably change the characteristic open sea views available along this stretch of coastline. However, within these areas the expansive sea and horizontal emphasis can be an appropriate scale to accommodate the Wind Farm.

431. The cumulative assessment of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone scenarios established that they will not create any likely significant cumulative effects greater than the effects of the Wind Farm alone, due to the position and distance of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms from the coastline. Therefore likely significant cumulative effects will be limited to the Sarclet Head CCA, where the Wind Farm constitutes the greater effect, with the addition of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone scenarios creating no more than a minor alteration.

8.9.2 REGIONAL SEASCAPE CHARACTER TYPES (RSCT)

432. The cumulative assessment of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone scenarios on RSCTs established that there will be likely significant cumulative effects of all three scenarios on the Coastal Waters RSCT. The combined wind farms would be prominent features adjacent to the RSCT so that they will create a major change to the visual characteristics.

8.9.3 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND DESIGNATIONS

433. The cumulative assessment of the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone scenarios established there will be no likely significant cumulative effects on the landscape character types and landscape designations within the Study Area.

8.9.4 VISUAL AMENITY

434. The assessment of the Wind Farm on visitors and fishermen at Lybster Harbour concluded that there will be likely significant visual effects on visitors due to their higher sensitivity. The Wind Farm will be a noticeable feature in sea views up to approximately a quarter of the framed view. The steep valley sides either side of the harbour narrow the sea view and thus the focus on the Wind Farm will be greater. However, the majority of the sea view will remain open and thus any perceived enclosure by the wind farm will be limited.

435. Significant cumulative visual effects for all three scenarios were assessed for recreational sailors in close proximity to the wind farms where the combination of one or more of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms with the Wind Farm will noticeably alter the open expansive sea views further than the Wind Farm alone. Significant cumulative visual effects were also assessed for workers on ships for the same reasons, but given their lower sensitivity, significant cumulative effects only arise from Scenario 2 and 3.

436. The cumulative assessment established that there would be significant effects on the travelling public using the A99 from all three scenarios. However, views of the combined wind farms will not occur for the whole length of the road and, due to distance, the addition of the Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms will not considerably add to the effects of the Wind Farm alone.

437. Significant cumulative effects on residents and visitors at the viewpoints between Lybster and Wick Bay were assessed for all three scenarios. At these viewpoints, except Wick Bay, the cumulative effects were not considered to be greater than the effects of the Wind Farm alone. The distance that the three Moray Firth Round 3 Zone wind farms lie from the coastline and their position largely behind the Wind Farm moderates the potential cumulative effects on the viewpoints. However, at Wick Bay, in Scenario 3, the addition of Telford will increase the horizontal extent of turbines to the north and the density of turbines visible, thus increasing the prominence of turbines within the view further than the Wind Farm alone.

8.10 REFERENCES

438. References remain unchanged from those presented in the Original ES, Section 14.10.