

Technical Appendix 4.2 Viewpoint Descriptions

1.0 Introduction

Baseline viewpoint descriptions, the description of effects and judgement of the scale of effect for the 2016 Consented Layout are set out on the relevant wireline visualisation of the original ES. This Technical Appendix provides an update to those descriptions in light of the current baseline conditions and highlights any change to the nature of anticipated effects.

This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewpoint visualisations, which are illustrated on Figures 4.9.1–4.9.22 and the comparative wirelines included as Figures 1 – 22 of this Technical Appendix. Visualisations are presented in Volume 2.

2.0 Viewpoint Descriptions

Although a number of previously consented turbines have been built since the time of the original ES, for example Kype Muir, Auchrobert and Dungavel, these were considered as part of the Original ES baseline and so do not represent a change.

Similarly, while the proposed Development may be visually distinguishable from the 2016 Consented Layout as illustrated by the visualisations, where this does not change the assessed scale of effect these minor changes are briefly noted although not described in detail.

VP1: Kype Reservoir (2.1 km northeast)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. The proposed Development would be seen as blade tips turning over the top of woodland, smaller in scale than the existing Kype Muir turbines. The differences between the proposed Development and the 2016 Consented Layout would not be readily perceptible and effects would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP2: South Kirkwood (2.6 km north)

The only notable difference to the baseline illustrated at this viewpoint is the introduction of an access road for Kype Muir, seen to the left of view, which runs parallel to the minor road on which the viewpoint is located. The horizontal extent of the proposed Development would remain the same as that of the 2016 Consented Layout although the proposed turbines would now be more noticeably closer and larger than the existing turbines at Dungavel and similar in scale to the existing Kype Muir turbines, which previously would have appeared the largest in view. Consequently, the scale of effects at this location would increase slightly to Large and would be Adverse due to the viewpoint being closely surrounded by turbines.

VP3: Sandford (5.5 km north)

This viewpoint has been relocated approximately 300 m to the east due to new houses being built to the south of School Road since the time of the original ES. The view from the new location is very similar to that at the original viewpoint location, taking in a view across farm land towards a low ridgeline upon which operation turbines can be seen and further consented turbines will be. A number of isolated farmhouses are seen across the view, and to the far right, out of shot, the new houses under construction can be seen appearing round the bend of the minor road upon which the viewpoint is located. The nature of effects at this viewpoint are not notably different to those described in the original ES and the scale of effects would remain Negligible.

VP4: B7086 at Deadwaters (5.3 km northeast)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. The proposed Development would be seen beyond the existing Kype Muir turbines, marginally extending the spread of turbines seen here, and appear smaller in scale. These would be slightly more prominent than the 2016 Consented Layout due to the increased height and greater number of hubs visible above the skyline however they would be read as part of the existing Kype Muir cluster and effects would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP5: A71 West of Strathaven (6.5 km north)

The only notable change to the baseline at this location is the presence of a new housing development immediately north of the viewpoint; there have been no notable changes to the view in the direction of the proposed Development. The proposed Development would extend from behind the existing Kype Muir turbines and extend across the hilltop partially in front of the existing Dungavel turbines. The turbines would be more distant and appear smaller than those of Kype Muir and closer and larger than those of Dungavel. The horizontal spread of the proposed Development is the same as that of the 2016 Consented Layout and while the turbines would be perceptibly larger the existing Kype Muir turbines remain the largest and the overall pattern of turbine development would not be notably different. Effects would remain Small scale and Neutral due to be a relatively minor addition to the existing pattern of turbine development.

VP6: Strathaven War Memorial (7.0 km north)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. The proposed Development would extend from behind the existing Kype Muir turbines and extend across the hilltop partially in front of the existing Dungavel turbines. The turbines would be more distant and appear smaller than those of Kype Muir and closer and larger than those of Dungavel. The horizontal spread of the proposed Development is the same as that of the 2016 Consented Layout and while the turbines would be perceptibly larger the existing Kype Muir turbines remain the largest and the overall pattern of turbine development would not be notably different. Effects would remain Small scale and Neutral due to be a relatively minor addition to the existing pattern of turbine development.

VP7: Gilmourton (4.7 km northwest)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. The taller turbines of the proposed Development are more openly visible than the 2016 Consented Layout with a greater number of hubs now seen above the ridgeline. These appear as two distinct groups, one to the right of the hill top adjacent to Dungavel and another adjacent to Kype Muir, appearing from behind the base of the hill. The scale of effects here would increase slightly from that of the 2016 Consented Layout to Medium and would be Adverse due to turbines more noticeably filling the gap between Dungavel and Kype Muir.

VP8: A71 at Caldermill (5.7 km northwest)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. The apparent size of the turbines as seen from here has increased from that of the 2016 Consented Layout with turbines now appearing similar in scale to those at Kype Muir where previously they appeared subordinate. As a result the scale of effects would increase here to Medium and these would be Adverse due to the channelled nature of the view and the filling of the gap between Kype Muir and Dungavel.

