

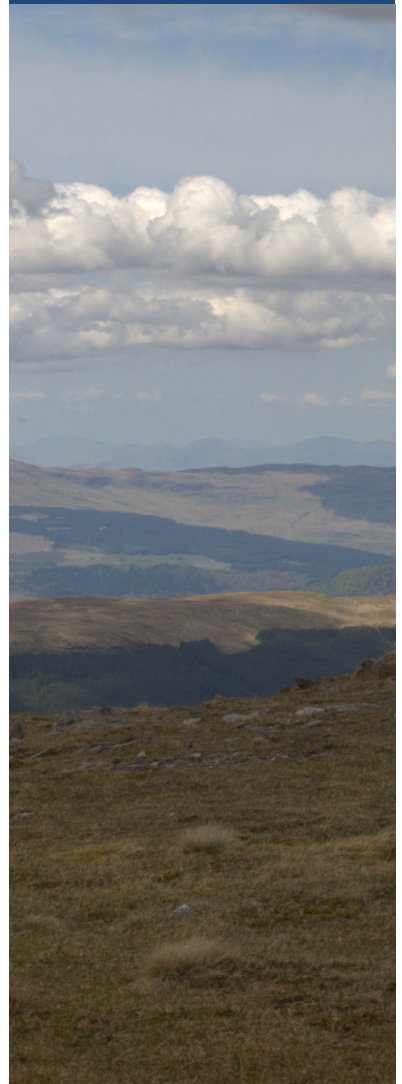
SUPPLEMENTARY  
INFORMATION

DECEMBER 2020

# CREAG DHUBH WIND FARM

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## Preface

The following Supplementary Information (SI) is provided in response to requests from Argyll and Bute Council (ABC) and Nature Scot for additional information to address the potential environmental effects of the proposed development near Succothmore, Strachur, Argyll, PA27 8DW.

The SI has been prepared by Muirden Energy LLP to accompany a planning application (19/02544/PP) submitted by Creag Dhubh Renewables LLP under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations to Argyll and Bute Council (ABC). The planning application is for permission to construct and operate a nine turbine wind farm at Creag Dhubh near Strachur ('the proposed development').

Additional copies of the SI can be purchased directly from Creag Dhubh Renewables LLP: printed copies are available for a cost of £100 or digital versions on CD-ROM are available for £10.

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, hard copies of the EIA Report cannot be viewed at public locations. However, the documents can be viewed using Argyll and Bute Council's online planning system and the wind farm's dedicated website: [www.creagdhubhwindfarm.co.uk](http://www.creagdhubhwindfarm.co.uk)

To order an additional copy, please contact Creag Dhubh Renewables LLP at the following address or phone number:

Creag Dhubh Renewables LLP  
Muirden Farm  
Turriff  
Aberdeenshire  
AB53 4NH

Tel: 01888 569 310

Comments on the application for planning permission should be forwarded to the address below:

Argyll and Bute Council,  
Kilmory  
Lochgilphead  
Argyll  
PA31 8RT

Or, by searching for the planning application (19/02544/PP) using Argyll and Bute Council's online planning system, where registered users are able to "make a public comment".

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# 1.Landscape and visual

## 1.1 Assessment of effects to additional viewpoints

The following grids provide an assessment of the proposed development's visual effects on five additional viewpoints requested by ABC and NatureScot. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the methodologies detailed in Chapter 7 of Volume 2 of the EIAR, and the analysis should be considered in conjunction with the wirelines and visualisations of the proposed development provided as a separate part of this SI.

VIEWPOINT 19 LOCATION	Inveraray Castle Garden Bridge
FIGURE	7.45
DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	6239m
BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND SENSITIVITY	<p>The viewpoint is located on the Garden Bridge within the Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape. The bridge is located approximately 230m northwest of the castle. Views of the castle from the bridge are screened by mature trees, so the primary views from this location are of the River Aray, which is viewed in northeasterly and southwesterly directions.</p> <p>Views towards the proposed development are captured when orientated in a southeasterly direction. Parkland associated with the designed landscape is present in the foreground and midground of this view, with a scattering of mature trees containing views of some sectors of the wider panorama. Where uninterrupted views are available, they illustrate the depth of the parkland up until a belt of mature trees delineates its edge.</p> <p>Beyond the parkland, the backdrop consists of an expansive landform, which rises steeply into a slightly incongruous tapestry of moorland and plantation forestry, which leads to a broad and relatively smooth ridgeline. Loch Fyne, beneath, is relatively indiscernible through mature trees along the edge of the parkland in the midground of the view.</p> <p>Whilst generally a natural view with very little development present, the view is influenced notably by the expansive, yet relatively contained parkland, and the large car park to the northwest of the castle.</p> <p>The susceptibility of tourists visiting the bridge would be medium. In the absence of views of the castle at this location, the key attractions for visitors to the bridge are its surrounding gardens and policies, in particular the River Aray, whilst the attention of those walking towards the castle will be drawn along the beech lined road to the southeast. From this location, the susceptibility of visitors is moderated by the nature of the potential effects, which will be small in scale, albeit across a relatively broad extent, and viewed peripherally in views of the key attractions. The value of the view would be high. The Inveraray Castle designed landscape attracts large numbers of tourists and it is located within an APQ. Overall, the visual receptor would be of a medium-high sensitivity.</p>
MITIGATION	The wind turbines have been sited beneath the ridgeline of Creag Dhubh, which reduces their visibility. Additionally, the scale of the wind turbines has been limited so that generally only blade tips would be theoretically visible, and

	consequently the structures appear inferior to the scale of the expansive landform above Loch Fyne.
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	<p>According to the wireline drawing, nine turbines are theoretically visible at a distance of at least 6.2km, evenly spaced, occupying a broad extent of the ridgeline in the background of the view. Theoretical visibility is generally limited to blade tips, with no towers theoretically visible.</p> <p>In reality, views of T1, T6, T7, T8 and T9 would be screened by woodland, so less than half of the wind turbines would be visible at this location. The wind turbine blades would appear as small-scale elements in the background of the view, with no other wind farm development visible. There would be no clustering of any wind turbines and consequently the design of the wind farm relates to the expansive ridgeline and does not overwhelm it. The blades would be of an inferior scale to the vertical and horizontal scale of the landform: ensuring that they do not impinge on the perceived prominence of the landform. However, their movement has potential to draw the eye when viewed in good weather conditions. A slight magnitude of change to the views of tourists is predicted to occur to the view.</p>
CUMULATIVE IMPACT	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> There is no influence from consented wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3:</b> There is no influence from other proposed wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p>
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	The effect of the proposed development on tourists would not be significant, due to the limited extent of visibility, the expansiveness of the ridgeline, and the effects of woodland screening.

VIEWPOINT 20 LOCATION	Road between Inveraray Castle and Garden Bridge
FIGURE	7.46
DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	6164m
BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND SENSITIVITY	<p>The viewpoint is located on the private road between Inveraray Castle and the Garden Bridge within the Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape, approximately 140m northwest of the castle. There is a degree of enclosure along the road due to the beech hedges that line both of its sides. When viewing southeast, the path of the beech hedges and road draw the eye along their length to the castle.</p> <p>Views towards the proposed development are captured when orientated in a southeasterly direction. Whilst the primary focus of views from this location is the castle, due primarily to its close proximity and the scale of the building, the screening from the beech hedges to the surrounding parkland accentuates the influence of the more elevated parts of the surrounding landscape. Views of these elevated parts of the surrounding landscape are interrupted by mature trees located within the parkland surrounding the castle. Where views are uninterrupted, the backdrop consists of an expansive landform, which rises steeply into a slightly incongruous tapestry of moorland and plantation forestry, which leads to a broad and relatively smooth ridgeline.</p> <p>The susceptibility of tourists visiting this section of road would be medium-high. The key attraction for visitors is the castle, which whilst visible within the same arc of view as the proposed development, is more prominent and located in the</p>

	foreground of the view. In contrast, the proposed development would be small in scale dispersed across the background of the view, which would moderate the susceptibility of visitors. The value of the view would be high. Inveraray Castle and its designed landscape attracts large numbers of tourists and it is located within an APQ. Overall, the visual receptor would be of a medium-high sensitivity.
MITIGATION	The wind turbines have been sited beneath the ridgeline of Creag Dhubh, which reduces their visibility. Additionally, the scale of the wind turbines has been limited so that generally only blade tips would be theoretically visible, and consequently the structures appear inferior to the scale of the expansive landform in the background of the view.
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	<p>According to the wireline drawing, nine turbines are theoretically visible at a distance of at least 6.2km, evenly spaced, occupying a broad extent of the ridgeline in the background of the view. Theoretical visibility is generally limited to blade tips, with no towers theoretically visible.</p> <p>In reality, views of T1, T3 and T6 would be screened by trees, so only six of the wind turbines would be visible at this location. The wind turbine blades would appear as small-scale elements in the background of the view, with no other wind farm development visible. There would be no clustering of any wind turbines and consequently the design of the wind farm relates to the expansive ridgeline and does not overwhelm it. The blades would be of an inferior scale to the vertical and horizontal scale of the landform: ensuring that they do not impinge on the perceived prominence of the landform. However, their movement has potential to draw the eye when viewed in good weather conditions. A slight magnitude of change to the views of tourists is predicted to occur to the view.</p>
CUMULATIVE IMPACT	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> There is no influence from consented wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3:</b> There is no influence from other proposed wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p>
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	The effect of the proposed development on tourists would not be significant, due to the limited extent of visibility, the expansiveness of the ridgeline, and the effects of woodland screening.