VP9: Lethame Road, Strathaven (7.2 km north)

This viewpoint was moved approximately 160 m northwest along Lethame Road due to a new housing development being under construction directly in front of the viewpoint location used in

the original ES. These new houses can be seen to the left of view however the wider outlook from this viewpoint, towards the proposed Development, remains fundamentally unchanged. The proposed Development would extend from behind the existing Kype Muir turbines and extend across the hilltop partially in front of the existing Dungavel turbines. The turbines would be more distant and appear smaller than those of Kype Muir and closer and larger than those of Dungavel. The horizontal spread of the proposed Development is the same as that of the 2016 Consented Layout and while the turbines would be perceptibly larger the existing Kype Muir turbines remain the largest and the overall pattern of turbine development would not be notably different. Effects would remain Small scale and Neutral due to being a relatively minor addition to the existing pattern of turbine development.

VP10: Stonehouse (8.2 km northeast)

The only notable change to the baseline at this viewpoint is the presence of a number of small turbines along the skyline in the direction of the proposed Development that were not consented at the time of the original ES. The proposed Development would be seen directly beyond the existing Kype Muir turbines and partially screened by vegetation along the skyline. The turbines would appear closer in height to the nearer Kype Muir turbines than the 2016 Consented Layout and would be read as part of this cluster. Effects here would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP11: Drumclog (5.5 km northwest)

It can be seen from this viewpoint that there has been relatively extensive felling of forestry around Dungavel although this was considered as part of the baseline in the original ES. As at viewpoint 7 the proposed turbines would appear more prominently above the ridgeline than the 2016 Consented Layout although would be seen partly behind Dungavel and would appear as an extension to this scheme due to the similarity of scale. They would roughly double the horizontal extent of turbines seen here and while there would still be an apparent gap between these and Kype Muir it would be slightly reduced. Effects here would increase to Medium-Small and would be Adverse due to the filling of the gap between Kype Muir and Dungavel.

VP12: Glassford (9.6 km north)

This viewpoint has been moved approximately 10 m east due to a house being constructed in front of the original viewpoint location. This is very minor alteration to the viewpoint location and there are no notable changes to the described baseline or effects as a result. The turbines would appear closer in scale to Kype Muir than the 2016 Consented Layout although this is not particularly notable in the context of wider turbine development. Effects would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP13: Lesmahagow (9.0 km northeast)

The only notable change to the baseline at this viewpoint is the presence of three turbines to the right of view that were not consented at the time of the original ES. The proposed Development would be seen just above the skyline directly behind the much closer and larger Auchrobert turbines and partially behind the existing Kype Muir turbines. The turbines would be slightly more visible than the 2016 Consented Layout, with a greater number of hubs visible above the skyline, although remain a minor addition to the overall pattern of turbine development seen here. Effects would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP14: Kirkmuirhall (10.9 km northeast)

The only notable change to the baseline at this viewpoint is the presence of a small turbine in a nearby field to the right of view and a number of single or small groups of turbines in the distance that were not consented at the time of the original ES. The majority of the proposed Development

would be seen beyond the existing Kype Muir turbines. Turbines 8, 9 and 11 stand to the left of Kype Muir and are notably taller than the 2016 Consented Layout although this, and the proposed Development as a whole, makes little difference to the overall pattern of turbine development. Effects here would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP15: Chapelton (11.3 km north)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location and the differences between the proposed Development and the 2016 Consented Layout would be largely imperceptible from here. The proposed Development would result in a slight increase in the overall extent of turbine development experienced at this location and the effects would remain Small-Negligible scale and Neutral due to the limited change to the baseline.

VP16: Loudoun Hill (8.1 km west)

It can be seen from this viewpoint that there has been relatively extensive felling of forestry around Dungavel although this was considered as part of the baseline in the original ES. The proposed Development would be seen amongst the existing Kype Muir turbines and Dungavel with the only readily perceptible differences to the 2016 Consented Layout being that turbines 15 and 17 appear slightly taller, rather than the same height, as the adjacent Dungavel turbines and an increase in the number of hubs visible above the skyline. Neither of these differences result in a particularly notable change from the 2016 Consented Layout in the context of the wider pattern of turbine development seen from this location. The effects would remain Negligible and Neutral.

VP22: B743 northwest of site (3.0 km northwest)

There have been no notable changes to the baseline at this location. Effects here would increase slightly from those of the 2016 Consented Layout due to the hubs and a large proportion of the rotors of three turbines appearing over the ridgeline. These would appear as a similar scale to the most prominent turbines of Dungavel and would extend the horizontal spread of turbines seen at this location. Effects would be Small scale and Neutral due to Dungavel remaining the dominant turbines in view.