VIEWPOINT 21 LOCATION	A83 (Kilmalieu Cemetery)
FIGURE	7.47
DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	5813m
BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND SENSITIVITY	<p>The viewpoint is located along a stretch of the A83 road, approximately 1km north of Inveraray. The view is representative of the beginning of the northern approach to Inveraray, which follows a stretch of road around the north of Loch Fyne that offers few viewing opportunities across the loch as a result of roadside trees and vegetation.</p> <p>For those travelling south, the eye is drawn to the unobstructed, expansive views to the south and east, whilst vegetation screens views to the west. The available views are predominantly characterised by a potential first sight of the white buildings of Inveraray's conservation area and the expansive, far reaching waters</p>

	<p>of Loch Fyne, which are enclosed by the broad, large scale landforms that stretch down the length of the loch.</p> <p>Views towards the proposed development are backdropped by an expansive landform beyond Loch Fyne, which rises steeply into a slightly incongruous tapestry of moorland and plantation forestry, which leads to a broad and relatively smooth ridgeline. At the foot of the landform, clusters of ribbon development are located along the shoreline and provide distant foci, with dwellings appearing as small-scale elements.</p> <p>The susceptibility of road users travelling south along this section of road would be medium. The proposed development would be located adjacent to the direction of travel on the periphery of the key foci of the view, so the susceptibility of travellers is decreased. The value of the view would be medium-high, due to the viewpoint's location on a recognised regional tourist route (Argyll Coastal Route) and within the West Loch Fyne (Coast) APQ. Overall, the visual receptor would be of a medium-high sensitivity.</p>
MITIGATION	<p>The wind turbines have been sited beneath the ridgeline of Creag Dhubh, which reduces their visibility. Additionally, the scale of the wind turbines has been limited so that generally only blade tips would be theoretically visible, and consequently the structures appear inferior to the scale of the expansive landform above Loch Fyne.</p>
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	<p>According to the wireline drawing, nine turbines are theoretically visible at a distance of at least 5.8km, evenly spaced, occupying a broad extent of the ridgeline above Loch Fyne. Theoretical visibility is generally limited to blade tips, with one hub and no towers theoretically visible.</p> <p>The wind turbine blades would appear as relatively indiscernible, evenly spaced, small-scale elements beyond the expansive ridgeline across Loch Fyne, with no other wind farm development visible within the vista. There would be no clustering of any wind turbines and consequently the design of the wind farm relates to the expansive ridgeline and does not overwhelm it. The blades would be of an inferior scale to the vertical and horizontal scale of the landform: ensuring that they do not impinge on the perceived prominence of the containing slopes of Loch Fyne. Their limited scale and vertical separation would also limit scale comparisons with the dwellings along the shoreline of Loch Fyne. However, their movement, which is moderated to an extent by the movement of water across Loch Fyne, has potential to draw the eye when viewed in good weather conditions. A slight magnitude of change is predicted to occur to the views of travellers.</p>
CUMULATIVE IMPACT	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> There is no influence from consented wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3:</b> There is no influence from other proposed wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p>
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	<p>The effect of the proposed development on travellers would not be significant, due to the very limited extent of visibility, the expansiveness of the ridgeline, the separation of Inveraray from the proposed development, and the underlying strength of the juxtaposition between Loch Fyne and the surrounding hills.</p>

VIEWPOINT 22 LOCATION	A83 Aray Bridge
FIGURE	7.48



DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	5732m
BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND SENSITIVITY	<p>The viewpoint is located on Aray Bridge on the A83 road, approximately 500m north of Inveraray. The view is representative of views of travellers from Aray Bridge whilst passing Inveraray Castle and approaching/leaving Inveraray.</p> <p>For those travelling south, the eye is drawn to a few different foci, but particularly Inveraray Castle, which is located approximately 250m to the northwest, and the Inveraray conservation area. Inveraray Castle draws attention due to its scale and grandeur, whilst the white façade and lochside setting of the Inveraray conservation area buildings are particularly distinctive. Loch Fyne and the surrounding hills provide the wider setting for these foci.</p> <p>Views towards the proposed development are backdropped by an expansive landform beyond Loch Fyne, which rises steeply into a slightly incongruous tapestry of moorland and plantation forestry, which leads to a broad and relatively smooth ridgeline. At the foot of the landform, clusters of ribbon development are located along the shoreline and provide distant foci, with dwellings appearing as small-scale elements.</p> <p>The susceptibility of road users travelling south along this section of road would be low-medium. The proposed development would be located adjacent to the direction of travel in a separate context to the key foci in wider views, so the susceptibility of travellers is decreased. The value of the view would be medium-high, due to the viewpoint's location on a recognised regional tourist route (Argyll Coastal Route) and within the West Loch Fyne (Coast) APQ. Overall, the visual receptor would be of a medium sensitivity.</p>
MITIGATION	<p>The wind turbines have been sited beneath the ridgeline of Creag Dhubh, which reduces their visibility. Additionally, the scale of the wind turbines has been limited so that generally only blade tips would be theoretically visible, and consequently the structures appear inferior to the scale of the expansive landform above Loch Fyne.</p>
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	<p>According to the wireline drawing, nine turbines are theoretically visible at a distance of at least 5.7km, evenly spaced, occupying a broad extent of the ridgeline above Loch Fyne. Theoretical visibility is generally limited to blade tips, with one hub and no towers theoretically visible.</p> <p>The wind turbine blades would appear as relatively indiscernible, evenly spaced, small-scale elements beyond the expansive ridgeline across Loch Fyne, with no other wind farm development visible within the vista. There would be no clustering of any wind turbines and consequently the design of the wind farm relates to the expansive ridgeline and does not overwhelm it. The blades would be of an inferior scale to the vertical and horizontal scale of the landform: ensuring that they do not impinge on the perceived prominence of the containing slopes of Loch Fyne. Their limited scale and vertical separation would also limit scale comparisons with the dwellings along the shoreline of Loch Fyne. However, their movement, which is moderated to an extent by the movement of water across Loch Fyne, has potential to draw the eye when viewed in good weather conditions. A slight magnitude of change is predicted to occur to the views of residents and tourists.</p>
CUMULATIVE IMPACT	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> There is no influence from consented wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3:</b> There is no influence from other proposed wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p>

SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	The effect of the proposed development on travellers would not be significant, due to the very limited extent of visibility, the expansiveness of the ridgeline, the separation of Inveraray Castle and Inveraray from the proposed development, and the underlying strength of the juxtaposition between Loch Fyne and the surrounding hills.
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VIEWPOINT 23 LOCATION	A83 (South of Furnace)
FIGURE	7.49
DISTANCE FROM DEVELOPMENT	11760m
BASELINE DESCRIPTION AND SENSITIVITY	<p>The viewpoint is located on the A83 road, approximately 1km south of the village of Furnace. Views along nearby connecting stretches of this road are generally obstructed by vegetation, but this viewpoint is located within a relatively short 60m stretch of the road that provides unobstructed views. The viewpoint is therefore representative of views received by road users over a short duration.</p> <p>The viewpoint provides uninterrupted expansive views up, down and across Loch Fyne. Views of Loch Fyne towards the proposed development stretch approximately 8km northwards until the village of Strachur is reached and hills rise to form an elevated backdrop. The western flank of the loch is dominated by the craggy outcrop of Dun Leacainn beyond the village of Furnace, which is punctuated by a large quarry on its slopes, whilst a caravan park further east contributes to a broader pattern of ribbon development along the shoreline of the loch. The eastern flank of the loch is characterised by the forested moorland slopes north of Newton, which provide a gradual transition to the more elevated hills further east. The backdrop consists of hills immediately surrounding Loch Fyne and the summits of some of the Arrochar Alps beyond, including Beinn an Lochain, Beinn Ime and Ben Donich.</p> <p>The susceptibility of road users travelling northeastwards along this section of road would be low. This open stretch of road is short with no opportunities for vehicles to stop (based on an average speed of 40mph, the view would be available for three seconds), but the proposed development would appear in front of road users travelling north, which would increase their susceptibility, albeit to a limited extent due to the distance of the proposed development from the viewpoint. The susceptibility of road users travelling southwestwards would be considerably lower due to the direction of the proposed development relative to their direction of travel. The value of the view would be medium-high, due to its location on a recognised regional tourist route (Argyll Coastal Route) and within an APQ. Overall, the visual receptor would be of a medium sensitivity.</p>
MITIGATION	The wind turbines have been sited beneath the ridgeline of Creag Dhubh, which reduces their visibility. Additionally, the scale of the wind turbines has been limited so that their towers would generally be screened by the landform, and consequently the structures appear inferior to the scale of the expansive landform above Loch Fyne.
MAGNITUDE OF CHANGE	All nine of the proposed wind turbines would be theoretically visible on the distant hills beyond Loch Fyne at a distance of at least 11.8km. Landform would screen the hubs and towers of T4, T6, T7, T8 and T9, whilst hubs and blades of T1, T2, T3 and T5 would be theoretically visible. A small proportion of the towers of T1, T2, T3 and T5 would also be theoretically visible.

	Due to the extent of landform screening, the wind turbines would appear as relatively small-scale elements located along the elevated ridgeline set within the distant upland context beyond Loch Fyne. All of the wind turbines would appear on the skyline. Whilst the wind turbines would be perceptible within the view, their influence would not be of a magnitude that would pendulate the balance of the landscape to a significant degree, such that they are prominent, in part due to the strength of the underlying landscape character, but also due to the level of development that is visible in the wider view. The proposed development would however introduce a new characteristic moving element into the view, which increases the magnitude of change. A slight-moderate magnitude of change to the views of road users and residents would occur.
CUMULATIVE IMPACT	<p><b>Scenario 2:</b> There is no influence from consented wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><b>Scenario 3:</b> There is no influence from other proposed wind farm developments at this viewpoint, so there would be no cumulative effects.</p>
SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	The effect of the proposed development on road users would not be significant, due to the limited extent of visibility, the distance between the viewpoint and the proposed development, the modest influence of development within the wider view, and the underlying strength of the juxtaposition between loch and hills.

## 1.2 Updated summary of effects

**Table 1. Summary of landscape and visual effects**

Potential effect	Level of effect	Significant
Landscape effects to Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT (LCT34(1))	Major	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Steep Ridges and Mountains LCT (LCT34(2))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll LCT (LCT39(1))	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Plateau Moor and Forest – Argyll LCT (LCT39(2))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Craggy Upland – Argyll LCT (LCT40)	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Rocky Coastland – Argyll LCT (LCT53(1))	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Rocky Coastland – Argyll LCT (LCT53(2))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Rocky Coastland – Argyll LCT (LCT53(3))	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Rocky Coastland – Argyll LCT (LCT53(4))	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Rugged Mountains LCT (LCT35)	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Glen Side LCT (L1(1))	Moderate	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(1))	Moderate-Major	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(2))	Moderate-Major	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(3))	Moderate-Major	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(4))	Minor-Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(5))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(6))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(7))	Moderate	No

Landscape effects to Hills LCT (L2(8))	Moderate-Major	Yes (localised)
Landscape effects to Strath and Glen Floor LCT (L6(1))	Moderate	No
Landscape effects to LLaTT National Park	Negligible-Slight	No
Landscape effects to North Argyll APQ	-	No
Landscape effects to East Loch Fyne APQ	-	No
Landscape effects to West Loch Fyne APQ	-	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 1: Strachurmore	Moderate	Yes
Visual effects to Viewpoint 2: A815 (Balliemanoich Cottage)	Minor-Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 3: Glen Sluain	Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 4: Inveraray (Shore St.)	Minor-Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 5: Beinn Bheula	Moderate-Major	Yes
Visual effects to Viewpoint 6: Inveraray Castle	Minor-Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 7: Dun na Cuaiche	Moderate-Major	Yes
Visual effects to Viewpoint 8: Ben Donich	Moderate-Major	Yes
Visual effects to Viewpoint 9: A819	Minor-Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 10: A83 (An Suidhe Site Access)	Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 11: Newton	Minor-Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 13: Ben Arthur	Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 16: A83 Minard	Moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 19: Inveraray Castle Garden Bridge	Minor-moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 20: Road between Inveraray Castle and Garden Bridge	Minor-moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 21: A83 (Kilmalieu Cemetery)	Minor-moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 22: A83 Aray Bridge	Minor-moderate	No
Visual effects to Viewpoint 23: A83 (South of Furnace)	Moderate	No
Visual effects to Strachur	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to Inveraray	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to Furnace	None to Negligible	No
Visual effects to Newton	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to Minard	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to Argyll Coastal Route (A83 & A816)	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to A815	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to A819	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to A886	None to Negligible	No
Visual effects to B8000	None to Moderate	No
Visual effects to The Loch Lomond and Cowal Way	None to Major	Yes (localised)